

The Man's Decree Chapter 565 (The Man like none Other chapter 565)

Chapter 565 The Highest Bidder Wins

Galen, who was seated on the head seat, sauntered his eyes through everyone present. "Gentlemen, we have been in alliance for a good number of years, and I suppose I can be as frank as the day. I've brought along a few talismans with me this time around, and one of them was crafted by Mr. Yonce himself. It can effectively protect you from harm and even extend your age."

After the brief introduction, a few wooden boxes were placed on the table. Any average joe would've figured out that they contained the talismans that Galen just spoke about.

Everyone's attention was firmly drawn to them, and they were eager to know what magical items were lying in those boxes. They were dying to see for themselves what the mage of all times had created.

Seeing those zealous stares, Galen smiled faintly. "We're going to abide by the old rules—the highest bidder wins. If none of you are interested, I shall put it on public auction. I really appreciate our strong fellowship, and that's why I'm presenting these precious items to you before anybody else."

"Mr. Zane, we know about the rules. Show us the items."

One of the gentlemen expressed his keenness.

Galen nodded and opened the first box. The moment the wooden box was open, a chilly gust forced its way out of its captivity. The temperature of the room suddenly dropped by a few degrees, and that shook everyone high into alert! When they took a closer look, they saw a black spherical bead. It looked nothing extraordinary and didn't have the slightest sheen on its surface. No one would imagine it to be a talisman if it weren't for the sensation that hit them a moment ago.

"Gentlemen, this used to be one of Master Genzo's prayer beads and had been blessed by his persistent cultivation and chants. It's effective in cooling one's body and clearing one's mind. Well, that's not all. Mr. Yonce had also configured it to utilize geomancy for improving businesses!"

Galen's tone portrayed his confidence in that black bead.

The rest of the crowd turned to the geomancers they've brought along with them, asking if that bead was the real deal.

"Mr. Holt, is this bead authentic?" Samuel whispered.

Barnabus remained skeptical about the object. He hadn't bothered to look at it further after the first glance. "It's just an ordinary bead that looked good."

"But, Mr. Holt, Mr. Zane said that this was one of Master Genzo's beads and that nippy gush of air? We all obviously felt it when the box was opened, didn't we?" Samuel looked at Barnabus, confused.

Samuel was convinced that the bead was not like any other beads.

"I don't mind leaving anytime if that's the amount of trust you have in me."

Barnabus sounded displeased.

"No, no, no! Of course, I believe you. That's why I invited you, right?" Samuel apologized frantically.

Kai was impressed by Barnabus's prowess and was convinced that the latter wasn't a mere charlatan, who was only after fame and fortune.

That black bead in the box was indeed a regular wooden bead. The cold air that encapsulated the room was a planned deception that had nothing to do with it. Verbal tussles that took over the room came to silence after some time. It seemed that people had made up their minds.

"So, gentlemen, shall we start bidding for the bead? Remember, the highest bidder wins.

We're going to start with three million, and the minimum bid increment will be ten thousand."

Galen made the announcement with a smile after everyone had finished their discussions.

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Funnily, people were exchanging glances, but no one was shouting prices.

Probably they had figured out that the bead was spurious.

Galen was stupefied and froze for a brief second at the cold response.

"Gentlemen, this bead is definitely worth the price. If none of you are interested, I shall put it up on auction elsewhere."

His pitch created an awkward situation, and silence pursued. Galen sneaked looks at Boris with every chance he got.

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Chapter 566 Desired By Many

"Mr. Zane, I'm sure you're very well informed about our statures. We have all hired reputable mages concerning the veracity of your items. They might not be as good as Mr. Yonce from Zaprington, but I'm sure that they could still tell if it's fake. What a disgraceful act of you to trick us with a regular wooden bead!" Sean was disgusted by what Galen did.

"M-M-Mr. Cooper, n-n-no, no! It's not a fake!" Galen's face turned as pale as a ghost. "Well, if you doubt its authenticity, I'll just auction it off somewhere else. Why would I want to jeopardize our solid relationship that had been flourishing throughout the years?"

Galen then gestured his man to remove that particular bead from the table and quickly opened the second casket.

There was a bronze mirror dotted with rust. It looked as if it was dug out fresh from the ground.

When he took the mirror out of the box, there were intermittent low hums ringing, and not long after, a blinding ray of light shot out of it.

“Gentlemen, this bronze mirror has a history of more than a thousand years! It was said that Cleopatra was the first owner of this amazing piece, and it will shield you from harm.”

Galen then lifted the mirror high and swiveled himself slowly to make sure that everyone saw their reflection on it. They all looked painstakingly ill, and dark clouds formed above their heads!

Shocked to the core, everyone looked up and then around them, but nothing was amiss.

“Gentlemen, all you have to do is look into this mirror every day, and unfortunate events would be at bay!” Galen put the mirror down as he tried to persuade the lot.

“Oh my, it is something extraordinary.” Barnabus, who wasn’t at all convinced at first, suddenly popped his eyes wide open and quivered in awe.

“Mr. Holt, are you saying that this bronze mirror is real?” Samuel was elated.

Barnabus nodded. “This bronze mirror is a talisman. Incredibly, it has the power to repel danger!”

Samuel was screaming joy inside when he heard that and was going to pay for the bronze mirror.

On the other hand, a geomancer was murmuring something into Sean’s ear. It was inaudible to the rest, but Sean’s face glowed with excitement after that.

Galen was gratified with their reactions and started asking for bids. “Gentlemen, this bronze mirror starts at twenty million. The minimum bid increment will be one mil—”

“Twenty million!” Samuel shouted his offer out loud before Galen could utter the last syllable.

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“Twenty one million!”

“Twenty two million!”

Bidders were relentless in pushing the price higher and higher!

“Thirty million!”

Without notice, Sean pegged the price at thirty million.

“Forty million!” Samuel upped the bid by ten million with no hesitation. He was fixed on bagging the bronze mirror.

“Mr. Baileys, this mirror doesn’t have the power to ward off danger. It’s just an antique. Besides that, it has also entrapped a good deal of negative energy. I can guarantee that you will have trouble sleeping if you put it in your bedroom.”

Kai tried to lead Samuel out of fascination.

"I didn't know you are well-versed at talismans too, Mr. Chance." Samuel was taken aback.

"Just the basics, actually," Kai replied indifferently.

"Hmph! It is very daring of you to utter such nonsense, young man. Do you know that it takes tens of years for one to cultivate magecraft? One will also need years of experience to be able to authenticate talismans. How much could a kid like you know about talismans?"

Barnabus was seething in fury as he reprimanded Kai.

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That was inevitable because if what Kai said was true, then what he said was definitely wrong. On top of that, to be corrected by a lad, who was in his early twenties, was a blow to Barnabus' pride.

"Mr. Holt, don't mind Mr. Chance. It's just a random opinion." Samuel quickly put a stop to the argument. Who knows if this old man will be offended and walk away?

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Chapter 567 The Wise Choice

"Knowledge has nothing to do with age. It's either you know it or you don't. In other words, it's your problem that you need tens of years to cultivate magecraft. I'm not as witless as you." Kai nonchalantly made his point.

Bam! Barnabus slammed his hand on the table. "You brat, what did you just say?" Something is going down today! Sean was enlivened to see the drama brewing.

"Take it easy, Mr. Holt." Samuel briskly got up and tried to calm Barnabus down.

"Mr. Bailey, where is this kid from? Get this arrogant brute out right now, or I'm leaving. There's only room for one of us!"

Barnabus couldn't hold his anger any longer and bawled at Samuel.

Samuel jolted to Barnabus' fit of uncontrolled anger, and his face scrunched. He couldn't afford to offend either party, but Barnabus' threat put him on the spot.

"Mr. Holt, it seems like the Baileys doesn't respect you as much as you thought. He's going against your will for that young fellow. Why not be on the Coopers' side? We will pay as much as the Baileys are willing to offer!"

Sean was adding fuel to the fire and managed to rattle Barnabus further.

"Mr. Bailey, are you intending to offend me for that unruly kid?"

Samuel was on the verge of crying and darted his eyes toward Kai. To his consternation, the latter sat unruffled by the matter as if he wasn't involved in

that quarrel.

"Mr. Holt, Mr. Chance is one of our honorable guest, so—"

"I see. I'll leave then."

Barnabus left in a huff before Samuel could finish his sentence.

"Please, Mr. Holt. Don't go just yet."

Sean quickly stood in Barnabus' way. "Mr. Holt, it's the Baileys lost for not appreciating you, but we do! The Coopers have always admired you, so why not be our authenticator instead?"

Barnabus turned his head toward Samuel and Kai and tilted his head into a nod.

"Very well, then. Since it is Mr. Cooper who values my expertise, I shall be at your service."

Sean immediately gestured for his previous geomancer to leave and let Barnabus take that person's seat.

Mortified, Samuel sat back down and looked at Kai.

"Mr. Bailey, you've made a wise choice today. You won't regret it," Kai murmured.

"Mr. Chance, the Baileys shall entrust you fully with our wellbeing from now on."

Samuel humbly expressed his certitude.

"Alright. Forty million from the Baileys! Going once, going twice, and—"

"Forty-five million!" It was Sean!

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His exorbitant bid muted the room. People were throwing glances at each other, but none raised the price. Samuel loved the mirror, but without Kai's approval, he couldn't do anything but give up the mirror to Sean.

One by one, the magical items were disclosed. However, Kai made sure that Samuel didn't bid for anything. On the contrary, Sean won almost all the bids at sky-high prices, as advised by Mr. Holt.

Samuel was like a cat on a hot tin roof, but he didn't dare to make any remarks, whereas Sean was all cheeky and chirpy, vexing the former further.

"Mr. Bailey, it's interesting how you would choose a dupable brat over an experienced mage like Mr. Holt. That kid might be talented, but unlike martial arts, magecraft requires much more than just that. I can't believe that you're deceived by a sprog. You are a shame to Jadeborough!" Sean grinned at Samuel. Samuel was lost for words to defend his decision. He could only glare back at Sean.

"Laugh while you still can." Kai took a sip from the cup of tea in front of him.

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Chapter 568 Laying A Wager

"Hahaha!" Sean guffawed. "Oh really? I'm curious about what you're gonna do to rain on my parade!"

"Alright, gentlemen. We are left with one last item that I've spent almost all my fortune on it. This talisman is truly exceptional. I'm wondering who will be able to activate the arcane array of this talisman? Are there any honorable mage who would like to try their hands on this task?"

Galen opened up the last box while cajoling the experts to unleash the power of the item. It was a Disc of Eight Trigrams made of redwood, covered in scratches and a thick layer of dust due to its extended period of storage.

All eyes were on that disc, but none saw what set it apart from the others. It looked like an unwanted wooden slab. It would be wholly ignored if someone were to throw it onto the streets.

The mages examined the disc thoroughly, but still, they didn't find anything unique about it. Mr. Holt frowned and shook his head after inspecting it.

And there was Kai, sitting put. He didn't even bother to look at the disc. What he thought was an auction for antiques was apparently a scheming maneuver! His hopes of obtaining at least one worthy item were flushed down the drain.

That Disc of Eight Trigrams was nothing but a piece of regular wood. It was neither a talisman nor was there an arcane array embedded in it. The simple reason why those masters couldn't see its uniqueness was it had none!

"Mr. Holt?" Sean looked at Barnabus.

"What's so special about this Disc of Eight Trigrams?" he whispered.

"This disc looked rather ordinary, but there must be something about it. I can't say what it is for sure as I have yet to fully examine it."

"Will you be able to activate the arcane array in this disc, then?" Sean got peppier.

"I can't be certain. I'd say fifty-fifty."

"Gentlemen, you've seen it now. So what's special about this disc? Is there anyone who could activate the arcane array in it?" Galen threw out the question once more.

Those experts hurled glances at each other again and remained silent. They couldn't see what was particularly different about the disc.

"I'm pretty sure that at least one of you could help me out with this since all of you are the cream of the crop of geomancers." Galen turned sarcastic.

"Let me try."

Perturbed, Barnabus placed the disc on his palm.

"Hmph." Kai wasn't impressed. Such foolish men. What extraordinaire can they possibly detect from that piece of useless junk?

"What are you to imply?" Barnabus gave Kai a side glance. "Are you trying to tell us that you can activate the arcane array?"

"I'm scoffing at your stupidity, people," Kai said plainly.

"How dare you!" Barnabus dug his fingers into his palms and was about to take it out on Kai.

"Calm your horses, Mr. Holt. Picking a fight with an imbecile would only taint your reputation. Since he's a know-it-all, we could just hold a little match. Let's see who can reveal the secret of this disc and activate the arcane array in it. The loser shall pay the winner two hundred million on the spot. How's that?" Sean tried to soothe Barnabus' temper.

He then looked at Samuel. "Mr. Bailey, this young man seems to be highly regarded in your household. Do you dare to accept this challenge?"

"You know, we're here to buy stuff and not to compete. I don't think that won't be necessary."

Samuel stood against the challenge because he assumed that Kai was out of Barnabus' league. Yes, Kai might be a cultivator, but Barnabus had cultivated for tens of years!

"Hahaha! Are you chickening out?" Sean chortled in amusement.
"Mr. Holt will win without a hitch. If none of us could see the uniqueness of the disc, what more a kiddo."
"Exactly. Even a halfwit could guess the result. Why would anyone want to lay a wager on this?"
"Two hundred million isn't a big amount for the Baileys, but to give it away just like that? Even the king would hold back."
The tittle-tattles were all about how Barnabus was way superior to Kai.

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Chapter 569 Raise Our Bets

Samuel blushed at those uncalled-for remarks and cocked his head slightly toward Kai. "You know, Mr. Chance, it's not about the two hundred million. That's not a big deal for the Baileys. It's just that—"

"I'll honor your request if that's really what you want." Kai cut Samuel off before the latter could explain further why he wasn't keen on the challenge. "But I think two hundred million is too little and not at all intriguing. I suggest that we raise our bets to two billion since that's all I have."

Kai then tossed his bank card onto the table and gave Sean an icy stare.

The silence in the room was deafening, and every single soul froze. It was no easy feat for someone of Kai's age to own two billion. Even the heir to the richest of the richest wouldn't be given that amount of pocket money to splurge!

Sean's mind went blank for a moment before he forced a smile on his face. "Wow. Aren't you a guileful little rat? Do you think you can trick me into believing that you actually have that much on that card?"

Sean didn't believe that Kai could pay up two billion. He did a background check on Kai and knew that Horington carried no affluent families. More so, Sean was from an average family. How on earth would he be able to accumulate that amount of wealth?

"Sean, if you don't trust Mr. Chance, you should at least trust the Baileys, right? If Mr. Chance couldn't fork out that two billion at the end of the day, we will!"

Samuel hissed.

That astronomical amount was a costly fortune to the Baileys but Samuel was more than willing to place his bet on Kai in order to earn his favor.

"Wonderful!" Sean flashed his widest smile. "I believe that the Baileys are able to provide that two billion since the head of the household himself had given the word. Two billion it is!"

When Sean was done confirming the bet, he looked at Barnabus steadfastly. "Mr. Holt, I shall trouble you for this endeavor. You shall take half of the bet when we win."

Those were the magic words that launched Barnabus onto cloud nine. He had never seen a billion in his life!

"Mr. Cooper, rest assured that I will give my all." Barnabus nodded firmly.

At that moment, all eyes were on Barnabus. Everyone was curious about how he managed to see the secret that lay within the Disc of Eight Trigrams. They also wanted to know how he was going to activate the arcane array. Galen and Boris' eyes met and exchanged furtive but gleeful glances.

The bet on this disc was two billion, meaning there's a limit to how low this item could be priced. Their decision to come to Jadeborough was unquestionably fruitful in the monetary sense!

Barnabus started chanting to the disc. Samuel was anxious and would steal glances at Kai every now and then. To his surprise, Kai was as calm as a millpond and didn't bother to see what show Barnabus was trying to put on as if this whole challenge had nothing to do with him.

"Mr. Chance, have you figured out what that Disc of Eight Trigrams does?"

Samuel couldn't suppress his spirit of inquiry any longer when he saw how Kai remained totally unfazed.

His question drew the attention of many, including Sean, to Kai. They wanted to know if Kai already knew the secrets of this disc. It would be too gutsy of him to bet on something he barely knew, wouldn't it?

All Kai did was shake his head in silence.

"Hahaha! Mr. Bailey, I told you that he's nothing but an inexperienced kid." Sean attempted to bring Samuel down when Kai shook his head. "Does he know what a talisman is? Has he even seen one? It's outrageous that you took him so seriously."

The rest of the crowd brouhaha to Sean's mocking, making Samuel absolutely mortified.

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Chapter 570 A Useless Slab Of Wood

While the lot was laughing at Sean's comments, Barnabus suddenly opened his eyes wide, placed the disc on the table, and lightly tapped it with two fingers. In a flash, that once scruffy disc regained its glow. It was so shiny that one could see their reflection in it!

"Whoah!" Muffled exclamations reverberated. "You're really something, Mr. Holt! That's what a mage, who has cultivated for tens of years, is capable of!"

Barnabus was satisfied with his performance. After that, a flick of ruby light exited his palm, and the disc instantly luminesced red. It looked like some magical item was about to be summoned into the room. Slowly, the whole room was encapsulated in red luster, and soon, everyone felt soothing energy flowing through their body.

The rejuvenating luster gradually dissipated in a matter of seconds, and the room was back to its original state.

That Disc of Eight Trigrams too reduced to its rough-hewn condition with marks of age.

“Mr. Holt, have you figured out what this disc can do?” Sean was hoping for something explosive.

Barnabus nodded. “This talisman is indeed extraordinaire as it entraps the holy energy. If I’m not wrong, it’s a relic of the immortals!”

The greed in everyone’s eyes was plain to see after Barnabus declared the disc’s stature. Sean’s avidity was equally strong as his peers.

The joy Galen experienced when he saw such rapacity was indescribable. That disc could really fetch a handsome payment if he auctioned it now!

“Hey, kid. It’s your turn to unearth the history of this disc. After you’re done with that, shall we let Mr. Yonce from Zaprington be the judge of this match and decide who’s right on the mark?” Sean shouted out to Kai.

All present shifted their eyes to Kai, eager to know how he was going to activate the arcane array.

To their disbelief, Kai left the disc alone. “What history could a useless slab of wood have? I really wonder what expertise you—revered mages—have obtained throughout years of cultivation? All of you were holding this junk with such pleasure!”

All the mages steamed up in a fraction of a second. They might not be able to bring to light the actual function of the disc, but they were certain that it must be something incredible from the way Galen promoted it. Plus, he was associated with Boris. Thus, they surmised that the disc could only be genuine.

They had all judged a book by its cover, and of course, Galen’s deceitful speech reassured them of their thinking. The brutal truth was they weren’t good enough to tell if that disc was a magical item.

It was like the emperor’s new clothes. No one saw neither its beauty nor its uniqueness,

but no one dared to be frank about it because if they did, it would mean that they weren’t up to par.

Kai stood his ground and became the “fool” to point out that it was nothing but a piece of wood. Any mage would feel pilloried and agitated, especially Galen and Boris.

They knew it all along that the disc was, like what Kai had claimed, a useless slab of wood. For Kai to say it out loud in front of the public put them in the toughest spot.

“Excuse me, young man? What do you mean? I spent a good fortune on this disc, and it was authenticated by Mr. Yonce! It is a rare talisman that is embedded with an arcane array, and now you’re calling it a piece of junk? You’d better take back your words or you shall bear the consequences.” Galen turned hostile.

“He’s right. Mr. Holt had already activated the arcane array. How could you say that

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it’s nothing but a piece of wood? Do you know what I think? I think you are incapable of discerning the goodness of this disc.” Sean shot Kai with words of scorn.

“They would know better if the disc was a useless piece of wood. I believe that some things are better left unsaid.” Kai placidly swirled his eyes toward Boris and Galen.
The culpable duo shunned those interrogative eyes.