

# **Cursed Immortality**

## **#Chapter 613 A Bygone Shadow - Read Cursed**

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Flame Calamity didn't waste time as his eyes turned ablaze, "Still not going to take your combat form. Let's see how long you can continue to hold back, Hell Fire Domain!"

Jacob suddenly felt an alarm ringing in his mind as he quickly retreated when the temperature around Flame Calamity began to rise like crazy.

In a hundred-meter radius, dark crimson flames began to blaze, reaching thirty meters height like an inferno. Flame Calamity's body completely vanished within as he seemed to have become one of the flames.

This was the most powerful innate ability of the Fire Wyvern, the Fire Domain. Flame Calamity was almost invisible in this domain as it became one with fire, and no physical attacks could hurt him.

The dragons were rumored to be the favorite children of magic with no equal, and the Wyvern Race was not far off either. This kind of domain ability was extremely rare, and only a few races possessed them, or they didn't have the talent to comprehend them.

Now, Jacob can't do physical damage as this battle turned into a battle of pure magic, and to kill Flame Calamity, he had to extinguish the fire domain first. Still, this domain-type ability exhausts huge amounts of mana, so as long as he can hold off, Flame Calamity would be exhausted soon. He can only use this domain for 80 seconds if he doesn't use any other magic-related spells.

But how could he give Jacob such a chance?

There was another function of a domain type ability. The owner could manipulate the domain element freely at will. Flame Calamity's fire element was a growth-type element, which gave him the edge over everyone.

Just as Jacob was still mulling over this situation, hundreds of crimson chains of flame shot out from the fire domain and viciously moved toward Jacob.

'What kind of ability is this...' Jacob knew if he didn't go all out, he would be the one losing the portion of his soul, which was unacceptable to him.

After all, he didn't want any future troubles because of this. Even if this injury were healable, he had a feeling that the matters of soul couldn't be taken lightly, so he was not going to lose because he didn't want to show his true prowess.

'Fire Flash!'

Green flames gushed out of his body as he instantly vanished from his spot, leaving behind a flame figure like him. This magic spell would use his fire magic to create an afterimage of fire while sending the user a few meters away from its initial position.

The flame chains ended up blasting the fire afterimage of Jacob, and Flame Calamity's bewildered voice rang, "Dual elements! You can also use Fire as well, and your fire seemed to be mutant among fire... a growth-type core... how can that be? A dual-element body was only a myth. Just who are you, Dictator!"

Jacob appeared a few meters away, heard Flame Calamity's disbelieving remark, and was somewhat astounded, 'So, my fire is also a special kind like Flame Calamity's; no wonder its color is different, and its temperature is higher than normal fire element fires. I should investigate it further, and I need to be more careful to use dual magic in front of others in the future.'

Despite his surprise, Flame Calamity quickly recovered, "You are the worthiest opponent I've encountered in my entire life, and that's why crushing you will be the biggest achievement before I enter the path of legend!

"I'm going to use all my magic in a signal spell; this will decide victory or defeat. Dictator, I hope you can give me another surprise."

The flame domain suddenly churned at this moment, and the flame suddenly began to rise as the temperature increased even more. The surroundings were beginning to melt, turning into molten lava.

Jacob's eyes contorted as he had a very dangerous feeling about it, and at this moment, a strange scene flashed past his eyes when a flame dragon suddenly closed its massive jaws on him, turning him into ashes...

It was a vision of death!

A chill went down Jacob's spine because when he snapped out of that sudden scene, 'That was Mortal Danger Sense!'

At this moment, Flame Calamity's eerie voice reverberated, "Forbidden Spell, Hell Dragon Calamity!"

Just as his voice trailed off, the fire domain suddenly took the shape of a massive dragon head as crimson flames were burning ferociously on it. Like an arrow, it shot

toward Jacob before opening its flaming jaw, revealing nothing but a burning inferno. The temperature was as high as the sun; everything in its path turned into cinders!

For the first time, Jacob felt death incoming; just from this, one could easily feel this place was far from being just a virtual reality. Furthermore, since the Mortal Danger Sense was triggered, it means this death might have serious consequences.

But Jacob didn't have another that could match this ghastly magic spell. Even if he used everything he had, he knew he wouldn't be able to avoid it as he felt like he was being locked by something. This was the first time he saw a forbidden spell in action, as he had only read about it in a book within the witch's palace.

Just as death was inevitable, Jacob suddenly felt his blood begin to rage as if something triggered it as massive power poured into his body out of nowhere.

Something suddenly ticked in his mind as the fear of the incoming death suddenly vanished, and he felt extremely powerful.

Instinctively, Jacob suddenly raised his two rotating swords in two different directions and slashed them, 'Deceptive Swords Style, Anti-Clockwise; Pandemonium!'

Something unimaginable happened; both swords suddenly released strange whistling cries before two pitch-black sword lights materialized in the air. The sword lights were extremely tyrannical like they wanted to cut apart the world.

Not only that, but Jacob didn't know that behind him, a vague shadow, so gigantic that its height couldn't be measured, appeared for a split second before vanishing.

The two pitch-black sword lights suddenly flashed past the massive dragon-head when it was about to devour Jacob.

The time seemed to have come to a standstill when the crimson dragon head suddenly shimmered in pitch-black light, and the next moment, it cut into myriad pieces.

'Boommmm...'

A huge explosion rang as the giant dragon head vanished, revealing Flame Calamity's figure, which split into countless pieces. At this moment, its eyes were filled with horror as he looked at Jacob, who still seemed to be in a trance.

He wanted to say something, but his mouth turned into pieces before he vanished with a light.

"Congratulations to Dictator on your 11th arena victory!

"You have successfully completed your 11 Kill Winning Streak!

"You have won your First Ranking Match of the Iron League and entered the top 1000th Iron Arena Rankings!

"Arena League Ranking list has been unlocked!

"Your Iron League Arena Rank is 998th!

"The Betting Pool has been closed!

"Calculating your final reward...

"755 Dark Credits has been added to your account!

"Your (Faceless Ancient) Dark Credit: 1770

"Do you want to search for another opponent?"

Jacob finally snapped out of that strange state with Dark Rose's voice and muttered, "What just happened?!"

## **Chapter 614 Whiteness**

Far away from the Lesser Grand Absolute Galaxy of Taurus, within a massive luxurious room, a dark pod suddenly opened, revealing a giant figure with a gloomy look on his handsome yet fierce face; it was none other than Flame Calamity.

"What the hell was that last move? Was it a forbidden magic of the Mortal Giant Race? No, it was maybe the legendary totem... but how could he make a totem while still in the unique rank? Could it be because he had dual magic core..."

The more he thought about Jacob's final attack that raised him into mincemeat, the more he felt cold chills on his spine and a lingering fear overcome his heart.

"Dictator... I wonder which galaxy he is from. I can't get his information even with my current dark noble rank as long as he's not within the same galaxy. But we are bound to encounter each other, and I have to win him over or at least stay out of his way!

"I was too arrogant. I have to train again before the path of legend opens!" Flame Calamity's eyes shimmered with a hint of resolution before he suddenly frowned as a sense of weakness overcame his mind.

"Tsk, this virtual battlefield can really take a toll on one mind; Dark Rose wasn't lying. But why do I feel this peculiar feeling? Maybe I'm too tired." Nodding at this own

conjecture, he coldly ordered, "Dark Rose, summon my daughter and son here. Tell them I'm taking them out for training, so hurry up!"

At this moment, Flame Calamity didn't know that after four years, the same most memorable days of life would be the day of his death!

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At the same time, somewhere within the middle galaxies was a mystical place filled with flying cities of the size of planets and unimaginable scenery like a paradise.

In the center of this place was a planet-sized angelic temple, and its walls were twinkling with countless stars as someone had made it with the starry sky itself.

In the center of this angelic temple was an endless white space, and floating in the middle of this whiteness was a throne made with golden holy light, and a hominoid white figure of light was sitting over it with a golden crown on its head.

But right at this moment, the seemingly endless white space suddenly tore apart, revealing a black hole, and the next moment, a meteorite in blazing white flames fell a few hundred meters away from the light throne.

"What!?" A voice that could make anyone's soul explode reverberated before the figure of light suddenly opened its eyes, which were actually like a spiral; anyone gazing at them would fall into enteral demines!

"Ah, I've finally managed to cross that blasted void!" A lazy yet ecstatic voice suddenly rang before the white blazing meteorite suddenly began to twist and reshape.

Soon, the meteorite took the appearance of a small child around the age of 7 or 8 with an extremely adorable baby face and long white hair. Still, there were mystical markings engraved on the side of his neck containing countless mysteries within.

Furthermore, the child's eyes were completely white without any irises or pupils, and he was wearing a white suit with golden embroidery of myriad beasts, which seemed to be almost alive.

The child appeared very innocent, but the light figure didn't dare to think of this thing as a child as the black hole in the middle of the white space was still there, and only it was begging to heal.

"Who are you!?" The light figure asked with vigilance as its spiral eyes seemed to be revolving. It wanted to see through this child, but a hint of shock flashed past his eyes because all he could see was infinite dark mist.

The child looked at the light figure, and his childish eyes went sharp before he suddenly revealed his white teeth, which were like a wolf's; he greeted with a nonchalant attitude, "You should be a descendant of the Holy Race. I'm Whiteness."

The light figure's eyes flashed with surprise when it heard 'Holy Race' and became somewhat afraid of this child now.

Although this light figure was one of few who could cause unimaginable destruction, even the light figure didn't feel confident in handling this intruder, who appeared to be a harmless child.

Because this place was one of the most secure locations in the entire middle galaxies, this person was able to come here by easily tearing apart space. Even the light figure wasn't capable of that, and most importantly, he knows about its race and yet is still so nonchalant about it.

"Can I ask why you trespass in my dwelling?" The light figure asked with a somewhat reserved tone. It clearly didn't want to attack without full confidence, or this place might get destroyed.

"Oh, it was indeed rude of me, but I need your help in a matter. So, after asking a friend, I found that there is a descendant of the Holy Race in the middle galaxies who had awakened the Inner Espy and cultivated it to the Intermediate Stage.

"I never thought there was a talent like you within the middle galaxies. It's a pity that the bridge is still closed. But don't worry, your ancestor already noticed you long ago and is very pleased with you.

"Tsk, that old fox even asked me to deliver you to him just for giving me some directions. Anyway, as long as you perform well, I can take you back with me. You are qualified enough." The child snickered playfully, with the look of an ancient monster in his white eyes.

The light figure suddenly trembled when it heard that child's unbelievable words, but the light figure didn't think he was lying because its eyes could analyze the speech, and lying was impossible in front of the light figure.

Although the light figure can't see past this child's background, the light figure can still analyze the speech as long as the other party isn't trying to hide it or has that ability.

Whiteness clearly wasn't trying to hide it, as he was unstoppable within the middle galaxies.

"Is it true? Why didn't Ancestor contact me?" The light figure agitatedly asked, still somewhat in disbelief.

Whiteness chuckled, "Well, it's the same reason the middle galaxies can't contact the lesser galaxies without paying an exorbitant price. Kiddo, the Universal Void is not just for show, especially the universal void that leads to the lesser galaxies, so don't blame your ancestor.

"Now tell me if you're going to help me or not. Although it would be a hassle without you, it's not like I can't do without you." Whiteness nonchalantly asked with an innocent yet sly smile.

Suddenly, the light figure's eyes went wide as it was only able to think clearly now, 'H-he said he knows about me, an old friend... didn't this mean he's someone on the same level as my ancestor!?''

Just thinking about it made the light figure tremble and excited at the same time as the next moment. It vanished from its light throne and appeared right in front of Whiteness.

The light figure suddenly begins to change, and its gigantic form also shrinks down until it is only two meters tall. The next moment, the light figure suddenly turned into an extremely charming woman with long golden hair, pale skin, pointy ears, and, of course, spiral eyes. She was wearing long golden robes and looked like a queen.

She quickly bowed in front of Whiteness and respectfully greeted, "Please forgive Eliza's previous offense, as I wasn't aware of your noblesse's exalted status. Eliza and my Cardinal Spirit Temple will be at your noblesse's beck and call. Please order us without hesitation!"

Whiteness nodded in satisfaction, seeing Eliza's current attitude like an elder, "Not bad, no wonder that old fox has such a favorable impression of you, and you could awake the espy eyes after millions of years of the last bearer.

"Alright, Eliza, I don't need you to move your forces as my matter has nothing to do with the middle galaxies. I won't interfere with your matters unless you, and only you, are on the brink of dying. That is only until we leave this place.

"Instead, I want to use your inner espy to calculate a matter for me, and then I want you to prepare some materials and some of your faction's most outstanding quasi-legendary rank juniors." Whiteness command startled Eliza.

"The others are small matters. What does Noblesse need me to calculate?" Eliza quickly asked without hesitation.

Whiteness, for the first time, released a faint chilly aura, making even Eliza tremble before he said, "Simple, I need to hunt a heretical rat. But this rat is hiding somewhere in the lesser galaxies, and even I can't enter there with those ancient abominations in the universal void.



"So, I want you to calculate the exact time the Path of Legend will open, and then I'll create an ancient altar and send your people in the path of legend with it. With my help, as long as they can collect all the twelve legendary galaxy vestiges and use that ancient altar, I'll be able to enter the lesser galaxies!"

## **Chapter 615 An Ownerless Land**

The dark pod opened within the dark room of Dark Viscount Estate, revealing Jacob's figure. He opened his eyes before he rose from the pod and sat there with a contemplated look on his face.

After his fight with Flame Calamity, he didn't continue the matches and exited the arena. He was still somewhat baffled about what happened at the last moment since he only remembered something overcoming his mind, and he felt boundless power surging through his body. Then he used the Deceptive Swords Style's second killer move, the Anti-Clockwise, Pandemonium on instinct, and everything was over.

Furthermore, he could tell something changed within his mind after that battle as he was calmer, and his mind was clearer.

'That was definitely Fighting Giant Spirit. What kind of aspect is this? The more I fight on the verge of death, the more powerful I become; those weren't empty words.

'If I can enter that state on will, even someone like Flame Calamity would die, but that is under the condition I'm at the same power level as them. That Wyvern was probably at the Quasi Legendary Rank in reality, so even if I entered that state, I might die from that forbidden spell.' Jacob mused with a hint of gloom.

As far as Jacob knows, the Forbidden Spells were something that can't be taught, and only those with extremely powerful bloodlines can awake them upon reaching a certain level of power.

The Forbidden Spells grant the user extreme power at the cost of their life force or something equal, and the stronger the forbidden spell, the harsher the cost to activate it. They were the last resort, and no one would use them easily.

Flame Calamity probably used it because he thought it wasn't real life, or he would've never used it unless he was in a life-and-death situation, or even then, he might've chosen to flee instead of using it.

Jacob only got this much information from the witch palace; even the witch queen had never seen a forbidden spell.



But now that Jacob had experienced it himself and even managed to counter it. That's why Jacob was shocked and wanted to figure out how he did it.

Then, there was another thing that Jacob was quite dissatisfied about; he summoned cursed immortality and coldly questioned, "You should probably know what just transpired, right? I want to ask you if my fluid acceleration is connected with you. Why was it not emulated in that place if it isn't?"

Jacob was extremely vexed about this situation because if his most used abilities were all connected to cursed immortality, what if someday he fell under some situation where cursed immortality would be blocked? Didn't this mean he would die?

But then, if all his abilities were connected to cursed immortality, why was the Fighting Giant Spirit copied? Was there some difference in soul? He was very curious about it and knew the answer might be useful for his future.

Now, he wanted to quickly raise his power since he knew what the Path of Legend actually was and its significance.

Immortika laughed like usual before replying, "Hehe... there is a simple answer to your question. The fluid acceleration is connected to your heart; you only awakened it because your heart mutated. As long as your cursed heart can't be emulated, anything related to it will also be lost.

"But let me tell you, it is absolutely impossible to emulate something related to a Universal Godly Scripture unless you have the power to break those limitations placed on you. Simply put, as long as you are strong, nothing will be able to restrain you! So, I would suggest you don't court your own death... but it's not like I don't like it, hahahaha!"

Realization dawns on him now: "Power to be unrestrained, huh? Then, do you have some opinion on the way I found to make my soul stronger? Would it work in my favor, and I can finally control the Eyes of Judge?" He asked the most important thing he wanted to know, and only Immortika could judge it. No one else could.

"Took you long enough to figure it out yourself. It is indeed a good way to make progress with your Eyes of Judge. The stronger your soul, the longer you'll be able to keep your eyes active until they can fully incorporate with you and replace your eyes. But there is still a long way to go until that happens...hehe."

Jacob had a sigh of relief, but he was also somewhat depressed since it was clear Immortika knew about it long ago, yet it never bothered to tell him. This was the only thing he hated about this cursed book.

"What about the Fighting Giant Spirit? Especially what happened in the end? Is this also related to the soul?" Jacob asked solemnly.

"You are right and wrong at the same time. I can't tell you much; it will only halt your progress. But all I can say is you are on the right path." Immortika ambiguously wrote.

Although Jacob was dissatisfied a little, he still got the answer, so it wasn't all in vain. He knew this was the extent of information he could get from Immortika, and it was already more than enough for him to work on.

Lastly, he asked, "What about that dreamscape realm? What kind of entity does it belong to, and what is its power level? Would I be in danger if I continued to plunder from it? And don't you dare laugh it off! This is important since you know I can't go against someone of that level yet." His tone was grave.

Although Nyx had assured him they would be fine, he wasn't completely confident until he heard it from Immortika. After all, a person who could create that dreamscape realm had to be a terrifying existence, and Nyx was nowhere near the level of completely measuring this person's depth.

Even if he could get strong souls like Flame Calamity's in there, if there were even the slightest chance that it would grab that person's attention, he would stop it since his life was more important than strengthening his soul.

Immortika suddenly burst into wanton laughter before writing, "Truth be told, even I'm somewhat surprised by this method. Since it's already under the rules, I can tell you a little, but only a little.

"You see, that dreamscape realm's owner can't pay attention to you even if it wanted to because that dreamscape realm is incomplete and only a small part of the complete realm.

"Simply put, whoever did this, their plan was ingenious, but to make it happen, they had to split a part of their own soul and then sneak it into the lesser plains because this person's true power is far above the level of lesser plains which the absolute laws of the Zodiac Plains can't tolerate.

"If I go into detail, it would take a very long time, and you might not even understand the principles behind it. So, I'll give you a simple example: Consider this dreamscape realm as a farm that could create an endless supply of crops and have a natural hidden storage to store them.

"But the farm is on the land of a feudal lord, and the farmer is a foreigner who didn't have his permission to use it, yet he still dared to use it sneakily. But now, the sneaky farmer didn't dare to harvest them because it would draw the attention of the feudal lord.

"So, it is currently ownerless because the sneaky farmer is afraid of incurring the wrath of the true lord of this land, but it is only the case for that sneaky farmer. So anyone can

grab it as long as they have the means to bypass the farmer's spies and defenses. Do you get it? Hahahaha!"

## **Chapter 616 A Plan of Abduction**

Within a day after Jacob entered the Dark City, the news reached all the dark nobles above the upper dark noble ranks. After all, a Dark Viscount was still a middle-rang dark noble within the unique dark city, and there were only 48 of them, including Jacob.

As for the dark earls, there were 23 and 2 Dark Marquises with the highest authority within the Dark City. Most of the dark nobles were under these two dark marquises or had some connection with them.

As for the position of the Dark Administrator, the Unique Dark City didn't have one because there was only one Dark Administrator of the Unique Plains, and that person was within the territory of the Dark City, the Dark Duke!

At this moment, within the Dark Marquis Estate of Dark Marquis Jethro, which was ten times bigger than a Dark Viscount Estate and far more lavish. There were only five such estates in the entire unique dark city.

Sixth cloaked figures were sitting in a meeting room in front of a burly barbarian with runic tattoos on his face and long blond hair. He was clad in black robes, and his aura was completely hidden; he was Dark Marquis Jethro—one of the two highest authority dark nobles within the unique dark city.

Dark Marquis Jethro was holding a wine glass in his hand. The look in his fierce eyes was sharp as he looked at those six cloaked figures.

"So, you want me to help you grab this new Dark Viscount within his estate? Do you take the Dark City as a place where you can grab anyone like some slums?" His cold voice was filled with ridicule as he sneered.

The tallest among the cloaked figures, who was also a barbarian, replied coolly, "Brother Jethro, don't worry; you should know as part of the organization, we always take precautions. Although it would be slightly difficult, it's not impossible."

His voice suddenly turned cold, "Besides, this is the order from the top, and as a fellow member, you are obliged to help the organization whenever it needs you. Or do you think all those resources and benefits you have been enjoying for decades are free? Don't tell me your loyalty is faltering after all these years of a comfortable life of luxury within the Dark City?"

Dark Marquis Jethro's eyes flashed with chilly glint when he heard those words. He knew his status was all thanks to the organization's help, or with the competition and the tight grip of the Dark City's three duke clans, it was very difficult to ascend to the Dark Marquis position without pledging their loyalty to a Duke Clan first.

Dark Marquis Jethro was one of the few who could still remain independent and got his position despite not joining a Dark Duke Clan first. It was all because of the organization behind him.

But this is as far as he could go because he needed to go against all three Dark Duke clans to become a Dark Duke, which was nearly impossible. They left him alone because he didn't show any ambition, or if he had dared to show interest in increasing his rank further, who knows what kind of 'accident' he had met.

Still, Dark Marquis Jethro enjoyed a very high status, and the resources of the Dark City were abundant, especially the allure of the Dark Battle Arena. That place was excellent for becoming strong and increasing combat capabilities.

He wasn't ready to give up on the Dark Battle Arena, but he knew if he refused, within a few hours, his status as a spy and not just any spy, but the spy from the ATLAS would be revealed.

After that, not to mention the Dark City, all the powers within the Unique Plains would hunt him down like a rabid dog, including ATLAS, whom he betrayed.

This is the biggest reason ATLAS was never worried about their members betraying them because by associating with them, they would become the enemy of the Star Network by default, and they also made sure to keep proof of it.

Dark Marquis Jethro was now in a similar situation; either he helped them, or he could kiss his kingly life goodbye. At least if he complied, he would still be a member of the ATLAS, and they had terrifying means to change his identity as well.

So, it wasn't so bad to give up on his current identity as long as he could keep living. He can always start anew with a new identity.

Gritting his teeth, Dark Marquis Jethro replied, "I would never betray the organization and the kindness they had shown me. My everything belongs to the organization. What do you need me to do?"

Faint snickers filled with mockery were heard from the six cloaked figures as if they were expecting this.

The barbarian smiled faintly as he said, "Why do you look so gloomy, brother Jethro? If our first plan works, you might not lose your position at all. I've heard that a Dark Noble

can issue a Dark Mission to someone two noble ranks below him, and that person can't refuse either.

"So, isn't this all too simple? Just issue him a dark mission to go to a certain place, and we'll arrange an ambush for him there. This way, both sides will be happy, no?"

"If it was only that simple." Dark Marquis Jethro sighed ruefully, "You are indeed right. But this rule only applies to outer members, not core members. From my investigation, this Dark Viscount Faceless Ancient is a core member, so unless I'm the City Administrator, I can't issue him any mission or order him to do something against his own will.

"Furthermore, I've already sent an envoy to invite him, but his butler stated that he's in retreat in the Dark Room and specifically ordered him not to be disturbed until he comes out on his own. This is the same case for others as well. So, no one gets a meeting with him."

Although Dark Marquis Jethro was talking about the dark room, they were all sitting within a special barrier of the ATLAS that blocked any AI or eavesdropping. Furthermore, no one was wearing star watches, and they all had Offender Rings.

So, as long as Dark Marquis Jethro didn't reveal core information, the Zodiac Oath Contract can't do anything to him. This was the scariest part about the Zodiac Oath Contracts; even if he changed his star ID, the contract wouldn't be canceled until he could become a completely new person.

That's why the core secrets of the three factions were always guarded by the Zodiac Oath Contract, so even if some spies managed to enter the core of the power, they wouldn't be able to reveal them or take personal action against them unless they wanted to end up dead the moment they open their mouth.

The same rules apply to Dark Marquis Jethro; even with ATLAS support, he can't reveal too much or personally harm the dark city, or he'll perish. So, the six people didn't push it either since they also knew about this.

The barbarian frowned as he didn't know too much about the dark city's personal member rules.

"Then I guess the second plan it is. We have to grab him in the dark city. Since you're not harming the Dark City directly, it'll be fine, and you won't suffer a backlash from the contract, either.

"Furthermore, as long as we remained hidden from Dark Rose, you will have nothing to worry about. So, I want you to tell me if you have a way to go around the defenses?" He asked.

Dark Marquis Jethro frowned as he knew he can't back down, he had to take the risk, "I have a way, but you need to give me the Anonymous Scroll. To make it work, we need to enter the Dark Room, to which the Dark Rose pays the most attention.

"Even without wearing a star watch, Dark Rose could still detect my life signature there because there are many security features. Furthermore, we need to be quick since the moment we barge in; the entire dark city security will be there within a minute.

"So, I need the anonymous scroll to hide my life signature and more men, or you six can go alone, and I can give you the details about how to break open the Dark Room." He stated in an irrefutable tone.

The barbarian looked deeply at Dark Marquis Jethro before he nodded, "Consider it done!"

## **Chapter 617 Progress & Danger**

A week has passed since Jacob entered the dark room. At this moment, Jacob was looking at the barrier filled with pitch-black liquid as it was getting absorbed at a terrifying speed.

Within this liquid was a tiny black centipede, shimmering in a dark hue as the black liquid was quickly absorbed into this tiny insect. This was indeed Autarch, who was now absorbing the Unique Rank Titan Tears it had refined this past week.

As for Jacob, he was busy with the Dark Battle Arena and collecting souls. This past week, he had won 38 battles without losing any and was already ranked 14th in the Iron League.

After encountering Flame Calamity, he didn't encounter anyone as ridiculous as him, so his fighting record continued to grow while his combat skills continued to refine. Now, he had a full grasp over his powers and was far stronger than a week ago.

If not for collecting souls and continuing to evaluate his soul, his record would've been even more terrifying. In this past week, he found that absorbing soul vitality of a small portion and from a huge part was extremely different.

He discovered that when he absorbed the soul vitality within his soul directly, he needed to be static, and he couldn't move in this window. It was a completely different concept than raising his life span, which can be done without him realizing it.

Furthermore, after finding the truth behind the Dark Battle Arena and the dreamscape realm from Immortika, Jacob and Nyx become more wanton, and they plunder whatever comes their way.

As he was rising through the ranks, stronger opponents were coming in the battles, and they all became nutrition for Nyx and himself. Moreover, he wasn't the only one who was becoming stronger; Nyx was also making progress, probably even faster than him.

She can now fully absorb the dreamscape realm of a Unique Rank within two hours, and anyone above the unique rank would take her half or a full day.

Jacob also noticed that with his soul becoming stronger, his perception was undergoing a huge change, which even he didn't know the limit to. As for the biggest benefits, it was naturally the progress with his Eyes of Judge.

Now, he can keep them active for 15 whole seconds, which was two times greater than last week. The only regrettable thing was he couldn't enter that state when he defeated Flame Calamity. It was as if it was a fluke that would never happen again.

But as his soul was getting stronger, he had a feeling that he might be able to make progress with the Fighting Giant Spirit. As long as he encounters another opponent at the same level as the Flame Calamity who could push him to the brink of death, he should be able to enter that state again.

But it's a pity that to encounter such an opponent again, he needed to climb the leagues or encounter someone like Flame Calamity, who was new to the arena, and the chances of the latter were almost close to zero.

As for the dreamscape realm of the Dark City, when he told Nyx about it, she didn't believe it. But when she finally tried to probe it, she also discovered no reaction or retaliation from the dreamscape realm, which made her ecstatic.

But when she tried to take over, she discovered that she didn't have enough power even to infiltrate this dreamscape realm, much less annexing it, making her sulk to no end, and Jacob was the same.

However, Nyx told him that if she could evolve just once, she might be able to infiltrate it so they were now fully focused on getting stronger with the end goal of annexing the dreamscape realm and even taking over it without the Dark City finding out about it.

Today, Autarch managed to refine this barrel of the titan tears with over 70% of the materials Jacob had plundered from the Potion Alchemy City, and with Jacob's permission, Autarch began to absorb it.

Jacob hoped this would be enough for Autarch to evolve into a Unique Rank, as Autarch was already at the peak of the Epic Rank, and the Epic rank titan tears have no effect on Autarch.

As time passed, the titan tears continued to drop until the barrier was completely empty, leaving only Autarch, who was now wrapped in a crystalline black cocoon.



Jacob's eyes shimmered as he looked at the small cocoon, 'Does this mean Autarch succeeded and started the evolution?'

Jacob tried communicating with Autarch, but he didn't get any response, and he could feel that Autarch was unconscious. He then looked at puppet Karim, who was now extremely pale and even wilted a little, standing there without moving at all.

He then tried to send Autarch back within his solar plexus, and surprisingly, he succeeded as the cocoon appeared within his solar plexus. He could now clearly feel that Autarch was undergoing some mysterious change.

Then he frowned, 'Don't tell me it would take time for Autarch to evolve into a Unique Rank? It hadn't happened before. But I guess the evaluation of the Unique Rank is a benchmark for a fantastic insect since the next rank is Legendary.

'If I didn't have the titan tears, then according to Autarch, he needed to absorb the brain of a legendary rank being, which was almost impossible for him or even with my help.

'So, I should be content with this progress. But what kind of ridiculous condition does he need to fulfill to evolve into legendary rank? Tsk, he's even more difficult to raise than Nyx, or she's not at that level yet. 'I just hope he won't take too much time and can evolve within this year before I head into the Faeries' territory...' Jacob's eyes shimmered coldly as he thought about his next objective.

Although he had already found a way to strengthen his soul, he still needed information about the abilities of Eyes of Judge or at least some clues. Only then can he truly make progress and start comprehending the Immortal Chapter.

Jacob then stowed away puppet Karim as well since he was useless without Autarch and was about to enter the dark pod when his steps suddenly halted.

With his new perception, Jacob suddenly discovered strange fluctuation from the closed door of the Dark Room.

"Show me the outside of the dark room." He ordered coldly.

The next moment, the projection appeared, showing the live feed of the corridor where the dark room was located, yet it was empty.

Jacob's eyes narrowed as he felt even more strange fluctuations getting closer to the door, yet it was empty. He didn't dare to ignore this newly developed perception of his.

'Don't tell me someone is daring enough to infiltrate this place? But why me of all the people, or I'm simply overthinking things, and this is just because of the changes within my soul?'

Just thinking about it made Jacob grimace as he was new in this place and didn't even interact with anyone, so why would someone target him?

Still, to be sure, Jacob activated his Eyes of Judge, and everything around him turned into color spectrums. At this moment, Jacob finally spotted a few hominoid-shaped spectrums right outside the darkroom!

'What the hell is going on?!' Jacob felt a chill running down his spine because 14 people seemed to be doing something to the dark room, yet Dark Rose still didn't notice it.

Jacob's eyes shimmered with killing intent as he coldly stated, "Dark Rose, someone is infiltrating my Dark Room. Activate all the security measures, and I demand an explanation!"

## **Chapter 618 No Mercy!**

"I don't detect any intruders, so your request to raise an alarm has been canceled!" Dark Rose's static voice rang.

Jacob's expression turned somewhat ugly, "You couldn't detect them, but that doesn't mean I can't. If you don't want to provide backup, that's fine by me; just tell me if there are intruders, and I can kill them, right? Furthermore, what will happen then since it would mean that I was right and your security was breached? So, this means it's your fault, and I would be the victim. Will I get compensation?"

"If Dark Viscount's proposition is correct, then you can indeed take drastic actions without restraint and will be compensated accordingly since the Dark City failed to provide you with a safe environment, and it will be a breach of trust. The Dark City will investigate this matter until the offenders pay for their infraction!" Dark Rose statically stated.

"Then I'm relieved. Observe then!" Jacob coldly sneered as he was very dissatisfied with this turn of events.

Because if he were in the dark pod and without Autarch, he would've been a sitting duck for these guys to kill. Moreover, without the changes in his soul, he might never have been able to feel the presence of these guys, not to mention the important role of Eyes of Judge.

After this, he will never be at ease, even in the dark city's most secure place.

Nonetheless, he first needed to deal with these guys and then find out why they were targeting him. This matter was related to his safety, and if these guys somehow made a

connection with him and the path of legend, then he wouldn't be safe even within the Dark City.

Once this news got out, even the Dark Duke would do everything to capture him and get the key of legend and wouldn't stop until he acquired it. That's why Jacob was tense and feeling uneasy.

'Since this is the unique plains, these guys shouldn't be in the ranks of three steps of legend. But since they can come this far without getting noticed by Dark Rose and even dare to try breaching the dark room, this means they are confident and come prepared. I'll just put two under my hex and kill everyone else without giving them a chance to use anything.

'This is no battle arena. They are foolish to think they can mess with me. Not to mention, they are all in this narrow corridor. Let's see if they dodge my bullets!'

Jacob's eyes flashed with killing intent as he took his potion at the very end of the room, placed the double-barrel rifle on the ground, and positioned it right at the door.

However, he was still not done. He took a small glass bottle filled with purple liquid and opened its lid. He then used a spell, 'Whammy Poison Mist!'

The next moment, crimson mana suddenly poured into the glass bottle before thick crimson mist began to rise within the room. This was one of the magic spells he learned to use, the Whammy Poison.

The Whammy Poison magic was to combine curse mana with poison, which could create different types of curse poisons. The more powerful a poison, the more potent the Whammy Poison.

Jacob had gathered many poisonous herbs and hunted poisonous dark beasts and toxic zombies in the Dead Faction Territory, so have different varieties of powerful poisons.

Although his hex magic was still at epic level, he could still use these poisons to effect unique ranks. But it required time, and some races even have some resistance towards poisons, so unless he has unique rank hex mana, the potency of Whammy Spell will be lacking compared to the poisons.

Nonetheless, they were effective and could hinder those guys in many ways, while Jacob would remain hidden since this poison had no effect on him. He will use this poison mist to hinder these sights and perceptions while he will use the Eyes of Judge and kill them all!

After he was done making preparations to 'greet' the guests, he coldly commanded, "Since they want to enter, I should make it easy for them. Dark Rose, open the Dark Room's door and close the secret entry passage!"

Just as his voice trailed off, he vanished without a trace with stealth.

At this moment, the closed door of the dark room suddenly slid open, and thick crimson mist gushed into the narrow passage.

A startling cry rang the next moment, "No good, retreat!"

Yet, before they could react, the two people with two white beads evolving over their heads, making them invisible, at the very front, were holding a strange device against the door, suddenly beginning to fall down, losing their consciousness!

But it wasn't the end; in the next second, two green beams suddenly materialized and bolted within the passage!

"Ahhhhh..."

"It's an ambush!" Painful and panicking cries reverberated with the passage as three of the invaders were already turned into meat mesh because of the atomic bullets.

Another two bullets were fired, and before the sonic boom could even ring, two more bodies blasted into smithereens!

"Damn it! Use defensive magic and scrolls and quickly leave this passage, or we'll all die. This guy has a powerful projectile weapon!" This furious voice belonged to none other than Dark Marquis Jethro, who was somewhere in the center of this group, and a bloody hole was opened in his arm.

He barely missed the atomic bullet because it had already passed through two others, or he would've been deader than dead.

He or no one else had ever expected to meet such an ambush while they were the actual ambushers.

Furthermore, Jacob's means, especially the weapon he was using, greatly shocked everyone as he had already taken down seven of their men within five seconds, including their leader, who was one of two who were in charge of unlocking the door. This was half of their forces.

But how could Jacob give them a chance to retaliate or flee?

He pulled the trigger again, which again landed on two more. He was using the eyes of judge so they couldn't hide from him no matter what, and the narrow corridor gave Jacob a huge advantage to pick them all up quickly.

If they had entered the dark room, they might've had a chance to use their defensive measures, yet they decided to head back, which was not a good choice since Jacob's bullets were far faster than theirs.

Dark Marquis Jethro finally felt despair when he saw only five of them remained; the other party was too fast and didn't give them any chance to use spells or magic scrolls.

He roared in panic, revealing himself, "I'm Dark Marquis Jethro! Dark Rose, I was forced against my will. Please stop..."

Before he could even finish his words, two atomic bullets directly landed on his chest, and he was blasted into myriad pieces.

'Hmph!' Jacob merely scoffed as he killed the rest of the three. He would never give these guys a chance to retreat. But it still comes as a little shock to him that a Dark Marquis was involved in this.

But he didn't have time to mull over it right now because he knew Dark Rose had already called off the guards, and they would be here soon. So, he quickly approached those guys and began to loot!

## **Chapter 619 A Terrifying Assumption!**

Jacob moved quickly without caring about the blood and gory mess within the passage and used his eyes to pick up rings and white beads covered in blood. He didn't have time to appraise all these items, but he knew they were all treasures that even go undetected within the dark city.

After he was done looting the spoils, Jacob finally relaxed a little, but he wasn't done. Looking at the crimson mist that filled the entire place, Jacob's eyes flashed with crimson hue as he suddenly clasped his hands together, and an empty white scroll appeared between them.

'Whammy Poison Magic Scroll Condense!'

The next moment, the white scroll in his hand began to blow under crimson light, and the poison mist around him churned before a strong suction appeared, and the poison mist began to be absorbed within the empty magic scroll.

This was another magic capability of an Evil Poison Lord who practiced the Whammy Poison. The Whammy Poison Magic was the result of Poisons and Curse Mana so that it wouldn't vanish like normal magic.

That's why an Evil Poison Lord can take back the used whammy poison magic into empty magic scrolls, turning them into Whammy Poison Magic Scrolls and using them again continuously until the Whammy Poison fully vanishes or is destroyed. It was like gathering poison but could only be done through magic scrolls.

Not only that, but a Whammy Poison became more potent the more lives it took, and there was written in the ancient texts that a Whammy Poison can even gain its own spirituality if it becomes extremely strong after taking countless lives and absorbing powerful poisons.

However, this art of the Evil Poison Lord was long lost, and even Witch Queen Margret could barely scratch the surface. Jacob was now as knowledgeable as Margret of that time about Whammy Poison and Imprecate Magic and many more lore about the curse magic.

But it was a pity that all the knowledge was up to the basic unique rank, and he had to do his own research if he wanted to make progress. He even wanted to find the Vile Witch Race that Margret belonged to so he could take their advanced rank knowledge.

However, only after some investigation did he find that the Vile Witch Race had long vanished from the Unique Plains. The current Witch Race, also the race of Karim and the ruler of the Alchemy Guild, was known as the Charm Witch Race.

Nonetheless, they also practiced some unknown branch of Witchcraft, which made them affiliated with the curses all the same, especially their tracking curses. So, this reason was enough for Jacob to put them on his list of future targets.

Under Jacob's command, the crimson poison mist absorbed in the magic scroll changed its color from white to blood crimson. Now, the entire place became clear, and the scene was even more bloody.

At this moment, Jacob headed towards the first two slumbering attackers and dragged them inside the Dark Room.

He coldly said, "So, Dark Rose, do you believe me now? Not only did I was attacked, but I even had to protect myself on my own and managed to kill twelve of them while capturing two alive. What kind of compensation will I get?"

Jacob hadn't forgotten about his early talk with Dark Rose. He was indignant about what happened. He knew if he had been in the dark pod, things would've turned hectic, and by the time he had realized, it could've been all over.

"Dark City seeks Dark Viscount forgiveness in this matter! It appeared the Star Hackers had breached our security with the help of their Spy within our ranks. This matter has been deemed a 5th-degree dark incident and reported back to the headquarters!

"Please wait for the response; the Dark City will give you a satisfactory explanation and bestow you corresponding rewards for taking out the vermin! Not only that, but the Dark City will also be your proxy in claiming the best rewards from the Star Network for killing and capturing the scourges of Star Hackers!

"In the meanwhile, you are free to move into the Dark Marquis Estate for three years, and your Dark Room activation of the Dark Marquis Rank Dark Room will be free. I can assure you this is the most secure place in the entire Dark City!"

Jacob's eyes shimmered when he heard 'Star Hackers,' and his heart sank a little, 'Why did those guys target me in this place?! I have no enmity with them unless they found out about what I did to those two in the epic plains. But this matter is not big enough for them to send such a force while risking pissing off the Dark City.

'If it were the three hegemonies, at least it would've made sense. Wait... those guys were wearing two different rings, and one of them had somewhat familiar patterns!'

Jacob's eyes flashed with shock and uncertainty as a ring appeared in his hand with some trace of fresh blood. But Jacob didn't care about it as he quickly scrutinized the pattern around the inner ring, and his heart went cold as his eyes landed on the ring on his pinky.

He quickly took it off, and after he looked carefully, the pattern under his own ring was the same.

'These guys are extremely proficient in advanced technology and can fool the Star Network, so they might have methods to track down their own tech. And what if, like the Star network, they can also tag the IDs of their owners in these techs?

'So, if this ring also has such an ID, and by the looks of the force they sent after me, didn't this mean they had already found out that I have some connection with Free Sword!?

'This is the only explanation I could think of, and even if I'm wrong, I can't brush this off. Whatever the reason is, I can't stay here any longer; if there is even a 1% chance that my assumption is true, then once they deem me untouchable, they might release this information, and once that happens...'

Just thinking about it made Jacob tremble a little. He knew just how important the path of legend was for everyone. Captain Free Sword was terrorized because of this exact reason.



If those guys got the wind of this news, he could forget about living in peace. Even the Dark Duke will do anything to acquire that key. Jacob was not going to believe in those rules as even the Dark Marquis turned out to be a spy, and since he wasn't moving against the Dark City's interest or harming it directly, he was able to target him!

"Dark Rose, who can see my Star ID in the Dark City?" He quickly asked.

"Everyone ranks above yours with personal membership can get your Star ID." Dark Rose statically replied.

'No, I can't stay here, even if my conjecture and I hope it is wrong, since those guys targeted me with such a force, they won't give up so easily, especially if they had some strong motive...' Jacob mused grimly.

At this moment, Jacob suddenly heard the secret passage door open and hurried steps toward the Dark Room.

Dark Rose's voice rang, "The investigation team is here!"

## **Chapter 620 Not Good!**

Jacob looked at the corridor coldly, and soon, a few tall giants appeared in dark armor and black masks; their burly bodies hid terrifying strength.

The giant at the very front, about 18 meters tall, looked at Jacob with a hint of surprise before he greeted with an impassive tone, "I'm the Dark Guard Commander of the Dark City's Dark Guards Regiment, and Dark Earl, Heath."

"Dark Viscount, Jack." Jacob nodded and impassively replied. He could sense this guy was a tier-9 unique rank, but he wasn't any threat to him despite being a giant.

Heath didn't show any emotions because of Jacob's lack of respect, as he could feel Jacob was extremely dangerous, and this small massacre was more than enough proof of his strength. Dark Noble Rank doesn't matter if you don't have the power to back it up or the background to support you.

Heath was already informed about the situation by Dark Rose, and he was shocked after finding out how Jacob was able to detect the intruders that even Dark Rose couldn't and even take them down like they were some flies. He even managed to capture them.

He wasn't sure if even the remaining Dark Marquis was capable of that, and besides, Jacob had already killed one Dark Marquis, so it was quite clear Jacob wasn't someone

to be messed with, and having a good relation or not being his enemy was good enough.

"I have grasped the situation from Dark Rose; let me apologize on behalf of our Dark Guard Regiment for allowing such a disgraceful event to happen. I'm ashamed and have no excuse, but I would like to seek Dark Viscount's forgiveness and hope you'd have an open mind.

"After all, this was most likely done by Star Hackers since they only have the peculiar technologies that could hide them from an extremely powerful AI with all the magical technology that can't detect them. You should know even the SAAI is helpless against them.

"But don't worry, since they dare to target one of our people, we won't sit still and do everything in our power to root out those scourges within our city." Heath solemnly stated as he bowed in front of Jacob, and the five other giants behind him also bowed without hesitation.

Jacob was surprised a little as he didn't expect a Dark Earl and Guard Commander of the Dark City to apologize and even lower his head. He didn't show any arrogance or try hiding his incompetence.

"I understand; Dark Rose has already assured me, so you don't need to apologize," Jacob replied with a faint, forgiving smile.

But his thoughts were racing, 'It seems the Dark City is more untied and cleaner than the three hegemonies. But this also made them extremely dangerous and ruthless. These kinds of people would do anything for someone they are loyal to and even lay down their lives to make sure the organization will thrive.

'Now there are even more reasons to quickly leave this place until I find out why those lunatics are targeting me. But giving up on Dark Room, my progress will halt again, and I need strength more than ever now.

'I can also go to the unique plains dead zone and clean up the dark beings, but I've heard almost all of their unique rank dark beings are either within the trial or have already been killed or fled the unique plains after what I did to the Dead Faction territory. What should I do... I think there is a way...'

Heath nodded in appreciation as he had a somewhat good impression of Jacob now, and he then looked at two unconscious fellows with chilly glare. Jacob had already exposed their faces. One of them was a barbarian, and the other one an elf.

He asked, "Dark Viscount, are those two really alive? How do you achieve it if you don't mind revealing it? I'm just curious since I've heard that the core members of the Star Hackers have a way to commit suicide, and it's almost impossible to catch them alive."

"Oh, I'm somewhat proficient in poison. In the past, I'd acquired a very special poison that could knock anyone out for six hours. So, I used it on these two to knock them so we could gather information from them.

"But it's a pity that it was the last bit of that special poison I had, or I would've had to knock all of them to get more information." Jacob sighed ruefully with a very realistic expression of helplessness on his face.

Even Heath, who was an integration and investigation expert, instantly believed Jacob. After all, if Jacob had more such poison, why would he only have used on those two?

Furthermore, poisons that could knock a peak unique rank out were even rarer than medicine, and not many people practiced poison arts. Only a few races were proficient in poison magic, but they didn't pose any threat to peak unique rank experts.

The only poison that could terrify a peak unique rank expert was within the hands of Dark Beings and Dark Alchemists, who were also proficient in poison arts!

But Jacob also didn't look like a Dark Alchemist since any living practice of dark alchemy would have their appearances hideous and dark, like they were cursed because of using the dark arts of dark beings and refining their fellow living into medicines.

"Then I must thank you again for using such a thing to capture these two degenerates alive. You have no idea just how huge merit it is to capture a Star Hacker or their associates alive. If they have high-level information, you might even acquire a special achievement badge from SAAI." Heath sighed with envy.

Jacob was surprised a little as he didn't expect he could get an achievement badge. As someone who had already scored two such achievements, he knew just how extraordinary rewards from SAAI could be. So, he was now somewhat anticipated about it!

Heath suddenly turned serious and asked, "Dark Viscount, although you took the attackers down, you should know that this kind of force being used against you is no laughing matter. So, I hope you can tell me if you have some grudge against Star Hackers or if you have taken something or anything in your possession that could cause such a reaction.

"I'm not asking you to hand it over or anything. I just wanted to gauge how far they are willing to go for it. This way, we can even set many traps for them and kill those bastards. Doing this a few times will make them give up on you, and they won't dare to act in the Dark City again."

Heath's plan was excellent, but it couldn't be any more ridiculous in Jacob's eyes.

'If what I'm assuming is right and tell you I know where the legendary key is, I'm afraid it would be the Dark City setting up traps for me instead. But I have to tell them something, or if I decided to leave after this, then they might become overly curious, and if the ATLAS really knew that I have a connection with Free Sword and made it public, it would be even more believable at that time.

'But I don't want to leave because of the dark battle arena, and I don't think the ATLAS would give up so easily on acquiring the legendary key. At least they won't be stupid enough to reveal this to Dark City since there is a chance I'll hand it over to them for their protection, and that will be over for them.

'They won't reveal this to anyone until they try everything, or this all could be wrong, and they might give up after this. So, I should wait, and if they attack again, then the chances of them knowing about Free Sword and me will rise drastically.

'Or if these two knew about it, I could easily confirm my suspicions, but this would also reveal the truth to the Dark City personnel. If that's happen...'

Jacob suddenly realized that this wasn't good at all. He had captured these two alive to get some answers about why they were targeting him, but he had never expected they were from the ATLAS, and after seeing those rings, he suddenly thought about Free Sword.

So, now he was in trouble; even if ATLAS wanted to keep this a secret, those two might let the cats out of the bag if they were tortured.

'Even if there is a vague chance of this happening, I can't take this risk!'

A ruthless glint flashed past his eyes, but Heath didn't notice it since Jacob suddenly sighed sadly, "I think this has something to do with..."

Before he could, Heath was startled because the two unconscious fellows suddenly opened their eyes and when they saw they were captured, mana gushed out of their bodies, their reaction speed were almost terrifying.

Heath roared, "No good, the poison has worn off. Stop them!"