

Cursed Immortality #Chapter 651 Comprehending the First Blood Glyph! - Read Cursed Immortality Chapter 651 Comprehending the First Blood Glyph!

Chapter 651 Comprehending the First Blood Glyph!

After Autarch's awakening, another four years passed for Jacob in solitude.

At this moment, the skeleton of Orange Sturgeon was in front of Jacob, and above his hand, a glob of crimson blood was swirling. With a thought, he controlled the glob of blood, and the next moment, fine hair-like crimson threads shot out from the glob as they started to wrap and wove around the arm bone of the Sturgeon.

Jacob's eyes were fully focused on the woven blood threads around the bone. As time passed, those blood threads started to dig into the arm bone and take the shape of a rune.

When the crimson rune was completely etched on the bone, the white arm bone suddenly turned crimson and glowed while emitting a powerful aura. But the next moment, 'boom' the bone suddenly blasted into pieces.

But Jacob's eyes fluttered in ecstasy, 'Success! I finally managed to carve a rune from Longevity Schema on the bone without blasting it in amides! With this, I've fully mastered the first blood glyph and the basics of blood manipulation!'

Jacob was filled with bittersweet emotion as he looked at the mountain of shattering bones in the corner. Ever since he started experimenting with the blood manipulation levels on the others, he didn't know just how many skeletons he had wasted.

He had long run out of the skeletons of the foxes and wolves of unique rank, and if not for Autarch, he would have had to hunt for more himself while leaving this place from time to time.

With this study supply of test subjects and his diligence, he finally reached the structural level of blood manipulation where he could shape and sculpt blood on bones!

However, Jacob didn't dare to test it on himself yet until he was completely confidence. He had already solved the problem at the energetic level, where he needed to manipulate the blood's life force and magical properties.

The answer to this problem was quite simple, and it took me around five hundred corpses to figure it out. The life force in the blood seemed to be tangled with the magic force, and he found that the life force seemed to have a Unique Signature of its master, which stopped others from plundering it.

Not only that, but the blood of different species has their lineage secrets hidden within, and the magic force is like a lock on those secrets. So, if someone tries to probe the life force or magic force, both properties suddenly react at the same time and self-destruct, especially if the owner is dead.

Jacob was a newbie to blood manipulation, and he didn't even know how to plunder life force or peer into the secrets of the bloodline yet, so when he tackled this problem by controlling his blood manipulation to stop it from triggering the magic and life force in it, he succeeded.

However, this required a very keen control over the blood manipulation and over his cursed heart, so he had to comprehend the blood glyph even more diligently. The third structural level became even easier since it was related to using the blood and magic force in blood to manipulate the blood.

If he avoids probing them, he can bypass triggering both the life force and the magic force. He then finally started to experiment with carving runes by creating blood threads through blood manipulation.

It took him almost 12 years to just comprehend the first blood glyph and understand the blood manipulation at a basic level.

"Cursed Immortality!" Jacob summoned Immortika at this moment.

"What do you think? Is my current level enough for Sculpting Longevity Schema on myself?" Jacob asked since he wanted Immortika's input on it. After all, if Immortika gives him assurance, he'll be without any worry and start the final stage.

"Hehehe, you have made quite a progress by comprehending only the First Glyph of Cursed Blood Progenitor, and all I can tell you is that, sadly, it's not enough!"

Jacob frowned slightly, but he had expected this response since even he felt this level of control was not enough. After all, he still didn't know how to truly tackle the life force and magic force within the blood. He had just found a shortcut, and that's why he didn't dare take a risk.

"Now that I've mastered one of the blood glyphs, can you at least tell me how many more I need to comprehend before I can start with the final stage?" Jacob asked, hoping to be informed.

"Hehehe, just as you said, you have comprehended one of the glyphs of the immortal chapter, so you'll know on your own when it is enough. Or what's the point of telling you to comprehend the truth of the blood? Everyone has their own truth and their own ways to reach it..." Immortika wrote profoundly.

Jacob could only give up, and he knew Immortika had a point since he was really starting to feel the power of blood and how amazing it was. So, he didn't waste any more time turning the page and opening the immortal chapter.

Jacob stared at the blood drop and was about to use the Eyes of Judge to enter when suddenly he found himself already in the immortal chapter!

Jacob was astounded before his mind raced with ecstasy, 'I'm no longer using any soul force or the Eyes of Judge, and I can feel a closer connection with this place now. Could it be because I have fully comprehended the first blood glyph that now I can enter the immortal chapter without the help of the Eyes of Judge?

'If this is true, then I'll make huge progress if I stay here for 24 hours. After all, even with my enhanced soul force and comprehension of the blood glyph, I was only able to stay here for about 30 minutes before!'

In these past years, Jacob has always been monitoring the legendary key. He knew that he didn't have the luxury of time since the legendary path could open anytime, so he was somewhat anxious about increasing his power.

But now, Jacob found himself no longer worrying about time. He could comprehend the blood glyphs much faster this way. So, without wasting more time, he quickly selected his target, which was the new blood glyph, which was only slightly larger than the smallest blood glyph that he comprehended.

Without hesitation, he moved towards it. As he got closer, after a decade, he again felt the oppressive might of this glyph, just like when he approached the first glyph for the first time.

But now that he was already used to it, and if it weren't one of those big glyphs, it couldn't stop his advance.

Thereby, Jacob finally reached the glyph and touched it as his mind again pulled into its vast mysteries!

Chapter 652 Mighty Whale Empire

Jacob was located in the Sturgeon Region, a tiny part of the Mighty Whale Empire of the Deep Ocean. Furthermore, Jacob was very close to the heart of the Sturgeon Region, which was under the control of Sturgeon Baron. The regional city, Sturgeon City, was the same city that Jacob saw upon his arrival.

This place was usually peaceful, but today, the Sturgeon City greeted some unexpected delegates from the Imperial City of the Mighty Whale Empire, and the Sturgeon Baron personally came out to greet them before leading them to his castle.

At this moment, within an illuminated Grand Hall with giant clamshell windows, while red coral pillars adorned with glowing starfish reached towards the unseen ceiling, three figures were seated on an open shell.

One of them was an imposing Orange Sturgeon with white runic lines under its neck. Wearing white armor, he was the lord of the Sturgeon Region and this city, Sturgeon Baron Gerald.

But in front of Gerald, who was 4 meters tall, were two towering figures of fifteen meters, making him look like a dwarf.

Their bodies were sleek and powerful, curving seamlessly from a broad-shouldered torso into a powerful, finned tail at the waist. They seemed like a human merged with a dolphin but more robust.

One of their skins was a mesmerizing blue-gray, almost metallic, with faint bioluminescent markings that flicker like underwater constellations, while the other had gray skin without any markings. Atop their heads, a single blowhole. Large, intelligent eyes, adapted to the ocean depths, peer out from a broad, rounded face.

Their noses were small and flat, with wide nostrils positioned high. Full lips hint at complex vocalizations. Their arms were strong and muscular, with webbed fingers perfect for navigating the water. Forget human legs—a powerful, horizontally flattened fluke tail takes their place, pulsing with enough strength to propel them effortlessly through the ocean.

These two creatures were majestic and powerful, for they belonged to one of the three most powerful ocean races, the Mighty Whale Race!

"How are you, baron? It's been a long time since we saw each other." One of the envoys, Madden, spoke in a friendly tone.

Gerald nodded in acknowledgment before he smiled, "Indeed, the last time I saw the Imperial Guard Captain was on the thousandth birthday of White Whale Duke over a hundred years ago."

A strange light flashed past Madden's eyes, but before he could reply, the other envoy spoke coldly, "Sir Baron seems to be misinformed because my lord is no longer the Imperial Guard Captain but the Imperial Vice Commander of the 13th Imperial Guard Regiment."

"Oh? Then please forgive my ignorance, Vice Commander. I didn't know about it." Gerald quickly corrected his mistake and politely bowed his head since he knew the status of a Vice Command was equal to that of a count in the Might Whale Empire.

Madden laughed slightly, "Please don't; it was just a harmless misunderstanding. Let me introduce you. This hotheaded youngster beside me is the new Captain of the 13th Imperial Guard Regiment and my disciple, Adrien La Balaen."

Gerald's eyes widened slightly, and they exclaimed, "That La Balaen?"

Madden's smile grew with a hint of smugness as he nodded, while Adrien was also content to see Gerald's reaction.

Madden nodded, "Indeed, Adrien here is the youngest son of the Blue Whale Duke."

The Mighty Whale Empire had four families that shared the surname Balaen. They were all Duke Families, and the reason for their shared names was that these families were all the Imperial Bloodline of the Balaen Imperial Clan, the ruler of the Mighty Whale Empire.

However, the four Duke Balaen families have different middle names: the Blue Whale Duke family's is 'La,' the White Whale Duke family's is 'Van,' the Green Whale Duke family's is 'Dam,' and the Violet Whale Duke family's is 'Val.'

Lastly, the Imperial Crimson Whale Family has 'Kai' as their middle name. Except for these five families, no one has a middle or last name in this empire. They all used their race names as their surnames.

That's why Gerald was shocked when he found that a duke family member was in his territory, which was a very, very rare occasion.

"You should've informed me sooner. I could've held a grand welcoming ceremony for you both," Gerald smiled wryly.

Madden brushed it off her and waved his hand, "Please don't feel bad. We are not here to indulge ourselves."

"Is something wrong? Please let me know if there's anything I can do to help you. I'll try my best. My entire manpower is at your disposal," Gerald said without hesitation.

Madden's expression turned solemn, "I can rest easy now with Sir Gerald's assurance. The thing is, we are here to investigate a very important matter on the Imperial Order. Although I can't tell you the details, I want you to refrain your citizens from going to the southern part of Sturgeon Region until we are done investigating this secret matter."

Gerald was bewildered upon hearing this strange request, but he knew better than to probe into the imperial matter, so he nodded in agreement, "You have my full support; please be at ease. From this day on, you won't see any sturgeon in the south part of the sturgeon region. If some ignorant fellows didn't know better, I'll deal with them according to the law."

Madden nodded in satisfaction, "I can rest easy with your words. Now, if you excuse us, we would like to start right away; this matter is of the utmost importance."

"Please, be my guest. If you need anything, don't hesitate to look for me. It's not like I get the chance to show my loyalty to the Imperial family often." Gerald chuckled towards the end.

Gerald's easygoing attitude made Madden feel even more at ease, and his opinion of them rose a lot. He chuckled, "Don't worry. I'll make sure the Sturgeon Region always remains this peaceful. I'll come back to have a feast with you after we're done here."

"Of course, I'll be waiting," Gerald replied without hesitation.

Thereafter, both Madden and Adrien left. They were clearly hurried to do whatever they had come here to do.

At this moment, when Gerald was alone, his easygoing smile suddenly vanished with a deadpan expression, and his entire demeanor changed as if he were a completely different person.

'They clearly hadn't noticed the decreasing population of the Sturgeons since I was very careful in these past ten years. So, they are clearly not here for this matter.'

'But sir is also hidden in the south part. Could it be that this is just a coincidence? I have already infected them with Marionette Micros, so I'll find out soon enough. But I still must alert Sir about them.'

Gerald, who was actually Autarch in disguise, quickly headed towards the secret room to contact Jacob!

Chapter 653 Preparation Done!

After Adrien and Madden left the baron castle, they moved towards the south of the Sturgeon region, traveling on a huge black whale with thunder-like markings. Its speed was even faster than that of the water lightning whale.

"Master, I don't understand why we have to alert Baron Gerald about his secretive matter?" Adrien asked at this moment, hinting at confusion.

Madden smiled as he looked at Adrien before replying, "You still have much to learn, my dear disciple. Although we showed ourselves to the baron, it was necessary to check something."

"What do you mean?" Adrien was even more confused.

Madden replied sternly, "Before coming here, I investigated the Sturgeon region, and you know what I found? There seemed to be many reports of people missing in this region in the past decade. Not only that, but an entire city at the edge of the Sturgeon region turned into ruin.

"But the strangest part is we never received any report about it from the Baron castle. This was all reported by someone from the other city under the baron's rule, and even they wouldn't have noticed it if they didn't have some relative in that ruined city."

Adrien was shocked, "Could it be you suspect the baron is behind it all? Then shouldn't we apprehend him and investigate this matter?"

Madden shook his head, "This is what I thought at first, but after meeting the baron, I used my secret ability on him to scan him thoroughly. He was completely normal. Moreover, if he had killed all those people, there would have been a unique nefarious aura hidden within his body, but I found nothing. So, I'm sure it wasn't him who did this."

"Then isn't it strange that he didn't know anything about the disappearance of a whole city, or is he trying to hide it from us? No matter what, he's very suspicious," Adrien said with a frown.

"There are only two explanations I could think of; the first one is that the Baron is afraid of reporting it since he had to suffer the repercussions from not only the imperial city but also lose all the trust of his citizens.

"The second is that Gerald knows the person who caused all of this, and he's helping this person hide this either willingly or forcibly. But Gerald didn't seem to be under any threat, so I'm assuming that he's either in cohort with his person or simply too cowardly to investigate this incident," Madden stated with uncertainty.

"Then isn't it bad to tell him about our presence? What if he alerts this mysterious killer?" Adrien was speechless as he still didn't understand why Madden revealed so much to someone so suspicious.

Madden's lips curled up in a shrewd smile as he answered, "Hah, if he's really behind all this or has any hand in these incidents, this will make it even easier to sniff him out.

"Because he's in cohort with this killer, he'll alert him, and the disappearance would stop for good or at least for some time until they are completely sure that we are gone.

"Furthermore, since I've told me about our secret task but didn't give him actual details, if this mysterious killer is greedy and overconfident by nature, he might show himself in that place. In any case, we'll know for sure if Baron Gerald is involved in this or not!"

Adrien's expression brightened, and admiration shimmered in his eyes for Madden's cunning scheme. He bowed his head, "I'm ashamed to call myself your disciple."

"Hah, you'll learn in time. There's no hurry. You're still young and ignorant. Always pay attention to your surroundings, and you'll start to see the clues." Madden beamed, clearly very pleased with Adrien's expression. Still, we need to be careful since we can't mess up this task."

"Just why did the imperial palace suddenly bring up this strange plan?" Adrien frowned. He knew little about this secret task and finally couldn't contain his curiosity.

"Your guess is as good as mine," Madden smiled wryly, "But from my sources, I've heard that it wasn't just us who were given this task. In fact, before us, many imperial guards were sent to the same mission in different regions of the empire. There's something strange going on in the ocean..."

While an invisible current rose among the ocean races, Jacob sat crossed with closed eyes on a mountain of bones. The surrounding water was now crimson, like a demon sleeping within the sea of blood.

At his moment, his eyes suddenly opened, and a red current flashed through his golden eyes. 'Envoys from the Imperial Whale City are interested in the southern part of the Sturgeon region. This is also where this coral is located.

'Could it be related to all the killing Autarch has been doing for me? But in his message, he said those envoys didn't ask about the missing population at all, or they had already suspected his puppet.

'Well, this place is quite barren, and I'm already done with my experiments, so I should change locations and then start the Cursed Bone Marrow Amalgamation!

'It took me almost two decades to completely comprehend just two blood glyphs out of 99. It's a good thing that they are enough for me to start the Cursed Bone Marrow Amalgamation.

'If I had to comprehend the entire chapter, I don't know how many hundreds or even thousands of years it would take me to do so. After all, the deeper I understand the Cursed Blood Progenitor, the more profound it gets.

'Even the second glyph is still all about blood manipulation, but compared to the understanding I got from the first glyph, it's like learning about making a handgun and a ballistic missile!'

Jacob sighed as he remembered the bitter twenty years he had spent doing nothing but comprehending the two blood glyphs. It was his first time spending so much time on something, and he knew this was just the start.

But he didn't worry about it at all and even found it enjoyable. He was learning something new, and he could feel he was growing like never before. Furthermore, these two blood glyphs have completely changed his perception of the magic of this world.

He had only scratched the surface, and he was looking forward to growing even more and exploring the hidden mysteries of the zodiac plains and cursed Immortality!

Chapter 654 Cursed Bone Marrow Amalgamation (1)

On this day, Jacob left the black coral, which was now completely hollowed inside, after two decades. Although Jacob looked the same, his demeanor and aura were different; they were more refined and profound.

At this moment, a fine black streak appeared in front of Jacob before it vanished into his body.

Jacob's lips curled up slightly before he sent a telepathy message, "Did you take care of it?"

"Yes, they won't be able to uncover anything," Autarch replied in an emotionless, stoic voice.

Since Jacob was done with the sturgeon region, there was no longer a need for Autarch to stay here anymore, so Jacob summoned him back. Although this would cause a huge commotion when the people found the Sturgeon Baron was dead with many of his close aids, it has nothing to do with Jacob.

Jacob waved his hand, and the water lightning whale appeared in front of him. This water lightning whale was now under Autarch's control, so he could use it as a means of transport without expanding his own energy. He jumped on it, and the whale headed west at full speed.

"What about those envoys? Did you find their purpose in coming here?" Jacob asked while sitting on the whale.

"They seemed to be here to install a magic array on the imperial palace order. But they don't know about the function of that array. Furthermore, it seems that this isn't just limited to the sturgeon region. Like those two, other envoys have also been sent to other regions of the Mighty Whale Empire." Autarch replied.

Jacob frowned slightly, "How peculiar. Are those other envoys also have the same purpose?"

"There isn't any information about it. But it all started over three years ago."

"Hmm... it seems we should keep our distance from the Mighty Whale Empire for the time being. You did an excellent job these past years, so tell me if you want any reward." Jacob generously offered, as he was in a good mood right now.

Autarch had been supplying him with fresh subjects for the past ten years, and he knew that without Autarch's help, he wouldn't be able to comprehend the blood glyphs in peace and in such a short time.

"Thank you for asking, but severing, Sir, is my biggest reward." Autarch emotionlessly replied.

"Hah, just think it over." Jacob chuckled as he knew Autarch didn't have any EQ at all despite having so many memories of emotional beings.

This was one of Autarch's limitations. But Jacob liked Autarch even more because of this.

"Anyway, you should've reached the peak of the unique rank, right? What's the condition of your next evolution to legendary rank, or do you need to undergo the three steps of legend first?" Jacob asked in a somewhat bitter tone.

He knew how ridiculous Autarch's evaluation process was, just like his hex core. If he hadn't had the titan tears, Autarch would've never made it to the unique rank because to become a unique rank, he required absorbing the brain of a first-tier fable legendary rank existence!

"I had indeed reached the ninth tier of Unique Rank a year ago, and I have a memory of my next evolution. I can directly become legendary rank as long as I can absorb the brain of a Third Tier Legendary King!" Autarch emotionlessly replied as if a Legendary King was a trifle being.

Jacob couldn't help but smile wryly when he heard it. There are four states of legendary rank: Fable with 12 tiers, Noble with nine tiers, Lord with six tiers, and finally, the King state with three tiers. This means that Autarch required the brain of a peak legendary rank existence to become a legendary rank.

'Well, at least it wasn't a rank above the legendary rank.' Jacob comforted himself and replied to Autarch, "It seemed you have to wait for a long time since we can only say this after we enter the middle galaxies."

"I'll follow sir's order," Autarch replied without hesitation.

'I wonder when Nyx will awake? She's taking even more time than Autarch, and her evolution path is different from others...' Jacob thought.

He still couldn't access the nightmare realm because Nyx was still evolving, but if he had, he might've made progress even faster.

With the water lightning whale, Jacob leaves the sturgeon region and soon enters the territory of the Mighty Whale Empire. He enters the barren part of the ocean unoccupied by the Mighty Whale Empire because, in this place, there is no mana in the water, which is quite strange.

But for Jacob, this was the perfect place to start the cursed bone marrow amalgamation since no one paid attention to this place, and he didn't need the required mana to control his cursed heart.

He didn't even think about going back to the surface since he didn't want to be interrupted by the Queen Ice Fiend Locust.

After finding a seclusive location, he used an array to make a hidden barrier and set up an alarm before he sat down in the middle of the barrier.

"Cursed Immortality!" Jacob summoned the cursed book with a determined look in his eyes and couldn't help but ask before he started, "Is there Anything that I should be aware of before I start this?"

"Hahahaha... the time finally comes, huh?" Immortika wrote, "I'm afraid you have to walk on this path on your own. Just keep in mind that while sculpting a runic line, you have to complete it entirely!"

"I was expecting this kind of reply. Thanks for this advice." Jacob scoffed before he turned back the page and opened the longevity schema picture. He had engraved this picture into his brain, but he didn't dare to be careless.

After taking a deep breath, he fixed his eyes on the three-

dimensional image of the longevity schema. With his thought, the picture suddenly started to zoom towards the skeleton's hand and stopped on the pinky finger.

Jacob wanted to start with the pinky finger first and wanted to see what would happen. There were nine runic lines around, and those runic lines were made of extremely tiny glyphs.

"Blood Threads!"

Chapter 655 Cursed Bone Marrow Amalgamation (2)

With extreme perception, Jacob completely focused on his pinky finger and the blood in it. Using the cursed heart, he turned the blood in his finger into countless blood threads!

The skin around his pinky finger suddenly turned bright red, and Jacob felt cold chills just by turning his blood into threads. From the second blood glyph, he had learned to control the life force and magic force within the blood, and he found that these two were the key to the Cursed Bone Marrow Amalgamation!

Without any control over the life force, he couldn't spread the blood into extremely thin fibers, and without the magic force, sculpting them on his bones was just a pipe dream.

Furthermore, his cursed blood was different. It was filled with extremely powerful life force and an unknown magic force, which were very similar to his hex mana but far more potent. So, he needed even more control to manipulate it.

After the blood within his pinky finger turned into fine fibers, Jacob used his eyes to see through the skin, started controlling the fibers, and started the sculpting process.

Even though those glyphs were extremely fine, like hair, Jacob felt excruciating pain just trying to carve that tiny glyph on his bone. But he didn't dare to let that pain affect his focus and continued.

After the first glyph, Jacob got used to the pain and continued, but he soon started to feel mentally exhausted and hungry. The first runic line was made with 9 glyphs, and despite feeling extremely exhausted and uncomfortable, he didn't dare give up and persisted.

Half an hour later, which seemed like years to Jacob, the first runic line was finally completed. The moment the final glyph was sculpted in its place, Jacob suddenly felt a strange current running through his bones, and the fatigue and pain suddenly vanished!

Jacob was bewildered for a little while before he realized, 'Could it be that the pain and fatigue only exist while I sculpt those runic lines? Furthermore, I had forgotten that this process was supposed to empower me. So, the more progress I make, the more powerful I'll become...'

Without wasting more time, Jacob quickly started to carve the second runic line. He wanted to test this theory. Just like before, the moment he started to carve the glyphs, the pain and exhaustion returned.

But Jacob didn't care about it anymore and continued no matter how much his mind wanted him to give up. This was like a trial, and he started to understand why Immortika only gave him that single piece of advice.

Soon, the second runic line made with 11 glyphs was completed, and again, Jacob felt something suddenly stirring into his bones, and he felt invigorated again. After his doubts were answered, Jacob had no more misgivings, and he continued.

Unknowingly, Jacob was completely immersed in sculpting the Longevity Schema as he completed the runic lines on his entire right hand. But what he failed to notice was his complexion was extremely pale, as if there was no blood in him.

Furthermore, as he started sculpting the Longevity Schema on his forearm, he became even paler, and his skin began to sink as he turned bony. But he was filled with boundless energy and power, so it went completely unnoticed by him.

But just after he completed his forearm, Jacob suddenly stopped as his eyes went wide, 'What the hell?! I don't have any blood in my body!'

Jacob finally noticed that he could no longer tap into his blood anymore because his body was completely empty, and he finally paid attention to his skin, which was pale white and even withered.

For some strange reason, he was not only alive but filled with boundless energy, and he could feel that he was at least three times stronger than before. However, the lack of blood completely spooked him, and he found that his heart was no longer making blood!

Even if he wants to continue, he can't without the cursed blood. Yet it wasn't the end of Jacob's nightmare because the moment every drop of cursed blood vanished from his body, something unimaginable happened.

Jacob felt his entire forearm suddenly start to burn as those runic lines on his bones lit up, releasing crimson light. Under Jacob's flabbergasted eyes, the muscles and skin on his forearm started to sink deeper into his bones until everything was absorbed by those runic lines!

Thereby, Jacob's bone arm was completely exposed, and his forearm bones were now gray with menacing crimson runic lines of the longevity schema. But the strangest part was his elbow, which still had its skin and muscles completely fine, and the wound was enshrouded in a crimson mist.

But besides feeling that burning sensation that was now gone, Jacob felt nothing wrong. He could still feel his forearm like before like nothing had happened. It was just that the strange sensation of touching the cold water with his bare-bones was quite unique.

Nonetheless, he was still horrified, so he quickly turned the page and agitatedly questioned, "What the hell is going on?!"

"Hahahahaaha!" Immortika's maddening laughter suddenly filled the page at this moment, as if it was enjoying Jacob's reaction and even looking for it for a long time.

"Do you think I'm in the mood for your shenanigans?!" Jacob's eyes were cold and rageful.

However, Immortika didn't reply but instead questioned, "Why are you so angry? Don't tell me you like your skin so much that you're reluctant to discard it. Was your undying determination for immortality finally wavering?"

"I..." It finally struck Jacob at this moment. As he looked at his gray bone hand again, his anger and horror suddenly subdued.

Although this fact was harder to accept, when he thought about his goal, he found himself calming down. So, what if he turned into a mere skeleton? Wasn't he still alive and completely fine? In fact, he was more than fine, for power was coursing through his entire body.

Taking a deep breath, he coldly asked, "You could've at least warned me about it. Now what? Would I be turning myself into a dark being now?"

"Haha... there he is!" Immortika chortled in approval, "Well since you've reached this point, there's no need to keep you in suspense anymore. You see, the Cursed Bone Marrow Amalgamation is about turning your bone marrow into cursed bone marrow, which will awaken your cursed immortal bloodline.

"The Heart and Blood are the foundation of any living being. Every being has a heart and blood in various forms. Snuff even one of them, and you'll be left with a corpse. This is also the foundation of the first phase.

"Once you have the cursed heart and the cursed immortal bloodline, this will mark the succession of the first phase completion of the Body Transformation, and it will also be the start of reconstructing your entire body from scratch, which requires both the heart and blood.

"You should be aware of the concept that to build something new, you must first discard the old one. I think this should be enough for you to understand what's going on, right?" Immortika wrote.

Realization dawned on Jacob at this moment, and he finally understood what the three stages of the body transformation phase meant. He calmed down and had no more misgivings.

But there was still something he was worried about as he asked, "You still didn't tell me; would I be like dark beings now? And what's the deal with the cursed blood depletion? Why isn't my heart making any more blood?!"

Chapter 656 Blood Vitality

"You still didn't tell me; would I be like dark beings now? And what's the deal with the cursed blood depletion? Why isn't my heart making any more blood?!"

In reply, Immortika wrote, "Hah, you still don't get it, do you? The Dark Beings are completely different from the living beings. They don't have a life force, and that's why they need to plunder it from living beings.

"But you are not a dark being; it's just that, in a sense, you are discarding your outer shell that is no longer required. You'll still be considered a living being but with a different appearance. This is the Body Transformation.

"Besides, didn't I say you'll reconstruct your body from scratch? Just think of it as living naked for a while until you get befitting clothing for yourself.

"As for why your cursed blood is completely depleted, it's even simpler. Since you are now aware of blood manipulation, you should know that the blood force and magic force in the blood contain many secrets about a species' legacy from the beginning.

"Although you are far from peering into these secrets, you should know that if blood force and magic force start to deplete, it will directly affect a living being's lifespan and magic talent. That's why we also call it Blood Vitality, and it is directly connected with the Soul Vitality that you are aware of!

"Blood and Soul Vitalities are two sides of the same coin. Use any one of them and the other will also be dragged along, and that's why together, they are known as Life Vitality.

"So, just like the Soul Vitality, the Blood Essence can't bleed out whenever someone is wounded; it will always stay in the body, for both Soul Vitality and Blood Vitality reside within the heart!

"Even when someone dies, their vitalities will return to nature. Only by using supernatural means can someone use soul and blood vitalities or even steal them from others; you should be aware of what I'm talking about.

"Now, on the main point: In your case, when you used the cursed blood to sculpt the Longevity Schema, you're actually using your blood vitality to change your bone marrow into the cursed bone marrow.

"That's why after you used all the blood vitality in your body, you completely depleted your cursed blood!" Immortika explained.

Jacob's eyes widened as he understood what was going on. One of the questions about the magic force and blood force was answered in a way that he couldn't find before. But this also made him worried.

He quickly asked, "Since blood vitality is the same as soul vitality, then didn't this mean I'm using my lifespan here?!"

"Hehehe, that's the thing. Actually, your cursed heart is not like others; it can allow you to use blood vitality and soul vitality separately. That's why you're still alive. Since you have depleted your blood vitality, your soul vitality has taken its place, and the same will happen if you deplete your soul vitality.

"However, if you were to use your soul vitality now, then your lifespan would start to decrease as well. That's why the cursed heart is the core of the Cursed Immortal Physique; without it, you won't be alive at this moment," Immortika revealed.

Realization dawned on Jacob at this moment. In these past two decades, he was able to comprehend just how important his cursed heart was, and he knew without it, even if he knew about the blood manipulation, he wouldn't be able to use it on the cursed blood.

Now, he learned another astonishing function of the cursed heart, and he mused that there were still many mysteries about it that he was unaware of.

Jacob was finally calm as he asked, "Then how should I replenish my blood vitality now?"

"Hahahaha... do I really need to break it to you? Just plunder it from others, and let your cursed heart absorb it!" Immortika laughed crazily as if something quite amusing was about to happen.

Jacob pulled a wry smile as he had guessed this much, "Just when I thought I could complete this stage without any bloodshed, you dragged me back into the battlefield."

"Hehehe, I'll take it as a compliment."

Jacob wasn't in the mood to entertain Immortika anymore, as he knew his days of peaceful seclusion had finally come to an end.

He knew just how powerful his blood vitality was, and he could easily guess that to replenish it completely, he'd need to kill thousands of unique-rank living beings—and this was just until he ran out of it again.

Even if he added all those experiment test subjects, he might only be able to replenish about 80% of his blood vitality. This is how powerful his cursed blood was, and this was just speculation since the number might increase.

The only good news was that his lifespan wasn't affected, and now that he knew about this function of the cursed heart, it might come in handy in the future.

After bitterly accepting his fate, he turns the page to see how much progress he made after sculpting his entire hand and forearm with longevity schema.

[Cursed Immortality: Cursed Immortal Physique (Nine Phases)]

[Current Phase: First Phase]

-First Phase: Body Transformation

-Stages of Body Transformation: Three

-First Stage: Cursed Heart Emergence (Complete)

-Second Stage: Cursed Blood Condensing (Complete)

-Third Stage: Cursed Bone Marrow Amalgamation (Incomplete)

-Inheritor: Jacob Steve

-Current Phase: First (Body Transformation)

-First Stage Progress: Complete

-Second Stage Progress: Complete

-Third Stage Progress: 5%

-Lifespan: 22,722 Years (All Youthful)

[First Phase of Body Transformation: Cursed Bone Marrow Amalgamation (Third Stage)]

-Cursed Bone Marrow Amalgamation: 05.01%

[Description: Amalgamate your Cursed Blood into Bones to change your Bone Marrow into Cursed Bone Marrow by Sculpting Longevity Schema on your Bones.]

[Longevity Schema: Picture]

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-Completion of this stage will result in 5000 Years of Lifespan & Genesis of Cursed Immortal Bloodline

Seeing his lifespan, Jacob felt rejuvenated again. This over 22 thousand-year lifespan was all thanks to Nyx, especially the last five thousand years that he received from Flame Calamity.

'I was keeping them for a rainy day, but I guess this situation is no different,' Jacob thought, and the next moment, he took two huge corpses from his pendant.

One was a giant wolf, and the other was a giant fox. They were beyond unique rank magic beasts that he got by fishing in troubling water. Their underlings were all completely used in his experiments, and he was saving them since it would be too much waste to use them in mere experiments when he could do without them.

But now, he knew he needed powerful blood vitality to replenish his own. The more powerful his victim, the more powerful their blood vitality, and the quicker he'd complete the longevity schema!

Jacob then placed his hands on both corpses as his eyes turned solemn, "Blood Suction!"

Chapter 657 Then there was Carnage! (1)

In front of Jacob, a huge glob of blood was swirling, and the corpses of the fox and the wolf were now like dry trees, completely unrecognizable. Blood suction was another ability he had created with blood manipulation.

Looking at the glob was blood swirling in the water, Jacob could feel the rich blood vitality within.

He mused, 'Although I never tried to absorb blood vitality before, since Immortika told me it's possible with the cursed heart, I shouldn't be any problem. The thing is, how should I inject it? Should I drink it directly or try absorbing it by using blood manipulation? Let's try using the blood manipulation since it would be more convenient if I succeeded.'

The next moment, Jacob manipulated the blood glob, and blood threads started to shoot out from it and drilled into his chest, directly towards the cursed heart.

Thereafter, Jacob suddenly felt his dormant cursed heart become active the moment the blood entered his body. The next moment, without doing anything, the cursed heart pulsed as the blood started to course through his heart.

The blood absorption speed also increased as the glob of blood started to shrink at a terrifying speed, and at this moment, Jacob finally felt the cursed heart release a drop of blood into his body.

But he was flabbergasted because around 3% of the blood glob was gone, and the cursed heart only created a single drop of cursed blood. As the glob vanished within a few seconds, Jacob's expression was dark because he only got around 90 drops of cursed blood before the cursed heart became static again.

'This was the blood of beyond unique magic beasts, yet I only got this much blood!! It's far from enough even to create a single runic line. I need at least five times greater than this amount. I really shot myself on foot this time around...' Jacob sighed ruefully as he finally understood just how difficult the Cursed Bone Marrow Amalgamation was going to be.

After lamenting at this fate, his eyes flashed with killing intent, 'I better get started then, and the ocean races just happen to be overly populated. They also didn't know about me, and neither would they think a land dweller would dare to start something like this. Furthermore, the more powerful species I hunt, the more powerful blood vitality I will get. I guess the same rules apply with the descendants of the legendary rank...'

Jacob then collected his arrays, and using the water lightning whale, he told Autarch to lead him towards a remote city in the sturgeon region.

With Autarch's knowledge, he quickly led him toward his destination, a small city with glowing buildings and a population of around 100,000.

"Go, and turn the most powerful people here into his puppets, and then we'll start the harvest!" Jacob coldly ordered while sitting on the water lightning whale as he coldly looked towards the peaceful city.

The next moment, from Jacob's chest, Autarch appeared and turned into a dark streak before vanishing in the center area of the city.

Jacob knew this was going to take a little while, so he again paid attention to his bone hand and forearm.

'Although this arm might turn into a skeleton, I can still feel everything perfectly. Not only that, but I can also tell this arm is far stronger than the rest of my body. Besides this transformation, these runic lines also made my body stronger. I wonder if the complete transformation will bring me to quasi-legend rank or even the fable legendary state...'
Jacob's lips rose slightly as he started to accept his new appearance.

After half an hour, Jacob suddenly noticed that armored sturgeon guards had suddenly appeared from the center of the city, followed by a sturgeon in black full-body armor with a 'Whale' symbol engraved on his armor.

The people of the city present were surprised when they saw the city guards, and even the lord of the city appeared like they were going to start a war, and they wondered if the city was going to be under attack.

"I'm ready!" Autarch's stoic voice rang in Jacob's head at this moment.

Jacob's eyes went cold as he ordered, "Start the killing; spare no one. I'll take care of anyone who escapes this place!"

The next moment, the city lord in full body armor issued a loud roar, and over 900 city guards suddenly rushed toward the innocent citizen with killing intent; the massacre began!

Jacob emotionlessly watched the scene of carnage as the city turned into a battlefield, and those who were being massacred had no idea what was happening. Some fought back, some wailed and questioned why the city guards and city lord were doing it, and some quickly tried to escape.

However, Autarch, with his puppet magic, had already turned the most powerful force in this city into his puppets, and escaping them was a pipe dream.

But there were still over 100,000 people present in the city, so there were bound to be some who escaped the encirclement, especially since the sturgeons were all born rare, and when they reached adulthood, they became epic. So, they know how to use magic.

However, those who were lucky enough to escape the city met with Jacob and died horribly.

The water started to turn crimson as the killing continued, and powerful magic ripples spread.

'Blood Suction!' Jacob didn't let the blood dilute, so he quickly used blood manipulation to separate the blood from the water and gathered it in front of him.

Jacob didn't know the full range of blood manipulation, but he knew that if there were blood, the blood manipulation would work on it.

Just as he used his ability, his cursed heart raced, and the blood in the water started to gather in front of him. This created a scene of horror as the blood from the city rose, gathering into a glob of blood. It was as if a crimson sun had descended!

Furthermore, Jacob noticed that as he used the blood manipulation, he could sense the blood in the living beings below him. This was like another ability that provided him with a sense that no one with even an ounce of blood could escape from.

As the city was being massacred by Autarch, Jacob was gathering blood, and after the blood glob became over five hundred meters large, Jacob started to absorb it.

But at this moment, Jacob suddenly discovered that now that he was using two blood manipulation abilities together, his hex mana suddenly activated. Not only that but when his hex mana appeared, his blood manipulation suddenly became stronger!

'T-this!' Jacob was shocked and slightly overwhelmed by this discovery and by all the blood being greedily absorbed by the cursed heart.

The blood suction became so strong that not just the blood in the water but also from the corpses began to be sucked in, turning those corpses into dry leaves. Those who were still alive to witness this scene were absolutely horrified, but they didn't get to live to tell the tale!

This was the beginning of a horrible nightmare, a legend of the deep ocean that will soon be known by the ocean races as the 'Blood Carnage Calamity'!

Chapter 658 Then there was Carnage! (2)

In the remote part of the sturgeon region, Madden and Adrien were floating in the water while looking at a glowing formation circle.

"Do you check all the formation points thoroughly?" Madden asked with a hint of exhaustion in his eyes, like he had done something extremely tiresome.

"Yes, master. I've checked them again and again according to the diagram given to us by the palace," Adrien replied, looking even more exhausted than Madden.

Madden nodded and sighed, "I still don't understand the point of arranging this strange formation in the middle of nowhere. Just who provided these coordinates and these strange formation nexuses?"

"I'm just as curious as you, Master, but one thing is clear: there is something going on, and I don't like it for some reason." Adrien frowningly replied.

"Well, whatever, it had nothing to do with us." Madden coolly stated, but a hint of uncertainty was present in his sharp eyes, "Let me report this to the palace before we leave this place for good."

The next moment, a display appeared above Madden's wrist, and soon, it was connected, and another whale race person appeared on the projection.

"Commander, we've arranged the formation according to the instructions given by the imperial palace. Do we have permission to return?" He solemnly asked.

The commander's expression was solemn as he asked, "Do you arrange the protection measures as well?"

"Yes, there'll be no error," Madden replied without hesitation.

"Good work, you have permission to return!" The commander nodded in acknowledgment and cut off the call.

Madden sighed in relief as he said to Adrien, "Since this is done, let's go back to the Sturgeon Baron Castle for rest. We'll also see what he's been up to in this past week."

Adrien's eyes flashed with a hint of coldness, "Are we taking action?"

Madden chuckled coldly, "It depends on Gerald."

The next moment, Madden suddenly released a strange echo, and thereupon, a huge whale appeared like a lightning flash in front of them. They embarked on the whale and led it towards the baron castle in the center of the sturgeon region.

Both Madden and Adrien were looking forward to solving the mystery of the sturgeon region. However, when they reached the city, they were both horrified by what they witnessed.

The once bustling city filled with life was now completely barren, and dry mutilated corpses of orange sturgeons were floating all over the city. It was a scene of carnage as the radiant city a week ago now had turned into a ghost city!

"I'm not hallucinating, right?" Adrien palely asked with disbelief.

Madden's expression was also pale and gloomy as he nodded, "No, you're seeing right. Someone has massacred the entire city! Just who is so bold?!" Anger seethed under Madden's cold voice.

"This is no longer a small matter, master. We should report it to the higher-ups. Someone is stirring trouble in the empire, completely disregarding the Whale Race authority!" Adrien angrily stated.

Although the orange sturgeon race didn't belong to the whale race and was just one of the many subordinate races the Whale Race had subdued in the past, they were still the natives of the Mighty Whale Empire nonetheless.

If other races heard about this, the Whale Race would lose their credibility as the rulers and the Imperial Clan would never allow such a thing.

"I'm afraid I can't allow you to do it. I need a little more time." At this moment, an icy voice suddenly rang in their ears.

Both Adrien and Madden were spooked, but before they could react, their consciousness suddenly started to fade away.

At this moment, Jacob's giant figure appeared like a phantom on top of the gigantic whale as he coldly looked at Adrien and Madden, who were also towering giants. It was his first time seeing the members of the Whale Race.

"This should be the Thunder Whale, an evolved version of the water lightning whale that only the imperial city can breed. Autarch, turn it into a puppet. This will be our ride from now on," Jacob coolly ordered.

'If I hadn't needed high-ranking blood, I wouldn't have taken such a risk. But now I have to do everything to collect more blood, and I have to make sure the Whale Race won't get involved too soon.' Jacob ruefully sighed as he looked at the ghost city.

In these past six days, Jacob had almost massacred all the sturgeon region, including their central city. The corpses could pile up into a mountain, and the amount of blood he had absorbed could form a lake.

However, despite all of this, he was only able to recover slightly over 60% of his cursed blood, which frustrated and shocked Jacob. But he found that there was a reason for

this: after he completed 5% of the longevity schema, he became more powerful, and so did his blood!

This means that the higher he climbed, the more blood vitality he required to go further. At this point, the blood vitality of epic rank was a mere drop in the ocean because only after absorbing around 5000 epic rank blood together could he form a single drop of cursed blood, while he required around 1000 unique ranks to form a drop of cursed blood.

This was turning out to be a huge hurdle in Jacob's path, and he knew all the bloodshed he had done in the past would be nothing compared to what he needed to do now.

That's why he didn't dare to sculpt the longevity schema anymore until he fully recovered his cursed blood. Furthermore, he noticed that as his blood was recovering, the runic lines on his boon hand were starting to glow as if they were being filled with vigorous energy, which was cursed blood!

This confirmed that those runic lines were his new nerves that would contain his blood in the future, and they were extraordinary. He also learned that his cursed blood could be amplified with his hex mana at least ten times!

Not only that, he required energy to use his cursed heart with fluid acceleration; he discovered that he could do the same thing by changing the energy with hex magic.

But Jacob didn't want to do that since replenishing the hex mana was quite expensive. He could use magic gems, meat, or herbs to replenish his energy.

After lamenting a bit, he finally focused on the two whales, and his eyes became determined again. 'Let's see how much blood vitality the Whale Race has, Blood Suction!'

Chapter 659 Great Augury Formation

In another part of the Star Ocean, there was a temple crafted with beautiful white marble and imbued with glowing pearls, creating a breathtaking scene.

Within this palace, four people gathered in a mystical hall as they floated in front of a giant veil of glowing white membrane, and a silhouette could be seen behind it.

One of these four people belonged to the Whale Race, but his skin was completely crimson with black glowing runic lines around his neck, and he was adorned in white robes. He was the Crown Prince of the Mighty Whale Empire, Eliezer Kai Balaen.

"The Detection Formation has been completed in the Mighty Whale Empire," Eliezer said emotionlessly.

"Took you guys long enough!" A cold-voiced woman with an imposing figure with her lean, 9-meter frame that could slice effortlessly through the water spoke.

Alora belonged to another dominant race of the ocean races, like the whales, the Shark Race of Battle Shark Empire, a race as captivating as they were intimidating.

Furthermore, Alora wasn't just anyone; she was the first princess of the Battle Shark Empire, an empire that was filled with battle maniacs and bloodthirsty predators.

Her cool, blue skin shimmered faintly within the water, its rough texture whispering of hidden dermal denticles. Small slits on her neck flared rhythmically, gills extracting oxygen from the water.

Her face, both elegant and predatory, was dominated by large, black eyes. A faint purple membrane flickered over them occasionally, and a second eyelid granted her superior vision underwater.

A prominent ridge ran along her jaw, a silent promise of the rows of sharp teeth hidden within. Her expression was unreadable, her mouth a thin line beneath a sharp, streamlined nose positioned high.

Powerful arms webbed between four-fingered hands that could propel her with smooth, silent strokes. Her lower body wasn't human at all, but a powerful, horizontally flattened tail fin that could propel her with effortless grace. The Battle Shark Race were creatures of both mesmerizing beauty and raw power.

Eliezer's eyes went cold as he looked at Alora and retorted, "Do you have a problem with it?"

Alora's lips suddenly twisted into a bloodthirsty smile, revealing razor-sharp teeth. "What if I have?" she replied with full provocation.

Everyone within the ocean races knows about the relationship between the Mighty Whale Empire and Battle Shark Empire; they were both the dominating powers in the northern and western stars of the ocean.

Furthermore, the Whale Race was known as the strongest ocean race, and they proved it by defeating even the shark race. The Shark Race has an irreconcilable grudge against them, and they just refuse to admit it.

Since their borders are side by side, they always have issues, and battles occur almost every day among these two races. Despite the Shark Race losing to the Whale Race in the past, they were not to be trifled with.

The Whale Race also didn't feel confident enough to annihilate them, and neither did the Shark Race feel confident enough to go on a full-scale war, which would leave both races gravely wounded, allowing the others to take advantage of the situation.

So, both empires proved their might with their battles at the border, and if they met each other, there were always in conflicts. However, even their meetings were extremely rare, and one might not happen in centuries unless they were on the battlefield.

"Now, now, Your Highnesses, we are not here to fight but stand alongside." A hulking figure amiably stated.

This was Ulises, a member of the Karapax Tortoise Race, a race as resilient as they were enigmatic, and he was also the crown prince of the Karapax Empire. His most striking feature was the massive carapace – a fortress of bone and leathery skin – that encased his broad back and shoulders. The surface, a deep, earthy brown, was etched with intricate shimmering lines.

His head emerged from the shell, protected by a layer of thick skin that connected seamlessly to the carapace. A powerful, beaked mouth, perfect for crushing crustaceans, dominated his face. Large, wise eyes, positioned towards Alora and Eliezer, scanned them with an air of quiet observation.

His short, powerful legs could propel him forward with a measured gait that belied surprising agility. His hands, tipped with sharp claws, grasped a weathered staff.

The Karapax Tortoise Race was of stoic strength, a living testament to endurance and the wisdom carved by time. They had the strongest defense in the entire star ocean, and despite that, they didn't have many enemies. They were known for their wisdom and amiable characteristics.

"You should all keep your silence; you can't afford to break Her Holiness's focus." A melody-like voice drifted in their ears at this moment. A siren voice could tug at anyone's heartstrings.

This was Nataly, a breathtaking beauty of the Mermaid Siren Race and the Holy Maiden of the Siren Hymn Temple.

Her long, emerald hair cascaded down her back like a waterfall, catching the light and shimmering with the iridescence of the ocean itself. Her face was flawless and captivating, and her eyes mirrored the endless blue of the ocean, capable of switching from innocent to alluring in a heartbeat.

But Nataly's beauty wasn't confined to her upper body. From the waist down, her form flowed seamlessly into a powerful tail, its scales a mesmerizing mosaic of blues and green that shimmered like polished jewels. The scales seemed to shift and change with every flick of her tail, mimicking the ever-changing colors of the ocean depths.

Around her wrists and ankles, she wore intricate jewelry fashioned from pearly white seashells and vibrant coral. Despite her ethereal beauty, there was an undeniable danger lurking beneath the surface. The melodious voice that flowed from her lips was hauntingly sweet and impossibly alluring.

Nataly, the mermaid siren, was a living embodiment of the ocean's seductive power. She was a beautiful yet deadly predator that even Whales and Sharks were wary of.

The Siren Hymn Temple was not an empire, and they didn't have any subordinate races under them as all their people belonged to the Siren Race. But despite their small numbers, the three empires treated them extremely carefully because the Siren Hymn Temple was under the protection of the Ocean Oracle!

However, only these top figures of the empires knew about the Ocean Oracle, while for others, it was just a myth. Yet the Siren Race could hold their status equal to the three empires because they were deadly on their own because of their illusionary magic and deadly occultic abilities.

Moreover, the Ocean Oracle can only appear among the Mermaid Siren Race. The Ocean Oracle was simply too important to all the ocean races because, without one, they would not be able to keep the land dwellers outside and control the ocean. It was an old prophecy that every ocean race believed in.

Just as Nataly spoke, everyone shut down while Alora and Eliezer glared at each other.

At this moment, another melodious voice filled with arcane wisdom rang from behind the glowing white membrane: "There's no need to restrain yourselves for my sake, everyone. Thank you for coping with this old woman's requests."

Ulisés and others bowed slightly as their expression turned solemn, and they no longer dared to utter anything.

The voice continued, "As you all are aware, some land dwellers are infiltrating the deep ocean in search of me so they can find the location of the Legendary Key!

"But I chose to side with my own kin and alert the three empires of the deep ocean, and you all didn't let me down. Now that the Great Augury Formation has been completed, I can finally locate the Legendary Key for our ocean races!

"However, I hope that even after we find the location, we can all work together against the land dweller the same way you were all doing in this past decade to set up this formation." Her voice was benign, like a saint, and filled with a strange, soothing charm.

"Don't worry your holiness, the Karapax Empire will follow your dictum!"

"The Might Whale Empire agreed with your beliefs!"

"The Battle Shark Empire will be your vanguard!"

All the representatives of the three empires stated solemnly, but they couldn't hide their greed hidden deep in their ambitious eyes when they thought about how they were going to get the Legendary Key.

The Ocean Oracle replied in a benign tone, "Then I can rest easy. I'll start the Great Augury Formation now. As long as the Legendary Key exists within the Unique Plains, it'll belong to our Ocean Races!"

Chapter 660 Brush With Death

Behind the glowing membrane sat an extremely charming woman who resembled Nataly because she was also a Mermaid Siren, but she looked more mature. Her hair was pure white, and her eyes were listless, without any irises or pupils, emitting arcane sheen. She was the most sacred being among the ocean races, the Ocean Oracle, Mercy!

"Then I can rest easy. I'll start the Great Augury Formation now. As long as the Legendary Key exists within the Unique Plains, it'll belong to our Ocean Races!"

Mercy smilingly stated, and just as her voice trailed off, she flapped her beautiful tale and swum into the depth of the huge hall, which was only accessible to the Ocean Oracle.

In this grand hall lit up with glowing pearls, there was a black obsidian mirror on the floor with a round antique golden frame. At the end of this hall was a high platform where stood a colossal statue of a breathtaking woman bathed in shafts of lights filtering through the water.

It was carved from a single block of translucent crystal; the light danced through her form, casting shimmering rainbows across the hall.

Her upper body, a vision of feminine grace, was sculpted with flowing curves. The crystal captured the delicate details of her face – the gentle rise of her brow, the full curve of her lips, and eyes that seemed to hold the wisdom of the ages. Tendrils of her hair, also carved from the crystal, flowed down her back, rippling outwards as if caught in a gentle current.

From the waist down, the statue transitioned seamlessly into a powerful fishtail. The scales on her tail were meticulously detailed, each one catching the light and refracting it into a kaleidoscope of colors.

The overall impression was one of awe-inspiring beauty and ethereal presence. The statue seemed to glow from within, a beacon of serenity amidst the vibrant life of the coral reef. As light shifted and danced around her, the statue appeared to come alive, a testament to the artistry of the sculptor and the magic imbued within the crystal itself.

Mercy stopped in front of the statue and prostrated herself before it, her white hair and arcane eyes contrasting her otherwise youthful beauty, "O' Mermaid Goddess," she implored, "Reveal the location of the Legendary Key!"

The next moment, Mercy's entire body suddenly glowed in an ethereal golden white light, and the moment this white light appeared, the statue of the Mermaid Goddess that was the faith of the Siren Hymn Temple seemed to pulse, resonating with the ethereal light from Mercy.

"600 Years of Lifespan!" At this moment, an indistinctive voice rang in Mercy's head. She was very familiar with it because it only appeared whenever she tried to seek a miracle and probe the mysteries of space and time.

After all, everything has a price, and the ability to peer into the mysterious hidden within time and space was taboo among taboos, so Mercy had to pay with her own lifespan. The more profound the knowledge she sought, the greater the price she had to pay.

Furthermore, the Mermaid Goddess statue in front of her was a legacy treasure of the Siren Hymn Temple, a Quasi Legend Rank one at that. This treasure serves as a medium that greatly reduces the backlash any oracle would receive after performing a miracle.

Or if an oracle performed a miracle without this medium, even after she paid the price with her lifespan, she would also suffer a deep scar on her psyche and would lose her mind.

However, in the long history of the Siren Hymn Temple, the Oracles have found a loophole to avoid the backlash of the lifespan as well, and that's how they were able to live their full life.

Mercy, at this moment, tapped on the floor in a peculiar rhythm while she stayed in her position. The next moment, right in front of Mercy, the stone floor suddenly slid open, revealing a rising platform with a sleeping young siren on it, but she was the mermaid siren; instead, she belonged to another branch of the siren race.

When the sleeping siren appeared, Mercy placed her hands on it and chanted a spell. Suddenly, an array circle appeared around them, shimmering with a dark, ghostly light.

At this moment, the white light suddenly shifted onto the body of the young siren from Mercy. Mercy didn't waste even a second before she stated, "I agree!"

The next moment, the white light on the young siren suddenly shimmered brightly, and an ethereal emerald fog suddenly began to rise from the young siren and start to flow into the statue.

As the ethereal fog entered the statue, the young siren started to grow older, and faint wrinkles began to appear around her youthful appearance.

Once the fog vanished, the statue's eyes suddenly lit up in golden white light, and a translucent white orb started to condense above the sleeping siren.

Thereupon, the light from the statue's eyes finally vanished, and the orb was also completed as it hovered above the sleeping siren like a star. The orb was only a pinky size and was shifting between colors,

Mercy completely ignored the siren, who had now become a middle-aged woman and quickly started to perform peculiar hand signs while muttering a spell at lightning speed.

"Great Augury Formation: Active!"

Thus, the black mirror on the floor suddenly started to stir, and glowing light dots began to appear like stars on its obsidian surface as if it were a map of the starry sky.

Mercy then grabbed the small orb and threw it into the black mirror. The next moment, the entire black mirror suddenly started to shake as those light dots started to glow brilliantly, one after another.

Mercy's eyes shimmered with ecstasy and anticipation as an icy smile grew on her beautiful face, 'With this formation, wherever the legendary key is, it'll be permanently locked in this Augury Formation Mirror, and then no matter where it hides, or the owner of it escapes, they will never be able to escape my tracking. I've spent 100 Milligrams of Timeless Sand to buy this formation blueprint and materials; it was all worth it. Now, the legendary key belonged to m...'

However, her thoughts were suddenly disrupted when she noticed a never-before-seen anomaly; the black mirror, made with Quasi Legend Rank materials, suddenly cracked from the middle, and like a spire web, that crack spread through the entire mirror.

"I-impossible..." Mercy exclaimed with widened eyes.

However, this wasn't the end of it as 'crack...' she heard an extremely sharp voice like a glass suddenly being cracked from behind. When she turned her head, her body trembled with disbelief because the goddess statue was also cracking, and the siren who had paid the price for this miracle now suddenly started withering until she turned into a dry corpse before she turned into dust!

"Booommm!"

Both the mirror and the goddess statue shattered with an earsplitting explosion almost at the same time, releasing a powerful magic ripple that sent gobsmacked Mercy flying behind like a rag doll.

Mercy wouldn't have imagined that the legendary key was in a place that couldn't be divined or revealed by anything or anyone, no matter what!

She was extremely lucky to have performed that oracle by paying with someone else's lifespan and using a medium to activate that mysterious orb; otherwise, she would've been the dust in that siren's place or met with the same fate as the statue and the mirror!