

Reincarnated as an Energy with a System

Chapter 221: Diagnosis

Canon seemed a little intrigued after listening to Ning.

"While your words have a lot of confidence to them, young man. I'm afraid my old self isn't able to find out if you are truthful or not. What if you harm my son more than you will heal him?" Canon asked.

The audience nodded when they heard him speak and looked towards Ning. Ning thought for a moment and said, "How about this then. I won't treat your son."

Canon frowned a little. "What will you do then?" he asked.

"I will instead just diagnose him. I will check him and tell you what the problem is, as well as what the solution to the problem is. Aside from that, I will use no medicine or equipment on your son. That should be enough to not have you worry about me harming your son, right?" Ning asked.

Canon thought for a moment and asked, "What is your name, son?"

"My name is Ning," he said. He didn't give a family name as only Nobles were allowed to have those.

"Ning... I see. Very well, I won't waste this opportunity at the slightest chance that you may have some skill. I will take you to my son in a little bit. Anyone else here who has any other solutions?" Canon asked.

A few others suggested some doctors they knew. Canon made his son note the names of those that hadn't been to the house and soon ended the party.

Once it had ended, the group of people left back to their own homes. A few people got a little annoyed at how short the party was for what they had paid, but surprisingly, as they were leaving, the guards handed them back the 10 rops they had taken as entry fee.

After that, they had no right to get angry at all.

"Please come with me, Doctor Ning," Canon said and took Ning inside the mansion, along with his eldest son and his two bodyguards.

Ning was surprised when he saw the inside of the mansion. The floor was lined with white marble and the walls were colored in stark white. The ceiling was at least 8 meters high and the whole mansion looked massive.

He was taken through a bunch of winding corridors to a room that had nothing in it but a single bed with the second son in it. There were 2 female maids who took care of him, and as soon as Canon entered, they bowed and left.

"This is my son, Zand. Doctor Ning, he's been on a liquid diet ever since he was paralyzed. So, we've kept him in this room, away from the other servants. Please see if you can find anything wrong with him," Canon said. He was hoping for the best, but expecting the worst.

Ning walked forward and almost assumed that the kid was normal. He had a steady rise and fall of his chest as he breathed. He slowly opened his eyes after hearing the noise and looked towards Ning.

His drowsy eyes seemed to be filled with hate when he saw him. 'Damn, does he hate doctors now or what?' he thought. 'I would get angry too if I had doctors coming in and out of my room with not a single one treating me, I guess.'

"I will do some checkup now. If you feel nothing, blink once. If you feel anything, blink twice, and if you feel pain, blink thrice, Okay? Blink once if you understood," Ning said.

Zand looked directly at him and blinked once. Ning took off the bed sheet covering his body and revealed a scrawny looking figure. He was in a far worse situation than what Mavenna was in, and she was in a coma.

'How is he in such a bad condition? I thought he was given nutrients daily,' Ning thought. He pinched the big toes on both of his feet one after another. "Feel anything?" he asked.

Zand blinked only once. 'No huh? I guess he really is paralyzed. Ning went up a bit and pinched his calf. "Now?"

Zand blinked only once. Thigh, hips, stomach, chest, and neck; Ning pinched all but Zand didn't feel anything. 'He's already suffering from muscle atrophy,' Ning thought.

He then pinched his cheeks and Zand blinked twice. 'So, not only is he paralyzed, but he has also lost all feelings as well. Now that's troublesome,' Ning thought.

"Can you come here," Ning called one of the bodyguard. The man walked forward and stood next to Ning.

"Go on the other side of the bed and watch his eyes. Tell me if he blinks once or twice, okay?" Ning said. The servant nodded and went to the other side of the bed.

Ning caught Zand and flipped him easily such that he was now looking straight at the servant. He then started poking around on his back.

"Now?" he asked.

"Once," the servant answered.

Ning changed position and asked, "Now?"

"Once."

"How about now?"

"Once."

"Now?" Ning asked as he poked in a different location.

The servant waited for a little longer and answered, "Thrice."

Ning changed position and asked, "No— Wait, three times?"

"Yes," the servant answered.

Ning went back to the previous position and asked, "here?"

"Yes, young lord blinked 3 times," the servant said.

"Hmm... I am currently pressing on the 5th disc of your vertebrae, is that where you are feeling the pain? Blink once if yes, twice if no," Ning said.

"He said no," the servant answered.

Ning walked to the front of looked at Zand. "Where are you feeling pain in? The back?"

Zand blinked twice.

"The arms?"

He blinked twice.

"The legs?"

He blinked once.

"Okay, we are getting somewhere. Right leg?"

He blinked once.

"Left leg as well?"

He blinked twice.

"Thigh?"

He blinked once.

"Calf?"

He blinked once.

"Wait, the whole leg?" Ning asked.

Zand blinked once.

"Nowhere else?" Ning asked.

Zand blinked once to confirm it.

"I see. The 5th disc of the vertebrae causing pain on the whole of left leg," Ning pondered for a moment and smiled. "I know what the problem is."

Chapter 222: Healing and Distress

"I know how to heal your son," Ning said as he stood up.

"What did you say?" Old man Canon nearly dropped his cane when he heard that. "Did you just say you can heal my son?"

"Yes, I have found the problem of your son's current condition, and I also know how to heal it," Ning said.

"I... if you really aren't lying, thank you so much," Lord Canon said. "Please heal my son at once."

"Father wait," Kell spoke for the first time in a long time.

"What is it?" Canon asked.

"We can't trust him just like that. He said that he would only diagnose his little brother. He never said he would heal him. What if he puts poison inside little brother?" Kell said.

He then looked to Ning and said, "I'm not saying you will, but please understand that we have to be careful here."

"Oh, that's right. I must be getting old and muddle-brained. That's right, Doctor Ning. Can we just hear the diagnosis first? What's wrong with my son?" Canon asked.

"Sure. You said your son fell from the 2nd story of the mansion right?" Ning asked.

"Yes," Canon said.

"Well, you see, when he fell from the story he must have hit a rock or something at the bottom directly on his back. So, the 5th disc on his vertebrae was slightly dislocated but just enough to crush nerves leaving from the spinal cord. Thus, no information has been passed through the nerves to his head or the other way around."

"Basically, the communication between the brain and the body is completely shut off. However, there is a cure, and it's a very easy one."

"What I will do is give his body a little massage, so that the dislocated disk is back in place and the crushed nerves are released. After that, he will gain feeling back in his body."

"He will need to stay in bed for a week or two more due to his muscle degeneration, maybe even longer. But after that, he should be back to normal," Ning said.

"That is my explanation for what is happening to him and how he can be cured. If you would like, I can cure him in under 5 minutes," Ning continued. "However, after that, I will be needing something as compensation. Do you agree?"

Canon's eyes darted around for a moment. "If.... If..."

"Father, let us first confirm whether he is a real doctor or not. We can also confirm his diagnosis with the other doctors and see if he is telling the truth," Kell said.

"Shut up. We have a chance, so we must take it. So many doctors came and went, yet not a single one could give this clear of an explanation. The ones who could do something never replied to our letters. We don't have much time now. Your brother's body is getting weaker and weaker by the day and will die soon. We must do it now," Canon said with a face full of determination.

"Doctor Ning, please heal my son. I will give you anything you want. You want my mansion, you can have it. You want my merchant group, you can have it too. Hell, you can have the Baron title from me as well. Just heal my son," Canon got really low to bow to Ning.

"Very well. I will heal your son. As for what I want in return, let's talk about that later," Ning said and pulled up his sleeves. It was time to deliver his famous 10 Finger Heavenly Massage technique.

He placed Zand properly on the bed and started. He didn't go at it strongly, as the man didn't have many muscles on the back. He massaged slowly and deliberately.

He softened the entire vertebrae before trying to fix the dislocated disc. After 5 minutes of massage, it seemed he was ready.

"You, bring a cloth from that table and shove it in his mouth," Ning ordered one of the servants. The servant did not hesitate and did what he asked.

"You are going to feel pain like you've never before, so be ready for it," Ning said to Zand and put the disc back in place.

Suddenly, the pain that was all over his body, rushed to Zand's head, and finally he could feel it all. His face showed that he was screaming out of his mind, but there was no sound coming out.

His vocal cords were all but completely gone. Ning had only put the cloth in there to stop himself from chewing his own tongue and dying. 'Although, he might not even have the strength to do that right now,' he thought.

"What's happening?" Canon asked. His face was pale from seeing his son in pain.

"He just gained senses to his entire body. He will start to—"

Zand started waving his arms and legs up and down as the pain was too much to handle.

"— move soon. See? He is healed." Ning said.

Ning took out a premade pain relief that he had prepared while bored the last week. He fed a little of it to Zand after taking out the cloth from his mouth.

Zand stopped struggling and quietened down. Then, he fell asleep.

"Alright, he had been healed. Your son is fine now," Ning said.

Canon's face was in awe. He couldn't believe that a random kid he picked from the party was able to heal his son.

"I do not know how I can ever thank you, Doctor Ning. You... you did what no one else could do ever. You have my gratitude from the bottom of my heart," Canon said. He was crying now.

Ning could see just how much he loved his child right here. Canon quickly wiped his tears and said, "You said you wanted some compensation right? Ask me whatever you want, I will give it to you."

Ning smiled. He was finally gonna get what he was here for.

"You see—"

Just then, a feeling appeared inside of Ning.

A feeling of horror and distress.

Chapter 223: Slash

[Warning: Mature Content]

"What's going on?" he asked out loud. He had never felt this sort of feeling ever before. He could tell that he wasn't really feeling it, but someone was projecting his feelings onto him... from very far away.

"What's wrong, Doctor Ning?" Lord Canon asked after seeing his exclamation.

"I— do not—" he stopped speaking. He suddenly thought of something. That thought terrified him. "I- I need to go. I will come back later," Ning said and ran out of the room before anyone could say anything.

As soon as he was out of sight, he vanished.

From what he knew, after the use of Supreme Domination, the one dominated was connected to you through an invisible bond. Sometimes, the subordinate could send messages through the bond if the connection was deep enough.

Right now, this was one of those situations. While his bond with Aegis wasn't deep enough to send messages, it was however deep enough to just send simple feelings.

So, after realizing that Aegis was in trouble, Ning went directly to him.

Ning appeared inside Famir's house and went to the room. However, no one was there. He went to the backyard, yet no one was there.

He then went outside and saw a scene that horrified him.

Fire raged everywhere he looked. Sounds of screams rang out from all directions. The village was under attack. He felt the same fear as he did back when Starsight burned in a similar way.

'Monsters... No.' Ning thought of other possibilities and quickly realized the answer.

"Bandits."

He took out his Spear and ran towards the village. The bandits had set the village on fire and attacked the people. The villagers had taken up what little arms they had and started to fight.

The outside of the village had little skirmishes. He only saw 2 bandits attacking 2 women who were trying to save themselves.

Ning's anger reached the highest it had in a long time. He dashed forward and threw his spear like a javelin. The spear skewered through both of the bandits, killing them at once.

He ran by the women, checked if they had any injuries, and picked his spear before walking forward.

As he went on, he could see half a dozen or so bodies along the way. While it wasn't on the same level as the one from the island, but it was still a sad sight to see. However, there weren't any more people here or any bandits.

"What's going on?" he wondered.

He saw another bandit trying to kill a man who only held pots and pans to protect himself. Ning used telekinesis and pulled the man's arms, legs, and head in 5 different directions and tore him into 6 different sections.

He saw another man trying to have his way with a woman he had pinned down. Ning teleported right next to him and cut off his privates. He then used telekinesis to shove the privates into his mouth and made his gag on it.

The man couldn't breathe as he choked on his own p*n*s and died. Ning helped the lady who was pretty shaken and proceeded on his way.

Ning went past a few more dead bodies until he reached the place that made the most noise.

Finally, he saw the reason why there weren't a lot of bandits everywhere. Dozens of bandits were gathered around a group of people in an arc and were attacking the group.

The only thing protecting them were his two beasts. However, all they could do was protect the people. The moment the two beasts left to attack, the bandits would attack the people.

After protecting for so long, the beasts were starting to get tired. They had to constantly move around to protect from any and all attacks, and that was very exhausting.

Famir and Mavenna were giving out orders and the beasts were following it to the best of their ability. The beasts couldn't even use Qi, so they were forced to just endure the attack without being able to send attacks back.

If not for that, Blue would've killed everyone by now.

Ning teleported to the middle of the encirclement and patted on his two beasts. "You guys can rest. You did well," he said as he took the beasts back into the beast space to rest and heal up.

The sudden disappearance of the beasts caused a massive opening in the group and the attacks would now get through them. The villagers shouted at the sight of stones, arrows, and all sorts of things flying their way.

However, before they could land, every single object coming towards their way, stopped in midair. Both the villagers and the bandits made sounds of shock and awe.

However, the feeling they got after that was completely different. While the villagers got hopeful, the bandits started feeling that they were in trouble.

The arrows and javelins that were thrown towards them suddenly turned around.

"A- An Aether User... they have an expert Aether user. Run!" A bandit shouted and turned around to run. However, Ning wasn't going to let them do that now.

He suddenly threw everything that was floating towards everyone from the bandit. All the bandits in the area were hit and incapacitated. They all fell to the ground with wounds all over their body. Some even died from the sharp arrows and javelins hitting them.

The remaining ones who could walk started to stand up to walk away. Ning had an answer for that too.

He made a horizontal slashing motion in front of him. Suddenly, a massive air slash appeared in front of him and flew out to the bandits.

Whether they were dead, immobilized, or running, the Air Cutter cut through every single one of them, killing them all in an instant.

There was no sound from the bandit side as they weren't able to make any.

There was no sound from the villagers' side as they were too stunned to make any.

Finally, Ning relaxed and looked back towards the group of villagers. That was when his relaxing heart sped up once again.

Chapter 224: Demon

"No!" Ning exclaimed as he ran up to the middle of the group.

In the middle of the group was an old woman holding a bloody old man in her arms. Next to her was a man in pain with a large cut along his chest.

The woman's face was devastated. She was overwhelmed by what she was seeing in front of her.

"Old man, are you okay?" Ning said as he reached the Old grand uncle who seemed to have lost a lot of blood. "You are in a lot of pain. Let me help you."

"No!" the old man said. "Heal my son first."

Ning then looked to the side to see Jangar with a cut on his chest. He had also lost a lot of blood and was on his last breath.

"Don't worry, I will help you both," Ning said. Now wasn't the time to hide his abilities, so he decided to help them in the open.

"System, heal them both," Ning said.

<There is not enough energy>

<You can only save one person>

"What?" Ning felt like he was just hit by a train. He quickly opened up his status and saw that he only had a couple hundred million energy left. That was only enough to heal one of these two completely.

He already didn't have a lot of energy after using the few auto buys, and what he had left was mostly used on the mass telekinesis and the massive Air Cutter he had used just now.

"No, isn't there any other way?" Ning asked the system. "Is the cap cooldown back online?"

<You still have 13 hours left>

"No, try to save both of th— "

The old man suddenly grabbed his arms. "Go... help... my... son. Worry... about... me.... later," he said.

Ning came back to his senses. "Yes," he said. The old man had enough faculties such that Ning could probably treat him just with medicine.

So, he walked forward to Jangar and asked the system to heal him. Light shined from Jangar's body as it was back to being fully healed with no injuries in sight.

With that, Ning only had a couple of million energy left. He immediately ran back to the old man and started taking out a few different ingredients to heal the man.

"... gone," the woman spoke through her tears in trembling voice.

"What?" Ning asked as he didn't catch what she said the first time.

"He's gone," she said.

Ning looked down at the old man with a smile on his face and no signs of life. The ingredients he had taken out fell from his hand as Ning rushed forward to check his pulses.

Despite his greatest hope, there weren't any pulses. The old man was dead, and he had died happily knowing that he had saved his son's life as the last thing he did.

"No, old man. Come back. You can't die like that," Ning started crying. He immediately put him on the ground and started pumping his chest to restart his head.

"You said you will feed me a meal at your house right? See? here I am, you need to come back to feed me. You need to come back old man, " Ning said as tears slid down his eyes. He kept begging for the old man to come back.

However, deep down he knew that the old man had lost a lot of blood. There was no way he was going to come back to life.

"System, is there anything we can do?" Ning asked.

<Soul once gone, cannot be brought back.>

<If you do bring it back, you would only be bringing back a desecrated soul that knows nothing but hate and resentment>

"Grand Uncle!" Famir and Mavenna came by only to see that their grand-uncle was dead. Jangar woke up too, only to find his father dead.

Everyone who knew the old man started sobbing at the sight. The cries of loss deafened the cries of fear very soon, and the whole village started mourning.

All except for a single person, Ning.

Ning's eyes were red with anger and hatred. The blood lust was returning back to him and he could easily stop it. However, he decided to let it loose this time.

"System, teleport me to Khrom's base," he said. A tear rolled down his face and fell to the ground, but the man was no longer there.

The villagers were surprised at his sudden departure. However, they had seen more absurdity today and quickly went back to mourning.

Ning appeared inside the forbidden forest. According to the system, Khrom was terrorizing the town and village from inside the forest.

Ning looked at the light around 100 meters in front of him and asked, "is there anyone innocent here?"

<No>

"Good."

He started walking towards the light. Soon, he saw that there was a bunch of tents laid around the forest. There were two men standing guard at the front.

"When are the guys coming back?" one of the men asked.

"I don't know. They should have been back by now right?" the other man asked.

"Yeah, they weren't supposed to loot or anything. They were only supposed to kill a few people and come back. That was boss's order," the man said.

"Man, I wish I could go there too. I haven't had a woman in months," the other man said.

"And whose fault was it? We could have been out there with them today. But all because of you, not only did I lose one of my eyes, we got demoted to guard duty too," the man shouted.

"Hey, it's not my fault that guy was so strong. If I had known, I would have tried to fight him," the other man said.

Just then, he heard movements from in front of them.

"Ah, you guys are finally—" the man's words were cut short as his head was cut apart from his body. Even as his head fell, all he could see was a man whose face in the dim light looked like that of a demon.

A demon with a blue spear in his hand.

Chapter 225: Bandit Hideout

The other man was taken aback when he saw his partner's head get cut off of his head.

"Who?" he turned around to ask. Suddenly, a spear thrust through his shoulders and he was stuck onto a nearby tree.

"Ahh!" he screamed as loudly as he could as the pain rushed from his shoulders. Ning walked forward and ripped the patch in his eyes and put his thumb inside as he straightened the man's head.

"Scream once more and you will die," he said.

The man kept on grunting, but didn't scream anymore. "Wh-Who are you?" he asked.

"You don't recognize me?" Ning asked in a serious tone.

"I- I don— It's you. Why are you doing this?" he asked.

Ning pressed his finger deeper and said, "I ask the questions here, not you. Why are you free when you should be rotting in the prison?"

"We— We have connections in the prison. Some of our people work there too," he said as he kept on grunting from the pain.

"Who?" he asked.

"I— I don't know. The boss knows who they are; I only know that they exist," he said.

"I see. Then I have no need for you," Ning said.

"No, Wa— "

Ning ripped his spear out while at the same time cutting the man through the heart. The man fell to the ground as blood gushed from his eyes and shoulders, but not a single sound escaped his mouth.

The man was as dead as one could be.

Ning looked at the tent closest to him and suddenly lit a tent on fire. He stood in front of the tent's opening and waiting. When the people inside started realizing that their tent was on fire, they started running out.

At that moment, Ning cut every single person that walked out. Screams rang out from the people of the tent and soon all the tent had movements as they realized there was a problem.

When they all walked out and saw that their members were dead, they immediately ran for a weapon and came charging at Ning.

Ning's blood lust kept on increasing as his fury reached its peak.

The first man came in with sword and slashed towards Ning. Ning sidestepped the attack and punched him with his left hand.

The man's skull broke apart as if it was an egg being crushed. Blood and brain matter scattered to the right of Ning as the remaining body was hurled into a tent far away.

The bandits got scared. They couldn't understand what had just happened.

Suddenly, one of the bandits started shouting with a quivering voice. "A- An Enchanter!" he shouted.

The bandits finally 'realized' what was happening. They believed that Ning was enchanting his body to become sturdier than it actually was.

Ning didn't give a damn about what they thought and ran forward. The bandits were scared but they didn't believe that Ning could be strong enough to fight all of them at once.

So, they threw caution to the wind and charged at Ning all together.

With every slice of his spear, a body was cut apart. With every punch and kick, somebody lost part of their body. With every use of telekinesis, somebody whose weight was less than him got thrown high into the air only to fall down and die.

Ning went through the group of nearly a hundred, and death followed where he went. He made no distinguishment between men or women. Anyone that came at him got the same treatment.

In less than 2 minutes nearly all of the bandits that charged his were dead. There were a few with just broken bones that lied on the ground unable to move.

Ning used telekinesis to pull the tents and put it on top of all the bodies on the ground and lit fire to it.

He walked towards the remaining bandits as the fire behind him started raging.

"Wh-Why are you doing this?" one of the bandits asked as he put his sword up with his shaky hands. Ning didn't immediately kill these people.

Instead he asked, " Where is Khrom?"

The bandits didn't answer and just kept the weapon targeted towards him.

"I will ask only once more. WHERE IS KHROM?"

The bandits shook more when they heard the rage in his voice. Still, they didn't answer him.

"Whoever answers first gets to live," Ning said.

"He's underground!" one of the girl answered.

SWING

The rest of the bandits that didn't speak immediately had their heads cut apart from their torso. The girl didn't even understand what had happened just now, but she understood that the only reason she was alive right now was because she spoke.

"Underground? Explain!"

"There is a passage underground that leads to outside the town. The boss is currently in a room there," she said.

"How do I get there?" he asked.

"T-There is a hole carved behind that tree. Its hidden in the bush," she said.

"Good!" Ning said.

"I-I will live now right?" she asked.

"I stay true to my words," Ning said and turned around.

The girl sighed in relief, but then suddenly, 4 slashes flew through the air and cut her. She didn't die, but all 4 of her limbs were cut off from the base.

"AAAAHHHH!" she screamed louder than anyone had amongst the bandits.

"I said I would let you live. But I didn't say it will be a pleasant living," Ning said as he walked towards the tree and repeated what the system had said.

"No one here is innocent!"

He quickly found the bush the girl was talking about and walked past it to see the giant hole in the tree.

"So this leads to the underground huh?" he thought and jumped in. There was a ladder to the side, but he didn't need it. It took him about 4 seconds to reach the bottom.

He stood up and saw that the tunnels went around in all four directions. He didn't know what direction the town was at all since he had teleported here.

"Where am I supposed to go now?"

Chapter 226: Torture [R-18]

[Warning: Very Mature Content; Please SKIP if you are uncomfortable with R*pe and Torture, or are not 18 or Older. There will be TL: DR]

He thought for a while and said, "System, give me the full knowledge of the tunnels here."

<Confirmed>

Suddenly, he got an intricate map of the tunnels, and what little energy he had, including sound energy, all disappeared. He now had 0 energy with him.

"This way!" He instinctively knew what direction to walk in.

"Let me know if there is someone innocent here," Ning said.

<Understood>

Ning could see on the map that there were many prison-like rooms here, so he didn't believe that everyone here was a bandit. He needed to be careful that he didn't kill someone innocent by accident.

Even though he didn't know what the system's verdict would be on accidental killing, he didn't want that on his conscience again.

He walked through the tunnels towards the rooms that looked like places one could rest in.

"Urghh! This feels suffocating," he thought.

He finally reached a room and opened the door. Inside, he saw a man sleeping on a sofa with two other men playing some dice with each other.

They looked towards the door and asked, "Who?"

Just from the clothing, they were wearing, Ning knew they couldn't be innocent at all. He immediately threw his spear at one of the men awake and calmly walked to the other.

The man who got hit by the spear died before he could even make a peep.

Ning walked to the second man and placed his foot on his chest as he pressed him. "Where's your boss?" he asked.

"Wh— Who are you?" the man kept on asking.

"Your death. Now answer me, where is yo— "

CLANG

The sleeping man was awake by now and had hit Ning with a sword. However, all that happened was that the sword got bent in half, and Ning's cloth got cut a little.

Ning grabbed the sword and pulled the man towards him. He caught him by the neck and flung him to the wall of the room.

SPLAT

He was sent back with such a big force that his body ended up splattering the wall with blood and gore. The splashes flew all the way to where Ning was.

Ning ignored that and looked at the man that was under his feet. "Where is your boss?" he asked.

"R— Room 34!" he answered.

Ning looked through his mental map and said, "I see."

"Argh!" the man started screaming as Ning pushed more and more on his chest. His ribs started cracking and soon punctured his organs inside, but Ning didn't stop. The sofa broke under the pressure and the man laid flat on the ground.

Ning pushed until his leg went through the chest and came out the other side. Only then did he stop and pull his foot back out.

He grabbed his spear and walked away.

The room he was in was number 22. So, 34 was a dozen rooms down the tunnel. It wasn't a straight tunnel, so it would take him quite some time.

He entered the next room that was 23 and found another group of bandits. These ones he killed without asking.

Room 24 had a male and female bandit that was having the time of their life. Ning killed them both while they were in their bliss.

He cleared rooms 25-28 in a similar fashion.

In room 29 he had to finally stop to take in what was happening. Inside was a man having his way with a woman that seemed to not belong here. The woman was clearly kidnapped from somewhere.

The most Ning would react at this sight was get taken aback a little and maybe get a little angry.

However, when he saw that the man had abused the woman so much that she had cuts all over her body, and that he had already killed her and was now doing it with her corpse, He got mad.

The man didn't seem to realize that someone was at the door. So when Ning suddenly attacked him, he was caught off guard.

Ning was so seething with rage that he couldn't even speak. The very first thing he did was cut the man's pe*is and shove it into his mouth. However, he didn't push it deep enough to choke on it. That would be too lenient of a death.

He then started cutting all over the man's body. The cuts were so tiny that individually it wouldn't be harmful, but together, they hurt a lot.

Also, the places he made the cuts at, he would also crush all the bones there. He also cut off the man's ears and gouged out his eyes.

Once he was broken and cut all over, Ning sat over his broken ribs and put a rag on his face. The man screamed very loudly and fainted from time to time, and each time, Ning woke him back up.

"It seems you really like torturing others. Let's see how you like it when I do it to you," he said and suddenly cut the man's left arm.

He then held the arm over his face such that the blood from the arm dripped all over his face, waterboarding him in the process.

Once the blood from the arms was empty, he cut the other arm and waterboarded him again. Once the arms were done, he went with the two legs.

Through all the waterboarding, the man was somehow able to survive. Seeing this, Ning pushed his 'gag' a little more in. Now, if the man wanted to live, he would have to swallow it whole with his broken teeth along with it.

Ning walked to the lady's corpse and put a cloth on it before keeping it in his storage.

Ning walked out, leaving the man limbless, with all of his bones broken, with cuts all over his body, gaging on his on p*n*s, without the ability to see or hear. Then, he cut the stones around the door and collapsed the door.

The man would likely not live, but on the off chance he did, he would spend every waking hour wishing for someone to kill him off, yet unable to let anyone know about it.

Chapter 227: Khrom

[TL: DR - Ning bought a map of the tunnels with all of his energy and is making his way to room 34 where Khrom is at.]

Ning found a few kidnapped people in the rooms between 30 and 33, as well as a few more people he had to kill. After saving the kidnapped people, he let them know which direction to go towards and he went towards room 34.

Room 34 was situated at the center of the tunnel system and had easy access in all directions. So, Ning had to be extremely careful to not let the bandits know he was there.

The lanterns along the walls flickered as Ning finally opened the door to room 34.

The man inside reacted swiftly and looked up. He was an old man with a rough beard and a very well-built body. He was quite dirty and looked like he hadn't taken a bath for days.

When he saw Ning with the bloody cloth, he quickly reacted and swiftly stored away all the money and other items he had in front of him.

"Who are you? Where are my henchmen?" he asked.

Ning looked at the man with a hint of surprise on his face. The man behind the terror in the town, the tragedy in the village, and all those other problems that this corner of Thorman Empire had to suffer... was actually an old man in his 50s.

It was a little hard to believe that such an old man would be capable of such horror.

"Are you Khrom?" he asked.

Khrom was apprehensive. In all of his life as a bandit, he had seen many people die in front of his eyes; some that were killed by others, and some that he killed himself.

During all those deaths, he could remember seeing the fear in the eyes of the one dying. The same fear was now starting to bud inside of him.

He didn't immediately answer Ning's question and instead asked once more, "Who are you?"

"I see. So you indeed are Khrom," Ning said. Khrom's unwillingness to answer the question was an answer in and of itself.

Khrom was startled a little. 'Sh*t,' he thought as he realized his mistake.

"So, what if I am? Who are you?" he asked again.

Ning walked into the room. "I am the vengeance you invited by sending your people after the village. I am the reason you are going to die today."

"F*ck. MEN! An intruder is here," Khrom shouted, yet nobody made a peep.

"All your people who can hear you are already dead. Once I kill you, I will go deal with the rest," Ning said.

Khrom now knew that nobody was coming for him, so he decided to take matters into his own hand. He put his hands up and suddenly some sort of liquid dropped all over Ning.

Ning was a little surprised and looked at what was dropped on him. "Water?" he thought and checked. It wasn't water; it was too slippery to be water.

His eyes widened a little when he realized. "Oil."

Ning burst into flames all of a sudden as the oil caught fire. "Die, Idiot!" Khrom started laughing after seeing Ning fall for such an obvious attack.

Oil and Fire was one of the most well-known combo attacks that could take care of any unprepared opponent.

"You think you can waltz in here and expect to leave alive, boy? I am Khrom. The Khrom that has been reigning this side of the empire for decades. A kid that is still wet behind the ears cannot do anything to me," Khrom said.

"Is that so?" Ning spoke. The fire still raged on him, but he was unaffected. Not only did he have a really strong body that didn't take damage easily, but he also had the heat ignorance skill that made it so that 15% of the heat-based damage ignored his body in general.

Then, he walked forward.

"Ho-How are you still standing? Yo-You... are you an Enchanter?" Khrom asked. He was finally starting to get a little scared. He stumbled on the chair he was sitting in and fell backward.

Ning was now standing right in front of him. He squatted down to get up to Khrom's level and asked, "Do you know what happens when you mix water with burning oil?"

Khrom shuddered.

Ning smiled through the burning flames and said, "boom!"

BOOM

A loud explosion occurred as massive flames left Ning's body. The items in the room caught fire and so did Khrom. He was now starting to burn along with everything in the room.

Khrom quickly created water to douse himself and put out the fire. His clothes were torn in places, his skin was red from the burns, and had lost almost all of the hair on his body.

Ning was also no longer burning now. He took out a different grayish robe and wore it before walking up to Khrom.

"So you are an Invoker, huh? Oil and fire, that was quite neat. Shame you had to fight me. Do you have any more tricks up your sleeve? Try it," Ning said.

Khrom suddenly swung his hand towards Ning. As he did that, a light flashed in his hand and it turned to a big sword.

CLANG

However, it did no damage to Ning. Khrom's eyes shook in fear as he now understood the magnitude of danger he was in. His final sneak attack was fruitless and he didn't have enough Aether to use any other attacks.

Ning grabbed the sword and snatched it off of his hand. "Hmm... this looks quite intricate. Did you really create this yourself?" he asked.

"Or..." Ning thought of another possibility and suddenly grabbed Khrom's clothes before ripping it off.

Around Khrom's neck was a necklace with a large jewel in the middle. The jewel was dark blue in color and gave off faint undulations of Aether.

"A storage item, I see. So this is where you kept all the riches just moments prior. I will be taking this now."

Ning ripped the necklace off of his neck and took it.

Chapter 228: Truth?

"Where did senior go? Is he going to be okay?" Mavenna asked as she wiped away her tears.

It had been a little over two hours since Ning had left. After they were done sobbing, they gathered around the ones that died. It was a terrible night and they had many losses.

But they couldn't let those losses drag themselves down.

They didn't care about the bandit's body; those would be taken care of by someone from the town. Lord Canon had sent his own son to help them take care of the bandits.

The villagers were very grateful for the help.

The total number of people that died in the bandit attack was around 11 on the villager's side, while the injured were around 30. Everyone who fought against the bandit even a little had some injury on them.

The Lord's son went around with people to deal with the injury of whoever was injured.

"Sir, all the injured people have been treated and the bandit's corpses have been burned," A guard told Kell.

Kell got close to the guard and asked, "Did you find out why they were all cut apart like that?"

The guard got quiet too and whispered, "I tried asking around, but everyone is keeping a tight lip about it. Not a single one of them wants to speak about it. I think they are hiding an expert in the village."

"That makes sense," Kell said.

"Alright, let's move out," Kell shouted and turned to leave. But just then, he saw someone approaching from far away. "Who is— "

"Senior!" Famir shouted and ran forward. However, when he reached near, he stopped. He turned around and caught his sister who was also running.

Ning had a serious look on his face, more serious than anything the two siblings had ever seen. Behind him was a naked man, all bloody, being dragged since god knew where.

Ning ignored the two siblings and walked to the center of the village, right next to where Kell was standing at and threw the man in front of the villagers.

The villagers gasped when they saw the man. The man had no eyes, no ears, no fingernails, missing toes, half his skin missing, and the other half burnt.

Ning looked to the villagers and said, "This is Khrom, the boss of the bandits that were behind today's tragedy. Do what you will with him." Then he left.

The villagers, the guards, and even Kell himself were stunned. Kell looked at the half-dead man in front of him in horror. "T-This is Khrom?" he couldn't help but ask.

"Doctor, wait!" Kell shouted. "You said this was Khrom? Where did you find him? How did you find him?"

Ning turned around and glared at Kell, who took a step back after seeing the anger in Ning's eyes.

Ning ignored the son and turned to the crowd. He didn't say anything else and simply nodded towards them. The crowd hesitated a little, but then Jangar walked forward.

"This is the bastard who is behind my father's death?" he said angrily. He looked around for a broken piece of wood and started beating Khrom with it.

BAM BAM BAM

The crowd shuddered with every hit. Then, another man who had lost his wife in the attack tonight also walked forward and started beating him.

Then came a father who lost his son.

A mother who lost her daughter.

A wife who lost her husband.

A daughter who lost her father.

Everyone from the crowd picked up a piece of wood or stone and started barraging the man on the ground. Even as the hits landed on him, the man never made a sound. Ning had made sure to gag him properly so that he didn't make a single sound.

Ning watched from the side and was constantly getting ticked off as he looked at the man getting beat. Just before coming here, he had asked the man a few questions.

The answers he had gotten were something that was constantly eating up his free thought and made it impossible to think of anything. He started remembering what had happened an hour ago.

"Why did you send people to attack the village?" Ning asked Khrom who was down on his knees.

"W-What villager? I-I don't know any village" Khrom said.

"Don't lie to me bastard," Ning said as he pulled what remaining hair Khrom had on his head. "I will just kill you right now," Ning said.

"Wait— I-I'll speak," Khrom said. Ning waited for him to speak.

"I- I was ordered to attack the village and kill a few people there," Khrom said.

"What? Ordered?" Ning was surprised. Who would order a boss of the bandit? Or was Khrom not the boss after all?

"Who ordered you?" he asked.

"I- It was Canon. It was that bastard Canon!" Khrom said.

"What?" Ning was surprised. "What do you mean Canon?"

"We-We have a pact with each other. He lets us hide out here and doesn't come after us, and in return, we do a few things he asks," Khrom said.

"Like?" Ning asked.

"I don't know. It's usually just secretly killing people that we find in the forest or poison someone's food in the village," Khrom said.

"WHAT?!" Ning pulled his hair tighter. "You are lying!" he said.

"N-No! Believe me. We've been doing that for over 3 years ever since we came here," Khrom said.

3 years. That was around the time Jangar's brother died, a lumberjack who was crushed by a tree he cut. Thinking about it, he also remembered another thing Jangar had mentioned.

'The village is cursed. Every month or two, someone dies here.'

Ning couldn't believe it. What Khrom said matched what Jangar had said.

'Sh*t!' he thought. While it was possible that Canon was doing all of these, it was also possible that Khrom was simply lying. Ning had no way of finding out either.

'I wish I could use Supreme Dominance on him right now,' he thought. Unfortunately, he was all out of energy. 'Fine. I will learn about the truth once I get energy later on,' he thought.

And then, he tortured Khrom a little more before he started dragging him throughout the tunnels. Everywhere he went, Ning killed the bandits and freed those who were captured.

Once he got out of the tunnel near the town, he then dragged him all the way back to the village.

Chapter 229: Funerals

Khrom was dead. Without a shadow of a doubt, he was dead. After being beaten to such a state, if he was still alive, he would truly deserve to live.

Unfortunately, he wasn't that lucky.

Ning looked at Kell who was looking at the dead Khrom in horror.

'Rich kid reared in safety. He probably hasn't seen the true horrors of the world yet,' Ning thought. 'Could such a person's father truly be capable of sending so many people to their death?' he wondered.

He remembered the sweet old man that had thanked him after he healed his child. That man knew love, could he truly—

'His son!' Ning's eyes widened when he remembered about Zand. 'His son was paralyzed for quite a while right? Could it be that he partnered up with Khrom for this particular reason?' he wondered.

Ning couldn't understand why though. 'Killing people won't save a paralyzed child at all. He has no reason to— '

"Senior!" Famir shook him back awake.

"What? What is it?" Ning asked.

"He's dead. What should we do with his body?" Famir asked as he pointed to Khrom's corpse.

Ning gritted his teeth and said, "Just chop him to pieces and feed him to the dogs."

Famir got a little confused. "What's a dog?" he asked.

"It's— Never mind. Just let the guards handle his corpse," Ning said. Then, he remembered something.

"How did you say your father was found again?" he asked.

"Oh, it was one of lord Canon's men. I don't think he's here today," Famir said.

"Are you sure your father fell to death?" Ning asked.

"Yes. He died while trying to get the fruit for sister," Famir said with a guilty voice. He blamed himself for his father's death.

"How did your father's body look?" Ning asked.

Famir shuddered a bit. "Why are you asking these questions, senior? Can I not answer?" he asked as tears started welling up in his eyes. He didn't want to remember back to that day.

"Answer me, it's important. I don't think your father's death was an accident," Ning said softly.

"What?" Famir exclaimed with shock. "That can't be!."

"Quiet down, and tell me how he looked," Ning asked.

"He- his arms were broken and his— " Famir took a deep breath trying to not let the visuals affect him, and continued, "and the back of his head was caved in."

Ning suddenly had a quizzing look. "How were his hands broken?" he asked.

"Right here, it was bent backward," Famir said as he pointed to his elbow.

"Any other damage?" Ning asked.

"No, not really," Famir said.

'Broken arm, broken skull, and yet no damage to the body. This sounds like assault rather than an accident. Was he killed by Canon's men and then that man reported it as an accident?' Ning wondered.

'Did famir's father know something? Does this village know something? Why would Canon want to kill the village?' Ning couldn't understand.

"Senior, let's go," Famir said and took him along.

Ning didn't know where he was taking him, but it looked important. When he reached the place, he finally realized.

"Oh," he said.

It was the funeral. 10 bodies lay on top of a pile of firewood. 10 people walked to the front of the bodies, each with an unlit torch.

All 10 of them put the end of their torch on a fire that was previously prepared and then went to their individual family's corpses to burn the funeral pyre.

The fire raged and everyone got silent for a while. They prayed for the people who died, and the ones who had to keep living without them.

The fire raged for nearly an hour, and everyone stood there the whole time, unmoving. Once the fire died down, the 10 people walked up to the ashes and kept them inside a pot.

Once the ashes were inside the pot, the 10 people all picked it up and placed it on top of their heads.

Jangar walked from the side and went to the center of the funeral pyre that was set so that the fire never reached here. Another man from the village also went to the center.

There in the center laid a corpse that was left untouched by the fire.

Ning was surprised. "What's going on? Did they make a mistake?" he asked.

"No," Famir said. "We needed to keep one of the bodies safe."

"Huh? Wh—" Ning stopped. He then turned south and looked at the mountain far away.

"I see. We are going to the Peak of Afterlife."

Ning walked forward and went to the center where the man was struggling to carry the corpse. "Let me do it," Ning said and swapped with the man.

Ning was on the back, and Jangar was on the front.

"You ready?" Ning asked.

Jangar didn't speak, and only nodded. Then, the group started walking.

The destination was far away, but nothing stopped their advancement. Every man who could walk, walked. The group of people walked for over 4 hours when they arrived at the gate of the seal.

Ning wondered how they were going to enter, but Jangar didn't seem to stop. He continued walking.

Right when he approached the barrier, the barrier opened to create a portal-like appearance, similar to what he saw back in the Hub Island's secret realm.

As he passed inside, he suddenly appeared on the top of the mountain. The men he had come with immediately got cold and shuddered. Only he was fine.

Ning got worried for a second but then stopped when he saw that the people were started to set up another funeral pyre. Once it was set, Jangar and Ning laid the body on top of the pyre.

Jangar opened the cloth covering the face of the corpse. Behind the cloth was an old face with a small smile on his face. Everyone got silent when they saw the face and started praying once again.

Once they were done, Jangar brought out two stones to light his torch. It was time to proceed with the Old Uncle's funeral.

Chapter 230: Cave

Jangar took the torch and started lighting a fire near it, but his hands were trembling with the cold, and he could hit the stones properly.

"Let me help you, Uncle," Famir said and closed his eyes. Suddenly, fire burst on top of the torch and it was lit up. The people around him were surprised that he could do that, but for now, they didn't say anything.

Jangar walked up to his father's corpse and covered the face again. Then, he lit the pyre on fire.

The fire in the snow helped relieve some of the coldness the crowd was feeling. They stayed there for another half an hour as the fire crackled to a stop.

Jangar walked forward with an empty pot and gathered the ashes. Then, he stood up and started walking.

The other 10 people who were also carrying pots of ashes followed him. Ning soon realized that they were going to go around the mountain.

So, he followed the people and walked.

As he walked he started to realize the familiar environment once again. 'I fell on this site, didn't I?' he thought.

The group walked and stopped at the clutter of wooden planks stuck on the ground. 'The headstones,' Ning thought. Some of the men brought out other planks of wood and started carving on it.

Ning didn't even need to read it to know what it read.

Famir walked up to a headstone and got on his knees before it. "Hello father, how are you doing?" he started speaking.

Ning watched as the other people also got on their knees and started speaking with the headstones there. 'Everyone here has lost someone,' he thought.

As Jangar had mentioned, every month or two, somebody in the village died. So, by now every single person had to attend the funeral of their family.

Ning still remembered the first funeral he had attended, his parent's. It was a rainy day and he was mostly unsure about what had happened.

Unlike him from that time, these people were very used to this stuff. Seeing this, Ning got angry.

'Nobody should be used to the death of their friends and family. They shouldn't have to say goodbye to their loved ones on a regular basis,' he thought.

The group got up and walked away from one by one. Ning saw a new headstone next to the one that said 'Here lies Feroy'. The new one was the headstone of the Old Grand Uncle. He was now reunited with his son.

Ning gave a deep bow and walked behind the rest of the group.

As he was walking away, he saw something strange. There were still two people behind that were talking to the headstones, but Ning didn't remember seeing them amongst the villagers that were at the funeral back in the village.

'Did they join after we left the funeral pyre?' he wondered. He was currently looking behind him with his omnidirectional vision, so to a normal person, it would look like he is turning forward.

As Ning and the rest walked further away, the two people finally brought up their heads and looked at each other. Once they made sure nobody was looking, they started running below.

'What the hell are they doing?' Ning wondered. However, this wasn't the time to feed his curiosity. Jangar and the other 10 people circled back to where they began.

Then, they started walking up to the peak where the burst of Qi and Aether still flew to the sky. Once they reached there, they gently tossed the pot into the crater.

The little specks of light immediately destroyed the pots as well as the ashes inside of it and threw it into the sky. By the time they reached the top, not a single thing remained.

The 11 people had now entered the afterlife.

They prayed for another minute or two for the departed's safe journey and started walking down the mountain. Ning stood where he was and didn't move.

"Senior?" Famir asked when he saw that he wasn't moving. "We need to go past that barrier again. It will close in less than 3 hours," he said.

"You guys go down. I have some things to do here," Ning said and sent Famir away. Famir wanted to ask some questions but decided to keep quiet and leave.

Once they were gone, Ning went to the other side and followed the footsteps the men had left on the snow. 'Just where did they go?' he wondered.

He was nearly at the foot of the mountain when he saw the footsteps change direction. It went to the right and a little down.

'A cave?' Ning thought when he saw what was there. 'Why is there a cave here?' he wondered. As he walked close to the cave, he could hear of metal clangs.

He quietly walked into the cave.

"What the hell?" he couldn't help but exclaim loudly when he saw what was inside. The two men, who were mining inside with a pickaxe, were startled and got into an attacking position with their pickaxe.

Ning didn't care about them, however. The thing that garnered his full attention was this cave.

Bluish-black crystals shined even in low light all around him. It was as if they were embedded onto the rocks themselves. From Ning's estimate, there was at least a large truck full of materials here.

"Aether Ore," he spoke in absolute surprise. He then finally looked at the two men and asked, "who are you, people?"

The two men didn't seem to like the questioning very much.

"Isn't he the man who brought in Khrom?" one of the men asked.

"Yes," the other man said.

"No answering huh?" Ning said and walked forward.

"Don't come closer or we will attack!" one of the men said as he readied his pickaxe.

"Oh, you wanna do something with that toothpick? Go ahead," Ning said as he taunted the men.

Both the men got angry and ran forward to attack him with the pickaxe.

CLANG

However, it did nothing to Ning. Ning caught the stopped pickaxe from the metal side and bent it upside in a U shape.

"Now, are you willing to talk?"

Chapter 231: Timeline

The men were shocked when they saw the man in front of them physically bend the metal pickaxe.

"ENCHANTER!" They exclaimed.

"Are you willing to speak or not?" Ning asked.

"Please! Please don't kill us," the men said as they immediately got onto their knees and started begging. Ning didn't expect them to give up so easily. It seemed they were more terrified of him than the bandits were for some reason.

'They changed their behavior too quickly,' he thought. One moment they attacked him, and another moment they were begging.

"Who are you people and why do you know about this cave?" Ning asked.

One of the men trembled and slowly opened his mouth. "We cannot say that," he said.

Ning got ticked off. "Very well, I don't need two people to answer me anyway. Just one of you is enough. The other can go and die," He said.

"Wait, no, please. We really can not answer. They will kill our families if we tell you," one of the men said.

Ning stopped. "What?" He asked.

"Yes. They have our family hostage, and unless we do what they say, they will kill our family," the man said. "So, we really cannot say anything."

The system had made no effort whatsoever to stop him from killing them; it knew he was going to. That meant that these two weren't innocent whatsoever. However, if they really were forced to do what they did, then there was no way he would feel good after punishing them.

"Tsk." Just then, he thought of something. He didn't want to believe this thought as he wanted to believe that it was a coincidence. But he could not ignore the truth once it was this close to him.

Ning took a deep breath and asked, "it is Canon, isn't it? The one threatening you?"

The men kept quiet but their eyes flashed a hint of surprise. That was enough for Ning to figure out he was correct.

'No, I need to be 100% sure he is not lying,' he thought.

Suddenly, the pores on his body opened up as a massive amount of Aether entered his body instantly filling his 640 Million caps for the day.

While his Sea of Aether could only collect so much Aether, he himself on the other hand was free to collect as much as he could.

Once he had some energy back, he walked up to one of the people and placed his hand on his forehead. "Don't resist, or I will kill you," Ning said.

Supreme Domination.

The man made no peep whatsoever as he was taken in by Ning as a subordinate. Once the domination was complete Ning asked him once more.

"Is your family hostage?"

"Yes," the man answered with no hesitation whatsoever. The other man didn't understand what was happening.

"Is it Canon who has your family hostage?" he asked.

"Yes."

Ning fell into thought and thought of more questions to ask.

"Have you ever killed anyone from the village?" he asked.

"No," the man answered.

Ning was surprised.

"What do they make you do then?" he asked.

"Every time someone from the village dies, the villagers come by to Peak of Afterlife to part away with the ashes of the dead. During that time, we are made to mine as much as we can and get out within the time limit," the man said.

"So, the reason the villagers are killed is simply so that they can open the seal to the mountain?" Ning asked with anger in his voice.

"I believe so," the man said. The other man sat there, dumbfounded at the fact that his partner was spilling all the beans with zero hesitation. Ning on the other hand was in deep thought.

Things were finally starting to make sense. Ning formed a timeline of the events in his mind.

'That old man's son fell and got paralyzed 3 years ago. He tried to heal him, but couldn't. He probably needed more money. Then he came to find out about this place somehow. Since then, he made a pact with Khrom to let him have free reign over the territory as long as he killed a few villagers once every month or two.'

'So, the old man must be using this cave as his financial source,' Ning thought. However, one thing still didn't make sense. The motivation didn't add up at all.

Sure the man needed more money and so he mined this place. But he should have gotten enough money as the Aether ores sold for a lot.

'Why did he still continue to kill the villagers?' he wondered. 'Did he have a taste of the sweet money and couldn't stop doing what he did?' he wondered.

'Whatever, I will go ask him right now,' he thought.

"Leave," Ning ordered the two men in front of him. The one subordinate left without any emotions on his face, while the other man was scared the entire time.

Ning looked at the cave and sighed. He wanted to mine it too, but there were more important things to do now. So, he took in what little Aether ore was on the ground and walked out.

He teleported over to the edge of the barrier that had brought him to the top and walked out.

The two people he had just sent away would still take a bit longer to arrive here. While Famir and the rest had already walked away quite far.

He looked to the distance and saw them going back to the village. With nothing to carry around this time, they would likely cut the travel time by almost half.

With nothing else to do, he decided to go to the Canon mansion right now and interrogate the old man. So, he teleported.

He arrived at the open room where the 2nd son was kept. However, the 2nd son was no longer there anymore. Instead, all Ning could see was pooled up blood on the ground.

Next to his feet were two dead bodies, both of which belonged to the two maids that looked after the second son.

"What the F*ck?"

Chapter 232: Lord Canon

Ning stood where he had appeared. Below him, he could see the two women's dead bodies. From what Ning could see, they seemed to have been cut across their chest with a sword.

The white marbled floor had blood pooled up in it. The walls had splashes of red on what should have otherwise just been white.

Ning was very confused as to what was going on.

'Did the remaining bandits come to attack after learning that their boss died?' Ning thought. That was a genuine possibility.

From the bandit's perspective, somebody invaded their secret hideout and everyone died. The only one who had enough manpower, as well as knowledge of their hideout, was Canon.

'It must be that,' Ning thought and decided to walk out of the room.

As soon as he stepped out, he stepped on more blood. He looked down and saw a dead man.

'Canon's bodyguard?' Ning thought in surprise. This was the same bodyguard that had helped him with Zand's diagnosis yesterday.

Just a day later, he was dead.

"Another sword attack," Ning thought as he looked at the massive gash on the man's body.

He walked out of the corridor and could hear cries of terror from somewhere far away.

CLANG CLANG

He heard sounds of sword fight from just around the corner.

"Aaahh" a man cried out and fell down.

Suddenly, from behind the corner, Old man Canon walked out with his second son in his clutches. Ning saw him limping around and almost wanted to cry out in happiness. The man got what he deserved.

However, that wasn't the emotions Ning was feeling right now. When he saw the old man's crying face with terror written all over it, he felt sorry for the old man.

Old man Canon stopped when he saw Ning standing a little further away from him. His emotions changed from helplessness, to hope, to back to despair.

"D- Doctor, help me," he shouted.

Ning didn't want to help at all, but he also didn't want to see the innocent son die due to the mistakes of his father.

"Doctor, please! Take my son and le— Aah" the old man cried out.

SWING SWING SWING

"Aahh!" the old man cried out and fell over. There were 4 arrows stuck to his back.

Ning was stunned and stood right where he was. He couldn't see the attacker or the arrow.

Another arrow appeared out of nowhere and went into the old man's head. It managed to break his head and blood as well as brain matter flowed out.

The old man was dead.

"Aaaaaaghhhh!" a sound appeared from below the old man. The second son was healed enough now that he could make simple sounds. He cried out when he saw his father die right in front of him.

Footsteps sounded from behind the corner once more as the attacker appeared.

When Ning saw who it was, he was surprised. "It's you! How could it be you?" he asked.

"Oh, you are here, huh doctor? Good. I won't have to go find you to kill you. You are the root of my problems today anyway. I will only find solace after I kill you," the attacker said.

"But first, let me kill my little brother."

The attacker was none other than Kell Canon.

A sword suddenly appeared on his hand, and he swung down at the immobilized Zand. Ning reacted immediately and pushed him back with telekinesis, but he still managed to cut his brother's arm off.

"Aghh!" a hoarse sound left the second brother's mouth as he cried in agony.

"System, how much energy to heal him altogether?" Ning asked.

<You will need 520 Million energy>

'So expensive? It's just a paralyzed body though,' Ning thought. "Whatever, heal him."

Light shined on Zand's body and soon he was healed. His cut hand rejoined, his slowly healing paralysis healed in an instant, and his body was back to looking like a normal healthy body with good proportionate muscles and bones.

Ning lifted him up and said, "Run away from here. I will stop your brother."

Zand was surprised at what had just happened, however, he didn't have the luxury to stand around. He looked towards his father's corpse with dreaded eyes, looked at his brother with fury, and turned around to run away.

Seeing the kid gone, Ning turned to look at Kell who was standing up after being pushed away.

"Huh? Where did my brother go?" he asked, but quickly forgot about him as the problematic man was in front of him.

Ning's face couldn't help but keep showing surprise. "Why are you attacking your own father and brother?" he asked.

"It's all because of you, you bastard. You ruined my perfect plan to get richer and become a higher-ranked noble. First, you heal my stupid little brother that I had paralyzed, then you went and killed Khrom."

"Tell me, who gave you the information about Khrom's base. I need to get rid of them if they are on my team," Kell said.

Ning's eyes slowly started shining as he realized what was happening. "Ah, I see. So when they were talking about 'Canon', they weren't talking about your father. They were talking about you," Ning said.

He finally understood the misunderstandings he had from not realizing that 'Canon' was just a surname, and could be referring to any of the 3.

Since he had been in the party where big figures were present, they would only call the old man 'Canon', and refer to the younger ones by their name.

However, the normal folks couldn't show a noble such disrespect and called every one of the family members, a Canon.

"So you were the one behind the killings in the village for the last 3 years, for the bandit attack last night, and in some ways, you were responsible for the death of the old uncle," Ning said as fury started raging back in his eyes.

"Stop talking so much you idiot and die," Kell shouted.

Suddenly, Ning was doused in oil once again.

"Sh*t, another Invoker."

Chapter 233: Cries

While Ning was doused in Oil, he knew what was going to happen next. So, he immediately used telekinesis to throw away the oil from all over his body.

The fire appeared on the cloth in his chest, but Ning simply dabbed it out.

"What?" Kell was surprised for a moment before he realized. "I see, you are an Enchanter. I've never fought another Aether user before. It seems I will have to get serious."

A bow appeared on his hand all of a sudden. It was a dark green colored bow with a relatively simple design. Kell caught the string with his two fingers and pulled it.

Even as he did that, something appeared in the empty space of the bow's string. A small brown object appeared that elongated until it reached the front of the bow. There, a small sharp metal piece appeared on it.

'Holy Sh*t. He can create arrows just like that?' Ning said in surprise. He wasn't surprised about the fact that arrows could be made; he knew that. Anything could be made with Aether.

However, the more complex the item being made was, the more chances of failure there were. Not to mention, the more complex they were the more Aether they used.

The fact that Kell could create a wooden arrow with a metal tip in less than 3 seconds without a mistake was truly unthinkable to Ning.

"F*ck! He must've used the Aether ores on himself a lot. I wonder if he is an Aether Master now," Ning thought.

Kell let the arrow fly and it flew right towards Ning's face.

The arrow had great damage behind it, but that was nothing to Ning. He caught it right in front of his face and started checking the arrow.

Kell was surprised; the arrow he prided over so much was caught in mid-air by his opponent.

It was indeed pretty well made. "You are not bad," Ning said. "Unfortunately, you have to die."

Ning stepped forward towards Kell, but suddenly, he slipped. His right leg slipped way further than it should have and Ning ended up doing a perfect split.

"Oil again?" he said in anger. Kell had coated the marble with Oil to make it slippery.

Ning punched the marble to create many cracks and stood up. Now, he could walk on it properly. By that time, however, Kell was gone.

That wasn't a problem to Ning however, he could clearly see the direction he had run to. So, he jumped out of the oiled-up area and started chasing.

The hallway was pretty white and kind of the same looking everywhere, but Ning could hear footsteps and followed it.

Arrows flew at him, but it couldn't hinder Ning at all. When the floor got slippery, he used telekinesis to wipe it away, or just simply jumped.

Kell was trying to keep a distance and fight that way, but he couldn't stop Ning from coming closer at all. So, he kept on running.

Ning was getting closer and closer. At some point, he was so close that he could catch Kell if he ran at his top speed for 3 seconds.

Kell attacked with his arrows once again, but Ning just twisted his head and dodged it.

Kell then created small metal balls and dropped them on the ground. They were supposed to work like a ball bearing and trip Ning when he stepped on it. He expected that Ning couldn't focus on so many objects at once as even Enchanters had a limit on how many objects they could enchant at once.

However, it didn't have the desired effect on Ning. Ning's mental strength was ridiculously strong. Besides, Telekinesis didn't work like normal Enchanting.

He floated all the metal balls and caught them in his hands. He then took one of them and flicked it with his finger. It flew so fast that it was close to being a gunshot.

Ning's aim however was pretty bad and he missed. That was still enough to scare Kell. Kell created a metal shield and turned around to block the attack.

Ning sent another metal ball flying toward Kell and sent Kell stumbling backward.

Suddenly, Kell tripped over something and fell down. When he looked at what it was, he shuddered. It was the corpse of his dead father that he had killed. Now that corpse was going to be the death of him.

"P-Please spare me! I can give you all the money I made," Kell said with a quivering voice.

"I don't want money. I want answers and then I want vengeance" Ning said.

"I-I will answer. I will answer everything you want. Just don—"

SWING SWING

Two arrows went through Kell's head and he fell to the floor, dead.

"What the... " Ning was surprised once more.

From around the corner, the second brother appeared with a bloody arrow in his hand. When he got to the dead body of his brother, he kicked him away from his father and walked up to it again.

He flipped it to have the chest upright and stabbed him right through the heart with the arrow.

"DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE!" he shouted. Kell was already dead, but Zand wasn't satisfied. Ning watched from the side as the younger brother stabbed his elder brother in the chest over 20 times.

By the end of it, Kell's body was practically unrecognizable. When he was done, he dropped the arrow and walked over to his father's body.

He picked it up and embraced it in his arms. Then, he cried.

The house was silent and his cries were the only sound that ran around the house. He cried at the tragedy he had just witnessed. He cried for seeing his own father die in front of him. He cried for having to kill his own brother.

He cried and let go of all the tears he had accumulated for the past 3 years.

He forgot about everything but the pain and tragedy and just cried.

Chapter 234: Sleep

"Lord Canon, are you alright?" the stronger guards heard the news of the massacre in the mansion and came running in. When they arrived, they were presented with quite a few dead guards and maids, followed by the young lord and their lord.

Zand was still holding his father and crying, but the sound had quietened a lot by now.

Ning was still to the side looking at the scene in front of him with a sad but frowning face. He wanted some answers, yet the perpetrator was dead. However, he didn't have the heart to scold someone like Zand right now.

"Don't move," the guards shouted as they pointed their spears towards Ning.

Ning couldn't help but frown when he saw this. He wasn't in the mood to fight with random people right now.

"Drop your weapons," Zand ordered suddenly.

"Young lord, but this man—"

"He is my savior. Treat him with respect," he shouted again. His body was fully healed so he didn't need to worry about overexerting it right now.

Ning looked at Zand with a hint of surprise. It seemed that despite the tragedy he just had to go through, he was still conscious enough about the surroundings that he didn't let Ning get harassed by his soldiers.

Ning sighed. "I'm leaving," he said and walked out. As soon as he was out of anyone's vision, he teleported to Famir's place.

"Eh, senior. You're back," Mavenna said with a little bit of surprise. "Oh my god, what happened to you?" she asked in concern. Despite having changed his clothes after his raid on the bandit, he had yet again managed to ruin this cloth.

"Sigh, don't mind this. I'm not in a mood to talk, I just want to go rest," he said and walked into one of the rooms and lay down on the bed.

He also felt a little bloated since he hadn't yet refined the Aether he had gained in the cave. He needed to purify it so he could add more.

However, sleep came first.

He didn't see any dreams or nightmares. He just slept peacefully.

"Senior! Senior!"

Ning woke up from his sleep after who knew how many hours. He looked to the side and saw that Famir was back.

"Oh, you returned? Alright, go away for now. Let me sleep," Ning said and went back to sleep.

"Senior, there is somebody here to meet you," Famir said.

"Who?" Ning asked as he stood up. In front of him was a man slightly older than Famir, but way more mature. He was wearing white robes and pants. It was unusual to see someone so colorless in this place.

"What are you doing here?" he asked in confusion as he looked at the man in front of him.

It was none other than Zand. Zand looked a lot more noble-like now, but the white didn't really suit him.

"I'm here for my father's funeral, Doctor," Zand said.

"Your father's funeral?" Ning was a little surprised. It had only been a few hours, and yet Zand had not only fixed his mood but was already here to cremate his father.

"I thought you would be more devastated by your father's death. How did you get over the pain so easily," Ning asked.

"Well, I'm still sad, but I couldn't keep on crying. It is up to me to become the new lord of the family and deal with the different problems. Besides, 3 days is surprisingly enough for one to get his emotions under check," Zand said.

"Huh? 3 days? What 3 days?" Ning asked.

"Senior, it's been 3 days since you started sleeping," Famir said. "I was worried something must've happened to you, but Mavenna stopped me from waking you up."

"I wouldn't have woken you up now either, but this felt like a real emergency," Famir said.

"I slept for 3 days?" Ning was a little surprised. Ning had forgotten now that he didn't have access to Qi, he was just a mortal. Thanks to his body and early level Aether, he could go by without sleep for a while.

However, going without sleep for as long as he did was really not advised at all. Finally, his fatigue and lack of sleep had all caught up to him.

"Sigh, I should take care of my body more," Ning said to himself.

"So, you said you are here for your father's funeral, right?" Ning asked.

"Yes. I wanted to send him away at the Peak of Afterlife, as well as the rest of the people. At the same time, I also want to see the cave that turned my brother into the maniac he was," Zand said.

"Sigh, okay. Let's go. I wanted to go back sometimes too," Ning said and stood up. He told Famir to just stay there by himself with his sister while he went with Zand.

Ning walked outside to see nearly 50 men with some sort of pot above their heads. "Did so many people die?" Ning asked.

"My brother killed a lot of people that were in the house that day just to get to me. So, over 50 people ended up dying. Their family members came for the funeral. "

"Today, I will take them to the peak of Afterlife and help their family members reach the heavens," Zand said with a proud and determined face.

"Good luck, kid," Ning said and decided to follow them.

"By the way, Doctor. When I was paralyzed, I heard that you made a pact or some sort of bet with my father? Did you ever get paid for it?" Zand asked.

"Yes, I did make a bet, and I won. Although I couldn't use it at the time, I still had a bet with your father. He was supposed to listen to what I say," Ning said.

"Umm... Doctor, while I may not be my father, I can certainly fulfill his bet on his behalf," Zand started speaking.

"Oh, you can?" Ning was a little surprised that a person that been in paralysis for so long was going to answer him. However, He needed answers, so he agreed to ask.

"Let's start with, why were you paralyzed in the first place?"

Chapter 235: Truth

"Did you really fall from the 2nd story of your house?" Ning asked.

The group had already started moving. Zand kept quiet for a while and finally spoke, "yes, I did. Well, I was thrown off of it to be exact."

Ning got a little curious.

"I think I will have to explain from the beginning really," he said.

"When my mother gave birth to me, my mother's body grew weak and she started easily contracting illness. Right around when I was 11, she died after a long battle with a disease. Just like today, I had walked all the way up to the mountain peak back then too," Zand said.

"My father and brother were there as well. When we were going around, I got cold and fell down the back of the mountain. That was how we came to discover a cave with Aether Ores there. Father wanted to mine it, but we couldn't get our hands on it due to the Seal's requirement of entry."

"So, my father forgot about it. However, my brother never did. Only, he didn't have any methods of gaining entry to the mountain either."

"That was until he went to the town over and learned about Khrom. He recruited Khrom and made him move to this town. Then, he gave him the task of killing a person or two every month."

"During that time, he would send his own men to peak with every funeral group and mine a little," Zand said.

"How do you know all of this? I thought you were completely paralyzed with no way of knowing," Ning asked.

"Ah, I asked a few people in the last 3 days. When I threatened a few close people to him with execution, they spilled the bean pretty easily."

"Besides, I was there when he made the plan as well," Zand said.

"You were there?" Ning asked with confusion.

"Yes. One day when father was out on a merchant trip, he called Khrom to our mansion under a disguise and called me too to take part in the planning."

"When I heard what horrible things he wanted to do for the money, I told him I would tell everything to father. In hindsight, that was stupid of me. But... I never thought my brother— no, that monster was capable of what he did."

"Before Khrom could even do anything, he grabbed me and dragged me onto the balcony before throwing me off of it. Luckily, I landed on the grass and survived, but unluckily, I was paralyzed."

"Since the servants found me, he couldn't kill me off, but since I was paralyzed he didn't need to."

"Ever since then, he had been running his operation unobstructed, making hundreds of thousands of Rops in the process," Zand said.

Ning thought for a moment and asked, "Did your father not get suspicious of the sudden increase in income?"

"Oh, he never sold anything himself. He sold the ores through the bandits. He would give the bandits the task of selling the ores, and they in return would get a cut of the money. I wonder what would've happened if he ever told the bandits the location of the ores."

"I doubt any of the village or town folks would be alive at all given how lucrative that would've been to them," Zand said.

Ning remembered the pile of Rops that Khrom had when he had entered his room. That necklace that held the money was still with him and had yet to check it.

"How do you know he made Khrom sell all of it? Did his people tell you that too?" Ning asked.

"Well, yes, but I already knew that beforehand. Every time he was about to get his money, he would come to my room and boast it to me. He would tell me what sort of idiotic mistakes I did by not helping him, that bastard."

"He would sometimes come in and tell me how he destroyed all the letters that were being sent to the Pestonia empire. If they had gotten my letter, I would have likely been treated by now," Zand said.

"I wanted to beat him, even kill him then and there, but I couldn't. I was paralyzed. So, all I could do was wait and bide my time. Thankfully, since I was planning to go to the university in the empire very soon, my father had bought me a rather expensive Aether absorption method, I spent all my time absorbing it."

"That was how I got this strong," Zand said as he made a fist. "I got strong enough to kill that monster in one shot."

"Goddammit, I should have killed him the moment I got my movement back, but I was too weak and couldn't think properly. If I had... If I had killed him, then father would still be alive right now," Zand said and started tearing up again.

Ning looked up and said, "so all the problems that the villagers and the town folks faced are gone now, right?"

Zand wiped his tears and said, "yes, they're all gone. The villagers can finally rest in peace. Maybe I should go apologize to them for what my brother did."

Ning thought for a while and said, "Don't."

Zand was a little surprised and looked at him.

"Let them stay happy in ignorance. They think they lost their lost one to unfortunate causes. If they find out your family was behind it, they will hate you forever."

"Instead, if you want to atone for the sins of your brother, try to make this a better place for them to live in," Ning said.

"Yes, yes I shall," Zand nodded. "Oh, right. I nearly forgot, what was it that you wanted to talk about with my father? If it's something I can help with, please tell me. You are my benefactor, and I will do anything you ask for."

Ning thought for a second and said, "Well, there are a few things you can do for me."

Chapter 236: Free of Guilt

CLANG CLANG CLANG

A constant sound rang out from the cave at the bottom of the Peak of Afterlife. Zand and his guards watched in awe as Ning single-handedly started tearing down the very hard Aether Ores.

Ning stopped and looked back, "I thought I told you guys you could leave?"

"Ah, yes. We were about to leave, but I thought you might need some help so I brought these guys here," Zand said.

Ning looked at the people behind Zand and shook his head. They will be nothing but a hindrance; take them back," Ning said.

Zand didn't expect anything other to come out of Ning's mouth after seeing how good he was.

"Very well, we shall leave. Doctor, please come by the mansion when you are ready," Zand said and bowed.

Ning nodded and went back to destroying the cave.

It had been 15 minutes since the old man Canon's funeral. Ning had stayed up there until the funeral was complete and the old man's ashes were sent to heaven.

Ning had then decided to come down here and harvest as much as he could before the seal would close. He had his mid-grade spirit artifact spear that he was using to cut cross hatches on the ores before punching them into pieces.

He continued doing that for the next 3 hours and finally stopped. It was time to leave. He teleported to the gate of the seal and walked out.

He looked back at the gate and the seal naturally returned behind him. Once no one was inside the mountain, the seal regenerated on its own.

'I will need to find a dead body again in 2 months to pass through here, huh?' he thought. 'Why do I even need a dead body in the first place? Isn't this supposed to be a naturally formed seal?'

He didn't bother wasting energy to find answers, however. There were always going to be unique places all over the world, and it wasn't necessary for him to understand everything.

Besides, sometimes things happened just because.

He checked into his storage space and nodded before teleporting back to the village. He appeared right in front of Famir and Mavenna.

They were a little surprised to see him teleport, but it seemed that they were used to it by now. "Are you guys alright?" he asked.

"Yes, we are fine," they answered.

"How are the villagers holding up? It's been a few days right?" Ning asked.

"Well, the atmosphere is still a little sad, but people are returning to their daily life. I think they are used to death by now," Famir said with a sad voice.

Ning sighed. That shouldn't have been the case, but Kell got greedy and started killing people.

"Senior, about the thing you told me before we went to the funeral... is that... true?" Famir asked.

It took a moment for Ning to understand what he was talking about. 'He wants to know if his father was killed, huh?' he thought.

Ning remembered what he had told Zand just a few hours ago, and decided to follow the same thing by himself. However, just before he did, he stopped and instead said, "Yes, I was right. That indeed happened."

The feeling of sadness and rage could be seen in Famir's eyes. His father was murdered and he wanted to take revenge. Mavenna was a little surprised when she saw those emotions in her brother's eyes. She was very confused about what was going on.

Ning however just shook his head. "He's already dead. The culprit I mean, he's already dead. I killed him," Ning said.

Famir's eyes blanked. "You... killed him?" he asked with a blank face. It was like he had just found a purpose and it was taken away from him. He didn't know whether to get angry at the murderer for killing his father, or at Ning for taking away his chance at getting revenge.

"Revenge is a slippery slope kid. Once you slide down it, you are rarely able to stop yourself," Ning said and walked forward.

"Besides, you should see the good in this news," Ning said.

"The... good?" Famir asked. How could anyone see good in the news that their father was murdered?

"You were not responsible," Ning said.

"Wha?" Famir was caught off guard.

Ning placed both of his hands on Famir's shoulder, looked him dead in the eye, and said, "You were not responsible for the death of your father."

Famir's eyes went wide. He finally saw the silver lining in this new piece of knowledge.

"I— I did not kill my father? I did not kill father— Waa," Famir started wailing.

"Brother, what's— what's wrong?" Mavenna got flustered too and started crying when she saw Famir crying.

Famir got onto his knees and bowed forward. "Thank you! Thank you! I... Father didn't die because of me," Famir cried even harder.

Ning had told him before to not feel guilty about it, but it wasn't impossible to clear away the guilt one felt for being responsible for the tragedy.

The weight of his father's death was quadrupled due to the guilt of being the person responsible for it. The guilt had been clawing at him ever since then and he had been living with that pain.

However, after learning that he was in no way responsible for the death of his father, his guilt all vanished in an instant, leaving him with a void that was quickly filled with sorrow.

Sorrow was always better than guilt.

Mavenna cried as well as she hugged her brother. Ning stood from the side looking at their cry.

He could feel both the sadness and relief in his cries. Ning couldn't help but get down on his knees and hug them both as well.

"You did well hanging on until now kid. Your father would be proud of you."

Famir's cries only got louder but the release was so cathartic that Ning let it be. The two siblings cried for nearly 15 minutes before they stopped crying at all.

Chapter 237: Illegal to Legal

Zand was looking at the different accounts and financial reports that his advisors were giving him. In front of him was a plethora of jewelry, all of which were storage items for the money his brother had made.

He needed to reinvest it back into society without letting them know where the money came from.

This was something that was causing him a headache. If the other nobles ever found out that he had money that came from unknown origins, they could use that as an anchor to pull him down from his noble status and at the same time take over his customers.

As a merchant's son, he couldn't allow that. Thankfully, no one aside from the closest confidante of his elder brothers knew about this money, and those people were locked up in prison for violations of many laws set by both the empire and the ruler of this land, his father.

He rubbed his head due to the stress this problem was causing him. 'How can I turn this illegal money into legal money without anybody noticing it?' he wondered.

He suddenly heard footsteps. Zand hurriedly hid the many pieces of jewelry under the stack of paper and looked at the door. On the door was a girl of around 19 years of age.

"Oh, it's just you Mera. What's wrong? I thought I told you not to come unless it was urgent," Zand said.

Mera was his assistant and had been for a week since he took control of the household. "Well, I couldn't judge the situation's urgency, so I had to come to talk with you," she said.

"Oh, what's going on?" he asked.

"The doctor is here," she said.

Zand immediately got up straight. "Oh, what're you waiting for then, go call him. Fast," Zand urged her.

Mera nodded and left. In less than a minute, she was back with Ning. Ning looked at the papers everywhere and was a little taken back.

"What are these?" he asked.

"Oh, just financial reports. Nothing that would interest you," Zand said as he stood up. "Please come sit, Doctor. Mera, go make the doctor a cup of tea."

Mera nodded and left. Ning sat down and took a report from the ground to look at it.

"Urgh!" he nearly facepalmed himself. He didn't have the language skill belonging to this planet yet and was still working on basic language skills. So, he still didn't know how to read and write.

He was about to place it back down when he saw something glittering below it. "What's this?" he asked as he picked up a chain.

"Oh, a storage necklace," he said. "What's inside it?" he asked as he burned the Aether in his body to activate it. Hundreds of thousands of Rops fell out of the jewelry, filling the room.

"Holy Sh*t! Just how much did your brother make?" Ning asked as he brought in everything.

"Each storage necklace has around 300 thousand Rops. And there are at least a dozen of such necklaces. So, at minimum estimate, he must have earned about 4 million Rops. That is without counting the share taken by the bandits, and all the money that he had spent."

"In total, he must've sold at least 5 million Rops worth of Aether Ore. My father was titled a Baron when the Canon merchant group was able to earn a million Rops in profit in less than a decade."

"If this had kept on going, brother would've surely made the Viscount rank, or maybe even a Marquess rank in a decade or so," Zand said.

"I see. So, what are you going to do with this money?" he asked.

"I... I don't know really," he said.

"Huh? I thought you were a merchant. Aren't you just going to buy some items and sell those?" Ning asked.

Zand quickly explained why that wasn't possible. "Oh, I see," Ning said.

"We could sell the Aether ores and say we earned this money from that little by little," Zand suggested an idea to see if Ning thought it was good.

"Nah, you should keep the ores for yourself. You are an Enchanter, right? You are a good one too. You should certainly continue as an Enchanter, and for that, you need Aether ores," Ning said.

"Besides how would having ores even make this money legal?" Ning asked.

"Oh, that's by..." Zand quickly explained how he had planned to use the Aether Ores to sell at such a massive rate that his rivals couldn't keep track of how much he sold.

There in between, he would place false sale figures and turn his money into legal money.

That was an illegal way to do it, but he had no choice.

"Hmm... does it have to be Aether ores. Can't it be just about anything?" Ning asked.

"Well, it can. But it has to be something that we can acquire in large amounts and can thus sell in incredible amounts as well. Basically, we will have to overwhelm the market enough that the rival nobles don't see how much money we made," Zand said.

"Hmm... something you can obtain in large amount and something that sells well, huh?" Ning thought for a second.

'What was something that was expensive and yet readily available?' he wondered. After thinking for a while, his eyes shined brightly.

"I have an idea," Ning said.

"Oh, what idea?" Zand asked.

Ning quickly explained what he had in mind. Zand thought for a second and asked, "but can we even find it in a large amount?"

"Don't worry about that. I will take care of that aspect. You just take care of the business aspect," Ning said.

"Oh, also, the reason why I came here in the first place," Ning said. "Lend me all of your soldiers."

"All... of my soldiers?" Zand asked questioningly.

"Yes. Bandits like Khrom could thrive in this city because the guards were relatively incompetent, so I am going to train them to be strong, teach them to be righteous, and weed out all the bandits that are hidden within them."

Chapter 238: Dyes

Ning was standing in a meadow near the river. The river was nearly frozen solid and there were patches of snow on the ground. The winter season was right here.

People were all wearing much warmer clothes nowadays.

BAM

Ning was struck with a fireball to the face. However, he didn't flinch in the slightest. From behind his back, he was struck with a stone with a strong force.

"The fireball is good, but imagine it being hotter," Ning said.

Another fireball appeared on his face, this time it was much hotter than the one before and packed a lot more punch.

"Good. That was way better," Ning said. Then suddenly, he twisted his head so that the stone flying from behind him missed him.

Midair, the stone changed trajectory and came flying back towards him. Ning caught the stone between his two fingers and said, "not bad. You managed to change the direction quite fast this time. However, I am sure you can do better."

He then flicked the stone behind him at a not-so-fast speed.

"Aaah!" Mavenna still screamed when the stone came towards her. Famir immediately stopped the flying stone mid-air and launched it back towards Ning.

"Ohh, this is much better. Good job, Famir," Ning said as he headbutt the flying stone and it smashed into pieces. Famir couldn't help but give out an empty smile when he saw that.

"You really are not using any Aether right now?" he asked.

"Yeah, like I told you, I'm not really an Aether User. I mean I am, but I'm barely an Aether Student. Unlike you guys who are clearly Aether Grandmaster by now," Ning said.

"A-Are we really? It's kind of hard to believe," Famir said.

"Definitely, you don't have to worry about that," Ning said.

"Oi Outsider, the young lord is here," Jangar screamed from the fields. Ning looked towards Jangar and the many people working in the field and then turned towards the road where he saw Zand on a carriage, along with Mera next to him.

"Oh, the reports must be back. Keep practicing you two, I will go talk with Zand," Ning said and left. The two siblings got back to practicing with each other.

They didn't want to hurt each other so they didn't fight directly but turned the training into a competition of sorts. They wanted to see who could throw something the highest, or hold the heaviest objects and such.

The carriage stopped and Zand walked out with a bunch of papers.

"Doctor! Doctor!" he was very frantic. "We— We... we—"

"Calm down. Breathe~ ... now tell me," Ning said.

Zand took a deep breath and said, "Look at this."

Ning took the paper he was handed and started reading it. The paper mentioned the sale figures of the items that Zand had been selling for the past month; an item that had taken a month to make in the first place.

"See? In just two months, we were able to create a profit of over 500 thousand Rops. If I say I used all of this profit into the production for the next 10 months, I can easily turn all the money legal again," Zand said in absolute happiness.

Ning smirked a little and asked, "Are you sure you are happy for the right reason?"

Zand gave a confused look and said, "Of course I am. I can now turn my 5 million Rops into legal money."

Ning chuckled and asked, "and how much profit will you make in the 10 months you do that?"

Zand stopped for a second and counted. His eyes went wide and said, "5 Million. Oh lord, of course. I got too tunnel-visioned on making that money into legal money that I didn't even see that something much better was here."

"Yes. Do this for a few years, and the 4 million you got from your brother will be a drop in the bucket. Nobody will ask you where you got the money from at that point," Ning said.

"Ah, yes yes," Zand said. He then turned to the field to see so many of the villagers as well as his own soldier working. "Are they harvesting it right now?" he asked.

"Ah yes. Come, I will show you how it works," Ning said and took Zand to the field.

Zand walked onto the field and looked at the plant that was being grown there. It was a thin and long plant that had a yellow stem, vibrant green leaves, red roots that grew out of the soil, and a blue flower growing on top of it.

All of the people working here were harvesting the plant right now. They were cutting the root from the stem, the leaves from the stem, and separating the flower.

As such, they now had a pile of red roots, green leaves, yellow stems, and blue flowers.

"Wow, it's that simple huh?" Zand looked at the pile of plant parts.

"Yes, you just need to let them dry in the sun for a few days and crush them to powder, and it's ready," Ning said.

The plan Ning had come up with to turn the illegal money to legal was to sell color dyes. Since color was considered a privilege in this world, he decided to use that to his advantage.

He had learned that the reason colored clothes were so expensive and a sign of novelty was that color dyes could only be created by an Invoker that was in the 6th rank i.e. Aether King or above.

The dyes of anyone lower than Aether King wouldn't last long enough and would turn back to Aether once enough time had passed.

For Aether Kings, that time was more than 60 years, so people were fine with them making their dyes. However, the longer they stayed, the more the dye was worth.

So, Ning learned about color dyes and asked for the seeds of plants that could create the four basic colors. That way, he created a dye that could last forever and be easily produced, thus could be sold for a lot of money.

Chapter 239: Kill Me

'Status,' Ning said.

[Status

Name: Ning Ruogong

Energy: 12 billion

Separated Energy-

Heat Energy: 8 Million

Sound Energy: 4 Million

Qi Energy: 0

Kinetic Energy: 2 Million

Aether Energy: 11.99 Billion

Skills: Simultaneous Thinking, Omniscient Map of Kumia, Omniscient Klavian Language, Candle Fire, Yin to Heat conversion technique, Night Vision I, Interdimensional Storage (Stopped Time; 522 KG), Air Cutter, Telekinesis, Yin to Sound conversion technique, Water Filtration, Earthly Jade Cultivation Method, Sun God's Morning Cleansing Technique, Qi Cultivation Analysis, Body Cultivation Analysis, Beginners All Language, 8x Qi Acclimation rate, Radiant Holy Sword, Supreme Dominance, Beast Space, Earth-Shattering - Heaven Tempering Art, Divine Vortex Devouring, Intermediate Map of Vilmore, Abyssal Absorption Art, Aether Acclimation 4X, Super Flight]

Super Flight was a skill he had just recently got for 2 Billion Energy. It had a maximum speed of 20 meters per second. However, if one wanted to increase their speed more than that, they would have to pay energy equal to a thousand energy per second for every additional 1 meter per second speed.

So, if he wanted to double his speed to 40 meters per second, he would have to pay an additional 40 thousand energy per second.

Given how hard the burst of Qi and Aether threw him upwards, he was sure he would have to spend a lot of energy to go past it.

He then opened his palm and looked at the black sphere on his palm. At first glance, it looked like a jewel that could be found in any woman's necklace. However, if one tried to destroy it, then they would finally realize how strong this thing was.

"Finally, both of the things I need are ready," Ning said.

He walked out of the room he had been staying in and went outside. He had already told the village his goodbyes and now, it was time to leave.

"Doctor, are you really leaving?" Zand asked. He had come here the early morning after learning that Ning was leaving.

"Yes, I am. You guys can come to say goodbye though," he said as he smiled towards Zand and the siblings.

Famir and Mavenna were teared up. Even Zand was getting a little sentimental.

"So? How are you going to leave? Just disappear like you always do? How do you even do that?" Famir asked. Ning hadn't explained anything about his abilities.

"Well, I can't really explain it. It's just something I can do. There are not many people like me who can either," he said. "Anyway, before I go. I need your help."

"Yes?" they asked.

"Grab my hand," Ning put his hand forward. The three of them grabbed his hand and suddenly, their surroundings changed.

"Wh-What?" they screamed out in surprise. They hadn't teleported yet and didn't understand what had just happened. They looked around and realized that they had suddenly appeared next to the seal of the mountain.

"This is teleportation," Ning said. "Something you guys will be able to do once you learn Enchanting to a high enough level," Ning said.

"We... can?" they all asked.

"Well, you will need a very large amount of Aether to do so, as well as imagination. Not to mention, a lot of other problems such as where you will appear, or what would happen if you arrive in the middle of a wall, and such. You guys don't have to worry about it now though," Ning said.

The 3 of them got hopeful about their future. "Also Zand, make sure these two get into a good academy. My books will help the three of you a lot, but just learning normal stuff from school is good too. The trend changes every day and my books can't teach that."

"I promise, Doctor. I will make sure the two siblings will have the best life out there," Zand promised.

"Good, anyway... it's time for me to leave," Ning said.

"Where are you going, doctor? Pestonia? Kloaka? Whopan?" Zand asked.

Ning smiled. "I am going in there," he said as he pointed behind him.

"Huh?" the group was a little surprised. "Inside the Peak of Afterlife?" Zand asked.

"Yes," Ning said.

"But.. Senior, you will need a corpse to enter," Famir reminded him.

"Don't worry. I've got that covered," he said. Suddenly, the light formed in front of him that took the shape of a human. When the light died down, the three were flabbergasted to see another Ning lying on the ground.

Ning quickly put a cloth on top of him and gave an embarrassed smile. He had forgotten to tell the system to give it cloth.

"Hm... it must be living to be dead right?" Ning asked himself. Suddenly, Ning lost all control of his body and fell to the ground.

"Senior," Famir immediately ran up to catch him, however, his sound came from the other side.

"I'm right here," the other body suddenly stood up. The three started to get scared. The body that appeared out of nowhere, spoke like it was Ning.

"A-are you really Senior?" Mavenna asked.

"Haha, of course, I am. Now, Zand, go take mavenna and close her eyes," Ning said.

"What?" Zand was a little surprised. Ning nodded to tell him what he heard was right, so he took mavenna away while he watched himself.

Ning then looked at Famir and said, " Kill me."

"What? I can't do that!" Famir shouted.

"It's okay. I don't have pain receptors. I won't feel any pain. Just use your strongest technique and blow my head away. Remember though, you can't half-ass it. I need to die," Ning said.

"But— But I can't kill you, Senior," Famir said.

"Didn't you see what just happened? You can kill me, come on," Ning started encouraging him.

Famir looked to the side and nodded. He would do it. A few rocks that were laying on the ground floated up next to him. He started putting a spin on the stones and threw them forward with a massive force.

The stones hit him all over his body, creating multiple holes all over him. Ning then fell onto the ground, dead.

Chapter 240: Return

"There you go. We have a corpse now," Ning stood upon his body to the side and walked over to his other body. He took out a white cloth and properly wrapped his body.

Famir was dumbfounded seeing Ning with different bodies. "Ho-How are you doing that? Are you not a human?" he asked.

"Um... not really," Ning said. "I used to be one, but then I died and now I'm just an afterimage of my former self. A better, must wiser one perhaps, though."

"You... are a ghost?" Famir asked. By this point, Zand had also returned with Mavenna by this point.

Ning thought for a moment. "Ghost huh? I've honestly never thought about it. Maybe I am. Maybe I am not. What I am is just a consciousness that can never die," Ning said.

"Never die?" Zand and Famir looked really surprised.

"Yes," Ning said. "Although you shouldn't be so jealous of me. With how good your talents are, you can surely live for hundreds of years as well."

"Maybe when I come back, you guys will still be alive," Ning said. The three got a little sentimental when they heard it.

"Anyway, let's go in. I need to leave soon," Ning said. He floated his body with telekinesis and walked in.

The seal opened around him as he carried the dead body in. The three also followed him inside and were teleported to the top of the mountain.

"That one is teleportation too, although not as simple as mine. This one disorients you a little. If you ever imagine teleporting, imagine the one I did," Ning said.

He tossed his dead body into the light and it was suddenly sprayed as a rain of blood on the other side. Thankfully, the kids couldn't see it.

Ning then took out the black sphere and swapped bodies. He took his original body inside his storage space and hovered in mid-air as the sphere.

The kids were surprised once more as to where he went to. "I'm right he," he spoke from the black sphere. The group of three was surprised to see him speak through a small piece of jewelry.

"Are you dead now?" Mavenna asked.

"No, I'm not. One thing you guys can count on is I never die. I can promise you that," Ning said.

"Alright guys, take care of yourself. Be sure to learn things and teach others. Help those that need it and be kind to them. I will leave now," Ning said.

"Wait senior!"

Ning was about to fly into the crater when Famir stopped him. "What is it?" he asked.

Famir looked a little expectant as he asked, "Before you leave, can you tell us your name? You never once told us what to call you by."

"Oh, have I never? No wonder you called me senior all that time," Ning said with a chuckle in his voice. "Either way, My name is Ning, Ning Ruogong. I hope to see you guys in a few years. Goodbye."

Without any hesitation, Ning flew into the crater, leaving the three of them behind.

"Goodbye," they said softly but Ning was already gone to be able to hear them.

"Ning... Ning Ruogong. What a strange name," Famir said to himself.

Ning was immediately blasted into the sky and fell down on the red snow on the other side. As expected, his body did not take a single bit of damage. All of it was impossible to destroy the black sphere.

'I should try to make my bones with this material,' he thought. They were really durable.

Now that he knew that the sphere had no trouble staying there, he jumped in once again. This time, he used the Super Flight ability immediately to counter the updraft in the crater.

He pushed through the Qi and Aether, and even then he was constantly being thrown out. He had both heat and kinetic energy ignorance skills toggled on, was a small sphere, and had flight skill. Even then, he was going upwards.

That was just how strong the maelstrom in the wormhole was. He immediately increased the speed rate at which he was flying. Surprisingly 200 meters per second was barely strong enough to fight against the current and stay where he was.

'I need to add more power if I want to move,' Ning thought and increased more energy. He pushed through the onslaught of Qi and Aether and flew down.

'I need more speed,' he thought and added more energy. He was now moving at around 800 meters per second. With this speed, he was making a fair amount of progress.

His energy was getting whittled down and Ning was started to get nervous that he couldn't make it in time at all.

'No, I can do it,' Ning thought and increased the speed once more. He was now at 1 kilometer per second and was using 1 million energy per second to hold on.

1000 meters per second was enough for him to move through the updraft, however, he wanted to do it fast. So, he doubled the energy again.

With 2 million energy per second, he pushed through the updraft with relative ease. He had to keep on pushing for nearly 3 full minutes.

In that time, he lost about 4 billion energy, but that was cheap for him to return back to planet Kumia.

'Alright, it should be coming up right about now,' Ning thought. Suddenly, the gravity increased and he was sped up. The gravity pool he had been riding towards was finally in effect.

Once the gravity showed up, it was easy. He just needed to let gravity take control of his body and pass through the wormhole.

He fell and fell and finally, he entered the wormhole.

The gravity flipped once more and he was starting to slow down. The momentum he had gathered was being reduced. Immediately, he used the Super Flight to fly as high as he could, and once he reached the highest location, he disappeared.

He appeared on the snow a kilometer away from the massive opening in the earth. Ning took a deep breath and looked around.

Then, he smiled.

"Yes! I made it back!"