

D. Extraction 441

Chapter 441 Summon?!

"A paladin?" Vale muttered as he realized Ceres had most likely taken the Paladin's path. It was very different from the Holy Knight's path and Divine Sorcerer's path, which mostly ended in the Church or Nobilities...

The Paladin would most likely be accepted in the Order of the Untainted Sentinels like Clare and Teresa. Furthermore, since she was also a princess, choosing this path seemed to be a perfect decision.

Boom!

The clash of two different Arcane Energies reverberated throughout the coliseum.

The crowd held its breath, captivated by the display of skill of the two students. They all watched with admiration and respect, recognizing both combatants' remarkable talent and resilience.

Even if one of them was defeated now, they would certainly not underestimate them.

In a pivotal moment, Ceres launched a devastating blast of radiant light toward Avery, who deftly evaded the attack.

Sensing an opportunity, Avery closed in, his white sword arcing through the air with deadly precision. The blade sliced through the air, finding its mark, and Ceres staggered back. Her defenses were breached!

Avery wanted to end the battle, but he suddenly felt a strong fluctuation of energy as Ceres prepared a very intimidating Holy Spell!

With a resolute focus, Ceres channeled her arcane energies, blending the power of Holy Smite and Radiance Spell before releasing it to her opponent!

A wave of shock rippled through the crowd.

They realized that the power she was emitting was comparable to those 8th-year or even 9th-year students! Even the seasoned Arcanists in attendance exchanged astonished glances, realizing the extent of Ceres' hidden potential.

Avery was overwhelmed by the Holy Energy as he couldn't help but jump back.

The ground trembled beneath their feet as Ceres unleashed the devastating Spell. A torrent of holy energy surged forth, engulfing Avery and filling the arena with a blinding radiance.

The sheer force of the Spell sent shockwaves rippling through the coliseum, causing dust to scatter and the onlookers to shield their eyes.

"A Spell Fusion of Holy Smite and Radiance Spell... Sacred Light. Tsk. I didn't know she was already capable of doing this." Geraldine, one of the participants seated not too far from Vale, muttered in frustration.

'No wonder the power was too strong... So that's a Spell Fusion in action.' Vale silently thought as this was the first time he had seen such a display.

He couldn't deny that it was indeed powerful, and even if he was the receiver of the attacker, he wasn't sure whether he could safely defend against it.

The audience also realized what was going on...

"No wonder I felt like we're watching an 8th-year student's duel... She actually used a Spell Fusion."

"Incredible... She's only in her fourth year, but she managed to use such a Spell. She deserved to be the winner of this whole tournament."

"Indeed... I think no one can stop her now."

"The Summoner was also great for forcing her to release that Spell..."

They commented as they appreciated the beautiful match being unfolded.

When the light finally subsided, a stunned silence hung in the air. The crowd's eyes were fixed on the aftermath of Ceres' powerful fusion spell.

Avery, though battered and disoriented, managed to rise to his feet, his expression a mix of astonishment and admiration.

He would probably have to recuperate for months if he didn't use his Grimoire to block that attack. He then raised his hands in defeat as he believed that Ceres really deserved the win.

Ceres, visibly drained from the exertion of her extraordinary feat, stood tall amidst the remnants of her Spell.

She had revealed her hidden strength, not by choice but out of necessity, to overcome the formidable challenge that Avery posed.

'Tsk... I wanted this Spell to deal with Vale. If he forfeited in our match because of this--' Ceres thought as she shook her head, worried that Vale would be afraid to face her.

If he surrendered without fighting, she would not be able to burn Vale with her Sacred Light Spell.

Nevertheless, as soon as the referee announced the winner, the coliseum erupted in a thunderous cheer and applause, a testament to the awe and respect that the audience held for both Ceres and Avery.

It didn't take that long before the second match started.

Iris was now wielding a Runic Weapon in the form of a Spear because her Whip was destroyed in her last battle. It also seemed a good decision, considering her next opponent was a sword-user.

'She also changed her weapon?' Iris silently thought as her eyes locked on Geraldine, who wielded a gleaming red sword, different from the sword she used when she fought with the student of Langhorne Academy.

"Fight!"

As the referee announced the start of the battle, the two swiftly entered their Magic Zone. It was Radiant Spirit for Geraldine and Chrono Shift for Iris.

The two Magic Zones overlapped as they accessed their Spell Lights.

Without hesitation, Iris lunged forward, and her Runic Spear glowed with a mysterious light.

The surroundings pulsed with energy as she unleashed a flurry of swift and calculated strikes, each one infused with the ancient power of the runes.

'Frost?' Geraldine squinted her eyes as she realized that the Spear has the power of Ice Element.

'It seems that you really prepared it for me...'

Geraldine, with her sword in hand, met Iris head-on. With fluid movements and impeccable timing, she deflected and parried Iris' attacks, showcasing her exceptional skill in swordsmanship.

Furthermore, her red sword started emitting a heat wave that dissipated the coldness in the surroundings.

The clash of metal echoed throughout the coliseum as the two combatants engaged in a fierce dance of blades. Iris's Runic Spear glowed with frost energy, pulsating with each strike, while Geraldine's red sword gleamed with a fiery aura.

Vale carefully watched the two as he wanted to see whether his Shadowblade Dance was enough to deal with their combat style.

Their movements were a symphony of grace and precision, each anticipating the other's actions.

It was quite amazing to see that such young practitioners, who hadn't even reached their twenties, would be so talented.

It was really no wonder why they got to enter the Competition.

Regrettably, just as the battle was intensifying towards its climax, a cataclysmic event unfolded.

The very stage on which Iris and Geraldine clashed erupted in a tremendous explosion, engulfing the area in an ominous haze.

A colossal Evil Entity materialized, its ominous presence shrouding the entire battleground!

The devastating blast sent both Iris and Geraldine hurtling through the air, their fate now uncertain.

The spectators, judges, and their fellow classmates gasped in horror, realizing the dire situation that had unfolded.

The Evil Entity had disrupted the battle, leaving the fate of the courageous combatants unknown and casting a cloud of uncertainty over the entire coliseum.

Chapter 442 Tendrils

'What in the world is that?' Vale gasped, genuinely shocked after seeing the Evil Entity so close to him. He was quite lucky since two or three more Barrier Formations were still active and protected his area.

He was even ready to fly away from this place with his Shapeshift and Levitation...

Roar!

The Evil Entity roared as if to announce its presence to the world.

Its form was a twisted amalgamation of darkness and malevolence. It radiated an aura of pure maleficence, casting a suffocating shadow over the once vibrant coliseum.

Its figure was shrouded in an inky blackness, its shape constantly shifting and writhing like a living nightmare. Sinister tendrils of energy extended from its core, crackling with dark power and reaching out with an insatiable hunger.

Glowing red eyes glared with an intensity that sent chills down the spines of all who dared to meet its gaze. Its presence was an embodiment of chaos, a harbinger of destruction, and an undeniable force to be reckoned with.

"Vale... Escape! Don't use your Dark Spells in front of that creature, or you'll be targeted! Let the others deal with that thing! Move!" Suddenly, Headmaster Jean's voice echoed inside his head.

Vale gulped as he thanked the Headmaster for his warning.

"I'll escape now, Headmaster..." Vale replied as he surveyed the surroundings.

As chaos erupted with the appearance of the malevolent Evil Entity, he noticed that panic spread among the guards, students, low-rank arcanists, and other onlookers.

Nevertheless, the high-rank Arcanists swiftly sprang into action, attempting to establish a perimeter to protect the spectators from the encroaching danger. The Professors also joined forces to analyze the nature of the Entity and devise a plan to counter its menacing presence.

While some audience members fled in fear, many remained rooted to their spots, their curiosity and concern outweighing their instinct to escape.

It didn't take that long before the building's powerful enchantments and barriers flickered, strained by the immense power of the Evil Entity.

It would soon collapse, and it wouldn't take long before the coliseum collapses.

The Priest, Holy Knights, and Shamans began channeling their Spells, attempting to weaken and repel the Entity.

Brilliant spells and protective wards illuminated the battlefield, creating a barrier of defense against the encroaching darkness.

Meanwhile, amidst the chaos, Iris and Geraldine slowly regained their senses as a couple of medical practitioners healed them...

They were both shocked at the sight of the Evil Entity that they'd only seen in the books before.

"Can you move?" One of the medical practitioners asked.

"Yes... I can still access my Spell Lights. There's no problem moving." Geraldine answered as she picked herself up.

It was the same for Iris, who just used a Runic Symbol on her body, and she immediately sprang up.

This was good news for the medical practitioners as they immediately led the injured students to leave the place.

However, Geraldine didn't immediately follow as she glanced at the Evil Entity once again. As someone aiming to be part of the Order of the Faith Guardians, she had trained a lot with her detection ability.

She wanted to see if she could find the weakness of the Evil Entity, but instead of finding that out, she noticed a figure sneaking around the Evil Entity... The figure seemed to be investigating the source or the Sacrificial Materials used to summon the Entity.

It was too dangerous, and if the Entity noticed the figure, that would be a certain death.

'W-wait... That small figure looks like a student... What's going on?' Geraldine was shocked that a student was doing something so dangerous.

She got curious about the person's identity and wanted to pierce through their stealth ability. However, as she was planning to cast a vision spell on her eyes, she was held by the Medical Practitioners and carried away from the place.

"Ahh... Wait..."

It seemed that they thought that she was frightened and was frozen at the sight of the Evil Entity. They didn't even stop after hearing her protests as they left the coliseum.

As soon as the barrier was broken, the Priests, Holy Knights, Shamans, and other arcanists valiantly battled the Evil Entity...

However, while this all happening, a figure with a very weak presence arrives at the foot or the source of the Evil Entity.

It was Vale Chambers.

Utilizing his ESP Spell, he concealed his presence, determined to find a way to safely touch the creature...

As he got nearer, the air thickened with the stench of corruption. Vale knew he had to protect himself from the Entity's malevolent influence, so he had to use the Arcane Armor...

It was certainly dangerous to use a Mystic Art while wearing his uniform, but he believed that everyone would be busy fighting the Entity, and his ESP spell should be enough to hide his presence.

With caution and resilience, Vale navigated through the chaos. His ESP Spell was working overtime to avoid detection. It wasn't just for the other Arcanists but also for the Evil Entity.

He knew that a direct confrontation could prove fatal, so he relied on his strategic abilities to find the opportune moment.

"Now..."

The Evil Entity's attention was fixed on the courageous fighters, giving Vale a small window of opportunity to get really close to the creature.

Using his Lightspeed Spell, Vale braved the noxious aura and quickly approached the Entity.

It wasn't over yet... The challenge was great since he couldn't rely on his Ghost Hands and Spectral Hands for his Extraction, as they would draw the attention of the Evil Entity, according to Headmaster Jean.

With nerves of steel, Vale waited for the perfect moment, his heart pounding in his chest.

'I can't touch the main body...' Vale muttered as he looked at the dark tendrils of the Entity instead.

When the creature was momentarily distracted by the relentless assault of the Arcanists, Vale seized another opportunity.

He reached out and grasped one of the writhing dark tendrils of the Evil Entity.

Chapter 443 Upgrade

Pssh~

As Vale's hand made contact with the Evil Entity's dark tendrils, he realized that it was boiling, and if not for his Arcane Armor being active, there was no way he could hold this for long.

However, his Arcane Armor started getting vaporized, so he had to hurry.

Vale activated his Divine Extraction System in an instant... At this time, he wasn't in a position to use his Selective Extraction and had to rely on the system's Auto-Extraction mode.

The system went to work as he saw several notifications.

[Extraction Successful. Energy +8,500]

[Extraction Successful. Strength +15.85]

[Extraction Successful. Agility +15.10]

[Extraction Successful. Intelligence +6.10]

[Extraction Successful. Vitality +20]

[Extraction Successful. Malevolent Essence]

[Extraction Successful. Doombringer Ring]

[Extraction Successful. Complete Evolved Spell Light]

[Extraction Successful. Complete Spell Light]

[Extraction Successful. Complete Evil Eye Spell Model]

[Extraction Failed.]

[Extraction Failed.]

[Extraction Failed.]

The process was intense, and Vale could feel the raw power surging through him as he battled against the Entity's resistance.

The Entity had obviously realized that something was sucking out its power as it rampaged and turned its anger to the poor Arcanists trying to stop it with all their might.

The arena quaked under the strain of the clash, and the Arcanists redoubled their efforts, sensing a glimmer of hope.

The Arcanists could sense the Entity weakening as Vale's Extraction System continued its work. They weren't sure why this had suddenly happened, but there was no doubt that the Entity's corrupted essence was being cleansed as they continued to fight...

However, Vale suddenly encountered a problem.

'No...'

Vale immediately released his hands when he realized that something was happening to his body...

He wasn't sure what it was, but he could tell that a strong energy was trying to burst out of him. Obviously, he wasn't in a good place to lose control of his power, as he might even fall unconscious.

He had to leave this place quickly!

[You have attained the maximum attributes of a human...]

A message from the system starting from this phrase flashed in his eyes, but he didn't have time to worry about it. He brushed it off and moved quickly.

He tried rushing outside to freely use his Lightspeed Spell and Levitation Spell and find a secluded place, but as soon as he got out of the coliseum, he felt the presence of two other Evil Entities fighting against the numerous Arcanists in the Roaring Summit.

"Not good... I can't go too far from here."

Vale didn't know for sure, but he could tell that something was about to happen to him. It seems to be related to the system, so he had to hide quickly...

'Ah...'

As his mind raced to find a solution, he finally recalled his Shadow Gate!

Without any hesitation, Vale called for Yvaine to get the materials he needed before he cast the Shadow Gate Spell. Unfortunately, this Spell requires a Cursed Object to be sacrificed to be successfully activated. Without the Cursed Object, the chances of it being activated would be less than 5 percent, and it would also consume a lot of Dark Energy for nothing.

Nevertheless, its power to open a different dimension was truly useful.

'Hurry up...'

It took a few seconds before the space in front of him twisted, and a dark hole was opened.

If one peered inside, a ritual setup could barely be seen inside a dark room. It was one of Vale's hidden cards.

However, as soon as he hastily jumped inside, the setup was dismantled, the materials scattered, and the silver powder in the form of Magic Circle was brushed aside.

As soon as Vale entered, the Shadow Gate immediately closed, and at the same time, Headmaster Jean felt Vale's presence disappear.

"What?!" Headmaster Jean was shocked as he swiftly summoned Vale's shadow in his palm.

He was currently gathering the students and professors of the Vermont Academy, as he had no plans to help the subjugation of the Evil Entity. He was expecting that Vale had already arrived here since he knew that the young man had a movement spell and that the Evil Entity wouldn't be able to catch him if he focused on running.

His immediate thought was Vale was killed by someone who thought of taking advantage the chaos that had ensued.

Luckily, Vale's shadow was still active, although it had paled a lot. This means that Vale was just too far from him.

'Just where did this kid go this time...' Headmaster Jean silently thought.

For a moment, he considered using a dark spell on the shadow to force Vale to come to him. However, as the situation was chaotic, he decided to wait for now until the situation calmed down.

Royal Mage Odessa stood amidst the aftermath of the vanquished second Evil Entity that had appeared in the city. A mixture of relief and intrigue washed over her.

She couldn't help but feel curious about the perpetrator of this incident and about the goal they were trying to achieve.

The appearance of multiple Evil Entities wasn't easy to make. The perpetrators of this event must be wealthy to obtain the sacrificial materials they needed to call for those beings.

"At least ten or so Royal Rank Mystical Items must've been used... Who would spend this much to cause chaos in a city? Or do they think this is enough to kill the royalties?" Odessa muttered.

She immediately shook her head as it wasn't the time to think about this. Two other Evil Entities were still alive.

The first Evil Entity that had appeared had already weakened a lot thanks to the Arcanists of various factions working together. They were lucky that the summoned Evil Entity weren't the strongest ones. Well, the rogue practitioners were probably unable to prepare the sacrifice for a Demonic Entity to appear.

Then, she shifted her attention to the third Evil Entity, who seemed to be very weak compared to the other two.

She couldn't help but feel curious about which strong Arcanist made it like that.

With this in mind, she swiftly rushed to the coliseum.

Chapter 444 Aftermath

As Odessa neared the coliseum, the sounds of spells being cast, the clash of weapons, and the fervent shouts of multiple Arcanists filled the air.

Odessa's heart quickened with anticipation, knowing that within the chaos lay the answers she sought.

'I wonder what kind of Battle Formation they're using right now...' Odessa thought with interest as she hastened her pace.

After stepping into the coliseum, Odessa's gaze swept across the battlefield, searching for any signs of the powerful Arcanists or any abnormalities that might have played a role in weakening the Entity.

Unfortunately, everything seems normal...

The Arcanists weren't even at her level. They mainly were Second-Class Arcanists with a few First-Class Arcanists.

After watching them for some time, Odessa gently nodded.

'Well, they're better than I thought but... Are they part of a Secret Order?' Odessa thought to herself as she observed their coordinated movements.

It was quite unfortunate that even though they were skilled, they were not of the caliber she had expected. There were only a handful of First-Class Arcanists among them, so the battle was taking longer than it should be, even with their organized tactics.

Odessa wanted to join the battle, but after some thought, she stopped her movement and decided to observe the battle unfold.

She wanted to allow these Arcanists to claim the honor of defeating the Evil Entity themselves. After all, the creature was already weakened, and if she joined in, it would seem like she was trying to take their contributions. She didn't want to offend these people.

She watched as various spells collided with the Entity's form, each strike weakening its defenses. The Arcanists fought with bravery and determination, and it didn't take long before their collective strength pushed the Evil Entity closer to its demise.

Finally, the moment arrived. With a final surge of power, the Arcanists unleashed a devastating tier 3 Spell, piercing through the Entity's defenses.

Boom!

It was such a powerful Spell that caused the creature to twist and crack!

"Seismic Rapture? Not bad..." Odessa muttered as she realized the Tier 3 Elemental Spell that was used.

It was then followed up by a few more Tier 2 Spells that other Arcanists released simultaneously.

Soon, the malevolent creature let out a deafening roar, its form crumbling under the onslaught of magic. As the dust settled, the battlefield fell silent, and the victorious Arcanists stood amidst the remnants of their fallen foe.

"Careful... There should be a Malevolent Core left behind. Seal it quickly!" Odessa warned the Arcanists as she swiftly made her move to check the remnants of the Evil Closer.

The Arcanists and other Professors took this seriously as they searched for the Core.

Yet, as Odessa moved closer to the defeated Entity, she realized that she couldn't feel the Core at all.

"Can't we detect it using our Magic Zone? I can't find it, Royal Mage Odessa." One of the Arcanists of the Lore Hunters said.

"Maybe it was destroyed as well?" One of them added.

Odessa shook her head at this and replied. "That Core should be fluctuating with demonic energy. It's also as tough as a Sovereign Rank Mystical Item. There's no way it would be destroyed by one Tier 3 Spell."

Confusion filled her mind as she recalled her previous encounter with the Evil Entity and the sealed Malevolent Core she had obtained from it.

The other Evil Entity has this Core, so it was quite surprising that this creature in the Coliseum doesn't have one.

"Where did it go?" she muttered to herself, her voice filled with a mixture of curiosity and concern.

The absence of the Malevolent Core raised more questions than answers. Had someone else already taken it? Or was that reason for the weakened state of the Evil Entity?

Intrigued and determined to uncover the truth, Odessa and the others began to search the surrounding area for any traces or clues that might shed light on the missing Core.

Everyone carefully examined the remnants of the Entity, hoping to find the broken pieces of the Core at least.

Unfortunately, this Core seemed to have just vanished.

As Odessa and the others wanted to call it quits. They suddenly felt someone's presence.

They immediately shifted their attention to the person and realized that it was Clyde, a member of the enigmatic Order of the Illustrious Liquidators.

Clyde's striking appearance, adorned in a red frock coat and trousers, made it easy for them to recognize him. Furthermore, he was some sort of a legendary figure among the Mystic Arts Practitioners.

"It seems that you guys are looking for that Core. That must be what he had taken a while ago." Clyde said, confusing everyone present.

Noticing their reaction, he smiled mysteriously and continued.

"I noticed an interesting kid meddling with the Evil Entity during the battle..."

Clyde then explained how he had attempted to follow the mysterious kid, only to realize that his figure vanished or escaped his Magic Zone in an instant.

"What?"

"Someone escaped your Magic Zone?"

"Sir Clyde... Do you have an idea about his identity?"

The implications of Clyde's revelation raised many questions. After all, someone who could take the Core from such a powerful creature without their notice was an incredible feat!

Curiosity piqued within Odessa as she processed the information. "Could this individual be connected to the cultists who summoned these creatures?" she inquired, her voice filled with fascination and suspicion.

Clyde's smile after hearing the Royal Mage's question.

"The ones who summoned these Creatures were indeed part of that cult who liked to call themselves the Order of Fatality." Clyde acknowledged.

"However, this particular kid seemed to be different. Rather than working against you, I believe he may have actually aided your cause. He might have tampered with the Core, altering its nature. I couldn't say for sure."

This revelation left the gathered group even more bewildered. The notion that an unknown individual, potentially unrelated to the cult, had influenced the Malevolent Core added a layer of complexity to the unfolding events.

However, they realized that now was not the time for further discussion. The aftermath of the battle needed their immediate attention.

Putting their questions and speculations aside, Odessa and the others swiftly shifted their focus to the task at hand. They worked tirelessly to restore order to the plaza, mending the damage caused by the battle and providing aid to any injured arcanists.

Chapter 445 Aftermath (2)

After the matter with the Evil Entities had calmed down, a deep investigation commenced to ensure the eradication of the cult or the Order of Fatality within the city.

Of course, multiple organizations came into play to secure the safety and well-being of the populace.

The city mayor, including the royal family and the Association of the Harmonious Arcane Path, stepped forward to provide support and assistance to the families of those who had tragically lost their lives in the battle.

They understood the importance of healing wounds, both physical and emotional, and worked tirelessly to ensure that the affected families received the care and compassion they deserved.

Simultaneously, efforts were focused on identifying the summoned creatures...

In the end, they discovered that the Evil Entity was called Zyran, and it belonged to the third tier of creatures from the Eternal Abyss Realm.

Fortunately, because of the rushed nature of the summoning ritual, it allowed them to swiftly suppress the Zyran and prevent further chaos and destruction. If they had used a perfected summoning ritual, killing those Zyrans would have been a lot more complicated.

"Haa~ So it was really going to be delayed." Princess Ceres sighed as she looked at the busy city while having her morning tea.

Reparations and various constructions are ongoing after the destruction caused by the Zyran.

"It will only be delayed for two weeks. It sounds great... I think that this was a good chance to prepare for the Tower Ascension." Gabbi, one of her teammates, said.

"Huh? What about the other competitions?" Ceres asked as she raised her brow.

"Oh... I heard that the other contests might get canceled since the coliseum had taken more damage than we thought. It wasn't just the barriers that were destroyed. It seemed that even the foundation was damaged. There might be accidents if we continue using it."

"Tsk... Are there not enough Elementalist or Mystic Arts Practitioners around? They could've fixed that if they worked together." Ceres muttered.

Gabbi smiled at this and was about to explain to the princess. However, before she could speak, Ceres waved her hand.

"Ahem... I know that their Spells were most likely for offensive or defensive styles. None of them would probably waste their Spell Lights and record a support-type spell."

Gabbi gently nodded at this.

Anyway, most of the students were indeed disappointed about the decision made by the Organizers of the event, but they had no choice other than to accept it.

They could only feel grateful that none of them were severely injured from the surprise attack made by the cult.

The news about the delay or postponement of the competition soon spread.

At the very least, this delay provided an opportunity for more people, like the Academy Professors and high-level students, to come together and collaborate in securing the safety of the city.

That way, the postponement might get shorter due to their help.

The students, all of whom were considered elites within their respective academies, embraced this responsibility with enthusiasm.

"Headmaster! Please, let us patrol the surroundings too! Vale was still nowhere to be found..." Maya spoke with sincerity as she felt worried for her classmate.

Philip, Crystal, and Luna were behind her, hoping that Headmaster Jean would agree.

Jean sighed as he understood what these kids were feeling right now.

However, he had to be firm since they were precious young students of his Academy. They were only 4th-year students, and if they somehow encountered a real rogue practitioner who didn't care about the lives of other people, they might be in danger.

After all, the Dark Spells recorded by Maya and others lack its killing ability. Most of their Dark Spells could only weaken or suppress people.

Whether they were curses, dark magic, or rituals, they weren't ferocious enough.

Well, this was also necessary as the corruption brought by the Darkness would be stronger if they recorded Spells that were too "dark."

"Let's wait for him... Let's give him two more days. If he didn't return at that time, I'll be the one to bring him back." Headmaster Jean said.

Seeing that Vale's friends weren't satisfied, he continued.

"To be honest, I found broken pieces of a Cursed Artifact outside the coliseum... I'm thinking that he used his Shadow Gate Spell to escape from the Evil Entity. He was probably targeted and had to escape through that method. However, this is a secret, and no one should know about it."

Headmaster Jean explained.

Maya's eyes lit up after hearing this. She didn't expect that the Headmaster had investigated this much.

"So it was like that..." Philip heaved a sigh of relief after hearing this.

"Are we to keep quiet about this since we can't let others know that he learned the Shadow Gate Spell?" Luna asked curiously.

"That's part of it. However, the main reason was that a few Shamans and Holy Knights were looking for someone who had escaped through this method. They thought that the man was a member of the cult or someone who must be investigated. It will get more complicated, so it's better to keep his identity a secret..." Headmaster Jean said with a soft voice.

Even though he had been staying in the hotel most of the time, his multiple Shadow Soldiers allowed him to gather information all over the city without leaving this place.

Amidst the ongoing events in the Roaring Summit, Vale regained consciousness and found himself within the confines of a dimly lit room.

'Where is this?' Vale thought, but he soon recalled what had happened.

"Ahh..."

It was the very space he had conjured using his Shadow Gate Spell, a mystical realm he had 'contracted' during the recording process of this Spell...

As he slowly became aware of his surroundings, a throbbing headache caused him to grimace in discomfort.

"What happened to me?" Vale muttered... The last thing he could recall was that he had leaped into the depths of this ritual chamber, and then he was overwhelmed by a wave of excruciating pain coursing through his entire being until he fell unconscious.

He didn't know how long he had been here, so his first thought was to get out... However, a sudden realization struck him like a bolt of lightning.

"Ahh! That's right!" Vale exclaimed, his voice filled with a mix of excitement and urgency.

He immediately checked his attribute panel.

Chapter 446 User Upgrade

As soon as Vale opened his system, he was bombarded by a series of notifications.

[You have attained the maximum attributes of a Human Being.]

[You have 1,000 Divinity Points.]

[You have reached all the qualifications required to acquire the complete version of the Divine Extraction System.]

[Ascendence is required to accommodate the complete version.]

[1,000 Divinity Points have been used.]

[...]

[...]

[...]

[Ascension completed.]

[Congratulations! You have obtained the Half-Celestial Body.]

[Congratulations! You have obtained a Special Title.]

[Selective Extraction activated.]

[You have obtained a Special Attribute: Force.]

[Arcane Energy and Aura have been integrated into Force.]

[You have obtained access to Combat Power Identification.]

[You have received Extraction Space. You can now access the system's Fuse, Analyze, and Reverse functions.]

[You need to Transcend to obtain the complete Celestial Body.]

[Error detected...]

[Error detected...]

"W-what?" Vale had a mix of reactions as he read through the notifications.

There was an Ascension that he was not aware of. It also consumed a thousand of his Divinity Points, which, in his mind, was too expensive!

He was grateful for the rewards, although he didn't know what they could do, but was the Error detected?!

'Ugh... Whatever...' Vale shook his head since there was no point finding the Error he had no idea about.

With this in mind, he swiftly brushed off the notifications and checked the changes in his attribute panel.

[Ascended Name: Kyle the Uncrowned Paragon]

[Race: Half-Celestial]

[Attributes:

Strength: 100

Agility: 100

Intelligence: 100

Vitality: 100]

[Force: 1,250]

[Combat Power: 1,040,000]

[Human Arts List]

[Celestial Arts List]

[Spirit Arts List]

[Otherworldly Essence List]

[Available Energy: 29,645]

[Divinity Points: 649.30]

"Whoa~"

Just the first words he read already made Vale surprised.

He didn't expect to gain such a fancy title.

"Uncrowned Paragon? So that's the Special Title I got..." Vale repeated as he scanned through his attribute panel.

After some time, Vale took a deep breath as the new information started sinking in.

He was no longer a human and had mixed feelings about this. After all, he had been a human all his life. Even if he became a Dark Magician, he still feels like a normal human with some enigmatic powers.

However, since the system already indicated it for him, he had to accept the truth.

'Well, I guess I've been extracting too many things into my body... No average human could contain all of these.' Vale thought after some time.

He then shifted his attention to his attributes. All of them had become 100 points, and it was pretty surreal considering how he started with a single digit—No, it wasn't even a whole number.

Vale wryly smiled at himself as he recalled how he started with his Divine Extraction System.

He then looked at his Force, the Integration of his Arcane Energy and Aura. This was quite an amazing attribute. After all, he could finally quantify the amount of energy he has, which would allow him to tell the energy consumption of his Spells accurately.

"It was even over one thousand... I wonder how much was that compared to the Headmaster or even Sherman... Well, the Sentinels were also a good comparison." Vale muttered.

The next new thing in his Attribute was the Combat Power. This had actually made him confused. However, he still had an idea about this since it seemed similar to some games he had played in his previous life.

In his own understanding, it was the overall fighting capability of an individual. Since his combat power was over a million after his Ascension, he believed this should be very high.

'So this will help me learn when to fight and run?' Vale thought to himself.

Nevertheless, he was aware that Combat Power was just an estimation based on their attributes, weapons, and spells. He couldn't just blindly trust it.

There was still something that must be considered out of the Combat Power, which was the strategies and helpers that could be involved in a battle.

He then checked his Human Art List, which contained all his Arcane Spells.

[Dark Arts: Spell Dispersion Lv7, Ghost Hand Lv7, Incorruptible Body Lv9, Darkness Manipulation Lv7, Spirit Vision Lv7, Light Absorption Lv7, Create Shadow Soldier Lv7, Moonlight Curse Lv7, Spectral Hands Lv7, Corrupted Chains Lv7, Active Curse Break Lv7,? Dusk Imprisonment Lv7, Corpse Explosion Lv7, Feign Death Lv7, Locate Corpse Lv7, Shadow Gate Lv7]

[Holy Arts: Divine Sense Lv7, Blessed Healing Lv7]

[Summoning Art: Grimoire Attraction Lv7]

[Transformation Art: Human Shapeshift Lv7, Beast Shapeshift Lv7, Voice Manipulation Lv7]

[Martial Art: Meridian Access Lv7]

[Mystic Arts: Arcane Armor Lv7, Soul Bind Lv7]

[Beast Art: Wild Whisper Spell Lv7]

Vale's eyes widened in disbelief as he processed the information before him.

"What? All of my spells have reached the Advanced Realm?" He muttered in a mixture of excitement and astonishment.

With his spells now at such an advanced level, he realized that he could finally advance his plans.

"If all my spells have reached the Advanced Realm, then it should be fine to utilize my Energy Points to get a Perfect Realm Spell..." Vale muttered, a glimmer of excitement dancing in his eyes.

For so long, Vale had diligently saved his Energy Points, refraining from hasty advancements in his Incorruptible Body Spell and other useful Spells like Spell Dispersion.

He had done so with the foresight of having a reserve in case of emergencies or unforeseen circumstances. After all, depending on the situation, it might be better to have a Divine Sense or even a Traceless Shift in a Perfect Realm.

However, with all his spells now elevated to the Advanced Realm, the purpose of hoarding these Energy Points seemed to diminish. After all, with so many energy points, he could advance more Spells to the Perfect Realm!

But before that, he checked the other features quickly.

The Celestial Arts List also had some changes.

[Celestial Arts: Call of the Divine Lightning Lv7, Shadow Mutilation Lv7, Aurora's Embrace Lv7]

Even Aurora's Embrace had also advanced.

The Spirit Arts List, on the other hand, contained all the Neutral Spells that he had.

[Spirit Arts: Extrasensory Perception Spell Lv7, Traceless Shift Lv7, Lightspeed Lv7, Levitation Lv7, Evil Eye Lv7]

Then, the new Otherworldly Essence List contained quite some interesting information.

[Essence:

Imp Essence: 28

Fiend Essence: 75

Malevolent Essence: 165]

He was still unsure how to use these extracted Essences, but that's not important right now. Vale suddenly recalled his Extraction to the Evil Entity.

'Right. I remember getting the Doombringer Ring... Where was it?'

Chapter 447 The System

'Ahh...' Vale finally shifted his attention to one of the rewards he got from the system.

"Extraction Space..."

As he said this, he immediately found himself in an isolated space. It doesn't seem that his whole body entered this Space. Instead, it was only his soul, or maybe his vision, that was affected.

Inside this place, he could see his Spell Models, the Essences he had extracted, and the Ring he had gotten from the Evil Entity!

'So you're here...'

It was indeed the Doombringer Ring that he was looking for.

He immediately took this Ring, and as he thought of wearing it, he automatically exited the Extraction Space, and the mystical item was already in his hands.

'Cool... Now it feels like a real Divine System!' Vale was quite excited as he realized that he could now extract some "drop items" and leave them in his Extraction Space!

"I hope this was not a one-time thing."

Vale smiled as he stopped himself from wearing it.

Well, he had to get this appraised first to make sure that it was safe. After all, using his Phantasm State, he could tell that it contained very malicious Spells or power.

Whether it was targeted to the wearer or not, he wasn't aware of it. He had to be very careful about this thing since it came from an Evil Entity.

Anyway, he returned to the Extraction Space and left the Doombringer Ring there for now.

According to his system, he had already gained access to the Selective Extraction, Fuse, Analyze, and Reverse.

The Selective Extraction was something that he had already learned. However, because he learned of it on his own, it required a lot of focus and was difficult to control. There was also a high chance of failure in this method.

However, since the system had already given him access to this feature, it meant that everything would be a lot easier.

'No more random extraction...' Vale thought to himself.

The Fuse function made Vale realize he could start the Spell Fusion! In fact, he realized that the Essence that he had extracted could be included in the Fusion of Spells!

He couldn't wait to try it!

He immediately recalled all the combination spells that his Seniors told him! Most of them were Spell Fusions that were recommended by Cassie and a few from Anderson and Thelma.

'What if I fuse them with other Arcane Paths? I wonder if that would be possible... There might be a higher difficulty, but I must try it. Perhaps I could make a Spell Fusion that no one else had ever seen.'

Vale was lost in his thoughts as he started imagining his future with this incredible system feature. Of course, he wasn't expecting that this would be a completely easy Fusion that no setback could happen.

He probably had to pay a price or meet some conditions to complete the Fusion.

He then shifted his attention to the Analyze feature. To his surprise, it was actually an Appraisal Feature! This Analyze feature was only limited to what he had extracted, so he could not analyze the Temporal Timepeace and the suspicious items he got from the Dark Soul Tower, but he was still satisfied with it.

Finally, the Reverse Function included in the upgrade was quite interesting... After all, this Reverse Function allowed him to return something he had taken or extracted to their owner. It was something he had never thought or considered that might be needed.

After all, he had only considered extracting corpses that don't need their attributes and humans who deserved to be extracted to teach them a lesson.

'I'll probably not be using this, but since this was free, I'll gladly take it.' Vale thought to himself.

After absorbing all of this information, Vale couldn't help but smile in satisfaction.

It feels like he had gone back to the start when he had first acquired his system.

There were plenty of new things he could explore with this completed version of the system, and he had also become incredibly strong after ascending to a Half-Celestial. He even gained a title that he didn't know whether it had a purpose or just a decoration on his attribute panel.

With so many changes that had happened to him, it wouldn't be wrong to call this a new start for him.

Vale then exited his Extraction Space and looked around.

He didn't know how much time had passed, so he had to leave now.

He then started stretching his body to get a feel for his new strength. He clenched his fist and punched the air a few times as he adjusted with his Agility and Strength.

After some time, Vale felt confident that he had returned to "normal", so he activated his Shadow Gate Spell.

In the midst of Vale's mysterious disappearance, Maya found herself contemplating the possibility of taking his place in the Tower Ascension competition.

With each passing day that Vale remained absent, the weight of responsibility began to settle on Maya's shoulders. If he didn't reappear soon, she would have to step up and face the challenges of the tower that she was not prepared for.

In her room, Maya stood before a mirror, her reflection mirroring the turmoil within her.

"Vale, where are you?" she murmured, her voice laced with concern.

She was trying to prepare herself mentally and physically, but it was difficult. Though she possessed confidence in her own strength, she recognized the immense difficulty of the Tower Ascension. Many seasoned sixth and seventh-year students had struggled to surpass the fifth floor, casting a shadow of doubt over Maya's own chances of success.

Just as Maya was deep in thought, Philip knocked on her door and informed her about the urgent summons for a meeting involving all participants of the Tower Ascension.

As she opened the door, she saw Philip waiting for her.

Philip noticed Maya's nervous demeanor and gently inquired.

"Are you okay? You seem quite tense." Philip asked in concern.

"I'm fine..." She replied, attempting to mask her apprehension.

Philip helplessly smiled as he could tell what was going on. However, he couldn't do anything about it, so he simply escorted Maya to the meeting room after offering a few encouraging words...

However, before they could leave the building they were staying at, a sudden commotion filled the place. The murmurs of excitement and surprise reverberated through the air.

Chapter 448 Attraction

Ceres made her way to the meeting hall, joining the other participants who were gathered for the Tower Ascension competition.

As she entered the hall, she could feel the gazes of the other students, and they were surely using their Magic Zone to observe her movement.

She immediately found an empty seat and waited for the organizers just like the others.

They were gathered here to receive important instructions on how they would enter the Tower and compete for the coveted rewards that awaited them on each floor.

Glancing around, Ceres spotted the familiar faces of the other ten students from various academies who would be participating in the event.

She had crossed paths with some of them before, whether it was during the intense Monster Hunt Competition or the thrilling Clash of Champions.

Each student represented a different academy, bringing their unique skills and experiences to the table.

'Mhmm... A new face from the Psychic Arts Academy, huh...' Ceres thought to herself but didn't think it would help the Psychic Arts Academy.

Anyway, Ceres couldn't help but notice that one of the participants was missing. The student from the Vermont Academy had yet to arrive, leaving an empty seat among the group.

Though it was still early, Ceres couldn't help but wonder about Vale's absence.

She hoped that he hadn't decided to back out of the competition, as she had been looking forward to beating him this time.

The Clash of Champions had been postponed, but Ceres still held a desire to prove her skills, even if only in the context of this particular competition.

As she patiently waited for the proceedings to begin, Ceres observed her fellow competitors, carefully analyzing their strengths and weaknesses.

Since they were using their Magic Zone to observe her, she decided to use her Divine Sense as well.

'Let's see...'

It didn't take that long before she identified a select few who had the potential to reach the fourth floor of the Tower, just like herself.

Among them were Serena from the Mystic Arts Academy, Amelia from the Knights Academy, and Claude from the Combat Arts Academy.

She took notice of them not just because they had a decent number of Spell Lights, but she also respected their fighting styles.

Thanks to her older brother, she had detailed information about the Ascension Tower... With this information, she considered the three students best suited for the challenges that awaited them inside the Tower.

Of course, she was included among them.

Despite being primarily trained as a Spellcaster, she had also honed her skills as a Paladin, allowing her to adopt a more aggressive combat approach when necessary. She believed that her versatility would give her an edge in the competition, providing her with the ability to adapt to different situations and opponents.

Clank!

The door opened in the meeting hall, and the organizers of the event arrived, drawing the attention of all the participants.

Ceres couldn't help but feel a tinge of disappointment, assuming that Vale had chosen not to participate after all.

However, her disappointment quickly turned into surprise and curiosity as she heard footsteps hurrying to enter the room.

'Finally... I thought you escaped from me...'

Vale had indeed arrived, but something seemed different about him. His appearance had somewhat changed, leaving Ceres intrigued and eager to discover what had transpired during his absence.

"He looks different... No, his temperament seemed to have improved. What happened to him?" Ceres pondered silently, her eyes fixed on Vale.

She had previously used her Divine Sense on Vale and even marked him for some time, so she had a deep impression on him.

However, now that he had gotten closer again, she couldn't help but notice a significant transformation in him. The proximity between them allowed her to discern the change with more clarity.

Vale possessed impeccably smooth and unblemished skin, the kind that would make her envious. His charm had a captivating effect, even on her.

Fortunately, Ceres had developed a strong resistance against such allure. Unlike the other female students who were easily affected, she swiftly regained her composure and averted her gaze.

"Aren't you Vale Chambers? You should stop using your Spell. What are you? An Incubus?" The official spoke sternly as he glanced at Vale's entry.

"N-no, Sir." Vale was a bit flustered as he was certainly not using any Spells to attract other people.

'So Maya and the others are telling the truth... What do I do?' Vale's mind raced to find a solution...

'Ahh... Is this some kind of passive effect brought by being a Half-Celestial?'

He suddenly had this idea as he confirmed that none of his Spell Lights were active. After learning the possible cause of the problem, he immediately activated his ESP Spell to weaken his presence.

As soon as he did this, the female students immediately returned to themselves as they shifted their attention to the official in front.

'What now... Do I have to constantly use a Spell to suppress the effect of being a Half-Celestial?' Vale thought with a helpless smile on his face.

That was certainly not a good idea since his Phantasm State doesn't last forever.

As he reached this thought, Vale recalled that the duration of his Phantasm State and the range of his Magic Zone had probably changed after his Ascension.

'I should do some tests later.' Vale silently planned.

Soon, the Event Official announced that the Tower Ascension would start immediately after an hour.

They are only allowed to bring five Mystical Items with them. It wasn't a lot, but it was enough.

This rule was implemented because once they are "killed" inside the Tower and sent back outside, there would be a considerable chance that the item would not return together with them.

They didn't want them to waste precious Mystical Items since retrieving them was impossible.

Vale then continued listening to the officer. They were informed of various things related to the Tower to ensure that they wouldn't die accidentally. After all, in that place, there wouldn't be any officers that would follow them to ensure their safety.

Nevertheless, at this time, Vale also started inspecting the other students who will be competing in the same event...

At this time, he couldn't help but glance at the female student wearing the blue and white uniform of Farrel Academy.

Chapter 449 Tower Ascension

Farrel Academy, or the Psychic Arts Academy, was something that Vale was always wary of. After all, the students coming from this Academy could be more terrifying than a Dark Arts Practitioner.

For him, anyone capable of controlling the minds of other people or enslaving them with their words were people he had to take note of.

However, what he really was surprised about was that his ESP Spell was reacting to a female student of this Academy. It seemed to be warning him that she was either dangerous or special.

'This Spirit Art or Extrasensory Perception Spell was really mysterious...' Vale silently thought as he certainly wouldn't doubt this Spell that he had extracted from a Fallen Messenger.

As the names of the participants were called one by one, Vale discovered that the Psychic Arts student's name was Lexie Steen.

Each of them was given a bronze key by the event officer, which would serve as their entry and exit pass for the Tower Ascension. Similar to the Dark Soul Tower, the key could only be used once, making it a unique souvenir after the competition.

After some time had passed, the Tower Ascension finally commenced.

They were brought to a place outside the bustling city where the Tower was located. It was said that the Tower was already here even before the city was built. This was also the reason why the location of the Twelve Academies Competition wouldn't change even after being attacked by the cult.

'Mhmm... It looks grand. It was certainly better than I thought.'

Vale gazed at the Tower, marveling at its ancient and mystical appearance.

It emitted an air of mystery as it was situated on the edge of the plateau. The Tower was surrounded by polished ground and adorned with numerous Formation Arts, serving as protective measures.

The sight was truly awe-inspiring.

'There are ten floors indeed...' Vale commented.

"Alright... Let's begin!"

The officer called the first student to enter. They were already informed that only one person could enter at a time, indicating that the competition would take a considerable amount of time.

Due to this, apart from their classmates and professors, no one else was present to witness the competition unfold. Well, it would be boring since no one would be able to see the situation inside.

The first participant, a student from the Beast Arts Academy, stepped into the Tower.

Almost immediately, everyone outside saw that the first floor lit up, signifying that the student had commenced their challenge. This was their only way of telling the progress of the student who had entered.

The initial stages seemed relatively easy, as within five minutes, the second floor was also illuminated. However, after eight minutes, the student was abruptly sent out of the Tower, having only managed to complete the first floor.

"Almost!" The student shouted in annoyance as he walked away. He didn't even bother going to the resting area as he probably knew he wouldn't get in place in this competition.

He didn't want to waste his time watching everyone surpass him.

'I guess Beast Art wasn't suited for this type of competition, huh...' Vale muttered as he knew that all the participants sent here were elites in their Academy.

If their result was bad, then most students of that Academy would probably have the same result.

The other students also didn't feel bad about the result they had seen. As a matter of fact, they were looking forward to seeing other competitors fail to ascend to the higher floors.

Of course, a few of them had also shown some concern... They realized that the Tower Ascension was indeed a formidable challenge.

It was now the turn of the student from the Rune Arts Academy.

He entered the Tower with determination, hoping to surpass the previous participant's achievements.

To the surprise of many, the student from the Rune Arts Academy managed to make it to the third floor, surpassing the previous record. However, his progress came to an abrupt halt as the light on the third floor dimmed, indicating his failure to clear the challenges. He was swiftly ejected out of the Tower, disappointment etched on his face.

'At the very least, none of them are injured like the stories I've heard... I guess it's because they didn't reach the fifth floor.' Vale thought to himself as he also noticed that they still had their weapons equipped.

The next participant, Avery from the Summoning Arts Academy, stepped forward.

He looked quite excited since as soon as his name was announced, he even ran to the door of the Tower and swiftly activated the key...

Whom~

Lights blinded Avery's vision before he realized that he had entered the Tower. As his eyes adjusted, he marveled at the sight before him.

"Oh... This place was really a good place to form a contract with another realm... It's filled with Arcane Energy. Senior Abel was right." Avery muttered as he looked around the dimly lit hall or the first floor of the Tower.

'The higher floor must have a better concentration of energy. I'll use that place to get the best summons!'

Avery thought with a smile. This was one of the reasons why he wanted to enter this place. According to the seniors in the Academy, they had used this place to complete a ritual to get a new summon in their Grimoire. It was quite dangerous since there wouldn't be anyone who could help if you accidentally summoned an unruly creature, but it was worth the shot as long as he was careful with his ritual.

He immediately shook his head as he had to think about this later.

"I should deal with the problem first..." Avery thought as he immediately realized why the first floor had been relatively easy for the previous students.

At the center of the hall was a wooden golem wielding a wooden sword.

He knew that defeating the wooden golem was the key to progressing to the second floor. Without wasting any time, he swiftly retrieved his Grimoire, a book of summoning, and began to summon his trusted Silver-Haired Ape.

However, before he could complete the summoning, the wooden golem lunged towards him, its target set on his head.

"W-wait! I'm not ready yet! I'm still summoning!"

Chapter 450 The Fifth Floor

"W-wait! I'm not ready yet! I'm still summoning!" Avery called out in desperation, his voice filled with a mix of fear and indignation.

However, the relentless wooden golem showed no mercy. Its sword was already swinging downward with alarming speed.

With no time left to complete the summoning, Avery made a split-second decision. He tightly grasped his sturdy Grimoire, realizing that he would have to rely on his own precious item or his ancient book to parry the attack.

As the wooden golem's sword descended, Avery raised his Grimoire in a defensive stance, channeling his energy into the book's surface.

A burst of magical energy erupted from the Grimoire, forming a shimmering shield just in time to intercept the golem's attack.

Boom!

The impact sent shockwaves through Avery's body, but he stood firm, refusing to yield to the immense force.

With every ounce of strength he could muster, Avery retaliated by swinging his Grimoire towards the head of the wooden golem.

Ancient symbols glowed on the book's surface as it naturally tried to protect itself from being damaged by the collision.

Bam!

The wooden golem seemed to have realized that his Grimoire wasn't ordinary, as it blocked the attack by using its sword.

"Tsk... You've made me do this! Come on!" Avery shouted as he no longer bothered summoning his Silver-Haired Ape and fought with his Grimoire.

The wooden golem gladly used its implanted sword technique and fought against Avery like a noble knight!

Avery doesn't have good reflexes, but he still managed to dodge the golem's relentless attacks since he was a fast runner. Every time the golem overextended in its attacks, he would use this opening to smash it with his Grimoire.

The wooden golem, though mighty, began to show signs of wear and tear under Avery's relentless assault.

Its wooden structure cracked and splintered, its movements growing slower and more labored.

"Hmph... Take this!"

Avery seized an opportunity, pressing his advantage and striking with all his strength.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Blow after blow, Avery's Grimoire battered the wooden golem, each strike inching him closer to victory.

Sweat poured down his face, his breaths coming in ragged gasps, but he refused to yield. The battle reached its climax as Avery delivered a final, decisive blow, shattering the wooden golem into a pile of splinters and debris.

"Ahh! That was so difficult!" Avery exclaimed as he sat on the cold floor.

Panting heavily, Avery looked at the aftermath of the intense battle.

The room fell silent, save for his labored breaths and the faint hum of residual Arcane Energy in the air. He realized that the battle would've been a lot easier if the Mystical Items he brought were for his own use. However, what he brought were items that could amplify the power of his Silver-Haired Ape.

This was the reason he mainly relied on his physical strength and the sturdiness of his Grimoire when he was caught off guard.

With the wooden golem defeated, Avery took a moment to catch his breath, his heart still pounding with adrenaline.

After a few moments, Avery prepared to ascend to the second floor of the Tower, ready to confront whatever awaited him on the next floor.

However, his attention was drawn to a chest that had mysteriously appeared at the foot of the stairs leading to the second floor.

"Ahh... I forgot about you."

Excitement coursed through his veins as he approached the chest, eager to see what awaited him inside. He finally recalled that they would receive some rewards every time they conquered a floor.

With a sense of anticipation, Avery opened the chest, revealing its contents.

His eyes widened as he beheld a shimmering vial within. It was a couple of Arcane Energy Potions, they're a valuable elixir known for replenishing one's energy reserves.

Avery's heart swelled with gratitude, realizing the significance of this reward.

"Not bad..."

Though he had hoped for something more substantial, he understood that this was just the first floor, and better rewards could be taken in the next feet.

Avery pocketed the Arcane Energy Potions, knowing it would serve as a valuable asset in the trials to come.

He then stepped forward to ascend the stairs leading to the second floor. At the same time, he started to summon his Silver-Haired Ape. He didn't want to get ambushed again, so it was better to summon it already.

Meanwhile, everyone saw Avery's success on the first floor from outside the Tower.

However, none of them were excited as he lasted quite a while on that floor. Soon, they saw him advanced from the second floor to the third floor within 12 minutes.

As soon as the fourth floor lit up, everyone finally gathered their attention to the Tower and waited to see whether he could clear this challenge as well.

It only took him 8 minutes to complete the third floor, which was faster than the second floor. It was certainly commendable.

"Oh... It seemed that he ran into trouble..."

"More than 20 minutes had already passed since he entered the fourth floor... He was taking too much time.."

"Indeed... I wonder what happened to him."

The people outside couldn't help but wonder how Avery remained on the fourth floor for so long without being defeated or claiming victory.

Nevertheless, they knew that he wouldn't exceed a specific time within a floor since the mysterious owner of the Ascension Tower would not allow someone to stay there longer than they should.

Whom~

Finally, after a few more minutes, the light on the fifth floor lit up...

"He did it!"

"I hope our Academy could be in the top three this time..."

"He should be! Avery was a genius after all."

The seniors of the Summoning Arts Academy cheered at the achievement of their junior.

However, fate had other plans. Despite Avery's best efforts, his time on the fifth floor was cut short, lasting only a mere 8 seconds before being abruptly sent out of the Tower.

Thud!

Avery was sent outside with an injured arm... Even his Grimoire was heavily damaged and was almost torn apart.

"That was too unfair! There was no way we could clear that fifth floor!" Avery shouted in indignation as he endured the pain in his arm.

