

After Prison 1721

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Wuhlricht smiled and handed the twelve oriental zodiac tokens to twelve level eight and level nine saints.

“Take good care of these tokens. Each of you will be leading a team of one hundred individuals. You’ll be scattered in different places once you enter the realm, so commit the names and faces of your team members to memory. Help your fellow sect members as much as possible, and locate the miniature black tower as quickly as possible. This mission will depend very highly on Elder Severin, Wuhlricht instructed after handing over the tokens.

The disciples nodded in acknowledgment and turned their attention to Severin.

Severin was one of the leaders who were given a token, and standing with him were the other eleven. All twelve of them were venturing into the Paradise Secret Realm for the first time, and only a first-tier sect could achieve their sort of numbers.

Larry and a few others were part of Severin’s group.

“The Soul Compass is with you,” Wuhlricht said to Severin, “so your search area for the miniature black tower is much broader than everyone else. They need to rely on luck to locate it.”

He paused for a while and emphasized again, “Since the success of this mission hinges on your efforts, you shouldn’t bother wasting your time in collecting those low-rank herbs inside the realm. Leave that task to the others and save yourself some more time. Your primary goal is to search the area as efficiently as you can and locate that miniature black tower. Whether or not we can venture into ‘that place’ depends entirely on that tower. If we succeed in gaining access and becoming royal saints, then sects like the Horizon Sect will soon be in our shadow.”

Severin understood the gravity of the situation and nodded earnestly. “I will give it my all.”

Wuhlricht smiled and added, “Your strength as a level nine saint will be unmatched within the Paradise Secret Realm. It’ll be much less dangerous for you in there. I wish you all the best!”

Severin took out a small porcelain bottle and handed it to Wuhlricht. “I’ve crafted some pills over the past few days. You may distribute them to the sect’s disciples as you see fit.”

“Thank you for your trouble!” Wuhlricht patted Severin on the shoulder. He offered some more words of encouragement to everyone and signaled that they could begin their journey.

“I’ll be relying on you to look out for me once we’re inside the Paradise Secret Realm, Elder Severin.” The leader of another team approached Severin and smiled. She was Heidi Paige, a beautiful level nine saint and one of the few leaders among the saintwomen.

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Severin smiled and extended his hand toward Heidi. "You flatter me, Miss Heidi. Your team's overall strength is much greater than mine, and we're of the same attainment level too. It would be more accurate to say that we will have to look out for each other during this expedition."

Heidi chuckled upon hearing that. "You're being too modest! I firmly believe that your combat ability far exceeds mine despite our similar attainment levels. I also have faith that you, as an alchemist, will make a breakthrough to level one royal saint."

Severin did not anticipate her to be such a smooth talker. She grinned and replied, "Don't worry. We're all from the same sect, so it's only natural for us to look out for one another in there. Let's all have each other's back and remain vigilant."

Heidi then produced a flying sword. She enlarged it and hopped on with her team before ascending into the air. Meanwhile, Severin took out his flying sword and got on with 1,200 of his team members.

"This will be my first time entering the Paradise Secret Realm. You should know the way even though you've never been there, so I'll just follow your lead," Severin said with a smile. He still had no clue where

the realm was located.

Heidi chuckled. "You were so busy refining pills that you didn't have the time to find out more about the realm. Luckily, it's very straightforward. We're heading the right way, so we only need to keep flying forward. It's still early, and there's still about a week until the realm opens. Given our current pace, we can probably reach our destination in four days."

Heidi then paused before adding politely, "But as a precaution, we'll have to forgo the luxury of accommodation and sleep on the mountaintops these next few nights."

Sheila frowned when she heard that and questioned, "Why? I'm pretty sure the sect can afford lodging. Or

is it because our group is too large and there might not be enough rooms available if we're too late to a hotel inside the city."

Heidi smiled as she explained, "There are multiple reasons, and these are all based on our experience.

Firstly, as you mentioned, we are a large group, and finding accommodation will be very challenging.

Staying separately makes it difficult to manage the entire group and streamline our departure the next day."

After a brief pause, Heidi continued, "Secondly, we might attract unwanted attention because we're traveling in a large group. There's a chance we might run into rogues or bandits along the way, as we did before. They don't pose any real threat to us, but they might feel compelled to engage us in a fight. The previous thousand-strong team had their numbers slashed by several hundred, and it was too late for the

realm with lesser numbers.”

Severin expressed his surprise. “I didn’t think those rogues would be bold enough to challenge our sect’s people to a fight. Aren’t they afraid of first-tier sects like ours?”

Heidi smiled and replied, “We don’t usually face such situations because we’re first-tier sects, but some second-tier sects that have Paradise Secret Realm tokens may be ambushed during their journey. The realm contains many highly-coveted spiritual herbs and sought-after treasures.”

Sheila’s eyes sparkled upon hearing the word ‘treasure’. “Hehe, could you tell us more about the spiritual herbs inside the Paradise Secret Realm? I wonder what could be so attractive to those people that they wouldn’t even think twice about going on such a perilous journey.

Severin and Diane shared a laugh when they saw Sheila’s money-grubbing attitude.

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Heidi was a very attentive woman. She knew that everyone—be it higher-level or lower-level disciples—regarded Severin highly within the sect. His presence was more beneficial to many of the disciples.

Heidi smiled before continuing. “Even though this is my first time entering the Paradise Secret Realm, I’ve tried to get insights from my seniors who have ventured in there before. Aside from an abundance of fourth-grade spiritual herbs, there are equally as many fifth-grade herbs. Sixth-grade ones can be found

there as well, but they’re almost always very rare.”

Severin was taken aback when he heard that. “There’s sixth-grade herbs too?!”

“Yes,” Heidi said with a nod. “But the realm is teeming with spiritual beasts. It’s important to be cautious and act in accordance with one’s attainment level. Disciples with lower-level attainment are advised not to venture too deep into the forest.”

Heidi continued to explain different aspects of the Paradise Secret Realm, much to the amazement of Severin and the others.

Meanwhile, Wuhlicht continued to gaze blankly into the distance. Felipe looked at Wuhlicht and said, “They’ve been gone for quite some time now. They will return safely, so have faith in them. We should head back.”

“I hope Severin can bring back the miniature black tower,” Wuhlicht said. “We’ll have to wait another few

years before we can enter the realm again.”

Samuel smiled and commented, “He even gave us some pills before leaving. I always find myself being amazed by his speed at refining pills.”

Felipe added, "He should've kept those pills for his use or shared them with some of the disciples in his team. Isn't it better for him to take all these pills along with him?"

Wuhlricht smiled. "Perhaps he still has some on him."

He then took out the small porcelain bottle that Severin gave him and examined it closely. He frowned and said, "Only fifty pills this time? Hmm... wait a moment. This can't be!" Wuhlricht's face lit up with excitement.

"Is there something wrong with the pills? You sound excited!" Felipe asked, noticing Wuhlricht's change in

demeanor.

Wuhlricht promptly handed over the bottle to Felipe. Upon examining the bottle, Felipe took a deep breath and remarked ecstatically, "Goodness me! All fifty of these pills are fourth-grade high-rank pills! This is

+15 BONUS

Samuel became just as thrilled when he heard that. "Fourth-grade high-rank pills? All fifty of them? Elder Severin must've made a breakthrough to fourth-grade high-rank alchemist, then! A single one of these pills will be enough for those disciples who intend to make a breakthrough to royal saint!"

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Wuhlricht nodded and said, "Those in the late and peak stages of level nine saint will probably only need one pill, while those in the early and middle stages will likely require two."

Felipe chimed in with enthusiasm. "We might be a first-tier sect, but the gap between our sect and the upper-class first-tier sects is still rather big. This is especially so in terms of the number of royal saints, as

other sects far outnumber us. Now that Elder Severin is a fourth-grade high-rank alchemist, we will soon

see the addition of many royal saints in our ranks. This way, that gap I mentioned will narrow considerably even though we're still some way off from catching up to them."

Wuhlricht commented admiringly. "Severin is full of surprises. I'm still in awe of his alchemical talent." Following a pause, he continued, "But it's important for us not to divulge the fact that our sect now boasts a fourth grade high-rank alchemist, especially while Severin is away. If other sects are aware of his status, our envious counterparts might want to get rid of him. We would have to face some catastrophic losses

to our sect if they succeed."

The elders all recognized the gravity of the situation and nodded in agreement. After all, not a lot of first-tier sects were lucky enough to have a fourth-grade high-rank alchemist.

“Haha, there are several reasons why Elder Severin is more powerful than fourth grade high-rank alchemists from other sects,” Felipe began with a chuckle. “First of all, he’s young, and he has a lot of potential to become a fifth-grade low-rank alchemist in the future. Secondly, his efficiency in crafting pills is on par with two or three alchemists combined, and he also boasts a higher success rate than them.”

Wuhlricht nodded in agreement. After a moment’s contemplation, he said to Felipe, “Take these pills and give these to disciples that you feel will benefit most from them. Prioritize those who are on the verge of breaking through to level one royal saint and tell them to train. However, you must also warn them not to let anyone know that they’ve broken through. It’ll be even better if they conceal their attainment for the time being, or else it’ll be somewhat alarming for the sect to have a sudden addition of over fifty level one

royal saints.”

“Understood!” Felipe took the pills and flew off.

After everyone left, Wuhlricht took off and slowly made his way back to his residence. When he arrived, he noticed Gilda sitting alone on the swing with a sorrowful expression and a heavy heart. He approached her worriedly and asked, “Did your breakthrough not go as planned? Don’t beat yourself up over it. Setbacks tend to happen sometimes, so cheer up. Just keep at it and give it another try once you’re ready.

From Wuhlricht’s point of view, Gilda was in a somber mood because of two factors: she had focused on her attainment at the expense of seeing Severin and the others off, and that attempt at making a

+15 BONUS

Gilda forced a bitter smile as her eyes welled up with tears. “I don’t know what to do, Dad. I can never be with Severin. Please tell him that I’m not worthy of him when he returns.”

Wuhlricht inhaled sharply and asked, “What’s going on, Gilda? Didn’t you two get along well during the last few days? Did you get into an argument?”

Gilda clenched her jaw and needed some time to compose herself before she confided in him. “I can’t do it, Dad. I can’t go through with terminating the pregnancy. Maybe you can help me while Severin is in the Paradise Secret Realm? That way, he’ll never know that I’m pregnant and I can still be with him!”

“Wha?!” Wuhlricht gasped. “You’re pregnant?!”

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Gilda nodded with a saddened look. “Yes, and I want to terminate it secretly. Even though Severin might be able to accept that I’m no longer a virgin, I’m pretty sure he won’t accept that I’m pregnant with someone else’s child, much less give birth to it.”

She had a pleading look in her eyes as she continued, “But I can’t go through with terminating the

pregnancy myself. This fetus inside of me is a living being, after all. Please do it for me, Dad. We'll just act

as though it never happened."

Rather than expressing his disappointment, Wuhlricht chuckled heartily, surprising Gilda. "Haha! I didn't think I'd become a grandfather so soon!"

Gilda was left speechless by her father's reaction and asked coldly. "What do you mean by that, Dad? you want me to go through with the pregnancy?"

Wuhlricht smiled and said, "I'm glad you couldn't bring yourself to do an abortion. Don't you worry about it.

Severin won't mind at all. He might even be happy to hear that you're pregnant!"

Gilda was taken aback by her father's words and shot back, "Are you insane, Dad? Who would be happy to

find out that someone else got their girlfriend pregnant? Plenty of men find that repulsive. And who would

willingly raise someone else's child anyway?"

Wuhlricht's expression became a little stern as he gazed at Gilda. "Do you genuinely love Severin? Are you

willing to marry him and be his wife?"

Although she was puzzled by the timing of her father's question, Gilda nodded and replied, "I feel miserable even when I haven't seen him in a few days, but I'm afraid to face him. I don't know how to tell

him or confront him."

Wuhlricht chuckled again. "Haha, well now that we're sure of your feelings for him, I think it's about time

for me to reveal the truth to you."

"The truth? About what?" Gilda asked in confusion, wondering if her father had been keeping a secret from her.

Wuhlricht smiled and let the cat out of the bag. "You're pregnant with Severin's child. He was the one who

saved your life that night."

"What?!" It was as if a bombshell had dropped on Gilda. She had never imagined that the man she resented was the same person she loved. She had been under the mistaken belief that he had left the

sect and gone into hiding, and she had come to terms with never learning about his identity. It hardly occurred to her that the person would be Severin.

+16 BONUS

Moments later, a smile appeared on her face. Following that revelation, she knew that she could continue to be with Severin, and he would not mind her pregnancy because the child was his “Are you telling me the truth, Dad? You’re not lying to me, are you?” Gilda asked in disbelief.

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Wuhlricht smiled and replied, “Why would I ever lie to you about something like this? Everything I said is the truth, Severin is the father of your child. He was the man who saved you.”

Following a pause, he continued explaining. “You can’t expect him to tell you the truth under those circumstances. He’s simply been waiting for the right time to reveal everything to you, hoping that you’ll understand. But now that things have come to this, I would have to be the one to tell you.”

Wuhlricht’s explanation caused Gilda’s emotions to shift from the verge of tears to a mixture of relief and amusement. “I see. I never would have thought that he was the child’s father. Guess I no longer have anything to worry about then.”

All of a sudden, Gilda frowned again and asked worriedly. “But what if he only confessed to me and treated me well because of guilt and responsibility? I can’t tell for sure if he genuinely cares about me.

Wuhlnicht burst into laughter and reassured her. “Haha, you don’t have to worry about that, Gilda. I asked him about it a while ago, and he assured me that he genuinely likes you for you. It’s not merely out of a sense of responsibility.”

“That’s a relief.” Gilda said. She felt as though a weight had been lifted off her shoulders. “I’m so glad I wasn’t able to act on my decision to terminate the pregnancy. Severin would’ve been very upset if he knew.”

Wuhlricht had a serious tone as he added, “He won’t just be upset. He’d be furious. Your inability to go through with your initial plan to terminate the child just goes to show that you have a compassionate heart.”

Curious, Gilda asked, “But why didn’t he experience any significant attainment breakthrough even though I

did? Didn’t he benefit from it?”

After Wuhlricht shared the events of that night with Gilda, she remarked in surprise, “I didn’t think he would have the ability to store all that spiritual energy. But it all makes sense now. He wouldn’t have been

able to enter the Paradise Secret Realm if he made a breakthrough, and we would have to leave it to other people to locate the miniature black tower.”

“That’s right,” Wuhlricht said. “If he had suddenly experienced a significant attainment breakthrough, you would likely have deduced that he was the man from that night. We would no longer be able to keep it a

secret even if we wanted to.”

“I spent all these days being depressed, and I didn’t even know that it was him. I’m going to teach him a lesson when he’s back.” Gilda then sighed and shot Wuhlricht a glare. “And you were in on it with him! Do you have any idea how miserable I’ve been these few days?”

Wuhlricht could only mumble helplessly. “I’m just as surprised as you to find out about the pregnancy. It’s almost two months since that day, and it’ll be another three months before he returns. Your belly might be noticeably bigger by then.”

Gilda chuckled. “Haha, he’ll probably be shocked to see me pregnant. I bet even Shella and the others will be surprised.”

“Haha, I can already imagine it!” Wuhlnicht laughed along “Take it easy during this period, okay? Try to avoid going on for no reason and just stay at home. I’m worried you might overexert yourself and bring risk to the pregnancy.”

Gilda rolled her eyes playfully and said, “You make it sound like I’m weak and fragile. Severin and his family aren’t around, so it’s not like I have any reason to go out either. I suppose I’ll just have to train to pass the time.”

[Chapter 1727](#)

As dusk settled in, Severin called Heidi over and handed more than twenty fourth–grade high–rank pills to

her. He instructed her to share those pills with those disciples who were closest to making a breakthrough to level one royal saint. They were to consume their respective pill only after entering the Paradise Secret Realm.

Those who received the pills were elated to have been chosen.

Severin then gathered the twenty individuals in his team who showed the most promise in becoming a level one royal saint and gave each of them a pill.

“I have nothing but admiration for you, Severin. It amazes me that you’re already a fourth–grade high–rank

alchemist!” Sheila remarked after Severin sat back down.

Severin smiled and said, “Make sure to safeguard those pills I provided to you earlier. If your attainment is stable after entering the Paradise Secret Realm and the right opportunity arises, you can use those pills.

to make a breakthrough. Your current attainment level is good, but not good enough. If you can become stronger, then it'll be less risky for you inside."

Diane assured him with a smile. "Dont worry. We'll be cautious."

Elsa felt a little envious and quipped, "My master loves you all so much. It's been the umpteenth time that

I heard him remind you all to be safe."

Sheila rolled her eyes playfully and teased, "Didn't he show care and concern for you too when he gave you several pills?"

Elsa felt a little awkward after hearing that.

After a night's rest, Severin and the group resumed their journey the following morning. Everything went

smoothly, and they found a mountaintop to rest for the night before continuing their journey again.

After another day of travel, they arrived at a barren grassland.

"There's nothing here except for dry grass," She la lamented, gazing at the withered vegetation.

"This is known as the Barren Grassland, Heidi said. No one knows why the grass here is all withered, but It's a sign that our destination is near. We'll probably arrive in about half an hour from now."

True to her words, everyone spotted a massive mountain enshrouded by thick black clouds after flying for less than an hour. Streaks of lightning sliced through the air from time to time, creating a terrifying scene.

"Holy hell! What's going on over there? Look at all that lightning and dark clouds It's like a whole different

"That's the Paradise Secret Realm," Heidi revealed. There are many things in this world that defy logic and imagination, and the Paradise Secret Realm is one such example. It exists in independence. The spiritual energy within the realm is very dense, and rare herbs come by the dozen."

A thought then occurred to Sheila and she quipped. "In that case, isn't it better for people like us to stay inside there forever?"

Heidi shook her head. "That's not possible. The Paradise Secret Realm closes automatically after three months. Everyone that's inside will be ejected unless they're already dead."

Sheila nodded. "I see. In that case, we ought to be making the most of the three months that we're in there."

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All of a sudden, a disciple pointed to their left and exclaimed, "Look! There's a group of people over there!"

“They’re probably disciples from other sects,” Heidi mused. “They would have a set of tokens that represent the twelve oriental zodiac signs. The complete set of tokens function essentially as a key.”

Jarvin, one of the disciples with Heidi’s group, added with a smile, “We used to have only one key, but now we have two. Having so many new disciples join our sect has proved to be very positive for us!”

“Haha, that’s right!” Everyone smiled, eagerly anticipating their foray into the realm. Since every new disciple of the sect had to be a first-time entrant, more than half of the 2,400 people accepted into the Skyblue Sect were saints. The remaining majority were warrior emperors. Since the sect was a properly-administered first-tier sect, the warrior emperors consisted predominantly of level six or level seven warrior emperors at the very minimum. Only a handful were lower than that.

As time passed, the group from the Skyblue Sect reached the massive mountain. There were already two other groups taking a rest nearby.

“Not bad. Another two separate groups have arrived,” a white-clad man commented with a sinister grin.

A woman corrected him, “They’re not separate groups. Both groups are from the Skyblue Sect, so I can’t help but wonder if they have two keys?”

The man snickered and said, “A second key? Now that’s surprising.”

“Yes. They used to have only one key. How lucky for them,” the woman in red said with a smile.

The man chuckled and looked at the group of women from the Skyblue Sect. “Would you look at that? The Skyblue Sect’s groups are full of hot chicks!”

Another guy stepped forward and asked with a smile, “Having some naughty thoughts, are we, Terry?”

Terry replied, “Of course, I do. But I’m afraid I won’t have the chance to act on them in our current situation.”

“Haha, you might just get a chance in the coming days,” the other guy suggested with a smile. No one could predict what would happen inside the Paradise Secret Realm. Aside from its inherent dangers, human conflict and treasure disputes were very common occurrences

Severin glanced at them indifferently and sneered. He could tell that Terry was a pook-stage level nine saint, so Terry’s arrogance should not have come as a surprise. Though Terry’s group only had 1,200 members, about 60 to 70 percent of them were saints. Many of those saints were level nine or level eight

at that, so their strength could be considered rather formidable.

+15 BONUS

Meanwhile, the second group that was situated a little further away seemed to be notably weaker.

Sofia looked at Terry's group and asked Heidi, "Do you know which sect is he from? His arrogance is just so infuriating. He's aware that our sect's members outnumber theirs and yet he has no qualms provoking

[Chapter 1729](#)

Heidi smiled bitterly and whispered to Sofia, "He's from an upper-class first-tier sect known as the Highworld Sect. It's worth noting that they've been making so much progress that they're fast about to overtake the Horizon Sect."

She paused briefly before continuing. "That Terry guy emerged as a prodigy in the Highworld Sect within the past two years. He was able to reach such a high level of attainment even though he is only twenty-one this year. His arrogance stems from that. Of course, many others in their sect have much higher attainment, but all of them aren't here. After all, there's no point for them to be here since they won't be

able to enter the sect either."

"seel It's impressive that he could achieve that level of attainment. He should be proud of that," Sofia gasped. "Making a breakthrough to royal saint is child's play with his talent. Heck, he probably wouldn't need long to reach the level seven or level eight royal saint!"

Heidi nodded and added, "He has excellent combat skills to boot too. I heard he once made light work of level one royal saint, so you can imagine how insanely strong he is."

At that moment, a female disciple beside Heidi said, "But your combat ability is outstanding too, and you're one of the prodigies within our sect. Do you think you can defeat him?"

Heidi pondered over that question for a moment and eventually shook her head. "I'm pretty confident in my abilities, and I think can probably hold my own against a level one royal saint in a fight. However, defeating an opponent of that level is a whole different ball game. The gap between a level nine saint and a level one royal saint is substantial even though it might seem small. Going over and beyond one's strength to defeat a level one royal saint is very difficult. I might be able to take on weaker level two royal saints if I was a level one royal saint, but it's near-impossible for a level nine saint to defeat a level one

royal saint."

"If you're no match for him, then I don't think anyone else here can hold out against him either," the female disciple commented. She then turned to another one of her sect's prodigies and asked, "What about you, Kara? Would you have a chance of winning against Terry?"

Kara thought for a moment and eventually shook her head. "Not unless Heidi and I team up, and even then, there's only a very slim chance of securing victory. We wouldn't stand a chance against him at all if

we went in solo.”

Sheila remarked, “Now I understand where his arrogance comes from.”

Kara wryly smiled and cautioned the group, “It’s not just him we need to be careful of. The same applies to any of the Highworld Sect’s members. The Horizon Sect could still be considered allies, but the thankfully, we haven’t been in any direct conflict with them during our previous treasure hunts.

Severin smiled and asked, “In other words, we don’t need to hold back if we encounter anyone from the Highworld Sect, right?”

His directness and somewhat unconventional thought process had left Kara speechless.

“Of course,” Kara said with a wry smile, “but it would be wise to exercise caution if you encounter high-level prodigies such as Terry. I’ve never witnessed your combat abilities before, but I’d still advise you to steer clear of conflicts.”

Severin nodded silently. He was well aware that these talented disciples admired him for his alchemical talents and the benefits those pills had provided, but his strength as a level nine saint was not entirely acknowledged by the elite disciples despite his status as an elder. Though he had displayed a remarkable talent for alchemy, those elite disciples respected him for only one reason—his pills. Many believed that his current level of attainment was a result of the pills he had at his disposal, and that his attainment would likely not have soared to such heights had he not been an alchemist.

[Chapter 1730](#)

Many people were generally under the impression that those who had achieved a high attainment mainly through the use of pills were not as strong as those whose attainment was acquired through experience. It was generally thought that those who relied too much on pills to accumulate attainment did so at the expense of proper combat experience, and alchemists generally had insufficient time for honing their combat skills too. Their combat effectiveness thus became greatly diminished, making them vulnerable to being killed when faced with a more experienced adversary.

As time passed, representatives from two more sects arrived. Heidi explained who they were to Severin and his companions. Both sects were second-tier sects, and they both positioned themselves cautiously at a distance in apparent apprehension.

“They appear to be very cautious,” Severin observed.

“As they should,” Heidi said. “Those from second-tier sects are relatively weaker than those from first-tier sects. Even though they’ve successfully made it here, they continue to keep their guard up for fear that other sects might snatch their key. It’s only natural for them to be wary. We, on the other hand, simply need to wait patiently. The Paradise Secret Realm will open in another three days.”

After two days. Sheila noticed the distinct absence of any further groups. She found it to be a little odd, so she asked. “Why haven’t any other groups arrived, Heidi? Two days have passed, and The Paradise Secret Realm opens tomorrow.”

Heidi smiled and explained, “The other groups might have decided to wait somewhere nearby and come over only when it’s almost time for the realm to open. Certain sects, particularly those with much lower attainment, would want to avoid any untoward incidents and choose to wait until the last moment to enter the Paradise Secret Realm. There were instances where keys have been robbed by other people, so they’re probably trying to avoid going through something similar.

Sheila was surprised to hear that. “Why would anyone want to come here just to steal a key? Those rogues are being out-of-line.”

A male disciple answered, “It’s not necessarily rogues. Some disciples from first-tier sects might not have a key, so they target lower-level individuals who have it.”

Sofia then remembered something and asked with a smile, “Are the Hanzon Sect afraid of that too? They don’t seem to have arrived yet.”

Heidi chuckled and said, “That wouldn’t scare them. The Horizon Sect is formidable, and most of its members are very strong. They have no reason to be afraid of getting robbed, unless somehow, it’s an unscrupulous sect leader or elder who decided to target them. That’s not likely to happen though, thankfully, we haven’t been in any direct conflict with them during our previous treasure hunts.”

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