

Cursed Immortality #Chapter 671 Nine Anonymous Stars' Mission - Read Cursed Immortality Chapter 671

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The Siren Hymn Temple was the territory of the Siren Race. Unlike the Empires, they didn't have cities or nobles titles; instead, they all worshiped the Mermaid Goddess. They divided their territory into regions, and Priest Lords were anointed to govern those regions.

Priests govern smaller regions and are responsible for both religious and secular matters. Some may owe allegiance to a central High Priest, and some may operate with more autonomy.

This local control allows for a better understanding of regional needs. However, there is potential for conflicting interpretations of doctrine and power struggles between Priest-Lords.

Above all, the Priest Lords were the central temple in the heart of the territory, and no one dared to go against the central temple teachings or its doctrines. The Sirens were rather peaceful; no one dared to mess with them because they were under the protection of the three empires. They were also very proficient in illusion and mind-controlling magic.

Not to mention, all the members of the temple have a strange power granted to them by the goddess herself; they call it the power of faith. But there was not much information about it because this power was simply mysterious, and the temple members never revealed anything about it.

But for some years, a strange undercurrent went through the Siren Hymn Temple's territory. The peaceful situation of the regions slowly became chaotic as those Priest Lords secretly fought with each other for power.

However, the central temple never paid them any heed as long as they didn't go overboard. As time passed, the common folks started to notice that the Priest Lords were recruiting talented men into their personal armies. No one knows the reason, but it was quite strange since nothing like this had ever happened before.

In one of the eighteen large regions of the Siren Hymn Temple, the Holy Mar Region, in the outskirts of the region, was the area for non-members.

In this place within a house, two cloaked figures wearing some kind of oxygen mask were secretly meeting with each other. They didn't dare be careless because they knew if their identities were exposed, they might escape here with their lives intact.

"Why did you suddenly call me here? Don't you know we are so close to achieving our goal?" One of them, with a small build, asked in a stern tone. He wasn't happy about this meeting at all because it was simply too risky.

"I know it was abrupt, but it can't wait because I was specifically ordered to relay this information to you in person and everyone else, as a matter of fact." The other one, with a tall and slender build, replied in frustration.

"Alright, let's hear it." The small one became solemn when he heard that this order came from higher up, and there was only one higher up above them, so he knew just how important this had to be.

"The Star Lord asks us to leave the deep ocean and return!" The tall one replied in an iffy tone.

"What?!" The small one exclaimed, "Then what about all of our preparation we've been doing for over two decades!? Wasn't he the one who said we must abduct the damn Oracle after she refused to comply with our request? And now he wants us to leave everything behind and retune? Does he think this is some kind of game?"

He was absolutely indignant at this moment; the frustration and anger he was feeling were things he only knew. After all, they were living under this horrendous pressure they hadn't been used to for over decades, and if it wasn't enough, they couldn't even breathe or eat here without this unique oxygen mask.

Now, all of a sudden, the same person who had forced them to do all this again ordered them to leave everything behind and return. How could they not have felt indignant and furious?

Some might have accepted it without making any fuss, but this guy was already fed up with all this, so he naturally didn't care about giving the Star Lord any face anymore.

"Anonymous3, I know this news is very hard to swallow, but look at this from another angle. We don't need to take the risk of going against those fanatics anymore.

"After all, we all know just how strange their power of faith is, and that's why we sow discord among the Priest Lords all these years so they can rebel against the central temple.

"But let's be real. Despite over two decades of careful planning and efforts, none of us were able to infiltrate the central temple, much less get any information about it. That place was too strange; no scanner or spy equipment worked there.

"The most cumbersome are those bitches hidden within the central temple; just one of them is enough to cause massive upheaval in any of the empires, and there are supposed to be thousands of them.

"If we continued with this plan, we would only have a 45% chance of succeeding, and they might drop even further since we don't know what abilities the Ocean Oracle and her successor have. If you asked me, the most powerful organization in the entire deep ocean is the Siren Hymn Temple.

"It's just that they are playing wolf in sheep's clothing. So, now that we have a chance to get out here in this damn forsaken palace and finally breathe the fresh air and bask in the real sun let's just leave here quickly.

"As for the legendary key, at least we know it's not here. And the Star Lord didn't just call us back because he gave up..." The tall one or one of the nine anonymous stars, the Anonymous Star No.1, mysteriously stated.

Anonymous Star NO.3 was greatly calmed down after Anonymous Star No.1's passionate yet calculative speech. He almost lost his reason in anger and couldn't help but sigh in relief.

"Thank you for opening my eyes, Anonymous1. You are right; since we got this chance to leave this damn hell, we better take it. And what's the Star Lord up to now? He wouldn't have given up on the Ocean Oracle if he hadn't had another method more viable than this?" Anonymous Star No.3 questioned sternly, as he didn't like this at all.

"Although he didn't tell me what he's been up to, from his tone, I can deduce that he seemed very confident and even elated for someone who had just given up on the Ocean Oracle after spending so many resources.

"He just told me to leave everything and returned with everything as quickly as possible. Something huge is about to happen on the surface, so we should be ready." Anonymous Star No.1 said with an iffy look.

"Well, what can we do? Boss orders, right?" Anonymous Star No.3 chuckled bitterly before his eyes suddenly turned sharp, "But are we really going to leave just like that?"

Anonymous Star No.1 suddenly pulled a cruel smile as he meaningfully stated, "We are indeed ordered to leave, but we were not told to leave without any 'bang'. Do you feel me?"

Anonymous Star No.3 was startled for a moment before he burst into sadistic laughter, "Hahaha... then let's leave with a freaking bang; I have enough of these fanatic fish idiots!"

Chapter 672 Holy Polaris Region (1)

After Jacob was done 'harvesting,' he secluded himself and completed his other foot with the longevity schema, which took a few hours. Once he felt the surge in his power, he mulled over his new destination.

Although he thought the Mighty Whale Empire would steer him toward the Battle Shark Empire, that didn't happen, and they surprisingly wanted him to wreak havoc in the Siren Hymn Temple's territory.

'Even though it's strange, it wasn't like I didn't have information about the siren race thanks to good old dead Masha. The siren race has weak physical bodies because they are spirit-type races; the only variable is the faith power they use.

'Masha even knew a secret passage to bypass the protection of the large regions. I never thought this knowledge would come in handy. So, I guess I'm going to the Siren Hymn Temple. Let's see what kind of bloodline they have!'

After deciding, he didn't hesitate to embark on the thunder whale and headed toward the east of the Mighty Whale Empire. He could've hunted more whales, but this might expose his immunity to the oath contract, so he didn't think it was worth it.

Moreover, not long ago, he also noticed that the blood of the whales or any species he hunted before was becoming less potent. So, he was already planning to leave for a new hunting ground. But because of the empire's insecurity against him, they gave him a free parting gift.

The Siren Hymn Temple was hundreds of miles away from the Mighty Whale Empire, but with the thunder whale, in a few hours, Jacob was already approaching the outskirts of the temple territory.

Jacob slowed down his speed and decided to leave the Thunder Whale there because it was simply too large. If he went any further, it would be announcing his own arrival. So, he decided to go himself. Now that his power had increased, the deep ocean pressure had very minimal effect on him. Obviously, some part of it was thanks to the Art of Nature.

The territory of the Siren Hymn Temple was filled with exotic buildings, and the beautiful sirens could be seen swimming everywhere. Furthermore, Jacob noticed that, unlike the Mighty Whale Empire's territory, the sirens didn't have other races among them.

Most of them were beautiful women, and the male sirens had a very small population. The Siren Race was a matriarchy race; there were always more women than men, and their birth rates were similar.

Furthermore, male sirens couldn't use faith power and were considered weak among their race. They were only considered good for breeding, and the more powerful the male, the higher his value.

Some sirens even bought males from other races just to get pregnant and then killed them once they served their purpose.

There was even a custom of killing the weak and old siren males if they had no value in society, and this 'killing act' was called a sacrifice for the Mermaid Goddess. That's why this race was both gentle and ruthless and had its own dark side.

Jacob didn't bluntly enter the small region since he would stick out like a sore thumb here, and despite having information from Masha, he didn't know the terrain of the entire territory.

There were many small regions under the eighteen large regions, and if someone caused any trouble in the small regions, the large regions would send investigation teams filled with battle priests who could use faith power.

Even if he wasn't afraid of the large regions, killing those sirens in the small regions wasn't worth drawing the temple's attention yet because they were mostly extraordinary and epic-rank sirens here.

So, Jacob had Autarch scout and learn about the Siren Hymn Temple terrains and where how many high-ranking sirens were in the large regions, and for Autarch, this wasn't difficult at all.

After all, Autarch could turn a thousand unique-rank beings into its magic puppet, and this number only grows ten times if the target ranks lower than the unique rank. For example, the magic puppets' limit would increase to 10,000 epic rank, 100,000 extraordinary rank, and so on.

So, very soon, a small portion of this small region was under Autarch's control, and Jacob could now easily enter it without alerting anyone.

But his target was not this small region, so using Autarch's abilities, he paved his way towards the large region with a secret passage known to Masha. This large region was called the Holy Polaris Region, which had over three hundred small regions like this under its government.

Masha came from the Holy Polaris Region and even belonged to the High Priest Lord family there, so she knew about many secrets of this region. After Autarch led the way, it took him a few hours to reach the territory of the Holy Polaris Region.

Autarch then used Masha's memories to find this secret passage quickly. After all, even if Jacob knew about the location, the terrains of the deep ocean were almost the same, so only someone familiar with them could truly travel here.

Soon, Jacob found himself in front of a building that appeared just like the others in this row. But it was empty and locked with a magic rune. Only someone with the

corresponding rune allocated by the region hall could unlock its door, or the region hall would be instantly alert if someone tried to break in, and Jacob just happened to have one.

It was a small black bead with a single rune engraved on it. When Jacob placed this bead into a small grove over the building, the door instantly unlocked, and he entered inside.

"There should be an underground tunnel in the basement hidden by a concealment array. If sir uses the runic key in Masha's belongings, the concealment array will be removed, and the secret door will be opened. Without that runic key, the entire passage would be destroyed.

"There should also be a hidden lab in this passage where she used to conduct her experiment when she was hiding from the temple authorities," Autarch revealed emotionlessly.

"Heh, what a crazy bitch. Even after she was exposed, she still didn't escape until she was content with her research." Jacob scoffed as he no longer thought about Masha, for she had long been digested by Autarch and headed towards the secret passage.

While Jacob was making his way towards the Holy Polaris Region, somewhere in this region, a man in a black cloak wearing an oxygen mask was talking with someone on star watch.

After he was done, a runic plate appeared in his hand, shimmering with dark runes, and he scoffed murderously before pouring his mana into the runic plate, "So long, you damn fishes, I had enough of you all!"

The secret tunnel was extremely long, not to mention it was only ten-meter-long in diameter, which was quite stiff for Jacob's size, but since it was underwater, he could easily swim through it.

When he reached the end of the tunnel, it opened up in another building within the Holy Polaris Region.

But Jacob exited the tunnel when he heard a static voice, "So long, you damn fishes, I had enough of you all!"

He saw a cloaked figure no far away holding a shimmering runic plate in his hand. The other party also noticed the faint ripples in the water behind him, and he quickly turned around!

Both Jacob and the cloaked figure were astounded and bewildered when they saw each other, especially Jacob, who noticed the oxygen mask probing out from the cloaked figure's head.

'He's from the surface!' Jacob instantly thought and quickly reacted by activating the slumber hex.

"Who the hell are you, and how did you know about this passage?!" The cloaked figure questioned, hiding the amiss feeling in his heart, and magic waves began to ripple around him.

'A three steps of legend expert!' Jacob mused as his eyes narrowed because his hex failed, which could only mean that this person ranked somewhere in the three steps of legend.

Jacob was even more surprised now because if this man was really from the surface and because of rank, it was extremely strange. After all, he knew how rare the three steps of legend experts were on the surface, and they all belonged to three absolute factions or equally strong organizations.

Furthermore, from the little bit of mumbling he heard, he could tell he was about to do something when Jacob suddenly appeared. Most importantly, he also wanted to know how this man discovered this hidden tunnel.

"You're far away from home, aren't you?" Jacob coldly stated while he secretly signaled Autarch to move.

The cloaked figure was slightly surprised, but when he thought about the mask he was wearing, he didn't find it strange for this 'ocean dweller' to know about his roots. After all, these masks were rare but not so rare that only his organization was able to get them.

But he still found it strange for an ocean dweller to know about these masks since only the high-ranking members of the three empires and the temple should have any information about them.

He also thought that Jacob belonged to one of these powers, and since he was also coming out of this secret tunnel, this made him even more vigilant about his identity.

After all, he only found this location through one of his secret slaves after spending decades in the Holy Polaris Region, and that slave even assured him that this tunnel was only known to three people, and two of them were no longer in the Holy Polaris Region for hundreds of years.

Furthermore, Jacob's giant anatomy clearly didn't match any species residing in the Siren Hymn Temple. Not to mention, Jacob has legs, while the only giant species that could match his height, the Whale Race, didn't have legs while they were in the water.

Only when they went to surface lands will they transform their fishtails into legs. This was also the case for the Siren Race and some other high-level species.

Within the water, the fishtail gave them more agility and speed, and it was more versatile than the humanoid legs. That's why Jacob was even more suspicious. Since he was completely fine and could speak without choking on water, he still thought that Jacob was from the deep ocean and belonged to some unknown race.

Nevertheless, since Jacob had seen him and he was standing in front of his escape route, he must die!

"I should be asking you that. How do you know about this tunnel, and why are you here? Do you want to harm the Siren Hymn Temple?" He coldly questions while he secretly gathers magic power in his left hand; the runic plate has already vanished into his space ring.

He knew that if he activated the runic plate now, he would be caught in the destruction. That's why he closed his escape route, which was now blocked by Jacob.

Furthermore, he knew before getting rid of Jacob that it could be cumbersome to escape because he still didn't know his abilities. Since he was standing so calmly despite releasing his pressure of Perfect Stage Beyond Unique Rank, it was clear that Jacob was at least in the same rank as him. He couldn't fight someone of the same rank in that stiff tunnel; it was simply too dangerous for him because he wasn't an ocean race member.

"Sir, he's wearing armor around his head, so I can't affect him with magic, nor I can't break into his head. We need to create an opening in this armor." Autarch's voice rang in Jacob's head at this moment.

Jacob frowned, as this situation was a first for him, but he didn't show his frustration since he could already 'see' this guy gathering power around his hand. He was also distracting him until he was done gathering enough magic power to cast a spell.

He wouldn't give him a chance, though. After all, he knew all the corporeal magic, like earth, fire, and wind, other than water, was extremely weak in this pressure, and only the eternal magic, like lightning, light, dark, and such, was not affected much.

The casting time was also affected for someone who lived on the land, and that was the main reason the land dwellers never tried to infiltrate the deep ocean. They were too weak against the natives.

Swords appeared in Jacob's hands as he sprang into action. Using the water mana to increase his speed, he directly slashed toward the cloaked figure, who was also about to cast a spell.

He was shocked when Jacob suddenly attacked. His speed was just like the ocean race's, so he was even more sure that Jacob belonged to the ocean race.

But he quickly composed himself and uttered, "Sound Displacement!"

Powerful ripples spread around the water, and when they hit Jacob, he suddenly felt intense pain in his ears and mind.

'Sound magic!'

Jacob's expression fell since it was his first time experiencing sound magic, which was quite rare. This magic has nothing to do with water pressure, for it can directly affect someone's mind!

Chapter 674 Fighting a Beyond Unique Ranker

Jacob's attack was suddenly disrupted by powerful soul waves, and his visions were even blank for a moment. When he recovered, the person in front of him was already gone, and Jacob suddenly felt danger from above him.

At this moment, something sharp suddenly penetrated his left chest, and then powerful shockwaves were released from his body, threatening to burst his body!

Jacob didn't remember how long it had been since he was wounded like this?!

He quickly focused his fire aura on suppressing the shockwaves and maneuvered around to get rid of this weapon in his body. He just gets rid of it when another soul magic spell rattles his mind.

'Even under this pressure, this guy is so strong! I shouldn't have underestimated a three steps of legend expert!' Jacob thought as a sense of alarm buzzed all over his body, and he knew another attack was coming.

"Autarch, I'm about to release the puppets we saved up. Distract him!" Jacob quickly ordered before three whale race puppets appeared from his pendant.

"What!?" The other guy was shocked as he was about to thrust his spear when those five giant whale race members appeared out of nowhere and released powerful magic attacks!

The surrounding water began to compress, making the surrounding pressure even worse. At this moment, Jacob was finally able to land on his feet, and his mind recovered. The runic lines around his arms and feet suddenly shimmered in a crimson hue, and the hole in his chest began to recover.

Jacob noticed that the amount of cursed blood stored in his body was quickly depleting, making him emit killing intent as only he knew just how hard it was to collect this blood. He didn't seem surprised by the healing effect, though, since he had long discovered this property of the cursed blood.

"Sound Tremor!" At this moment, the other guy activated another spell when he noticed Jacob recovering and those whales gathering blue magic power around his fist.

Jacob, this time, didn't dare to take this spell head-on, and he decided to use the soul force to cover his ears. Although he didn't know if this would work or not, for some reason, he tried and then quickly swam in another direction to escape from this spell range.

Although those whale puppets were at the peak of the unique rank, they were still nowhere near the level of a beyond-unique rank expert. The moment the Soul Tremor landed on their bodies, they were ripped into shreds.

However, Jacob almost dodged this spell, and because of his soul force, the soul waves didn't affect him at all. His eyes shimmered with faint blue light as he looked towards the cloaked man and noticed the boots he was wearing; they were clearly some treasure to move around the water effectively.

The space they were fighting in was only 50X50 in size, and Jacob had a clear advantage when it came to reaching his 3.3-meter-tall enemy. Since he discovered that his soul force was able to tackle the sound magic, he has no more misgivings.

He again charged towards the cloaked man, his swords shimmering in blue light, and the surrounding water started to revolve.

"Hmph, I don't know what kind of tricks you are using, but it's all futile, Soul Shift!" He coldly scoffed.

He still thought Jacob hadn't learned his lesson and wanted to charge right at him. He launched another spell, and he prepared his spear to attack him again. This time, he even stuck some kind of talisman on the spear shaft, making the spear shimmer in a menacing purple lightning.

He wanted to finish Jacob off because he was getting a bad feeling about him because of the puppets he had just used.

However, this time, something unexpected happened. The Sound Shift, a magic spell that could directly disrupt someone's movements by affecting their sense of direction and even create an illusion, didn't work on Jacob at all.

In a sense, sound magic falls into the category of spiritual magic, and since Jacob has already awakened the soul force, which was the most powerful force of spiritual magic, it will not affect him unless he can also use soul force with his soul magic

—it won't affect Jacob at all!

Jacob had never fought with someone who could affect his mind, especially after achieving the soul force. But now that he did, he discovered another property of the soul force.

Caught by surprise, Jacob's sword directly slashed around his neck, but as someone who was also versatile in combat despite being a spirit magic user, the cloaked man quickly sifted his body by releasing sound ripples from his feet.

However, the attack still landed on his shoulder, and the powerful rune suddenly shimmered beneath his cloak, and a metallic boom rang when Jacob's powerful attack landed on the armor.

"Ahhhh..."

The armor shattered, and a deep cut imbued with water spirit magic appeared, starting from his shoulder all the way to his stomach. Blood dyed the water as he screamed in pain.

For the first time, he felt the fear of death enveloping him. He had almost forgotten this feeling since stepping into the Beyond Unique Rank and was so close to achieving the Inception Legend Rank.

Since he knew things were going sideways, he didn't hesitate to take out a teleportation talisman and instantly activated it.

"Just you wait!" He left these words filled with hatred behind before he vanished!

However, Jacob didn't seem frustrated by it at all. In fact, if he wanted to, he could've easily beheaded him because he was too close to him. Because of the pain and surprise, the cloaked man didn't notice and thought that he was fast enough to escape.

But what he failed to notice was that the moment his armor was pierced, an extremely fine dark streak entered his body from his wound before he was teleported!

Jacob's eyes shimmered in a crimson hue as all the blood in the water started to enter his body. He could feel the dense vitality of that cloaked man's blood.

His lips curled up in a bloodthirsty smile as he muttered, "I don't think I need to wait since you'll be coming here on your own very soon!"

A few hundred miles away from the hidden tunnel's location, a cloaked figure with a deep wound on his chest appeared.

"Damn it! Where did that monster come from!" He cursed before taking out a bottle filled with glowing gray liquid, carefully attaching it to the cavity below his mask, and then pushing it.

The gray liquid quickly emptied in his mouth, and the wound on his chest began to heal at visible speed, and soon it was completely closed.

'Damn bastard, he had me used this precious beyond unique rank healing elixir, not to mention that billions of ZC worth talisman! And here I thought I would leave without incurring any losses. Nonetheless, since I'm already out the range, I can activate all the rune booms and hope that bastard will be caught up in the explosion. Even if he won't be killed, he'll draw those fanatics' attention!'

Malice shimmered in his eyes as he was about to remove the runic plate, but he suddenly felt a bit sluggish.

'I'm tired so quickly?' He thought in confusion, but then he realized that his vision was slowly turning dark, and the next moment, he fell into enteral slumber.

Suddenly, his eyes opened again, but they were completely lifeless without any emotion, and he muttered emotionlessly, "How spraining, sir would gonna wanna hear this!"

The next moment, he quickly swims in the same direction where he just escaped from!

After the small battle, Jacob didn't do anything. He just sat there calmly and waited while he slowly recovered his stamina.

'Let's see, it won't be too long now. I'm really curious about this guy's background and what he was up to...' Jacob thought with a little anticipation. He knew he might've caught a big fish this time, and he was very interested in which organization that guy belonged to.

After all, a Beyond Unique Rank expert must have a high status in any organization on the surface, and that information could do wonders in his hands. Not to mention, it's been over two decades since he came to the deep ocean, so he was a little curious about the situation up there, especially any news about the legendary key.

Although he had the key, it was still dormant, and he checked on it every day by taking it out of the pendant and seeing if there was any reaction.

Furthermore, his star watch hasn't been activated in these last two decades since he didn't want others to distract or disturb me, not to mention he was still wary of the star hackers.

After a few hours, Jacob suddenly looked towards the sealed door, and his lips curled up as he sensed Autarch's arrival. He wasn't worried about Autarch, and he didn't have to worry about him not getting inside even if a runic lock locked the door.

After Autarch became a Unique Rank, he was able to access the space rings with the mystic signatures of his victims. Strangely, though, Autarch didn't seem to have his own mystic signature; he could mimic his victim's mystic signature if he were using that body.

Although it was somewhat disappointing since Jacob would've been able to unlock all the rings with mystic signatures if Autarch had his own, it was still enough if he got what was inside the rings of important persons.

At this moment, the sealed door suddenly opened, and the cloaked figure appeared, making Jacob's cold and cruel smile grow even more.

Autarch removed the hood from the head and revealed the handsome face of an elf who was wearing a corporeal mask around his face.

"So, who was he?" Jacob asked calmly.

"His name is Dewey, and in his organization, he was known as Anonymous Star No.5, one of the Nine Anonymous Stars of the Star Hackers, which we also knew as ATLAS!" Autarch emotionlessly revealed.

Jacob, who was calm, suddenly widened his eyes when he heard this. He was utterly incredulous as if he had heard something wrong.

"Come again?" He asked again as he stood up.

Autarch repeated the same words without hesitation, and Jacob remained silent for a long time. It was simply too startling for him. After all, he wasn't expecting to encounter a Star Hacker in this place, not to mention that he seemed to be pretty high up in the rankings.

If Jacob were vigilant against any organization, the ATLAS would be on top because it was simply too mysterious and careful. It didn't leave behind any clues about its activities and operated like a ghost. Lastly, its black technology made it even more dangerous, and the Star Network considered it enemies. Even the SAAI was against it.

After calming down a little, ecstasy shone in his eyes as he looked towards Anonymous Star No.5, who was now dead and replaced by Autarch.

He quickly said in a stern tone, "Tell me everything you know about ATLAS and what they were up to. Leave nothing behind. I want to know every detail about their organization, ranks, and hideouts!"

Jacob would never miss this once-in-a-lifetime chance to get ahold of his enemies' details, especially the enemy who posed a threat to every organization in the lesser plains.

Autarch nodded and started to tell him everything in Anonymous Star No.5's memories that he deemed useful. He began by explaining Dewey's recruitment and how, because of his genius intellect, he was able to climb the ranks of the Star Hackers and earn the position of an Anonymous Star.

It took a few hours to explain everything, but Jacob didn't care since he was carefully memorizing everything about the ATLAS. Furthermore, he also learned about their hideouts and very high-level spies in the three factions who were directly under Anonymous Star No.5's control.

The more he heard, the more astonished he became, and his expression started to change when he heard that the Star Lord had sent all nine anonymous stars here two decades ago, around the same time he had vanished from the Dark City.

When he heard about the Ocean Oracle and learned that she could pinpoint the Legendary Key's location, Jacob's expression became icy and foreboding.

Although he had heard about the Ocean Oracle, he thought it was just a rumor, not to mention that the Ocean Oracle's location or affiliation were all secret.

But he never expected that the Ocean Oracle was the true leader of the Siren Hymn Temple. She even seemed to have some say in the three empires. Her position was simply too high and important!

Even Masha, a member of the Siren Race, didn't know about Ocean Oracle's presence in the Siren Hymn Temple. In fact, even the Priest Lords didn't know, but somehow, the Star Lord was able to pinpoint her location, which was even more startling.

However, he was still relieved to hear that the Ocean Oracle rejected the ATLAS request and even killed the puppet they sent to approach her.

But they didn't actually leave and started to make plans to abduct her by sowing discord among the Siren Hymn Temple.

They were planning to cause a huge commotion by starting a war among large regions and when everything would be hectic, they would've abducted the Ocean Oracle.

However, this plan was not easily or could be achieved in the short term, so they spent over two decades and took advantage of the corporation in the large regions.

However, they were very close to their objective when the Star Lord suddenly called off the entire mission and told them to leave the Siren Hymn Temple and return.

But unexpectedly, Jacob suddenly appeared in the same passage that Anonymous Star No.5 was planning to use as an escape route after using explosions to cause trouble for the Siren Hymn Temple because he was frustrated about the mission cancelation.

In fact, all the nine anonymous stars were involved in this little stunt they wanted to pull off before leaving the Star Ocean just to let loose some pent-up steam.

In the end, this little revenge act of theirs ended up benefiting Jacob, and now he knew everything that could push the entire ATLAS into an endless abyss of despair!

After Jacob organized all the information he had received from Autarch, he didn't look very pleased. In fact, he suddenly felt a foreboding feeling because of the mysterious Ocean Oracle's presence.

The Ocean Oracle's involvement in the Legendary Key's matter was a huge variable that Jacob hadn't even considered before. He was even compelled to summon Cursed Immortality and asked if it was possible to pinpoint the legendary key or his location through this mysterious power.

But first, he decided to deal with those remaining eight anonymous stars because not only was it an opportunity to greatly reduce the Star Hackers' prowess, but he hadn't found eight Beyond Unique Rank beings' blood together this easily.

However, it wasn't easy either since they didn't easily meet. There wasn't any good reason since they could do everything through calls and private networks.

They have their own secret network called the Anarchy Network, which is like the Star Network but not as powerful. However, it was still powerful enough to maintain its privacy from the Star Network for a very long time and go against it to some extent.

The black technology they controlled was all done through this network, and there were even authority levels like the Star Network for different ranking members. For security purposes, they only contacted each other through the Anarchy Network and weren't allowed to share their private Star IDs with each other.

This rule was not just for the high-ranking members but for the entire organization. Lastly, what interested Jacob was the Star Hackers' private database of black technology, hidden information, blueprints, and other secret knowledge gathered on the Anarchy Network.

"Since they're going to retreat after causing trouble for the Siren Hymn Temple, we can assume the remaining eight are up the same thing that this guy was doing, right?" Jacob in a neutral tone.

"Yes, sir. Anonymous1 was the one who told Dewey about their retreat, and he seems to have encouraged this massive destruction. He seems to hate the ocean races," Autarch replied.

A faint glimmer flashed past Jacob's eyes as he nodded in understanding, "Then we can assume that despite not having an absolute leader among them except for the elusive Star-Lord, they all still trust Anonymous1 as their leader to some extent.

"So, if we can hunt down Anonymous1, approaching the rest of them will be easy and even easier to ambush them. Alright, we'll go after Anonymous1 first.

"Try contacting him and telling him you've discovered a very important secret of the Ocean Oracle and can only tell him that upon meeting. Make it as believable as possible. If you sense he's getting suspicious, don't push too hard.

"After all, they still don't know Dewey is dead because you are replacing him. But when you changed your body, the Anarchy Network would instantly discover his death and alert the others.

"So, we're looking to turn him into a puppet first before that special Anarchy Signature vanishes completely. When we're discovered, we can make it look like the Ocean Oracle schemed against them and killed them all. Let's see if we can find trouble for this Ocean Oracle.

"I need her gone! She's too dangerous to remain alive," Jacob coldly ordered, as he had already put the Ocean Oracle on top of his killing list. He didn't dare be careless with the Legendary Key since calamity would await him if others found out about the key's whereabouts.

Furthermore, he was also worried that the Star Hackers would be discovered about his immunity to the Oath Contract since he had signed a Zodiac Oath Contract with them when he tricked them in the Dark City to avert their attention to the dead Free Sword.

This might be a huge blunder and even more dangerous if others got hold of this information. That's also why he wanted to cause chaos among the Star Hackers so they wouldn't be bothered by the legendary key's matter anymore!

Autarch nodded in acknowledgment and started to prepare by activating the Anarchy Watch, which was actually a modified version of the Star Watch by the Star Hackers.

Although they couldn't fully grasp the technology behind the Star Watch, they were still able to modify it using their technology, which had been built upon countless trials and failures.

While Autarch was about to lay a trap for Anonymous Star No.1, Jacob fell into deep contemplation, 'It seems the Unique Plains won't give up on the Legendary Key so easily, especially since the time is continuing to be shortened.

'If there are hidden Quasi Legend Rank experts hidden among these organizations, as I suspected after encountering the Dark Battle Arena, then it's quite possible that they are already searching for it.

'I'm not sure where I stand against a Quasi Legend Rank expert with my current, but I might only be able to escape, not fight them head-on. My only trump card against them is the Planet Destroyer, but it also comes with a huge cost...

'Then there are the ocean races. I don't know where they stand when it comes to Legendary Key. Although I've never found any information regarding the Legendary Key among countless victims of ocean races, the presence of Ocean Oracle changed everything.

'Since the Star Hackers had already approached her, she already knew about the Legendary Key's existence, but for some reason, she refused their request. It's either because she wasn't interested or because she didn't want to give it to others after finding out about it.

'Then there is also a faint chance that the Ocean Oracle can't predict the location, or it comes with a steep price she wasn't willing to pay. No matter the reason, she must be dealt with. I can't leave a variable like her alone, and I need to hasten my pace of longevity schema.

'Since that's the case...' Jacob's eyes flashed with a chilly light, and a runic plate appeared in his hand.

Dewey held the same runic plate when Jacob barged in on him; Autarch had already handed everything in Dewey's space ring to Jacob.

The runic plate began to shimmer at his moment as Jacob thought, 'I only need blood, and this little scheme of Star Hackers just happened to be aligned with my needs!'

Chapter 677 Carnage in Siren Hymn Temple (1)

"Booommmm!"

A huge explosion suddenly occurred in the middle of the Holy Polaris Region, very close to the Regional Temple, startling many. Chaos soon followed, and this wasn't the end of it, not by a long shot.

Similar explosions occurred at different important points of the Holy Polaris Region, especially close to the prayer temples where the Sirens usually pray to their goddess!

The authorities of the Holy Polaris Region suddenly went hectic because of this sudden attack, and the Priest Lord, the Polaris High Priest, was in the middle of this mess as he had to report this to the main temple as well as to calm the public down quickly and found the terrorist who dares to attack the Siren Hymn Temple.

However, the Sirens were used to peace, and their higher-ups were filled with corruption thanks to the efforts of some cunning outsiders. Now, their organization was thrown into a maelstrom because the terrorists attacked not just the temples but the secret wealth of these corrupted priests as well.

Now, they could either report this to the higher-ups, and once the investigation starts, they will be hanged for their treachery, or they could keep this under wraps as long as possible before clearing their traces as quickly as possible.

So, most of them naturally chose the latter option, which hurt them even more. The entire Holy Polaris Region fell into chaos. Upheaval was everything. The sirens tried to flee, but it was easier said than done because there was a protective barrier around the core of each large region.

That made them sitting ducks. The explosions continued for an entire hour and left behind an absolute mess and ruins; the water was dyed in blood as pieces of flash floated around it.

However, as the saying goes, someone's misfortune is someone's fortune, and that's exactly what this chaos spells for Jacob. He left the secret tunnel location before he triggered the mass destruction of the Holy Polaris Region, just according to the Star Hackers' plan.

Dewey especially placed a runic bomb around the secret passage, which would be buried under the ruins once he escaped through it. He was even planning on blowing the tunnel once he used it.

But alas, he met with his dead person named Jacob, and now, all this little revenge act was benefiting Jacob.

Looking at the chaotic scene, as the sirens desperately tried to flee, some were lifting rubble to help the trapped sirens escape. As someone who caused all this, he felt...nothing.

Jacob could tell that his mind was becoming extremely dismissive towards other deaths. He didn't feel anything about killing thousands of people just for his own selfishness, especially since he had started to carve the longevity schema.

It was like with his outer appearance; his emotions were also stripping off. He didn't know if this was good or bad, but despite these strange changes in his mentality, the resolve he had back then, the longing for immortality remained the same; it intensified even.

Maybe his mind was twisting in ways Jacob couldn't even fathom, but as long as he continued towards his goal, he didn't mind becoming a monster—or maybe he had already become one...

'Let's try these new insights I got after absorbing so much blood. If this works, then very little blood would go to waste. Even if this draws attention, the Polaris High Priestess is only an intermediate stage beyond unique rank expert, and I don't think she would be arriving too soon since, according to Autarch, she would be busing wiping her own ass. I must admit; these star hackers really know how to trap others by using their own greed against them.'

"Guard me; if others approach, kill them all without mercy." Jacob issued Autarch an order since Autarch was still using Dewey's body.

Jacob let him keep it until he got his hands on Anonymous Star NO.1, who agreed to meet with Dewey after he heard about Dewey finding a very important secret of the Star Oracle. He didn't suspect anything, especially after spending two decades in this place together. They had developed a little trust among themselves, and this was the case for all nine anonymous stars.

Autarch nodded and guarded a few meters away from Jacob while he released his puppet poison to create magic puppets. This was the easiest way to guard Jacob and not leave any witnesses behind.

Jacob let Autarch do as he pleased since he was the one who taught Autarch this method and sat cross-legged.

Suddenly, the runic lines on his arms and feet started to glow crimson, and the cursed path glory gem in his pendant started to glow as if resonating with the runic lines of longevity schema.

The next moment, an invisible suction force started to ooze from Jacob's body. However, this invisible suction force didn't stir the water or anything else.

However, something strange happened as this suction force slowly expanded under Jacob's powerful control of blood manipulation and his newfound understanding of it.

Slowly, the water around Jacob started to become red, and the color continued to deepen until it stuck out like a light tower in the middle of darkness. Not only that, but the blood in the water outside started to vanish.

This was not only happening to this small area; in fact, as the blood was growing larger around Jacob, it was attracting even more blood from far away, and this range continued to grow as the blood around Jacob increased.

Those sirens, still pretty rattled about the attack, noticed that the surrounding blood seemed to have come alive and flowed in a peculiar direction as if something was attracting it.

Blood, even from under the rubble, started to seep out, and for those who were still alive yet only unconscious, their blood also started to flow out of their veins!

The Sirens panicked again. They had no idea who was performing this strange sorcery and thought the attack was not over yet.

Jacob, on the other hand, was completely focused. He could perceive the blood around him even in the far distance. He could sense blood thousands of miles away and attract it towards himself as long as it was ownerless or the owner had no control over it.

This was all thanks to the runic lines of longevity schema. His control over blood was growing, and unknowingly, he started comprehending another level of Blood Manipulation, also known as Blood Magic!

"What the hell is going on!? Who dares to attack the holy temple?!" A beautiful siren in a white outfit, who was emitting a bloodthirsty aura, roared furiously as she was looking at the reports of mass destruction, and even the western part of her own home was blown into smithereens a few moments ago.

This siren was none other than the Polaris High Priest of the Holy Polaris Region, and right now, she was going hectic not because her people were dying; it was because her hidden treasure troves were also just blown up, and those lowly followers were taking full advantage of this situation and looting everything to their heart's content.

This not only made Polaris High Priest's heart bleed, but she was panicking because once this matter of secretly keeping a portion of the temple offering reaches the main temple, her head would roll in her goddess's stone feet.

'No! I can't report this. I need to remove my traces quickly, and only then will I report it back. I hope those hateful bastards of the other regions won't interfere!' She desperately prayed sincerely for the first time in a long while.

At this moment, another siren holding a spear adorned in golden battle armor quickly barged in, making the Polaris High Priest jump in trepidation because she was too agitated.

The siren in armor couldn't help but sigh, seeing the Polaris High Priest losing her mind. She couldn't help but think that she had brought it upon herself. She shouldn't have given in to the devil's whispers, and now, many innocent lives were being harmed.

"My lord, we need to seek help from the main temple!" She solemnly requested.

Polaris High Priest breathed a sigh of relief when she saw it was only her Chief Region Templar. However, after she heard her request, her expression turned dark, and she retorted, "Absolutely no! We can handle this on our own! There's no need to bother the Holy Temple for such a trifle matter."

The Templar frowned as she was already expecting this much, "Forgive me, my lord, but it seemed someone has already done it, and I'm afraid the main temple has already dispatched Holy Hymn Templars!"

"What?!" Polaris High Priest screamed in disbelief and trembled with trepidation, "W-who!? Who dared to undermine the authority of Priest Lord!? Sacrifice those heretics to wash away their sins! And what the hell were you doing?!" She ordered furiously.

The Templar's eyes went cold as she clearly didn't like this behavior and replied impassively, "Forgive me, my lord, but that might be impossible at this moment, and I was also helpless in this matter, I'm afraid."

"What, why?" Polaris High Priest ground her teeth, and she found her Templar annoyed for some reason.

The Templar replied with a hint of killing intent filled with hate and fury, "The thing is, my lord, the Holy Polaris Region wasn't the only one who suffered this abrupt terrorist attack. Nine more suffered the same kinds of attacks out of eighteen large regions, including the Holy Polaris Region.

"Over half of our territory was attacked in just two days. This kind of thing is impossible to hide from the main temple. Now, I just received news that the Holy Hymn Templars will be here in a few hours.

"They already know about the attack on the Holy Polaris Region; it didn't matter if we reported it or not. But I'm afraid if you didn't report it, they might suspect something

uncanny about you, my lord. After all, it's been three days, and you're still keeping it to yourself."

The Polaris High Priest paled, and she shuddered just after thinking about what kind of blunder she had made. If what the Templar was telling was true, then she would be sacrificed even without any investigation for hiding such a matter.

"Q-quickly! We are going to report this post hastily to the main temple! We were busy rescuing those pitiful souls and praying for those who returned to the goddess' embrace. Do you understand me!?" The Polaris High Priest righteously and meaningfully stated as she quickly left towards a hidden chamber to contact the temple.

After witnessing this scene, the Templar couldn't help but scoff inwardly and lamented, 'She's no longer that sharp-

witted and devoted High Priest anymore. She's cursed by the goddess for damnation. Even I can easily trick her now. I guess it's about time to clean up the territory!'

Her eyes turned deadly cold and filled with holy radiance. As someone who only served the Goddess, she didn't have loyalty to anyone else but the Ocean Oracle, the messenger of the Goddess.

Despite growing up with the Polaris High Priest and as her personal Templar, she has no loyalty or any feelings of empathy towards her. She was a true fanatic and blinded by her faith.

Now that she finally had the chance to punish the Polaris High Priest for all her sins toward the goddess, she would not miss it, and there were many like her doing the same thing right now!

In the secret chamber of the main Siren Hymn Temple, the Holy Maiden Nataly was kneeling in front of the membrane-like veil, where the silhouette of Ocean Oracle Mercy was present at his moment.

"What's this strange situation? Do you figure out who's behind this huge attack? Is it related to the empires?" Mercy questioned in a gentle yet extremely perplexed tone, and she sounded exhausted for some reason.

"Forgive me, Your Holiness! But this incompetent descendant couldn't unravel anything regarding this sudden attack. However, I've already contacted the three empires and made them swear an oath, and unexpectedly, they swore the oath of innocence without any hesitation. Please instruct me what to do now." Nataly replied with a helpless tone.

"Hmm? Did they take the oath of innocence? Then it's most likely they weren't behind this..." Mercy's uncertain voice rang.

Nataly hesitated for a moment before speaking, "Your Holiness, I have another piece of information, but I don't know whether I should believe it or not. But now that the three empires had sworn the oath of innocence, I couldn't help but continue to think about it. Please judge it yourself; I'm too stupid."

"OH? There's something else? Tell me, you don't need to blame yourself for this my child, you're too pure for this filthy world." Mercy gently said, which made Nataly's entire body tremble with ecstasy.

'She's praised me!' Suddenly, an absurd smile flashed past her face, but Mercy could see it since Nataly was kneeling with her head down!

Chapter 679

Nataly quickly hid her infatuation and stated respectfully, "A few hours ago, through our information network, we received a secret message from an unknown source. According to this message, all this upheaval is caused by Star Hackers of a secret organization on the surface called ATLAS! And they were the ones who approached Her Holiness over two decades ago to find the location of the legendary key!"

Mercy on the side suddenly widened her eyes slightly when she heard this, and a cold glint flashed past her eyes, "Did you find the source of this message?"

Nataly shook her head slightly, "No, Your Holiness, the messenger was very clever and used one of our own people to send it. Although I don't know how they were able to get ahold of this message center, whoever they were, they knew how to use it. If I'm not wrong, they should be one of our hidden informative, but I'm not completely sure."

Mercy frowned a little, "Alright, you are excused. Focus on calming down the masses and recovering all the damage. Anyone involved in this, even if they had the slightest bit of involvement in this, capture them for interrogation."

Nataly hesitated momentarily before asking, "What about the Priest Lords? Although the attackers caused upheaval, they also exposed many of the Priest Lords' corruptions. They were completely aware of their dirty deeds and all the wealth they had hidden from us."

Mercy dismissively replied as if she didn't care about this little problem at all, "Do you still need to ask? As my proxy, you should know how to deal with these degenerates better. There's no need to ask my permission for such trifle matters."

Nataly's eyes flashed coldly as she nodded, "I understand!" Then, she quickly left.

Mercy also left the secret chamber and headed towards the prayer hall, where the statue of the Mermaid Goddess was located. But now, there were many more statues, and in addition to those, there was a cloaked midget.

"What happened?" The midget asked in a static voice.

Mercy sighed as she grimly stated, "Unexpectedly, nine large regions of the Siren Hymn Temple suffered terrorist attacks in the past three days. Do you want to hear something even more absurd? We received a secret message stating that those attacks were done by none other than the Star Hackers of ATLAS!"

The midget was startled and uttered incredulously, "Impossible! They shouldn't be here!"

Mercy scoffed in derision, "That's what I thought as well. After all, you'd told me they were doing something else to help us locate the Legendary Key. Yet here they are, causing problems in my territory!"

The midget fell into silence before replying after a while, "I'll look into it. If they are the ones behind this, I'll owe you an explanation."

Mercy deeply looked at the midget's hooded face, which was enshrouded by a dark fog. She couldn't see through it, no matter what.

In the end, she sighed in resignation, "I don't have any choice in this matter, do I? I still don't understand the purpose behind all this?" She said this while looking at all those statues emitting a peculiar undulation, and inwardly, she felt ecstatic, but she still maintained her helpless expression.

After all, she knew this deal was nothing but a godsend for her, and that's why she was willing to comply with this midget's demands.

"Didn't I already tell you? Since there's some kind of problem locating the legendary key, we'll just have to locate the person holding it. Free Sword and his crew were the only people who were supposed to have it.

"Furthermore, Free Sword last appeared many years ago, and his actions at that time were very strange. So, this will greatly help us in locating the legendary key. Even though prophesizing a person is more difficult than an item, I've already given you more than enough for this task." He impassively stated, clearly having no intention of revealing his hidden motives.

Mercy didn't push further since she knew better. After all, she was getting the long end of the stick in this deal, so she was content. She was just annoyed by the fact that someone was causing trouble when she was so close to achieving her goal.

After all, once she achieved her goal, the entire Siren Hymn Temple could turn to ruin for all she cared.

"I understand. I'm just a little curious. After all, you want me to prophesize all the people on this list, and you even go out of your way to collect all the information I need to perform an oracle about them. I have to admit, you know even more than Ocean Oracle than myself." Mercy innocently stated.

"Don't overthink it. This is all just a precaution to make sure that even if Free Sword isn't the one holding the Legendary Key, it could be with one of his crew members or anyone who came in contact with him. We need to end this once and for all since time is running out," the midget explained coolly.

'Like hell, I believe you. There is something you want from one of these people on this list, and I'll know once I perform an oracle about them. No matter how much you tried to hide it, I'm also a Golden Constant. Those who wander the infinite time are prone to observe time differently...' She sneered inwardly but didn't let it show on her face.

"Then let's start without any further due. Let me experience this Fate Soul Formation that we spend so much effort and these many faith-type treasures to build." Mercy chuckled with a hint of excitement before she moved towards the runic platform in the middle of the statues.

The midget didn't speak and only watched her going in. His eyes flashed coldly, 'You're digging your own grave by probing into the matter of Timeless City Lord, just like my old self.'

Under his cloak, a gloating smile appeared on his face, showing his sharp rows of teeth as if he were extremely pleased with someone else heading towards the same abyss he once fell into!

No data found.

Chapter 680 Star Lord's Plot (1)

In a dark, secluded area of the deep ocean, a cloak giant figure wearing a unique oxygen mask appeared, riding an ocean beast resembling a seahorse.

But unlike a typical seahorse, this one has huge wings like glowing fins and there was a large horn on its head. This was a Winged Bullet Horse of the

Siren Hymn Temple, which used to travel under the ocean, just the Whales of the Mighty Whale Empire.

The giant figure controlled the Winged Bullet Horse and stopped in this area after looking at the marked location on his star watch. He then sent a message and waited.

Thereupon, another white Winged Bullet Horse appeared, and riding it was a tall, cloaked figure wearing the same type of equipment as the waiting giant.

"Anonymous5, I came here as soon as I got the chance. You should understand that I was busy with my region." The giant finally spoke with a chuckle, clearly in a good mood for some reason.

Anonymous Star No.5, Dewey, who was none other than Autarch, nodded and replied with a contemptuous sneered, "Heh, I know, Anonymous1, since I was doing the same thing, and I have to admit, it was damn satisfying!"

"Hahahaha!" Anonymous Star1 burst into wanton laughter, very happy with Dewey's reply, and said, "Indeed, we can't just leave those bastards alone after wasting years of our efforts. Anyway, we can talk about this later; first, tell me what you get on the Ocean Oracle. And you did well to contact me right away since we can be able to claim more credit if we capture or kill that arrogant bitch!"

"Heh, that's what I had in mind as well. Since I have your words, I can rest assured. The thing I found out about the ocean oracle..." Dewey started to talk, and Anonymous Star1 listened attentively.

But right at this moment, Anonymous Star1's hidden expression suddenly changed as a sense of crisis overwhelmed him.

"Boom!"

But he was too slow because by the time he realized that something was amiss, a glowing bullet appeared out of nowhere and hit his spin. His armor was pierced, and then an explosion occurred!

Anonymous Star1 was sent flying, and his Winged Bullet Horse was startled and instantly ran away!

About fifty miles away from Autarch and Anonymous Star1's position, Jacob retrieved the huge sniper riffle lit in runic lines into his armor finger ring, and his eyes turned back to normal.

He chuckled coldly, "Despite the water pressure, the Quantum Rifle is still working fine, and I'm not even using the Quantum Bullets yet. However, some

minor adjustments in space runes are still required that I can use to improve it slightly. Nonetheless, even a perfect stage beyond unique ranker couldn't dodge it!"

Jacob calmly analyzed this form of the Planet Destroyer and took a few mantle notes to improve its performance further. Nevertheless, he was still very satisfied with it and quickly headed towards Anonymous Star1 and Autarch's position.

Anonymous Star1's entire armor was cracked as blood, and his charred flesh tainted the surrounding water. He was too wounded to be worried about what had just transpired, but he was aghast and fearful nonetheless.

After all, he never imagined that something like a single bullet could approach him, much less pierce through his defenses and almost kill him. However, what he didn't know was that if he weren't at the perfect stage beyond the unique rank aura expert, he wouldn't even be alive right now.

However, he was still alive and conscious, which showed just how treacherous his physical body and will is. But Jacob also knew that a single Atomic Bullet wasn't enough to kill a Beyond Unique Rank expert, and he only used one because he needed him alive.

Autarch moved according to plan. Once Jacob destroyed the armor around Anonymous Star1, and Anonymous Star1 was still in a weak state of absolute shock and pain, Autarch used the puppet poison magic to turn him into his puppet.

This part was crucial since if they let him die, the Star Hackers would know it, and then Jacob couldn't hunt the rest of them. The puppets created by Autarch were essentially alive, but they no longer had their own will unless they could escape from his range, and this much was enough to spell the Anonymous Stars' certain doom, and it would be a circle blow to Star Hackers as a whole.

Because of Anonymous Star1's current state, no matter how strong his will or physical strength, he couldn't resist Autarch's magic, and soon, the painful whimpers coming out of his mouth stopped.

Jacob, riding his thunder whale, also appeared at this moment. After seeing the blood in the water, he didn't waste it and absorbed it all. Speaking of which, after gathering blood in the Holy Polaris Region, his cursed blood was filled, and even beyond that, for his runic lines were glowing in crimson color now.

He noticed that no matter the amount of blood, the runic lines on his bones could store any amount of it. At least, he still didn't know their current limits. The more cursed blood he condensed and stored in those runic lines, the more brilliant their glow.

But it also had disadvantages, as he always needed to hide them, or he would be like a glowing beacon in the darkness, and this annoyed him just as much as his giant height. Yet he had no choice in this matter and needed to wait until he awakened his mystic signature to use the Gluttony Mask.

Jacob looked at the Anonymous Star1, who was a 29-meter-tall giant, even more gigantic than Jacob, and he mused that it might have something to do with his power rank since a giant's height was directly related to his prowess.

He also felt relief since his height had stopped increasing after he started the longevity scheme, no matter how much his power grew, or he might be the same size as this guy.

"Sir, he's a puppet now," Autarch spoke with telepathy at this moment.

Jacob nodded before he ordered, "Now, use him to draw the rest of the Anonymous Stars here one by one, and we'll follow the same plan. Oh, and ask him if he knew anything about the Ocean Oracle that the other Anonymous Stars did not."

Autarch was about to follow his command when Anonymous Star1, who was now healing because Autarch allowed him to use the healing liquid, suddenly said in an emotionless tone, "Master, Star Lord is contacting me!"

Jacob's eyes narrowed with a hint of surprise. "Tell him to take it and act normal, and have him use the open voice function. I want to hear everything!"

Cursed Immortality #Chapter 681 Star Lord's Plot (2) - Read Cursed Immortality Chapter 681 Star Lord's Plot (2)

Chapter 681 Star Lord's Plot (2)

The moment Anonymous Star1 accepted the call, Star Lord's static voice with a hint of heaviness rang, "How's the mission going?"

Jacob's eyes narrowed instantly because, according to Dewey's memories, there shouldn't be any mission for the Anonymous Stars at this moment, and they waited for them to continue.

Autarch had already ordered Anonymous Star1 to act normal, and as a magic puppet, he couldn't disobey his master, so he replied in his usual static tone, "Everything is going according to plan, my lord. The Siren Hymn Temple is in complete chaos!"

"Did the others suspect anything yet?" Star-Lord asked again without commenting on Anonymous Star1's report.

Anonymous Star1 replied after thinking for a moment, "As far as I could tell, only Anonymous Star2 and Anonymous Star7 seemed to have suspected something unusual while the others were only somewhat surprised, but just as my lord predicted, they gave in to their inner rang and go along with some 'fun' before leaving."

'So, this was also Star Lord's plan to cause chaos by using the Anonymous Stars' pent-up frustration. Now I understand why I found their actions so strange. After all, how could a secret organization allow its members to run wantonly like idiots since the chances of them exposing themselves increased tremendously?

'However, the real question is why the hell would he need to use deception to trick them into taking these actions? They would've done exactly this if he had just ordered it, so then why all the trouble and manipulation, though? It seemed Anonymous Star1 knew something, and Star-Lord also trusted him over the other...' Jacob mused while he sharply looked at Anonymous Star1's wrist from where the Star Lord's voice was sounding.

Although he now had core information about the Star Hackers, he still didn't know who the Star Lord was. He was simply too secretive and a very dangerous individual. He didn't leave any clues about his identity or any kind of opening to exploit.

That's how he controlled those Anonymous Stars without getting bested up by them, and Anonymous Star1 seemed to be completely loyal to him.

Now, Jacob was thinking of changing his plans slightly, at least no longer going after the Anonymous Stars for the time being. This Star Lord plan seemed harmful to the Siren Hymn Temple, and he even assumed that their end goal was still the Ocean Oracle.

He didn't mind letting them do all the work if their goal was still the Ocean Oracle. Then, when everything was over, he would swoop in and get rid of the Ocean Oracle and, most likely, her legendary quality blood!

"You did a great job this time. But for some strange reason, your involvement in these attacks was leaked, and now the Ocean Oracle knows about it! Who do you think is responsible for it?" Star Lord suddenly said something unexpected, darkening Jacob's expression.

'How did he know about the secret message I sent to the main temple to sow discord between them and scatter the temple's main forces? Could he have someone at the top

of the temple's hierarchy who could get this message? Don't tell me that message didn't even reach where I wanted it to be?' Jacob was again slightly baffled by this Star Lord's resourcefulness, and despite having a clear advantage over him, he still seemed to be at a disadvantage.

Jacob then thought of something and ordered Autarch to interfere with Anonymous Star1's reply, this time slightly.

Anonymous Star1 said, "How can you be so sure? You don't think we have a traitor among us, right?"

"What a foolish question! You know better than to ask me this. After all our dealings, I thought you should've known by now that my words are not to be taken lightly!" Star Lord coldly uttered. He seemed somewhat discontent because Anonymous Star1 was doubting him.

'Is he just angry or pretending to be so he could avoid answering that?' Jacob coldly thought before giving Autarch new instructions.

"I'm sorry, my lord. I was out of my depths just now!" Anonymous Star1 quickly apologized, as he would if he were in control.

"Hmph, don't let it happen again." Star Lord harrumphed coldly, "As for the matter of having traitors among the Nine Anonymous Stars, even I found it highly unlikely.

"However, except for you nine, no one else is present, and according to the security protocols, you can't tell anyone about our organization or use its name in any way.

"That's why I'm also somewhat incredulous about this information, but it's 100% accurate, so this could only mean that one of the Nine Anonymous Stars has either found a loophole in the oath contract or been captured by someone who could infiltrate their mind without them knowing it!" Star Lord stated coldly.

Jacob cocked an eyebrow in surprised, 'He almost guessed the truth, what a terrifying fellow, he deserves to die even more than the Ocean Oracle. However, he's too cunning and careful. Furthermore, I'm truly curious about how it is informative that he trusted even more than the oath and Anonymous Stars.

'Moreover, if he's telling all this to Anonymous Star1, then this means he absolutely sure Anonymous Star1 couldn't turn against him. I need information from Anonymous Star1, after all. Nonetheless, things are becoming more complicated...'

"If that's the case, what do you need me to do, my lord? If there's a traitor, it would be extremely hard to find them." Anonymous Star1 inquired, and Jacob also wanted to know Star Lord's answer to this question.

"It's impossible to find a traitor among them since they are the most excellent Star Hackers of the Unique Plains. I was only able to manipulate them after affecting their minds for two decades, and even that was for just this one task.

"Although it would be a real pity, the presence of a traitor among ourselves is too dangerous to ignore. It could be the end of us all, so I want you to kill the other Eight Anonymous Stars and then deliver their heads to the main temple of the Siren Hymn Temple and ...!"

Jacob was shocked when he heard this completely unexpected response and the rest of Star Lord's plot, which sent a shiver down his spine!

Chapter 682 Blood Bags (1)

After the call with the Star Lord, Jacob fell into silence. He was thinking about what the Star Lord had just said, and he couldn't believe this was his plan all along. Nonetheless, he somewhat agreed with the Star Lord's plot and even felt slightly appreciative of the guy for giving him this unexpected opportunity.

Furthermore, he also starts to interrogate Anonymous Star1 to get more information out of him, especially about his relationship with Star-Lord and why he would trust him over the others.

It turned out that Anonymous Star1 couldn't refuse Star Lord's commands or go against him because he was poisoned when he was anointed as Anonymous Star No.1 by Star Lord.

This poison was so deadly that even three steps of legend experts would die if they didn't take antidotes in short intervals. Not only that, but this poison seemed to be incurable, and Anonymous Star1 needed the antidote every three months, or he'd die a gruesome death.

In the end, he had no choice but to listen to Star Lord's every command to prolong his life while he was also secretly looking for a method to get rid of this poison for many years.

But just as Star Lord said, this poison seems to have no cure. No one can even recognize it, so he couldn't just be Star Lord's puppet and do his dirty deeds while taking all the dangers involved with it.

However, Anonymous Star1 is now a true puppet, and despite still fearing the poison, he can't go against Autarch, even if it means sacrificing his life.

Yet Jacob still found it quite strange. Earlier, when he absorbed Anonymous Star1's blood, he didn't feel any poison trace in him, nor did he feel any kind of effect on himself. So, he was also not sure what kind of poison it was, but he was still quite intrigued.

Nonetheless, Jacob didn't have time to investigate poison experiments, so he continued to interrogate Anonymous Star1. Although he received more new information that was far more detailed than Dewey's, he still couldn't find anything essential about Star Lord.

Just like Dewey, Anonymous Star1 didn't have any clue about Star Lord's appearance, gender, or race; that guy was too cautious and discreet.

Nonetheless, Jacob still found something useful. According to Anonymous Star, after years of observation and his own hatred towards the Star Lord, he managed to find something.

Anonymous Star1 revealed that he had received very important mission handouts multiple times on the outskirts of the Riddle Archipelago. He assumed that Star-Lord might have some connection with this dangerous No Return Zone, and this would also explain the strange poison.

However, he had no proof, and the Riddle Archipelago was too dangerous to venture into or investigate, so he could only keep his assumption to himself. He didn't dare let Star Lord know of his intentions since he was afraid of dying.

Still, this made Jacob even more wary of Star Lord, and he decided to be careful of this mysterious guy. The integration lasted for quite a while before Jacob was satisfied and made up his mind.

"We'll go with Star Lord's plan since it's aligned with my own plan. Contact the rest of the Anonymous Stars; we need to collect their heads." Jacob coolly ordered Autarch, who was now in control of Anonymous Star5 and Anonymous Star1.

Autarch didn't tarry and quickly commanded Anonymous Star1 to contact the others and lure them into their traps one by one.

On the other hand, Jacob was musing, 'The Riddle Archipelago is considered even more dangerous than the Vicious Calamity Fog Zone, where I encountered those bugs. If this Star Lord is really hiding there, then it would be nigh impossible to do anything about it.

'I guess I can't annihilate the entire ATLAS in the Unique Plains. Without cutting off the leader's head, it would be only a matter of time before the rest of the body grows back. Nonetheless, this doesn't mean I have to be passive; after all, these guys have some of the most fearsome hidden forces in Unique Plains.

'Given Star Lord's tone and how effortlessly he ordered the Anonymous Stars to be killed, it wouldn't be wrong to presume that even the Three Steps of Legend experts are expandable.

'This could only mean they are hiding more forces that even the Anonymous Stars are unaware of. Then this also means more potent blood for me, and I might get something unexpected from the Star Network by going against them...'

Jacob needed as much blood as he could get, and the Star Hackers just happened to meet the bill. He was also very interested in their black technologies, which could help him further improve his own.

Most importantly, he could evade the Star Network with their black technology any time he wanted, so giving up on the ATLAS was something Jacob didn't even consider, at least not for Star Lord, since his threat was not big enough yet.

After half an hour, Autarch reported, "Sir, we're ready to proceed."

Jacob's lips rose slightly as he nodded, "Then let's get it over with and then head towards the main Siren Hymn Temple. After all, we still have to take care of Ocean Oracle after this!"

Afterward, Jacob again took his position as a sniper far away from the area and waited for the other Anonymous Stars to show up. Their plan was quite simple. Anonymous Star1 had invited them to a very important meeting and even used the Star Lord's name so that they couldn't refuse.

However, he didn't summon them at the same time; instead, he told them to come at different times so there would be no complications when Jacob killed them one by one.

Furthermore, since Star Lord has already ordered their death, he no longer needs to worry about alerting the ATLAS's AI and no longer needs to hold. After all, he got all the information he needed, and those guys now only have value as high-level blood bags!

'Why did he call a meeting so abruptly instead of leaving?' Ridding on a Winged Bullet Horse, a 1.8-meter-tall cloaked figure was deep in thought. He was Anonymous Star No.2.

'This whole thing was quite suspicious since the organization won't let its members be reckless no matter where we operate. Yet, all of a sudden, Anonymous Star1 decided to be reckless and even told us to do the same. And now that we have caused so much chaos, why did he call a meeting so close to the Siren Hymn Temple of all places? No matter how I look at it, there is something going on.'

Anonymous Star2 was always very cautious around his peers, especially Anonymous Star1 because he knew they were the same type of people. Because of that, he found Anonymous Star1's recent actions out of place, so he was always on guard.

If those orders hadn't come from Anonymous Star1 and someone else had told him to be reckless, he would've never agreed to them. But he knew Anonymous Star1 had a deeper connection with the Star Lord, and he was the oldest of them all, so he just followed along, thinking that the organization had some hidden agenda, and he wanted to know what it was.

However, as he was drawing closer to the meeting place, he felt somewhat uneasy because of his instincts, which had never failed him before. Furthermore, Anonymous Star2 has a very special bloodline, which he always hides from others, and even the ATLAS bloodline analysis device can't be seen through it. Those instincts were also generated by this special bloodline, so he didn't dare ignore them.

Suddenly, he stopped the Winged Bullet Horse as his eyes shimmered in neon light, 'I've always listened to my instincts, and they have never let me down, so I shouldn't start ignoring them now. Should I proceed with the plan ahead of time?

'But if I leave now, I might not be able to enter the Path of Legend. However, my life is more important. Shit! I guess I have to use that ability now; if the warning from my bloodline is correct and my life is really in danger, then I'll escape a calamity, and the ATLAS would also think I'm dead and gone.

'But if this danger is not from the ATLAS, or if I'm wrong, then I'll just have to make sure they won't find me out. In the end, doing this will only benefit me despite decreasing my power by half...'

Determination flashed past Anonymous Star2's cold eyes, and he no longer hesitated. After making sure that he was completely alone, he started to mutter a chat in an unknown language.

"Blood Hydra Incarnation!"

The moment he uttered this, Anonymous Star2's entire body suddenly lit in neon light, and the next moment, a strange phenomenon took place.

A faint phantom appeared behind him. The only noticeable feature of this phantom was that it seemed to have four heads.

Suddenly, the phantom behind started to split, following Anonymous Star2's real body. Thereupon, the cloaked Anonymous Star2 was still standing on his potion, but the phantom behind him only had a single head now.

But beside him was standing a figure of a child who was naked and covered in a neon membrane. He has pristine blue scale skin and a bald head with the appearance of a lizard and human hybrid, and behind this child was now a three-headed phantom.

The child's eyes opened at that moment, revealing vertical blue pupils. He ordered the Anonymous Star2, which seemed to have turned to normal, but his power level had greatly decreased. He was more like an empty husk right now.

"Go ahead!" The child uttered in his childish yet commanding tone. The Anonymous Star2 merely nodded before he took off one of the two space rings on his finger and gave it to the child. Then, he rode off on the horse towards the meeting place.

Seeing the Anonymous Star2 leaving, the child's eyes flashed with creepy coldness, "ATLAS, if you dare to backstab me, then I'll make sure to pay in kind a thousand-fold. I better leave this darn deep ocean before the bloodline protection wears off. I won't be able to handle this pressure without the bloodline protection!"

When Anonymous Star2 reached the location of the meeting decided by Anonymous Star1, he was surprised to see the other eight Anonymous Stars already there, who seemed to be waiting for his arrival.

'Well, since everything is here, this could only mean I was wrong...'

However, just when he thought that he was safe since all the Anonymous Stars were there, this means Anonymous Star1 shouldn't have had any malicious intentions; after all, if he dared to scheme against him, he would have lost the trust of the other Anonymous Stars.

But alas, he didn't know that those Anonymous Stars had already turned into puppets, and the moment Anonymous Star2 appeared, a bullet greeted him from behind, directly blasting apart his defenses!

Furthermore, because of his using his bloodline ability, he was nowhere near his peak power, so he instantly died, unlike the other Beyond Unique Rank Anonymous Stars!

Anonymous Star2, in his child form, was heading towards the surface. He was only able to witness this scene before his clone died, and he couldn't help but feel a chill running down his spine before his eyes emitted dense killing intent.

Although his instincts saved his life again, he still felt a deep sense of betrayal despite having had such thoughts towards ATLAS before. Still, this cost him a Blood Hydra Incarnation, which was akin to a free lifeline, so he was filled with rage and vowed to get back at ATLAS and Anonymous Stars for this.

However, if he could have witnessed the scene further after his death, he wouldn't have had such thoughts because the moment Anonymous Star2 died, Jacob appeared.

However, there was a frown on his face since Anonymous Star2 died too easily, unlike the other Anonymous Stars, which made him somewhat suspicious.

However, when Anonymous Star1 confirmed that it was indeed Anonymous Star2's dead body with the Anarchy Network, and it also had his life signature and all, Jacob couldn't find any fault in this.

In the end, Jacob's suspicion didn't last long, and he thought Anonymous Star2 should be the weakest among his peers. Since he had hunted all the Anonymous Stars in these past few days, it was time to get their blood, while he naturally spared Anonymous Star1 since he needed him.

However, when he started absorbing the Anonymous Stars' blood, starting with Anonymous Star2, he was shocked by the sheer potency of Anonymous Star2's blood!

It was like he was absorbing the blood of 10 Beyond Unique Rank Experts all at once, and this made him very curious about Anonymous Star2's race!

Chapter 684 Five life Phantom Hydra

After Jacob had absorbed all the blood of Anonymous Star Nos. 2 to 9, he decided it was time to sculpt his lower legs, starting from his ankles. So he found a secluded place and let Autarch guard him, who was now in Anonymous Star1's body.

But first, he asked Immortika, "What was Anonymous Star2's race? His blood was so potent despite his weak physique."

Jacob still couldn't forget about the potent blood vitality of Anonymous Star2 and wanted to know about his race. If there were more like him, he didn't mind putting some effort into investigating their whereabouts. After all, the more potent the blood vitality, the better it was for him, for it would greatly increase his speed of completing the third stage.

"Hehehe... so you've noticed that, huh?" Immortika laughed with great relish and wrote, "Well, it's only natural because he has a true legendary bloodline like a Wyvern, slightly stronger even. He's a Five Life Phantom Hydra! And what you've killed was merely his Blood Incarnation!"

Jacob's eyes widened when he heard this unexpected revelation and quickly questioned, "So, he's still alive!? What kind of race is this Phantom Hydra? Because the Anonymous Star1 clearly confirmed his death, but you're telling me that was just some

kind of clone that can even fool detection of a Life Signature and bypass the Oath Contract?"

Jacob felt agitated because this ability was simply too ridiculous, and he would give away anything to have such an ability himself. Furthermore, this legendary bloodline was even stronger than a Wyvern, and now Jacob was feeling uneasy because if this guy was alive and was just a mere clone, then this meant he had experienced everything, and now he was in the wind.

Although Jacob had quickly killed him, he still didn't know how much he had seen, which made Jacob frown gravely. Not to mention, it was quite clear that he could also bypass the Oath Contract like him, or he wouldn't be able to pull such a stunt on the ATLAS.

"Hehehehe, it's not a clone but an incarnation. You see, the Five Life Phantom Hydra has a very special bloodline aspect named Lifeline that grants it five lives, which means you must kill it five times before you can completely kill it.

"Furthermore, the Five-Life Phantom Hydra can willingly split those lives into Blood Hydra Incarnation by sacrificing half of his lifespan and power rank. Although this ability is quite pricey, once it splits into an Incarnation, the process isn't reversible, and a Lifeline will be gone.

"However, if used in a correct situation, it can be a lifesaver and can grant it a new slate. When the main body split away from an incarnation, if it had any kind of restraints like contracts or unbreakable oaths, or if the body was afflicted with some powerful poisons or curses, it was left behind on the incarnation.

"Furthermore, the main body's life signature will also change, including the mystic signature. That's why this aspect is called Lifeline: It can grant a new life to the Five Life Phantom Hydra.

"The incarnation you just killed should be this Five-Life Phantom Hydra's second life incarnation, which left him with three more lifelines. Since he dared to use an incarnation, this could only mean he's long gone! Hahahaha!" Immoritka laughed towards the end as if enjoying Jacob's gloomy expression.

"I didn't know there was a bloodline like this out there," Jacob muttered as he was completely enticed by this bloodline aspect and couldn't help but want it for himself.

But alas, he knew it was just a pipe dream since he had missed his chance, and the third stage didn't allow him to rob others of their aspects like the second stage.

However, it was only momentarily since even if he had known about such a bloodline, he wouldn't have put his progress on hold just to search for such an elusive bloodline.

After all, a legendary bloodline was simply too rare in lower galaxies, and hunting them required power, so he didn't feel much regret.

"But how did he find out about this ambush? I made sure the others hadn't alerted each other and hunted them one by one. Yet, this guy was able to predict and even use this ridiculous ability by paying such a price. Only someone with absolute conformation could have resolved it using a lifeline," Jacob thought out loud. This was still very strange, and he felt somewhat uncomfortable as he thought someone was watching him.

In truth, this question was directed at Immoritka since he knew there was something more to this Hydra and wanted to know.

"Hahahaha... just ask if you want my opinion, and it wasn't like this is a big deal. He was able to avoid your little scheme because of his Hydra Instincts, which are very keen when it comes to sensing mortal danger to their lives. Since he wasn't arrogant enough to ignore those Hydra Instincts, he was able to keep the rest of his lives while only paying with one." Immoritka explained.

Jacob's eyes winded slightly because something instantly came to mind when he heard about these Hydra Instincts, "Isn't it just like the Fighting Giant Spirit?"

"You can say that." Immoritka didn't deny Jacob's comparison.

After getting the information about the hidden secret behind the Anonymous Star2, Jacob ordered Autarch to be even more careful. Although he had already confirmed that there wasn't any hidden danger around him with Immortika, he was still wary of Anonymous Star2.

Only then did he start the sculpting of the longevity scheme on his lower legs. This time, it took Jacob around a month until he exhausted all his blood vitality again.

But he wasn't too depressed about it since he could tell after completing both of his lower legs and even completing around 2% of his upper right leg with extra blood he might already be as strong as a newly advanced inception legend rank expert.

However, he had no way of knowing for sure, and Immortika refused to tell him his current power level. Nonetheless, what mattered most was the progress of the cursed bone marrow, and after enduring months of pain, it had reached 31.01%!

After getting familiar with his new strength, he was finally ready, and he directly ordered Autarch, "Let's go; we are going to the heart of the Siren Hymn Temple!"

After the chaos caused by the Nine Anonymous Stars, the Siren Hymn Temple was filled with gloom and in a state of emergency. Even the three empires had noticed this, but they didn't do anything and silently observed from the shadows.

Furthermore, they were busy tracking down the Legendary Key's location given to them by the Ocean Oracle, and since this was an internal matter of the Siren Hymn Temple, they also didn't want others to interfere in this.

However, because the main temple sent huge forces to investigate and clean up their rotten priest lords, this decreased the security of the main temple by at least half.

Which made it easier for those who knew their way around this place to sneak in. However, it was still quite difficult with all the defensive formations in this place.

But if someone had the ability to turn anyone below the legendary rank into its puppets, then even this much security wasn't enough, not to mention if this also involved a huge scheme in place.

This was exactly what happened, as Jacob easily bypassed the security of the Siren Hymn Temple and entered the heart of their territory with Autarch's help and the Star Lord's scheme.

There was a huge city in this place called the Mermaid Faith City, and this could be considered the Siren Hymn Temple's capital city. In this place, only those accepted directly in the main temple can enter after many passing trials and prove their faith.

All the priest lords under the Siren Hymn Temple were also anointed from this place, which was extremely huge and beautifully built. Glowing buildings surrounded the colossal main temple in the center.

However, despite its high security, Star Lord was able to put a spy in this place, who was one of the twenty Templar Masters of the Siren Hymn Temple, which were surprisingly under Star Lord's thumb.

A Templar Master was like an imperial general, and only Templar Grandmasters ranked above them, followed by the Holy Maiden and the Ocean Oracle, so one could only imagine just how startling the Star Lord's capabilities were.

When Anonymous Star1 reported that the task of killing the other eight Anonymous Stars had been completed, Star Lord gave him this Templar Master's location and even an easy way to enter the Mermaid Faith City.

Even Jacob was surprised by this and followed Star Lord's instructions. However, Jacob still tweaks this plan to make it even more flawless.

The original plan was for Anonymous Star1 to approach this Templar Master, and then she would give him her identity and token so he could easily enter the Siren Hymn Temple.

He was supposed to use an Illusion Array of Beyond Unique Rank to disguise himself as this Templar Master. This disguised method was created by an illusion array of Beyond Unique Rank, which put an extremely powerful illusion around the user's body and made him appear in anything scanned by the array.

However, this method has a huge flaw, which is that if someone touches the body, they would be able to easily tell that it wasn't real and could easily see through the illusion, or if they had eyes like Jacob, it was bound to fail.

That's why Jacob decided not to use this method. While the Templar Master's guard was down, and she was busy explaining her role to Anonymous Star1, he had Autarch make her into his puppet.

After all, there won't be any chance of others seeing through this disguise if she isn't wearing any. Besides, Jacob wasn't planning on following Star Lord's entire plan. He was just following it until it suited him.

Jacob manipulates all this while he hides in shadows, and once Autarch turns this Templar Master into his puppet, he also has his retreat to him since sacrificing Autarch wasn't part of his plan.

Now, the puppet Templar Master was swimming in the hallways of the Siren Hymn Temple and approaching the core area, and she approached it; faint runes around the passage shimmered.

However, when she reached the gigantic gate, she was stopped by another siren who had a muscular build. She was six meters tall and was wearing full body armor, and her eyes were icy cold.

"Templar Master Eula, what are you doing in this place? I wasn't told you have an audience with the Holy Maiden." The stern-

faced armored siren questioned coldly while looking at the puppet Templar Master named Eula.

"Grandmaster Lydia!" Eula greeted with a bow and her tone were respectful, she said, "I seek your forgiveness for coming here without any prior notification, but this matter is of utmost importance and I had no choice but to come here personally since we can't trust anyone with going on recently."

"I'm sure the Holy Maiden would not reject my audience because this matter involved the attackers involved in the recent blasts. The sooner I report this to the Holy Maiden, the faster we can calm all this chaos down," Eula said with a grave expression.

Grandmaster Templar Lydia, who was one of the five Grandmaster Templars, was an Early Stage Inception Legend Rank expert of the Siren Hymn Temple. her duty was to protect this place with her life, and her loyalty was unquestionable.

So, when she heard this, her eyes flashed with killing intent as if she wanted to personally bring judgment to those degenerates who dared to cause such chaos in this holy place. She even blamed them for corrupting their innocent priest lords.

"I'll alert the Holy Maid right away; please wait." Lydia quickly agreed and didn't question Eula's credibility for a moment since she had personally seen her grow up and even gave her pointers.

Lydia then took out a small talisman and muttered something in it before the runes on the talisman shimmered and faded slightly.

Thereupon, a cold majestic voice rang from the talisman, "Led her to the audience hall, I'll be there!"

Lydia then stowed away the talisman and nodded towards Eula with a hint of appreciation in her stern eyes, "Let's go, Master Templar Eula. You've done great service to the temple, and you have my utmost gratitude!"

Eula bowed slightly and didn't shun away from Lydia's praise, "It's something I should do, or I won't be able to show my face to the goddess in the afterlife!"

Little did anyone know, whether it was the Star Lord or the Siren Hymn Temple, that this was the start of a huge event that would forever change everything for everyone, especially Jacob!

Chapter 686 Hoist by His own Petard! (2)

Lydia and Eula entered a grand hall filled with luminous pearls and grand statues. In the top center of the hall was sitting the breathtaking siren, Nataly, on an emerald throne, wearing an impassive impression on her charming face, giving off an air of aloofness. She didn't seem anything like her docile self in front of Ocean Oracle.

Both Lydia and Eula prostrate themselves in front of Nataly, "We greet Holy Maiden of Supreme Goddess!"

"En..." Nataly merely nodded in acknowledgment before she got to the point while looking at Eula, "Master Templar Eula, do you have something important to report?"

Eula and Lydia stood up; while Lydia kept her silence, Eula spoke respectfully, "Indeed, I received something unexpected a few hours ago with a message. Please take a look."

Eula, under Nataly and Lydia's expectant gazes, took something out of her space ring. It was a large cylindrical glass container filled with a translucent green liquid.

However, when they saw the contents of this container, their expression changed because there were eight heads of different species, and they were not from the ocean races either!

Nataly knit her brows tightly and asked, "What's the meaning of this?"

Eula didn't explain, and instead, she took out something else. There were two scrolls, one white and one gray. The gray one seemed to have a runic seal on it, while the white one was completely plain.

Eula then handed over those scrolls to bewildered Lydia and said respectfully, "Grandmaster, please present them to the Holy Maiden after checking if there's something wrong with them."

Lydia snapped out of her stupor and solemnly nodded. She then scanned those scrolls, especially the one with the runic seal, to make sure there wasn't any trick on them.

After she confirmed that there wasn't anything wrong, using her magic, she sent them towards Nataly, who was watching this silently, but a hint of impatience was present in her curious eyes.

"There are fine," Lydia commented.

Nataly nodded and received those scrolls. Then she opened the white scroll since it didn't have a seal on it. As for the other one with a runic seal, she knew if she tried to force the seal open, its contents would be destroyed, and she would need a proper method to unseal it. That's why she went for the white one first.

However, when she read what was written on the white scroll, her expression changed slightly.

"For the Holy Maiden: I present you the heads of the offenders behind the chaos of your temple. Please accept my goodwill, and I left something important in the sealed scroll. The method to open this seal is known to the Ocean Oracle. If you give it to her, she'll instantly know how what it is!

"Sender: Follower of Mermaid Goddess!"

Nataly fell into contemplated silence, unsure whether to believe this sender or not. The contents of this scroll were simply too important to be ignored, not to mention that those eight heads were also striking proof.

Furthermore, she knew not just anything could enter the Mermaid Faith City, especially now since it was under a strict curfew. Not to mention that this sender was able to deliver it directly to Eula without getting caught by her. She still didn't doubt Eula's loyalty, and it hadn't occurred to her that she was a spy.

"I presumed that you weren't able to capture this messenger, right?" Nataly asked in a somewhat grim tone.

Eula nodded with a bitter expression and bowed, "I seek your forgiveness, this person was simply too cunning, and I don't know how they were able to sneak this into my quarters. No one noticed it, and that's why I harshly punished those incompetent guards. I also launched an investigation to comb through the city."

Nataly shook her head, "I'm not blaming you, Master Templar. You did your part perfectly. Please continue with the search and see if you can find anything. I ask Grandmaster Templar to assist Master Templar in this as well. Meanwhile, leave that container here. I'll seek Her Holiness's guidance."

"I understand!"

"I'll make the arrangement right away."

Both Eula and Lydia agreed without hesitation, and they quickly left to search for this mysterious messenger. Nataly was now left alone with the container and the scrolls.

Nataly didn't bring them to Mercy right away. With a wave of her hand, she pulled the container with the heads in her hand, and magic started to gather in her hand. She was scanning those heads to see if she found something about them.

A hint of shock flashed past her eyes. "They died very recently, and the element glyphs on their skulls have all started to spread through their skulls, and they are vague. They were beyond unique rank experts! Just who could've hunted them all? Some Inception Legend Rank expert that I'm not aware of?"

When a Unique Rank expert started to understand their element glyph and started to convert their magic orbits into aura or spirit orbits, the element glyphs on their skulls started to bloom and spread on their bones, starting from their skulls.

A perfect stage Beyond Unique Rank element glyph would have spread through their entire skull, and their outlines would have been of a vague shade.

A perfect stage inception legend rank would have their bodies converted into a Spirit Body or Aura Body, which would have their element glyph spread on their entire skeleton, and it would be of dark shade. Therefore, this rank was known as the Inception Legend Body.

For a Quasi Legend, the element glyphs on their bones started to change mysteriously and spread to their Magic Cores; those glyph marks on the bones appeared ethereal.

This was the easiest way to identify someone's three steps of legend's rank!

If she had some doubts about their identity, now that she found that they were beyond unique rank experts, those doubts began to vanish, and she started to believe the contents of the letter!

Nataly then looked towards the sealed scroll in her hand, and she finally made a decision, 'Although Her Holiness told me not to disturb her unless something of absolute importance occurred, this matter is very important, especially this sealed scroll. I have to alert her!'

Thereafter, she quickly made her way toward the Oracle audience hall, but she failed to notice that something else was hidden underneath those element glyphs, and they worked as a smokescreen for it!

Chapter 687 Hoist by His own Petard! (3)

Within the secret prayer hall of the Siren Hymn Temple, Mercy was sitting in the middle of the Fate Soul Formation while surrounded by an ethereal white light, and the states around the formation were glowing brightly.

In front of Mercy were a few dry corpses of sirens, and another siren was in the process of turning into one. At this moment, the light around Mercy dimmed down, and the formation also stopped.

She looked towards the cloaked figure who was waiting for her to finish and said in a grim tone with a hint of shock, "This Harold fellow is also dead!"

The cloaked figure spoke at this moment, "Don't you find it amusing yet terrifying that, including Free Sword, his crew is dead? But somehow, he's still proclaimed alive?"

Mercy frowned and replied, "I don't understand what you're implying."

"That's the thing. You can only perform an oracle on the person who is still alive, but you can't tell when and where they died. Now that we have pretty much confirmed that

Free Sword and almost all his crew are dead, this has me thinking: Who killed them and then took the legendary key? Whoever this person is, he has to be extremely cunning."

"Then why are you still insisting on finding out about these people's whereabouts if you think the legendary key has already been taken? Shouldn't we be trying to locate the legendary key now? With this Fate Soul Formation, I don't think an error like before would transpire," Mercy stated with some uncertainty.

If before she was speculating that Golden Constant-87,001 was scheming something and there was something special about Free Sword and his crew, now she had no idea what he was trying to achieve by having her perform oracle on dead beings.

"Just keep going, only three people left on the list, and if nothing happens, you can do as you please. But we need to do this until the list ends." Golden Constant-87,001 coolly replied, but his tone was firm.

In truth, he was also starting to doubt Timeless City Lord's decision and no longer had any clue what he wanted to achieve by doing this. If it were on him, he would've also given up after finding out Free Sword and most of his crew were dead. But he had to complete this mission no matter how reluctant he was, or he found it meaningless.

Mercy's frown deepened, but since she wasn't the one exhausting her lifespan to perform these meaningless oracles, and she was even getting this Fate Soul Formation out of it, she decided to get over it.

However, at this moment, when she was about to continue, Nataly's voice sounded in her mind, "Your Holiness, please forgive me, but there is an urgent matter that requires your attention. Just now..."

After Mercy heard about what Eula had brought and that sealed scroll, she was astounded.

She couldn't help but look towards Golden Constant-87,001 again and ask, "I just received a message from the Holy Maiden that she received eight heads and a sealed scroll. According to her, those heads belonged to the attackers involved in the recent incident. As for the sealed scroll, the sender stated that I should know the method to unseal it. Is this your doing?"

Golden Constant-87,001 didn't refute her statement and merely shrugged his shoulder, "You were the one who wanted an explanation on this matter, so I'm giving you an explanation. As for that sealed scroll, consider it compensation and a written apology from the reckless person who offended you without knowing your status."

Mercy's lips curled up slightly, "So, you told the Star Hackers who their real master is, huh?"

"Sometimes, we need to teach our dogs how to behave in the presence of their master, or they might start thinking about biting us," Golden Constant-87,001 dismissively stated.

"Heh, that dog must have been devastated when he found out that he had someone holding his leash and wasn't as free as he thought he was." Mercy coldly sneered as she agreed with Golden Constant-87,001's statement.

The next moment, Mercy vanished from her spot, and after a little while, she reappeared with a glass container filled with eight heads and a sealed scroll.

"Well, consider this matter over. I accept your explanation." Mercy seemed very pleased as she asked while waving the sealed gray scroll in front of Golden Constant-87,001, "So, how should I open it? I'm quite curious what's inside?"

Golden Constant-87,001 didn't reply and pointed his sharp finger toward the scroll. A faint dark blue beam shot out from it and directly entered the runic seal on the scroll.

The seal instantly vanished, and the scroll was unsealed. However, what both Golden Constant-87,001 and Mercy failed to notice was that hidden in the runic seal was an extremely tiny crimson dot. The moment the seal was opened, the crimson dot vanished with it.

They were both confident that the owner of this scroll would never dare to play any trick against them. But they didn't know that there was someone else who had touched this scroll.

Now, Mercy was about to open the scroll when one of the heads in the glass container suddenly flashed with an ethereal black light. Mercy and Golden Constant-87,001 instantly noticed it.

"What's this?" Mercy asked curiously as she thought this was also Golden Constant-87,001's arrangements.

However, Golden Constant-87,001 said something unexpected with a hint of uncertainty, "This... I don't know..."

Just as his voice trailed off, round objections started to pour in within the glass container, glowing dark brown.

1...3...5...9... the glowing objections continued to pour out, and soon the glass container broke because of their numbers.

Both Mercy and Golden Constant-87,001 were alarmed by those mysterious as they didn't have any magic fluctuations, but they seemed to be pulsing.

"What the hell is going on?" Mercy was agitated and angry.

"I don't know. Quickly use your magic to gather them..." Golden Constant-87,001 sprang into action. He didn't have time to answer Mercy, and he also had no idea what was going on.

However, at this moment, the small round objects stopped pouring out, and a twenty-meter-long cylindrical object filled with glowing dark brown liquid appeared. The moment it appeared, both Mercy and Golden Constant-87,001 heard a faint sound...

"Beep..."

The next moment, a blinding white light started to bloom like an apocalyptic volcano!

Chapter 688

A day before, Eula entered the Siren Hymn Temple with the head container and sealed scroll.

"So, this is the thing that Star Lord wants to deliver with eight anonymous stars' heads?" Jacob analyzed the gray scroll with a seal on it, but he didn't try to unseal it because he knew he would destroy it without a proper method, and his plan would fail if that happened.

Eula, standing in front of Jacob, replied emotionlessly like a puppet, "Yes. I received this scroll a few days ago through teleportation transportation. I was ordered to hand it over to Anonymous Star No.1 together with my identity, and then I was supposed to leave the Mermaid Faith City and return to the base."

"How interesting. Even Anonymous Star1 wasn't aware of your true identity as Anonymous Star No.10. He was also ordered to deliver this scroll with the heads to the Ocean Oracle and was quite confident that she would personally receive it. And your orders were different before, right?" Jacob asked with a hint of uncertainty.

"Yes, the plan was to sneak into the temple together with Anonymous Star1 when most of the Templars were away and kidnapped the Ocean Oracle. However, Star Lord suddenly changed it." Eula replied truthfully.

Jacob frowned a little as he still didn't understand why the Star Lord made such changes. "This Star Lord really knows how to plant a spy, but I still don't understand what he wanted to achieve by this. The answer probably lies within this scroll, but I can't open it. Well, whatever, since his plan is going to help me, I'm pretty content with it. Go and wait for me to finish my preparation; make sure no one comes to this place."

Eula nodded in agreement before she left Jacob alone in this secret room inside her residence.

"What is your order for me, sir?" Autarch asked who was still inside Anonymous Star No.1's body and standing behind Jacob.

Jacob replied, "For what I'm about to do, Eula would be sufficient. I don't want you to be caught by this, so it won't be long before you have to discard this body as well."

"I understand." Autarch didn't ask further questions, became silent, and let Jacob do what he wanted.

'Now, how many bombs would be sufficient to blow up an entire city protected by a three-step legend rank formation?' Jacob thought as he looked at the scroll.

Jacob's plan was simple; he wanted to blow up the entire Mermaid Faith City with the Ocean Oracle!

But to make this plan work, he needed to make sure the Ocean Oracle was in the range of those blasts because he still didn't know what her rank was. So, to ensure this attack didn't fail, he decided to use almost all his explosives that couldn't be used with Planet Destroyer.

Jacob then carefully carved a space rune under the skull of anonymous star2, right under those runic lines, because it would be very hard to discover with those runic lines present. Afterward, he stored all those bombs in that space rune, which had a 20-meter space.

He had done this many times to make the Planet Destroyer, so it wasn't hard for him to do the same with a skull. All he needed were materials and to be extremely careful not to damage the skull. This process was like making a space ring and a skull of Beyond Unique Rank being more than resilient enough to achieve it.

But it was still not enough because despite storing those bombs in this hidden space rune, he still needed a trigger to blast them. Since he didn't want to be anywhere near when this blast happened, he used a magic trigger.

He first connected all those bombs with a simple magic rune that was connected to a magic remote control, and then he installed it in a Sun Missile, which was even more powerful than the one he used in the dead faction territory.

As for its trigger, it was also very simple; it can be triggered by anyone and isn't complex. Most importantly, its size is minuscule, so it can't be noticed by others unless they are looking for it.

So, he sneakily carved it above the runic seal of the sealed scroll. Now, even if Ocean Oracle didn't receive this scroll, as long as someone opened it or the runic seal was destroyed, the trigger would be activated the very next moment.

All Jacob needs is for them to be present in the middle of the Siren Hymn Temple the moment the trigger is active, and he will still achieve his goal. To make sure it happens, he has Autarch as security.

This will be the end of not only the main Siren Hymn Temple but also the Mermaid Faith City, not to mention all the blood he would harvest once all those powerful sirens present in the city die because of it.

This will also be his final act. He leaves the deep ocean for good because, after this, he knows a huge upheaval will start in it, and he doesn't want anywhere near that despite it being quite useful for him.

He was simply planning to head towards the Dead Faction Territory to complete the evolution of his hex core and to get rid of that damn insect queen.

Furthermore, if he greatly diminished the power of the ocean races, who would go against the surface for him? His plan was far deeper than just getting rid of the threat named Ocean Oracle!

[Present]

Over a hundred miles away from the Mermaid Faith City, Jacob was sitting cross-legged on his thunder whale and was calmly waiting for his cue.

Despite the ocean's dark surroundings, Jacob was looking in the direction of the Mermaid Faith City.

Right at this moment, Jacob's eyes narrowed when he sensed something in the calm water, 'Did it work?'

The next moment, in the dark surroundings, Jacob saw a white light blooming far away like a rising sun.

"Boommmm..."

The deafening noise could be heard clearly even from this distance, and the white light continued to grow and quickly approached Jacob.

Jacob's lips curled up, 'It's far more powerful than then I've anticipated it to be. I should probably keep my distance. I can feel the incoming shockwaves and heat even from here!'

Under Jacob's command, the thunder whale instantly turned around and fled from the light at full speed. However, the light was too fast and enveloped the thunder whale!

Chapter 689 Pay the Piper! (1)

Surface, somewhere in the star ocean, was located a hidden isle known as Lightning Isle by its inhabitants, the Lightning Elf Race!

The Lightning Elf Race is one of the hidden races of the Unique Plains and one of the few Three Steps of Legend Races!

The Lightning Isle was surrounded by a purple lightning field all year long, and many exotic flora of lightning type were present in this place, making it ideal for those with an affinity for lightning.

However, Lightning Isle still falls far behind when compared to the Thunder Giant Mountain Range of Thunder Giant Race—the race with an Inception Legend Rank Alliance Leader, no less!

Furthermore, if the Thunder Giant found out that there was another race other than them that could use lightning or thunder elements, and they were also keeping such a dense lightning-filled land hidden from them, it would not end well for the Lightning Elf Race.

Their reason for them to remain hidden all this time despite their prowess also happened to be because of the Thunder Giants!

In the center of the lightning isle was a village of lightning elves. Houses were made of huge purple trees with white thunder-like markings, and many rope bridges connected these houses and trees like a highway.

In the center of this down-to-nature place was a colossal tree, and on this tree was the largest house present in this village because it was the house of the Chief of Lightning Elves.

At this moment, sitting inside this house were two purple-skinned elves playing a chess game; one elf appeared to be in his late thirties and had a handsome appearance, while the other elf was like an old man in his early sixties, and both resembled each other greatly.

But the resemblance didn't just end with their facial features, in fact, the shrewdness and intelligence in their eyes were almost identical.

If Jacob were here, he would've instantly recognized this middle-aged purple-skinned elf dressed in an ordinary fashion and playing chess because he was none other than the former president of the alchemy guild of the epic plains, Nelsen N. Elliot!

As for the old elf who was making a move on the chess board, he is Nelsen's father and also the chief of Lightning Elves, Vincent N. Elliot!

The moment Vincent placed his chess piece, Nelsen narrowed his eyes as he almost instantly analyzed the board and looked at his father with a frown, "Old ghost, are you going easy on me?"

Vincent didn't seem to be bothered by Nelsen calling him 'old ghost,' and he looked Nelsen in the eyes as creepy coldness surfaced in his eyes, and he said meaningfully in his husky voice, "I miscalculated."

Nelsen was startled when he heard those two completely unexpected words. He knew Vincent wasn't someone who would admit something like this, especially right in front of his son. He was nothing but merciless towards his own son, more than anyone else, in fact!

"Old ghost, there is something wrong, isn't it? First, you barged into my room out of nowhere and then dragged me here to play chess. And now you're making this mistake and even admitting that you've miscalculated? Don't tell me, you only being nice to so you could go after Ellie!?"

Nelsen was fully on guard. He looked at his father as if he were a fiend and ready to fight to the death if he sensed even a little bit of hesitancy in Vincent's answer.

Vincent's lips twitched a little, and he sighed ruefully, "You have intelligence far superior to mine, yet you squander it by doing nothing but indulge yourself in all sorts of nonsense. I even let you snuck away in the hope that you might mature after experiencing life.

"But even after two centuries, you only returned because your impatient daughter had provoked someone she shouldn't have and almost got both of you killed in the process.

"Although you have matured quite a lot, you have become even more foolish in my eyes because of your daughter. She's nothing like us, and despite her grand ambition, she had no idea how to realize it without relying on you.

"So, if I had even a little bit of interest in her, just kill me right there and then because I would've lost my sanity!"

Nelsen pursed his lips as he clearly didn't like Vincent calling Ellie an absolute moron in roundabout ways. But he knew Ellie's shortcomings even better than Vincent, and what Vincent just said wasn't a lie either.

"Just leave her alone. I'm not like you, who wants his child to be a tool for his own ambition. For me, as long as she can live happily by doing anything she wants, I'll be content, and as a parent, it's my duty to make sure to correct her mistakes and protect her from any danger, even if it means sacrificing my pride, even my life is too cheap compares to hers." He didn't have any shred of mischief when he said those words, and he was solemn!

Vincent looked deeply into Nelsen's determined, unwavering eyes and sighed ruefully again, "I know I haven't done a good job as a father after your mother passed away, but that doesn't mean I consider you a tool for my ambition. And I can imagine why you feel like that.

"Heh, I guess we never even talked like this before, have we?" Vincent chuckled in a self-deprave manner.

Nelsen's expression became grave when he saw Vincent behaving like a gambler who had lost everything and was now seeking redemption. He instantly sensed something was amiss with Vincent.

"Old ghost, be honest with me! Is there a problem even you can't solve? Tell me. We might have our differences, but I can still help you. After all, even if I hate to admit it, we are still family!"

Vincent remained silent for a while before his lips rose in a faint smile, which sent a shiver down Nelson's spine because he didn't remember the last time Vincent had that kind of smile on his face. He had a very bad feeling about this.

Vincent finally spoke at this moment, "Since you said that it's a parent's duty to protect their children and defend them even if they make a grave mistake. Now, I wonder if the child would have the same sense of responsibility if the parents ended up making such mistakes?"

"Enough with your riddles! Just come clean with me. What the hell did you do?" Nelson barked with a hint of agitation.

Nelsen didn't like the look in Vincent's eyes because he knew that if someone like Vincent was saying he made a mistake, then this matter was huge—so huge that it might involve the entire Unique Plains!

Chapter 690 Pay the Piper! (2)

Vincent didn't lose his composure like Nelsen and said, "Why are you reacting like your daughter? Didn't I always teach you to be calm no matter the situation? I guess she got that impatience from you after all."

"Old Ghost! Do you still have a mind to joke? Just tell me, what's the matter, or is this one of your mind games?" Nelsen questioned with a dark expression, but he just knew Vincent was serious.

Vincent sighed again and said, "Well, since things are turning hectic, hiding from you will be meaningless. You have long guessed about my identity as the Star Lord of the Star Hackers, and this is one of the reasons you decided to run away back then, isn't that right?"

Nelsen's eyes narrowed. "And why are you admitting it right now?" He didn't deny Vincent's claim, and his heart became heavy.

Vincent replied with a deep tone, "Nelsen, I never intended to hide it from you to begin with. Do you think back then it was a mere coincidence that you stumbled upon my meeting with No.1?"

Nelsen's eyes winded at this moment as he suddenly thought of something, and he exclaimed, "You! You were testing me!? Do you want to see how I reacted after learning that you were the leader of the Star Hackers, the biggest criminal organization of the Unique Plain? Just what were you thinking, and why didn't you tell me or even stop me from sneaking away? Now, I'm sure you knew everything, so why?"

"If I tell you I want to test you and then recruit you into the organization as my successor as the next Star Lord, would you believe me?" Vincent questioned back, his expression impossible to read.

Nelsen thought for a moment before he shook his head, "No, I won't completely believe it. That might've been a test, but that test wasn't just simply about seeing how I react, wasn't it?"

Vincent's lips rose slightly as he nodded, "As expected of my son. Indeed, it wasn't just about seeing how you react after learning my identity; I also wanted to give you a choice—a choice to choose another path, a path different from mine.

"Although you ended up choosing that path, I was expecting a lot more to tell you the truth, and you really disappointed me. Well, I guess I'm the one to blame for it as well since I thought you were like me, who wanted to hold

power to rule everything." His voice was filled with disappointment, but there was a hint of guilt hidden in it.

Nelsen's eyes dilated a little, and he coldly stated, "Since I'd disappoint you, why are we having this chat? Just what had you done? Is it related to Star Hackers? Don't tell me someone is rebelling against you and they are succeeding. If it's true, then I'm even more disappointed in you, old ghost!"

Vincent's eyes turned deadly cold as he retorted, "If that were the case, it would've been quite entreating to tell you the truth. You know, I rise from nothing, especially when our race was on the verge of annihilation because the Thunder Giants wanted our secret technique.

"I saved as many of our clansmen as I could and then hid them when everyone was searching for us like bloody hounds. Then I joined the ATLAS and climbed my way up to the rank of Star-Lord by defeating that useless, good-for-nothing idiot.

"Then I even found this place for our race to flourish; now, almost all those people who had witnessed that calamity have died, and I'm the only one alive. Those newcomers didn't even remember their past and just how much their predecessors had sacrificed for them, you included.

"However, truthfully, I don't care because my ambition wasn't just to end in the Unique Plains. I wanted to escape this backwater place and enter the ocean named the Middle Plains.

"But I'm a selfish person who didn't want to discard what I've achieved through so much effort. That's why I want to leave behind my legacy, and that's why I made you.

"However, when the time arrived, I think I got soft-hearted because you are my own flesh and blood. I knew from the start that you were different because you never had to suffer anything that I did.

"And why should you? After all, what's the meaning of having so much power if I can't even give my own son what he wants? So, I just let you do as you wish, especially after you decided to look away and abandon your birthright.

"Even after you returned with my granddaughter, you just decided to live peacefully and support your own child. You could've asked me to let you join the ATLAS since you might've thought that I was testing you.

"You even hide this information from Ellie because you knew if she finds out, she will definitely want to join it because she craves power just like her grandfather, and she doesn't want to spend her life in this barren village.

"Well, I can't blame you for it since you knew if she joined ATLAS, you wouldn't be able to help her unless you were in a high position. Knowing me, I would rather let her die than cover up for her mistakes.

"I could've also used her to make you join the ATLAS because she's your weakness but again, I didn't and leave you alone."

Vincent smiled in self-mockery because he was admitting that even something as ruthless as him couldn't bring himself to force his own flesh and blood into this inescapable quicksand.

Nelsen also felt complicated as he looked at his father. He had never seen the man like this. As far as he could remember, the Vincent he knew was ruthless and calculative. He wouldn't hesitate to push even his own child to death to achieve his own goal, but now the Vincent in front of him wasn't giving him that vibe. He just appeared to be an old man filled with regret.

"I'm asking you again: Why are you telling me all this now? If you need my help, just ask. We are family, you old fool!"

Nelsen scoffed with a somewhat warm tone, and he felt irritated seeing his father like this. After all, he might not admit it, but Vincent was still the person he respected the most in this world.

"Family..." Vincent muttered before he looked at Nelsen and smiled. His smile was warm but filled with regret, "I am telling you all this because I finally realized that the position of power that I was so reluctant to let go of and waste my life to acquire was nothing but an illusion!"

"What do you mean?" Nelsen asked with squinted eyes.

"I always thought that I was the one manipulating the chessboard named Unique Plains, but it turned out that someone else was the real player, and I am just like everyone else: a chess piece who thought he had escaped the chess board. The Star Hackers are actually..."

Vincent was about to reveal something when his expression changed. At that moment, a static voice rang in his mind.

"Star Lord, the 'Lord' has demanded an audience with you immediately! Please head to this location (197.1583.39743.24) within an hour, or you'll be deemed a traitor!"