

D. Extraction 391

Chapter 391 Aurora

Cleomenes, the Assistant Professor, had meticulously searched through the records and shelves of the Exchange Hall.

It took him some before a glimmer of hope crossed his face as he discovered what Vale had been seeking.

He immediately checked it out of curiosity. After all, Vale was quite popular in his batch, and anything he was interested in was probably something good.

'This crystal...' Clemones suddenly frowned as he realized what Spell Model it was. He had to check it once again to make sure, but indeed, it was the Aurora's Embrace as written in the box. There was no mistake at all.

'Why is he looking for this? Wait... Is he planning to record this Spell Model?' Cleomenes was stunned.

However, he immediately shook his head as it should be impossible to record this Spell. Perhaps Vale was simply interested and would it as a research project since he had already obtained a copy of the three other parts.

After calming down, he confirmed that there was only one remaining copy of the fourth part of the Spell Model... It means that it would be more expensive than the other copies.

As soon as he left the storage room, he immediately called Vale and showed the crystal to him.

Vale's heart raced with excitement as he confirmed its content.

'This is it...'

He had finally found the last part of the Planar Spell Model.

"Unfortunately, since we only have one copy of this, this will be more expensive than the others. It will be worth 3 Contribution Points." Cleomenes said, which surprised Vale.

It seemed luck was on his side.

It wasn't expensive at all! After all, this was a Planar Spell, which will be recognized as Celestial Art by the Divine Extraction System!

'This is great...' Vale thought.

However, he couldn't tell it was cheaper than he anticipated and went along with the Professor.

Then, after showing some hesitation, Vale agreed to exchange the required Contribution Points for the final part of the Aurora's Embrace Spell Model.

Holding the precious piece in his hands, he felt a surge of accomplishment.

He then expressed his gratitude to the Assistant Professor before leaving the Hall.

Cleomenes didn't mind that Vale seemed to have forgotten his name as he smiled warmly, glad to have been of help to a dedicated student like him.

Vale immediately made his way back to his room... He took a few items with him to record the Spell Model of the Aurora's Embrace.

He couldn't do the Spell Recording in his room, so he had to borrow a Practice Room instead.

Apparently, he had already accepted the System's offer to merge his eight Spell Lights.

Thanks to the merge, he was able to get one Golden Spell Light or what the System called as Evolved Spell Light.

It wasn't a bad trade at all. Considering that his Spell Dispersion had to merge five Spell Lights, the eight Spell Lights for a Golden Spell Light was definitely a good deal, and he would gladly take it if he ever had another chance.

Anyway, Vale no longer wasted his time.

As soon as he got into his Practice Room, he went on ahead and made the Animus Haven Magic Circle that he was familiar with...

To his surprise, this Magic Circle wasn't just helpful for Dark Arts-related matters. This could actually be used in various situations, like the recording of the Planar Spell Model.

After combining all the parts of the Spell Model, Vale was able to start the recording process.

"Let's do this one at a time..." Vale muttered to himself.

The recording wasn't that different from the method he used before. The only difference was that the Spell Model was more complex.

He expected to fail several times, so he had brought many things with him since he wouldn't leave the room until he was done.

Finally, after five hours and failing dozens of times, Vale left the room he rented, wobbling from exhaustion.

The Spell Recording process eats a lot of Dark Energy and also exhausts the mind of the Arcanist.

However, this was still a huge success, considering that he had failed numerous times when he tried recording the Light Absorption Spell. It even lasted for months.

This just shows how significant his improvement was.

'I can't even try the spell right now...' Vale thought as he jumped to his bed.

After recording the Spell, his understanding of the Planar Spell also deepened.

While the Shadow Manipulation requires the shadow of a living target, and the Divine Lightning Call requires an open space to be useful, the Aurora's Embrace requires the night sky for a powerful effect, but even if not, it would still work.

As he lay on his bed, his mind buzzed with excitement... He wanted to try using this Spell. It seemed safer than his Divine Lightning after all.

"Yvaine, wake me up after four hours..." Vale said to the loyal Dark Spirit before closing his eyes.

He didn't have to wait for an answer as he knew she was listening.

As expected, as the night sky gradually enveloped the Academy in darkness, Yvaine came out of his shadow and woke him up...

"Thank you..." Vale said as he immediately fixed himself before he ventured outside.

To ensure that there wouldn't be a problem, he even used his various spells to hide his presence and put a disguise.

For this, he used his Human Shapeshift Spell to change his appearance, Meridian Access Spell to activate his Aura and completely remove his Dark Energy Fluctuations, Lightspeed Spell to become untraceable, and lastly, he equipped the Mystical Dark Cane that he got from the previous Headmaster to ensure that he won't be recognized.

It was a bit difficult using a fourth spell, but it was still possible if in short duration. Thanks to that, he was able to use his Spell Dispersion to ensure that he went undetected.

After leaving the Academy, he went to a secluded spot miles away where he could fully embrace the "celestial energies" needed to practice the Spell.

"Finally, a good spot." Vale muttered as he stood in a prairie field.

After resting for a bit, he confirmed using his Divine Sense that there was no nearby presence.

With this last check, he raised his hands towards the sky, palms open, as if he was calling upon the stars above.

In response, the night sky began to shimmer and twinkle with an ethereal glow.

Chapter 392 Trapped

Soon, wisps of what Vale believed as 'celestial energy' started to gather around him, intertwining with his abundant Dark Aura.

Then, a radiant aura formed around his palms, emanating a mesmerizing blend of shadows and starlight.

With a focused mind and steady control, Vale released the energy, directing it towards a boulder about 100 meters away.

Whoosh~

As the energy made contact, the rock came alive with a breathtaking display of light. Colors danced and swirled around the rock's edges, reminiscent of the Northern Lights.

"This looks more attractive than I thought..." He muttered.

Vale stood in awe, marveling at the beauty and majesty of the Aurora's Embrace.

It was a spell that truly lived up to its name. It embraces the target with celestial energies and harnesses them to create a spectacle...

As the display faded, Vale couldn't help but feel confused.

'That's it?' Vale was a bit dumbfounded after realizing that the Spell just ended. He even felt some of his Divinity Points disappearing from that activation!

'Did I miss something? Maybe my target must be a living being...'

As he thought that Aurora's Embrace was a Spell that only works against living beings, something unexpected happened to the boulder.

Crash~

It suddenly crumbled into dust!

The previous 2-meter huge boulder disintegrated just like that!

"This..."

Vale was speechless after seeing the result of his Planar Spell. It seemed so beautiful yet so deadly!

Although the boulder didn't have any Arcane Energy protecting itself, it was still a tough object and couldn't be turned into dust so easily. Even some Tier 2 Dark Spell weren't capable of doing this!

"Amazing..."

With a mix of excitement and confusion, Vale couldn't help but be thrilled by the unexpected outcome of Aurora's Embrace spell.

The power it held was far greater than he had anticipated, as evident by the boulder crumbling into dust with a single touch of celestial energy. He didn't even gather much 'celestial energy' from that attack.

Furthermore, this is just a level 0 Planar Spell...

A surge of adrenaline coursed through his veins as he realized the immense potential and destructive force of the Spell.

If possible, he wanted to try it if it would work the same way with Spiritual Beings, Zombies, or other Arcanists.

Vale wanted to check the dust to see if there was some remnant energy from his attack, but as he was about to approach it, he sensed a presence approaching. The person was moving fast, and he would estimate that he would arrive in just 10 seconds or so.

Alarmed by another person's presence, Vale moved without hesitation. He swiftly activated his Lightspeed Spell, disappearing from the location in an instant. His body moved with such speed that it seemed as if he had teleported.

Whoosh~

The prairie field became silent once again.

Vale's decision to leave quickly was driven by his instinct to protect his identity and avoid unnecessary attention.

He also didn't bother using his Divine Sense to identify the person who had been hurrying toward his location since it would just waste his time. It was better to just retreat to the safety of the Vermont Academy.

He may be curious about the approaching person, but it was better to just leave...

As Vale swiftly disappeared using his Lightspeed Spell, he believed he had evaded any potential pursuers. However, much to his surprise, he failed to detect the presence of three individuals who had stealthily approached his location.

'A trap?' Vale was surprised, but he didn't panic.

He used his Divine Sense, and luckily, the Spell was effective on them.

It means that these people weren't as great as Sherman, who couldn't even be detected by the Divine Sense of the Holy Arts Faction.

Dark Arts Practitioner with 10 filled Spell Lights.

Dark Arts Practitioner with 11 filled Spell Lights.

Dark Arts Practitioner with 10 filled Spell Lights.

Elemental Arts Practitioner with 12 filled Spell Lights.

'Hmm? Elemental Arts Practitioner?' Vale knitted his brows in confusion as he realized that the man he had detected first was an Elementalist.

As for the three figures who had surrounded him, two of them were clad in the distinct uniforms of the squad members from the Order of the Evanescent Vessels, so it was pretty easy to identify them.

The other man, on the other hand, was a familiar dark cloak and should be their squad captain.

'It's not the sixth or the fifth squad...' Vale silently thought as he had already seen the vice-captain and captains of those two squads. The cloak they were all wearing had the same quality.

"Who are you?" one of the captains demanded, his voice laced with authority.

There was no way Vale would answer the truth.

With a quick decision, he maintained his disguised form, keeping his true nature hidden.

"Clovis Skye... I'm just passing by and not here to fight against you." Vale answered. Of course, he also made sure to use his Voice Manipulation Spell.

"Clovis Skye?" The captain repeated before continuing to ask questions. "What are you doing here? Did you make that phenomenon in the sky a while ago?"

"Again, I'm not here to fight, so just leave me alone. Why are you even together with an Elementalist?" Vale asked as he shifted his gaze to the man who had just arrived.

His question seemed to have triggered them even more as one of them shouted, filled with urgency.

"That's it. Just capture him! We cannot allow him to escape!"

They didn't hesitate and immediately acted!

Their hands raised in a commanding gesture, and a chilling aura enveloped the area. The death energy spread in the air, and one by one, they began to summon their undead minions.

With a wave of their hands, the ground trembled as zombies clawed their way out of the earth, their lifeless eyes fixed on Vale.

Skeleton knights emerged, their bony forms clattering as they brandished their rusted swords. Above them, four Flying Bone Eagles soared through the air, their skeletal wings casting an eerie shadow.

All three of them were Necromancers!

Chapter 393 Fourth Year

Vale doesn't have a decent counter-spell against the undead minions of the Necromancers.

Most of his Dark Spells were better used against living beings. As a matter of fact, he also had three Necromancer Spells with him, and they were all useless against these zombies and skeletons...

In the end, Vale chose to end this quickly by using one of his Celestial Arts.

Vale briefly focused as he activated one of his Spell Lights. As soon as he felt the deduction of his Divinity Points, the sky above them suddenly changed...

"Don't follow me!" Vale shouted as he unleashed the Divine Lightning.

Boom!

In an instant, a bolt of lightning streaked through the sky, illuminating the dark battlefield.

The crackling energy struck with precision, obliterating all the summoned undead creatures at the same time.

The zombies disintegrated into dust, the skeleton knights shattered into bone fragments, and the Flying Bone Eagle was consumed by the electrifying power of the Spell.

"An Elementalist?!"

The squad captains stared in disbelief as their summoned forces were decimated by Clovis' Lightning Spell. The power he wielded was beyond their expectations, and it sent shockwaves through their ranks. They realized that capturing Clovis would be no easy feat.

"Summon the Soul Eaters!" One of them commanded, but before they could cast their spells, Vale seized the opportunity to disappear from their sight.

This time, he made sure that no one would catch him.

Utilizing his Lightspeed Spell and Agility to the limit, he moved with such swiftness that he became a blur, vanishing into the depths of the shadows. Furthermore, he used his wide-range Spell Dispersion Spell to ensure that no Tracking Spell or any Spying Spell would lock on him.

"He's gone, Captain Wayman."

"He's so quick... He just disappeared from my Magic Zone... That's 45 meters!" One of them said in frustration.

Left standing amidst the remnants of their decimated summons, the four people exchanged wary glances.

They knew that Clovis possessed a power that surpassed their own, and they would need to report this to the higher-ups. They had to find this person!

Even if he doesn't pose any threat to them right now, there was no way an Arcanist that has a power surpassing a Squad Captain of the Order, would be left unknown.

After some time, the Captain Wayman looked at the man Clovis hinted to be an Elementalist.

"Did you use any Elemental Spells? How did he recognize you as an Elementalist?" He asked.

"Indeed. Perhaps the two of you had met before... He seems like an Elementalist. I don't think normal Artifact can release that kind of Lightning." Another Necromancer added.

However, the Elementalist simply shook his head.

"I'm using an Artifact to hasten my speed. I wasn't using any Elemental Spell a while ago. Furthermore, I have two other items stopping my Elemental Energy from leaking." The Elementalist answered as he also shook his head in confusion.

He couldn't remember any actions he made that had hinted to Clovis that he was an Elementalist.

"Then how was he able to find you?" One of the Necromancers asked.

Captain Wayman was deep in his thoughts as he recalled something...

His eyes lit up in disbelief...

Everyone else realized that their Captain had discovered something.

"Captain? Did you recognize him?"

Captain Wayman shook his head and explained with a serious voice. "That man was probably part of the Untainted Sentinels, holding a very high position."

After hearing this, the other three already had an idea of what he had discovered.

"I'm guessing that he used the Divine Sense, a Holy Spell only Bishops can learn." Captain Wayman said as he realized that this matter wasn't simple.

pounding with a mixture of exhilaration and caution. The encounter had solidified his belief in the potency of his Celestial Art, but it had also made him acutely aware of the dangers that awaited him outside the Academy's walls.

Although he was able to get away from them, he may not be as lucky as he is today.

Nevertheless, Vale made sure not to act suspiciously and acted the same way the next day.

Several weeks had passed since Vale's encounter with the Order of the Evanescent Vessels, and the start of the fourth year in the Academy had finally arrived.

Excitement and anticipation buzzed through the air as students gathered in the courtyard, eager to embark on a new chapter of their Arcane Studies.

With the beginning of a new Academy Year came a new Curriculum or Branch of Dark Arts...

Vale, along with his fellow classmates, eagerly awaited the unveiling of their new courses and the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills.

As the students gathered, they were informed of a significant change—a shift in their classroom location.

No longer confined to the familiar lecture halls, the students of the Rituals Branch were to commence their studies in the second Ceremony Hall of the Academy.

This Hall was renowned for its potent concentration of Dark Energy, making it an ideal environment for delving into the depths of the Dark Arts...

Vale glanced at his classmates and counted that there were only 14 of them... They were too few, considering that there were about 120 third-year students! It means that only a little over 10 percent had chosen the Rituals Branch!

'What did they choose? Dark Magic? Necromancy?' Vale was stunned as he thought that there would be a lot more students choosing this Branch.

Nevertheless, he didn't show his surprise.

Vale and his classmates entered the second Ceremony Hall and marveled at the sight of the mysterious Hall... The atmosphere was palpable, charged with an intensity that sent shivers down their spines.

The air was filled with dark energy that was pressuring them to some extent.

"Mhmm... Beautiful." Maya, standing behind Vale, muttered at the sight of the Hall.

The second Ceremony Hall itself was indeed a sight to behold.

Intricate tapestries adorned the walls, depicting ancient spells in ancient languages and figures of legendary Arcanists.

The vast expanse of the Hall provided ample space for experimentation and practical spellcasting or rituals, ensuring that the students could fully immerse themselves in their studies.

Then, Vale took his seat among his new classmates... However, as he was about to feel excited about the new class, he realized that Maya and Leonore were seated beside him.

Chapter 394 Subjects

"Mhmm?" Vale felt a bit conscious as they seated close to him when the Hall was quite empty with only 14 students in.

The massive Ceremony Hall could probably fit a hundred students at the same time.

'Ahhh...' An idea suddenly came to his mind as he turned to Maya and Leonore and posed a question that had been lingering in his mind, "Are you guys thinking of participating in the Twelve Academies Competition? I mean, do you know how many students will be accepted for that?"

Maya, with her amiable demeanor, didn't mind his inquisitiveness and promptly responded, "If there are no changes in the rules this year, they will select 5 students from each year to represent our academy. And I have every intention of being one of them."

Leonore, known for her quiet confidence, chimed in with a determined tone, "In that case, I'll strive to secure the second spot. The competition will be fierce, but I'm up for the challenge."

Maya then turned to Vale and softly spoke. "Master Sherah was still waiting for you. She hadn't forgotten how you'd left Senior Cressida to be captured by the Elementalists... Luckily, she was able to escape."

"Huh?" Vale was dumbfounded after hearing her words. He wanted to explain himself, but their conversation was momentarily interrupted as Professor Ludwig, a seasoned expert in the field of Dark Rituals, made his entrance into the room.

The class fell into an attentive silence as he strode towards the podium, exuding an air of authority and wisdom.

With a commanding presence, Professor Ludwig cleared his throat and addressed the class.

"Welcome, students, to the fourth-year Rituals class. I am Professor Ludwig, and I will be your guide through the intricacies of this special Dark Art."

Vale wasn't familiar with this Professor, but he must be quite decent, considering he has 12 Spell Lights with him.

Then, Professor Ludwig began discussing the subjects that would be covered throughout the year, his words captivating the entire class.

Some students even started scribbling down their notes, eager to absorb every ounce of wisdom being shared.

"There will be six subjects that you have to master for this year: Ceremonial Rites, Unspoken Incantations, Sacrificial Rituals, Ancient Magic Circles, Spirit Communication, and lastly, the Ritual Theory and Components."

"Ceremonial Rites will be the foundation of our studies..." The Professor explained in his deep voice... "In this subject, we will explore the power of precise gestures, some important incantations, and the creation of the perfect ambiance to channel dark energies effectively."

As the Professor said this, Harley, one of the students, couldn't help but interject. He was from Class 1 and Maya's classmate. His eyes gleamed with curiosity. "I wonder what kind of incantations we'll learn. Will it be from different languages, or will we only focus on Oardic?"

"We will only tackle both Soineti and Oardic Incantations. It's not easy to use another language. There might be some difficulty pronouncing them correctly; we don't want any unexpected consequences."

Professor Ludwig answered before he moved on to set their expectations about the Unspoken Incantations.

He explained that it's an art of using silent or mental words, thoughts, or intentions to complete rituals or influence magic without vocalizing them.

Leonore nodded at this and softly muttered. "I've heard that mastering Unspoken Incantations requires immense focus and control. It's a discipline that separates the truly skilled from the rest."

"Oh~ Aren't you a Dark Seer? Do you need to learn it?" Vale asked curiously.

Leonore smiled as she felt glad that Vale would initiate a conversation.

"After getting into the first stage of being a Dark Seer, I learned that I have to be more familiar with mysterious entities. The quickest way to do this is to learn from this branch." She answered with a soft voice.

Vale nodded in acknowledgment as they went silent again to listen to the Professor's explanations.

The class continued, with Professor Ludwig introducing the other subjects.

Sacrificial Rituals Class was the subject where they would study the methods, benefits, and risks of offering something or someone as a sacrifice to a mysterious Entity or even the gods worshiped by other people in exchange for something else.

Ancient Magic Circles seemed to be the most interesting class for Vale since they will study the history, design, and usage of various magic circles that can enhance, amplify, or alter the effects of spells and rituals. After all, these things weren't something he could easily extract from people.

As for the Spirit Communication Class, Vale felt that it would be quite easy since it's just an art of establishing and maintaining contact with spirits, ghosts, or other entities that exist beyond the physical realm. With his unusual connection with the Spirit World, he shouldn't have any problems with this class.

'I just hope that I won't attract that Messenger again.' Vale mused as he recalled the terrifying uninvited Being that had appeared in one of his rituals before.

Professor Ludwig then continued to explain the last class.

It was the Ritual Theory and Components. It involves the analysis and understanding of the principles, rules, and mechanisms that govern the workings and outcomes of Dark Rituals. This subject will also cover the exploration and identification of various materials, objects, or substances that can be used as ingredients, catalysts, or tools for performing rituals.

'Mhmm... No wonder Nadine mentioned that I can work as a Museum Curator or some sort of Appraiser after graduating here.' Vale thought as he listened to the Professor.

With each topic, Vale and the other students exchanged whispers, sharing their excitement, questions, and speculations about the class.

Finally, the Professor explained that he would teach the Ancient Magic Circles and Sacrificial Ritual Class.

"Now that you're aware of what to expect in this branch, we can start with the measurement of your Spirit Strands. I already received a report about the Strands that you have, but that was a record of your strands about two months ago. With your current age, changes could happen a lot faster. Any questions before I proceed?"

One of the students raised her hand and asked. "Professor, may I know the three Branch-Exclusive Spells that we have to learn?"

Chapter 395 Spirit Converging Crystal

The one who asked the question was Felicia Lobb, Vale's classmate in Class 2 in the previous years. She was seated close to other students from Class 4 last year and seemed to have befriended them already.

Other students like Vale leaned closer as they were also curious about these Spells.

They already got a copy of the Academy-Exclusive Create Shadow Soldier Spell with them before they finished their third year. They could take their time to learn this Spell even if it lasts until their 10th year in the Academy. It wasn't strict at all.

Well, there wasn't any pressure unless you wanted to excel and be recognized by the Professors and even the Headmaster.

On the other hand, the Branch Exclusive Spell must be learned before they reach their ninth year, or their enrollment would be in jeopardy.

Professor Ludwig nodded, acknowledging Felicia's question with a warm smile.

"Ah, excellent question. Felicia, was it?"

"That's indeed my name, Professor." Felicia answered.

"Mhmm... The Branch-Exclusive Spells are indeed a crucial part of your journey in the Rituals Branch. These spells are specifically designed to harness the special Dark Arts and enhance your capabilities within this field."

He paused for a moment, allowing the anticipation to build within the room before continuing.

"Let me provide you with a brief overview of the three Branch-Exclusive Spells that you will have the opportunity to learn and master."

As he said this, almost everyone in the class readied their notes.

"They are Soul Swap, Shadow Gate, and Spirit Shatter Spells."

Then, the Professor continued to briefly explain each of them.

The Soul Swap temporarily grants the caster the ability to exchange their soul with another living being.

The Spell requires the use of an Ancient Magic circle, a blood sacrifice, and a verbal incantation. Both the caster and the target must be within the confines of the Magic Circle for the Spell to take effect.

What Vale found interesting about the Soul Swap was that it could be utilized for various purposes, such as evading death and taking possession of another body that could be used for interrogation. It is a spell that delves into the realms of identity and existence, but it should be approached with caution due to its profound and potentially irreversible consequences.

Vale's heart beat faster as he felt that the Soul Swap seemed quite similar to his current situation. However, his Soul Swap wasn't temporary but a permanent one.

Vale wryly smiled as he entertained the thought.

On the other hand, Shadow Gate was another tedious Ritual Spell that could enable the caster to create a portal to the Shadow Realm, a dimension shrouded in Darkness and horror.

To perform this Spell, a magic circle, an object cursed by Darkness, and a silent incantation are required. Shadow Gate can be employed for purposes such as travel, exploration, or hiding. However, it is crucial to note that this Spell is highly dangerous and unpredictable. The Shadow Realm is a place of unknown perils, lurking horrors, and the risk of losing oneself within its depths.

'This Spell is too unreliable...' Vale thought, feeling that performing such a long ritual only to have an unpredictable gate wasn't worth it at all.

At the very least, the third Spell seemed better. The Spirit Shatter was a grim and borderline forbidden art that brings about the instantaneous and irreversible demise of a living being by obliterating their Spirit.

Perhaps, if this Spell could be activated instantaneously or without rituals, it could really be banned by the Association.

Well, to perform Spirit Shatter, a magic circle, a Spirit Gem, and an incantation are required.

"If possible, I don't want to learn them, but I had to..." Vale muttered in a soft voice. He'd rather learn Dark Rituals that don't require a Spell Model to be able to cast them.

Nevertheless, his silent remark was heard by Leonore and Maya.

They looked at him with a frown.

"You're lucky our Professor didn't hear that..."

"Why did you even choose this Branch if you don't want their Spells?"

Leonore and Maya said respectively.

Vale didn't answer their question as he just covered his mouth and shook his head.

As Professor Ludwig concluded his explanation, a weighty silence settled over the room.

The students exchanged glances, their expressions a mix of intrigue and contemplation. Aside from Vale, they all felt that the Spells were great.

The allure of these Branch-Exclusive Spells was undeniable for them...

Finally, it was time to measure their Spirit Strands. There were only 14 of them in the class, so this part shouldn't take that long.

The students were called one by one to hold a crystal with a 45-strand capacity.

The first one to be called was Maya Featherstar... She may no longer be the representative of their batch, as it wasn't decided yet, but she was still considered among the top students, so everyone was excited to see the number of her Spirit Strands.

"You should know how to use it. Just hold the Crystal long enough until it can no longer produce any strands." Professor Ludwig reminded.

"Yes, Professor." Maya answered as she held the Crystal.

After confirming that the number of strands was no longer increasing, she gave it to the Professor to have it checked.

"Maya Featherstar has 29 Spirit Strands!" Professor Ludwig announced to everyone.

Maya even took two minutes to have them appear in the Crystal!

Aside from the students, Professor Ludwig was impressed since even the graduates won't normally have this many Spirit Strands. About 15 to 20 Spirit Strands were considered to be the Normal Strands.

Several students then followed after.

Alford Atkins had 14 Spirit Strands.

Felicia Lobb had 16 Spirit Strands.

Leonore Roland had 24 Spirit Strands.

Ethel Wheeler had 13 Spirit Strands.

Sue Wheston had 12 Spirit Strands.

Elmer Sherris had 15 Spirit Strands.

It didn't take long before it was Vale's turn.

Everyone, including the Professor, heard rumors about Vale's outstanding Spirit Strands.

"Vale, this is a 45-Strand Spirit Converging Crystal." Professor Ludwig stated, holding the Crystal out to him. "Is this enough to get the exact number of your Spirit Strands?"

The question caught Vale off guard, momentarily stunning him.

Chapter 396 Exceed

"Ah..." Vale was stunned after hearing the question.

Since the Professor asked, he probably heard that he had previously filled the 30-Strand Spirit Converging Crystal during their assessments in their third year.

This question also attracted his classmates... They looked at Vale curiously, causing a momentary silence to envelop the room.

"I haven't checked my Spirit Strands as well, Professor... Since I don't have a Spirit Converging Crystal that can record above 30 Strands."

That was a lie. However, he didn't want to appear presumptuous by simply stating the number of his Spirit Strands. Instead, he decided to let his actions speak for themselves.

Professor Ludwig nodded at this as he gestured for Vale to continue holding the Crystal.

Perhaps because the Crystal's quality was high, it only took three minutes or so before the 45 Strands appeared on the Crystal.

Aside from Leonore and Felicia, who had seen this several times in their first-year to third-year Spirit Strands Assessments, all the others were surprised.

They exchanged intrigued glances, their eyes fixed on Vale. They had heard the tales of his extraordinary abilities. They had also seen his duel and heard about his Spirit Strands surpassing the norm. However, they had never seen his Spirit Strands until now.

"Did he reach the limit?"

"Incredible... So all those rumors are true."

"Indeed. Perhaps that rumor about him consuming a Dark Spirit is also true?"

"Consuming a Dark Spirit? Is that the reason why he has such a high Spirit Strand?"

"Idiot... I heard from Neil that Vale's mother was a Dark Spirit. He's an offspring of a human and a spirit."

"Neil? Who was that?"

The excitement in the room was evident as the other students leaned forward, commenting about Vale's background and rumors they had heard about him.

"Ahem... I'm not a Half-Spirit." Vale suddenly said as he heard their conversation.

Nevertheless, none of his classmates seem to care about it as they eagerly await the Professor's words. They were hoping that he would bring a larger Spirit Converging Crystal!

On the other hand, Professor Ludwig took a moment to compose himself, his voice filled with a mixture of awe and admiration as he announced... "Vale, your Spirit Strands exceed the capacity of this 45-Strand Crystal. It seems we will need a more powerful instrument to accurately measure the extent of your extraordinary gift."

Indeed!

The room erupted into a chorus of excited murmurs and whispers. The students couldn't contain their curiosity and admiration, their eyes filled with a newfound respect for Vale.

Maya and Leonore, in particular, looked at him with a newfound interest, recognizing the magnitude of his potential.

"However, I won't be forcing you to take another assessment. The fact that you have at least 45 Spirit Strands is more than enough for me. We can just stop here. But if you're also curious about your Spirit Strands, I can make a request for better equipment to be brought here." Professor Ludwig said.

As a Professor, they weren't really required to know the exact Spirit Strand. As long as they weren't below the recommended Spirit Strands, then there shouldn't be any problem.

This announcement had obviously alarmed Vale's classmates.

"Professor, you should've said that it's mandatory."

"Right... Now, Vale won't be revealing it."

"Vale, go ahead and have another test with a different instrument. Whatever the result is, it won't get out of this room. It'll be our secret."

His classmates said with a mixture of laugh. They didn't seem serious about their words, so Vale answered. "That should be enough, Professor..."

"I see... I will respect your decision. I won't be asking how you reach that level, but I can tell that you have a harmonious energy in your body, so I know you're not using Forbidden Arts. That's good enough for me."

"Thank you, Professor... But I have a question. Are there even Half-Human and Half-Spirits in our current era?" Vale asked as he recalled that he was already accused of being an offspring of a Spirit before.

It may sound like a valid argument why he had such an absurd Spirit Strands, but he wanted to know how often it happens.

The question stunned the Professor momentarily. However, he could understand why Vale would suddenly be curious. To be honest, he also felt that Vale might be related to the Spirit World, considering how he could summon a Dark Spirit using the most basic Ritual and even had astounding Spirit Strands.

Professor Ludwig then smiled warmly at Vale, appreciating his honesty. "I understand your curiosity, Vale. The existence of Half-Human and Half-Spirits is indeed rare, but it is not unheard of. Throughout history, there have been accounts of individuals with mixed heritage, possessing both human and spiritual qualities. So there might be a few of them living in every city."

He paused for a moment, gathering his thoughts before continuing, "In our current era, while it may not be common, it is still possible for such individuals to exist. The blending of human and spiritual energies can occur through various circumstances, whether it be through ancestral connections, unique encounters, or even a convergence of powerful energies during significant events... or perhaps what we call Special Ceremonial Rites."

Vale listened intently, his curiosity piqued. Although he wasn't questioning his origins, considering the rumors surrounding him, he felt this information may be quite helpful.

Professor Ludwig continued. "However, it is important to remember that the true nature of one's heritage is not solely defined by their Spirit Strands. Your Spirit Strand exceeding the 45 mark will not necessarily tell that you're an offspring of a Spirit. There are many factors that must be considered."

Vale nodded, absorbing the Professor's words..

The classroom fell into a thoughtful silence as they realized that there was indeed a chance that Vale was an offspring of Spirit!

"If that's all, then let's continue with the assessment." Professor Ludwig said.

It didn't take that long before the Spirit Assessment was completed. As expected, only three students had exceeded the 20 Spirit Strands.

They were Vale, Leonore, and Maya.

Chapter 397 Junior

Evelyn Miller, Edward Clark, and Odell Taylor strode confidently through the grand entrance of Vermont Academy. After about three years of training under the tutelage of the Master, they were finally allowed to enter the Academy.

"Let's not waste this opportunity given by Master..." Evelyn said to her fellow disciples.

Edward and Odell nodded in agreement. This was their only way to pay back the kindness they had received.

They were here to expand the influence of their Master, Heinz Becker, and his Malefic Branch, an unexplored and powerful branch of the Dark Arts.

"Uhhh... But should we really meet the first disciple? Vale was it?" Odell asked.

"I don't really want to since he barely received training and advanced potions from Master Heinz. He only learned from Master for about a year. At that time, Master Heinz hadn't perfected his potions yet. I guess he won't be as great as the three of us." Edward commented.

Evelyn nodded at his friends as she was also thinking the same thing. However, they have to listen to their Master. "Let's just greet him like what Master told us. We don't have to bother getting close to him. It will be embarrassing if he doesn't perform well in the Academy and will disgrace our Malefic Branch."

Odell nodded in agreement. "That's true... Our names will soon be known in the Academy and the Dark Arts Faction. It would be shameful if our senior wasn't as powerful as the three of us."

They looked down upon Vale, considering him merely the first experimental subject of Heinz, lacking the proper care and attention they believed they had received.

On the first day of their class, their Spirit Strands were measured and turned out to be 14 Spirit Strands. Their names were immediately spread throughout their batch.

In this batch, with only an average of 6 Spirit Strands, it is indeed considered higher. Furthermore, the first-year students of the previous year only had 12 Spirit Strands as the highest, so the Professors couldn't help but praise the three.

"Right... Let's meet with him after a few weeks. Let's first familiarize ourselves in the Academy." Evelyn suggested as she couldn't find the Energy she needed to meet with their senior. She felt too lazy to do it.

Edward and Odell were also not interested in their senior, so they immediately agreed.

Evelyn, Odell, and Edward settled into their daily routine at Vermont Academy, eager to prove themselves and expand their knowledge of the Dark Arts.

Although they received some education from Master Heinz, the experts in the Academy are still on a different level.

Their days were filled with a multitude of classes, each designed to hone their skills and deepen their understanding of not just the Dark Arts but also the world of mysticism. It was different from the training or education when they were still at the manor.

In the mornings, they attended the Elementary Spirit Law Class, led by a seasoned professor who delved into the intricacies of spirit manipulation and the fundamental laws governing the spiritual realm. They learned several methods to channel their energies, establish connections with the Dark Energy, and harness their powers precisely.

"It's indeed all basic, just like what Master Heinz had mentioned..." Evelyn muttered as she continued her study.

Next on their schedule was the Darkness Path Class, a subject close to their hearts as disciples of Heinz Becker. Under the guidance of a renowned Dark Arts expert, Professor Lucius, they explored the depths of the Realm of Darkness, one of the Twelve Arcane Paths in the world. They also studied the Darkness Possession, allowing them to realize how great it was for them to consume the second potion before even entering the Academy.

"We've really benefited a lot from Master Heinz." Evelyn commented as she realized that other students who had enrolled had only consumed the Darkness Possession Potion once!

"Indeed. The Second Darkness Possession here can only be claimed if selected by a Professor. It could even last for two or three years long." Odell added as he felt grateful that he already consumed his second potion.

In the afternoons, they attended the Fundamentals of Magic Zone Class, where they delved into the understanding and manipulation of the Phantasm State.

They learned to control their Magic Zone better, manipulate the flow of the Energy, and cast spells with precision within their Zone. This was something they had learned from their Master, and took this subject quite easily.

Their schedule also included sessions in the Rudimentary Usage of Mystical Artifacts, where they honed knowledge about objects with magical properties. They even learned to infuse mundane items with spells, enhancing their power and utility. Unfortunately, this type of enhancement couldn't be easily done in their first year.

Nevertheless, this class allowed them to explore the practical applications of various artifacts circulating in the kingdom.

Finally, after two weeks in the Academy, the three of them decided that it was time to meet their senior in his clubroom. They had already heard that a student named Vale Chambers was a member of the Club, so they didn't hesitate to visit him.

"He's already fourth year... I heard that the Twelve Academies Competition will now accept fourth-year students. Do you think that he'll be selected as a participant?" Evelyn asked as they headed to the clubroom's building.

"Ugh... I hope so. That would sound great, but let's not hope too much." Odell replied.

"Haha... I guess his Spell Dispersion is still at the early stage... Since we're already in the middle stage, we could probably replace him in the competition." Edward added with a laugh.

"Oh? Aren't you the Fantastic Three? Ahem... I'm sorry, I'm Nadine, a member of the Battle Arena Committee... Are you thinking of joining our Club?"

Nadine asked as she saw the three first-year students in the Hallway.

Seeing the number of eight-angled stars in her uniform, the trio immediately recognized that she was a ninth-year student.

"Ah... Senior Nadine, we're looking for our Senior Disciple, Vale Chambers. Is he in the clubroom right now?"

'Senior Disciple?' Nadine repeated in her mind, but she didn't think too much of it.

Her eyes lit up as she felt that it was a good thing that there would be more juniors in their Club. They were really lacking some personnel right now. Furthermore, most of their officers had already graduated.

"He's inside the clubroom now... I will give you some private time. We don't have activities today anyway." Nadine said as she gestured for the three to enter the clubroom.

The three accepted it as they thanked the senior.

With their heads held high, the trio approached Vale's clubroom...

They entered the room with a dismissive air, barely acknowledging Vale's presence.

Chapter 398 Everyone's Happiness

Evelyn didn't look properly at Vale, but she used her Magic Zone to observe him.

She was expecting to sense Vale's leaking aura of Incorruptible Body. However, she was disappointed that he didn't even have a tiny amount of it!

After all, if it was leaking, it would mean that Vale had reached the peak stage of this Body Incorruptible Body's Elementary Realm. If that were the case, they would follow Master Heinz's request and give Vale a potion to help him advance to the Intermediate Realm...

'He's no good... He already learned the spell for several years, and it's only at the early-stage or mid-stage of Elementary Realm.' Evelyn thought as she decided not to give the potion to Vale since it would just be a waste. If he can't reach the peak stage for more than three years, then there was no point giving the potion to him.

Of course, she didn't think that Vale could have any mystical items that could suppress it since such items couldn't be easily acquired. To be exact, any items that could suppress someone's aura, presence, or ability were rarely found and could be very expensive.

Edward and Odell thought of the same thing as they exchanged glances.

Right now, they could tell that Vale wasn't that great. As a matter of fact, they even asked about him from their seniors in second-year or even their clubmates, but none of them knew about him. They seem to have heard about Vale having decent Spirit Strands, but that was it. Those who were known in the Academy were still those seniors in the 9th year or 10th year who had completed difficult missions outside the Academy.

Some of them were even involved in dealing with the members of the Secret Organization.

'If we're in the same year, our names will surely be known by everyone in the Academy. However, Senior Vale didn't even achieve anything that would make him famous to everyone. Is he not using his Spell Dispersion and Incorruptible Body properly?' Evelyn thought as she shook her head.

"Senior Disciple, you must have heard about us. Master Heinz told us to greet you, so we came here to meet you. We only had a chance to visit you today since we were busy in the Academy." Evelyn said as Edward and Odell nodded in agreement.

Vale, who was confused by their sudden entry and Nadine's aura moving away, finally realized what was going on.

'I thought Senior Nadine forgot something in the Arena. I guess she just wants us to have some free time. Ahh... Is she thinking of inviting them to the club?' Vale thought as he recalled that no students joined their club this year.

He then looked at the three with a frown as he couldn't recall that he had junior disciples. Master Heinz had never mentioned it, but he decided not to expose his Master.

"Mhmm... I see. It's our first time meeting, and I don't know your names yet. Since we will be in the same Academy for several years, let's introduce ourselves first. I'm Vale Chambers, and I am currently a fourth-year student."

As he said this, he used his Divine Sense to check their Spell Lights.

Dark Arts Practitioner with 3 filled Spell Lights.

Dark Arts Practitioner with 3 filled Spell Lights.

Dark Arts Practitioner with 3 filled Spell Lights.

'Three Spell Lights already? Did they learn the Darkness Manipulation Spell before entering the Academy?' Vale silently thought.

"I'm Evelyn Miller... I may not be Master Heinz's Senior Disciple, but he told me that I'm his Number 1 Disciple." Evelyn said proudly. She recalled how Heinz told her that she was the best disciple he ever had.

In the meantime, Vale was unsure how to react to that introduction.

'Hmm? What does that even mean?' Vale knitted his brow in confusion, but he didn't speak.

"I'm Edward Clark. It's nice meeting you, Senior Vale."

"I'm Odwell Ellis. All three of us already reached the Intermediate Realm of our Incorruptible Body. However, it seems that you're only at the mid-stage of Elementary Realm, Senior. It will be quite embarrassing if you have lower talent than us, so please don't spread your identity as our Senior Disciple. We will be in charge of spreading the Malefic Branch's influence from now on. Can you do it for us, Senior Vale?" Odwell asked.

This time, Vale realized that he was indeed not overthinking about their attitude. They were indeed dismissive of his identity as their Senior Disciple.

'Intermediately Realm, huh...'

He found it quite funny how these kids were so confident in themselves.

"So you're not here to join our Club?" Vale asked as he decided not to be provoked by these young students.

"Mhmm? No, we're not here for that." Evelyn answered with a frown. She thought that Vale would act out if they showed such behavior. She was even prepared to challenge him to a duel since she was very confident with her Spell Dispersion.

"I see..." Vale nodded in understanding.

'If you're still annoying after a few years, I hope your Incorruptible Body and Spell Dispersion are at higher levels. They will probably give a decent increase in my Spell Mastery if I extract them at that time.' Vale thought as he wasn't thinking of extracting their low-level Spells for now. It would be a waste to take them so early. He would let them grow stronger for now.

As he reached this thought, he couldn't help but think of himself as a genius. 'Master Heinz, I hope you have more disciples like them.'

His eyes lit up at this idea, and he looked at Evelyn with a smile. "Right... Are there only the three of you? I mean, are there any more disciples under our Master?"

The sudden question confused the three, but they still answered proudly.

"That's right! Master has 30 more disciples, but only the three of us were allowed to enter the Academy and spread our names as disciples of a new Branch!" Odell spoke, filled with pride.

Evelyn and Edward grinned as they were also proud of this.

On the other hand, realizing he could have more targets, Vale smiled happily like the three.

Chapter 399 Unreal!

Evelyn's group left the clubroom with frustration written on their faces. They didn't get the reaction they wanted from Vale. They wanted some conflict to happen and wanted to show that they were more talented than him.

However, Vale didn't seem to care about them and was even happier knowing that there were 30 more disciples who could have been better than him!

Edward also felt unhappy with how their conversation ended just like that. Their Senior Disciple even invited them to join his club, which was somewhat unexpected.

"Let's not think about him anymore. I guess he was still thinking that he's better than us." Edward said as they walked through the hallway.

"Huh? Why will he think of that?" Odell asked, confused by Edward's sudden claim.

Evelyn also frowned and waited for Edward to explain.

"Did you forget what Master Heinz told us? He previously claimed that only those with Special Physique can learn the Malefic Branch. This is what he taught to Senior Vale. Until now, Senior Vale probably believes he has more affinity in Malefic Branch than us since we didn't "die" during the Darkness Possession like him and Master Heinz." Edward explained.

Evelyn and Odell's eyes lit up after hearing this.

Indeed, their Master hadn't perfected the potion at the time when he accepted Vale as a disciple. However, during their time in the Manor, they received the perfect potions, so they were able to learn the Spell Dispersion and acquire the Incorruptible Body without experiencing "death."

"So it was like that..." Odell muttered as he felt relieved.

"That made sense. Let's just let him feel superior for now. Soon, he will hear our names as we spread the greatness of our Branch." Evelyn said as she clenched her fist.

"Ahh! But we forget to ask if he will be participating in the Competition." Edward said as he stopped walking, considering whether to return.

In the meantime, Vale was listening to their conversation as they were still within the range of his Magic Zone.

He couldn't help but chuckle as he realized that they were really dedicated to spreading the Malefic Branch. He even suspected that Heinz had really brainwashed these kids.

"Let's give you a mark for now so I can observe your movement in the Academy." Vale muttered as he activated his Divine Sense and left a Mark on each of them.

In any case, the usage of energy is only one time, and he didn't have to maintain it. The Mark will automatically be removed after three months unless he places another mark.

After finishing this, Vale momentarily paused as he sensed the Headmaster entering his Magic Zone.

"This..."

He immediately realized that he had been careless, and the Headmaster had probably detected the Mark he left behind.

Luckily, the Headmaster seemed to have just passed the building and wasn't monitoring his movement.

'Now that I think about it, can someone sense the Mark inside the Academy?' Vale mused. If someone detected the Mark and traced it back to him, he would surely be in trouble.

'Should I remove it?' Vale was conflicted. However, after some thought, he felt quite fearless, considering how much he had in his arsenal.

'Headmaster Jean needs to win that contest in the Competition. I should be fine until then.' Vale thought arrogantly as he dismissed the idea of removing the Mark.

As the weeks turned into months, the Academy buzzed with anticipation for the upcoming Twelve Academies Competition.

The Academy Publication Club's newspaper was filled with articles, speculations, and predictions about the event. Predictions about the Academy's participants and even students in other Academies were written in the newspaper.

Of course, the official participants weren't announced yet.

Students from the Fourth Year to the Tenth Year eagerly awaited the announcement of the selected participants who would represent their respective branches and academic years.

Since there were five branches in Vermont Academy - Rituals, Necromancy, Dark Alchemy, Dark Magic, and Essential Corruption - each academic year would send their top three students to compete against the top three students from each of the other branches.

The ultimate goal was for each academic year to secure five spots for their respective curriculum.

In the Rituals Branch of the Fourth Year, Vale Chambers, Leonore Roland, and Maya Featherstar earned the opportunity to represent their Branch in the selection.

"It's quite different now... Before, the professors would just select the top five according to their preference." Maya muttered after realizing the format of the selection event. It seems that the Academy is taking the competition this year seriously.

The stage was set for an intense showdown as the top three students from the Rituals Branch would face off against the top three students from the Necromancy Branch, Dark Alchemy Branch, Dark Magic Branch, and Essential Corruption Branch.

"Indeed... But sounds like the Dark Magic Branch would have the edge in this selection." Leonore commented. After all, the Necromancers, who were strong contenders, would only have strong summons in their sixth year. The summons of the fourth-year necromancers would only be Skeleton Warrior or Unclean Zombie at this stage.

According to the statistics shown in the publications, from Sixth-Year to Eighth-Year, the Academy would normally send Necromancers to the Twelve Academies Competition.

The Ninth-Year and Tenth-Year were the only ones that varied since they had Special Dark Spells and had a chance to learn Shadow Soldier that year.

As the day of the Selection Competition drew near, the Academy Publication's newspaper was filled with articles profiling the selected participants.

At this point, the achievements of each participant over the past year years were revealed.

"W-what?" Evelyn held the newspaper with trembling hands as she read such an absurd claim in the articles.

Her friends immediately noticed her reaction and looked at the article she was reading.

There, they saw Vale Chamber's profile and his achievements over the past three years. What stunned them the most wasn't his strength that rivals the Slender Zombie but his Power Strands, Life Strands, and Spirit Strands, which shouldn't be possible at his young age!

"Impossible!"

Chapter 400 Other Academies

Evelyn, Edward, and Odell gathered around the newspaper, their eyes fixed on Vale's profile and the astonishing achievements attributed to him.

"Impossible!"

The revelation left them speechless. Their previous underestimation of Vale was now replaced with a mixture of awe and disbelief.

Evelyn's hands trembled as she clutched the newspaper tightly. Her mind raced, trying to process the information before

"I... I can't believe it..." She stammered, her voice filled with a mix of astonishment and regret.

"We've been so blind. No, perhaps it's really all about his strange physique?"

Edward, who had once dismissed Vale as insignificant, felt nervous after recalling their first encounter. "Did Master Heinz make a mistake? Perhaps the potion that Vale received was already perfected."

"No, that's impossible. Master Heinz will not make such a mistake when assessing someone's talent. Our Senior must've hidden something from our Master. Did you recall Senior Denise's story? She mentioned that Senior Vale was freely taking the items of the corpses they were incinerating. I think he obtained a rare treasure during those times and hid it from Master." Evelyn said as if she was there when it all happened.

On the other hand, Odell, who had been the most vocal in belittling Vale, stood in stunned silence. He still couldn't get over the fact that Vale's Spirit Strands were already surpassing those who had graduated from the Academy!

He finally realized why Vale had been so calm during their provocation in his clubroom!

"Shit... We should look for him again." Odell suggested after some time.

Meanwhile, far away from the Vermont Academy, in the training grounds of Dorelts, Academy of Mystic Arts, a Shaman can be seen training in a very unique method.

He was Alex Graham, a 4th-year student of the said Academy.

He was honing his abilities with precision and finesse while waiting for the Twelve Academies Competition.

The vast training ground was filled with golems armed with spears and swords. All of them were Mystical Items with various effects, providing a challenging environment for Alex to test his skills.

With each movement, he unleashed his Mystic Arts, filling the surrounding space with his mesmerizing spells.

Chains, spears, arrows, and even a whip made of blue and green energy manifested from his fingertips as he deftly dispatched the golems. His footwork was impeccable, allowing him to evade attacks while launching precise counterattacks.

Boom!

As the last golem fell to the ground, Alex's friend entered the training ground, a look of anticipation on his face.

"Alex! I got the news you've been waiting for." The young man said as he looked at Alex, who had just finished his routine.

"It's about time, Foster... You're late." Alex said, waving his hand to calm the Mystical Aura surrounding his body.

With beads of sweat glistening on his forehead, he turned his attention to the newspaper his friend held.

"What? I brought it as soon as I got a copy, you know?" Foster replied with a laugh.

As Alex stood beside his friend, his tallness, which was unusual for his age, could be easily recognized. Nevertheless, Alex was a figure of authority and nobility.

His eyes, a striking shade of emerald green, sparkled with curiosity as he read the newspaper.

'I guess there would be some changes, huh.' Alex mused as he glanced at the broken golems behind him.

The golems he destroyed were supposedly his preparation against the Zombies or Skeleton Mobs of the Dark Arts Practitioners. He had been told that in the previous competitions, all the sixth-year to eight-year students of the Vermont Academy were always Necromancers, so he was expecting that those fourth-year students would be the same.

Anyway, Foster carried the news that had been circulating among the Academy's students—predictions about their potential opponents in the upcoming Twelve Academies Competition.

After some time, Alex finished assessing the unofficial rosters of all the Academies.

"So there is still no information about those lunatics... In any case, it seems that we only need to worry about Rakmiths and Magrath." Alex muttered, referring to the Elemental Arts Academy and the Holy Arts Academy.

As for the lunatics he mentioned, they were the students of the Farrel, Academy of Psychic Arts.

"Indeed... The geniuses from the Knights Academy and Rune Arts Academy were already in their fifth and sixth year. We don't have to worry about them." Foster said, his voice filled with a sense of cautious optimism.

However, Alex recalled something. His expression remained pensive as he absorbed the information. His thoughts drifted to the Dark Arts Academy.

"Tell me more about the Vermont Academy." Alex said, his voice tinged with curiosity.

He had been very interested in the appearance of the Secret Organization and followed their traces to learn more about them. According to his research, almost all of their operations had always succeeded, but for some reason, the Dark Arts Academy was always a problem for them.

Their top Transformation Artists and various Practitioners from different Arcane Paths would always make some great combinations that were even able to penetrate the defenses of their Dorelts Academy.

Not even their Headmaster and Professors could defend against the infiltration of Arcanists from numerous Arcane Paths simultaneously.

However, the Dark Arts Academy seemed to be capable of thwarting their attacks with minimal losses.

"I only heard a few things about the Dark Arts Academy..." Foster paused for a moment, gathering his thoughts before responding.

"Aside from Maya Featherstar and Vale Chambers, I don't have much information about their other participant. In any case, they seem to be sending their Ritualists so perhaps we should be prepared for Curses and Hexes rather than their Zombies or Skeletons."

"Do you think they'll send five Ritualists in the fourth-year batch?"

"I don't think so. They will probably send some Necromancers as well. But don't expect too much since they will only be in their Fourth-Year. Their summons wouldn't be great..."

"Mhmm... That makes sense. Keep an eye on their students' profiles and recent achievements..." Alex said as he continued with his training.

For a 'shaman,' his way of training could be considered odd. However, his friend didn't find anything wrong with it...

"Don't overdo your training..." Foster said as he paused for a moment, recalling the news he had recently heard. "Right, I heard that Sir Clyde will be watching the Competition this time... Is that the reason why you're practicing this hard?"