

Chapter 1401 - Meeting

Fig's tone is calm, but everyone in the room knew that he is getting anxious. At this moment, one of the attendants came running into the room to inform.

"Sir, I went to pick up the auxiliary team members at the meeting point, but their leader has already been captured by Gail, and some of the members in their team were also caught by Sam and Grivon's other subordinates.

Vice-captain seemed to have already disappeared from the clan grounds."

Fig's expression changed drastically. At least, until now he managed to hide his expressions and emotions a bit as he was worried that it would affect their morale, but now he cannot even do that.

"Is he captured?" He asked the attendant.

"I don't think he is captured, Sir. Since yesterday, we weren't able to contact him or see him."

"Try to establish contact again. Also, try and reach out to the mission assigner. I will be going to the clan head's residence. Good thing that the Auxiliary team members directly connect to this place. But we need to be careful."

As he spoke, he moved out and directly went to the clan leader's residence to talk to him. On his way, he was constantly drenched with sweat as he thought of what might happen to him.

But he really underestimated the quickness of Sam and Gail.

Not long after he left, both of them arrived at that place. This time, Gail didn't waste time like last time, he killed the auxiliary captain and realized that the captain of the real team is actually Fig.

So, he immediately came here. The same thing happened with Sam. Among the members he happened to catch by the rest of the group, he caught the vice-captain of the auxiliary team and got the information.

He didn't kill and just captured the rest of them and held them within Giyon's residence before coming here and meeting Gail.

Sam walked to Gail and whispered something again.

Gail looked at him with a bit of a surprised tone but still nodded. He helped Sam capture every one of them and made them wear the special shackles Sam made.

Now there are only a few people that are related to this squad and are still roaming outside.

The first one is actually Fig, the second is the Vice-captain, the third and fourth one are the ones that went to look for the Vice Captain and the person that went to look for the mission assigner.

After capturing them, they just waited there and before long, Fig contacted one of them.

"Lead everyone to the Clan's leader's residence. Don't dawdle and come fast."

"I am sorry, Fig. They cannot come there now. I mean, they were currently captured, so it would really hard to come by themselves. Do you want me to help them out?"

Sam asked with a hint of sarcasm.

"Sam?"

Fig asked in disbelief.

"Yes, that's who I am."

"What the hell are you doing to my subordinates?"

"I still haven't decided yet. But killing them all is right up there on the top of my mind, so I might just go for it. Do give me some suggestions though."

"No, don't. This is just a big misunderstanding. They don't have anything to do with this. Most of them are even young masters of the clan, you wouldn't get away with killing them."

"Are you stupid? Do you really think that I am the only one here? I don't have to kill your guys, I have someone who would do that. You must know who I am talking about right?"

"Let me talk to Mr. Gail."

Fig asked directly and Sam just replied with...

"Why not?" And threw the token to Gail.

"What do you want? I am actually angrier than that kid. So, if you are looking for a way to get out of this situation, you are barking at the wrong tree."

"No, Sir. I still believe that you are the wiser one among you two and I trust your judgment. Please don't make any rash decisions and come to the Clan's leader's residence. We talk this over here."

"And, one what authority are you asking me to come there? Do you really think that you have what it takes to summon me there?"

The other side turned silent for a moment.

"Brother Gail, it is me. Can you please come to my residence?" Clan's leader's voice came from that side.

Gail frowned. He really didn't want to go, but he knew that he should. He still believed that with all the things that Clan's leader knew about him, he wouldn't have been foolish enough to involve his daughter in this plot.

"Alright, we will be there."

Gail grabbed Sam without even a heads-up and leaped into the air. Before long they are in the Clan's leader's residence.

"First of all, let me explain how Sorry I am for Jyon to be involved in this whole farce."

Both Sam and Gail are silent and didn't bother to reply to this sentence out of the Clan leader's mouth.

Then Fig stepped forward and bowed to Gail.

"Sir Gail, I am the captain of this secret squad and the only goal of this is to keep the clan people in order. As the factions are growing and the Grand Elders are dividing the clan into several pieces with different ideologies and goals, we believed that there is a need to have something that would defend the clan and the administrators of it when something drastic happens.

That is what our squad is for.

But ever since I returned recently, I was busy with something else and I didn't care much about my clan. It is true that my actions might have appeared suspicious, but I was doing something that holds the interests of the clan as a whole.

In my absence, my Vice-captain took a hold of the team and he seemed to have different ideologies than the rest as he thought that Sam is a person that has insulted the clan with his actions and wanted to deal with him.

But our squad doesn't have any authority within the clan grounds in the current situation, but he still went and did something anyway because of some trusted source who gave the idea of this mission.

Except for the vice-captain, no one knows who that person is and we are currently looking for both of them.

My team in my absence took the orders from the Vice-captain which is what they had to do and used the auxiliary team that acts as a reserve for us to execute the plan.

I know that some kids that are completely unrelated to this and your daughter Jyon were involved in this mess, but what they wanted to do is to create an immediate flame between Grand Elder Pon and Sam.

They explicitly made sure that your daughter wouldn't be harmed by this. So, please go easy on our team. If you really want to punish us for this, please take the Vice captain's head and my own head. But please leave our team out of this."

Gail scoffed and replied.

"Oh really? So, how did you guys make sure that my daughter wouldn't be involved in this? Do you think that just because Malgav is present at the scene you would be able to make Sam and Grand Elder Pon archenemies?

If it is was that simple, don't you think they would have already been on that path?"

"From what I heard, when the poison that comes out of the person's body enters Sam, he would be unable to move for a while which would give Malgav a chance to attack him.

He is a coward through and through, so that is the only time he would attack and if Sam is weak, he would die and if he is strong he would kill Malgav as a counter-attack.

If the poisoning didn't even happen, there is a chance that Malgav would be the one that Sam suspects the most. The way reacted when his students were harmed is a giant factor in this plan. My team believed that he would kill Malgav out of suspicion."

"So, the person who led this operation, that guy in your mansion currently captured, used the auxiliary team to create the suggestive patterns within two days and made every person involved in the plan appear at the right place and the right time.

Is that it?"

Sam asked from the side.

Fig nodded and Sam continued.

"It is really impressive. Trust me, I haven't seen something this impressive in quite a while. Do you know what is even more impressive? You think that if Gail forgives you, everything will be over.

Because that is impossible my friend. Even if Gail forgives you, I will not stop this until I kill everyone that is involved in the team.

Just because you believe that it was for your clan, I don't have any reason to forgive you. All the lives of your team members who have any relation to this whole farce are mine. That includes your Vice-captain too."

Chapter 1402 - Hostage

The whole room turned silent with Sam's declaration.

Fig looked at him with clenched fists and gritted teeth. He has an urge to bash him on the head. But calmed down a bit and spoke.

"Mr. Sam. I have heard a great deal about you and you definitely live up to your reputation, but there is one thing I need to tell you.

Even though I won't approve of the methods my team members used in this situation, that doesn't mean I don't agree with their opinion of you.

Your actions against Malgav at the first time might be justified because of what he did for the student, but your words against our clan leader are something that you are not worthy to say and you should be glad that I didn't hold you accountable for that."

"Glad? I am actually itching for you guys to come at me. And I am unworthy? What kind of a clan leader wouldn't even bother about the safety of a young child? Isn't the order and hierarchy in this clan to save the weak from becoming the prey of the strong within? If they can't even do that, what is the point of its existence?

And to ignore such an atrocious thing just to keep one's authoritative position safe and sound, I believe it is more despicable than even what Malgav did to my student.

He did it for a young helpless girl and your clan leader is doing it for his responsibilities."

Fig's aura raged and it took all of his strength to just hold back. The Clan's leader looked at Sam with an emotionless face, but his fists are clenched and there is a crack on the tile under his foot.

Gail looked at their reactions and shook his head.

When Sam whispered into his ear back when they were in Fig's residence, he understood what Sam's plan exactly is.

He might really have the ideals and his words targeted at the leader might be his true opinions, but he is doing this so openly for a few reasons and they are actually working.

Even now, the reaction of these two people indicates that they are working perfectly fine.

He is just playing with them more and more and they are letting him do that.

He just shook his head and didn't bother to say it out loud. By the time they realize it would be his daughter and nephew that are going to benefit from this.

There is no need for him to go out on a limb and save these guys.

Fig might speak about ideals and stuff, but he doesn't have that much of a big opinion on the clan and that is the reason the position of the Clan's leader ended up in the hands of the current leader in the first place.

"Mr. Gail. Please say it. How do you want to resolve it?"

"The head of the vice-captain and anyone who is involved in preparing the plan. I need those lives. And I need the name and details of the person who gave you the idea for this assignment. I won't know who thinks that it is okay to use my kids for their agendas."

"You will have them. If you could excuse me for a minute, I will find out if there is progress."

When Clan's leader and Gail nodded, Fig walked to a corner and made a call.

His expression changed drastically by the time he was done and he lifelessly came back.

"The Vice-captain of my team is dead and there is no news on the person who gave us this assignment. All the leads are cold and dead." He looked at Gail nervously and as expected, he saw a cold expression on his face.

"Mr. Gail. I am really sorry..."

"I don't care for your apologies kid, they don't mean shit, and if your squad can act independently just because you are not present and don't even know what to go ahead with and whatnot, then your apologies mean that much less."

Just make sure that you hand over the rest of the bunch. If I don't give a message out right now, then every man with some strength and subordinates will think that I am a pushover."

Fig shuddered and nodded.

"Sir, the rest of my subordinates in the house..." Fig asked nervously.

"You can ask him about that. He is the one that captured them. Not me."

Fig was surprised and turned to Sam.

Sam had a smirk on his face and took a thin crystal table. He kept on tapping on some of the icons and said.

"So now, let us talk Mr. Fig. You are quite notorious for your spontaneous decisions and eccentric thinking. Why don't you try to use those skills on me? Let's see if you could save the lives of your team members."

"As I already said, this is something completely unrelated to my team members, this was the misdeed of mine and the vice-captain. If you have balls, come at me."

"I mean, to insult your clan's leader might be my deed, but weren't my students who cannot even defend themselves, hell, even didn't awaken their cores are the ones that are targeted by your subordinates?"

Even if they don't know why they are doing it, they sure know what they are doing and who they are doing it too. Are they so disciplined that they didn't see the difference between the cultivators and helpless kids to plot against them? Or are they plain stupid?"

Fig didn't answer and stayed silent.

Sam sighed and said.

"Okay, now I will give you a chance. Contact one of your subordinates and ask him why did they go through with their plan? Did the kids deserve to die just because they are my students? Ask him and their fate would depend on their answer."

Fig didn't want to do that and just stayed still.

Sam smiled and said.

"Mr. Fig. I didn't just capture your teammates, you might be thinking there is a chance that you could just release them if Mr. Gail is not involved. But they are not just captured, they are currently hostages."

As he said, he took out a metal puppet that has the same shackles the team members are currently wearing.

Sam placed it on the other end of the room and tapped something on the tablet.

BOOM

The puppet was completely destroyed. There is not a single trace left behind that could indicate the remains belong to a well-made puppet and along with that, there is a hole in the wall and many people came running towards this place.

But Clan's leader passed an order to his attendant to keep everyone away.

"Are you sure your subordinates can take the explosion and still live? I mean, the shackles have another special feature that makes it almost impossible for them to use their strength or gather any spiritual energy.

Do you think they will be fine without the spiritual energy?"

Fig's face was engulfed with horror.

"If anyone them has even a scratch. I will kill you."

"With Mr. Gail standing right next to me? I believe in my current situation even the Clan's leader wouldn't be able to kill me. So, you better control your mouth and make the call."

Fig heaved a deep breath and took out the communication token reluctantly. He called one of his subordinates who picked up and he asked the question just like Sam asked him to.

"What is the point of caring about those kids, Captain? They don't have any use for the clan anytime soon and this presence of Sam for even a single day is a big insult for the clan. So, we must kill him and if the cost is just some kids who the clan offered a helping hand to, they should be glad to give up....

BOOM."

An explosion was heard from the other side of the communication token and everyone looked at Sam.

"I am sorry, I can't let someone talk about my students like that. Now, tell me Mr. Fig, what do you think I should do? If your team thinks that my students deserve to die just because that might lead to my demise, then doesn't that give me enough reason to kill the rest of your subordinates even if they are just following orders, just to send a message to not mess with my students?"

Why is it right in your case and wrong in mine?"

This time Fig has no answer. His ideas are a bit different than his teammates and he only learned of it now.

For him, the special squad is for the time when some power-hungry individuals rebel against the clan's leader when they are unable to take the position properly.

It is to stop the individual factions from creating unnecessary damage through their schemes against the administration.

It is to provide enough financial support for the clans when the time arises.

Not to kill someone just because they insulted the clan leader in a private meeting. If a Clan leader cannot even defend his honor in a battle of words, then it is his problem.. Their loyalty is to the clan and its administration not for the leader himself.

Chapter 1403 - Price

Fig suddenly felt exhausted. He didn't even want to think about what his teammates did and how to convince Sam anymore. He just looked at him helplessly.

"So, can I kill them now? Or do you have anything else to say?"

"What do you want?" Clan's leader asked all of a sudden. Sam turned to look at him and he continued.

"If you really wanted to kill them, there is no need to hold them hostage and come this far. You could have killed them right there. What do you want exactly?"

Sam smiled and said.

"That is a great observation. I was afraid that I might need to spell it out. Simple, the lives of these people are for sale. Fig or you can buy them if you want them to live."

"What is the price?"

"There are two conditions. The first one is, you are responsible for finding out who suggested this mission to this special squad. I don't care if it is a young master, an elder, or a Grand Elder.

I want every detail regarding that person."

"The lead that connects to him is dead. We would need a lot of time."

"I can wait."

"What is the second condition?"

"The secret businesses of the young masters that I am currently held, hostage. I want every one of them to be transferred over to Grivon."

Both Fig and Clan's leader was stunned.

"What did you just say? Do you want all of the secret businesses of the young masters there? There are around twenty of them, do you know how much does it is worth?" Fig exclaimed.

"Come on, don't kid yourselves. These are not really powerful young masters. These guys are small fries. I highly doubt that all of them combined would have a net worth that could equal Grivon's and when we compare them to Giyon, they are basically tiny.

So, don't give me that shocked expression."

Sam paused and took out a few pieces of paper and gave it to Fig.

"These are all the secret businesses they have. The business which you don't even know existed. I want every one of them transferred. I would be sending Grivon's subordinates to take over one by one and do make sure that there is nothing wrong with the financials. Only after everything is settled down will they all be released.

If you agree to it, then I will leave them alive and do tell them, that there are more features to those shackles than just keeping them in check and they might want to control their words because of that."

Gail and Sam left after leaving those conditions without even waiting for the other people to speak up. Their intention is clear, they are not willing to negotiate.

Fig looked through the list and gritted his teeth. The squad has a special rule that is actually a core requirement to join and that is to not have any personal businesses run in secret.

The sole purpose of the squad is supporting the clan's administration, after all, so they wouldn't be using any of the resources they got from the clan in secret to fund their own businesses. But it seems like since he didn't make them sign any secret contracts with their soul, they seemed to have gone on to create their own little empires.

After looking at this, he didn't even feel like negotiating for them.

He went to the residence and gave the conditions. Of course, none of them are willing to admit to these businesses' existence.

"Don't worry, whether you agree or not, the squad is going to dissolve, and mediating this deal is the last thing I am going to do as a squad captain."

When they heard this, the whole squad is flustered.

They don't even know how to react, but before they could do, Fig spoke up.

"He is determined to kill you and from the looks of it, you knew how the death would be." He said as he pointed at the large mess caused by the explosion of one of their peers.

"You only have one choice. End up like him or give up your business. I don't know what exactly these businesses are worth to you, but if I were you, I would choose life over that."

One of them stepped forward immediately and said.

"I will do it. What should I do to finish the process?"

"I will inform him, he will send some of Grivon's subordinates and they can finish the process with you. Only after everything was taken over would you be let go from those shackles. If anyone wants to do the same thing he did, do tell me. I will be waiting for the next room."

As soon as he left the room is filled with utter silence.

But one after another, they went into the room and gave up.

That night.

Sam is holding the documents of the soul contracts. Almost everyone broke down immediately and gave up all of their assets. He made the transfer through soul contract and placed some extremely tight restrictions on it so that they wouldn't be able to play around and try to snatch anything back.

Gail looked at Sam and asked.

"Are you sure this is the right way to do that?"

"Are you having second thoughts on supporting me there?"

"No, I am just worried, that you might have made the problem bigger. Until now, you only Grand Elder Pon's faction to worry about. They might not make a move because they are trying to find a way to heal Malgav, but once they are done, they would definitely come after you.

The clan leader incident is something we cannot analyze yet at as he is not really reacting. From what I know of it, he must be in some deep internal conflict with himself about the words you said.

Only after he shows a reaction would his faction react. But almost all the young masters in that faction are targeted by you just now and you now became an enemy to a lot of people. Over a dozen elders, a two dozen youngsters.

There is that hidden enemy who suggested the whole plan that happened now.

Aren't you just making more and more trouble for yourself?"

"I am. That is what I want actually."

"What do you mean?"

"There is around one and a half years for the league to push my assignment away. Until you are here, they might not come and attack me, but you wouldn't stay here permanently and I figured I wouldn't be able to stay away from my body for that long.

I would need to get it sooner than that. If things go exactly as I planned, the chaos I am creating will make things settled in the clan for Grivon and Giyon within the next six months and then I would be able to leave this place.

I would be starting my real counterattack on the Mari Clan and Sivan.

I actually like staying like this. But even if I want to, I shouldn't be staying like this. If I had my previous body and the resources, that little girl definitely wouldn't have been abducted like that. She would have been a lot safer.

I figured that my body is the best thing for me and I shouldn't be away from it for so long."

Gail didn't reply and just stayed silent.

Sam went back to do his own thing. He decided to deploy the subordinates to take over the newly acquired businesses and decided to inject their products into it as soon as possible while changing the name.

For the next week that is what he did. Meanwhile, Gail went to stay with Jyon as she is too terrified by the attack.

Sam started the lessons once again and the children cheered up a lot.

While things are going smoothly here, the situation on Grivon's side, just got a lot smoother.

While Sam is busy acquiring new cash cows for him, Grivon went beast hunting. He went to the places Sam mentioned and started catching the beasts there and in the process, he fell in love with the creatures.

Now he is pretty proud of the collection that he has and came back to the city to meet the young master.

He went to the Beast fighting Arena directly and met with the young master.

"How are you doing Gevin? Did you come back here to lose more money to me?" The young master taunted as soon as Grivon came in. Gevin is the alias he took up in this realm.

"I actually got a new collection. So, I am pretty confident that I would be the winner today."

"Oh really? What beast do you want to fight against? I have all of the mine good and ready to go."

"Sure then, let's go with your Mountain Razor Snake. I have a perfect counter for that thing."

"Your wish. Don't cry if you lose once again.. Since it is bound to happen."

Chapter 1404 - Mantis Vs Snake

Both of them gave out their beast pouches to the attendants.

"What is the name of your beast sir?" The attendant asked Grivon politely.

"It's called the Thunder Shelled Mantis. You can display it for five minutes before you take the bets and announce that they can make a direct bet with me. No matter the amount, I will take it as long as the combined total doesn't exceed twenty billion spirit stones."

"It seems like Mr. Gevin is feeling generous today. Are you sure you would be able to win? Or are you looking to lose some more of your money like you did last week?"

Grivon just smiled and turned to the attendant.

"Collect all the bets and you can take two percent of the winnings as your fee."

The attendant was a bit skeptical. After all, it means his tip would be dependent on whether Grivon could win, but they were trained to not show such expressions on their face. So, he left with a polite smile.

"So now, Young master Gwan. What is your wager? I have some really good gains during this hunt and I even managed to secure a product deal from a merchant in exchange for his protection. I can see a lot of money being made in the near future. So, don't hold back."

"Really? It has been a while since I played big. What is the product blueprint you got? Let me see and if it is really valuable, I will match something to that level."

Grivon smiled and took out a blueprint. It is an armor blueprint given to him by Sam. It is suitable for wind element users which are abundant within the organization they are targeting and this helps them do some gliding maneuvers and they will also help them move around, jump around and assist them with the wind elemental attacks.

Even though it is named armor, it is like an exoskeleton, focusing mostly on providing better aid in moving with extreme agility and speed. Even the defense the armor provides mostly is based on its features that support and enhance the meeting.

But as Gwan is looking at it, Grivon suddenly grabs the blueprint back and said.

"I am sorry, I took the wrong one. I actually wanted to show you this one."

As he said, he took out the energy barrier blueprint and gave it to Gwan.

Gwan wanted to say something, but he just looked at the energy barrier blueprint.

"I heard that a merchant group that came into your realm is about to launch a similar product and the merchant I saved used a lot of money to buy this blueprint from them and is about to launch this product in his own realm which is way far away from your own.

He has quite a few enemies and is very powerful too. We managed to save him and safely sent him back to his own realm and in exchange, he gave us one of the blueprints he had. He said there are many kinds of barriers and he only managed to acquire three. Out of which, he gave us one to make a copy.

Do you want to see a prototype?"

Gwan nodded involuntarily and Grivon gestured as one of his subordinates took out the energy barrier. It is actually a wind elemental one and he showed off its features.

"What do you think young master Gwan? Is the bet big enough for you?"

Gwan nodded, but he still asked.

"What is the other one you showed me?"

"Oh? That. Please, it is not something I can play around with. It is way too valuable for that. Anyway, I can't wait. Let's see what you are going to put against this."

"I have a hectare of land on the planet growing Purple Dust flowers. I will wager the whole land. How about that?"

"I will take it. Thanks."

As they are speaking. Both of their beasts are let out into the large arena for the audience to see.

The announcer is hyping up the audience.

"Now, now. Everyone.

We are here for a special match today.

Our young master Gwan brought back the undefeated Mountain Razor Snake and now he is fighting with the Thunder Shelled Mantis.

A new beast we have never seen and is brought back by Sir Gewin. The leader of Gewin mercenary group."

As he spoke, a mantis the size of a human was let out and from the other side of arena, a large snake was sent out.

The snake is at least forty feet long and it raised its head up as it coiled on the ground. In front of it, the mantis looked insignificant with its small body.

As the snake looked at the mantis, its scales slowly turned different. They turned to a stony texture and small razor-like blades popped up from their scales and went back in.

The Mantis on the other hand had the colors of Black and Purple colors. Unlike the slim and sharp structure of a normal mantis, this one is a bit bulky with external shells on its limbs, and on the back.

It crackled with purple lightning all around it as it looked at the large snake calmly.

It didn't show any movement or emotion through it. It just stayed there small and tiny.

"Really, Gevin? You are really using this against my snake? I at least thought you would give some competition."

"I don't have anything to say to you for that. Let's just wait until the fight is over and the same rules apply right? If the opponent is dead, the winner gets the remains."

"Of course, but I don't know what to do with those shells? Maybe I would make armor and sell it."

"Well, you will never know."

The match started at that moment and both of them stopped the conversation they were having and paid attention to the arena.

The snake looked at the mantis with a look of contempt as it circled around the arena and it suddenly dove forward from the rear at the creature.

The mantis was suddenly covered with purple lightning and it huddled together forming an ellipsoid as it jumped up. When it completely dodged the attack. It opened up and changed directions before turning to that ellipsoid once again.

The mantis shot itself at the snake with the purple lightning covering its body.

BAM

The ellipsoid hit the rock soil scales of the snake and bounded back.

The lightning did little to the stone.

The mantis didn't stop though. It bounced, opened up, closed again, and jumped straight back at the snake.

This time the speed it shot itself increased by a lot and the force it hit the snake multiplied.

BAM

The snake used its tail to smash the ellipsoid to the ground and kept on beating it up.

BAM

BAM

BAM

The hits landed continuously.

"Why don't you give up Gewin? You would at least have that beast. Even though it is not that strong, its speed is great. It might have just lacked some training. You can try another time."

Grivon just smiled and didn't reply.

BANG* *CRACKLE

Large-scale lightning hit.

And at this moment, the arena suddenly turned silent, prompting Gwan to check the situation.

He looked at the snake that was standing still and it seemed to be processing something that is hard to fathom.

In the place of the ellipsoid, the mantis stood tall and proud even with that little figure. It just looked the same height, but it is extremely imposing and powerful to look at.

The shells were gone. They fell off and in place of those shells, there are sharp blades. The blades contained an aura that is so sharp and ruthless that even Gwan who is sitting far away was stunned.

Beside it, the tail of the snake was cut off cleanly and completely that even the blood is not squirting out. The body of the snake didn't even realize it was cut.

PSSST the blood suddenly squirted out of its body.

HISS

The snake hissed in pain.

"You see, young master Gwan, the Thunder Shelled Mantis is actually a very peculiar creature.

The shells are not actually protection from external things, it is so that it wouldn't cause unnecessary damage to the surroundings it is staying in and to hinder its speed so that it can move normally without expending too much energy."

As soon as he finished his words, Gwan saw as the mantis disappeared from the spot in the form of a purple lightning ray.

The blades oozed that sharp aura as it went directly for the head of the snake.

The snake tried to hide and dodge, but the lightning blade formed cleaved through its neck as if it is sliding through butter without any resistance.

The Mantis stopped mid-air and changed the direction with a big lightning bang as it went to the severed head.

Before the head fell off, it was sliced into multiple pieces and by the end of it, it turned to a bunch of pieces of flesh, scales, and minced meat along with brain matter and the mantis is completely covered with blood.

Chapter 1405 - Fleecing I

The whole arena is silent for a long moment that lasted for over five seconds and suddenly it burst into wild cheers.

The audience cheered with excitement and Grivon looked on with a smirk. The Mantis which is soaked in the blood slowly stepped back and looked around to make sure that there is no other threat left around it.

Slowly the lightning started condensing into its body and the skin started oozing out some kind of purple liquid that turned into the shell once again.

Gwan looked at the whole process and gulped. He didn't even know how to react.

"Young Master Gwan, shall we proceed with the transfer? Today, I am feeling really happy, so I would go and take a look at what the new land I just obtained is like if we are done with it soon."

Grivon's words brought Gwan back to his senses.

"How?... It is just so small. But how is it so..."

He couldn't finish his senses with such a brutal loss and felt extremely irritated and then when he realized he just lost a hectare of land with such a profitable herb growing there, he couldn't help but want to swear and scream at someone.

But he knew he couldn't just pay it off.

"Why don't we play again? We can finish all the transfers later? We can go for bigger stakes?"

"No, young master Gwan. I learned to quit while I am ahead. I like to gamble, but I don't want to be a gambler. So, maybe later. For now, I would be happy if you finish the procedure. I need to find a buyer for the land after all. I am just a mercenary and I cannot keep the land for myself."

Gwan wanted to argue, but at this moment, the attendant who took the bets ran towards them excitedly and gave the bet money to Grivon.

"Sir Gevin, here is your collection. You gained twenty billion spirit stones."

"Thank you so much. Don't forget to keep your two percent."

The attendant was ecstatic. He was skeptical before the start of this, but now he knew how lucky he was to be an attendant for Grivon on that day.

And he only felt luckier after listening to Grivon's next words.

"Young master Gwan lost a bet and is about to transfer the property he wagered. Could you bring you the manager here? I would like to be the witness and process the agreement with the Gandharva oath.

I heard he is very skilled at that."

"Yes, Sir."

"And, tell your manager that I would want you to be my attendant whenever I come here."

"Yes, Sir. I will definitely do that."

The attendant ran away with ecstasy apparent in his eyes.

Gwan who wanted to convince Grivon to just go for another bet stopped thinking of that. Since Grivon went as far as calling the manager, that only means, he is really not interested in the bet again.

"Your next bet should be with me Gewin and next time, we are going for much higher stakes."

"Of course, young master Gwan. I will definitely acquire something big as I have some things lined up and for every big thing I get, I will come to you to wager. I have acquired quite a big collection of beasts and I cannot wait to show them off to you and pit them against your own."

With that, the manager came and the property was transferred.

Grivon didn't even wait for a second. He took his beast and left the place as if he would lose the property if he stayed there any longer.

After going to the residence they were using, he went to meet Giyon secretly who is currently staying in the headquarters of the realm. She can see the Headquarters of the organization from her window.

It was already night by the time Grivon reached there.

"So, how are you doing out there? Did the target take the bait?"

She asked as she made some tea.

"Yes, he did. And here is the first gain."

He slapped the deed on the table and Giyon went through it with surprise.

"A hectare of land and the Purple Dust flower crop that is ready to harvest? This guy is really an idiot and he is also a gambler. Quite an idiotic combination that is."

"Yes, it is an idiotic combination. And it is great for our benefit. So, how are you going to proceed with this?"

"The Purple Dust flower is the main ingredient in many medicines that are used for bone strengthening. It is great medicine for Mortal Plane cultivators and even some Astral Plane Initiation cultivators.

It is a big business as it is. But I want to send the details to Sam and see if he has a better idea."

"He probably would have. What is the first product you are launching?"

"Since we are already into the food industry and it is getting some decent money, I want to target the weapons next. The medicine is the biggest here and I figured it would be better if we poked at it later. I don't want to cause chaos before I make some serious connections from people outside of this realm that act here."

"That's good. Go for the energy barrier business if you can. I just showed it off as a wager to this young master and I said someone is launching the product here in the capital.

So, if you do that, I might gain some extra credibility when it comes to info and it might help me out."

"Energy barriers? Not a bad idea. It is actually easier to penetrate since there is not much competition for it. I will go for that."

"Send a message to Sam then. He will help you set up the production faster and I also acquired the list of the properties under Gwan. I want to know which would be the better picks. So, ask him on my behalf."

"Sure thing."

As they had some more discussion about the businesses and some general chat, night slowly crept away and by dawn, Grivon moved back. He went back to the city and waited for a message from Giyon regarding Sam's answer.

Two days passed and he finally got the answer. In fact, Giyon brought it herself.

"He just wanted you to go for it. You have absolute freedom. You can take whatever type of property or resource you want. The only requirement is that it would be better if they are close to harvest."

"That is something I can do. I have a very long list to pick from now. So, why are you here?"

"You have been noticed by the people in the capital. For some reason, the hectare of land you took was noticed even though it is the private property of Gwan.

Maybe it is because they are a bit caught off guard with how quickly it came into my hands, so they are thinking you might have targeted Gwan with hidden agenda."

"But I did target the guy with some hidden agenda."

"Just keep it in control and don't get caught. Just don't gamble with him for a while and wait until he approaches you by himself. Also sell, the carcass of the snake to somebody else so that they won't doubt you too much.

Also, act like a normal mercenary sometimes. Go on a mission, do some dirty work, and conduct expeditions."

"Sure, Sister Gyon. Sure. Is that it?" Grivon spoke with a sigh.

"What is with that tone?"

"You speak like my mother. Why do you always end up taking that tone whenever we talk? It is almost annoying."

"Well, then stop acting like a child. I just came here to warn you. Goodbye."

With that, she disappeared.

For the next few days, Grivon didn't act up. He spent three days outside conducting some high-profile expeditions, at least that is what the people and the city heard.

And since he got a hectare of land from the young master, his news is something so many people are paying attention to.

Gwan on the other hand is paying attention too much. He already noticed that Grivon is deliberately escaping him.

He is trying so hard to not meet with Gwan and in fact, he is trying too hard which is easily noticeable.

This puzzled Gwan and on the third night, when Grivon and his team came back from an actual expedition, he was ambushed.

Not with an attack, but with Gwan being alone without any guards.

"What are you doing sneaking up on us like this young master Gwan? You could have been killed you know?"

Grivon said with a frown.

"Gwin, it seems like you forgot about our deal. You didn't come to the arena."

"Well, I didn't find the time to. Haven't you known about this? I am a mercenary."

"So, what? It seems like you are deliberately avoiding me.. Don't tell me that you don't want to continue right after beating me. Are you that scared of losing?"

Chapter 1406 - Fleecing II

"Of course, I am afraid of losing."

Grivon answered matter-of-factly. Gwan who is standing in front of the group was stunned. He expected Grivon to dismiss his claims and feeling offended. He wanted to provoke him into getting into this. But instead of that, he openly admitted.

Looking at his reaction, Grivon smiled and said.

"I am afraid of losing. Because everything I gained is something I gained with my life on the line. I don't want to lose it all on some gamble. Particularly not when I am getting threats from some big hidden figures."

"You were threatened?" Gwan was shocked.

"Of course, I got a few threats that I shouldn't gamble with you anymore and if I did, I better lose if I knew what is good for me.

I don't care about who they are and what they want. I don't care if they are stronger than me, but I have to keep my members safe and I can't just play and lose on my own. I don't like throwing fights no matter if they are some gambles or some fights that decide fates. So, I would rather avoid.

Now get out of the way and come and meet me only after you have big enough balls to gamble with full stakes and no hidden and outer threats coming at me, just because I can win."

Grivon and the team were about to take a detour and leave, but Gwan once again blocked their way.

"Young master, you might really get your ass kicked if you keep blocking me. Trust me, the people that threatened me didn't say anything regarding beating the crap out of you. They only told me to not win any gambles against you."

"Who is that threatened you? Tell me. I will sort this out."

"Sort this out? If you really think you can sort this out, you would have done it already. Who knows how many victories you scored all these years because of these people. And here I was thinking that you are some highly skilled beast tamer and trainer."

With that Grivon didn't stop and went back to their residence.

The next day, Gwan came to his residence and this time, he brought the manager of the Den along with him.

"What are you doing here, Young master? I already told what I wanted to tell you. Now get out."

"I am here to make a deal. In all the future gambles that you and I have, there wouldn't be any of my clan members trying to sabotage the payment if you win and I will try my best to help you if they try to threaten you.

I will be doing the Gandharva Oath right here and record it. I will spread it all over the realm so that my clan wouldn't be able to deal with you."

"Are you sure you want to do that?"

"This will give you what you need. You can come and gamble. I will prove it to you that I am not a person who tries to renege on my debts."

"Sure thing."

Grivon grinned and accepted the oath.

He couldn't help but feel a bit ecstatic while he did that. He didn't expect that Gwan would take such extreme measures, but this helps him do things far easily.

"Okay now, lets go to arena, I would like to get my field back and much more from you."

"I am sorry. But I already sold your field."

"WHAT?" Gwan was stunned.

"You heard me. I already sold the field. I didn't bother to wait for you to win it back and I don't have any use for it."

"Who did you sell it to?"

"I don't know. Someone from the capital. A new merchant group."

"I need to look into it. The field is quite profitable. As he mumbled he walked out and Grivon followed him.

They both went to the arena and once again they started betting. This time, Gwan took a different type of beast. A Dual elemental beast.

A wolf with both wood and wind elements. The Grass Blade Wolf.

"Another undefeated contender of yours. I thought you would save this for a bit. I also have a wolf in my possession. Let's see who wins."

Grivon sent his beast pouch and gave the same offer as the day before. Twenty billion spirit stones for the bet.

The audience are looking forward to it as the announcer hyped up.

The wolf Grivon gave was revealed. This time, the size of the creatures is equivalent. They looked equally dangerous.

The wolf Gwan is using has the green mane with a single white patch on its crown, where as Grivon's wolf is of golden color.

Its mane had this metallic sheen that glimmered like it was just polished.

The Golden Wolf. A metal elemental beast.

The announcer created hype while Grivon and Gwan started discussing the wagers.

"I will need that energy barrier blueprint and I will also need that thunder mantis."

"Oh my god. You are really betting big. But do you really have enough capital? I mean, the worth of the mantis is a lot more than it just being a beast. Its worth is at least the same as the hectare of the land it won for me and even more.

Since I am feeling generous again, I will take a bet. But you need to place the wager of something that is twice as valuable as the Land."

"How about an orchard? The Flame Tangerine Orchard. The land has been fertilized with the fire elemental essence and the blood of the fire elemental beasts for centuries. Every year instead of decreasing the fertility, it is increasing rapidly.

I think it is a good deal. The tangerines are also on the verge of harvest. It would be enough."

"Sure, I will take that deal. I am pretty sure I can find a great buyer in no time."

"You wouldn't be able to, don't worry."

As they were talking. The battle started.

Grivon had a smile on his face as he looked at the green wolf running around. Every where it stepped there is a patch of grass appearing there and a swift wind carried the grass and it into literal blades of grass.

When the grass blades slashed the golden wolf, one could see a faint green mark left behind along with the small scar.

The wolf's special attack, poisonous grass blades. This is an attack that does a lot of damage as the time goes on and with the wolf's natural agility, it can drag on the fight as it liked and the constant pelting with the grass blades only makes it worse for the opponent.

But when the Golden wolf took the hits at the start, it winced in pain, but only for a second, the next moment its golden mane brightened up and the metallic sheen intensified.

The next barrage of grass blades were completely deflected from the skin and the Golden Wolf looked at the Grass Blade wolf before howling into the sky.

HOWLING

The Grass Blade wolf suddenly felt the shivers down its spine and stopped the attack. The Golden Wolf slowly walked forward and suddenly its body appeared to be larger in the eyes of the Grass Blade wolf.

"What the fuck is that mutt doing? Why is backing down?"

"A wolf is a canine beast Young master. They have some serious instincts when gauging their opponents and your wolf just realized that it is against a stronger opponent, both in terms of strength and hierarchy."

"What do you mean hierarchy? My wolf never mixed up with the rest of the tribe, it doesn't know any of these things."

"I knew you would think that. But instincts for beasts come through genetics. When there is an overwhelming power difference, you cannot make them fight. If you are doubtful, you can command it to fight. But beware that it would die."

"I don't fucking believe it."

As he spoke, he commanded his beast through the contract.

As soon as he did that the grass blade wolf tried its best to resist but for its owner, it made a move.

The Golden Wolf became angry and leaped forward. It disappeared like a golden flash and in one second, the Grass Blade wolf lay on the ground with blood all over its body dripping out.

The crowd turned silent again.

"What the fuck is happening? It was only one hit."

"I told you, the overwhelming power difference that comes from genetics. It is not easy to beat. Anyway, shall we talk about the transfer of the orchard? I need to find a buyer."

"We can go again. Right now."

"No, young master. I have an expedition lined up. I am going after a mine that was recently discovered and there are some problems. It is actually discovered by your organization. I just took the contract. So, I can't just abandon it."

"But..."

"Please young master. You just swore an oath that you would make sure that your family doesn't help you renege your debts, but now you are trying to avoid it by making another bet.. We can't just have all the fun in a single day."

Chapter 1407 - Business

Grivon and Gwan are standing in front of the manager of the Gambling den as they processed the contract.

After it was done, Grivon left with his team.

"Young master Gwan, you should be careful when dealing with a person like that. It seems like he has studied your beasts critically after he lost to you once and went on to correct his mistakes.

He is not just any random person who desires to win, he is a person who works to win. You might think that this is all just a gamble, a game of chance, but it stopped being a game of chance a long time ago.

It stopped being that when your opponent analyzed the risks and obstacles and prepared for them.

If you want to win, prepare well. Change your beasts, acquire new ones, train them. Try to trigger mutations. Do what you need to do. Understand your opponent. Because if you go on like this, you would be done with all of your properties and money before you even know it.

With those words, the manager left the place leaving Gwan to stand there and think as he looked at the battles of other beasts.

He went to the rooms of the arena where the wolf is being treated.

The Golden Wolf showed some mercy for some reason, maybe because they are of the same kind. So, he got to keep the beast.

When he thought of the manager's words, he decided that it is about time for a chance. The beasts he had were trained by him for years and he spent so long with him. He had so many wins with them, that he got accustomed to it.

But then he remembered what Grivon said regarding his organization threatening and for some reason, he managed to link it to some of the close victories in many of which he thought he would have lost but still won.

He suddenly couldn't feel the sense of pride from all the gambles he won.

If Grivon knew what his little ploy is making the young master go through right now, he would be shocked.

Gwan lets the wolf get the treatment before leaving the city. He decided to take some time off from gambling and think of ways to improve his collection and find ways to beat Grivon.

As he thought of the victory, he thought of that blueprint of the armor he has seen. He couldn't get that out of his mind.

In fact, the very reason he went as far as making that oath to Grivon is because of the armor.

He knew that his standing within the organization is good, but not great enough to surpass the successor candidates with a landslide.

He believed this armor blueprint would achieve it.

At least it would put a lot of distance between him and other candidates and he believed that gambling is the best way to achieve it.

He went to find a way.

The next day Grivon received the news and sent the message to Giyon who is also extremely busy herself.

While Grivon is trying his best to fleece the young master, Giyon is waiting for the production plant of the Energy barrier project to set up.

The newly trained artisans in this area were sent from the Gaja Clan and Sam also arranged the machinery by making them within Grivon's stray realm.

By the time Grivon sent the message, the setup was completed. She was surprised by how fast the whole thing happened.

After making sure that everything is okay. She started the production and luckily Sam also sent a batch of energy barriers so that she could immediately start her business.

Of course, she already set up the store and the first store is within the capital.

When the shop opened the whole capital was stunned as she made a grand demonstration within the arena.

If not for the fact that she divided the premade batch into several smaller batches and limited the products, she would have run out within the first day.

Particularly after she got the letter from Grivon stating that Gwan was nowhere to be found and went on this little getaway, she decided to extend it as long as she can and slow down the business a bit.

Since Sam would also take some time to make new inventions from the things Grivon is going to acquire, this would be the perfect method.

Once the new invention comes around, then she can release it and change the attention to that one a bit and let this business spread slowly under the shadow.

So, she started slowing down a bit.

The organization of course took note of her along with the merchants that came from other realms.

The second day, after the stock she assigned for that day is finished, an elder from the organization approached her.

"My name is Raun. It is nice to meet you. Miss Gyon. I would like to talk to you about a business proposition."

"I am sorry Mr. Raun, I already rejected everyone that came to me with a proposition regarding the distribution of the Energy barriers.

Currently, my production is not exactly stable and as you can see, the demand is already quite high for myself and I cannot manage the supply."

"Of course, that is why I am not here to ask for distribution. Rather, I am looking for a partnership in the production itself.

Our organization is already widespread and has a solid foundation with connections and has enough financial stability. If you can sell this product to us, we will manufacture and distribute with ten percent profits to you.

You don't have to do anything. All you have to do is give us the blueprints and you will receive a large sum of payment along with the ten percent profits."

Giyon looked at him with a smile but didn't reply for a second.

"Your Answer Miss Gyon?"

"Are you sure you want to listen to that Mr. Raun?"

"I am if it is a statement on acceptance."

"It is not. So, you know my answer. Please take your leave. I am selling the product blueprints to you. I have my own plans."

"I don't know where your confidence comes from Ms. Gyon, but it would be hard for you to survive within this realm and within the circle of merchants in the surrounding realms if you don't partner with one of the behemoths like us.

Otherwise, you wouldn't be able to develop yourself and might be swallowed as a whole. Then you wouldn't even reap the profits I am currently giving to you."

"We will see if that day really comes. But anyway, I have a contract from your organization stating that I would be provided with subsidies as well as no hindrance in the growth of my business from your organization would be imposed on me.

So, you are openly violating that agreement as you are trying to threaten me here.

I might just go and take it up with your justice department here and even the head of your clan."

The elder was stunned and looked at the agreement that was whipped out by Giyon.

"How did you get that?"

"Oh, it seems like you don't even know about its existence. Inconsistency within the organization I guess, but I think you need to ask that question to someone else. Goodbye."

With that, she left.

For the next two days, she kept on getting these kinds of offers one after the other and in these two days, the production was also properly arranged. There is a consistent flow of energy barriers coming out.

Giyon lifted the restriction on selling a bit. Of course, she is not selling them in bulk and on the fifth day since she opened the store, she found a small local partner on another planet within the realm far away from the capital.

That person is actually just a salesperson though. It is a local weapon shop and he is like a distributor who gets ten percent off of the profits from each product.

This is Giyon's usual business practice. In all the realms that she expanded, she always found the local businesses that are genuine and stable to penetrate the market easily this time, she did that same.

On the sixth day, Sam sent a message to her again and this time along with the message, there is a lot of equipment and other stuff.

And in that stuff, there was a recipe and instructions on how to make the product with the Purple Dust Flower.

Giyon was ecstatic and was shocked when she looked through the effects of the product.

This is something she didn't expect.

The profits would be unimaginable with this product and she can also focus more on the distribution plan of the energy barriers while this setup was ready.

So, by the sixth day afternoon, she started going all out on signing deals with small business partners. Instead of partnering with a big merchant group that spread across a realm, she contracted with the small businesses that covered a single planet or even a region of a planet in the nearby realms too.

Of course, this didn't sit well with the big merchant groups.

Chapter 1408 - Strategy

Giyon's rapid expansion using small merchants in all of the areas is not really appreciated by the big merchant groups and rightfully so.

They were just imagining large-scale profits that they could reap with the Energy barriers, in fact, they don't even need a wholesale price from Giyon, they are ready to pay the retail price she is selling at her shop and are still confident that they can make a profit.

But now the situation is completely out of their hands.

Giyon's move was sneaky. For the first few days, she completely dodged everyone saying that she doesn't have any thoughts on expanding her business and only wanted to stay in this one place, and just when everyone is

thinking that it might be true, she made this big nasty move that caught them off guard.

Some of the merchant groups wanted to take it out on Giyon a bit, after all, every raw material and all kinds of other products are completely managed by them. They wanted to cut the supply off for a bit to teach her a lesson.

Only when they are looking for the people who are supplying to Giyon did they realize something, none of them are the material suppliers for Giyon and none of them actually supplies anything to Giyon.

It is almost like she is completely independent of the other merchant groups within the realm.

The next thing they wanted to do is to go after the small businesses across the realms. Every single one of the merchant groups has this one realm where their influence is high. So, they wanted to go back to their realms and try to buy off the small-time merchants and take over the place as the distributor.

But things didn't go well when they learned about the details of Giyon's contract with these people.

Giyon's contract clearly states that the contract is only valid with this particular person she chose, even if it is their child or nominee, the contract wouldn't be valid and she can stop the distribution whenever she wants.

In fact, one of the distributors sold out immediately and handed over the contract to the merchant group. He clearly didn't read it thoroughly, so when the merchant group saw it, they don't know exactly how Giyon would even know whether the owner kept the contract or not.

After all, he might be sending his people to pick up the supplies. But soon they realized.

The supply is actually sent by Giyon herself and when the person came and saw that the person who signed the contract is not there, he immediately left.

He didn't care about the merchant group that tried to stop him. He just killed the people they sent and left without saying a word.

The groups finally understand that Giyon is not as simple as they thought. They wanted to try other ways, but soon they realized that Giyon's tactics are not done yet.

Exactly one week after launching the energy barrier product, she announced the next product, Body Strengthening Bath.

She not only announced the product, but she went as far as opening the second floor of her building from which the sales happen.

The product is actually made of the Purple Dust flower and it is Sam's take on how this flower could be used in the most effective way possible.

He created a powder that could be used as a bath salt which is extremely effective for strengthening the body of even an Astral Plane Initiation cultivator.

Once again, on the product release day, she did some free trials and went on to regulate the supply a bit.

Along with that, by the third day, she had a meeting with the distributors she chose. Not all of them only some of them. She gathered all of them in a large room and spoke to them.

"All of you are the proper distributors from the first batch that I selected.

Now, I would like to give you another opportunity. You must have already heard about the medicine store I opened on top of this place.

It is an exclusive product and it is only available for limited days. After all, the ingredients that are needed are rare and need some time to be grown properly. So, the supply would be a bit regulated which means people who sell it will not have the same level of income as you.

But still, I want every one of you to recommend someone to me. Someone who has adequate knowledge of medicine to sell them and who is as genuine as you. Someone who wouldn't betray and sell out the business.

Of course, tell them that I have other medicines lined up and they would be introduced very shortly and in those products, there are medicines that would be sold within these exclusive medicine stores.

So, they don't have to worry about being stuck with one product.

Select one person and build another floor on top of your current shop or build an attached shop beside yours and even if that is not possible, open the shop in the same compound side by side.

If you find me a genuine person like asked and they don't disappoint, I will distribute the next weapon through your channels and you would be able to get more. Do you understand?"

The merchants were dumbfounded and they became ecstatic. It is actually not that much of a tough job. All they have to do is find someone they can trust

and good-hearted. They don't have to be saints, they just don't have to betray Giyon.

Within their cities, they definitely have connections with local medicine sellers and they knew some good ones too.

They immediately left the capital and went back to convince their friends and acquaintances.

The process was not hidden and the merchants understood what Giyon is doing.

She is trying to build her own group at a rapid pace.

The problem with the large-scale merchant groups is that they need to find someone trusted and make them develop influence in a locality before launching a big proper shot.

But Giyon is doing the opposite. She is not revealing her hand completely from the start and began it with one product.

She went after the small-scale local merchants first and gave this product like an olive branch.

She filtered the good apples from within that group and is making them look for other good apples in a different field and gave them an offer with a different product and made sure to promise that she would be giving her next product to these guys if they impressed her with their loyalty.

This also means that if they don't do a good job, she wouldn't let them have the second product if they are not successful with this.

She is making the small-scale merchants earn her trust with the enticement of more profits. But the condition is that they need follow him.

They don't even know how to react to this. Some of them wants to take extreme measures and wanted to kill a few of the distributors to make Giyon understand her place, but for some reason, the people that were sent of the distributors never came back.

Meanwhile, on Grivon's end, the young master Gwan who is the perfect sheep for fleecing just came back.

Grivon who didn't see him all this while was a bit worried.

But Gwan came back with extra enthusiasm.

"I would like to gamble. I want that Thunder Shelling Mantis and the Golden Wolf."

Grivon thought for a moment and shrugged.

"You don't have a problem with the possibility of losing two beasts that are best in your collection?"

"Trust me, they are not the best in my collection, and who said they are the only beasts of their kind in my collection. I actually brought an extra mantis and a wolf."

Gwan was stunned and looked at Grivon in shock. Who in the right mind would get the same extra beasts, particularly when they are making a collection? That is his question, but Grivon just shrugged and said.

"I knew these beasts would become popular after I win a few rounds with overwhelming differences and then I would auction these extras off for a huge profit."

"What the hell is wrong with you? Why are you so obsessed with money?"

"Because I never had enough of it and I am a mercenary. Have you ever heard of a mercenary who is not in love with money? I haven't."

Gwan sighed and didn't want to continue with the conversation.

"Anyway, what is that you are wagering. You need to wager something big. Something that is worth as much as the flower field and the orchard combined."

"Of course, I have the perfect thing in mind. My wind elemental herb garden on this planet. That is one of the best herb gardens in the surrounding realms and I have a wide variety of herbs already on verge of maturing.

You will gain a lot."

"That is great.. I would take that."

Chapter 1409 - Trying To Get Info

A few minutes later.

"Yes, yes. Finally. I won. I am back." Gwan is yelling out excitedly as he punched the air around. Grivon stood beside him with a gloomy face.

He looked at the beast that just lost the fight and took it back. Since he spared the wolf last time, Gwan was considerate enough to let this beast go. But in this bet, Grivon lost the mantis and the wolf.

Of course, as he said, he did catch extras in his journey. I mean since it was done easily by his high level subordinates, he didn't really hold back.

He gave the extras to the young master and left the arena.

But only after he left the arena did his expression change and reveal his original intentions. He started smiling widely.

He couldn't help but show a wide grin on his face as he walked back to his residence.

This is his plan from the start. He planned to lose now no matter what kind of beast Gwan brought, but luckily for him, Gwan really did make an upgrade and brought some new powerful beast.

He managed to lose and made sure that Gwan's ego is completely within the zone.

Some times there is a possibility that no matter how addictive a gambler is, they might slow down or even give up if the blow is too big.

In this case, the involvement of Gwan's organization is inevitable if he lost too much. Even though Gwan signed an agreement that only helps him at the start as it goes down, he would have to reveal his hand and strength to the organization and might need to use forceful measures.

To delay that inevitable, Gwan needs his ego within a certain range so that the gambler within him wouldn't suffer with any big blows

So for the next three days, he did everything he could to make sure anything drastic happened.

He managed to win the first day and get his beasts back, but then gambled them away in the second day. On third day the bet was a bit bigger and Grivon lost again.

This time he had bet a lot of money. The gains he had in the past few days from the other audience was all gone to Gwan.

Gwan on the other hand is ecstatic. When he won two times in a row, he couldn't help but feel like he came back to his top form and various thoughts popped up in his mind about the armor and the energy barrier blueprint.

He already heard about the energy barrier that came into the market recently and knew that his organization is having some trouble dealing with this competitor. Giyon's popularity is raising with her products rapidly and even he who doesn't show much interest in what happens within the capital and headquarters noticed this.

He wanted that barrier blue print so that he could help out the clan a bit. So, he decided to bet on that the next day.

"I need that blue print."

"I am really sorry, young master. I already sold it."

"Sold it? To who?"

"The person who is currently selling the barriers. She knew that I have one in my possession and contacted me. She doesn't want to have competitors popping around here and there, so she bought it off."

"Then you didn't make any copies?"

"Young master Gwan, I might like money, but I don't really do something as shitty just to get some more money in my pockets. When it comes to trade, I am very honest with my customers."

"Whatever."

Gwan left the arena with a grumpy mood even though he won.

He doesn't know exactly what to do now. He is really counting on this barrier to make sure that the rest of his peers don't catch up. The only silver lining is that none of his peers managed to score this product from him. So, they at least didn't get any boost from their current level.

As he is thinking, the armor blueprint suddenly crossed his mind.

He knew for sure that the armor blueprint is a lot more valuable than the energy barrier. But he doesn't know how to get it.

Grivon didn't talk about selling it. But when he thought of how Grivon sold everything silently, he knew that it is possible.

So, the next day, he asked Grivon about it after their bout.

Gwan won again, but this time, the bet is a little on the low side and didn't have that much excitement to it.

"The armor blueprint you showed me, did you sell it?"

"That one, I didn't. It is still with me."

"How much does it cost?"

"Trust me young master. You wouldn't be able to afford it. It is way too expensive and even your organization would feel a massive pinch."

"Where did you get it then?"

"Some questions are better left unanswered young master. I don't think your organization is big enough to hold something like this. This belongs to the big clans and sects. You guys are just not there yet."

"If a mercenary like you can hold it. So, can we." Gwan didn't like Grivon belittling their organization and fired back.

Grivon smiled and spoke.

"Young master. You don't know nothing about me. Don't pass your judgements too quickly and live to regret it later on. You might think your organization is all that, but after you have seen the world that I have seen and more, then you say the same thing. Maybe I will believe you then.

All you have ever done is gamble in this stupid city. You barely left the realm at all."

"What do you mean by that?"

"I don't mean anything that I didn't say. Just be cautious when you overestimate yourselves and underestimate others. I might just be a mercenary and I might have dodged the fight with your clan. But there are a lot of things you need to know before you compare yourself and your organization to me.

See you tomorrow, if you are coming to bet that is."

Gwan doesn't even know what to say to that.

He knew he was being insulted, but he couldn't think of anything to refute.

He indeed doesn't know who Gewin really is. For all they knew, he is just a mercenary who recently set up shop here and he is doing great. He took over expeditions and finished them in a snap. He had a perfect rate and his subordinates are doing a great job here.

But why is here? They don't know.

What exactly is the strength of the whole group.

They don't know.

How did the group really got their hands on such a high level blue print?

They don't know that either.

When he started asking these questions, he realized that all he knew is that the other guy is a gambler who likes to win and has means to do that.

That is it.

He doesn't know anything about him. But when he remembered the design of the armor, he couldn't help but feel tempted.

So, he immediately went to the manager or the den and spoke.

"I need a meeting with the Elder."

"Which elder? There are currently three of them within the vicinities of the planet."

"Is Elder Mani still present?"

The manager was a bit stumped and asked.

"Why do you want to meet her?"

"I need more information about Gewin and I believe she is the best person for the job."

"Yes, she indeed is, but you should also know, it is not really a good thing to ask things from her. They often come with some big price in the form of favors."

"I know. But I need it fast and I need it to be secretive and precise."

"Then she is your person. Lucky for you, she is also on the planet, so you don't have to travel much to meet her. I will try to set up an appointment tomorrow if you want."

"That would be great, thank you."

The next day Gwan didn't go for the arena and instead went to meet with the elder.

He travelled to a city nearby and met with her at noon for lunch.

The elder is a middle-aged woman wearing simple robes without any sign of extravagance of an elder of a reputed organization.

"What do you want Gwan? I never knew even Gamblers might need my assistance."

Gwan smiled awkwardly and said.

"I need to find information on someone. His name is Gewin and he is a mercenary."

"Why do you want to know about it?"

"Is it possible for you to do this without asking any details?"

"Yes, it is. But the price for that is something you cannot afford any time soon."

"What would that be?"

"In your case, you cannot pay me with enough money, treasures or favors, so you would have to do my bidding for over a decade to three decades based on the type of favor you are asking me. Are you okay with that?"

Chapter 1410 - Capture

Gwan was dumbfounded. He never knew that a simple information-gathering could be this expensive.

"All I am asking for is some background information."

"Of course, you are just asking for that. That doesn't mean it wouldn't be dangerous for me. If the other party is too dangerous, I need to rethink whether it would impact my other interests and if it does, I need to reevaluate the pros and cons before deciding to proceed with the task or not.

If the importance of information is too high and the price is high as well, I would be proceeding with it or I would just quit.

There are many other factors like this."

"So the cost of the information would be based on how important it is for me, rather than how much trouble you have to go through."

"Something along those lines."

"What if the importance is too minuscule and the risk is too high?"

"Then, I would abandon the task and give an update on the situation, if you still want it, you need to amp up the price, if you don't, I will pay the advance back."

"The manager said that you take the payment in terms of favors."

"Yes, the advance has to be monetary though. The second part of the payment would be the favorite."

"Alright."

Gwan muttered and explained the situation.

After listening to the whole thing, Mani replied.

"A mercenary named Gewin appeared in your city running a group on his own name and he has all the means you told and he has a very special blueprint which shouldn't normally be in his possession with his current strength."

"That is exactly right."

"I can look into it. But it is not going to be cheap..."

They discussed the price and Gwan paid a large amount of money before leaving.

Mani who got all the details went to work immediately.

The first thing she did is to follow Gwan back to the city to see if he was being tailed by anyone else. She has been an information broker for far too long to not consider this a big fat conspiracy blowing up on her face.

This is the first thing she does after accepting a task. Check the person who assigned the mission to see if they are being manipulated and even the possibility that person is trying to manipulate her.

After confirming that neither are true, she moved to the next thing. To take a look at Grivon.

She took a vantage point a bit away from his residence and blended in. She has a very peculiar camouflage technique just like a chameleon. She blended perfectly into the trees without any peculiarity whatsoever.

There she got a clear view into Grivon's residence and she observed the whole house until the next day.

By the next morning, she was done and started rubbing her hands together. Soon spiritual energy gathered into it and turned into small flies completely condensed of spiritual energy as they flew away.

She then sneaked out of the trees and went into the woods and sat on an empty patch with her legs crossed.

The flies meanwhile, flew slowly. They flew so close to the ground and in between the grass that no one noticed them and they went directly into Grivon's residence.

They covered the whole area and soon some of them even went into the house as they sneaked into every single room.

Mani could hear the footsteps of people moving around and she can also see some people through these flies. She started listening in on the conversations and tried to look for any possible information that might slip out.

For fifteen minutes, she didn't get anything. But at that point in time, she could hear the rapid footsteps. It is almost like everyone in the house is getting out.

She was confused about why this happened and started exploring, but for the next ten minutes no matter how much she looked and listened, she couldn't find a single person and hear a single sound from the house and even the yard.

This confused her and prompted her to search a bit more. Another ten minutes, later. The results are the same.

She didn't know what happened and opened her eyes in confusion only to be startled and horrified.

Grivon and the rest of his group are standing in front of her. Some members surrounded her from other sides and blocked her escape routes.

"It seems like someone wants to get to know me a bit better."

As soon as Grivon spoke, a wind blade went past him and hit the shoulder of Mani.

It is a subordinate of his who attacked her.

"Are you trying to leave now? That is not good. I mean, you tried so hard from last night just to get my attention. Now that you have it, do you think you can just dump me and leave? That is a big mistake."

"Just let me go and I will never come across your path again. I am the elder of the organization that is ruling this place. You wouldn't be able to escape scot-free if you do something to me. My organization members will come after you."

"Maybe that is what I want. Your organization members coming after me." Grivon said and gestured. The subordinate beside him made a move...

Ten minutes later. Back in Grivon's residence. He sat on a chair while in front of him the elder is also sitting on a chair but she is tied up completely with the special shackles.

"Now, now. What are you up to? Why are you looking into me?"

"Just kill me and get it over with. I don't like being in this position."

"Who said that I am going to kill you? I did some digging on you too. Elder Mani, the great information broker within the surrounding realms. It would be a waste to just kill you. If you can sign a soul contract with me regarding something, then I might just let you go and live your life.

And after another month, I might not even show myself to you for the rest of our lives. Doesn't that sound better than just dying?"

Mani was surprised and then it turned into a stream of thoughts. She frowned and it only got deeper and deeper as she thought of any possibility on why Sam might let her go. After all, prying into your life is a very big taboo here, particularly who knows, just like Grivon everyone is hiding something and they would kill to just keep it hidden.

But when she looked at the whole group and their cultivations, she gulped and agreed. She couldn't find any other way.

"Alright."

"That's great. So let's just start with this. Who sent you to collect info on me?"

"Gwan."

This time it was Grivon's turn to be surprised.

"Gwan? Really?"

"Yes, he said something about the blueprint and wanted to get it. He just wants to know what the consequences are going to be."

"Consequences? He is finally using his brain?"

"He is."

"Now, that is good. I was thinking of how to speed up the process. I can't stay in this hole for a long time.

Okay, Mani. There are only a few tasks for you to accomplish. I want you to hand over your businesses. The ones that you are managing on behalf of your organization."

Mani was stunned and looked at him in shock.

"What the hell do you mean, handover? Do you think it is that easy?"

"Of course, not. But do you think, you have a choice? You are going to transfer the businesses. You can keep all of your personal business. But you need to transfer everything you have on behalf of your clan. I need every single spirit stone you have that belongs to your organization. After transfer, you can leave without a trace for over a month and you can come back. Things would be settled by then."

Mani gritted her teeth and just nodded her head in agreement. She is clearly very reluctant to this whole thing.

"Now the second task is even easier. But after doing this, you need to disappear for a month."

"Just tell me what it is."

"Well, you need to go back and inform Gwan that I am dangerous and the only thing he needs to know is that if he really wants to obtain that blueprint, gambling is the only way.

Tell him that, I am a force to be reckoned with and he shouldn't be doing that something that might blow with. Things like trying to steal and such.

I think you know what I am implying."

"Yes, I do. I will do it."

"Great, I was really thinking that you might take a lot of time and energy from me.

Thanks for cooperating. But remember that it is not easy to just betray me if you want to.. I don't want to make a visit to the Eldon Inn within the capital and slap the manager to death just because you betrayed me."