

Bloodline 381

Chapter 381 There's a supreme being sleeping inside

Kyle sighed and grabbed a new set of clothes and a pair of shoes from his mind space. Soon, he walked out of the frozen room and stood in the empty corridor, in a suit made of soft fabric in a rich shade of midnight blue.

The suit jacket fit him perfectly, hugging his broad shoulders, while the impeccably tailored trousers draped elegantly down to his shoes. The color of the suit beautifully complemented his skin tone and his bright green eyes.

It was such a serene and beautiful sight, but everything changed when Kyle let out a curse and looked around in frustration.

"Why am I all alone in this huge place? Did everyone forget about me because of the situation?"

He quickly walked away from the corridor, which was covered in a thin layer of ice. The ice must have come from the room where he regained consciousness.

Kyle noticed a nearby window and decided to jump out instead of aimlessly walking in this vast, empty place.

His body stumbled a bit since he hadn't used his mana for months, but he quickly regained his balance mid-air and looked around. Instantly, a large garden entered his sight surrounded by towering walls, but all the plants and greenery in the garden had withered.

There was no sign of a fight, though. Only after a few seconds, he knew he was inside Kingdom Escalante Royal Castle. He had visited this place once before, so he remembered the familiar layout.

Suddenly, a loud metallic noise echoed in a faraway place. Kyle raised his head and saw a cloud of smoke rising in the sky. It seemed like someone was fighting. His ears twitched a little when he heard many faint noises mixed with the metallic sound.

He furrowed his brows and activated his scent perception skill to check if there were any humans nearby. To his relief, he sensed two presences in front of the castle gate.

Kyle blinked and vanished. In the next second, he appeared above two weak-looking humans wearing armor similar to guards and holding weapons.

However, before Kyle could speak, one of the guards looking in the direction of the metallic sound let out a high-pitched noise. Then, he roughly grabbed the calm guard next to him and shook him with a tear-filled face.

"Why? Why are we stationed here? I don't want to die! I want to go see my grandma!"

The other guard, who was being shaken back and forth, looked at him with narrowed eyes. He slapped the crying guard's hand away.

"Don't worry, you won't die. This place is the safest, even safer than the newly formed Continent."

The crying guard, who had just started his duty today after arriving here through the teleportation array in the castle, stared at his fellow in disbelief.

"There's definitely a fight happening in the distance, can't you hear the noise? We're going to die! We're in the middle of a Kingdom that has been conquered by the enemies! Do you think they'll overlook this huge Castle?"

The other guard clicked his tongue and grabbed the crying guard's shoulder, leaning in to whisper in his ear.

"Listen, lad, the pay is good. You and I both know the whole planet is in danger, but do you know why this majestic Castle has survived for so long? It's like it doesn't even exist. Let me give you some insider information. I heard it from the young guardian Jian who visited a few months ago."

He grabbed the crying guard's face and forcefully made him look at the majestic Castle behind them.

"This place... it's even more dangerous than the enemies attacking us. Do you know why? Because there's a supreme being sleeping inside. So, even if everything else gets destroyed, this place will never be attacked. I've been here for two months, and not a single person has come to try and attack the castle! Do you think I would lie?"

The crying guard blinked, and as he processed the words, a stunned expression appeared on his face. He quickly realized that even though the fight was happening nearby for a while, they were still safe and sound. He looked at his partner and nodded solemnly. So, that's how it was.

Little did they know that the same 'supreme being' they were talking about was floating above their heads.

Kyle's eyebrows twitched violently, and a speechless expression appeared on his face.

"Damn Jian, what rumors did you spread about me to make these people stay in such a dangerous place? And a new Continent has formed? I just slept for a few months, how could things change so much?"

The guards looked up when they heard a faint voice, but the owner had already vanished before they could spot him. All they felt was a fleeting cold breeze that passed by their heads.

Kyle appeared above the place where he heard the metallic sounds. He gazed down and saw a round stage set up in the middle of countless ruined buildings.

On the stage, two individuals with scaly lizard-like skin, pointy ears, and long tails were locked in an intense spar. They were dressed in tight outfits that covered their entire bodies. Around the stage, there was a crowd of people who looked just like them. They were all standing, cheering, and placing bets on who would come out as the winner.

Kyle narrowed his eyes and noticed the black petal engraved in the middle of each individual's forehead.

'I remember the people Alec, Jian, and the others were fighting against also had similar petals in the middle of their foreheads. So, these people belong to the enemy side? I have to admit they are rather... ugly.'

In the center of the audience, there was a luxurious chair draped with blue curtains. Sitting on top of that chair was a female with the same lizard-like scales all over her body, and she had a big grin on her face. However, unlike the others, she had two petals right in the center of her forehead.

At first, Kyle didn't see anything wrong, but his eyes chilled when he saw a few chained humans in tattered clothes being dragged toward the stage. The female sitting on the luxurious chair stood up and announced that the winner would get to have the humans as their slaves.

Kyle's face turned cold as he watched the three females and two males being dragged toward the stage. He cracked his knuckles with a smile that didn't reach his eyes.

"It looks like I need to start the cleanup. Anyway, I need to make my body more comfortable for intense movements, so these people can be a good warm-up."

Instantly, everything around him went silent, and a layer of ice emerged from the air, completely engulfing the stage and the cheering crowd.

The lizard-like woman stood up from her chair when she saw ice flakes falling from the sky.

"What's happening? The sky is clear with a burning sun. So where did the snow come from?"

Not just her, but the chained humans and everyone in the crowd stared at the beautiful ice flakes. However, their eyes widened when, with a loud bang, a massive icy structure descended upon them from above.

Kyle looked at the ice domain he created and felt its strength. It had become much stronger, especially its ability to completely seal off an area from the outside space.

He disappeared, and then reappeared on the stage, capturing everyone's attention. The duo fighting on the stage and the lizard-like woman, who had just stood up from her chair, looked at him with a cautious expression. She immediately commanded her minions to attack the person who had dared to come here.

However, only after a few seconds, countless pained cries filled the air inside the icy structure that didn't even flinch from its place. The chained humans watched as the strange grey-haired man in a blue suit effortlessly crushed everyone around him almost effortlessly.

Chapter 382 Is it Kyle?

A freshly built colossal border encircles a vast expanse, stretching as far as the eye can see. Many individuals are overseeing the construction in various areas of the new continent, Coexis.

Despite being in the same location as the former Central Continent, the new continent still needs a lot of work. So, those who sought safety could adapt to this new space.

Not to mention, the people who lost their loved ones or those who left their families behind. The grief still lingers, and many are mourning. However, all the races have come together, knowing that they must unite and fight back against the enemies, for Coexis is their last hope. Because if they don't, no one will survive.

The border is made up of towering walls adorned with intricate carvings and symbols. These symbols are used to activate the largest array around the continent. However, the array was deactivated after the big attack the continent experienced last month. Strangely, Dora, Hay, and the army under their command have quieted down for some reason.

But everyone knows the duo might be getting ready for the ultimate attack that could wipe out the planet's last hope completely.

That's why all around the border, many individuals, young and old, adorned in heavy armor, were stationed. The entrances of the continent were strictly guarded to ensure no enemies would enter.

On the eastern side of the border, the air was filled with a lot of metallic noises. A few familiar faces were facing off against the monsters emerging from the forest, surrounded by many men in armor. However, the monsters, for some strange reason, were too aggressive.

Sinon furrowed his brows and gazed up at the sky, or rather, he fixated his gaze on the magnificent fire phoenix. Bia's vibrant feathers were ablaze as she gracefully hovered in the air.

"Bia! If you've managed to recover your mana, could you please make the remaining monsters retreat? I'm feeling exhausted, and I'm sure the others are too."

The phoenix looked down, and the crimson flames around her body danced and flickered.

"I need more time. The monsters are getting more aggressive, and it's getting hard for me to control them. It's like they're completely losing their minds, and the monster lord's authority isn't working."

Mia, who was floating above the border, gazed at the phoenix with a soft expression.

"Don't worry, if you're tired, leave it to me."

She raised her hand and formed intricate patterns, like fiery ribbons swirling in the air. Before long, a large mouth made of air and fire opened up and swallowed a bunch of monsters. The monsters cried out in pain as the air currents around them wreaked havoc on their bodies.

Bia stared at the beautiful woman and quickly joined her side.

"Where are the others? Are they still trying to summon the guardians of the tower of opportunity? I don't think it will work. We've wasted too many resources, and we can't even communicate with the people inside the tower."

Mia softly caressed Bia's head. She knew they didn't have any option. Just recently, Alec informed everyone about the true strength of the otherworldly ranks that surpassed what they believed was the strongest. The man had suddenly offered that they should summon the guardians inside the tower for assistance, but they were unable to communicate with them.

"No, they came back after another failed attempt. Right now, they're selecting talented youths who should enter the special training program open to all races. We have plenty of resources, thanks to the old dwarf who left behind a bag filled with countless treasures. We've also harvested the earth layer that Kyle found in the dark forest. It's better to use them in the right place... After all, who knows how long we can keep fighting, right?"

Bia fell silent upon hearing Kyle's name. Mia noticed her somber expression and tried to comfort her by gently rubbing the phoenix's head. However, Bia abruptly raised her head high, staring off into the distance with narrowed eyes.

Mia saw the distraction in her eyes and looked at her with concern. It had taken a lot of effort from both her and Yue to calm the phoenix, so she didn't want to see Bia in the same state again.

"What's wrong?"

Bia hesitated for a moment before finally responding.

"Nothing... it's just..."

She trailed off and swallowed her next words.

-I just felt like someone tried to sense my presence... is it Kyle?'

Bia let out a sigh and shook her head before joining the fight with Sinon and Regius. Neon and Ray were also fighting alongside the duo.

The two brothers decided to stay near the border because it was the closest place to the castle where Kyle was sleeping.

Unlike them, Baron Ohan insisted on staying with his son after seeing Kyle's condition. However, after only a month, the old man fainted due to stress, so they had to persuade him to stay in a safe place.

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Bia's senses didn't fail her, Kyle did try to sense her. He stood beside the countless glimmering ice statues that turned into particles and drifted off in the air.

Kyle gazed at the chained humans who were trembling in a corner. Maybe it was due to the cold or maybe it was because of what they had just witnessed. He sighed, and blue flames crawled up the chains around the humans. The three females and two males were startled, but the flames didn't harm them. Instead, the chains around their bodies turned into bright particles.

They blinked at each other, but when they turned around, the grey-haired human who saved them had already vanished into thin air. The humans all came together and hurriedly headed towards the royal castle, the one that was announced to be the safest spot in the ruined Kingdom. Moreover, right now, the castle was the only place with a teleportation array, so they could only escape this dangerous area through the castle.

Chapter 383 Do you need help

Kyle traveled through the ruined place that was once called Kingdom Escalante. He killed many groups of people with black petals engraved on their foreheads. But no one will ever find any proof of what he did because he wiped away all the traces of the fights using his flames.

After some time, he eventually reached the huge border that stretched across the vast area. He glanced at the crowd of people - humans, elves, demi-humans, and a few dwarfs - all trying to enter through the border gates that appeared recently constructed and joined them.

Kyle followed the crowd, but the guards at the gates didn't even ask for his name. They just checked his body for any black petal markings using a gem-like artifact that was crafted by a skilled dwarf. After confirming he was clear, they allowed him to pass through the gates along with many others.

He would be lying if he said he wasn't shaken after seeing the state of the East Continent... No, now there was no East Continent anymore. Now, there was just one continent, Coaxis.

He wandered through the streets, looking at the many people who, like him, seemed lost. They must have recently arrived and were searching for a place to settle.

Kyle let out a sigh, but then a five-year-old boy tugged at his shirt. The kid blinked at him, and Kyle's eyes traveled to the old wooden sword in the latter hand.

"Hey, big brother, you look strong. Can you help me find my parents? I got lost, and I don't know where they are..."

Kyle stared at the kid, who offered him the old wooden sword.

"You can take this... okay."

Kyle looked at the sword and took a deep breath. He bent down and pushed back the little hand before looking into those innocent eyes with a faint smile.

"There's no need, but would you like to come with me? I'll see if I can find your parents."

The little boy looked at him but didn't agree. After all, he shouldn't follow strangers, right? But for some reason, he was drawn to Kyle. So, he nodded his head after careful consideration.

Kyle scooped up the kid and started floating. At first, the little boy got a little freaked out, but after a minute, he settled down and began taking in the breathtaking scenery with a look of pure amazement on his face.

Kyle's eyes gleamed as he sensed the air around him. He could smell a few scents on the kid's body and among all the people, he tried to find the latter's family. His grip on the kid tightened when the thought that maybe the latter's parents had passed away crossed his mind. But he sighed with relief when he caught a familiar scent.

He landed behind the worried couple who had been looking for their son, and set the little kid down before telling the latter to go toward his parents. The kid blinked at Kyle, smiled, and said thank you. Then, he dashed off toward his parents.

Kyle stared at the disappearing figure, but just as he was about to go, he heard some cheering and noticed a small crowd gathered on the street. He walked over to the crowd and looked in the same direction as everyone else, only to see a group of elves dressed in elegant clothes, flying in the sky. His eyes paused when he saw a familiar face among the elves.

Yue wore a long, flowing white skirt with intricate golden patterns engraved on it. She also had a silver crown adorning her head. Kyle stared at the elf but blinked when he overheard someone in the crowd saying that she had been crowned as the new elven Queen.

He also heard that the elves were heading towards the western side, where a strange monster had suddenly started banging its head against the border walls. Maybe Kyle's gaze was too intense because the elf suddenly stopped in her tracks. She looked back at the crowd, and Kyle flinched when their eyes met.

Yue stared at him, but she jolted when someone from behind asked her what happened. She raised her finger and pointed towards the crowd, but then hesitated when she didn't spot the same face again. She took a deep breath like she was trying to steady herself.

'No way... I couldn't have been mistaken.'

She wanted to land in the middle of the crowd to check things out, but Anlee, the elf who was flying behind her, urged her to keep going. Yue snapped at the man. The border wasn't crumbling, couldn't he wait for a few seconds? Anlee went quiet, and she turned around to fly in the opposite direction.

"Once I'm done here, I'll go check on him."

She arrived above the border with all the other elves, but apart from Anlee, there wasn't a single familiar face with her. Regius and the others were busy on the eastern side of the border, so she

couldn't call them here. Lara and Carcel were with her a few days ago, but they went with Alec to once again try to summon the guardians of the tower of opportunity.

Yue took a deep breath when she spotted the hideous monster with three large tails ruthlessly attacking the border. Also, the monster wasn't alone. There were many similar, albeit shorter, monsters howling around it.

She gazed at Anlee and the other elves behind her with knitted brows.

"Did the people examining the monsters' bodies figure out what's wrong with them? This is already the sixth time this month-!"

She stopped when she heard a familiar voice beside her.

"Do you need help?"

Her eyes trembled a little, and she quickly turned her head towards the voice. The other elves were a bit confused, but like Yue, Anlee's eyes also widened in shock. How long had it been since he last saw this man? Even though his hair had lost its silver shine, how could Anlee not recognize the face that appeared in front of him?

Chapter 384 What about Nine?

Kyle halted in his spot as a pair of arms wrapped tightly around his neck, pulling him into a tight embrace. But his initial surprise quickly transformed into a soft sigh. He hesitated for a split second, before wrapping his arm around Yue's waist. Kyle noticed with a hum that Yue's body felt warm against his cold one.

The elves floating behind Anlee stared at the scene, their jaws dropping in disbelief. They couldn't believe their eyes as they witnessed their beautiful Queen, who had always been so graceful and composed, embracing someone else in front of so many eyes.

Anlee let out a faint chuckle and shook his head. He knew Kyle didn't particularly like him. After all, he had observed the kid before and noticed that Kyle tended to hold grudges. Yet, he couldn't help but smile at the scene unfolding before him.

'Kyle may not be the strongest, but he is strong. It's good to have a connection with him, especially in such a dangerous situation...'

Yue paused when she finally realized what she had done in front of all those people. She blinked, once, twice, and slowly, wanted to back away, but the arm around her waist tightened. Her grip on Kyle's neck loosened... the moment she saw him, she couldn't hold back and just wanted to touch him to make sure he was really there.

She tilted her head back and raised her eyes, only to find a pair of bright green eyes staring right at her.

Kyle smiled, but he noticed the slight moisture in her eyes. He tapped her nose with his finger. Despite not exchanging words, he understood that she had gone through a lot. It wasn't just Yue, but all of his friends. They had gone through a lot during his absence.

"So, do you need help?"

Yue blinked and opened her mouth to speak, but no words came out. The arm around her waist held her tightly, and she felt the familiar cold sensation on her skin, but it didn't feel bad.

Suddenly, a loud bang echoed beneath them, and Kyle looked down at the large three-tailed monster that had just disturbed him. Yue noticed the faint annoyance in his eyes and blinked once again, unsure if he was the same person who barely talked to her before.

Kyle furrowed his brow as he sensed the monster's rank. It was only an (SS+)-Rank, but the numerous monsters surrounding it were a bit troublesome, just a bit though. He finally let go of her waist, and the beautiful elf floated back a bit to create some distance between them.

"I know you don't need help, but just give me a moment..."

Yue looked at him, but he disappeared suddenly. She couldn't help but touch her nose, feeling the lingering cold sensation. All the elves floating behind Anlee gasped at the figure that suddenly appeared above the three-tailed monster. Then, they frowned because how could one person defeat so many monsters?

That's why they wanted the queen to join because they knew they all together couldn't handle it. After all, recently the monsters have gone crazy and gotten even more aggressive. But what happened next left them stunned. Even Anlee was shocked to see that instead of getting weaker, Kyle had gotten stronger... not just a little, but a lot stronger.

Kyle looked at the monsters, and instantly, the (SS+)-Rank monster leaped out to attack him. But instead of fighting back, blue flames emerged out of thin air and scattered in all directions, covering everything around him.

All the monsters near the flames cried out, but Kyle frowned when he saw that instead of retreating, they actually jumped toward the border even more furiously.

"There's something wrong with them... I know low-rank monsters lack intelligence, but they all retreat if faced with death."

He looked at the howling three-tailed monster, and suddenly, countless ice spears appeared in the air. The spears shot out and pierced the monster's massive body from all directions. Kyle glanced around and all the low-rank monsters around him froze into glistening statues when the flickering blue flames touched them.

After just a few minutes, the battle that would have probably taken hours to finish was over. The air was filled with bright particles, floating away with the breeze.

Kyle appeared beside Yue, who had a faint smile on her face. The elves standing behind Anlee stared at him with shocked and wary eyes. But they were glad to have another strong person to protect them. Kyle ignored their presence as if they didn't exist and focused on Yue. He needed to know the situation before taking any action. He couldn't fight the enemies alone in a full-blown war, right?

Yue led him to the nearest resting place, and they sat face to face. She began telling him about what was happening on the Continent. Alec, Jian, and Carcel were trying to call the guardians from the tower of opportunity because the enemies suddenly quieted down last month. She wanted to tell Kyle about the power structure above (SSS+)-Rank, but to her surprise, he already knew about all of that.

"I think Diora and her companion Hay have already reached the Divine rank. Last time they attacked, they just watched from a distance as their army fought against us."

Kyle listened attentively. He asked about Bia, only to find out that the phoenix is currently fighting alongside Mia near the human Kingdom.

Yue hesitated as she spoke her next words.

"King Istalian... the current King of the human Kingdom asked Bia for her blood. I don't know why, but he gave her a lot of resources in return."

Kyle furrowed his brow. Bia was influenced by his bloodline, which is why the phoenix's talent increased to the divine rank.

'Does she have divine energy in her body?'

The celestial essence inside him had only given Bia a small boost in her talent. She's still far from reaching the true divine rank.

'Maybe, like me, she also has a little bit of divine energy in her body even before reaching the true divine rank.'

But regardless, why on earth did Istalian want Bia's blood? Kyle mentally marked the man, even though he politely asked Bia for blood in exchange for resources. It could be because Bia got strong, and now Istalian can't easily mess with her. Not to mention the dark shadow Kyle saw with Istalian.

After talking for a while, Kyle finally asked the question he had been wanting to ask.

"What about Nine? And the Sea Continent? You haven't mentioned anything about them?"

Chapter 385 Your little companion still remembers me

Kyle's face turned serious when he found out that the Sea Continent sealed itself off as soon as the shield guarding the planet shattered into countless fragments. And Nine... Yue only knew that Nine passed out after asking Ray and Neon to rescue Kyle. Later, an old man from the Sea Continent took Nine's unconscious body away.

Since then, Nine hasn't been in touch with anyone. Kyle asked about his family and Han and sighed because they were all okay. However, Retric and all the Kings, along with many older individuals from the former east Continent, passed away in battle.

Yue looked at the man in front of her, nervously playing with her fingers. She wasn't sure if she should tell him about the artifacts she had.

Suddenly, the silence was shattered by a little cry coming from behind Kyle. He turned around and saw a familiar Lynx resting comfortably in Anlee's hands. As soon as the Lynx spotted Yue, it yawned, jumped down from Anlee's arms, and quickly climbed up Yue's legs to rub its head against her hand.

Kyle's eyes narrowed as he locked gazes with the Lynx. The two of them stared at each other for a moment, until the Lynx let out a scared purr and tried to hide itself in Yue's arms. But before it could, Kyle reached over and grabbed it by the neck.

"Oh, it seems your little companion still remembers me, huh?"

The Lynx wanted to struggle and escape from the grasp of the person who had once tried to cook it, but it sensed Yue's emotions. She was happy after such a long time. That's why it stopped struggling

and allowed Kyle to do whatever he wanted. But the way its scales drooped and its pale blue eyes filled with devastation indicated its dejected mood.

Yue couldn't help but giggle, and Kyle looked up at her. She quickly took the Lynx from his grasp.

"Don't bully Nox, he's been working hard to get strong so he can be with me all the time. He can increase his size like Bia, but he's still quite weak."

Kyle hummed and stared at the Lynx, feeling an unexplainable dislike towards the creature. It would have been much better if Yue had just cooked it into a delicious dish.

As if sensing Kyle's thoughts, Nox shuddered and quickly leaped away from Yue, scurrying back towards Anlee, who stood in a corner with two other elves.

Kyle looked away from the monster and locked eyes with Yue. He drew a symbol, and a faint, transparent barrier appeared around them. Then, he placed a glass vial on the table between them.

The vial contained a single droplet of gleaming golden liquid, shimmering brightly. Yue stared at the vial, unsure of what it was, but Kyle's next words left her stunned.

"It's divine essence. I can sense that you've reached the (SSS+)-Rank. I don't know how you surpassed your talent to achieve a higher rank... and I won't ask if you don't want to share. We all have our secrets."

He pushed the vial toward the beautiful woman sitting in front of him.

"Normally, it would take you a lot of time and effort to reach the pseudo-divine rank. But with so many dangerous enemies around us, we don't have that much time. So, increase your strength."

Yue hesitated, unsure if she should take the vial. It was too valuable, and Kyle seemed to be giving it to her so easily. She was touched, but her thoughts were interrupted when Kyle placed more similar vials on the table as if he had just bought them in bulk from a nearby market. Her eyebrow twitched, but she cleared her throat and kept her thoughts to herself.

Kyle stood up from the chair and looked at Yue with a serious expression.

"Give one to each of them, Alec, Lara, Mia, Carcel, Regius, Sinon."

"I believe all of them, just like you, have reached the peak of their talent. It doesn't matter what their talent is... I'm just giving them a chance to reach the pseudo divine rank."

Then, two blooming crimson flowers appeared above his palm. The flowers trembled slightly, surrounded by a faint fire, as he placed them on the table.

"Give these to Jian and Bia. They both have a lot of fire based skills, so I think the duo would be a perfect fit to consume the flowers. It will help them enter the Ascendant state. After that, just like the others, it's up to them if they can reach the pseudo divine rank."

Kyle's heart ached a little as he gazed at the flowers. He had been chased by a horde of fire eagles in the secret realm after stealing the flowers, but now he was just giving them away. He rubbed his chest gently to calm his emotions.

"Yue, make sure to remind them that the divine essence and the scarlet flowers are very expensive... No, they can't buy them with money! They should be grateful!"

Yue chuckled and got up from her seat. The corners of her eyes lifted with amusement. She couldn't believe Kyle was entrusting her with such an important task. Does that mean he completely trusts her? She quickly closed the distance between them and crossed her arms over her chest.

"What about you? Don't you want to give this all to them yourself?"

Kyle tilted his head and surprised her by lowering his head slightly to meet her gaze.

"You give it to them and tell them to get ready. If the enemies are being quiet, we'll attack first this time... and not just attack, but completely wipe them off this planet."

Another veil with a golden droplet appeared in his hand, and he let out a faint smirk.

"As for me... Well, I just remember in the secret realm, Nine asked me for the divine essence. So, I am heading to the Sea Continent. First, to meet my friend who can see the future because he knew what was going to happen, even before I went into a coma. Second, to see how long the merpeople can hide underwater..."

He paused for a second, and the smirk playing on his lips grew wider.

"... when everything around them starts to freeze into ice."

Chapter 386 I declare today a holiday

Yue stared at the face that was too close to hers and took a step back. The tips of her ears turned red because Kyle had been behaving too differently from before.

Yet, she couldn't help but notice the smile on his lips and let out a smile as well. She had not smiled since her father passed away, but his presence alone brought a smile to her face. She flinched a little when Kyle took a step forward and held out his hand.

"Give me a new communication crystal so we can stay in touch."

Yue blinked and took out a communication crystal from her storage ring before placing it in his hand. Kyle tossed the crystal in his mind space, then suddenly raised his hand and touched her nose with his finger. Her skin felt warm, just as always, and he had to say that he didn't dislike the feeling.

"Okay, I am leaving for now..."

He wanted to say more, but well, he wasn't much of a talker to begin with, so he just stopped there. His body hovered in the room, and after glancing at Yue one last time, he vanished from the room.

Yue blinked and stared at the place where he vanished. She would be lying if she said she wasn't caught off guard when he suddenly touched her nose out of nowhere.

'Did he just smile at me before leaving? It seems like he's finally ready to take a step forward toward me...'

But her smile faded as she thought about the place she had to leave for soon.

'Ah... now that he's ready, I can't stay. I want to tell him, but the words just won't come out. What if that woman who wants me to go with her harmed him?'

Yue waved her hand and placed the vials and flowers on the table into her storage ring. Anlee approached her, the man wasn't able to hear what the two of them talked about after Kyle built the barrier, but he noticed the flowers and vials.

But instead of responding, Yue started to float. She looked at the elves, her previous soft expression turning distant.

"I'm leaving for a bit. Make sure to protect the people from the monsters while I'm away."

Anlee wanted to know more, but she left without saying anything else.

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However, even before Yue could tell the others about Kyle, news of a powerful grey-haired and green-eyed man mercilessly killing hundreds of people within just a few minutes spread like wildfire in the newly built human Kingdom. This was thanks to the few humans that Kyle had saved.

The humans described the details of the grey-haired man to the two guards stationed in front of the royal castle, where Kyle was supposed to be lying unconscious. The guards were stunned, and the one who called Kyle the supreme being instantly rushed into the royal castle and checked the icy room, only to find it empty. The guard took a deep breath and shouted.

"The supreme being has woken up!"

He immediately took out a communication crystal to contact Jian. After all, the young guardian had strictly asked to be informed the moment there was any sign of movement inside the castle. And now, the person he was supposed to keep an eye on had vanished completely.

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Jian sat atop a boulder, observing the numerous youngsters standing in neat rows before him. He wasn't the only one looking at them, though. Several elderly individuals, including King Istalian, Alec, Lara, and Carcel, floated behind him. Jian, Alec, Carcel, Lara, and Istalian had arrived here after yet another failed attempt to summon the guardians of the tower of opportunity for assistance.

Now, after selecting countless capable individuals who will undergo intense training under the guidance of powerful elders from each race, they were all giving words of encouragement to the youngsters.

Jian wore an annoyed expression on his face. He could never comprehend the mindset of the older generation. Despite the dangerous circumstances they found themselves in, the elders insisted on nurturing new talents.

He scoffed inwardly.

'I feel like the planet would be no more when these young people actually reach a high enough rank to fight alongside us...'

Jian's mood soured with each passing second, prompting Alec to shoot him a glare. The blue-haired man secretly gestured for him to stand up and offer some words of encouragement to the youngsters. After all, Jian was among the people who were crowned as the guardians of the new Continent Coaxis.

Reluctantly, Jian rose to his feet and cast his gaze over the countless youngsters, including elves, dwarfs, demi-humans, and humans, standing before him. He then turned his attention to the setting sun, before looking at the wooden walls encircling the vast grassy field.

Jian took his sweet time to float in front of the countless youngsters, who all looked up to him with awe and respect. Alec grumbled a bit and shot him a glare, hoping he would just wrap up his part without any more drama. But the red-haired man brushed off his glare and cleared his throat.

"So, I believe you all know I'm Jian. The most powerful person in this Continent."

Alec and Carcel rolled their eyes. The duo almost wanted to say they had no relationship with this shameless man.

However, amidst the speechless looks he was getting, Jian didn't even flinch and continued with thick skin.

"I'm the guardian who has not placed any hope on you all... after all-!"

His sentence got interrupted when something buzzed in his storage ring.

"Jeez, who is it now? Don't they know I'm a busy person and my time is precious?"

He waved at the rows of people standing in front of him.

"Hold on a sec, kids. Let me check who's contacting me first."

Alec was about to go and knock some sense into him, but Jian ignored everyone and took out the communication crystal.

He listened to the voice that came from the communication crystal, and after a minute, his eyes widened with shock. But the shock quickly turned into a boisterous laughter that echoed in all directions. Alec and everyone around Jian looked at him with surprise. It's been a while since they've seen Jian smile so happily. But before anyone could ask him what happened, Jian raised his fist with a wide grin.

"I declare today a holiday because the only person stronger than me has woken up!"

Chapter 387 You're not allowed to leave

Bia let out a chuckle, her eyes filled with fury.

-"That bastard! So he woke up, huh? Yet, he didn't come to check if I'm alive or not?"

Mia placed the communication crystal in her hand inside her storage ring and smiled at the furious phoenix. Bia huffed and stared off into the distance.

-"Just let me see him again, I'm going to beat him up! How dare he... hold on a second... I'll go search for him myself!"

The phoenix soared in the sky with a powerful flap of her wings, determined to find the person who had caused her so much worry in the past few months.

She needed to see Kyle, to make sure he was really okay. But before she could leave the area, two (SS+)-Rank monsters leaped out from the forest. The monsters let out angry roars and glared at the people around them with crazy eyes.

In the next second, they jumped toward the crowd without any care for their lives. Bia stopped in her tracks and looked at Neon, Ray, Sinon, and the others before letting out a curse.

"I want to go find him, but I can't leave everyone alone. The number of monsters is increasing with each passing second, and everyone's already exhausted. If anyone collapses while I'm gone, no one will be able to control the monsters."

She looked at Mia and, after complaining inside her head for the umpteenth time, decided to stay.

"I swear, the moment I see him, I want answers as to why he didn't come and meet me and his family first! And if he doesn't have a good reason, well... hehe."

Upon hearing her wicked laughter, the people around the phoenix quickly moved away, creating some distance between them. However, amidst all the things the phoenix said, there was pure joy and happiness twinkling in her eyes.

.....

Completely clueless that a certain phoenix was fuming because he didn't go to see her, Kyle paused above a vast expanse of glistening blue water.

It stretched out as far as the eye could see, and the water shimmered under the dim glow of the sun.

He jumped into the water and traveled deeper and deeper before pausing among the countless little fish swimming around him in a calm manner. However, he didn't find any structures or any signs of the Sea Continent.

'It's gonna take me a while to find the exact location of the Sea Continent...'

Kyle clicked his tongue and traveled through the vast space. He spread out his scent perception skill in all directions and smelled the countless scents around him, but with so many small creatures around, it was getting hard to maintain the skill.

He paused when a white fish with rectangular fins appeared above him.

'It's quite big.'

Strangely enough, the fish even had some symbols engraved on its skin, a peculiar sight indeed.

Kyle watched the fish closely and got curious about the symbols. It's not normal for an animal to have symbols on its body, so he knew it was unusual. He quietly followed the fish as it swam deeper into the water and raised his brow in surprise because the fish seemed to know where it was going. It effortlessly crossed through a bunch of different colored plants. But then, it disappeared.

'Huh?'

He raised his hand and touched the spot where the fish disappeared, causing ripples to form in the water in front of him.

'Oh?'

Kyle's lips curled into a smile as he activated his scent perception skill and detected numerous scents in front of him. Along with various presences, he also caught whiffs of delicious aromas from well-cooked food and the faint scent of flowers.

'Looks like I found the place I was looking for... rather easily.'

.....

Deep beneath the sea, encircling a colossal, glistening castle that is partially submerged in water, countless unique structures are crafted with a blend of natural materials. They include intricately woven seaweed, sturdy coral bricks, and delicate seashell accents.

The Sea Continent isn't the biggest because it only has one Kingdom belonging to the merpeople. Also, to remain hidden from outsiders, the entire continent is covered with a transparent shield, making it invisible to those on the outside.

In stark contrast to the outside world, which is currently going through a major crisis, Kingdom Gylexia is bustling with lots of activities. There are lots of merpeople gliding through marketplaces with the help of their tails which are adorned with scales that glowed in the sunlight. So many of them are engaged in trading, while others are busy purchasing from the colorful stalls overflowing with sea plants, seashell jewelry, and clothes.

The air carries the delightful scent of saltwater, and you can hear faint laughter from the people inside the Kingdom. However, unlike the bustling atmosphere outside, a loud crashing sound echoed from one of the biggest rooms in the colossal castle at the center of the Kingdom.

The curtains on one of the curved windows were lifted, revealing a luxurious room adorned with colorful chandeliers, beautiful artwork crafted from pieces of coral and sea glass, and driftwood furniture.

A graceful middle-aged woman, wearing a long blue robe adorned with golden patterns, sat on a throne. She stared at the people standing in front of her with an angry expression, particularly the man with golden eyes resembling hers.

"Nine! I told you that you're not allowed to leave this place! No means no! Can't you understand? Or should I impose another house arrest on you?"

Nine let out a chuckle, he wiped the blood trickling down his cheek with the back of his hand. He had a silver accessory on one of his ears, and its strings flowed down, touching the white fitted jacket he wore over the loose grey trousers.

No matter what, he could never believe that the woman in front of him was his mother. After all, which mother would throw a glass so hard at their child's head? It's a good thing he moved away in time, and only a shattered fragment grazed his cheek. Otherwise, he was sure he would have lost consciousness from the impact.

He stared at Seraphine, who was standing beside the woman's throne, and he had the urge to wipe the smile off her face. But he controlled himself because there were many people around.

This was already the seventh time he was captured while trying to run away. The Kingdom didn't want to help the people living on the land, so why couldn't they just let him leave?

The Queen closed her eyes and waved her hand at one of the middle-aged men standing behind Nine, telling him to take Nine back and lock him up in his room. She could have let Nine go, but by the time he woke up, the Sea Continent had already set up an array to isolate itself from the outside world.

Now, she couldn't let him go, or else the risk of the Sea Continent's location being revealed would be too high. The Queen looked at Seraphine and let out a sigh.

"I could have made an exception and let him go... Is there a reason you want him to stay here so badly? Did you have another vision?"

Seraphine blinked and flashed a sweet smile. There's no way she would spill the beans to the Queen that she was seeking revenge on Nine. After all, he left her all by herself in the secret realm when she wanted to join him. And let's not forget, because of him, she had a not-so-great impression on Kyle.

"No, mother, it's dangerous outside. I'm just worried about my brother."

Chapter 388 Did my words just come true

Nine slammed the door of his room, fed up and frustrated.

"That's it, I can't take it anymore! I'm going to try running away again!"

He glanced at his room and hurriedly approached the only window. But before he could jump out, an older figure appeared out of thin air and stared at him with deep eyes.

Nine chuckled, a vein throbbing on his forehead. He really wanted to smash every piece of furniture in his room, but he knew he wouldn't get new ones because of Seraphine. So, he resisted the temptation.

"I just hope... some gigantic sea creatures appear out of nowhere and break the shield around the Kingdom, so I have a chance to escape-!"

Before he could finish his sentence, a piercing cry echoed outside the castle. The old man guarding his window stared at the transparent shield surrounding the Continent with wide eyes. One cry turned into two, and when Nine looked out, he couldn't help but curse in shock.

"Did my words just come true? No way, I never knew my words had so much power!"

The man guarding his window had already started floating, so Nine jumped out and watched the scene. Countless people in the Kingdom screamed as the transparent shield hovering around the entire Continent began to crack.

A lot of older merpeople, including the Queen, came out of the Castle and were shouting because they couldn't believe what was happening. How could the shield that had been glowing so brightly around them for so many years suddenly crack?

But then, everyone froze when ice flakes started falling from the sky. The Queen reached out to touch one and it melted on her finger. But when she looked up again, the cracked shield shattered into countless pieces, like weak glass.

The phenomenon was just like what happened in the outside world, but now it's happening right here on her Continent, right in front of her own two eyes.

"No way..."

She muttered and yelled at the people around her to move, to do something. They all rushed towards the spot where the shield symbols were engraved, but they knew it was too late.

The shield around the Continent was already shattered. Now they have to deal with a swarm of sea creatures flooding into the Kingdom from all directions for at least a year until they rebuild the

barrier. And to make matters worse, the invisibility barrier that hid the Kingdom's location also disappeared with the shield.

At a distance, far away from the chaotic mess, Kyle blinked as he looked at the cracked symbols in front of him. He swore he just wanted to scare the merpeople a little by spreading his Ice Domain above the shield, but who could have guessed that the symbols forming the shield would be so weak and crack so easily?

No way, it wasn't his fault at all. He quietly left the location before anyone could find him. It was lucky that not all merpeople were in their original form, at least half of them were floating around with legs, so he easily escaped the crime scene. But while gliding through the panicked individuals, he noticed a familiar figure floating in the water.

Nine's lips were twitching violently as he watched the scene around him, with mirth dancing in his eyes. He even had the nerve to enjoy the ice flakes falling everywhere.

Kyle looked at Nine from head to toe, not sure what to make of it. The clothes Nine wore were way more luxurious than his own. He wanted to approach Nine, but before he could, the latter quietly started moving in the opposite direction.

Kyle watched as Nine took advantage of the panicked crowd and landed between the many buildings. Then, Nine quickly went towards one of the smaller buildings and entered without a care. Kyle raised an eyebrow because the building turned out to be hollow inside, with only a large array drawn in the center.

Nine scattered mana stones on the array like a skilled person before stopping in the center, maybe waiting to teleport away. But even after a minute, nothing happened. He stared at the array beneath him with wide eyes.

"What's wrong with this array now? The last time I checked, it was working perfectly!"

Kyle couldn't help but let out a little chuckle when he saw how Nine, who didn't know anything about arrays, tried to start the teleportation array but failed, even after many attempts.

He wasn't hiding or anything, he was standing right in front of the door that Nine came in from. However, the brown-haired man was so focused on the array that he didn't even notice Kyle's presence.

So, Kyle cleared his throat and spoke up, albeit slowly, but due to the enclosed space, his voice echoed loudly in the air.

"The array needs more mana stones, I guess."

Nine's eyes widened with realization.

"Yeah, right! Thank-? Huh?"

Only then did he snap his eyes up and stare at the place where the voice came from. Nine blinked when he saw Kyle standing in front of him.

"Kyle...?"

Kyle smiled and stepped onto the array.

"Of course, who else? How have you been?"

Nine closed his eyes for a second and then broke out into a huge smile.

"You bastard... do you even know how worried I was?"

He was really worried because he did not even get a chance to see Kyle before he was taken back to the Kingdom. He stood up and wanted to hug Kyle but stopped when it dawned on him.

"Hold on a second, it was you who broke the shield around the Continent, right?"

Kyle blinked innocently as if he had no idea what the latter was talking about.

"What shield?"

Nine burst out into laughter and punched his chest.

"Don't worry, I don't really care about this place. Plus, the Queen has enough resources to build the shield again."

Kyle nodded and let out a relieved sigh. Nine laughed at his face and shook his head before scattering more mana stones on the array.

"Let's leave before anyone notices my absence... I also need to go check on my girlfriend. I haven't been able to contact her since I arrived here."

Chapter 389 Is it really that painful

Nine gasped as the harsh air entered his lungs. He looked down at the vast expanse of shimmering water below him and couldn't help but chuckle.

Kyle appeared beside him, and his eyebrow twitched violently when he realized that they had teleported above the Sea Continent, only outside the water.

"You should have told me that the teleportation array wasn't long distance. I could have just drawn a portal and teleported us directly onto land."

Nine raised his eyebrow with a smirk.

"That array is really expensive. I paid an old man to draw it so I can leave the Sea whenever I want."

He took an exaggerated breath.

"The air outside sucks, but at least it's..."

'... not suffocating.'

Nine didn't finish his sentence and grinned at Kyle.

"Well, I kind of knew that you would find out through Bia... your little spy. But how long have you known that I'm not human?"

Kyle blinked.

"Bia did tell me but I found out on my own even before she knew about it. Also, It's been a long time, even before we entered the secret realm."

Nine's lips twitched, and Kyle's next words made him smile dryly.

"You can see the future, right? Or is it just a prediction skill?"

Nine extended his hand and directed his finger towards his pale golden eyes, to show Kyle the delicate thread encircling his pupils.

"It's something we inherited from our ancestors. Not all merpeople have this unique skill. Currently, in the entire Sea Continent, only Seraphine, the Queen, and I possess it. It's called the spiritual gaze."

He let out a sigh, who could have guessed there would come a time when he would share knowledge about the spiritual gaze with someone else without feeling threatened?

"But mine is a lower-ranked one, so I have zero control over it. That's why it sometimes gets activated when I directly touch someone's skin. Since I met you and Alec, it has been activating more frequently. Just recently, an old man from my Kingdom examined me and warned that if the skill activates again... it could pose a threat to my life."

Kyle listened intently, his brows furrowing because, despite Nine's words, he still smiled.

"Nine, catch!"

Nine quickly reached out and caught the glass vial tossed to him. He looked at the shimmering golden droplet inside the vial and glanced at Kyle.

"What's this?"

"Divine essence... It's the last vial, so be grateful I saved it for you."

Nine raised an eyebrow in surprise and shook the vial.

"Is this the same divine essence you found in the secret realm?"

Kyle nodded, but only after a few seconds, Nine tossed the vial back to him and let out a sigh.

"I don't know how to use it. Plus, I have already reached the limit of my talent, so I don't think it would be useful to me."

However, Nine regretted throwing the vial back at Kyle the moment he heard what the divine essence was used for.

Since Nine was taken back to the Sea Continent unconscious, he didn't have any contact with anyone else and didn't know what happened in his absence. So, he had no idea what the divine essence was used for. He only knew it was precious because Haylee emphasized its importance in the secret realm.

Nine chuckled and with a quick and precise movement snatched the vial back from Kyle.

"So, this little thing could help me reach a rank even higher than (SSS+)-Rank?"

He fixed his gaze on the glittering golden droplet, suddenly finding it incredibly tempting.

"I just need to consume this, right?"

Nine opened the vial with excitement dancing in his eyes. But before he could toss the droplet into his mouth, Kyle grabbed his wrist with a solemn expression.

"Nine, it's not a guarantee that you'll reach the pseudo-divine rank. Moreover, it's going to be extremely painful... and after you enter the ascendant state you'll only have a minute, maybe even less. Once the divine essence enters someone's body, it needs an exit, or else the body will explode."

Kyle paused for a moment.

"But since you've reached the end of your talent, it wouldn't endanger your life... just remember, it's dangerous, and every second after consuming the divine essence is precious."

Nine smiled, but instead of taking his time to think about whether he should consume the divine essence or not, he pulled his wrist away from Kyle's hand and asked a very important question.

"Have you experienced it yourself? Is it really that painful... Also, I have been meaning to ask, what's your rank right now? Have you reached the..."

Kyle shook his head.

"No, not yet... but I can sense divine energy in my body. So, I believe I'll naturally reach the pseudo-divine rank in a week. I just need a little push."

Nine's lips curled into a smirk.

"So, if I reach the pseudo-divine rank, I'll be stronger than you? How about we spar once I am done."

Kyle rolled his eyes, observing the man in front of him. Well, he hoped that Nine would overcome the challenge. No, he believed that Nine could do it. The spiritual gaze Nine mentioned didn't seem ordinary at all. It felt more like a dormant power within him. Otherwise, how could Nine see the future multiple times with just a low-rank skill?

Nine took a deep breath and raised the vial, allowing the golden droplet to fall into his mouth. He furrowed his brow and tightly shut his eyes, preparing for the pain Kyle had mentioned. However, even after a few seconds, nothing happened. Slowly, he opened his eyes and cautiously touched his body with his hands.

"Don't tell me the divine essence isn't working because I don't feel anything-!"

Before he could finish his sentence, a sharp, stinging pain pierced his abdomen.

"Ah..."

Nine clutched his stomach, his expression instantly turning pale. In the next second, he lost his balance mid-air and plunged into the water. Kyle wanted to grab him, but he paused when amidst the pain Nine raised his hand to stop him.

Soon, painful screams filled the air, and Kyle could only watch with a hard expression. He quickly grabbed a few healing potions from his mind space, ready to jump in, the moment Nine signaled. But then, a bright light encircled Nine's lower body in a mesmerizing way.

Chapter 390 The Ascendant state

Nine could feel the essence coursing through his body, moving quickly and creating chaos as if searching for something within him.

He had just consumed a droplet of divine essence. However, the impact has been devastating so far. It's painful... that was the last thought in Nine's mind when his vision blurred and everything around him turned into a haze. But he dug his nails into his palms to stay conscious, because he knew that the chance Kyle gave him would be his last opportunity to gain a strength he could have never even imagined in his whole life.

Nine didn't even realize when he started to transform into his original form. He hardly ever used his tail because he just preferred having a pair of legs. Also, for some reason, he wasn't as good with it as Seraphine and his other siblings.

At first, the light around his lowered body was faint, but then it shone brightly before the sound of water around him quieted into hushed silence.

As the sun's gentle rays touched the calm water's surface, Nine's legs transformed into a tail, a beautiful shade of brown that seamlessly blended with the water. The tail narrowed to a faint golden shade at the end, but with each passing second, the golden shade deepened until his tail's fins glowed with a radiant golden aura. Crystal-clear flukes appeared around his hips, and the thread inside his eyes encircled his pale golden pupils in a restless manner.

Kyle backed away in mid-air as the water around Nine began to tremble. Suddenly, without any warning, it burst upward, enveloping the latter from all directions.

Kyle blinked and looked at Nine with anticipation and a bit of nervousness.

'Did he enter the Ascendant state?'

Nine closed his eyes, wearing a serene and calm expression. The air around him started humming softly as if sensing that he had entered an ethereal state.

The time he spent in that state was not more than a minute for Kyle, but for Nine himself, it felt like an eternity. Because the moment he entered the Ascendant state, he found himself in front of a towering wall that extended upward, reaching a place he couldn't even see with his eyes.

A wild laughter escaped Nine's lips as a thought emerged in the depths of his mind. He realized he needed to break this wall, this tall towering wall... that seemed to have no end, in order to break free from the constraints of his talent.

It's not like he thought it would be easy. He only had an (S+)-Rank talent, but he wanted to reach a rank that no one on this planet had reached in the past hundreds of years.

Nine clenched his fist and banged it against the wall, but it didn't budge. But he didn't give up. He kept banging the wall again and again, even though his fist went numb. He just couldn't stop because he couldn't fail, especially not now when he had a chance to get stronger.

If he failed, he would never be able to stand up against his so-called mother when she forced him to obey her orders. And he couldn't admit defeat because if he did, Seraphine would make his life difficult just by her presence alone.

Nine punched the wall harder with each thought. And, most importantly, he couldn't admit defeat because he needed to change the future where he saw Alec harming Kyle. He had to be there to make sure those bastards didn't go down the wrong path.

He needed to become stronger because he had to protect his future wife and help all his friends who were in danger.

Nine's knuckles ached, but he did not stop and just started banging the wall with his other hand. After all, he knew that if he did, he would fail and would be kicked out of this space.

Amidst all this, he failed to notice, but the golden threads in his eyes tightly wrapped around his pupils as he banged his fists on the towering wall.

Different from Nine who had no idea what was happening to his body outside the space where he was desperately trying to break the wall, Kyle panicked when he saw blood dripping from his eyes.

It only took a second, and Kyle arrived beside him, opening his tightly shut eyes with his fingers.

"Damn it, what's happening?"

Kyle loudly called out Nine's name. But the man's eyes were completely blank as if he couldn't hear his voice at all. Kyle looked around, he had no idea what to do.

But before he could make Nine swallow every healing potion and treasure he had, the latter gasped and an otherworldly glow appeared around his body. Kyle felt a powerful force around Nine, and he was pushed back in the distance.

He stared at Nine who sucked in a deep breath as if he hadn't breathed for a long time. Kyle blinked when countless little sea creatures in the surrounding circled Nine as if sensing something powerful.

Nine opened his eyes and stared at the sky, breathing unevenly. The golden glow around him didn't scatter in the surroundings. Instead, it entered his body once again, merging within him. His eyes shone brightly with a deep golden glow, and the threads encircling his pupils moved back to their original position. However, they went eerily still, as if they had exhausted their strength. Nine laughed, and a curse slipped out from his mouth.

"Fuck... I almost thought I failed..."

Indeed, he thought he failed when he dropped to his knees in front of the tall wall, completely drained, but then a sudden burst of enlightenment appeared in his mind.

Nine focused his unwavering gaze on the wall in front of him. One particular spot on the surface had caved in because he had concentrated all his efforts there from the beginning.

He raised his fist to strike that exact spot again with the thought, just one more time... but in that very moment, an unknown strength that he never knew he had enveloped his fist, and the power behind his punch increased. Instantly, a loud sound reverberated in his ears, and finally, the place he had been relentlessly pounding cracked.

The towering wall, which stood before him like an impenetrable fortress, trembled as the crack appeared. Nine couldn't help but laugh as he watched the wall crumble down into countless pieces in front of him.

Afterward, he had to crawl just to make his way through the rubble since he had no strength left in his body. But no matter what, he did it..... he broke the unbreakable fortress and gained the strength he never could have achieved.

Nine's wild laughter echoed in all directions, scaring the little creatures encircling him. His tail, which had completely turned golden from the end, was submerged in the water as he slapped his hand on the water around him with a loud shout, causing splashes to fly everywhere.

"I did it!"