

## **Celestial Bloodline**

### **#Chapter 21: Ranking Assessment - Read Celestial Bloodline Chapter 21: Ranking Assessment**

#### *Chapter 21: Ranking Assessment*

As both Kyle and Nine entered the classroom and sat in the front row, not many noticed them.

Kyle looked at the classroom curiously because today was officially his first day. While looking around he also noticed Alec, Carcel, Lara, and Mia, sitting at the other end of the classroom.

The four of them sitting together was a sight to behold because all of them were beautiful and powerful.

A lot of students were trying to strike up a conversation with them but they ignored all of them and were busy talking among themselves.

Kyle looked at them for a while before talking to Nine again about the recent classes he missed.

As he was busy talking, someone entered the classroom. Wearing a beautiful outfit Professor Aliza came into the room, gathering the attention of everyone.

"Alright, everyone please keep quiet."

She walked and stood behind the podium, with tidy black hair and a sharp look Professor Aliza had a smile on her face as she slowly picked up the Attendance sheet.

Looking at the calm, gentle, and beautiful Professor Kyle thought that she was the nicest person on earth. But unlike every other male student who was blushing while staring at Aliza, he didn't look at her for longer than a few seconds.

It's not that he found her ugly it's just he thought it would be inappropriate to stare at the professor for too long.

Looking through the attendance sheet Aliza quickly started calling out names,

"Lily"

"Present"

"Alec"

"Present"

"Mia"

"Present"

.....

Suddenly pausing at a certain name Aliza said in a loud voice,

"Kyle Ohan?"

Hearing his name being called Kyle raised his hand and said,

"Present"

Aliza looked at Kyle with cold eyes, her previous smile was nowhere to be seen.

"Oh? So you finally decided to show your face."

She said sarcastically while looking at Kyle with a deadly stare.

Kyle felt a chill run down his spine, he swore she looked like an Angel just a second ago but now he felt he was seeing a demon disguised as an Angle.

".. I apologize, because it was my first time traveling so far I got motion sickness after coming to the Academy, that's why I was unable to attend the class."

Kyle lied with a serious face. But cold sweat could be seen dripping down from the side of his face.

Aliza frowned, she knew he was lying because yesterday she checked his location. Only to find, he camped inside the library for a week to read some useless books on monsters. Afterward, he took a useless mission like 'herb collecting' and left the Academy.

After glaring at Kyle for a while, she continued with the attendance. But inwardly she marked Kyle for a punishment he will soon experience.

Kyle's eyelid twitched indicating a bad premonition. But he was thick-skinned as he ignored the stares coming from the whole class.

Aliza closed the Attendance sheet before looking at the students.

"That's it, Now everyone can leave and go to the Training ground because the Ranking assessment will be held there."

All the students stood up and left the classroom.

Meanwhile, Aliza looked at Kyle back with a serious expression and mumbled under her breath,

"(+F)-Rank? Didn't the vice principal say just a week ago that he is only (-F)-Rank? How did he increase his rank when all he did was to read some books?"

After thinking for a while she thought maybe the vice principal made a mistake. But how can the vice principal who is an (SS)-Rank individual make a mistake? Thinking about all this she decided to keep an eye on Kyle during the competition.

....

In the training ground of the Academy, standing in a single line all the first-year students nervously stared at the professor before them.

Professor Liam wearing a navy blue outfit, stood tall in front of the students. The few wrinkles present on his forehead indicated that he was in his late thirties.

As the professor spoke in a loud voice, all the students felt the thick wave of mana present in the air. Though it wasn't overbearing, it still caused every student present to feel some pressure.

"Alright, everyone please pay close attention to what I'm saying because I will not repeat myself. For the Ranking assessment, all of you will be teleported inside a dungeon. The dungeon is called 'Goblin Cave'. It's an (F)-Rank dungeon, created by the Principal to nurture young talents like you all."

Pausing for a while and staring at the students standing before him, the professor continued,

"For your Ranking assessment, all you have to do is kill as many monsters as possible within the given time limit. For every monster you kill, you will be given an additional point on it. The higher the points you gain the higher your rank will be. There are some hidden tasks inside the dungeon which can give you additional points but it depends on your luck to find them. After the given time is finished you all will be automatically teleported out."

Pausing once again to make sure the students digested all the information, the professor continued,

"There will be some professors hidden inside the dungeon. This is because if there's any unforeseen accident inside the dungeon, they can quickly come to your aid. This is a safety precaution that the Academy has done to make sure none of you die."

"However..."

"If the professors are forced to help you, you will be disqualified, giving you directly the Last rank in the class. And I believe no one would like that, that's why I hope everyone will put effort into getting a high ranking."

The students shivered at the thought of getting the last rank in the class. Because no one wanted to be the last.

*Chapter 22: Goblin Cave*

Seeing the student's serious expression the professor nodded with satisfaction,

"Alright, you all will stay inside the dungeon for 2 days before teleporting out. However because you will be sent to the same dungeon at the same time, you are allowed to cooperate."

Pausing slightly, the professor's voice turned serious,

"And if you can cooperate, that also means you can also steal each other kills. After all, the person who gains the most points will gain the highest ranking. That's why not only from the monsters but you also have to watch out for the person next to you."

After completing his statement the professor smirked while looking at the students who were now wary of each other. Because after hearing the professor almost everyone vigilantly stepped away from the person near them.

There were also some students who showed worried expressions after knowing they had to stay in the dungeon for two days because no one was prepared for this. Everyone thought they would have a one-on-one battle for the Ranking assessment.

"Enough now! Be prepared. I am teleporting you all inside the dungeon."

Finished with what he wanted to say, Professor Liam lifted his right hand and the ground beneath the students shook slightly before teleporting them all inside the dungeon.

.....

Kyle felt the world around him twist and change, but because he had gone through this sensation a few times before he easily adjusted to it. Also unlike last time he didn't throw up.

Looking around he found himself inside a dark and damp cave that spanned almost hundreds of kilometers in diameter. Many other students were appearing one after another at the place he was standing.

But the moment they appeared they all scattered around in search of monsters because everyone was eager to earn as many points as possible.

As cold air brushed against his skin, Kyle also sprinted forward excitedly. He knew because of those four monsters he won't be able to get the top ranks but still, he inwardly decided to get a high ranking in class.

Just after a few minutes of running, like tsunami green creatures of short stature with long hooked noses, bat-like ears, and hideous smiles appeared from every corner of the cave.

-SWOOSH! -SWOOSH!

"What's that?"

"Goblins?"

"Kekekeke!"

"Kekekee!"

The Goblins loud laughter resounded in the cave, sending shivers running down everyone's spine.

Surprised by the unexpected situation, the students at the front stopped running and huddled up together before attacking the goblins.

With their backs against each other, all the students raised their specific weapons and attacked the nearest goblin.

-Clank! -Clank! -Clank!

"Attack!"

"Kill the Goblins!"

A lot of groups were formed, because of the large number of goblins. But amidst all the group a single group was killing the most goblins, in the front of the group Alec stood with his sword unsheathed. He killed whenever a goblin appeared in his sight using an elegant sword style.

-SLASH! -SIASH!

["Sword strike: Swirling vortex"]

As he used one of his powerful sword styles, a big vortex appeared at the tip of his sword, killing more than five Goblins in a single attack.

Seeing Alec going all out Carcel also didn't hold back and used one of his powerful attacks,

["Spear strike: Rain of thousand spears"]

Like a bolt of lightning, he thrust his spear forward, and more than thousands of mirages appeared behind his spear killing almost every goblin near him.

Lara and Mia both were standing behind them. Sending arrows and casting powerful attacks on the goblins.

When the students saw their teamwork and the number of goblins they were killing they were awestruck with shock. But this increased their determination to do better.

Goblins were considered the most common of monsters, but with their excellent sense of smell, hearing, and tendency to hunt in groups they were still dangerous creatures.

On the other hand, Kyle met up with Nine while running, both of them formed a group and were fighting at the opposite end of the cave. But when Kyle saw Alec and Carcel fighting style, there was only one this on his mind,

'I need a sword Art.' He indeed had a sword but he never learned proper fighting Art, that's why Kyle decided to get a perfect sword Art for himself after the Ranking assessment.

Nevertheless, because his rank was already (+F) the (F)-Rank goblins were nothing in front of him. He randomly slashed his sword without any pattern on the defenseless goblins while sending huge fireballs in between.

His mana was already (+F) so he was now able to form more than 10 fireballs before exhausting his mana. If somehow any goblins still passed his defense line he would punch and kick them without mercy, sending them flying.

Nine who was fighting alongside Kyle was having a little difficulty but when he saw Kyle's wild fighting style he was once again shocked, because even though Kyle was throwing fireballs here and there without a specific target but for some reason his attack would always land on a goblin.

He wasn't sure if Kyle was pretending to be inexperienced or if it was dumb luck.

*Chapter 23: Goblin Cave II*

After an hour,

The sea of goblins that was before the students was no longer visible. Currently, everyone was sitting on the hard ground, panting heavily. Because after fighting for so long they were exhausted.

Meanwhile, Alec who was sitting beside Carcel looked at the new notification he got from the system,

---

'Mission; xX'

Help the celestial to reduce the bloodline suppression effect.

-Failed!

Penalty:

-None!

Reward:

-None!

---

-New mission°

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'Mission; xX'

Explore the 'Goblin Cave' While Finding and killing the Goblin Leader.

Rewards:

1x Sub-rank increase.

1x D-Rank skill.

Failing penalty:

-None!

Time remaining: 2 days.

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Alec sighed looking at the notification, telling him about the failure of the mission. The reward was tempting but there was no way he would be able to find someone without knowing who it was.

'Humans don't have bloodlines. Was the system telling me to find a monster who has Celestial Bloodline? No way. The name Celestial sounds quite powerful and considering the system wants to stop the world from destruction, it won't help a powerful monster.'

Sometimes Alec just wished the system would give detailed information about the missions. But he didn't dare to complain after gaining so much from the system.

On the other hand, he was happy about finally gaining a new mission after so long. Finding and killing the Goblin Leader won't be hard for him as he is already inside the 'Goblin cave'.

Lara seeing Alec being too engrossed in his thoughts Said,

"What happened?"

Alec stood up and patted his clothes.

"Nothing. I am done resting, how about we go further inside the cave."

Mia nodded agreeing to Alec's suggestion.

Lara also agreed with a big sigh before following Alec and Carcel.

The four of them started walking, heading deeper into the cave. And seeing them leaving, all the students despite being tired stood up and quietly followed behind them.

Meanwhile, with the most pleasant smile one could muster, Kyle was walking behind the students. After killing so many goblins he was feeling refreshed. Looking at the students at the front Kyle said to Nine who was walking beside him,

"Honestly the Goblins were too ugly, but it was fun."

Nine who was slowly walking alongside Kyle replied in a daze.

"....Right"

During the goblin's attack, both Kyle and Nine were fighting further away from the students, that's why others didn't notice Kyle's rampage. But Nine saw everything, he saw how Kyle fought with the Goblins!

No, he won't call it a fight!



It was literally a bloody massacre where Kyle used his fists and kicks to punch the Goblins to their death. Seeing the Goblin's swollen and pitiful faces Nine accidentally imagined himself being on the receiving end,

'I swear to myself I will never get on Kyle's bad side.'

After promising himself to not get on Kyle's bad side he started cleaning the green goblin blood from his sword.

As everyone moved deeper into the cave without looking back, they heard a loud sound of metal clicking with each other.

-Click! -Clank!

Alec who was in the front moved forward to see the origin of the sound, only to find five different tunnels up ahead.

Among the five tunnels, the one in the middle was guarded by an (E)-Rank Goblin warrior, holding an axe in one hand and a shield in another.

Because there were five different paths to choose from, all the students started discussing which tunnel to enter. But mostly students decided to enter the one guarded by the Goblin warrior, because if it is guarded by an (E)-Rank Goblin then it's probably the right path.

After discussing with the others, Alec's team also decided to enter the middle tunnel. All four of them moved forward, engaging in a battle with the (E)-Rank Goblin warrior.

On the other hand, Kyle narrowed his eyes to see the situation. But when he saw that almost everyone was heading toward the middle path guarded by the Goblin warrior, he frowned. He gestured for Nine to just enter the left tunnel which was not guarded by any Guardian.

Nine also wanted to enter the middle tunnel but because Kyle said to enter the other one he asked with confusion,

"Why are we heading this way, when everyone is going to fight the Goblin warrior."

Kyle looked at Nine with a carefree smile,

"It's because the tunnels are too narrow from the inside. If we enter the same tunnel as others we won't be able to kill many goblins. First, it will be too crowded. And second, the people in front will get the most points due to them killing the most goblins."

Hearing Kyle's explanation, Nine nodded his head with understanding.

Both of them walked further inside the tunnel, and just like Kyle expected the road started to become narrow. A couple of (-F)-Rank goblins soon appeared before them, obstructing their path.

And because Kyle and Nine both were already holding their swords before entering the tunnel. They immediately attacked the goblins without any mercy.

-Click! -Clank! -Click!

-Thud! -Thud!

Soon after, many green heads fell on the ground indicating the end of the battle. For the next few hours, they either walked or hunted down goblins that tried to ambush them as they moved forward.

### *Chapter 24: Goblin Cave III*

After hunting goblins for a few more hours, both Nine and Kyle were tired that's why they decided to rest.

Kyle took out a clean pair of clothes from the storage ring before throwing away the clothes he was wearing, because they were damp with green goblin blood.

After changing his clothes, he took out a big piece of cloth from the storage ring and started setting it up in a corner. The piece was big enough to hold at most 2-3 people.

As Kyle was done setting up the sleeping place, he looked at it and nodded with satisfaction. Afterward, he took out some packaged food from his storage ring to eat.

All this was possible because, before the Ranking assessment, Kyle went to the back mountain to search for the Red snow flower. That's why he already had some food and other things stored inside the storage ring, which was enough for him to last a week inside the Goblin Cave without any worry.

On the other hand, Nine who was sitting not so far from Kyle looked at him dumbfounded while complaining inwardly,

'What the hell, why does it look like he is here for a picnic? And when did he have the time to prepare all this?'

Finding food and water was one of the biggest difficulties of this test. However, here Kyle was eating packed food without any care.

When Kyle saw Nine staring at him with a strange expression, he was embarrassed because he forgot to share. After realizing this, Kyle called Nine to eat and sleep

together. As Nine ate the food offered by Kyle he almost felt sorry for the other students that must have been starving right now.

Unlike Kyle and Nine who slept peacefully, the other students who entered the middle tunnel were not having an easy time at all.

They have been trying to find a water source immediately after they enter the tunnel. But considering they were inside a cave it was almost impossible for them to find any water source.

"I can't go on, I need a clean place to sleep."

"We have no food and water, and the only thing we are seeing is these creepy-looking goblins."

"I am tired of fighting all day."

A few students indeed had something to eat on them, but because the number of students was too high, they didn't dare to bring it out from their storage rings.

In the end, they all give up on finding food and started walking in the middle of the dark tunnel in search of a suitable place to sleep.

But the further they advanced the more the Goblins appeared, making it almost impossible for them to rest.

Among the students, the one who was having the most difficulty was Carcel. Because he was a Prince, for the first time in his life he had to cope with such a dirty environment. But still, he didn't show his discomfort to not become a burden to his teammates. Also, he knew sooner or later he would have to cope with similar situations.

.....

Meanwhile, outside the dungeon at the training ground,

There were multiple big projections lit up in the sky, showing the performance of many students inside the dungeon.

Including Professor Liam and Professor Aliza, more than seven Professors were gathered at the center of the training ground, looking at how the students were performing inside the dungeon.

Among the students, the most noticeable ones were obviously Alec, and Carcel because they were showing great potential to survive in a harsh environment and perfect teamwork.

There were also other students who caught the professor's attention, like Nine or Kyle. Because both of them were enjoying the Goblin Cave, instead of struggling.

Some professors looked at them and joked, about how lucky they were to coincidentally store water and food before the Ranking assessment.

On the other hand, Professor Aliza who had been keeping an eye on Kyle from the start of the Ranking assessment frowned because even though Kyle was showing good enough performance. Still, compared to someone like Alec, he wouldn't even be considered average.

'Kyle is not skilled with a sword nor does he have any decent magic attacks, except for fireball. In the real battle, one needs skills and experience, which I can see he lacks completely.'

She shook her head with disappointment.

Aliza knew Kyle's talent was only (B)-Rank, still she thought if he could advance to (+F)-Rank in just a week, maybe he was trying to compensate for his lack of talent through hard work. But after seeing his useless way of using a sword and attacking without any specific plan or pattern, she was sure he wouldn't be able to achieve anything in the future.

As she thought about all this, she sighed.

It seems after seeing talents like Alec and Carcel she was starting to compare everyone with them, forgetting not everyone was born with such over-the-top talent. In the end, it's only been a week since Kyle joined the Academy and he can work on what he lacks in the future.

Afterward, she stopped looking at the projection showing Kyle and turned to look at other student's performance.

### *Chapter 25: Dark Vision*

On the second day, Kyle and Nine after having a good night's sleep, started hunting goblins again. But the number of monsters started to decrease the further they moved in the tunnel.

After a few more hours of walking, they finally saw some light in the distance.

"Is it the exit?"

Kyle exclaimed before increasing his speed and heading straight toward the light.

Seeing Kyle speeding up, Nine who was beside him also increased his speed until they finally reached the source of light.

Nine looked at the sight before him with narrowed eyes and Said,

"What is this place?"

In front of them was a large open area filled with stones of different sizes. On their left were four more tunnels the same as they come from. At the far end of the open space, there was a huge cave where the light was coming from.

A Goblin warrior emitting the aura of (-E)-Rank was standing guard in front of the cave. That Goblin warrior looked just like the one they saw before entering the tunnel, only smaller in stature.

Holding an axe in one hand and a big shield in the other, the Goblin was continuously moving left and right, making it impossible for anyone to enter inside without getting spotted.

After taking a good look at the Goblin warrior Nine mumbled under his breath,

"I wonder if we can kill it..."

He was only (F)-Rank. On the other hand, the Goblin was emitting an aura of (-E)-Rank. Even though the only difference between them was two sub-ranks, but the monsters were more powerful than humans. To defeat a monster of the same rank one needs to be a sub-rank higher than the monster.

As Nine was still thinking about how to kill the Goblin warrior. Kyle said seriously,

"Let's not waste time, we can defeat it if we attack together."

Nine nodded and both of them slowly started closing the distance between the Goblin warrior from opposite directions.

The First one to attack was Nine, he swung his sword at the Goblin warrior from behind trying to catch it off guard. But the goblin warrior sensed the attack and blocked it using the axe. But before the goblin warrior could deflect Nine attack, Kyle threw a huge fireball on its head making it cry in pain.

-GAAHH!

The fireball did injure the Goblin warrior but the injuries were minor, not affecting the Goblin warrior. Taking advantage of the momentum, when the Goblin warrior was distracted due to Kyle's attack, Nine shifted his body a little and attacked the Goblin with his strongest sword attack.

["Impending Rain"]

As Nine slashed his sword vertically, a huge gash appeared on the Goblin's shoulder, and before the Goblin could cry in pain, Kyle thrust his sword at the Goblin aiming straight for the heart.

Kyle directly pierced the Goblin's heart and its huge body lifelessly collapsed on the hard stones making a loud sound.

-Thud!

Both Kyle and Nine looked at each other smiling while panting heavily.

Afterward, they checked the Goblin body in the hope of finding any skill core but they didn't even find a core. Kyle sighed and shook his head with disappointment before gesturing for Nine to enter inside.

"Let's check inside."

Both of them slowly made their way inside the huge cave.

They were hoping to find something special, but the only thing that awaited their arrival was a small Goblin. The goblin was holding a pixel while talking to himself in a strange language.

Kyle narrowed his eyes and looked at the goblin whose size was even smaller than his leg.

He moved toward the small Goblin who was busy talking to himself.

"The heck, was the Goblin warrior protecting his child?"

Nine also sighed and followed behind Kyle. The Goblin warrior was emitting the aura of (-F)-Rank, the lowest they have fought up until now.

And before the small goblin knew that some trespassers had entered his territory, his head was cleanly cut off by Kyle.

Kyle looked at the lifeless body of the Goblin and even though he expected nothing from it, he still cut the body with his sword to look for a core.

As he was looking inside the body of the goblin with disinterest, a small shining orb appeared at the place where the Goblin's heart was. And the orb didn't disappear even after coming in contact with the atmosphere.

Nine looked at the shining orb with disbelief,

"No way..."

Finding a skill core was very hard, only after killing a thousand monsters can one have a chance of finding a single skill core.

Even Kyle showed a surprised expression, he didn't expect this small goblin he killed with the flick of his finger, to have a core. And on top of that, it was a core containing a skill!

Both of them looked at the shining small core which was the size of a finger. Now the question was who would learn the skill.

Kyle looked at the core and then at the Goblin, his thoughts were,

'It's a Goblin core, what skill can a small goblin which was not even (F)-Rank have?'

He was sure that the skill would be something useless, that's why he didn't want to learn it. Kyle threw the core toward Nine.

Nine caught the core and looked at Kyle with shock, a skill core was very precious and Kyle was just giving it to him.

"Use it. I don't think it will be any special, considering it belongs to this little fella."

Nine hearing Kyle's words, didn't hesitate anymore and absorbed the core. The moment he did so a large amount of knowledge about the skill entered inside his head.

Kyle looked at Nine and Questioned,

"What skill was it?"

Nine smiled,

"Dark vision."

He changed his black eyes into green showing Kyle the skill. Dark vision wasn't a high-rank skill, but it was quite useful during night battles.

Kyle cursed and kicked the dead body of the Goblin.

"Dam it."

Who would have thought this small (-F)-Rank Goblin had dark vision? If he knew the skill would be useful he would have used it himself.

Seeing Kyle's regretful gaze, Nine averted his eyes and said,

"Let's look for more Goblins to kill because in another few hours, we are going to be teleported out from the dungeon."

Kyle sighed. Afterward, both of them started walking toward the opening they entered from, because even after looking around for a while they didn't find another path inside the huge cave.

#### *Chapter 26: Mission Fail*

On the other hand, Alec and his team were taking care of the third goblin wave, that appeared in the morning. They were all tired but still pushed forward in the hope of finding an exit.

Suddenly, Alec received a notification from the system that made his already irritated expression dark.

---

'Mission; xX'

Explore the 'Goblin Cave' While Finding and killing the Goblin Leader.

-Failed!

Rewards:

-None!

Failing penalty:

-None!

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Alec looked around in a daze to see when and who killed the Goblin leader. However, all the students were fighting normal (-F)-Rank goblins.

He was sure all the students followed behind them and also he didn't miss any higher Rank Goblins up until now. So, how was it possible for anyone else to kill the Goblin leader?

After a month he finally got a nice mission, but it failed just like that. He wanted nothing more than to beat that person who killed the Goblin leader.



While thinking, Alec ceased fighting. Taking opportunity of his distraction an (-F)-Rank Goblin suddenly attacked him from behind. Lara who was standing not so far from him hurriedly shot an arrow and killed the Goblin before it injured Alec.

She looked at Alec with a frown.

"What are you doing, focus on your back."

Hearing Lara's loud voice, Alec snapped out of his thoughts and sighed before focusing on the battle in front.

Now the mission was already gone, there was nothing he could do. Instead of regretting, it's better to focus on the battle in front.

As everyone continued to fight and struggle, they finally saw some bright light at the opposite end of the tunnel.

Seeing the light, some sighed in relief while some showed happy expressions.

More than half of the students were nobles, for the first time in their lives they experienced how to live without food and a good night's sleep.

They all were exhausted and wanted to leave this damp and dark tunnel as soon as possible.

Still, they didn't know what danger lay outside the tunnel. That's why they approached the light with caution.

Alec and his team moved toward the light first, because they were in front. Not many students stopped them because if there was any danger outside, it was better for someone else to experience it first. Those students just slowly followed behind them.

After a while, Alec and his team saw where the light originated from.

In front of them was a large open area filled with stones of different sizes. At the far end of the open space, there was a huge cave where the light was coming from. It was the same open area where Kyle and Nine appeared before them.

An (-E)-Rank Goblin warrior corpse was lying outside the huge cave. Seeing the corpse, Alec was sure someone else had reached this place before them.

After seeing no danger everyone approached the huge cave, but before they could enter two individuals came out from the cave.

Those two individuals were none other than Nine and Kyle, they just killed the small Goblin and were on their way toward another tunnel.

Nine had a pleasant smile on his face, on the other hand, Kyle was wearing a dark expression.

They both also saw all the students coming out from one of the tunnels. Alec looked at Kyle and Nine, he remembered them. Their performance in the Entrance exam was very good. Afterward, he looked at the huge cave. He was sure they were the ones killing the Goblin leader.

Alec looked at Kyle and questioned,

"Did you kill the Goblin leader?"

Kyle was just going to ignore the huge crowd but hearing Alec's question he stopped and glanced toward him.

"What leader are you ....?"

He stopped midway.

'Didn't we just kill a Goblin?'

Now it all made sense why the small Goblin had a skill core. There was no other path after the cave, which means they were at the end of the 'Goblin Cave'.

Kyle didn't want to believe that Little Goblin was the leader.

Also, how did Alec know that there was a Goblin leader inside the Cave? Including Alec, it was everyone's first time entering the Goblin Cave.

He looked at Alec with suspicion. Nevertheless, he replied;

"You mean that small Goblin? If yes, then we killed it."

Alec sighed and looked toward the huge cave, he knew if Kyle had come out from the cave there was nothing left inside.

Still, some students entered the cave to see if there was something valuable inside, but the cave was empty and there was no other path.

Kyle saw some students looking at him and Nine with surprised expressions because, in contrast to others who were barely standing after fighting the whole night, they were in very good condition.

Not wanting to answer any more questions, Kyle gestured to Nine and both of them started walking toward the second last tunnel.

He wanted to know how Alec knew about the Goblin Leader without even seeing it, but he knew he wouldn't get the answer to his question.

The tunnel from where Nine and Kyle come from and the one where the others come from would not have any Goblin left. That's why Kyle chose the second one.

Soon, both of them enter the tunnel leaving the others behind.

Kyle wasn't bothered by others who were staring at him, there were only a few hours left before the Ranking test was concluded. He wanted to kill as many Goblin as possible.

After they entered the tunnel, Alec looked at the tunnel where they entered before talking to Carcel.

"How about we also continue, only 1-2 hours are left before the Ranking Assessment ends."

Carcel nodded with a serious expression. He had already spent a whole night fighting, so he had no problem fighting for a few more hours.

On the other hand, both Mia and Lara were tired. They looked at Alec with the expression,

'Are you kidding me?'

But they also agreed after hesitating for a while.

Four of them also entered the same tunnel as Kyle and Nine. Some students wanted to follow behind but they were too tired, that's why everyone else decided to rest for half an hour before entering another tunnel.

#### *Chapter 27: End of Ranking Assessment*

The moment Kyle and Nine entered the tunnel two (-F)-Rank Goblins attacked them, but they easily killed them before walking forward.

Soon, Alec and others also caught up to them and they started moving together.

Alec Glanced at Kyle and Nine, both of them were showing good teamwork. Kyle was lacking in some aspects, but Nine's on-time help was compensating for it. Alec observed them for a while and nodded inside. They were not good as someone like Carcel and Lara but they were powerful in their way.

He suddenly thought of something and opened the system appraisal function, using it on Kyle. Alec's left eye glinted with white light for a second, it was so fast that no one

noticed it. He looked at Kyle for a few seconds before seeing the information he got from the system.

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'Name: Kyle Ohan'

'Race: Human'

'Rank: (+F)'

'Special: ??'

'???'

-Error!

Trying to find the cause! Loading....

-Error!

No more information provided. To know further information host needs to be a whole Rank higher than the target.

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Alec frowned, looking at the error notifications he was getting from the system. Usually, whenever he used appraisal on someone the system would give him detailed information regarding the target. But now, it was only showing name and Rank. The system wasn't even showing Kyle's talent! Which was definitely (B)-Rank, but now seeing the system's strange behavior he wonders if Kyle truly has only (B)-Rank talent.

On the other hand, Kyle was fighting two (-F)-Rank Goblins at the same time. Suddenly, an arrow past his left side and hit the head of one of the Goblin.

Kyle frowned and looked at where the arrow came from. He saw Lara aiming her bow at another Goblin. Even though she stole his kill, he didn't want to be impolite to her.

He smiled and said,

"Thanks for helping."

But instead of replying Lara completely ignored him. During the Entrance exam, seeing Kyle's extraordinary performance she thought of him as someone equal. But after knowing he only had (B)-Rank talent, she didn't want to associate with him. The gap

between them was too big. What's the point of becoming friends, when their worlds are too far apart?

When Kyle saw how Lara ignored him, his smile froze. He didn't bother anymore and turned around to continue fighting with the goblins. He wore a neutral expression, but if someone who saw Kyle fighting before saw him now, that person would notice that Kyle was faster and more brutal than before. It was like he was taking out his anger on the Goblins. The one thing Kyle hated the most was others looking down upon him.

Still, he didn't care. If Lara wants to ignore him he would do the same. In the end, it was not the first time, he was already used to it. All those who have bright futures ahead of them because of their talent were arrogant.

Half an hour later,

Nine and Kyle were fighting on the left side. Meanwhile, Alec and his team were on the right. No one noticed when the distance between the groups started to increase. Some more students also caught up to them and were fighting between the two groups.

As Kyle slash his sword and killed another Goblin he felt a sudden familiar sucking force. Before he could understand what happened, he disappeared and appeared inside the training ground.

Kyle looked around and saw other students also appearing one by one.

'It seems the time for the Ranking Assessment has ended.'

Just like others he also looked toward Professor Liam who appeared in front of the students.

Professor Liam looked at the disheveled and tired students and nodded before speaking loudly,

"All of you showed great performance, even though spending two days inside the dungeon was a huge surprise. There were also a few students who caught my attention because they showed great potential."

He glanced at Alec and Carcel, indicating he was talking about them.

"I know for everyone this experience was new, spending two days inside a cold and dark place, without water, food, and a nice place to sleep. All of you must be thinking it was too hard, considering it was the first test from the Academy. Then let me tell you something, at the start I definitely said there would be some hidden task, which nobody was able to complete. Well, you were not even able to find them, completing them would be too far off a thing."

Professor Liam showed a disappointed expression and looked at the students who were whispering to each other to know if anyone found any hidden task. He then continue,

"Inside the dungeon, in the starting, there were five tunnels. Among them, the middle tunnel guarded by the Goblin warrior was the hardest. The two at the end had less difficulty making it a little easier to pass. On the other hand, if anyone entered the last two they would have been able to see some trees containing fruits and a water source at the start. Well, it's a pity no one entered inside those tunnels."

He said the last line sarcastically, making the whispering students quiet.

If they knew that the last two tunnels contained water and food, who would be idiot enough to enter the middle one? Some students voiced their suspicions that if no one went there, where was the proof that those two tunnels contained water? But when the professor said he could send them inside again so they could check it, everyone shut their mouth.

No one wanted to see those creepy-looking creatures again. They all just wanted to take a nice bath to rid of the stinky smell coming from their clothes which were damp with green Goblin blood.

Professor Liam said a few more things like the students were allowed to rest for today and the results will be posted tomorrow inside the Main hall.

He also told them that the top ten students would be rewarded. They will be allowed to choose a skill or Art of their liking from the second floor of the library without paying. Hearing about the possible reward, made the students happy. After the Professor finished with what he wanted to say, all the students sighed and tiredly left for their dorms to rest.

Kyle and Nine both left together because their dorm was next to each other. Also now that the Ranking Assessment was concluded, Kyle wanted to sleep.

He did sleep inside the dungeon but due to Goblin's constant attacks, he was not able to sleep peacefully. He also didn't rest after coming from the back mountain. Now that Kyle had nothing to do a sudden wave of tiredness washed over him.

### *Chapter 28: Result*

Next day early morning,

Kyle was still sleeping when suddenly someone knocked on the door. Not wanting to open the door Kyle put his head inside the blanket and tried to ignore the constant knocking.

Suddenly the knocking stopped and what replaced them was Nine loud voice, waking Kyle from his sleep.

Kyle groaned and looked at the bright light coming from the window. He wanted to sleep more but still wrapping the blanket around himself he crawled out from the bed and staggered toward the door.

He was still drowsy when he opened the door, but his sleep went away when Nine suddenly kicked the door and barged inside the room.

"You are still sleeping? Did you forget we have to check our results today? Hurry up and change your clothes so we can go together."

Nine glanced at Kyle from head to toe.

Kyle looked at Nine dumfounded, he was still processing what was happening when Nine snatched the blanket from him and threw it toward the bed before pushing him toward the bathroom.

"Hurry up."

Kyle nodded with a rather sleepy expression while walking toward the bathroom to freshen up.

Seeing Kyle enter the bathroom, Nine sighed. He wanted to check the result alone but he was too nervous.

After joining the Academy Nine made some friends but they were always busy. On the other hand, Kyle was someone strong, and strangely enough, Nine felt comfortable around him. That's why both of them become friends rather easily.

After knowing Kyle for a while Nine wasn't sure about other things, but there were a few things he noticed during the Ranking Assessment. First Kyle was a little lazy because, during the Ranking Assessment, they rested more than three times! Which would have been enough to gather a lot of points.

Also, Kyle would always become excited and determined at every smallest possible advantage, but his excitement would never last long and he would lose determination very easily. In the start, Nine was flustered seeing the burning flame inside Kyle's eyes but soon those flames extinguished like they never existed.

While thinking Nine looked around the small room, which was mostly empty. Due to only a bed and a table present inside the room, he easily noticed a small egg present on top of the table beside the bed. The egg was placed on some neatly folded sheets. Nine walked toward the egg and looked at it curiously.

There was nothing special about the egg, but its dense red color was attractive. Nine wanted to touch the egg but before he could, he heard Kyle coming out after changing his clothes.

Nine turned around and saw Kyle wearing a neat long-sleeved blackish-silver casual top with black pants.

Kyle glanced at Nine before leaving the dorm.

"What are you doing, let's go."

Seeing him leaving Nine also rushed out from the dorm leaving behind the egg which trembled slightly when Kyle left the dorm.

After leaving the dorm building, they both slowly started walking toward the Main Hall. Nine was talking non-stop as he was excited and nervous at the same time.

Kyle was listening to Nine grumbling while nodding and replying from time to time. Kyle didn't like making friends after the talent test, when all his friends left him because of his low talent, but now talking to Nine he felt it was not so bad to have some friends.

Suddenly a familiar voice called out Kyle's name from behind. Kyle turned around to see who it was, only to find Alec and Carcel walking toward them.

Alec waved his hand toward Kyle and Nine indicating them to stop.

Kyle wore a confused expression as to why Alec was calling out his name. He did talk to him when they were inside the 'Goblin Cave' but afterward, they didn't interact much with each other.

After reaching the duo Alec questioned,

"Are you both going toward the Main Hall to check the result?"

"Yes." Said Nine. Meanwhile, Kyle nodded his head indicating they were indeed heading toward the main hall.

Alec smiled before offering to go together.

Nine agreed immediately, he was more than happy to accompany Alec and Carcel. Both of them were famous in Class, one due to his rare talent which was (+SSS)-Rank while the other because he was the Second Prince of the Kingdom.

On the other hand, Kyle looked at Alec from head to toe before looking at Carcel who nodded his head as a greeting.



Kyle had a question in his mind, he was not close with any of them, so why were they asking to go together? And seeing Nine surprised expression, Kyle was sure he was also not close with them.

Nevertheless, he didn't think much about it and also agreed.

All of them started walking toward the Main Hall together, Nine was already talking non-stop when Alec joined in and both of them started talking about the results with enthusiasm. Meanwhile, Kyle and Carcel only listened to them.

Soon they arrived in front of a Big Hall where students were continuously going in and coming out. The moment they entered they were greeted by a huge crowd.

All the first-year students seem to be looking at the big board present at the center of the Hall. Some second and third-year students were also present to see the first years who ranked in the top ten.

Seeing Alec and Carcel entering the Hall a lot of students looked at them with envy and respect. The crowd started whispering with each other while making way for them.

Alec and Carcel didn't mind the huge crowd and approached the big board where a slim old man was standing, wearing instructor clothes. Lara and Mia with some other students were standing behind the old instructor, who seemed to be looking at the four new arrivals curiously.

Nine and Kyle also followed behind Alec and Carcel, but because the students were focused on Alec and Carcel not many noticed them.

After reaching the board Alec was the first one to notice his name, before he also noticed Carcel, Kyle, and Nine names.

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RANKING;

Rank 1\_ Alec (Points 878)

Rank 2\_ Carcel (Points 845)

Rank 3\_ Mia (Points 750)

Rank 4\_ Lara (Points 745)

Rank 5\_ Jake (Points 680)

Rank 6\_ Lily (Points 677)

Rank 7\_ Kyle (Points 670)

Rank 8\_ Nine (Points 654)

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Kyle also looked at his ranking and was satisfied with the result, but still seeing the huge difference of more than 200 points between himself and Alec pained his heart.

They were all still looking at their results when the old man standing in front of the Board looked at Alec before saying,

"I believe the four of you are also in the top ten?"

Hearing the deep yet calm voice Alec replied with a, "Yes"

The old man nodded before speaking again,

"The four of you are the last ones to appear. First Show me your identification tokens, then all of you can follow me to get your reward."

After checking the new arrivals tokens and confirming their identity the old man gestured for the top ten students to follow behind him.

#### *Chapter 29: Reward*

Alec and Carcel while walking met up with Lara and Mia and they started talking and walking together.

Girl's dorms were in another building, that's why the four of them didn't meet up in the morning.

Kyle who was walking beside them, increased his speed after seeing Lara. He wanted to leave the group to avoid being uncomfortable, but because Alec's character was quite nice he just increased the distance.

Soon there were three different groups of students, following the old man. In the front, Kyle and Nine were quietly following behind the old man. In the middle, Jake one of the top ten students was walking with three other students. And at the end, Alec and his group were talking while slowly following behind everyone.

After a while, they arrived in front of the library.

The Librarian who was sleeping without any care sensed the old man's presence. He immediately rushed out and greeted the old man politely.

"Elder Lu, What brings you here."

The Librarian glanced at the students standing behind Elder Lu. He showed a puzzled expression. Why was the elder here with some students?

Seeing the Librarian's confused expression Elder Lu merely shook his head. Elder Lu knew about this lazy man very well, he must have been sleeping and had forgotten about the rewards for the top ten students.

"I am here to open the other half of the second floor of the library, so the students can choose a reward for themselves."

Elder Lu ignored the Librarian and directly entered the library. He didn't want to waste any more time.

After hearing an answer from Elder Lu, the Librarian nodded and hurriedly followed behind.

Soon, they arrived at the second floor filled with huge bookshelves containing Art books and Skill Cores. But before the students could look around Elder Lu gestured for them to follow him toward a corner.

Elder Lu used a hand seal on the bookshelves present in the corner, almost all the students were confused. What was the elder doing, were not they already on the second floor? They wanted to question but suddenly a magic symbol appeared. The two bookshelves present at the far end parted like a door, making a huge gap in between.

Everyone stared at the gap stunned, they were not looking at the gap but at the room present inside the gap. The room was filled with different Art books floating midair. Bright lights emitting from skill cores illuminated the whole room. The room in front of them was double the size of the second floor! And all the skills core and Art books in front of them seem to be top-notch!

Elder Lu turned around and faced the students, he told everyone to go inside and select an Art or skill. Also, they were allowed to pick only one within two hours.

All the students nodded seriously before entering the room. All this time the Librarian was lazily standing behind everyone and even after seeing the room filled with skills and Arts he didn't show any expression. It was understandable as he had seen this room more than 1000 times, and also because the things present here were of no use to him.

The Librarian lazily looked at the students who were entering the room with excitement, but suddenly his eyes passed on a student who didn't seem to be in a rush. The Librarian's eyes widen for a while displaying shock.

'Is not he the student I threw out a week ago? I remember he was only at (-F)-Rank. How did he advance so quickly.' Thought the Librarian inwardly before fixing his gaze on Kyle.

The librarian was lazy but his memory was quite good. He remembered clearly this guy was only at (-F)-Rank just a week ago. And not just at any (-F)-Rank, he was from the batch of the weakest (-F)-Rank the Librarian has seen up until now. How was it possible for him to advance so quickly? And from the Aura, he sensed from Kyle, the librarian was sure his Rank had already stabilized.

It was okay to Advance 2 sub-ranks in a week but how did he stabilize his Rank, for a normal person after breaking through it could take months of practice just to stabilize their new power.

The Librarian curiously looked at Kyle. He inwardly decided to keep an eye on this fellow.

On the other hand, Kyle who just entered the hidden room felt like someone was looking at him from behind with ill intentions. He turned around to see who it was but found no one.

Kyle frowned but still, he decided to focus on the hundreds of skills and Art in front of him. He was excited just like everyone but he just didn't show it on his face.

He looked at the others, they all went toward the Skill cores. It was bound to happen as everyone already had an Art they were practicing.

Arts were different from skills that can be learned immediately after absorbing the skill core. Arts were written down by elders and passed down from generation to generation. They were also very hard to practice, which is why everyone usually only preferred a single Art suitable for their weapon. Also, their mastery was divided into four different grades according to the progress someone had made,

1-Beginner,

2-Master,

3-Expert,

4-perfection,

Reaching the perfection stage in Art was very hard. And the higher the Star of the Art, the harder it is to comprehend.

Kyle took a deep breath and began searching for a suitable sword Art for himself. He was a little shocked to see so many 3-star and 4-star sword Arts.

Arts were Ranked differently according to their power. The Lowest was 1-Star while the highest Rank was 8-Star, but not many have seen an 8-Star Art because even the most powerful human has only learned a 6-Star Art.

Kyle walked toward the nearest 4-Star floating Art book. The moment he touched the book, it opened up and showed him a detailed explanation of the Art.

Kyle looked at the information and frowned, he left and looked at another 4-star Art book. His frown deepened the more he looked at the Art books.

Outside the hidden room, the Librarian who was keeping an eye on Kyle looked at him with pity. Seeing Kyle going toward the Art section he was sure this fellow needed a suitable Art for himself. And Arts higher than 2-Star were very valuable, a normal person wouldn't even be able to comprehend what was written inside.

The Librarian shook his head with disappointment because seeing Kyle frowning and walking away without even properly looking at the Art books, he was sure Kyle wasn't even able to read the name!

The Librarian wanted to give Kyle some tips, as to what Art would be suitable for him. But unfortunately, according to the rules, Elders were not allowed to step inside the hidden room. He could only sigh and watch Kyle from outside.

Meanwhile, Kyle was frowning looking at the Art books. It was not because he found them hard, but because they were too easy! The moment he opened the 4-Star Art book and looked at the explanation, he comprehended the first stage of the Art!

Kyle wasn't sure if it was okay to just learn them, because he was only allowed to choose one. That's why he was frowning and trying his best not to read too much detail.

He had never seen an Art book before because he was too lazy. That was also the reason he didn't know if they were hard or easy.

He just wanted a suitable Art for himself! What's the point of understanding so many Arts, Even if he comprehends them, without any real practice they are useless.

### *Chapter 30: 3-Star Art*

Looking around for a while, Kyle saw a lot of 3-star and 4-star Arts,

-Thousands strikes of death,

-Nine waves of destruction,

-Seven moves of nirvana,

He also saw some 2-star Arts, but none of them suited his taste. As Kyle walked around in circles looking at the description of all kinds of sword Arts, suddenly his eyes paused on a lone purple book floating in a corner.

The book was filled with dust and the light radiating from the book was dim, indicating it was old and not touched by many.

Kyle slowly approached the book and touched it. The book opened up but barely had any introduction, some of the words written on the old pages were not even properly visible.

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'Name: Void Shattering Strikes'

'Art Rank: 3-Star'

'Description:'

Four different Sword moves that can even shatter the Void if practiced diligently.

It can take hundreds of years just to practice a single move to perfection.

-Note: 'The Rank of the Art can be increased after reaching perfection in all four moves!'

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Reading through the explanation Kyle's eyes paused on a single sentence that was half visible, 'The Rank of the Art can be increased.'

Kyle had never heard about an Art whose Rank can be increased, he hurriedly read the introduction again.

There were four different moves and after reaching perfection in all the moves the Rank of the Art will increase. But his eyes narrowed when he read 'It can take hundreds of years just to practice a single move to perfection.'

'The heck.' He almost cursed out loud, The moves were easy so why would it take hundreds of years?

The power described behind the moves was massive but why would he spend hundreds of years just to practice a single Art?

'Let's find another Art.' Thought Kyle decisively before closing the book like it was garbage.

But the moment he closed the book instead of floating it fell on the floor making a loud sound.

-Thud!

He looked at the book dumbfounded and then he looked at his surroundings to see if anyone was watching. Kyle's eyes widened when he saw all the other students were already gathered toward the exit, and right now they were all staring at him. Even Elder Lu who was standing outside looked at Kyle with narrowed eyes.

Kyle cursed inwardly, it seemed the two-hour time was already over. He looked at the dusty purple book, which seemed to be laughing at him. He barely controlled the urge to kick the book.

As Kyle was looking at the book with complicated emotions, Elder Lu said to him from outside;

"Hurry up, the time is almost over. You have only half a minute afterward I will close the gap. And I believe you don't want to spend your remaining life inside a hidden room."

Hearing the Elder's words Kyle nodded hurriedly before reluctantly picking up the book. It seem they were fated.

He walked toward the exit with a sad face, he made a mistake he should have kept an eye on the time.

After everyone walked out of the hidden room, Elder Lu closed the gap before looking at the students. Even though he was standing outside he kept an eye on some students to see what they chose.

"Now that everyone has gotten the reward, you can leave."

After saying his part Elder Lu started walking toward the exit, but before leaving he glanced at the Librarian who seemed to be holding his laughter.

'What's so funny.' Thought Elder Lu inwardly before following the Librarian's gaze which was fixed on Kyle.

'Hmm, that kid it seems he picked a useless Art even after spending so much time.' Elder Lu shook his head, now he understood the Librarian was laughing at the kid.

After Elder Lu left the students also started leaving because no one wanted to miss the morning lecture given by Miss Aliza.

The Librarian was about to walk toward Kyle but Mia stopped him because she wanted to ask some questions about the skill she selected. Meanwhile, Alec and the others stood behind her patiently so they could go to the class together.

Nine approached Kyle who seemed to have lost everything as he was wearing a dejected expression. He slowly tapped on Kyle's shoulder,

"What happened? And what Art did you choose."

Kyle looked at Nine who was smiling widely, it seemed he found something nice. Now Kyle felt even more dispirited, he removed Nine hand from his shoulder before throwing the Purple book inside the storage ring.

"I am fine. It's just a simple sword Art, what about you?"

"Hahaha, something good. A C-Rank skill, I can't believe the Academy giving away so many high-rank skills just like that."

Nine started boasting while both of them walked toward the library exit. Kyle wanted to punch the smile out of his face but controlled himself as Nine was the first friend he made after so long.

It was time for Aliza's lecture that's why both of them walked toward the classroom. Kyle had already missed the first few lectures and now he didn't want to be Absent anymore. He also remembered the glare Aliza gave him when she first saw him. She was quite scary, it's better for him to not get on her bad radar.

Soon they entered the classroom, which was already filled as Aliza's lectures were quite useful to the students. Some students looked at Kyle and Nine with envy because they just received a reward. Few of them even approached Nine to ask what they got as a reward but after hearing Nine boasting they all smile awkwardly before leaving without looking back.

Kyle went toward the first row seats and sat down, Nine also followed behind him. After a few minutes, Alec and his team also entered the classroom. The moment they entered a lot of students approached them with smiles, but now even Alec knew to ignore the crowd. The four of them walked past the huge crowd, but before they went toward their seats Alec saw Kyle sitting in the first row.

He stopped Carcel and walked toward the first row,

"Let's sit in the first row."



Carcel didn't care where he sat as he just wanted to attend the lecture that's why he followed behind without any question. Lara and Mia also follow suit.

But when Lara saw Alec was sitting on Kyle's left side she frowned, she pulled Mia toward the second row behind Alec and Carcel.

"Hi, What Art did you choose." Alec tried to start a conversation with Kyle who was almost on the verge of closing his eyes to sleep.

"Are you talking to me? I chose a sword Art as I lack one." Kyle looked at Alec surprised but still answered.

"Oh, Okh." Alec nodded he wanted to ask more but before he could Aliza entered the class.

She stood behind the podium, picking up the Attendance sheet Aliza briefly glanced at the top ten students.

Her eyes passed on Kyle for a while, he was present today. After watching Kyle's performance she knew he needed to attend the lectures the most because he lacked basic knowledge about the sword and his mana control was also bad. She also decided if Kyle skipped class today she would have dragged him to attend the lecture.

Aliza took the Attendance, all the students were present. Afterward, she started the lecture which was about 'mana control'.