

The Man's Decree Chapter 323 (The Man like none Other chapter 323)

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"Abbot Erasmus died with his eyes open. I tried to close his eyes, but to no avail," Walter reported sadly. He didn't even dare to look in Erasmus' direction. Kai got to his knees and caressed Erasmus' face. "Abbot Erasmus, don't worry. I shall avenge you!" After he removed his hands, Erasmus' eyes had snapped shut.

Getting to his feet, Kai glanced around the hall. There were no other corpses in sight, so he asked, "Where is Abbot Erasmus' daughter, Renee?" Walter shook his head. Glen, however, parted his lips to explain, "We don't know where she is. We rushed here after receiving news and barricaded the scene. There was no one else here. We made sure no one touched the scene." Walter gritted his teeth and declared, "I can't believe a lunatic killed everyone in the monastery! Who could he be?"

Kai had a suspect in mind, but he didn't reveal his thoughts as there wasn't any evidence tying the suspect to the gruesome incident. "Don't worry, Mr. Grange. I've asked the Criminal Investigation Division to investigate the matter thoroughly. I believe we'll find out the culprit soon," Glen promised. The anguish in his voice was evident.

"Mr. Lowe, stop investigating the matter. Ordinary humans can't find anything. Leave it to me!" Kai knew this was done by someone who possessed abilities that go beyond that of ordinary people.

Glen was stunned, but he quickly regained his composure and glanced at Kai. Nodding, he said, "All right. I'll ask the investigators to leave!" Right after he said that, a commotion sounded outside.

Kai and the rest rushed out to see Leonidas arguing with the investigators. His robe was utterly drenched. "Let him in!" Kai roared. The investigators were astounded, but they made way for Leonidas. After all, Glen was standing right beside Kai. "Erasmus! Erasmus..." Leonidas wailed as he ran into the monastery. Kai felt his heart ache at the sight of Leonidas' misery.

Both Kai and Walter headed into the hall after him, while Glen stayed outside to dismiss the irrelevant people. He warned them not to spill a word about that day's events.

"Erasmus, Erasmus! Wake up! Wake up..."

Inside the hall, Leonidas flung his arms around Erasmus' body and burst into noisy tears.

Kai and the others stood aside silently. No one spoke a word, for any attempted comforting words were futile.

After crying for a long while, Leonidas put Erasmus' body down. A murderous intent appeared in his gaze as he clenched his jaw and exclaimed, "Dorieus, we're enemies from today onward! I won't stop until I take your life!"

Hearing Dorieus' name, Kai finally confirmed his guess. A while ago, he had grown to suspect Dorieus.

As he had killed Falcon and took the Starry Compass, Dorieus wouldn't have possibly let it slide. After all, Starry Compass was a rare magical item.

Kai had no idea Dorieus was cruel enough to wipe out the entire monastery instead of coming to him for revenge.

"Abbot Leonidas, how did you know it was Dorieus?" Walter asked carefully.

Leonidas managed between gritted teeth, "It was Diomedes who informed me about it. Otherwise, I wouldn't have arrived so quickly. After we killed Falcon, Diomedes persuaded Dorieus to kill everyone in Lagrange Monastery to avenge his disciple. He then informed me about the massacre so I can deal with the mess."

"That's crazy! How could a monk do that?" Glen could barely hide his astonishment.

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"Do you know where Renee is?" Kai asked.

"She was captured and brought to Phantom Monastery. I'll rescue her once I give Erasmus a proper burial!"

Leonidas slowly gathered Erasmus' lifeless body in his arms and turned to bury the corpse in the backyard.

However, Kai reached out to stop him. "Abbot Leonidas, let the others take care of Abbot Erasmus' funeral.

Bring me to Phantom Monastery right now. Renee will be in grave danger if we take too long!"

Leonidas paused briefly before nodding. "All right, I'll take you there immediately," he agreed and carefully placed Erasmus' body on the ground.

"Mr. Grange, Mr. Lowe, we'll leave the rest to you guys!" Kai hollered at the men.

"Take care, Mr. Chance!" Walter replied.

Without further ado, Kai and Leonidas embarked on their quest to save Renee. The Phantom Monastery was located at the peak of a treacherous mountain, where the population was sparse. Hence, the monastery rarely had visitors and was a stark contrast to its famous counterpart—Lagrange Monastery. With Leonidas leading the way, they reached the foot of the mountain at dawn.

Kai stared at the tall mountain and the dense forest that carpeted it, his eyes gleaming with murderous intent. The mountaintop was enveloped in thick fog—a product of the heavy rain from the night before. However, it did not deter Kai and Leonidas as they strode straight ahead and disappeared into the white mist. Meanwhile, in Phantom Monastery, several ferocious-looking monks were sluggishly cleaning up the monastery.

Despite their deceiving attire, they were ruthless murderers who had fled to the mountains to evade the law. They made the Phantom Monastery their haven and lived under the guise of monks.

A man in robes stood in the main hall. He was none other than the current prior of Phantom Monastery and the traitor Leonidas had spoken of—Diomedes. Falcon was his disciple!

It was time for the morning sermon, but Diomedes' mind was elsewhere as he crouched by the wall to eavesdrop on the situation behind the monastery. In a secret room at the back of the monastery, Dorieus, who was obviously past his seventies, was leering at Renee.

Curled up in a fetal position on the bed, Renee tried to hide from the bearded man's lecherous gaze. Her eyes were filled with dread as she stared at the madman before her.

Last night, Renee had gone back to her room after dinner. Just as she was about to retire for the night, she heard a commotion outside her room. It sounded like a scuffle. As her curiosity piqued, she opened the door to investigate, but she got knocked out cold immediately. When she finally came to, Renee found herself in a foreign room.

"Tsk, tsk, tsk... Your skin is as white as ivory. I can even see the delicate veins under it! How befitting of someone who has a frosty constituent! I may have lost the Starry Compass, but I've attained something even more precious. What a bargain!" Dorieus ogled at Renee, his weathered face beaming with glee and excitement.

"W-Who are you? Why did you kidnap me?" Renee asked. She tried to sound calm, but the quiver in her voice gave her away.

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"Oh, my dear, you need not worry. I promise I won't kill you. You just have to stay by my side forever! Thanks to your frosty constituent, I can live for a hundred more years if you and I merge into one!"

Dorieus' tongue darted out to lick his chapped lips. The lust in his eyes compelled Renee to scramble away from him.

"D-Don't come near me, or my dad will never forgive you. He'll kill you for sure!"

Renee was still unaware of Erasmus' death.

"Your dad? Killing me? What a joke!" Dorieus burst into raucous laughter. "Your dad is just a corpse now. How is he going to kill me? With his spirit? Even if his ghost comes back to haunt me, I'll vanquish him all the same!"

Renee was thunderstruck by this information. "You murdered my father?"

"Well, how do you think I got you here if I didn't kill that old bag?" Dorieus sneered.

Overwhelmed by shock, Renee fell into a stupor for a fraction of a second.

However, she quickly recovered and swore to take vengeance for her father. "I'll kill you... I'll kill you..." she vowed, her eyes burning with fury.

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There was no sign of fear on Renee's face. Fueled by pure anger, she lunged at Dorieus.

Unfortunately, she was currently just an average girl who was no match for Dorieus. With a harsh slap, Renee was sent flying backward.

"If you wish to kill me, then you better obey me. Serve me well and become one with me, then perhaps you'll get the chance to slit my throat."

With that, Dorieus pounced at Renee like a leopard would its prey.

"You animal! Let go of me!" Renee struggled to free herself from his grip. Rip!

A large piece of Renee's shirt was torn off.

On the other side, Kai and Leonidas were sprinting up the mountain. Kai moved so abnormally fast that Leonidas could barely keep up.

Soon, Phantom Monastery appeared before them. Kai felt his heart sink when he saw the dilapidated building. Who would be in such a run-down monastery?

"Mr. Chance, this monastery was an abandoned monastery before Dorieus took over and named it Phantom Monastery.

All the monks who reside here are irredeemable criminals who had come here to escape imprisonment," Leonidas explained.

Kai nodded in understanding. That means that I can kill everyone in the monastery without guilt! With that in mind, he barged into the monastery.

The monks who had been cleaning were stunned to see Kai and Leonidas at the entrance to the monastery.

No one ever visited the desolated monastery, so the sight of two strangers made the monks wary.

"Who are you two? What are you doing at Phantom Monastery?" A monk interrogated as he pointed the en

d of a broom at Kai and Leonidas.

Diomedes heard the monk's booming voice from where he stood in the hall and

quickly rushed over.

The moment he laid eyes on Leonidas, Diomedes smirked. "Senior, I didn't expect you to come here so quickly. Have you settled Erasmus' funeral already?"

"Diomedes, you traitor! I swear I'll kill you today!"

Rage overtook Leonidas when he saw Diomedes. He exploded in anger and charged at the grinning prior.

However, Kai quickly intercepted Leonidas' attack and demanded, "Where's Renee? I know you kidnapped her. Where are you keeping her?"

The only reason Kai had held Leonidas back was to find out Renee's whereabouts.

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Diomedes gave Kai a disdainful glance and countered with a question of his own.

"Who are you? You're just an insignificant youngster. How dare you interrupt?"

Diomedes had assumed that Kai was Leonidas' disciple due to his young age.

Kai revealed the Starry Compass in his arms and challenged, "I was the one who killed your disciple, Falcon! I was also the one who snatched the Starry Compass from his dying hands. If you want to seek revenge for your beloved disciple, come at me!"

The sight of the Starry Compass ignited Diomedes' wrath. "So you were the one who murdered my disciple! I'll make sure that you're six feet under by the end of today!" he spat in anger.

An air of malice surrounded Diomedes as he ordered, "Charge! Kill this man and take back the Starry Compass!"

Heeding his command, the monks bared their teeth and surged toward Kai.

Unfazed, Kai raised his hand to fend them off when he suddenly heard the terrified scream of a girl. Though it was a soft cry, Kai could hear it clearly. After all, his auditory perception was currently far better than the average human's.

The shout had traveled from the back of the monastery. Kai was positive that it was Renee's voice, which could only mean one thing—Renee was in danger!

"Abbot Leonidas, hold them back while I save Renee!"

With that, Kai swiftly maneuvered his way around the monks and dashed toward the hall.

"Stop him!" Diomedes' ear-splitting shriek pierced the air as he extended a hand to block Kai.

"You traitor! It's about time I cleaned up my following."

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Leonidas brandished his cane and lunged at Diomedes.
With Diomedes preoccupied, Kai took the opportunity to burst into the hall and kick down the wooden door to the hidden room.

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Crack!

The oak door splintered to pieces. An old man with an unkempt beard appeared in Kai's line of sight. He was hovering over Renee, who only had her undergarments on.

Startled by the noise, Dorieus whipped around to see a young stranger standing by the door. His bushy eyebrows knitted together.

"Kai, save me, save me..." Renee pleaded when she noticed Kai. She hastily pulled the blanket over her body to protect her modesty.

"Who are you, kid? Do you know the consequences of barging into the Phantom Monastery?" Dorieus growled menacingly.

"I was the one who murdered your grand-disciple and stole the Starry Compass. Come and take the Starry Compass back if you can!" taunted Kai as he presented the Starry Compass.

Dorieus' expression lit up instantly when he laid his eyes upon the Starry Compass. "You've got the guts, kid! Since you've come to me of your own volition, I'll end your pathetic life today!"

With his words still hanging in the air, Dorieus' robes billowed out behind him despite the lack of wind. He threw a punch at Kai.

Kai's eyes glinted coldly as they bore into Dorieus. His intimidating aura swirled around him, singing the promise of death.

"You shameless criminal, on behalf of the heavens, I'll make sure you receive retribution!"

With that, spiritual energy coursed from Kai's core to his clenched fist, engulfing it in golden light.

Dorieus was stunned. Shock flashed across his eyes, but his fist did not falter as it continued to fly toward Kai. Instead, he injected more internal energy into the punch.

Bam!

With a deafening boom, a force swept through the room and wreaked havoc. Thud! Thud! Thud!

Dorieus staggered back three steps before he regained his footing. His whole arm was numb from the impact. Kai, on the other hand, was completely unaffected as he regarded Dorieus with contempt.

Dorieus could not hide his astonishment. He never imagined that a young man like Kai would possess such great power. "You're a cultivator?" Dorieus asked with narrowed eyes. "No wonder you dare to challenge me!"

Dorieus could pinpoint Kai's identity from the blow. It seemed like the youngster had trained with cultivators. Kai, too, was taken aback by Dorieus' acuity and ability. Had Kai not achieved Level Nine of Energy Cultivation, the previous attack might have ended in a draw. "Now that you know what I'm capable of, why aren't you pleading for mercy?" Kai quipped impassively.

"You're too arrogant, young man!" Dorieus cackled. "You're just a mere cultivator, and I just so happened to have absorbed your energy for my own use!" Dorieus' laughter stopped abruptly. He leaped into the air and spread his fingers. His digits transformed into claws as he slashed at Kai.

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Kai nimbly dodged the attack and seized Dorieus' wrist. To Kai's surprise, the old man did not try to escape his hold. It was as if Dorieus had intended for it to happen.

Instead, Dorieus mirrored Kai's actions and gripped Kai's wrist as well. The two men grappled with each other, each trying to overpower the other with their internal energy.

The corners of Dorieus' lips quirked upward in a smug smile. Soon after, Kai felt his spiritual energy rush from the center of his body to his arm like a tsunami. The spiritual energy flowed into his arm and through Dorieus' fingertips as the older man absorbed Kai's energy.

Kai's expression shifted to one of concern. He never expected Dorieus to have such an impressive skill.

"Who would have thought that a young man like you would have such pulsating spiritual energy! I'll have to savor this feeling." Dorieus guffawed, evidently pleased with himself.

As Kai felt his spiritual energy get siphoned out of him, he had an epiphany. Since I can absorb the cultivation of all things with the Focus Technique, does that mean I can also steal a person's spiritual energy?