

Bloodline 391

Chapter 391 I think I can force them to agree

Nine turned around and saw Kyle staring at him with a smile. He wanted to go and share his happiness, but before he could, Kyle took out a communication crystal from his mind space and went to a distance to contact Yue. After all, Kyle needed to warn her that the divine essence would cause extreme pain.

Nine's eyebrow twitched violently. He clicked his tongue and swam around in the water for a minute. Suddenly, a bright light flashed around his tail, and he regained his human appearance. He grabbed a pair of clean clothes from his storage ring and, after putting them on, he started floating.

"Damn, the world looks so much better now that I'm the strongest!"

He laughed and cracked his knuckles before staring at the grey-haired man in the distance.

"Kyle! Let's have a duel! I want to test my new strength!"

Or, more specifically, he wanted to give the latter a little beating because who knows when he would get this chance again. An evil grin spread across his face as he zoomed in towards Kyle with a flash.

"So?"

Kyle raised his brow and his lips curled upward into a snarl.

"Do you even have any energy left in you? What about the mana?"

Nine paused, oh, he had exhausted his mana in the process. Plus, his body was aching a lot from what he had just gone through. He laughed and quickly distanced himself from Kyle before the latter could agree to the duel.

"Let's fight another time... anyway, I can't see my stats, everything's showing question marks. What's this... wait wait... what the heck!?"

Stats:

Name: Nine

Race: Mer

Rank: ???

Strength: SSS+

Mana: ???

Divine energy: ???

Agility: SSS+

Talent: ??? Rank

Luck: E+ ---> D

Inherited skill; Spiritual gaze (low)-grade--->(SS+)-Rank:

If the user touches someone's skin, they can see a split second into their future. However, this ability may cause pain due to its unique nature. The skill grade is too low, so it cannot be used frequently. It will activate itself randomly.

--->The user can catch a glimpse of someone's fate once a month by touching them.

Special skill; Healing (C)-Rank--->(S+)-Rank:

The user can heal others and himself with mana or divine energy.

Skills;

....

"The rank of my inherited skill increased!"

Nine laughed, even his special skill rank had increased! He raised his fist in the air to show his excitement.

Kyle looked at him and shook his head at his childish behavior. Then, he narrowed his eyes at the man, seriously considering the duel proposal.

'It's been a while since I fought someone truly strong. So, should I give him a little beating?'

The thought crossed his mind, but he quickly discarded it because if they started fighting now, the duel would take a lot of time to end. No, it's definitely not because he's worried he would suffer a little since Nine had reached the pseudo-divine rank.

After all, he can use instant teleportation and vanish even before Nine could land a hit on him.

'Hehe...'

Nine noticed the faint smirk at the corner of his lips and crossed his arms over his chest with narrow eyes.

"What are you thinking?"

Kyle cleared his throat and to change the topic, he looked down.

"It seems we attracted some unwanted attention. A few merpeople are heading towards us. They probably sensed the turbulence you caused. Oh, and your sister... what was her name? Yeah, Seraphine, she's with them."

Nine's smile faded as he stared down, but his eyes sparkled because his vision had improved with his rank. Now he could see clearly what was happening in the depths of the sea! He narrowed his eyes and could even see countless fishes swimming deep inside the water. His gaze paused on the outline of the Sea Continent.

"Seraphine... Kyle, I think she became a bit obsessed with you in the secret realm. She made me go through a lot just because she thought her first impression on you became worse due of me. So, I'm going to get a little revenge. After all, now that I have enough power to shake the whole Sea Continent, why should I obey others?"

Kyle was a little taken aback because he didn't even remember her, except for the two or three interactions they had in the secret realm.

"Do you have a bad relationship with your family?"

Nine noticed with a raised brow, did Kyle just avoid talking about his sister? He chuckled a bit. Well, he also didn't like her because of her personality.

"Not just bad, I don't think I have a relationship with them at all."

He was surprised when Kyle suddenly grabbed his shoulder with a serious expression.

"Nine, one of the reasons why I came here was to convince the merpeople to fight alongside the other races, but my plans changed after the shield accident..."

"Ahem, now that you've become stronger, can you make them join forces with the other races? I know they might not have a large population, but I sensed many powerful individuals in the Continent."

Nine blinked. He knew the people in the Sea Continent were strong because they were all taught to fight sea creatures from a young age in order to protect themselves against them. However, the issue was that they were arrogant and cowardly, which is why they refrained from helping others, especially those who lived on land if it put them in danger.

"It's a bit hard... and I would have never guaranteed before that they would agree with me, but now with my strength, I think I can 'force' them to agree."

His lips curled into an evil smile, and Kyle nodded with a satisfied expression. Nine's answer was just as he had expected from his friend. Now he could completely entrust this matter to Nine.

Kyle quickly shared his communication crystal coordinates with him so that they could stay in touch.

"Okay, contact me as soon as you're done. In the meantime, I'll go and check out the closest tower of opportunity. I heard the guardians haven't been responding, even when Alec and the others tried to reach out for help."

Nine didn't get some things, but he gave him an okay sign with a chuckle.

"Don't worry, go ahead. Leave everything to me. I'll bring the entire merpeople's army to fight alongside all of you."

Kyle blinked and disappeared from his sight. Nine clicked his tongue.

"No matter what rank I reach, I am always going to envy his ability to teleport whenever he wants."

He looked at the water below him, and after a few minutes, Seraphine and a few old individuals emerged from the water. His sister in name glared at him with an angry expression.

"Nine! Mom asked you to repent for your mistakes, but you ran away the moment the Continent faced a crisis. Now don't blame me, because it's the Queen's order to bring you back for punishment."

Nine's raised his brow, his eyes filled with mirth as he gazed at the floating woman in front of him.

"Okay, let's go back. I also want to talk to the Queen about something, and if she doesn't agree... well, then she can only blame herself for the disturbance I'm going to cause next."

Seraphine furrowed her brow, unable to comprehend his words. She ordered the old figures around her to capture Nine, and to her surprise, Nine obediently followed them.

However, the old man assigned to watch Nine narrowed his eyes when he didn't sense the latter's rank. Instead, he felt an oppressive aura from Nine. In an instant, dread crept into his heart, but he couldn't pinpoint the reason behind it. But he felt it very vividly the moment Nine reached the Queen.

Chapter 392 It's good to see you again

Kyle arrived in a location where everything was in ruins. The houses, shops, and stalls that once stood around the tower were destroyed, creating a scene of utter devastation.

The debris and remnants of the collapsed structures were scattered throughout the area. However, amidst the destruction, the tower that reached the sky stood tall.

"It seems the towers of opportunity are made of very strong materials."

The nearest place to him was the remains of the west continent, so he entered the place and found the tower that stood proudly in the center of the whole continent.

Kyle glanced around his surroundings because, on his way, he had come across numerous individuals with black petals engraved on their foreheads.

Of course, he finished them all, which is why it took him so much time to reach this place. But he wondered where Diora, Hay, and all the other divine-rank individuals who followed the duo were. After all, he hadn't encountered a single divine-rank individual even though he had traveled through the east continent and now the west continent.

Kyle approached the tower and gazed down. The layer of earth around the tower was completely dark, as if it had lost its luster due to the tower's presence. He spread out his scent perception skill to check if any living beings were around. Instantly, he sensed a lot of scents opposite the tower.

He blinked because some of the scents were familiar. He followed the scents and saw a lot of tents set a short distance away from the tower.

Kyle looked at the tents. There were some guards in silver armor stationed around them. As he narrowed his eyes, he noticed that not a single guard had the dark petal engraved on their foreheads.

"Some of them are humans... are they from the planet's side?"

His ears twitched when he heard a familiar annoyed and frustrated shout mixed with a lot of other voices from one of the tents.

"I told you it won't work this way! I've already checked this symbol!"

"But we have to check this symbol on all the towers, maybe it'll work?"

"No means no! We've wasted too many resources on this one."

Kyle smiled and landed in front of the tents. Instantly, all the guards gathered around him and raised their weapons toward him with a wary expression. They were on the verge of attacking him, but he raised his hand and pointed to his forehead.

"I'm from the new continent. Look, there's no petal engraved on my forehead."

The guards glanced at each other. One of them quickly fetched a crystal and asked Kyle to place his hand on it or they would attack. Kyle nodded and placed his hand on the crystal, but nothing happened.

The guards lowered their weapons, and one of them, who had pointy ears, approached him with a solemn expression.

"Who are you, human? This place is restricted. You shouldn't have come here."

Kyle handed the crystal back to him. He could have used instant teleportation to enter the tents, but he didn't want anyone to freak out due to his sudden appearance.

"I'm here to help. Now that you've checked, am I allowed to enter the tents?"

The guard with pointy ears furrowed his brows.

"You're not allowed. It's restricted. But if you want to meet someone, I can take you to that person. Just tell me who?"

Kyle nodded and looked at a specific tent.

"I want to see the old man who's shouting right now."

The guard blinked, surprised to see a guest, especially in such a situation. He had only seen Alec, Carcel, and a few other youths who would visit this place every few days to check on the progress or offer help.

"Oh, you mean the array master? Come with me, I'll take you to the tent. But if he doesn't want to meet you, you'll have to leave."

Kyle's lips curled into a smile as he followed the guard. The pair stopped in front of the tent, and at that exact moment, a furious shout reverberated from within as if the voice owner was fed up with everything.

The guard hesitated for a moment, but he allowed Kyle to enter the tent before asking him to wait until the conversation inside finished.

Kyle looked around at the many old figures, and his eyes stopped on the familiar faces of George and Han.

George was sitting on the only chair inside the tent with his eyes tightly shut. On the other hand, Han had a frustrated expression as he argued with the other array masters around him, particularly with an old elven woman who had a deadly serious expression on her face.

Kyle's eyes traveled towards the table placed between the array masters, and he read the symbols drawn on the papers scattered on the table. The guard beside him was surprised when he suddenly started moving toward the table.

Instantly, the man with pointy ears reached out to stop him, but Kyle was just too fast. Before the other could react properly, Kyle had already gone to stand in the middle of the many arguing old individuals. The guard's panicked eyes traveled around, unsure of what he should do because if Kyle disturbed the array masters, he knew he would be in trouble.

Han slammed his hand on the table, startling everyone around him.

"I said it wouldn't work! Why do you all want to waste so many resources? Just last week, we did a trial, and these symbols failed!"

Kyle gazed at the frustrated old man standing just mere inches away from him and rubbed his chin. He looked at the symbols with narrow eyes.

"Ah... I also think these symbols won't work."

Han nodded with a solemn expression.

"I said right-!"

But the old man paused because the voice came from beside him, and strangely, the tone sounded quite familiar. Slowly, he turned his head to look at the owner of the voice, and his eyes widened when he saw the familiar face. His words got stuck in his throat as he watched Kyle, who casually picked up a paper and examined the symbols before drawing a symbol mid-air. After only a few seconds, Kyle's voice echoed through the silent tent.

"I haven't seen these symbols before, but they're similar to the ones used to break restrictions placed on an enclosed place. So, if we mix a few destructive symbols with these, maybe we will get the results we want."

He held out the paper towards Han, who had his eyes glued to him. The tent was eerily silent, with everyone's eyes fixed on Kyle. Not many people inside knew him, except Han and another old array master from the Central Continent who had seen him after he left the secret realm.

George sensed the atmosphere and frowned. He peeked out from one of his eyes and was also taken aback to see Kyle standing in front of Han. He stood up and approached the grey-haired man.

"Kyle!"

The guard who brought Kyle jolted, scared that he would suffer now. But to his surprise, Han's eyes turned moist as he raised his hand to slap Kyle's arm with a faint smile.

"You sneezy prick, when the hell did you wake up?"

Kyle hissed because the strength behind the slap wasn't something to scoff at. He grabbed Han's hand before the latter could slap him again.

"I just woke up recently, but master, why are you beating me? You know my body is still weak, and your slaps can cause harm to me."

Han rolled his eyes and slapped him with his other hand even harder.

"You rascal! Do you have any idea how worried I was?"

The people around them were stunned, especially the guard who was ready for a big punishment. Kyle laughed and rubbed the old man's back to calm him down. George also arrived beside them and his eyes were filled with relief.

"Kid, it's good to see you again."

Chapter 393 You need to compensate

Han led Kyle into another tent and asked him what had caused him to fall into a coma. George also joined the duo, leaving behind the other curious array masters who couldn't help but steal glances at Kyle due to his handsome appearance. It wasn't just his appearance that caught their attention. Nobody could sense his rank or even a hint of mana from his body.

Kyle sighed as he stared at his master, who had a serious expression on his face. The old man even went as far as constructing an array around the tent so no one could hear them. Then, he looked at George and waved his hand.

"You, leave the tent. Kyle is my disciple, so no one else should know about his weakness."

George rolled his eyes and was about to leave, but Kyle shook his head and told the duo about the soul-eating artifact without hesitation. The same artifact that ate a piece of his soul and left his body when the golden pupil man called it back.

The two old men were stunned, but then realization dawned on them. So, that's why they weren't able to cure Kyle with normal healing materials.

Instantly, Han grabbed Kyle's shoulder and moved him back and forth to check if the kid was alright. Only when Kyle confirmed for the tenth time that he was perfectly fine now did the old man sigh with relief.

Kyle smiled, but from Han and George's haggard appearance, he knew the duo had been working day and night after Retric, the royal academy principal, passed away. Not just Retric, many people died. Kyle knew he couldn't change the past, but now he could at least prevent more people from dying at the hands of the enemies.

After a short discussion, Kyle asked Han to gather all the other array masters. Now that he was here, he wanted to see how long the guardians of the tower of opportunity would ignore their call.

Han rolled his eyes.

"Rascal, do you think it's that easy? All the array masters, including myself, have been trying for months to find a solution, but we have failed. Adding a few more symbols to the array won't help."

Kyle raised his brow.

"Old man, you should believe in me. If the array really doesn't work, I'll use my flames on the tower and let's see if the guardians would still refuse to answer when the place they're staying crumbles into countless particles."

Han clicked his tongue, a little annoyed at his confidence. But he nodded and looked at George before waving his hand dismissively.

"What are you waiting for? Go, hurry up and call all those old jerks here."

George's eyebrow twitched violently, and he barely controlled the urge to slap the old man who was treating him like a servant. In the end, he snickered and left, only to return with all the array masters.

The array masters were annoyed, but soon the tent fell silent, with only Han and Kyle talking as if they didn't even care about the others around them. George would hum with knitted brows from time to time as Kyle effortlessly drew incomprehensible symbols in the air. The old elven woman who fought with Han before stared at Kyle with a deep expression because, unlike Han, Kyle had a

way of making everyone understand what he was talking about. He explained the symbols he drew slowly and precisely.

After Kyle finished, he asked the older individuals for their opinions. Han agreed instantly, too confident in his one and only disciple. George also nodded, though a bit slowly since he wasn't very familiar with arrays. He trusted Kyle, but wasn't sure if his suggestions would work.

Some of the array masters wanted to say they wouldn't trust an unknown person who appeared out of nowhere. But before they could, the old elven woman raised her hand and instantly agreed with Kyle. All eyes turned to her, surprised that she, who had argued with Han the most, now agreed so easily. After the woman, the old man who had seen Kyle come out from the secret realm also agreed.

Due to their agreement, the others also kept their mouths shut. But just like how there's always someone who loves finding faults, an old demi-human with cat-like eyes stared at Kyle with a strange glint. He flicked his robe sleeves and cleared his throat loudly.

"Kyle, right? If the symbols you suggested didn't work and we lost our precious time and resources because of you, I believe you need to compensate."

Han narrowed his eyes on the man dangerously. All of them were stuck with a single symbol for so long, and finally someone as genius as his disciple was giving them some options, and this man had to butt in. However, before he could give the man a piece of his mind, Kyle stepped forward and stood in front of the demi-human.

"Compensation, huh? How about we make a bet? If it doesn't work, I'll compensate you with double the amount of resources we would've wasted. But if it does work, what are you gonna give me?"

The old demi-human turned silent, he gazed at the others, but everyone ignored him. That's why, he raised his chin and scoffed at them.

"You think I'm scared? I'll give you fifty thousand mana stones if you pull it off. But do you really have enough money to compensate double the amount of what we would waste?"

Kyle blinked innocently.

"Just fifty thousand mana stones?"

The people around him were stunned at his words. Blissfully unaware that he had a massive mind space filled with countless precious treasures and thousands of mana just lying around. How could someone entice him with only fifty thousand mana stones?

Han stared at Kyle, and an old memory flashed in his mind. Instantly, his gaze shifted to Kyle's fingers. More specifically, he wanted to take a peek at Kyle's storage rings. After all, the last time Han saw them, they were filled with enough treasure and money to make even the richest king jealous. And that was before Kyle entered the secret realm.

However, he noticed with a frown that Kyle's fingers were empty.

'Don't tell me someone stole Kyle's storage rings while he was in a coma?'

But then, his eyes widened because Kyle suddenly conjured a storage ring out of thin air, as if he just took it from another space. Han stared at Kyle, who tossed the storage ring toward the old

demi-human with a smirk. Kyle's next words echoed in his head as he stared at the kid, wondering just from where did he take out the storage ring.

"This is a supreme grade ring, and there's an (SSS+)-Rank weapon inside. Do you still think I wouldn't be able to keep my end of the deal?"

Chapter 394 So soon

The demi-human stared at the storage ring Kyle tossed at him, stunned. After that, no one dared to question Kyle and all the array masters started working.

The guards stationed around the tents stared at Kyle's figure as he floated beside the tower with George to observe the array masters.

After a while, Han wiped his sweaty forehead and looked up at the two figures floating leisurely above him. He rolled his eyes and tossed the mana stones in his hand toward the duo with an evil smile.

"You two better start working, or else don't blame me for being cruel."

Kyle caught the lightning-fast mana stone in his hand before it could strike his head. He took a deep breath, and before Han could toss another mana stone at him, he quickly landed on the ground and started helping the array masters.

George looked at Kyle's figure and let out a laugh. It seems his lazy partner had run away. Now he needs to work as well. But just as he was about to land, another mana stone came flying at him and almost struck his head, but fortunately, he grabbed it in time.

It was already late in the afternoon when the array masters started working, and nobody noticed when the dim sky darkened with countless little stars twinkling above their heads. Kyle stood before the tower and stared at it. The other array masters had long settled in the distance to rest for a while. He hummed and closed his eyes, trying to sense the mana inside his body. Different from the usual mana he used, there was something more powerful coursing through his body.

'So, this is Divine energy. I don't know how it's different from mana, and if I use it... how should I replenish it? Just like mana?'

There were a lot of questions in his head because absorbing mana was easy. After all, he just needed to wait, and his body would automatically absorb mana from the atmosphere.

So, what about divine energy?

Kyle raised his hand and used mana to conjure blue flames on the tip of his finger. He waved the flames toward a small hidden area of the tower, and just as he expected, the flames couldn't break the hard surface. A faint icy layer did appear, but when it turned into particles, the tower's surface remained intact.

Then, he tapped into his divine energy. The amount was much lower than his mana, but it was enough for now. He guided it just like mana, and another spark of flame flickered above his finger.

Kyle waved the flames toward the same spot where he had previously experimented, and his lips curled into a smile because it worked. The small area of the tower where the flame touched instantly froze, and in an instant, it crumbled into countless particles.

'If only I had enough divine energy to cover the entire tower, but the divine energy in my body is too low right now. So, for now, I'll have to rely on the array.'

He didn't turn around because he had long sensed Han hiding behind him. Not just Han, but the other array masters were also secretly keeping an eye on him. Kyle's lips twitched, and he rubbed his forehead with a sigh.

'Just what the heck are they doing?'

He turned around, but all the people scattered as if they were never even there in the first place. Kyle shook his head and vanished from his spot. The few eyes that were still peering at him were stunned, but no matter where they looked, they couldn't find the grey-haired man.

After the space in front of the tower fell silent, the area that Kyle damaged was covered in a layer of bright particles, only to revert to its original, undamaged state. In the midst of it all, a tired and almost silent voice echoed in the air.

"This prick... the guardians are also dying to come out. You all just need to use the correct method."

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Kyle appeared above a boulder and lay down to stare at the sky. He wanted to close his eyes, but his communication crystal buzzed.

Kyle grabbed the crystal and was surprised to see Nine's familiar face.

"So soon?"

Nine laughed and cocked a proud brow.

"Who do you think I am? I'm a pseudo-divine rank individual! Haha, I didn't have to do much, the Queen and the older merpeople around her were scared shitless when I released my earth-shattering pressure. She agreed to send her strongest soldiers. But Kyle, I don't think she would let the normal citizens join the war."

He lowered his voice for some reason.

"Oh, and by the way, Seraphine and a few old geezers are planning to poison me. Little did they know, I could hear their scheming loud and clear, even from outside the castle, haha!"

Kyle shook his head at the man.

"Don't you dare to swallow the poison just to test your strength. And as for the soldiers, I think they'll be enough. No need to involve normal citizens. That way, we can avoid any unnecessary deaths."

"After you gather them all, head over to the new Continent and meet up with Alec and the others."

Nine hummed.

"Alright, leave it to me. What about you?"

Kyle stared into the distance, where the tower stood tall and proud.

"I'll join you guys in a day or two."

Nine nodded and ended the connection. Kyle paused for a second, then contacted Yue. She answered almost instantly, and her face appeared on the crystal.

"What happened, Kyle?"

Kyle stayed quiet for a second, and before he could answer, a familiar voice echoed behind Yue. It was Jian, shouting that he had reached the pseudo-divine rank.

Yue let out a soft smile and pointed behind her, where Jian was jumping around.

"I haven't seen Bia, Mia, Sinon, and Regius yet. However, Alec and I reached the pseudo-divine rank the moment we consumed the essence. But we didn't feel any pain, I think it's because we have already reached the (SSS+)-Rank. After us, Carcel and Lara were also successful in their attempts."

She paused for a second.

"The two of them felt the pain you mentioned earlier, but everything went fine. Jian took a lot of time. He was a little grumpy that you didn't give him the divine essence, but the flower was enough for him."

Kyle listened attentively and didn't interrupt as she talked about a lot of other things. In the end, when Yue noticed that he hadn't spoken a word, she paused. Kyle tilted his head with confusion.

"Don't you want to continue?"

Yue blinked and stammered a little.

"It's not like I wanted to talk so much. It's because you asked!"

Kyle nodded with a smile that went against his words.

"Of course, it's because I asked."

The elf rolled her eyes and closed the crystal connection before Kyle could stop her. He let out a chuckle and closed his eyes to rest for a while.

Chapter 395 He's trying to concentrate

Kyle drew another symbol and looked at the array masters around him. After working for another day, they were almost done. He looked down at the few pebbles near his feet and, without thinking twice, kicked one of them away. But in an instant, an angry shout resounded in the distance.

"Who dares to hit me?"

The shout came from the same demi-human who asked him to compensate if he failed. The man was rubbing his neck with a frustrated expression.

Kyle blinked and quickly walked away to avoid any potential blame. It just happened accidentally, alright. He approached the tower and subconsciously his gaze landed on the spot he damaged last night.

"Huh?"

A surprised expression appeared on his face because the spot had reverted to its original state. He quickly approached the place and bent down to examine it further. In the distance, Han noticed him and arrived beside him.

"What happened?"

Kyle looked at the old man, unsure if he should reveal the fact that he damaged the tower last night.

"Nothing."

He stood up and started floating to examine the tower closely. The dark surface, the countless symbols, and the faint purple hue. His eyes stopped on the round openings, the same openings where a purple ore would be placed to open the tower every twenty years for the younger generation. Instantly, Kyle vanished and then reappeared in front of one of the openings.

He looked inside the hollow place and saw a pair of symbols engraved inside the circular opening. Those symbols looked quite familiar to him.

"This..."

Kyle searched through his mind and pulled out one of the array books he found in the tower. Flipping through the pages, he paused at a page where a pair of similar symbols was drawn.

"But these are just low-rank symbols used to connect or resonate with your surroundings."

Kyle thought for a minute and asked the array masters, who were done with their part, to add the strange pair of symbols to the array as well.

Some of the array masters groaned since adding new symbols to an already-built array wasn't easy. But they kept quiet and swallowed their protests when Han gave them a deadpan expression. In the end, it took them two hours just to find a good place for the pair of symbols.

After finishing the array, they placed countless resources above it. Then, all the array masters gathered together to discuss who should activate the array. Kyle landed in front of them and gazed at Han and George.

"Let me do it."

The duo did not refuse since Kyle was the one who designed a major part of the array. It would be better if he activated it. The other array masters glanced at each other and agreed as well. Anyway, if something went wrong in the process, it would be better for Kyle to take the blame.

Kyle closed his eyes and felt the many symbols beneath him, arranged in rows within a large circle around the tower. After just a minute, the mana stones and other resources above the array were swiftly sucked in with lightning-fast speed.

The ground beneath him trembled as the symbols started to shine and float in the air. Then, they merged to form a glistening two-dimensional rectangular shape around the tower. But Kyle noticed with a frown that it wasn't working. He opened his eyes and stared at the pair of symbols that had been added at the end. The two symbols trembled when he supplied more mana to them, and at that moment, a faint voice echoed in his head.

"Finally..."

Kyle took a deep breath. However, the people behind him were discussing that he probably failed because the array wasn't working. And, to make matters worse, even the destructive symbols didn't activate to destroy the tower.

Han furrowed his brows and glanced at Kyle's figure. He raised his hand to hush the people around him.

"Jeez, shut up! Can't you all see he's trying to concentrate?"

The demi-human who had asked Kyle to compensate sneered at his words and felt a sense of satisfaction.

'Tsk, I did say we shouldn't trust an unknown person so blindly.'

But at that moment, the floating symbols began to move and attach themselves to the surface of the tower. In an instant, everyone fell silent and stared at the tower with bated breath because it had never happened before. They all had the same question in their minds.

Did the young man succeed?

Han smirked, and George wore a wry smile as he looked at the proud old man next to him. Suddenly, a cloud of smoke billowed from the tower, enveloping everything around it. A powerful tremor shook the surroundings, and with a loud sound, a flickering portal materialized before the astonished onlookers.

Kyle glanced up and noticed that the portal wasn't unstable. But then, all the symbols attached to the tower came together and merged with the portal, causing it to stop shaking. At that moment, a loud curse echoed through the air.

"Damn... I thought I would be crushed since the portal wasn't stable at all."

A figure dressed in a dark outfit stepped out of the portal, and in an instant, everyone's gaze fixated on the short dwarf who had just emerged from the tower.

The array masters held their breaths because even though Alec had told them that the guardians would help them, there was a faint inkling in their hearts, like, what if instead of helping, the guardians attacked them?

Kyle looked at the floating male dwarf with black hair and raised an eyebrow in surprise.

"Yon?"

The dwarf took a deep breath before furrowing his brows.

"Yes, yes, it's Yonaik, the one whose precious garden you and your friends destroyed. But why is the air so polluted outside? I expected it to be fresh."

He gazed down at Kyel, then scanned the people standing behind the latter. Just then, the portal behind him started trembling again, and he let out a growl.

"You all back off... I need to stabilize this thing so the others can come out."

Chapter 396 I somehow survived

Kyle nodded at Yon and jumped back. The array masters behind him also quickly moved further back. Then, in front of their eyes, Yon grabbed the flickering portal and stretched it wider before a pulsating crystal appeared in his hand. The crystal energy was sucked by the portal, and it finally stabilized again.

"Ah... now it's fine."

He moved back, and another figure appeared from the portal. Yon glanced at Susan, the guardian of the first floor of the tower, and clicked his tongue.

"Old man, hurry up and move. Give way, the others also need to come out."

The white-haired old man straightened his wrinkled robe and glared at Yon before moving away. Kyle watched as many familiar figures appeared from the portal one by one. The cold-faced woman with crimson eyes who put an illusion on him, Jian, and Alec. Jordan, the guardian of the golden stairway.

The man with slit red pupils who made him and Alec, Jian, fight against thousands of fire skeletons. There were a lot of unfamiliar faces as well.

Soon, twenty-two old and middle-aged figures floated in front of the tower, all peering at Kyle and the array masters around him. However, before anyone could speak, the tower trembled, and with a layer of smoke, another portal appeared in the sky. All eyes turned to the portal, and the old guardian, Susan, let out a sigh.

"It seems master decided to come out as well, even though he knows his consciousness would fade after he left the tower."

The guardians moved aside to make room for the illusionary figure that stepped out from the portal. James looked down and his eyes immediately locked onto Kyle.

"So, you managed to get rid of that creepy artifact from your body?"

His deep voice filled the air. Kyle blinked at him and started floating.

"Not exactly, but I somehow survived."

James nodded, but then he looked down at his hands, and they began to turn into particles.

"Young man, it seems I don't have much time."

He looked around, his grey eyes turning solemn.

"It's really heartbreaking to see the place I protected with my life in such a state..."

He let out a sigh as if reminiscing about the past and fixed his eyes on Kyle once again.

"The guardians will be my final aid to this planet."

"They will assist you all and provide the knowledge you lack. But in the end, whether you can win this war or not, it's up to all of you."

Kyle smiled at his words.

"Don't worry, I'm not alone. Many people are standing with me, and we all have the same goal, to save this planet at any cost. And trust me when I say this, when we're united to fight the enemies, I don't think we'll lose, even if they're hundreds of times stronger than us."

The corner of James' emotionless eyes lifted a little, showing that he liked the confidence the young man had.

"If my real body is alive out there, he would be very surprised to know all this when I return to him... And I don't know why, but I have a feeling that we'll see each other again soon."

His flickering body had already started vanishing into particles. He looked at the veiled woman standing with the guardians, the same woman who dragged Casian, the guardian who harmed the tower climbers inside the underground punishment chamber.

"Lie..."

The woman raised her head and stared at James with her strangely glowing eyes.

"You and Susan are the only ones who have reached the divine rank in the past years. So, take Jordan with you and use as many resources as you need to restore the planet's core energy. That way, you'll be able to rebuild the presence concealing shield around the planet."

Lie gave him a quick nod and without a word tossed a white crystal toward Kyle. Then, she grabbed the unsuspecting Jordan, the short man who was still processing James' words, and quickly vanished from everyone's sight.

Kyle stared at the crystal tossed at him. It looked similar to a communication crystal but much smaller in size.

He glanced at James, and the latter gave him a final nod before his illusionary body dispersed into countless particles that drifted away with the wind. After James' consciousness vanished, Yon stretched his body and ruffled his hair.

"Huu, the air is polluted with some strange particles. It seems like I have a lot of work to do."

He looked at the guardians floating beside him and assigned a few of them to gather information about the enemy's numbers and base. The assigned people scattered in different directions to do their work.

Yon and a few more guardians landed in front of the array masters.

"Alright, let's go! We don't have time to waste. After seeing this desolate place, I am sure all the races have gathered together in one spot. I need to check the defense of that place."

George and Han took the lead and quickly guided him and many other guardians to the new Continent. The array masters followed them as well. They were a bit skeptical seeing so many powerful people, but in the end, they had no other choice but to trust the guardians.

But at that moment, Kyle grabbed the old demi-human with cat-like eyes because how could he let the man go before the latter paid him the fifty thousand mana stones?

The demi-human's face turned pale, but he quickly took off the storage ring from his finger and handed it to Kyle without any protest before floating away to avoid any more trouble.

In the end, only Kyle and Susan were left in front of the tower. Susan introduced himself to the young man because, even though he had secretly watched Kyle in the tower, Kyle hadn't seen him.

The old man with white hair looked at Kyle up and down, his eyes glowing a little as he sensed beyond the presence-

concealing artifact the young man had in his ear.

Kyle was startled at first, but he calmed down when Susan reassured him that he was just checking his body condition.

"I'm a divine rank individual, so I can sense that you have divine energy in your body. It's rare, but not impossible, to have it before reaching the pseudo-divine state. That's why I believe you can enter the Ascendant state and break through to the next rank."

Kyle shook his head with a sigh.

"I want to as well, but it feels like I need a bit more time."

Chapter 397 Only for a split second

Susan narrowed his eyes and landed in front of the tower.

"Come with me, I'll help you. Otherwise, it would take you too much time to gain enlightenment."

Kyle followed the old man, but an astonished expression appeared on his face when Susan waved his hand and a large part of the tower's surface crashed down, revealing an opening leading to darkness. Susan chuckled at his expression.

"It's normal. After the guardians left, all the towers on this planet were opened to the public. You should set aside some time to gather talented youngsters and let them explore the towers. There's still a lot of resources inside them."

Kyle nodded and in the next second, asked Susan to wait for a minute because he needed to tell the others about the towers being open to the public.

Susan's eyebrow twitched a bit, but he let it slide because he was older and needed to see the bigger picture. After Kyle finished telling Yue about the open towers, he entered the dark space with Susan. In an instant, the duo arrived inside a familiar forest. Kyle looked around.

"It's the first floor..."

Susan nodded and asked Kyle to sit cross-legged mid-air. Then, the old man fiddled with the storage ring on his finger and took out a large pulsating brown crystal, placing it in front of Kyle.

"Just place your hand on the crystal and try to guide the energy inside it into your body. This crystal is made of a special material that can't be found on this planet, which is why there's only one of its kind here. And you won't easily find anyone else with it either."

"The crystal's main function is to measure the strength of those who have reached the pseudo divine rank and help them form an illusionary image in their mind by consuming their divine energy, so they can always see their strengths and weaknesses."

"But since you haven't reached the pseudo-divine rank yet, once you absorb its energy, it will help you step into the Ascendant state for a split second..."

He didn't voice his next words out loud and just looked at Kyle, who was listening attentively.

'But only for a split second, though...'

After Susan finished, Kyle took a deep breath and placed his hand on the crystal, which was almost the same size as his body. He closed his eyes and patiently guided the pulsating energy inside the crystal into his body.

Time passed slowly, and after a few minutes that felt like an eternity to Kyle, a faint layer of golden energy surrounded his body, and he entered a trance-like state.

Susan quickly took the crystal from his hand to prevent any damage. Then, he distanced himself from Kyle to see if the young man would succeed or not.

However, the golden energy around Kyle faded as quickly as it appeared, and a pale blue light enveloped his body. It trembled slightly, and the air grew silent.

At that moment, Kyle opened his eyes and found himself in a wide, white space. He looked around but didn't see anyone else, except for a small white wall in front of him. The wall was just up to his knees as if trying its best to block his path. He blinked as a strange thought popped into his mind that he needed to break the wall.

"Oh?"

Kyle took a step forward, but instead of breaking the wall, he raised his leg and effortlessly jumped over it. If only the universe had a face, it would probably be speechless after witnessing his actions.

Meanwhile, Susan gasped as blue flames appeared and enveloped Kyle completely. The flames had an icy aura and vanished as soon as Kyle opened his eyes which sparkled with a brilliant glow.

"That was surprisingly easy..."

Kyle clenched his fists and felt his strength had tripled. He also sensed another energy in the air, totally different from mana. It was lower in quantity, but it started entering his body as if recognizing that he had reached the pseudo-divine rank.

"At least now I don't have to worry about running out of divine energy if I use it all."

Kyle chuckled and stretched his body.

In the distance, Susan had a bewildered expression on his face. It was the first time he had seen someone reach the pseudo-divine rank so easily. Not to mention, Kyle only had a split second.

'Damn, that much time isn't even enough to touch the realm of the divine.'

Susan approached Kyle and placed the crystal in front of him once again.

"I believe you've reached the pseudo-divine rank."

Kyle nodded with a confident smile.

"It was easy. Just had to cross a little wall."

Susan's eyebrow twitched. It took him countless attempts just to enter the pseudo-divine rank, and now this young man was rubbing salt in his wounds by saying it was easy. He quickly cleared his throat to change the topic before his frustration got the best of him.

"Now that you're done, do you want to form an illusionary image in your mind to know your strength whenever you want? If yes, let the crystal consume your divine energy to create the image."

"The crystal is not connected to anything. It'll absorb your energy and form an image that will always measure your strength. Then, whenever you think about it, the image will appear at the corner of your eyes to show you your current strength, and only you can see it."

Kyle didn't hesitate. He placed his hand on the crystal and let it absorb his divine energy. Anyway, he was getting bothered whenever he saw so many question marks in his stats. But now, he can finally see everything clearly without any issues.

After a few minutes, he opened his eyes and glanced at the image that replaced his stats.

Name: Kyle

Race: Human/Semi Celestial

Bloodline: Celestial

Soul rank: Transcendent

Rank: Pseudo Divine

stats:

Strength: SSS+

Mana: Divine rank

Divine energy: 3rd stage (Average)

Agility: SSS+

Current physique rank: Pseudo Divine

Talent: Celestial

Luck: S+

Unique ability; Nature's favorite.

Unlocked due to (S+)-Rank luck.

Skills;

#*Bloodline ability; Blue flames (Unranked)--->(Transcendent)-

Rank:

Blue flames acquired due to the presence of an ancient bloodline. The user can manipulate the flames with his will by consuming mana or any type of energy.

--->User can melt the things frozen by the flames with divine energy.

....

Chapter 398 Soon, the number will increase

Kyle's brow furrowed as if he had just seen something unpleasant. Susan noticed his expression and asked what happened.

"Ah... nothing, it's just that my divine energy is showing as average... it's too low..."

But before Kyle could finish his sentence, Susan grabbed his shoulder and shook him in utter disbelief.

"What? It's already average? Are you kidding me?"

Kyle blinked, unsure of why he was reacting so strongly.

"Yes, it's showing as average."

Susan took a deep breath and stared at Kyle with a serious expression.

"It's not low at all, kiddo. Not at all. Listen, after reaching the pseudo-divine rank, mortals gain enlightenment from the universe, which allows their bodies to absorb the divine energy around them!"

"In the pseudo-divine rank, the divine-energy stat is divided into four progressive stages - zero, low, average, and elite. In this rank, you accumulate enough divine energy to break through to the true divine rank! Once you reach the elite stage in your divine energy, you'll break through to the divine rank!"

Susan rolled his eyes at Kyle with a frustrated expression.

"Don't ever say it's low, okay? How can you say that? Just how?"

Kyle let out an 'Oh'.

"So, it's not that bad."

Susan's expression turned blank. He turned around and waved his hand. Instantly, a portal appeared out of thin air, and he jumped into the portal without looking back. Kyle stared at his fading back and hurriedly followed him.

The duo appeared outside the tower, and Susan tossed a communication crystal at Kyle. Then, he turned around to leave so he could relax in a quiet place away from this young man, but before he could, Kyle stopped him and asked for that brown crystal he used a while back.

Susan's lips twitched violently.

"You, didn't I tell you it's really precious? There's only one of its kind on this whole planet, and you're just asking for it so casually?"

Kyle let out a sigh. He wasn't asking for the crystal to damage it.

"I'm not the only one who reached the pseudo-divine rank. Some of my friends reached this rank as well, so I wanted them to use the crystal too."

Susan took a deep breath and gave him a curt nod.

"I can't give it to you. It's too precious. But I'll go with you so they can use it. Lead the way."

Kyle hummed, and the duo started floating toward the new Continent. On the way, they encountered a group of people with black petals engraved on their foreheads, but Susan easily took care of them.

Soon, they arrived in front of the tall border surrounding Coaxis, the new Continent where all the races were now living together.

Kyle paused when he sensed a faint familiar presence in the distance.

"She is here..."

He instantly changed his direction and started moving towards the place where he sensed the presence. Susan stared at his fading back, dumbfounded.

"Hey, wait! You were supposed to take me to your friends who reached the pseudo-divine rank!"

His shout echoed in the air, but Kyle had already gone far.

"Damn it..."

A curse slipped out of his mouth, as he followed the young man.

Kyle paused in front of a place where countless individuals were fighting with monsters. He swept his gaze at everyone, and his eyes stopped at Mia. She was standing above the border with a familiar phoenix who had her eyes closed.

Kyle glanced down and noticed his brothers. Sinon and Regius, fighting alongside them against the monsters.

He felt the urge to join them, but then he saw Yue's familiar figure arriving beside Mia. And not just Yue, but Alec, Lara, Jian, and Carcel also arrived above the border.

They all started talking with excited expressions, but Kyle could tell that Jian was boasting about his new strength. His lips curled into a smile, seeing that they were all doing well.

Then, Jian let out a laugh and quickly began killing the monsters in front of the border as if they were nothing. Alec and Carcel exchanged glances and joined the red-haired man with a chuckle.

Ray, Neon, Sinon, and Regius all dropped their weapons with relieved sighs after Alec, Carcel, and Jian joined the battle.

Susan arrived beside Kyle and followed his gaze. Instantly, a surprised expression appeared on his face.

"I thought there would only be one or two pseudo divine rank individuals, but there are one... two... three... five! A total of five pseudo divine rank individuals!"

Kyle chuckled and shook the old man's shoulder.

"Soon, the number will increase. Also, one is missing. He'll probably come with an army."

Then, he floated down toward the place where everyone was fighting and shouted loudly.

"Guys, do you need help?"

Jian froze in his place, not just him, almost everyone who recognized the familiar voice halted in their tracks to stare at the man who just appeared in the sky. Jian quickly floated toward Kyle for a hug with a big smile.

"Kyle, my bro!"

Alec, Ray, Neon, Carcel, Regius, Sinon also quickly moved toward Kyle with relieved yet happy expressions. But before anyone could grab Kyle, a huge, dark shadow crashed into him with a loud cry.

-"You bastard!!"

Bia's eyes turned moist as she wrapped her wings around Kyle to completely envelop him in a warm cocoon.

"So, you finally had the time to show yourself, huh?"

Kyle let out a big breath because of the tightness around him. The duo, one human and one phoenix, lost their balance mid-

air, but Bia grabbed him and landed slowly on the ground with an angry grumble. Kyle patted the phoenix wings softly to loosen her grip, but Bia's grip on him tightened.

Jian, who just arrived beside Kyle, gazed at Bia and then noticed Kyle's legs peeking through Bia's wings. Regardless, he didn't care about the phoenix and wrapped his arms around the cocoon. Well, he wasn't able to touch Kyle at all because of the wings, but it was enough.

"Kyle! You will never know how happy I am to see you again."

Alec glanced at the people next to him who also wanted to meet Kyle or maybe give him a piece of their minds because Kyle had worried them a lot. He quickly shook his head because he wasn't as shameless as Jian, and he would never cling to someone in such an inappropriate way.

But Alec watched as Sinon, Regius, Neon, and everyone around him jumped towards Bia to wrap the cocoon with their arms. He blinked, and in the next second, he also jumped and joined the group of people.

In the distance, Yue, Mia, and Lara, who were standing above the border, glanced at each other. The girls looked at the bundle of people and started laughing.

The monsters who were fighting with everything they had were also momentarily frozen at the strange turn of events.

At that moment, Kyle hand peeked out from between the wings that were too warm for his comfort.

"Bia! I remember telling you to use your shorter form if you want to do something like this!"

He grumbled a little, but the phoenix didn't even listen to him. Instead, she rubbed her head on his hair. In the end, Kyle let out a soft sigh with a smile on his face.

"Is there anyone who can help me?"

Chapter 399 Let's focus on defeating our enemies

Regius chuckled as he raised his hand to brush the dust off Kyle's shoulder.

Kyle had finally come out of the cocoon, and the phoenix had changed into her little form. But she still held onto Kyle's neck tightly, as if he would leave if she let go.

Kyle swatted Regius' hand away and rolled his eyes. Neon and Ray both looked at him from all angles, checking his body for any potential injuries. Only after confirming that he was fine did the duo stop and hug him, showing their concern.

Jian, Carcel, and Alec exchanged glances. They nodded at Kyle and quickly went to eliminate all the monsters in front of the border. It only took them a few minutes to ruthlessly kill the monsters.

The soldiers and other individuals in front of the border cheered and looked at the young guardians with respect and awe.

Kyle walked alongside Neon, Ray, Regius, and Sinon as they made their way toward the border. He asked about his father, and Ray responded with a curt look, suggesting that this time the old man would surely give him a good scolding.

Kyle let out a chuckle and shook his head. A lot of curious eyes discreetly glanced at him, wondering who he was to elicit such reactions from the strongest individuals on the continent.

However, after battling the monsters for so long, they were too exhausted to go and follow the grey-haired man.

Susan clicked his tongue and silently trailed behind Kyle, not uttering a word. He didn't understand why everyone reacted so strongly to Kyle's presence, but he didn't want to dampen anyone's good moments.

Kyle looked up where Yue, Lara, and Mia were standing together. Noticing his gaze, the girls smiled and landed beside him. In the end, they all entered the gates built in the border on foot. As they walked inside, they were greeted by a diverse group of individuals from different races, all busy repairing broken weapons or skillfully sharpening them on large stones.

The air smelled strongly of metal. The group waited for a bit, and soon Alec, Carcel, and Jian joined them.

Jian threw his hand on Kyle's shoulder and urged him to share the reason why he fell into a coma. He also asked about the strange crystal that came out of Kyle's chest. The others around Kyle were just as curious, eagerly waiting for his answer.

Kyle hummed and gently stroked the little bird clinging to his neck. But when the silence grew thick, he simply shrugged his shoulders.

"It's a long story, let's talk about it once we've taken care of all our enemies."

Jian looked at Kyle's back with a blank expression as the latter followed Ray and Noen towards one of the nearby buildings where his father, Baron Ohan, lived with butler Eon.

Carcel tapped Jian's shoulder to offer some comfort, which would have been perfect if Jian hadn't noticed his crescent eyes.

"It's alright, let's focus on defeating our enemies first."

But as Carcel followed behind Kyle, Jian couldn't help but burst into a smile.

"Wait for me, I'm coming as well!"

Kyle knocked on the door of the building, which looked pretty ordinary, and waited. His father opened the door, probably thinking that Ray and Neon had returned after a long day. Ohan started crying as soon as he saw Kyle. He grabbed him and gave him a thorough look before pulling him into a warm embrace.

Then, he finally noticed the many familiar figures standing behind Kyle and quickly invited them all inside.

"Come kids, it might be a bit cramped, but you can all fit in this house. Come on in."

Kyle looked around and saw that the inside of the building was a bit plain. However, considering it was just a short distance from the border, it was pretty nice.

Susan massaged his temples, unsure of what he should do, and simply followed the group of people without much thought. But he was stopped when butler Eon asked him who he was because Eon had never seen him before. Eon had seen all of Kyle's friends who would visit the border from time to time, but he had no idea who this man was.

Only when Kyle waved at Eon, did the butler finally let Susan in. Soon, they all settled in the living room where a few chairs were placed around a wooden table.

The chairs weren't enough, but Jian had a whole set of furniture in his storage ring.

The red haired man chuckled and took out enough so everyone could sit down.

However, when they finally sat down, the air turned silent. After all, who would have thought that after experiencing so much, they would be sitting together in a small room, casually talking all, who would have thought that after experiencing so much, they would be sitting together in a small room, casually talking with their friends?

But they all knew it was very different from before because now they all had a lot of secrets to hide. Secrets that can't be revealed no matter what.

Carcel gazed at Ohan as the latter asked Kyle countless questions.

His eyes trembled a little as he recalled the moment when he heard the news that his father had passed away while protecting one of the borders. He clenched his fist, the anger and helplessness he felt at that moment hasn't faded yet.

'It's okay... me and Casper will protect mom in his absence.'

A wry smile appeared on his lips. He blinked when a hand softly touched his shoulder. Carcel looked at the person who had just arrived beside him. It was Mia, silently gazing at him with a smile. Her presence alone was enough to make him stop thinking about the past.

"I am fine."

He gently tapped the hand on his shoulder with a smile. Mia 01:35

noded and pulled her chair to sit beside him, whispering softly.

"I know you are, but it's okay if you feel like it's getting hard. I... am here, and not just me, all of us are here."

Chapter 400 Let's eat together once I'm done

Alec gazed at his hand where a familiar black petal shone for a split second. He blinked, and it vanished. But he knew it would stay with him... for a long time. At least, until he found and killed the man who placed it on him.

'But will I be able to find him?'

He gazed at Lara, who tilted her head at him as if saying, What happened? Alec shook his head and gestured for her to come sit beside him. Lara blinked but dragged her chair beside him.

She clicked her tongue when Jian turned around to stare at her and Alec with narrow eyes as if they were caught in the act. Alec chuckled and his mood became better.

'I'll find him... after all, that bastard needs to die for me to have a peaceful life.'

Yue also looked at the bracelets on her wrists and let out a sigh.

'I have time... but I need to somehow tell Kyle about this.'

At that moment, Kyle, who had finally answered his father's questions about why he went into a coma and who the hell dared to harm him, stood up and looked at Susan.

"You should take the ones who reached the pseudo divine rank and let them use the crystal. That way, they can form an image in their mind and see their strength whenever they want."

Susan let out a sigh of relief, and it was clear from his face. He clapped his hands to get everyone's attention.

"Okay now, all of you who've reached the pseudo divine rank, follow me outside because this place is too small. I am going to leave as soon as my job is done."

However, for some reason, he narrowed his eyes at Alec, who tensed under his gaze.

'Did I make a mistake or is he really giving off a faint evil energy?'

Susan rubbed his chin, but besides that slight dark energy, he didn't sense anything else. So, he put that thought aside for now and asked the pseudo rank individuals to follow him.

Yue looked at his fading figure and quickly told Mia, Sinon, and Regius about the divine essence and asked them to use it too. She took out three glass vials and placed them in front of the trio. The trio looked at each other. They were willing, but they asked for more details. In the distance, Susan's body stiffened when he heard about the divine essence.

'Darn it, the kids are talking about divine essence like it's no big deal.'

He stared at Kyle's back with narrow eyes to know where the young man found so much divine essence, but Kyle ignored him as if he didn't even exist. Susan clicked his tongue and left with Alec, Carcel, and Lara.

Meanwhile, after knowing about the divine essence, Sinon ruffled his wings behind his back and his eyes gleamed with a mischievous glint.

"Don't know why... but I can't wait to see Nine's face when he finds out I've reached the pseudo-divine rank!"

But his excitement turned to disbelief when Kyle told him that Nine had already reached the pseudo-divine rank. Sinon let out a dry laugh.

"You're kidding, right, bro?"

Kyle shook his head and Sinon's expression turned sour. He grabbed one of the vials and raised his hand with a dead serious expression.

"No way, I'm gonna fail! If Nine can do it, then I can too!"

Regius chuckled at him and the two of them left the house together. After all, they needed a big and quiet place for the break through. Mia followed them as well.

Yue looked at their fading figures and then approached Kyle.

"The flower... you can give it to Bia."

She held out her palm and a crimson flower appeared on her hand, but Kyle shook his head and grabbed the grumpy bird on his shoulder.

"No, take her with you so she can use it. I need to talk with my family. It's important.

Bia blinked at his words and quickly spoke in his head.

-'What is it? I think we should first talk about our bond. Why can't I sense you? It's like it's broken...'

She fell silent, and Kyle raised his hand to caress her head.

'It's not broken. It just went dormant due to my condition. Don't worry, it'll be fine after you stayed around me for some time. Also, you need to get stronger. So, go absorb the flower.'

The phoenix nodded, but she was still hesitant to leave his side.

Kyle surprised Yue by grabbing her wrist and pulling her towards him. Baron Ohan cleared his throat to remind him that they weren't alone. Kyle looked into Yue's amber eyes and placed Bia on her shoulder. Then, he spoke up with a soft voice.

"Keep an eye on her for me, alright? I'll join you in a while... and remember, you owe me a meal. So, let's eat together once I'm done."

Yue nodded, still a little dazed that he initiated the contact first. She glanced at his hand and quickly backed off, her ears turning red.

"Okay..."

Bia's eyebrow twitched a little as she glanced back and forth between Kyle and Yue. In the end, she fixed her gaze on Kyle.

-'I don't even remember the last time you spoke so gently and softly... Ugh. So, now that you're fine, did you decide to get yourself a wife?'

Kyle hummed in response.

'The suggestion isn't bad at all.'

Bia raised her brow as Yue started moving toward the exit. The phoenix gazed back at Kyle with crescent eyes.

-'It seems like you're going to start showing your emotions more openly now, huh? I see a lot of improvement. Let's see how it goes... but with your personality, I'm betting it's gonna take a lot of time.'

But no matter what, she was happy to see him back. Kyle's lips twitched at her words, but he ignored the phoenix and looked at Ray and Neon. The duo had been staring at him with mischievous eyes ever since he pulled that stunt on Yue.

Kyle cleared his throat and quickly changed the topic.

"You two, come here. I need to check your bodies."