

EMPEROR 971

Chapter 971 Rude Stares

Princess Isabella responded back through soul transmission, "My subordinate could only reveal his Elder Soul Stage Cultivation. You think he could possibly defeat those younger generation alchemy experts who have probably pill'ed[1] their way through to the Law Manifestation Stage Cultivation?"

Davis's expression became amused, "Even with his Soul Forging Cultivation suppressed, you seriously think that those people who relied on resources to increase their probability to concoct higher-tiered pills can possibly compete against him and win?"

"Who knows? I can't possibly tell unless I see the results with my own two eyes..." Princess Isabella cast a teasing smile as she winked.

Davis rolled his eyes and stopped arguing with her anymore. He knew that she was provoking him, but he didn't know why.

For fun? It seemed more like it.

'Seems like I should promote Isabella to wife from a girlfriend, or she would end up spending all my wealth within a few weeks in the Alstreim Family...' He inwardly laughed as he cocked his head, 'Well, I'll just treat this as if I'm going out on a date with Isabella...'

Nonetheless, he wasn't worried about a bit of nectar being lost, and it was something that he could easily win back if he displayed his complete prowess. He just jokingly mused that it was just a little price to pay for a date.

The three of them traveled towards the northern part of the city and arrived at a bustling plaza. That plaza was packed with people, mostly from the younger generation who came to see the Alchemy Exchange. They possessed fanatical expressions on their faces and held signposts that cheered for their favorite candidate.

They entered a huge building that was structured like a dome.

Since the whole building was crowded with people, it would've been difficult for them to walk with many people obstructing their view. However, with Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim leading the way, they were unimpeded!

They reached a large hall that hosted numerous people who wore alchemist robes. They roamed the hall and mingled with each other, forming groups that formed a consensus with their peers. Poking fun, intentionally provoking, acting with humility. All kinds of people, alchemists, and experts in other occupations alike could be seen conversing with each other.

However, they all became stiff as they noticed a special guest walk into their fortress. Their bodies became constricted with pressure, and they subconsciously straightened their poses in a bid to leave a good impression on the person they looked up to and desired.

It was the case, especially with the juniors.

"Ho! It's the Conferred Queen! The Conferred Queen is here!"

"Idiot! It's the Dragon Queen! The Conferred Queen is a lowly title given by the lowly Ethren Empire!"

The person who blurted out first closed his mouth and silently left the hall from receiving the glares of his peers. It was of little doubt that he would come to regret what he did in this day, thinking of what a supreme being like the Conferred Queen would've thought of him.

Nothing... He didn't know that it was nothing.

Princess Isabella walked in with an undisputed momentum and rose towards the platform along with Grand Elder Lloyd and Davis following behind her. Davis could never stand beside her in a public platform as that would invite suspicion and displeasure from the people who revered the Dragon Queen as their goal in cultivation.

However, even without standing by Princess Isabella's side, he still got looks of jealousy and envy cast at him. If he wasn't Princess Isabella's subordinate, perhaps there would be many death threats falling in his mind through soul transmission.

A purple-robed alchemist of the younger generation suddenly walked towards them with abnormal confidence etched on his face. However, it also looked as if he was in an absent-minded state from being bewitched by the Dragon Queen's contrast between beauty and power.

Davis cast a glance at him and purposefully smirked while flying a little closer to Princess Isabella. He raised his hand and was about to slap Princess Isabella's butt amidst the entire gaze of the crowd!

Many jaws dropped as their eyes widened in shock! The man who possessed a wistful look when he approached the Dragon Queen came to an abrupt stop as his eyes widened into two big circles.

However, Davis took that naughty hand of his towards his head and ran it through his blonde hair as he cocked his head, condescendingly looking down on him and all the people who thought they had a chance of nearing Princess Isabella.

"You...!"

Veins erupted over a few people's foreheads as they clenched their fists. Their humiliating expressions were a sight to see. That purple-robed alchemist pulled up his sleeves and walked forwards with visible anger threatening to explode in trying to teach Davis a lesson, but a person who seemed to be closer to him quickly caught him and made him calm down.

The look on his face when the person calmed down was mortified, to say the least. It was as if he felt his own woman, no, his goddess was taken away from him. Perhaps, reality hit him hard, but he lowered his head before an ominous glint flashed past his eyes.

Davis had already followed Princess Isabella over the platform, where the dignitaries were seated. It was not that he did not see the people who were casting hostile glances at him, but he completely ignored them as there were many ill intents mixed in the crowd. He didn't bother to remember all their faces other than a select few who went overboard with their reactions on seeing a stunning beauty.

'Hmph, those retards think that they can ogle at my Isabella... This should teach them that she is mine already...' Davis's eyes flashed with a possessive glint.

Princess Isabella turned her head and shot a look at him, her lips moving without making a sound, "Thank you."

Davis just lightly smiled.

The men who witnessed this became further angered, but it also helped a few realize their mistake. Once they realized their mesmerized actions, they bowed their heads, possessing a fearful attitude and a fragile mindset that became frail from the possible future that the Conferred Queen might destroy their lives for their rudeness.

The platform of dignitaries included the Elders and a few Grand Elders. They all stood up to greet as they echoed 'Dragon Queen~', and displayed way over the top amicable attitude that would usually display to their Ancestor. They were completely favorable to her and even readied an upper seat that towered above all of them.

Davis inwardly nodded his head.

'Truly, the higher-ups understand how to treat their savior, the benefactor of the Alstreim Family rather than these brats who only knows how to be a show-off and disgrace...'

He cast a look around and found that he knew all the Grand Elders by name as they had introduced themselves in the Grand Welcoming Hall, and as for the Elders, he knew only a single one of them. Furthermore, he possessed neither a bad nor a good impression of this Elder, but he did become a bit wary as this Elder was clearly a close subordinate of Grand Elder Valdrey Alstreim.

At that time in the Grand Welcoming Hall, this Elder clearly behaved as if he was air, not bothering anyone.

While the people below were silent, looking at their elders speak to the Dragon Queen, the Elders were introducing themselves one by one while Dragon Queen politely gave a slight nod in acknowledgment to each introduction.

When it was finally that person's turn, Davis squinted his eyes as he attentively watched and listened.

[1] Pill'ed, meant heavy usage of pills to increase cultivation, also denoting that those who used this method have their foundations weaker.

Chapter 972 Announcemen

A middle-aged man stepped up from his seat with clasped hands as he slightly bowed. Like all the Elders and Grand Elders who were present the last time in the Grand Welcoming Hall but possessed a change of clothes today representing their affiliations as alchemists, he also wore a white robe with seven stars embedded over his chest.

The seventh star glowed with a bronze hue, highlighting his alchemist level.

A Mid-Level King Grade Alchemist!

"Zeno Alstreim greets the Dragon Queen!" He bowed ninety degrees once before he raised his head, "Grand Elder Valdrey Alstreim instructed me to treat the Dragon Queen as how I would treat him. This lowly Elder is at your service."

Princess Isabella smiled a bit, "There's no need to go that far. Respect can be seen within your attitude, and you have all given me the utmost respect that I can receive."

She sat like an Empress, a haughty smile hung over her face, but her graceful movements and polite speech gave people a favorable impression that made them subconsciously fantasize about the possible relationships with the Dragon Queen in their own imaginations.

The other Elders also praised her to the heavens, making her some sort of grand existence, who is worthy enough to be seated above their heads. They felt that they could be content if they were to at least become acknowledged by the Dragon Queen, and perhaps, taken to her power to be trained to an ultimate expert!

However, with their ages, it was bound to be difficult to obtain a good impression. That's why they tried to impress her with the intent of wanting to take care of their juniors. With the Dragon Queen being this polite and not scary, almost everyone was intent on trying to curry favor that they forgot about the Alchemy Exchange for the time being.

Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim looked abnormally proud at the scene. After all, the achievement of successfully inviting the Dragon Queen to the Alchemy Exchange belonged to him. However, it was too bad that he had already reached the heights capable of achieving with his strength in the Alstreim Family. If there was a position that was above the one he owned, then it might surely belong to him.

Nevertheless, the monetary or territorial reward would be his in due time for this achievement! He was elated that he managed to accomplish what any other Grand Elder did not accomplish! This way, his influence in the Alstreim Family's internal affairs would also increase!

"Hahaha! Everyone! I am elated that we invited the Dragon Queen to witness the Alchemy Exchange held two decades! This exchange can also be treated like a competition and a grand opportunity!" Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim cut them short and looked at the juniors.

"That's right, Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim! With her eminence present in this place, I'm sure that the younger generation alchemists are excited and eager to prove themselves on the battlefield. We must not waste any more time and start with it." Zeno Alstreim abruptly spoke up.

Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim rubbed his blonde beard in amusement, wondering why Zeno Alstreim, a subordinate, would try to start the Alchemy Exchange when there were only a few main participants, especially his 'master's' favored were still missing. If they started now, wouldn't Zeno Alstreim be disappointing his master?

He smiled, "What you are saying is also correct. With the Dragon Queen present, it is obvious that these brats who haven't even crossed a hundred years are going to abnormally give their best to prove themselves. However, when I said that it is a grand opportunity, I didn't mean it that way.

"Oh? That means?" One of the Elders who was silent all this time probed.

Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim displayed a teasing smile, but even his gaze was flushed red in excitement, "The Dragon Queen has given her word that she will reward the winner of this Alchemy Exchange a vial of the Million Emerald Vines Calamity's nectar!"

"..."

"What!?"

There was a momentary lapse of time where everyone became silent before the first shocked voice echoed out! It came right from the direction of the hall's entrance!

Clamor instantly erupted in the hall while everyone turned to look at the loud yet melodious voice with shock already encroaching their mind. They noticed that it was Young Mistress Nora Alstreim, who was the source of the loud voice of disbelief! However, they were mistaken!

It was not Young Mistress Nora Alstreim who had just seemed to enter and raise her voice, but it was also another woman who walked beside her. They both had their mouths agape, making people confused as to who interrupted the grand characters on the platform when they found out that it was the purple-robed woman beside Young Mistress Nora Alstreim, who spoke.

Her lips moved as her melodious voice of disbelief still echoed in their ears before it continued.

"Did I hear it, right? Did a Grand Elder of your family just say that the rewards include the Million Emerald Vines Calamity's nectar?"

Nora Alstreim nodded her head slowly as if she also couldn't believe the announcement. She possessed an incredulous expression on her face that said that she was still reeling in disbelief.

Just two weeks ago, she needed the Million Emerald Vines Calamity's nectar to make Grand Elder Elise Alstreim breakthrough to the Martial Master Stage, but now, it seemed that it is readily available to the person who wins in this Alchemy Exchange.

Is there such a good deal in this world? Just when she thought that they would be continuously suppressed until there was nothing remaining of them?

'I must win this Alchemy Exchange no matter what!' Nora Alstreim's eyes flashed with a desiring expression before her face flushed with a crimson hue.

If she could obtain the nectar, perhaps, not only could she make her grandma's vitality rejuvenate but can also try to negotiate with the Ancestor to make things right! Even with this little tiny bit of nectar to provide, she still held some hope that the Ancestor would absolve Grand Elder Elise Alstreim of her crimes using this achievement.

Although she knew that she was daydreaming, she felt that her plan should work as a first step to clear 'her' family's name!

She cast a look around and saw that there were many sneering, casting hateful looks at her. She promptly ignored them as she knew that her family wasn't in the wrong. She didn't have time to care about them as only the treasure occupied her mind this time.

She noticed that the Dragon Queen, along with her subordinate Alchemist Davis, was present, but became vaguely disappointed that it wasn't the person she expected to appear by the Dragon Queen's side. She frowned and shook her head before she promptly informed her friend about the grand characters and their deeds.

"Mhm... I've already heard, Nora. Your Alstreim Family is blessed by the heavens for such a character to have visited your Alstreim Family during this calamitous era. This character's presence made you all avert a disaster!" The purple-robed woman's eyes gleamed in interest and excitement.

The crowd made boisterous noise, praising the Dragon Queen for her generosity, and she felt that she also became a part of it, feeling desire over the nectar!

Chapter 973 Shocking Declaration

The purple-robed woman knew about the recent achievements of the mysterious Isabella, whose achievements seemed to be making rounds in almost every power in the Nine Eastern Territories. The story of how she had a Ninth Stage Protector was famous enough, but the story of how she drove back the Aqua Flood Dragon while still being a junior became a legend that made numerous young generational experts feel inferior!

However, they also felt that the ceiling that they were facing had become even more widespread. The narrow scenery they had always seen in their comfortable space seemed to become more spacious than ever.

However, at the same time, the veracity of these pieces of news couldn't be confirmed unless they visited the Alstreim Family Territory, making many people doubt if this was a ploy of the Alstreim Family to attract experts into their family. Nevertheless, the name, Conferred Queen Isabella seemed to have already spread on another note, the annihilation of the Million Emerald Vines Calamity!

She personally knew that both of the information was true from one of her sources, who is none other than her friend, Nora Alstreim.

At this time, another person entered the scene, garnering more attention than the fairies who were already present. Many people seemed to experience goosebumps within them, but not in a good way, to be exact. They retracted their hostile gazes and cast a look at the platform, not daring to attract that person's attention.

The person who arrived was none other than Weiss Alstreim!

The people were afraid that he would take their rudeness to heart, making life difficult for them. There were many past examples who had their lives ruined just because they said a single bad thing about Weiss Alstreim, so they were rather afraid that he might do something. However, when they all cast the same hostile gaze at Nora Alstreim, it seemed that they didn't fear that she would take it too far.

Weiss Alstreim's eyes lit up as he looked at the platform. He could see that the Dragon Queen sat there, looking at him with interest, but he wasn't aware that it was his delusion that made him think like that when in reality, she was frowning in distaste.

He straightened his back with a taut posture, his chin slightly up, and was about to walk forwards when the Dragon Queen suddenly spoke up.

"Everyone..." Princess Isabella's low voice caught everyone's attention.

She didn't even have to raise her voice to get the crowd to listen to her; instead, they stood in attention as if there was going to be a command personally given to them. Even the women were no different as

they no longer compared themselves with the mighty Dragon Queen as they now looked up to her instead of envying her.

Nora Alstreim, who initially seemed to be against her in a competitive manner, also paid attention even though she didn't react in an overexaggerated manner like everyone else. She still possessed her pride but thinking back, she now felt like a loser for acting like that in the Grand Welcoming Hall. Now that she recalled some bits of it, she knew that she was reluctant to see some other woman shining in her turf.

Once the hall became silent in a second, Princess Isabella moved her lips as she smiled.

"First of all, I'd like to congratulate you all on being an Alchemist. If you ask me why then I must say that it is because I am inadequate at Alchemy. When I tried to practice alchemy as a child, I ended up exploding the low-grade cauldron at the first try. I could encourage myself to continue, but if it was the same with the tenth try, I knew that my talent in alchemy is not up to par and is supposed to be average at best if I kept it up."

"That why I look up to alchemists since I am incapable of concocting pills with my current prowess and knowledge."

Princess Isabella paused as she looked at the crowd's heartened expression. Her smile slowly turned into a playful one before she continued.

"That's why I also possessed the thought that it would be better if the man who manages to woo me in the future is also an alchemist."

Woah!!!~

Clamor instantly erupted within the hall, with some people losing their minds as they possessed a stupid smile on their faces.

"The Dragon Queen has such an embarrassing past? It makes me want to laugh, but it-it's adorable in its own way!"

"You high-strung alchemist! That's not important! Look, the Dragon Queen indirectly stated that she might pick a potential candidate to marry from one of us!"

"Idiot! The Dragon Queen only stated that as a possibility. It doesn't mean we consider all of us to be potential candidates!"

"Besides, be more aware of your dogshit status. An immortal fairy will never ever consider us a potential candidate. We are greatly lacking, and if there are potential candidates, it must be from the Thousand Pill Pala- No! Such a small Territory cannot possess the rightful candidate for the Dragon Queen. If there's a rightful candidate, then it must be from the Pill Emperors of the mid-sized Territory, the Glorious Pill Palace!"

"Furthermore, can't you see that?" That man gestured towards the Dragon Queen's side with displeasure etched all over his face.

The other man followed his gaze and his eyes landed on a certain subordinate who seemed to possess top-tier battle prowess and rumored to be highly skilled in alchemy.

"Alchemist Davis... No wonder he has the complete favor of the Dragon Queen... Even his actions were easily ignored as there's no way the Dragon Queen didn't notice his improper movement!" That man gritted his teeth in jealousy and anger.

It wasn't just them, but many people discussed her statement.

Meanwhile, Davis blinked in doubt.

Was Princess Isabella acting while trying to hoodwink everyone again, or does she truly look up to alchemists because she had such an unrewarding experience? He didn't know as they never had that conversation before, but it was certain to him that she was mentioning him at the end.

Princess Isabella beamed as she looked at everyone become excited. She knew that the men over here became abnormally hyped up, so she resumed her short pause.

"As Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim, a Peak-Level King Grade Alchemist spoke before; I gave my word to him that I will award the younger generational alchemy expert who wins this Alchemy Exchange a ten-milliliter vial of the Million Emerald Vines Calamity's nectar."

"However..." Princess Isabella cast a look around in inspection before she made a shocking declaration, "I would like to retract that statement..."

"..."

Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim's elated expression deflated like a balloon that was pierced with a needle. The same could be said about the others!

The hall instantly became silent, and all the excitement died down. It was as if a person had self-destructed in this place, causing people to have a horrified expression on their faces. Nevertheless, many people noticed that she hadn't completely finished her statement with her rosy lips still slightly agape.

They held their breaths, waiting for her continuation.

Chapter 974 Five Times

Everyone held millions of thoughts constantly running in their mind, pressuring them to think badly of the Dragon Queen as she withheld her statement in a public platform. The ones who were angry kept their mouths shut since they couldn't do anything about it both in terms of power and justness.

After all, the nectar solely belonged to the Dragon Queen, and it was in her rights to take back what she said!

However, the next words the Dragon Queen echoed had them all raging!

"... Because, after reconsidering that you are all younger generational experts who have a bright future ahead of you like me, I would like to reward a large vial that contains fifty milliliters of the Million Emerald Vines Calamity's nectar!"

"..."

Half of the hall instantly became clouded in dumbfoundedness before the entire hall rose up in excitement as they raised their voices in cheers and praise!

"May the heavens bless the Dragon Queen for her magnanimity!"

"Truly, Dragon Queen's generosity knows no bounds!"

"Glory to the Dragon Queen!!!"

It was mainly the higher-ups, and the people who were waiting for her continuation were stunned by her speech, while the majority of the younger generation quickly sprang up cheered, their voice echoing in the hall like a tidal wave!

Excited voices kept echoing out from the crowd, but it made Davis dumbfounded instead.

'My nectar...' He stared at Isabella as he blinked his eyes in askance, but the other party seemed to be ignoring him. A moment later, he smiled a bit as he shook his head, not at all caring for a little bit of nectar.

As he thought before, it was just a small price to pay for a date.

The Grand Elders and Elders belatedly stood up and bowed towards the Dragon Queen. They were like subordinates being rewarded for their obedience, but the Alstreim Family seemed to not feel any kind of humiliation over it. Instead, they felt that as if an extra bow was also in need. It wasn't an exaggeration to say that this even has reached the level of making Ancestor Dian Alstreim attend!

That's five times the initial reward the Dragon Queen had promised! Fifty milliliters amounted to ten thousand drops, and they mused that it was more than enough to get many of their experts to the Martial Master Stage. Perhaps, hundreds of them!

This way, perhaps all the elders would become energetic while possessing a youthful countenance!

Unfortunately, this was a reward given to the winner of this Alchemy Exchange. It was fine if they won as they could provide many incentives for the winner to exchange the nectar, but if someone else with no intentions to exchange the nectar won, then it would become too difficult for them to acquire it.

However, they didn't worry much since there's a person who they had hopes on, a low-key rising alchemist of the Alstreim Family!

Nora Alstreim's still didn't make a sound. She became wide-eyed at the unexpected increased amount of the nectar. This sudden hope that she felt made her throat go dry before she pursed her lips, swallowing some of her own saliva to realize that it was not an illusion but a reality.

Her bargaining chip towards the Ancestor had just increased five times, causing her to become excessively ecstatic! Moreover, she could also use it to heal Grand Elder Elise Alstreim back to health with a bit of that nectar.

Her body trembled as it became hot. She could no longer suppress her desire for the nectar and wanted to voice it out!

"I-"

The purple-robed woman beside her suddenly raised her voice!

"I will definitely participate and receive the promised rewards! The nectar is mine!" Her lips widened, and she trembled in ecstasy. Those six bright stars that were embedded over her ample bosoms shook along with her trembling, causing the men who turned to see the commotion, drool over, but when they looked at the two-meter tall, brawny man who was behind that woman, they got intimidated and removed their gaze.

It was clear to them that he should be a protector who was assigned to protect her! After all, alchemists expert always traveled with hired bodyguards to protect them, do their bidding, or their dirty work!

"Top Pill Disciple Dalila Leehan, although I am afraid that I might offend you with my words, I have to remind that according to the rules of our Alstreim Family, you can only claim half of the rewards, but you initially gave your word to not even take a bit of it." Immeth Alstreim, who was behind them, reminded the purple-robed woman.

Dalila Leehan's expression became a bit difficult.

Those were undoubtedly the words she said at that time, but...

"T-That... That's not what I heard from Nora in the beginning. The rewards were supposed to be a King Grade Pill that has a twenty percent chance to help one enter the Martial Master Stage, along with a King Grade Healing Pill and a King Grade Cauldron! I have no need for these rewards, so I graciously offered to enter in your stead to win this Alchemy Exchange!"

She swiveled her head to look at Nora Alstreim in a solemn manner!

"Nora, you can't be like this! Because of your request, I came all the way from Thousand Pill Palace to participate in this Alchemy Exchange in your stead. I know that have already I declined half of what I can claim on account of our friendship, but I never heard that the Million Emerald Vines Calamity's nectar is on the rewards list. Even if it is a tiny bit, its value isn't any less than a Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragment!"

"You're mistaken." Nora Alstreim tried to explain, "This nectar is from a King Beast Stage Lifeform, and not the previously recorded Emperor Beast Stage Lifeform from another territory. Its value doesn't even reach-"

"Even so!" Dalila Leehan quickly interrupted, "Its value is something that I cannot simply watch and let go of it just for the sake of our friendship. In turn, it could be said that if you stopped letting me get half of what I can claim, it means that you're also severing my path to higher cultivation!"

Nora Alstreim's expression changed as she saw her 'good' friend indirectly warn the consequences of offending her. She bit her lips, not knowing what to do as she too desired the nectar. She was convinced that her friend would be the one who would win this Alchemy Exchange, so she had invited her to participate, but who could've thought something like a crevice would've been emerging between them right now.

Initially, wanting to secure the rare King Grade Body Tempering Breakthrough Pill for Grand Elder Elise Alstreim, she placed her stakes on her friend, the same friend who leaked her the information of the Law Tree Fruit!

If not, why would she call her in the first place? She believed Dalila Leehan was her genuine friend and didn't want to lose her for a bit of nectar. However, this bit of nectar was so precious to her right now that it actually caused her to weigh the friendship!

Chapter 975 Simply Mistaken

"Nora, I am positive that I can get an eligible participant to make me their representative and convince them to get more of the share, but on account of our friendship, I will not shamelessly jump to another person. We'll be dividing the nectar fifty-fifty as it should be... If you insist, then I can only..."

Dalila Leehan sighed as she stated her terms or low-key warned again.

"..."

Nora Alstreim's expression became more reluctant than ever.

Outsiders just couldn't participate just because some kind of competition is held in their family. They have to represent a person from the host, the Alstreim Family's side, to possess the right to participate and gain half the claim to the rewards that they would win!

This kind of rule was present in almost all powers since it actually helped them recruit talented cultivators.

Want the full reward? Become a part of the family!

However, Nora Alstreim knew that if she declined, instead of joining, Dalila Leehan would undoubtedly look for another person to represent!

'For example, Weiss Alstreim...'

Even if it was not Weiss Alstreim, who would dare not accept her!?

Nora Alstreim clenched her teeth before she made up her mind, "Fine! We'll split the nectar fifty-fifty!"

"That's more like it!" Dalila Leehan smiled with a smirk over her lips. She became proud of being the only person to rely on and desiring of the nectar. After all, she herself was convinced that she would be the one to win this Alchemy Exchange!

Nora Alstreim inwardly sighed. At least, they were splitting it equally and not in unfair terms. This way, she could still have twenty-five milliliters of nectar rather than the initial ten milliliters that were announced. If she had accepted to split at that time, she would merely gain five milliliters that could've only helped Grand Elder Elise Alstreim have a greater chance but not a complete assurance to enter the Martial Master Stage!

But with this twenty-five milliliters, she had more options to choose from!

"Everyone!"

The crowd turned to look towards the Dragon Queen again, wondering what's in store for them now.

"I believe that almost everyone has become overjoyed with this reward in store! However, if you all think that it's easy to win, then I can only say that you're all greatly mistaken."

She gestured to her side, "After all, the alchemist I trust is also going to be participating in this Alchemy Exchange."

Everyone swiveled their heads lightly to look at Alchemist Davis with heat emitting from their eyes. In an instant, all the attention and pressure went to him, causing Davis to let out a wry smile, but it looked like he was smirking in derision, causing the participants to be further provoked!

Just before a commotion could ensue, a person flew over and stepped on the platform with a calm expression on his face. He cast a glance at Alchemist Davis before he bowed towards the Dragon Queen.

"As the Young Master of the Alstreim Family, I am deeply honored to be presented such an opportunity even though it would rightfully belong to your subordinate in the first place. I am sure that everyone is already aware that the Dragon Queen is treating this Alchemy Exchange as a tempering session for Alchemist Davis, but nonetheless, please excuse my rudeness as I would dare say that we have excellent pill disciples of our own!"

Weiss Alstreim echoed. His speech was met with a plethora of voices that backed up his statement.

"Furthermore, in front of a renowned top pill disciple from the Thousand Pill Palace, I wonder if Alchemist Davis would be able to meet his Young Mistress's expectations?"

"Nevertheless, I have the same belief that the Dragon Queen has for over her subordinate. I believe that Alchemist Davis would be the one who will win this Alchemy Exchange!"

Princess Isabella inwardly frowned, wondering what Weiss Alstreim was up to as she knew that he was not like this, reserved and refined. She mused that perhaps, being abandoned had caused him to finally start standing on his own two shows yet also could not lose the previous ways of sucking up to a bigger fish.

Even Davis had to admit.

Weiss Alstreim's face was so thick that even after a vicious slap from Isabella, he was still able to walk around and greet her with respect. He didn't think that Weiss Alstreim was a person who could endure humiliation, but he could understand that it would be growth from not having a backing anymore.

He could see that Weiss Alstreim might be desperate to gain a backer, and that happens to be them, the people who were trying to kill him.

'Ironic...' Davis nearly broke down from his current expression, almost laughing on the spot.

"Do you have that's all to say?" Princess Isabella's voice echoed out.

Everyone could feel the cold intent that was in it, and when they cast a glance at Young Master Weiss Alstreim, they saw him tremble a bit.

Weiss Alstreim quickly raised his head and forced a smile, "I would like to introduce you to the Alstreim Family's rising talents in Alchemy."

Princess Isabella leaned back and put her arm over the armrest, resting her head over her hand and crossed her legs, "Go ahead..."

She adopted an Empress's demeanor, not giving any kind of respect for the Young Master of the Alstreim Family.

The people of the Alstreim Family simultaneously felt the humiliation, but they didn't try to support Weiss Alstreim in any way, most likely due to his character, but there was also the fact that they could not offend the Dragon Queen, their greatest benefactor in centuries!

They also knew he deserved to be treated like this by the gentle yet righteous Dragon Queen since most of them knew that he kept disturbing the Dragon Queen initially like a toad lusting over a swan.

Weiss Alstreim did not comment about the rudeness but turned around and opened his mouth, "Boreas Alstreim, Sophie Alstreim, Augustus Alstreim and Claudius Alstreim! Step over the platform!"

He called upon a few four people and gestured them to come up on the stage! The few people who were called out couldn't express their current feelings as they felt acknowledged! They moved from their close groups and flew towards the platform.

However, a certain someone frowned on the surface, wondering why he was called out by the Young Master when he hadn't even made contact with the latter yet. He mused that his identity and prowess must've been leaked before he reluctantly embarked over to the platform.

In a few seconds, three men and a woman stood behind Weiss Alstreim as they respectfully bowed towards the Conferred Queen.

"Dragon Queen! They alone are the top alchemists who represent the Alstreim Family's younger generation!" Weiss Alstreim introduced.

"Good... So you four are the alchemists who are fighting for the honor of the Alstreim Family..." Princess Isabella possessed a musing expression on her face, "... then that means the Young Mistress has taken the side of..."

"That's right!" Weiss Alstreim's smiled, and his eyes flashed with a cunning light, "We fully devote ourselves to the betterment of the Alstreim Family, unlike a certain someone who has brought in a member of the Thousand Pill Palace to cheat on a humble exchange like-"

"If Weiss Alstreim, Dragon Queen, or anyone thinks that I am representing the Thousand Pill Palace for this event, then that means they are all simply mistaken!"

At this time, Nora Alstreim flew towards the platform as her melodious voice echoed around the hall.

Chapter 976 Dalila Leehan's Words

The crowd made sounds of astonishment as Nora Alstreim stepped on the platform, the footstep from her heel alone making a sound that resonated with their hearts, making them feel a chill on their spine!

Wasn't she afraid of offending the Dragon Queen while being this impertinent?

They had to admit. Even though they hated her and her family for bringing a calamity and escaping the punishment through connections, they had to admit that she possessed a demeanor that was suitable to lead them as the Young Mistress of the Alstreim Family.

Her character and temperament were also to their liking, but because of her background, they felt that she was bound to step down as the Young Mistress sooner or later because of the growing sentiments against Grand Elder Valdrey Alstreim's unjustified authority! If she didn't want to step down, then the chances are that she would have to prove herself in some kind of way to appease the masses.

For example... the easiest way to save herself is to cut off her ties to Grand Elder Valdrey Alstreim!

Beside Nora Alstreim, there was the purple-robed woman from the Thousand Pill Palace, Dalila Leehan, on the platform. They had reached the platform together and bowed towards the Dragon Queen in respect as they clasped their hands.

Dalila Leehan slightly gazed before she lowered her head in the presence of the Dragon Queen. Even she, a proud individual, could feel the domineering presence of the Dragon Queen invading her psyche, making her feel inferior in terms of both prowess and beauty. However, she still mused that she had alchemy with her! It made her feel redeemed!

For better or worse, Princess Isabella didn't mind about them but abruptly cast a glance at Davis and caught him staring at the big bosoms of the purple-robed woman, but since it was just for a brief moment, she inwardly forgave him for this transgression in her mind.

"Go on..." She simply spoke, not minding the irrelevant loss of face caused by a trivial mistake that she did when she uttered her words before. However, she also felt that it couldn't even be considered a mistake since Nora Alstreim did indeed have a disciple from the Thousand Pill Palace to participate in this Alchemy Exchange.

That was basically calling an expert to go against amateurs. The result couldn't become any more obvious, and perhaps akin to cheating even if Nora Alstreim was not working for the Thousand Pill Palace.

Nora Alstreim blinked, wondering why she didn't get rebuked for being presumptuous. She knew that she would be ostracized and punished for making the Dragon Queen say otherwise, but she simply couldn't sit by, watching every one of them decide that she is a traitor who is working for the Thousand Pill Palace!

There was already severe rejection that could be seen in the eyes of the people who thought they brought the Aqua Flood Dragon to ruin the Alstreim Family, and she just didn't want it to get worse.

But even more than that, she wanted to prove that they had already redeemed themselves, but they weren't allowed to reveal with what they had redeemed themselves with! Because they would become even bigger sinners of the Alstreim Family if the matter of the Water-Attributed Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Core were to leak!

It was such a contradiction that left her mind spinning in frustration, reluctance, and rage!

She took a deep breath and spoke, "This is my friend, Dalila Leehan, and one of the top pill disciples of the Thousand Pill Palace. She is simply an alchemist who I have requested to help me out and participate in my stead to help me gain one of the rewards since I'm in dire need of that pill. Originally, I was just in need of that pill, and as for the other rewards, I didn't want it and thought of giving it to the runner-up."

"However, it's not like we all expected the Dragon Queen to give the Million Emerald Vines Calamity's nectar as a reward to the winner, right!? It's not like we expected the Dragon Queen to appear here in the first place either, right!?" Nora Alstreim became a bit emotional as she turned to look at the crowd, but she controlled her emotions and managed to calm down quickly.

Princess Isabella was nonchalant, but inwardly, she felt a bit of pity for this woman.

'But no matter how she howls for justice if her own righteousness is lacking, what rights does she have to seek justice or even deserve it?'

Just because she felt pity didn't mean that she would forgo the wrongs done to her mother-in-law Claire by Nora Alstreim.

She chose to be noncommittal and did not respond to that statement.

"Everyone," Dalila Leehan suddenly spoke up, "If I manage to win somehow, and even if I don't win, I give you all my word on this stage that I would fetch a delicious deal that would make the current pills in the market of the Thousand Pill Palace easier and cheaper to acquire!"

The Elders all had their eyes wide, and even the Grand Elders weren't an exception!

Almost every major power in the Nine Eastern Territories and even some of the mid-sized Territories have business deals with the Thousand Pill Palace that involves pills! The Thousand Pill Palace was and is the alchemy hegemon of these Nine Eastern Territories for a long time, and would be so for the foreseeable future!

The Thousand Pill Palace recruited alchemists from all over the small and mid-sized Territories! They possessed thousands of branches in their Territory alone, and in the Territories outside of them, they had branches in each relevant city and locations which are deemed profitable!

In fact, it was said they possessed six Ninth Stage Powerhouses! And with the numerous business deals that were ongoing with so many powers, their position in the Fifty-Two Territories was immovable and stable!

Many times, despite being an equal power, several of those equal powers had to suck up to the Thousand Pill Palace to get discounted pill business deals. Sometimes, those powers would be careful not to offend them as a particular pill business deal, or perhaps the entire pills business deals might be revoked even with the Thousand Pill Palace paying up the compensation, keeping the end of their words.

After all, the Thousand Pill Palace always had the wealth to do whatever that wanted! They practically threw around money at people's faces and indirectly called them losers!

The other powers were always reluctant as they would end up losing the pills and get their compensation instead after waiting a long time for their pills to be concocted and delivered. Even if those reluctant powers protest, they might be blacklisted, and that would cause them to be ostracized and regress as an end result!

This made them all the more frustrated and deeply reluctant, but they were helpless to anything against a capitalistic alchemy stronghold. The monopoly the Thousand Pill Palace held over the pill markets

were thousands of times greater than what the Alstreim Family or the other powers possessed, and their influence stretched over even to the darkest organizations present within the Nine Eastern Territories!

In other words, Emperor Grade Alchemists just possessed that much of an influence and a force of strong bootlickers to reckon with!

Chapter 977 Universal Sign

Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim's facial expression couldn't help but continuously break out into a gleeful smile no matter how he tried to stop it. That's why the dignitaries on the platform were also all excited to hear about this proposition!

They knew that Dalila Leehan wouldn't have dared to publically utter such words if it weren't for the unexpected reward, the Million Emerald Vine Calamity's nectar! To them, the Alchemy Exchange that was initially held to find talents to nurture changed into something else!

The situation just kept getting better and better for them!

Even the thought of purposefully losing to the Thousand Pill Palace's top disciple crossed their minds, but the nectar had its own influence on them, causing them to fall into an abyss of irrevocable temptation between the two! It was as if there were two naked and enticing women on a luxurious red bed, beckoning them to choose one of them!

"Then please do participate in this Alchemy Exchange!" Zeno Alstreim flicked his sleeves as he clasped his hands. The others followed suit, respecting Dalila Leehan's wishes to participate in this pill tournament!

Weiss Alstreim frowned as he felt that he was on the losing end.

Contrary to those words he uttered to the Dragon Queen; he didn't believe that Alchemist Davis would win. After all, how could an Elder Soul Stage brat who could've only reached the Mid-Level Sky Grade in terms of alchemy possibly compete against the few people he designated, who were all Peak-Level Sky Grade Alchemists?

He had heard how Alchemist Davis was registered as a Peak-Level Sky Grade Alchemist by the Ethren Empire's Thousand Pill Palace Branch, but he possessed doubts over as the same as anyone in this hall that had previously investigated Alchemist Davis. After all, the records were hazy, and the examiner who oversaw Alchemist Davis's Peak-Level Sky Grade Exam seemed to have gone missing.

The whole thing was like a farce and remained suspicious, to say the least.

He was convinced by himself that it was the Dragon Queen's influence that got Alchemist Davis a Peak-Level Sky Grade Token and a six-starred purple robe he was currently wearing, issued by the Thousand Pill Palace Branch.

Even if Alchemist Davis really was a Peak-Level Sky Grade Alchemist, he just mused that his pill concoction skills and level could not be compared with the others whom he had selected. He mused that he would run out of energy and faint, embarrassing himself in front of everyone.

Weiss Alstreim inwardly grinned as he couldn't wait to see such a scene. However, it was further despairing for himself when especially Dalila Leehan, a true, top-tier Peak-Level Sky Grade Alchemist, was involved! He believed that the chances of the people he designated winning were less than twenty percent!

He tried to take her away, but it ended up backfiring against him!

"Then, I'll abide upon my words and give my everything to win in this Alchemy Exchange!" Dalila Leehan clasped her hands and gave a junior's bow!

Over to the side stood four people who were called out by Weiss Alstreim.

Boreas Alstreim, Augustus Alstreim and Claudius Alstreim.

The three purple-robed, blonde-haired men each had their own postures and characteristics, but they all possessed solemn expressions over their faces, obviously intimidated by Dalila Leehan. Looking at her bright six-starred purple robe and the demeanor of an alchemy powerhouse, they were forced to admit the disparity between them even though they were part of the same group of the younger generation.

However, the woman, Sophie Alstreim, possessed a carefree expression on her face, only having eyes for the Dragon Queen. It was as if she had already given up on the Alchemy Exchange and instead concentrated on fantasizing about getting interactions with the Dragon Queen.

She pursed her lips and held her fists to her ample bosoms, seemingly having deep respect in her heart.

Weiss Alstreim finally spoke after musing that all was not lost.

"Dragon Queen. Let me introduce-"

"No need..." Davis suddenly stepped in and cut him off.

"They have mouths to speak for themselves, and I heard that the Young Master and the Young Mistress could send their representatives to participate in their stead as alchemists. So pick one and be done with it. Why are you introducing the four of them as if they are all on your side?"

Weiss Alstreim narrowed his eyes, "It's not like that... I-"

"That's right!" A disgruntled voice suddenly echoed from behind.

Everyone turned to look at the source of the voice and saw that it was one of the three talented alchemists. He possessed a simple neck-length hair cut, had his posture relaxed but confident with his hands folded.

"Young Master, I don't know about the others, but I have never talked to you to begin with, so now, if you'll excuse me, I'll be representing myself in this sacred stage."

Weiss Alstreim became taken aback as he didn't expect this nobody to talk back to him. He gritted his teeth as he forced a smirk.

"Do you know what you're doing, Claudius Alstreim!?"

His voice was laden with a dangerous threat.

"I do..." Claudius Alstreim simply nodded his head and moved two steps back from the place he stood with the other three alchemists.

"You'll regret this!" Weiss Alstreim sent a soul transmission, his eyes filled with resentment and hostility.

"So what? I am an Alchemist of the Brilliant Flame Corps. I am not afraid of you!" Claudius Alstreim openly stated without the use of soul transmission, causing Weiss Alstreim to be stared at with ill intent by many people.

On the seating side of the platform, Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim nodded his head in appreciation. The low-key talent was indeed daring to show his fangs at the right opportunity.

'Nurturing such a seedling is better indeed...' He mused.

"Good, very good..." Weiss Alstreim muttered in a low voice before he looked at the other three he called out before, "What about all three of you? Think carefully before you answer..."

His eyes flashed with a hint of warning as he was no longer as conspicuous as before.

While the two men became hesitant, the woman frowned at Weiss Alstreim before she smiled, "I don't mind becoming your representative if you kowtow to me."

"You!?" Weiss Alstreim's expression changed, "Sophie Alstreim! Do you know who you're talking to!?"

"The trash of the Alstreim Family who hides behind his 'grandma' all the time he couldn't solve a problem, or am I wrong?"

Sophie Alstreim simply shrugged with a mocking smile on her face.

"You! I'll have you thrown to the magical beast dungeon as a dinner for them!" Weiss Alstreim totally lost his cool as he pointed his finger at Sophie Alstreim. His eyes even became moist before it turned hateful as it reminded him of the exile he received from his own group.

Sophie Alstreim sneered.

"Have you forgotten that I'm the most fawned granddaughter of Grand Elder Krax Alstreim?"

She became amused before she shot up a middle finger at him. She moved two steps back like Claudius Alstreim, no longer minding about Weiss Alstreim or the gazes she received from the people who became shocked by her actions.

Weiss Alstreim's eyes turned a bit bloodshot!

Chapter 978 So Close Yet So Far...

Weiss Alstreim's lips trembled as he felt the atmosphere become heavy. His body felt stiff as if he became stuck in a quagmire. It was almost as if everyone turned against him!

However, he could only point his fingers in anger and do nothing about it as he realized that Sophie Alstreim possessed an influential Grand Elder's backing. Before, he wouldn't be afraid as he had Grand Elder Elise Alstreim, but now, he completely possessed no backing at all! It made him feel vulnerable for the first time in his life in front of someone from the same family!

His eyes glanced towards a person in trepidation,

But for some reason, Nora Alstreim didn't seem to be intent on exposing his lack of backing either. He was prepared to use it to his advantage, but nothing seemed to go his way in this exchange.

"Pathetic... for a man who was once praised as the Young Master from the Alstreim Family..." Davis openly sneered.

"This is a stage that is held for alchemy experts. If you don't know anything about the way we alchemists move about or remain ineligible to stand at this stage, then..."

"Scram!!!"

Weiss Alstreim's whole body trembled as he seemed to be on the verge of a breakdown. His pores and meridian pathways became heated by rapid yet abnormal circulation. His heart sped up, pumping more blood than ever. The blood started to flow in reverse from being humiliated in front of all these people! If it continued, he might possibly spit out blood from anger!

Sophie Alstreim's insult was already humiliating to him, but this was just worse as his lips quivered from wanting to speak out in retort, but the words were simply stuck in this throat, unable to come out.

Davis didn't hold back as one of his goals here was to 'weaken' Weiss Alstreim. He was about to humiliate him further when suddenly a voice echoed out!

"How dare you!? To speak rudely towards the Young Master of the Alstreim Family, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that you're disrespecting the entire Alstreim Family! A man with a blonde goatee stepped up and stood in front of Weiss Alstreim!

"Quickly apologize to the Young Master!"

"..." Weiss Alstreim became stunned at the sight of someone helping him at this time. He couldn't help but feel moved, "Boreas..."

Boreas Alstreim turned to look back, "Yes, Young Master. I'll be representing you in this Alchemy Exchange."

Weiss Alstreim smiled in relief as he called calmed down. A moment later, he became confident that he didn't need the help of anyone to keep his position as the Young Master, improving himself in due time!

'Indeed, people who have discerning eyes do flock to me...'

He believed in his charisma as his eyes shone with a self-encouraging light!

"Now, apologize!" Boreas Alstreim remained adamant as he aggressively hounded Alchemist Davis.

The Grand Elders and the Elders all possessed rather scary expressions on their faces. They couldn't help but muse if this brat doesn't truly understand the meaning of his actions, that making a subordinate apologize for this kind of rudeness is almost the same as lowering the master's head.

If Alchemist Davis miraculously apologized at this point, they would be the ones to prevail and save their face, but they would be completely offending the Dragon Queen instead!

Just when Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim was about to interfere, Princess Isabella shot a look at him. Grand Elder Lloyd Alstreim didn't know what it meant, but her unfathomable amethyst eyes made him retreat as he leaned back on his seat.

"I see..." Davis smirked, "This is what it means to be a dog that barks for its master..."

"!!!" Veins protruded over Boreas Alstreim's forehead as he clenched his fists in hostility!

However, he didn't dare to raise his arms against Alchemist Davis as he didn't doubt over the latter's battle prowess. Almost everyone knew about the latter's battle with the Towering Cloud Hall's disciple, and that disciple's fate.

"You're taking it too far! I am an alchemist from the Burning Sea Brigade that commands the seas of the Alstreim Family!"

The crowd had their eyes wide open in surprise!

The Burning Sea Brigade!

Contrary to the Brilliant Flame Corps, which took the second place, the Burning Sea Brigade is the number one younger generation organization in the Alstreim Family. It was an influence that was formed from the alliance of the Grand Elder and Elder's talented descendants.

Usually, the Young Master would become the grand leader of this organization, but since Grand Elder Valdrey Alstreim reigned in the scene of internal affairs, the other Grand Elders teamed up to form influence of their own, and the Burning Sea Brigade fell into their hands, making it their sphere of influence!

However, as the name implied, the Burning Sea Brigade's missions were mainly in the Alstreim Family's ocean territory and external waters, so they were not seen much in the Grand Alstreim City, contrary to the Brilliant Flame Corps who occupied the city.

So for an alchemist of the Burning Sea Brigade to help Weiss Alstreim was unexpected, to say the least! Everyone was dumbfounded by Boreas's actions.

However, Davis wasn't aware of that, but he possessed an inkling as to why Boreas Alstreim would bark like a dog at him. It was because of the previous incident, where he almost spanked Isabella with his hand, making everyone know that she could only be seen by him.

It made Boreas Alstreim give off an eerie vibe.

However, no matter how much of a jealousy Boreas Alstreim held towards him, why would he care about it?

"So what? Am I supposed to start giving a mere barking dog undeserved respect?"

"No! You're the dog! You mere subordinate! Watch your mouth!" Boreas Alstreim waved his hands before he walked towards Princess Isabella and stopped at a certain distance.

"Dragon Queen! Do you know that your subordinate just tried to-"

"Enough!!!" Princess Isabella raised her voice.

"All of the participants step down from the platform. I heard what all I wanted to know about, so start the Alchemy Exchange without any delay!"

"Yes! Dragon Queen!" The Grand Elders and Elders responded with a nod. They didn't want to escalate this matter any further, either.

Princess Isabella remained indifferent. She was well aware of Davis's actions, but that was their personal matter. Moreover, Davis didn't touch her at all, and besides, she would never allow it for the public to discuss when it was just a feint to shut them up in the first place!

Boreas Alstreim looked pretty shaken. It was as if he never expected a woman to snap at and humiliate him in front of all his people.

His eyes convoluted, and he took a step forwards before he brazenly walked towards Dragon Queen Isabella for some reason. His fists clenched, and his expression became a bit dangerous but midway through her realized that something was wrong with him and stopped.

However, by this point, he was just a meter away from the gorgeous and mesmerizing Dragon Queen.

Suddenly, a saying sprouted in his head among his chaotic emotions.

So close yet so far...

If he could just touch this immortal fairy for a single second...

His body instantly moved, but he acted as if he stumbled over his other foot, his hand reaching out towards her as if to seek support. His hands that seemed to be afar, reached out to the Dragon Queen, almost about to touch her white collarbone that was lightly covered by the frills.

His lips imperceptibly curved into a smile.

Paah!~

A resounding slap echoed out, making people feel a chill up their spine!

Chapter 979 A Warning To The Crowd

Boreas Alstreim suddenly felt his entire being pushed to one side as if being crushed. Blood splattered as his chin crumbled, and his cheeks completely caved in before he was sent flying by a resounding slap that shook the crowd into absolute silence!

Bang!~

Only the resounding sound of the slap and the crash towards the wall that was hundreds of meters away kept echoing in the big hall!

Princess Isabella didn't even bat an eyelid, but she looked at the puddle of blood near her long legs with her amethyst pupils that became a shade of crimson from the reflection of blood. Instead, everyone's head swiveled from looking at the miserable and bloodied Boreas Alstreim to Alchemist Davis, watching him possess the audacity to ruthlessly slap a talented alchemist right in front of everyone, right in their own lair.

Wasn't he afraid that he would be disqualified? After all, a martial battle wasn't allowed in the Alchemy Exchange unless specified!

Davis clicked his tongue in distaste, and he possessed an abnormally cold expression on his face while his arm was still bent in the posture of slapping. His palm wasn't even stained with a drop of blood, but he knew that Boreas Alstreim's skull shattered, teeth crumbled, and neck snapped with his distinct slap.

Nevertheless, he still held back from killing Boreas Alstreim with his own two hands.

When he entered the hall, it was of little doubt that these men here feasted their eyes on Princess Isabella, roaming their gaze over her curvaceous body. It was quite normal behavior for men to be attracted to a woman, especially a top-tier woman. However, the moment he sensed that their eyes were strangely concentrated on her bosoms, with their expressions becoming a little lewd, he deemed that they took it too far.

After all, with the difference between their status, they would not even have the right to look at her with a straight gaze, but they dared to stare at her rudely along with the flow of the atmosphere.

Princess Isabella did not say anything to their inappropriate gazes as she was a guest, but Davis mused that she held little patience for men like them who violate women through their eyes. If he had not stepped in to make a scene, perhaps Princess Isabella might've taken action by herself, and by that time, it was unknown how many injured alchemists with broken bones would remain.

That is why she thanked him before...

He didn't want to make it too big of a mess, and so he indirectly put out the fact that Princess Isabella was his and someone they could only look up to, but since this retard Boreas Alstreim did not seem to understand, he did not hold back.

No matter what others may think, Isabella was his woman for heaven's sake! No one can look at her wrongly, and especially not in front of him!

Davis didn't want to admit it, but Isabella, Natalya, and Evelyn were his reverse scales. He could stomach being humiliated, but when it was his woman who was humiliated, he simply became unable to withstand.

He didn't know why, but could reason that it was because of his past. He was used to being humiliated. However, the heart to care, especially possessing deep affection for his women, was something he developed in this life.

'But indeed... There are people like this retard who is unable to weigh the difference between their status...' He inwardly lamented as it was a long time before he met such a person.

Boreas Alstreim didn't dare to retort Sophie Alstreim but dared to be aggressive towards him? The Dragon Queen's subordinate?

Just how much envy did Boreas Alstreim feel towards him to become this retarded!?

"Anyone who tries to near my Young Mistress with no matter with what intent it maybe shall be dealt with by me without fail!"

Davis echoed a final warning as he coldly looked at the crowd. He didn't overstep his bounds and returned to the surface like an obedient subordinate, ready to participate in the Alchemy Exchange on the behest of his Young Mistress. He was instantly covered by a plethora of fear, ill intent, or rather, unwelcome attitude by the people of the Alstreim Family.

Surprisingly, no one said anything, not about his entry into the participant's zone, or the resounding slap he gave to Boreas Alstreim, perhaps realizing that Boreas Alstreim was completely at fault in this mess. After all, a cultivator stumbling over his footsteps in that flat platform? That was certainly unbelievable even though it was possible that he could've been nervous or charmed by the beauty of the Dragon Queen at such a close range.

Nevertheless, they inwardly mocked him if he couldn't come up with a better act than that sorry act.

Some people checked on Boreas Alstreim and declared that he had fainted, becoming incapable of participating in the Alchemy Exchange. The crowd wasn't surprised as Boreas Alstreim didn't move after being sent flying, but suddenly voices of concern were raised against Alchemist Davis for flouting the rules; that an alchemist could not raise his fist against another alchemist during the exchange.

The voices were backed up by Weiss Alstreim secretly eyeing some of the people in the crowd to raise their voices. However, a single sentence from the Dragon Queen silenced all forms of protest in an instant.

"If my subordinate hadn't stepped in, then there would be a corpse here instead of a fainted person..."

That's right. First of all, even approaching the Dragon Queen amidst the seat of elders could be considered blasphemy, ultimately resulting in his death. These words caused all those who raised their voices to tremble in fear, afraid that they might be implicated.

Hence, they kept their mouths shut and lowered their head, afraid to match gazes with the Dragon Queen.

Weiss Alstreim trembled before he turned back, his back becoming a bit desolate. He took a step forward and looked at Augustus Alstreim, who seemed to be already retreating towards the surface of the hall.

His last chance's answer couldn't be any more clear.

Augustus Alstreim returned to the participant's zone as soon as possible. He was rejoicing right now, glad he didn't decide to become Weiss Alstreim's representative at the last moment!

He was initially feeling regret as he missed a chance to have the Young Master as a backer, but looking at it now, he mused that Weiss Alstreim was as cowardly and unsurprisingly trash as he could be!

Boreas Alstreim didn't even get to be looked at by Weiss Alstreim before he was taken away. Augustus Alstreim was glad that he didn't agree to become Weiss Alstreim's lapdog, as pointed out by Alchemist Davis, only to be left out cold without a hint of care. He felt that even if he must become a lapdog, it should be for a person like the Dragon Queen, who clearly cared for her subordinate!

Besides, he felt that if he could hold on to that long, white jade-like legs and remain at that fair white feet for the rest of his life, his life would be complete!

Weiss Alstreim silently returned to the surface and flew towards the exit. However, it was unknown what had happened within him that his movements became erratic before he stopped and moved to a corner that was out of the participant's zone.

Chapter 980 First Round Of The Alchemy Exchange

Davis stood alone in a corner below the platform before the plethora of gazes that were cast at him. He remained solitary and tall in the participant's zone as if he stood in the spotlight. He had his eyes closed, simply waiting for the start of the Alchemy Exchange.

In his mind, he was considering the chances that he might win.

'Using only my Elder Soul Stage soul force? Right... This makes the difficulty reach the hell level!'

He knew that he had to hide his Soul Forging Cultivation. After all, even his Elder Soul Stage Cultivation that was publicized had people dropping their jaws, and if he unveiled a Mature Soul Stage Cultivation, no, his Supreme Soul Stage Cultivation for his age, wouldn't they be taking up their weapons to find what kind of secret he possessed!?

Davis either felt that the above conclusion would occur, or smart people would try to curry favor with him. But, in the cultivation world that thrived on violence, brutality, and disorder, smart is a relative term, and smart people are cultivators who are already at the top of the food chain commanding other people to do their bidding!

They would try to rob the treasure from him rather than sucking up to him!

It was not that he cared that these lowlifes would try to scheme against him, but Davis hated that he would have to waste his time on these people who might offend him. He wanted to avoid people like Boreas Alstreim, but they somehow spawn in front of him from nowhere, giving him a severe urge to kill them.

Despite the unwelcome attitude, there were still some people who didn't seem to be threatened by him. He opened his eyes and looked towards the figure he sensed approaching him.

That person stood at a respectful distance in this crowded area and clasped his hand, "I look forward to exchanging pointers in Alchemy!"

Davis stared at Claudius Alstreim. This person clearly didn't seem to be on the side of Weiss Alstreim as he was initially the one who rejected Weiss Alstreim's proposition.

Davis unfolded his arms and politely clasped his hands back, "I look forward to the same."

Indeed, he was looking forward as he felt that the chances he might win this Alchemy Exchange were less than twenty percent. With Dalila Leehan present, it became further difficult for him to win while suppressing his capabilities. Nevertheless, he took this as a challenge, and a thought popped on his head that said to him that he might never experience these kinds of exchanges if he became powerful enough to stand at the apex!

Claudius Alstreim didn't say anything anymore as he stood alone just like Davis, but his eyes flashed with an approving light as he noticed that some beauties were approaching them. Just when he was about to

raise his voice to greet them, he noticed that the beauties weren't looking at him, so he kept his mouth shut not to embarrass himself.

Davis noticed Nora Alstreim and her group approaching him. His eyes subconsciously fell on Dalila Leehan's bosoms that approached the level of Evelyn before he quickly took his gaze away. That brief gaze of his was noted by the three women who appeared, but they didn't seem to mind it.

In fact, Dalila Leehan even took that as a form of approval and validation as she smirked.

Nora Alstreim stopped a few meters away and clasped her hand along with her group.

"Haven't seen you since the day you came to our Alstreim Family, Alchemist Davis."

"Young Mistress of the Alstreim Family is right. I recall that you weren't this humble when you tried to undermine my Young Mistress at that time." Davis responded, causing Nora Alstreim to be taken aback before a bit of shame overtook her face, making her cheeks blush.

She wryly smiled, "I won't deny that I've become a bit humble due to the difference in our capabilities."

"It is just; no one likes to lose. Can we at least agree on that?"

Davis slowly nodded his head with a smile.

Nora Alstreim didn't mind if she thought she was a loser. She looked around a bit, but she shook her head and asked, "Where is the one who beat me? Logan, right? Doesn't he also train in alchemy?"

'So this was your true intent in approaching me...' Davis inwardly laughed at her before he replied.

"Unfortunately, Logan sucks at alchemy, and I heard that he has given up on it..."

Hearing her say, 'Logan, right?' as if she just remembered him, he felt that he had to give an applause to her for being able to keep up her act after she made a confession like that.

"I see... It's a pity then since I thought that I could return the favor by having my representative defeat him."

Nora Alstreim didn't have a change of expression. Instead, her tone expressed her lament.

"Well, you can think of me as his representative then..." Davis shrugged.

"I'll oblige to your words then..." Nora Alstreim gave a harmless smile before she possessed a bit of hesitation on her face. She puckered her lips before she asked.

"I wanted to ask before but didn't have a chance, but what kind of relationship do you have with Logan?"

"What made you think that I have a relationship with Logan?" Davis returned the question with a question.

"The way you speak as if you're closer with him..." Nora Alstreim instantly responded.

Davis just smiled widely, making her further confused while she outwardly kept an indifferent expression on her face.

"Everyone!"

A middle-aged man's voice echoed out. It was one of the Elders who seemed to be in charge of this Alchemy Exchange.

"For those who don't know, this Elder's name is Belias Alstreim. The first round is about to start, and when it finishes, I'll have the passing participants follow me to the Pill Arena."

"The contents of the first round is as you guessed. It's a comprehensive test on the knowledge of your alchemy skills, pill concoction, herbs, ingredients, and other miscellaneous things and abilities that are required to become a Peak-Level Sky Grade Alchemist!"

"We are aware most of you have already cleared or almost cleared the written test when you all took the Peak-Level Sky Grade Alchemist Exam conducted by the Thousand Pill Palace Branch. However, this test is more comprehensive and requires deep knowledge on your part to answer the questions that we have prepared."

Belias Alstreim smiled as he cast a look at a curvaceous woman, "I am sure that even the young top pill disciple of the Thousand Pill Palace will find it difficult to answer these questions."

"Oh? The comprehensive test is something I will find difficult to answer?"

Dalila Leehan's bosoms shook as she suppressed a laugh, "How interesting!"

Belias Alstreim merely smiled before he continued.

"Therefore, getting a mere twenty points out of the hundred will be considered a pass. However, it is still not enough to proceed to the next round."

"To get to the next round, the participant must get more than forty points, and if one manages to score more than ninety points, they will directly get seeded and have the qualifications to skip the next round, making it to the final round."

"Any questions?" Belias Alstreim asked in an authoritative manner and stayed quiet for a while. He even panned his head, but no one raised any questions.