

D. Extraction 451

Chapter 451 My Goddess

Avery's voice resounded throughout the place, but none of them spoke to deny his words. After all, they weren't sure what he had experienced inside as the challenges could change depending on the person who had entered.

Nevertheless, the seniors in his Academy started comforting him as they quickly called for the medical practitioners to treat him.

"It seemed that you gained a decent reward on the fourth floor... That must be Frosted Saint Wine, right?" Abel, Avery's Senior in the Academy, said as he assisted his junior to be brought to the infirmary.

"Oh? You know about this wine, Senior?" Avery's previous disappointment was turned into curiosity as he thought that this was an unimportant wine when he got it a while ago.

"Let's talk about it later... There are many people listening to us here." Senior Abel said with a soft voice.

This had certainly caught Vale's attention as he decided to listen to their conversation secretly.

With his current Magic Zone, even if he hadn't consumed his third Darkness Possession Potion yet, he was confident that no one would be able to notice his actions.

Soon, he heard something interesting.

The reason why Avery took so much time on the fourth floor was due to his real intentions for participating in the competition.

It was none other than to use the power of the Ascension Tower to call a being in another realm to become his Summon!

Vale gently nodded at this as he thought that this was certainly a good idea...

"Interesting... Should I try that as well?" Vale thought to himself.

They were allowed to enter the Tower with five Mystical Items after all.

The rule stated that he had to wear or equip them before entering the Tower. Since he could change what he'd carry, it must also be a good idea to try doing the ritual.

"Then, I'll bring the Grimoire, the Stormbringer, the Obsidian Amulet... Including my coat and pants, that would be a total of five Mystical Items." Vale thought to himself.

However, he could still bring out other items through Yvaine's help, but he decided not to rely on this trick since that might be grounds for disqualification if they learned about it.

Anyway, the fourth student had soon entered the Tower.

He came from the Alchemy Arts Academy, and no one was really expecting from him. After all, they were known for their intelligence and craftsmanship and not for their fighting prowess.

As expected, he only cleared the second floor and decided to come out. He didn't even bother entering the third floor since he didn't want to get hurt.

Then, the next student to enter was Susan from the Elemental Arts Academy.

As a genius student who had learned Fire and Water Spells, it was quite expected that she would be able to breeze through the first and second floors within 4 minutes.

She was doing this quickly since if every one of them could only reach the fourth floor, the winners would be judged depending on how fast they cleared the floor.

In her mind, the highest floor they could probably reach was the fifth floor. What she wanted to do was quickly reach this floor and stay there for the longest time. Of course, if she could clear it, then that would be the best, but her hopes weren't that high.

Susan calmed her breathing before ascending to the third floor.

"This was quite unexpected." She muttered.

The third floor had a complex Formation Art challenge.

Breaking the formation required precision and knowledge, as a single mistake could lead to dire consequences. The Formation Art had the potential to become more intricate or even turn against her, posing a threat to her life.

Fortunately, Susan's dedication to her studies paid off.

During her second year at the Academy, she delved deep into the intricacies of Formation Arts, receiving special lessons from the esteemed Professors. Armed with this knowledge, Susan approached the challenge with determination and patience.

It took her several minutes of careful analysis and strategic thinking, but Susan successfully deciphered the Formation Art and broke its hold.

As a reward, she received a Level 2 Formation Node on the treasure chest at the bottom of the stairs leading to the fourth floor.

Though not as valuable as what her family possessed, she accepted it graciously, knowing its worth was about 7 to 10 thousand zen on the outside.

Since Susan barely spent her Elemental Energy, she ventured into the fourth floor without hesitation.

"So it's a battle again... Come at me!" Susan muttered as she saw two wooden golems wielding heavy maces as their weapons.

"I'll end this quickly..."

Since no one was watching, she didn't mind attacking with her most potent spell immediately.

It was one of her Fusion Spells!

Susan fused the powers of Fire Ball and Fire Blast!

The result was the summoning of three Flaming Sparrows, ethereal creatures wreathed in flames. The Flaming Sparrows swiftly launched themselves at one of the wooden golems, unleashing fiery devastation upon impact.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

In an instant, one of the wooden golems was reduced to splinters, consumed by the searing flames of the Flaming Sparrows.

With only one golem left, Susan's task became significantly easier. She deftly evaded its swings, retaliating with her elemental spells. The battle raged on, but Susan's mastery over fire magic proved to be the deciding factor.

In less than 8 minutes, Susan emerged victorious, the remaining wooden golem reduced to a pile of charred debris.

She stood amidst the aftermath, her chest heaving with exertion and a triumphant smile adorning her face. She had overcome the challenges of the fourth floor with skill and finesse, proving her worth as an elemental mage from the Elemental Arts Academy.

"Headmaster said she'd recommend me to the Order of the Lore Hunters if I cleared the fifth floor... Perhaps I could really do it?" Susan thought to herself as she drank the Arcane Energy Potion that she got from the first floor. It only recovered about 25% of her energy, but she was already satisfied with that. After all, if it was more potent than that, there would certainly be a side effect.

She couldn't deal with any side effects right now as it could affect her battle performance.

She then took the reward on the fourth floor, which was a scroll containing a summoning circle, and she kept it inside her coat before ascending to the fifth floor with a hint of nervousness.

After all, Avery only lasted a few seconds inside this place.

"W-what..."

As soon as she entered, she immediately realized why Avery found this difficult to pass through...

The sight before Susan was truly unsettling.

Standing before her was a creature that seemed straight out of nightmares—a demonic being with a goat head, wielding a massive sword. Its imposing figure sent shivers down her spine, and she couldn't help but wonder if Avery had encountered the same terrifying entity.

"Oh, my goddess..."

Susan knew that this creature was out of her league! This was indeed unfair!

Chapter 452 Progress

The increase in the difficulty of the fourth floor and the fifth floor was too drastic!

"Fine... Let's do this!" Despite the mounting fear and the overwhelming odds, Susan gritted her teeth as she entered her Elemental State, summoned every ounce of courage within her, and prepared to engage in a battle against the demonic being.

Rooaaar!

The goat-head creature charged forward.

"Bring it on!"

Susan used the Elemental Spells at her disposal. She launched a barrage of spells, aiming to weaken and subdue her formidable opponent.

Most of the spells she had thrown were Tier 1 Spells like Heat Wave, Fireball, Wind Blade, and Piercing Gust.

However, the goat-headed creature ignored all these Spells and charged forward...

Bam! Bam! Bam!

All the spells hit their target, but the creature didn't budge!

Realizing that Tier 1 Spells weren't effective, she quickly used her movement spell, Wind Haste, to swiftly avoid the enormous creature that was wielding a sword.

"Tsk... I'll just delay as much as I can. There was no way those other students could kill something like this." Susan said as she accepted the fact that she'd be defeated by this creature. Even without using his Spell Fusion, she could tell that it would be useless against her opponent.

Furthermore, if she used her Spell Fusion, she would spend a lot of energy, and she might be defeated a lot faster. It was better to use her remaining power to preserve her strength.

She could only hope that she would last the longest on this floor.

Boom!

She was able to dodge another one of its attacks, but the rubbles that were thrown everywhere almost hit her. Luckily, she was able to defend against it with her Wind Shield.

'I need to do something...' Susan said in her mind as she couldn't just continue running away. She had to at least slow down the movement of the creature.

She threw a few Tier 1 Spells that could restrict the movement of the demonic being... If they didn't work, she would continue to use other Elemental Spells to block its vision and to hide her presence.

Unfortunately, after more than 4 minutes of battle, she already ran out of Elemental Energy!

The creature was unstoppable and didn't seem capable of getting tired!

After a few more seconds of fierce combat, Susan found herself completely overpowered by the sheer strength and ferocity of the demonic being.

With one swift motion of its colossal sword, it struck her down, ending her valiant struggle.

"I tried..." This was her thought before her vision went black.

In an instant, Susan was expelled from the Tower, her body engulfed in a blinding light as she was transported back to the outside world.

Exhausted and disheartened, she took a moment to catch her breath and reflect on her encounter with the demonic creature.

'It was indeed unfair like Avery had said... If the fifth floor was already like that, then it was no wonder the highest floor on record was the 8th floor.' With a sigh, Susan accepted the treatment of the medical practitioners who had immediately come to assist her.

"That was a good job, Susan... You quickly finished the first floor up to the fourth floor... You also lasted longer than Avery on the fifth floor. It's guaranteed that you have a better result than him." One of the seniors in her Academy said in a comforting tone.

"Thank you... I hope that my performance was enough to get into the top three."

Although her attempt had ended in defeat, Susan knew that the Tower was a place of immense challenges and trials. It tested the limits of one's abilities and pushed individuals to their breaking points.

It means that not just anyone could pass through the fifth floor, and she believed that it wouldn't happen for the fourth-year and fifth-year batches at the very least.

The next student was Lexie Steen. She was from the Psychic Arts Academy and someone Vale was interested in.

It was unfortunate that he couldn't see her Combat Power yet, as he needed to make physical contact with them.

That's right, Vale could also see the Combat Power of someone else, thanks to the Upgraded Version of his System. However, he had to touch them physically, like he was trying to trigger his Extraction System.

He had already tried this with Maya, Philip, and others in the Vermont Academy whom he had met a while ago but not with the fellow participants of this Competition.

Most of them are averaging 200,000 in Combat Power. He couldn't help but wonder how strong Lexie was.

Anyway, Vale soon realized why he felt wary of Lexie... She didn't take that long to reach the fifth floor!

The other students and professors were also quite surprised by her performance.

Then, they saw the lights of the fifth floor lit up for a while.

Whom~

After ten long minutes, the light flickered once again. Vale and the others thought that Lexie would come out but to everyone's surprise, she actually ascended to the 6th floor!

Whispers and murmurs reverberated throughout the crowd as they marveled at Lexie's seemingly unstoppable ascent...

"What? She cleared the fifth floor?"

"No way! Even some seventh-year students couldn't reach the sixth floor."

"Is she going to win this competition?"

"If Princess Ceres stumbled... Then, she might really win this contest."

"Lexie is definitely the winner of this Competition."

The spotlight had shifted to Lexie, and the audience began to speculate about her chances of emerging victorious in the Competition.

As the commotion settled, Vale couldn't help but anticipate what was about to happen.

"She did it!"

After Lexie stayed for about 20 minutes on the sixth floor, one student from the Psychic Arts Academy shouted...

This had certainly excited everyone as Lexie Steen continued to defy expectations by clearing not only the sixth floor but also ascending to the seventh floor...

She didn't have any plans to give up, which gained a lot of respect from the audience. After all, if she got "killed" on the seventh floor, the rewards she had gathered from the lower floors had a high chance of being lost.

It means that Lexie truly wants to reach the higher floors for glory and not just for the rewards.

Everyone was left in awe of her astonishing progress.

Chapter 453 The Peak of the Tower

"That's weird... How could she reach the seventh floor?" Ceres muttered as she looked at one of her subordinates who was secretly guarding her.

This person was hidden in the shadows and was barely noticeable to other people.

"According to the records that we have, Lexie doesn't have this kind of ability. She had always been weak in combat and was only sent here to gain experience. It was impossible for her to have a huge change in just a month of preparation."

Her shadow guard answered in a method that she was the only one who could hear.

"Then, what was going on? How could she reach the seventh floor?" Ceres asked in annoyance. This was beyond her expectations.

"Forbidden Art, Princess. It would be possible if she used a Forbidden Art inside the Tower." The shadow guard answered. However, he also had another suspicion, but he decided not to tell her.

Ceres' eyes lit up after hearing his reply.

"Then, there should be no problem disqualifying her in the competition, right?" She asked.

The shadow guard thought for a moment before nodding.

"If we could find some traces, then it should be possible. However, I suggest not to accuse her if we couldn't find evidence."

"Tsk... Then, it might not be easy to do that. If she dared to use a Forbidden Art, she should be confident of hiding it from other people as long as she doesn't have a witness." Ceres faintly smiled as she thought that this would be an easy win for her.

It was a pity that the Forbidden Arts of the Holy Arts Faction were too obvious. It would typically change the caster's appearance, and it could last for days. There was no way she could use that to gain an advantage in this Tower Ascension.

Luckily, Lexie's advance halted at the 7th floor.

After staying there for more than 10 minutes, Lexie was soon taken out.

As soon as she appeared outside the Tower, her seniors and the medical practitioners quickly checked her condition.

They were all worried and excited to see the student who had reached the seventh floor.

However, she didn't seem injured at all. She only seemed weakened in her current state, but there were no wounds whatsoever.

Furthermore, she didn't accept the treatment of physicians as she quickly left the place with her classmates or seniors in the Academy.

Vale monitored their movement to eavesdrop on their conversation but realized none of them were talking.

Vale's eyes lit up as he realized what was going on.

'Ahh... Are they using telepathy?'

Vale could only give up as he decided to forget about Lexie for now... Although he wanted to know more about her, his turn was getting closer, so he had to stay here for a while.

The next student to enter the Ascension Tower was from the Transformation Arts Academy. The young man didn't even reach the third floor, but he was quite satisfied with the reward he obtained from the first and second floors.

Furthermore, no one was expecting too much about his result, so he wasn't worried about the result he made.

The next student was from Kildare, the Knights Academy. It was none other than Geraldine, the gorgeous red-haired lady who had a unique sword style.

The Knights Academy seemed to have been known for getting better results in this competition so the pressure around her was quite a lot.

Luckily, she managed to reach the fifth floor and lasted inside it longer than Susan. Her vitality was indeed quite incredible as a Knight.

"I wonder why it wasn't Amelia that was sent here..." Vale muttered.

Geraldine had certainly left a deep impression on Vale after seeing her performance in the Clash of Champions.

However, it was Amelia who had truly caught his attention among the students of the Knights Academy. After all, Amelia had previously summoned a bolt of lightning during her performance in the Spectacles of Talents, which made his Stormbringer react.

Amelia aimed to be a Storm Knight, and Vale was curious how an apprentice knight could fare against the Ascension Tower.

Anyway, the competition continued, and there were four remaining Academies left.

The next student to enter was from the Combat Arts Academy, who had even failed to reach the fifth floor. His ascend halted at the fourth floor. He only sustained a few bruises on his body and quickly recovered, thanks to the physicians.

Then, it was finally Anya's turn.

Vale recalled how this young girl could use a Petrification Spell. It was a powerful Mystic Spell that he wanted to learn if possible.

She had shown it once in the Clash of Champions, and was unfortunately reflected by Ceres' unique Spell. It was a bad match. If she wasn't matched against Ceres at that time, she would've certainly advanced to the next round of the duel.

Whom~

As soon as she entered, a couple of officials arrived beside Ceres, informing her that it would be her turn next.

She needed to get prepared as she had to enter immediately once her name was called.

Naturally, Vale would be the last one to enter, and he didn't mind it at all.

As Vale was waiting for Anya to finish her ascension to the Tower, he suddenly heard the Headmaster's voice inside his head.

"Vale, do your best to reach the 10th floor. Even if you fail to clear that floor, you will still be rewarded, and I need you to give it to me. Then, I will return your shadow..."

"Headmaster... Are you that confident in me? You just saw the result of the other participants." Vale replied with a hint of surprise.

With regards to handing over the reward that he gets in the Tower, Vale didn't really mind it. With the System on his side, he could easily obtain something better, and it was just a matter of time.

Jean smiled at Vale's question.

"Yes... However, I know that you'll achieve something big. I already asked the Dark Seer about it. It's probably related to your special physique, dark spirit, or your Malefic Branch Dark Spells."

"Got it... I'll do my best, Headmaster." Vale replied with a helpless smile on his face.

Anyway, now that his piece of shadow was getting closer to him, he would certainly do his best to clear this old Tower.

'I wonder if this Tower will get destroyed after I cleared it...' Vale thought to himself as he looked at the peak of the old and majestic Tower of the Roaring Summit.

Suddenly, an inexplicable sensation washed over Vale, causing him to freeze...

It was as if an unseen presence had fixed its gaze upon him, piercing through the layers of his being.

A shiver ran down his spine, sending a chill through his body, as he felt the weight of that stare from the peak of the Tower!

Chapter 454 Priceless Artifacts

At that moment, time seemed to stand still as Vale grappled with the eerie sensation coursing through him.

Thoughts raced through his mind, wondering who or what could be observing him from such a vantage point.

He couldn't help but recall the Dark Soul Tower of the Vermont Academy. That place was also hiding a powerful entity, and he even made contact with it.

'Seriously... Is this Tower also dangerous?' Vale couldn't help but wonder.

No one had ever reached the 10th floor of this Ascension Tower since only 20 years old and below could enter it.

The strongest Arcanist that had entered this Tower could only reach the 8th floor. In short, no one could tell him what to expect on the 9th and 10th floors aside from the possible rewards he'd receive.

Vale immediately shifted his attention elsewhere as there was no point in looking at the peak of the Tower.

Luckily, as soon as he shifted his attention, the piercing gaze had also disappeared.

The enigmatic nature of the Tower only deepened the mystery, leaving him with more questions than answers.

"Wait... Perhaps becoming a Half Celestial can cause some problems inside." Vale muttered to himself.

He had never considered this before, but his 'race' might actually affect his entry to the Tower, which was restricting the age of people who could access it.

As Vale sat in his resting area, a mix of trepidation and intrigue washed over him. He couldn't help but wonder what awaited him beyond the Tower's imposing facade.

The presence that lingered at the peak, though unsettling, ignited a curious fire within him.

However, there was no point overthinking this matter as he shook his head to erase his random thoughts.

With a deep breath, Vale glanced at the light showing on the third floor of the Ascension Tower.

Anya didn't take that long to reach the third floor. She was certainly faster than Susan from the Elemental Arts Academy.

After some time, she also reached the fifth floor, which seemed to be the greatest hurdle for all the participants.

As Vale was thinking that Anya might clear the fifth floor, something happened.

Whom~

21:42

Whom~

Suddenly, the lights on the fifth floor vanished, and a figure outside the Tower appeared.

Anya had also failed to pass through the fifth floor. She remained calm even with her failure and only shook her head to show her frustration.

The audience, including the professors and other students from the Mystic Arts Academy, couldn't help but express their disappointment.

"I thought she could reach the sixth floor with her previous performance."

"I wonder if the two remaining students could surpass Lexie."

"Right... The two remaining students were from Holy Arts and Dark Arts Academy..."

"It's the third princess, so she might reach the seventh floor as well."

"That student from the Dark Arts Academy could not be underestimated as well. He had a decent record in the competitions he had participated..."

Soon, Princess Ceres was called to enter the Tower.

She didn't rush to enter like the others, and she even had the time to wave at the people who had come to support her.

As soon as she entered, everyone went silent as they were anticipating what floor the princess could reach.

At this point, their attention was also drawn to Odessa, the Royal Mage who was rumored to have defeated the huge Evil Entity that had appeared in the city without any help from the soldiers and other Arcanists.

This level of strength undoubtedly deserved the title of the Royal Mage.

Then, a few of the experienced Arcanists noticed something off with her expression.

Though her countenance bore the strength of a seasoned mage, there was a flicker of concern etched upon her features.

As Vale's gaze shifted toward her, he also noticed the furrowed lines on her forehead and the slight tension in her shoulders. It was evident that her attention was fixed upon the highest floor of the Tower, just as he had been moments ago.

"Did she also draw the Tower's attention?" Vale thought for a moment.

The worry in Odessa's eyes mirrored Vale's previous unease. It means that he wasn't hallucinating a while ago.

'I wonder what entity lives there...' Vale sighed as he would be the one to enter next. He already got the signal from the officials to get ready.

In the meantime, Ceres swiftly ascended to the fifth floor of the Tower.

As she entered the hall, her eyes fell upon a daunting sight—a demonic being, its visage adorned with a goat's head and wielding a massive, ominous black sword.

"I see..."

Despite the intimidating presence before her, Ceres remained composed, her determination unwavering.

A smirk played upon her lips as she muttered.

"No wonder the others have fallen. You certainly look like a formidable opponent."

With a swift motion, she reached into the depths of her pocket, retrieving a small, intricately crafted amulet. It was one of the five Mystical Items she had been permitted to bring into the Tower.

As a wealthy princess, she had chosen only the most potent and coveted artifacts to aid her in this perilous challenge. This particular amulet had been gifted to her by her older brother, the First Prince.

The goat-headed demonic being, sensing the latent power emanating from the amulet, appeared wary and hesitated for a moment. Unlike its previous encounters, it refrained from launching an immediate attack, a testament to the amulet's threat...

With a commanding voice, Ceres called forth the amulet's protective enchantment, her voice ringing out with authority.

"Come forth and protect me from this vile creature!"

As the amulet cracked and shattered into a thousand shimmering fragments, a magnificent sight unfolded before her eyes.

In the place of the amulet, a radiant white-armored knight astride a majestic white horse materialized, ready to fulfill its purpose.

Without the need for further instruction, the armored knight charged forward with unwavering determination. The clash between the knight and the goat-headed demon erupted into a flurry of steel and malevolent energy.

Chapter 455 Mysterious Undead

Clang! Clang! Clang!

The knight's sword gleamed with an otherworldly light as it deftly parried the strikes of the demonic being's black sword. Each blow reverberated through the air, sending shockwaves of power in all directions.

Ceres watched in awe as the battle unfolded before her. The knight fought with a grace and precision that spoke of years of training and battle experience. She had no idea who this knight was, but he was probably at the level of a Grand Knight.

With every swing of his sword, the knight's strikes grew more powerful, each blow pushing the demonic being further back. The clash of steel echoed throughout the chamber, accompanied by bursts of magical energy and the occasional roar of the demon.

However, Ceres could feel that the demonic being wasn't being injured. The knight was putting pressure, but the enemy was still filled with malevolent energy that she could feel even from where she was standing.

It was as if the goat-head being was only waiting for the right chance to counter.

"Tsk... Do I have to use my other amulet?" Ceres considered for a moment as soon as she noticed the gaze of the creature.

The creature was actually looking at her while fighting the white knight!

"Y-you..."

This had certainly startled Ceres as she used her cloak to hide her presence immediately... Among the five Mystical Items she brought inside, two of them were the Amulets that could help her summon a special being, and the other three were support-type Mystical Items.

One of them was the cloak that hides her presence. The other was a reading glass that helped her with all the traps and Formation Circles, and finally, it was her ring that increased her Holy Energy Recovery by 100%.

Thanks to all her Mystical Items, she was able to conquer all the lower floors easily.

'Whew~ I'm now invisible from that demonic being... I hope my knight can kill it in time.' Ceres thought as she knew that the amulet she used as a sacrifice could only last for 7 minutes since she summoned an impressive white knight.

Perhaps if she was a bit stronger and could help in the battle, she could summon a skilled swordsman or an expert archer, and they could last for more than 20 minutes.

However, she could tell just from a glance that she'd die in a few seconds if she relied on her physical strength to fight. Although she was confident with her strength, there was no way she'd overestimate herself.

As the battle raged on, Ceres realized that she had to do something to help the white knight.

She stood firm, her eyes locked on the fierce contest, ready to provide support or intervene if necessary.

The struggle between the knight and the demonic being reached its climax, each combatant pushing themselves to the limits of their strength and skill.

Soon, she found an opportunity to cast her Spell.

Holy Smite!

She doesn't have many offensive spells, but each one of them could be devastating against a creature with an evil nature.

The Holy Smite drained almost all of her Holy Energy reserves as she used the Spell without limit.

The White Knight seemed to have recognized his summoner's assistance and used this as an opportunity.

The knight gathered its strength and swung the sword with all his might...

Then, with a resounding strike, the knight's sword found its mark, piercing through the heart of the goat-headed demon.

A deafening roar filled the chamber as the demonic being dissipated into a cloud of dark energy, vanquished.

Thud!

The black sword dropped to the ground. It remained on the floor, unlike the goat-headed being that had dissipated.

Ceres let out a breath as she confirmed that she won the battle.

'Is this the reward for clearing the floor?' Ceres muttered as she approached the giant black sword. She doubted that she could carry it with her.

Then, she watched as the white-armored knight, victorious but weary, slowly turned to face her.

The knight's visor lifted, revealing piercing blue eyes filled with gratitude. With a nod of acknowledgment, the knight faded away, returning to the ethereal realm from whence it came.

"Cool... I hope my brother could give me more of these amulets." Ceres muttered as she recalled the face of the White Knight. She couldn't help but blush just by imagining the knight's full appearance behind his armor.

Outside the Roaring Summit.

As the Twelve Academies Competition unfolded, another group, consisting of merchants and Arcanists as bodyguards and their caravan, embarked on their journey towards the Summit.

Unfortunately, they encountered a sinister and formidable adversary.

Without warning, the peaceful journey of the merchants was abruptly interrupted by the appearance of a unique undead being. This undead being, armed with a sword, exhibited a level of intelligence and strategy that surpassed that of the average mindless undead.

It engaged in combat with the Arcanists hired by the merchants, exploiting their weaknesses and emerging victorious. To their disbelief, the second-class Arcanists, despite their training in Elemental Arts and Combat Arts, were unable to overcome this lone undead opponent.

"Impossible..." The head of the group was stunned as he saw the people he hired started dying one by one.

With a final swing of its sword, the undead swiftly dispatched the remaining Arcanists, leaving only the trembling merchants in its wake.

The head of the caravan, his voice quivering with fear, mustered the courage to confront the undead, asking, "W-what is it that you want?"

To their surprise, the undead spoke, its voice cold and devoid of emotion. "Take me to the city where the Competition is being held..." The undead demanded.

"Competition? The Twelve Academies Competition?"

The undead nodded.

The merchant, realizing the dire consequences of resistance, complied with the undead's request.

He wasted no time in organizing a carriage and instructing his servants to make the necessary arrangements. He delegated the task of transporting the undead to the Roaring Summit to two capable coachmen, emphasizing the importance of working together to ensure a safe and swift journey.

As the carriage started moving, a chilling smile crept across the undead's face, relishing in the ease with which it had dispatched the Arcanists.

Its voice, barely above a whisper, betrayed a deep-rooted animosity as it muttered... "I will have my revenge soon... Vale, this time, I will not fail to end you."

Chapter 456 Vale's First Floor

Unbeknownst to Vale, a powerful undead who had a grudge against him was rapidly closing in on his location.

Oblivious to the imminent danger, he stood captivated, his attention fixated on the progress of Ceres within the Ascension Tower.

Vale observed as the sixth floor of the Tower illuminated, a clear indication that Ceres had successfully overcome the challenges of the fifth floor. This particular level had proven to be a formidable obstacle, eliminating the majority of students who had dared to venture further.

"As expected of the princess..."

"I didn't expect a Holy Arts Practitioner to have such an incredible combat prowess."

"Indeed... She's too different from the other Priestess I've seen."

"What do you know? She's aiming to be a Paladin, not a Priestess..."

"Whatever it is, our kingdom will surely prosper with such a talented princess."

The crowd erupted into a euphoric cheer, their excitement could not be hidden. Even Odessa, the esteemed Royal Mage, couldn't help but display a rare smile at this remarkable achievement.

'I wonder what kind of Mystical Item she got from her older brother...' Odessa thought as she observed the light on the sixth floor.

It seemed that it was a lot easier than the fifth floor as Ceres soon progressed to the seventh floor.

However, despite the jubilation surrounding Ceres' triumph, a sense of foreboding hung in the atmosphere. After all, it wasn't easy to progress from the seventh floor onwards. The people who had done so were less than 12 people, and they had all ended up as legendary figures in the world of Arcanists.

"No..."

"The light disappeared!"

Similar to Lexie from the Psychic Arts Academy, it appeared that Ceres was destined to encounter an insurmountable obstacle on the seventh floor of the Tower.

The pattern was becoming evident, as if the Tower itself conspired to test the limits of these exceptional individuals, challenging their resolve and pushing them to their very limits.

Just like Vale thought, Ceres soon came out as she failed to clear the seventh floor even after lasting there for over 15 minutes. At the very least, she had undoubtedly lasted longer than Lexie.

If Vale failed to break her record, the first-place award for the competition would be hers.

At this point, Vale had already stood up and got closer to the Tower. He noticed Ceres' expression, and she didn't seem disappointed by the result she made.

As a matter of fact, Vale could see her delighted expression as she held a couple of items with her.

'It seems she got a decent reward from clearing the fifth and sixth floor...' Vale thought to himself as he waited for his name to be called.

After Ceres had received treatment from the skilled medical practitioners and was escorted to the designated resting area, Vale's attention was immediately captured by the sound of his own name echoing throughout the surroundings.

His name was called by the Tower Official. It was the signal he had been waiting for, indicating that it was now his turn to enter the towering structure known as the Ascension Tower.

As he made his way towards the entrance, a symphony of cheers erupted from his friends and fellow students at the Vermont Academy.

Their supportive voices reverberated in his ears, filling him with a surge of determination and confidence. He even heard the voice of the Headmaster within his mind, offering words of encouragement and urging him to give his all in the upcoming trials.

"Alright... I will not disappoint you." Vale muttered as he looked at the Tower.

With a mix of excitement and anticipation, Vale stepped forward, clutching the enigmatic key that had been bestowed upon him.

As he crossed the threshold into the unknown, he was momentarily blinded by a brilliant flash of light. It didn't take long to adjust his vision as he looked around the surroundings.

Vale found himself standing within the vast and grandiose hall of the Tower's first floor.

At the center of the hall, his gaze fell upon the first challenge that awaited him: a wooden golem. Despite its aged appearance, the golem seemed to possess the talent of a warrior. It stood tall and poised with a wooden sword gripped tightly in its hand.

Vale couldn't help but smile at the sight of the seemingly harmless opponent before him as he sensed no immediate threat. With his current strength, he just couldn't feel threatened by this enemy.

"Let's begin..." Vale muttered as he entered his Phantasm State.

He knew better than to underestimate any challenge within the Ascension Tower. It was a test of skill, strength, and resilience, and Vale was determined to conquer each floor with unwavering focus.

With a steely resolve, he prepared himself to face the golem head-on...

Without warning, the wooden golem lunged forward, its wooden sword poised to strike.

Vale remained composed as he wanted to ensure that there wouldn't be any sort of ambush or hidden weapons aiming at him while dealing with golem...

However, it seemed that he overestimated the first floor as he didn't feel any movement aside from the golem...

Vale wryly smiled as he invoked one of his most useful spells, Traceless Shift.

Through the mastery of his spell, the wooden sword disappeared from the golem's grasp, reappearing in Vale's own hands.

The golem, unaware of the sudden exchange, continued swinging its arms as if still wielding a sword.

Seizing the opportunity, Vale wasted no time. With a swift and powerful swing, he brought down the wooden blade upon the golem, shattering it into countless wooden fragments.

Just like that, the first floor of the Ascension Tower had been conquered, a testament to Vale's skill and determination.

As the echoes of the golem's destruction reverberated in the hall, Vale took a moment to observe the surroundings to ensure that it had really ended.

However, as he saw the treasure chest materializing out of nowhere, he knew that the trial of the first floor had truly ended.

'So it was really just like that... How come someone failed this first floor?' Vale couldn't help but recall the other students who had failed as he approached the treasure chest.

Chapter 457 Vale's Tower Ascension (1)

Vale looked at the wooden sword he was holding, and after noticing that there was nothing special from it, he threw it on the floor and focused on the treasure chest.

He wasn't sure if it was the same for others, but he saw three items inside.

There was a vial of potion, a talisman, and a Spirit Pearl.

Vale wasn't an expert in Talisman Craft and could not recognize its usage. However, he was able to identify that the potion was one of those expensive universal Arcane Energy Recovery Potions.

Instead of giving specific energy to an Arcanist, it helps the consumer's physique to increase their recovery rate.

"Yvaine, keep these things inside the chest..." Vale said as he saw his shadow moving and rippling like a surface of water.

Then, he saw the treasure chest and quickly transferred the items inside.

Just like that, Vale was able to store the items without burdening his movement.

As Vale made his way to the next floor of the Ascension Tower, the people outside noticed some changes in the Tower.

The light that had illuminated the first floor dimmed while the second floor lit up. The speed at which Vale ascended was astonishing, leaving everyone in awe.

Not even a minute had passed since he entered the Tower, and yet he had already progressed through the initial floor with seemingly effortless ease.

Ceres and Lexie, who had previously held high hopes of securing the top two positions in the competition, were taken aback by Vale's rapid advancement.

They couldn't help but feel a tinge of alarm and surprise at his swift and seemingly effortless progress.

How could he have traversed the first floor so quickly, as if he didn't even face a challenge and just walked through it?!

Meanwhile, Vale remained blissfully unaware of the reactions of his peers. With unwavering determination, he pressed on to clear the second floor of the Tower.

This particular level presented him with a Formation Circle that he needed to dismantle in order to proceed to the third floor.

"I'm not particularly well-versed in Formation Circles... I suppose I'll just break through it with sheer force..." Vale muttered to himself, contemplating the best approach.

Although he possessed the ability to analyze the intricacies of the low-level Formation Circle, he decided that it would be more time-efficient to simply destroy it using his own strength.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Vale unleashed a series of powerful blows, shattering the three layers of the Formation Circle with brute force. Astonishingly, he accomplished this feat without even relying on his Mystical Items.

Instead, he relied solely on the might of his fists. Ever since becoming a Half-Celestial, Vale's strength had reached an unprecedented level, making it difficult to gauge or compare to others.

He believed it was wise to fully harness the potential of his own physical body before relying too heavily on external aids.

He wanted to do this to assess how much power he had gained since the higher floor would surely require a higher level of control of his strength...

As Vale arrived at the bottom of the stairs leading to the third floor, he also noticed a wooden treasure chest.

"Are these Formation Nodes?" Vale muttered.

Upon opening a treasure chest, he indeed found three Formation Nodes. Each node possessed a distinct pattern, indicating that they could be used to create different Formation Arts.

Vale was intrigued by this discovery, even though he couldn't help but feel a slight disappointment that they weren't the Immortal Shards he had become familiar with.

Nevertheless, he stored the nodes with Yvaine's help, recognizing their potential value in the challenges that lay ahead.

He wasn't exactly sure, but he could tell that those three Nodes could help him create three different Barriers or Protections. None of them had signs of being an offensive Formation Arts.

Without hesitation, Vale ascended to the third floor, only to be greeted by the sight of a small cat.

"Mhmm?" Vale raised his brow as he looked around, only to confirm that the cat was the only living being in the third floor.

Uncertain of its significance or purpose, Vale cautiously approached the feline. However, the cat swiftly reacted, evading his advance.

"Ah, so that's how it is... Do I have to capture you? Is this a test of my speed?"

Vale commented as he realized that capturing the cat was likely a part of the trial.

Almost as if the very Tower itself could hear his words, Vale suddenly felt the air within the hall grow thin. It became clear that he had to capture the elusive cat before succumbing to suffocation.

The stakes were raised, and Vale's agility and speed would be put to the test as he'd race against time to capture the cat.

However, Vale simply smiled as he realized what the test would be. If he used his Lightspeed Spell together with his absurd agility, he knew that there wouldn't be a problem capturing this black cat...

But he had something in his mind, inside of using his Lightspeed Spell, he used one of his newly learned Beast Arts.

Wild Whisper...

"Come to me..."

Vale spoke to the cat using the Spell that had reached the Advanced Realm...

Meow~

Just like that, the black cat was momentarily dazed and walked towards Vale.

As soon as Vale caught the cat, it suddenly burst into a puff of smoke, and the surroundings of the floor returned to normal.

Thud...

What replaced that cat was a treasure chest, confirming that he had cleared the third floor.

"Interesting... I wonder who created this Ascension Tower." Vale thought to himself as he glanced at the wooden chest.

Similar to the first and second floors, his exploration of the third floor yielded yet another intriguing result.

As he eagerly opened the treasure chest, he was delighted to find three Mystical Items nestled within its depths.

These items, though seemingly simple, appeared several times better than the ones he got from the first and second floors.

As he held them, information about these items surged into his mind. Thanks to this information, he recognized the three items as the Amulet of Swift Steps, Crystal of Elemental Shield, and Orb of Arcane Insight.

Chapter 458 Vale's Tower Ascension (2)

The first Mystical Item that caught Vale's attention was a small, intricately crafted amulet.

It was the Amulet of Swift Steps...

As he held it in his hands, he could feel a faint surge of energy emanating from within. This amulet had the power to enhance his speed and agility, allowing him to move swiftly and gracefully in a short period of time. He could only use it three times a day and had to store it in a cold temperature once a week to ensure that its quality would not weaken.

'Not that bad...'

This time, Vale decided not to keep this item inside his shadow and wore it.

With the Amulet of Swift Steps adorning his neck, Vale knew his speed had become even more exaggerated. Nevertheless, he didn't mind it at all.

'I hope there's a mirror around...' Vale randomly thought as he patted the amulet on his chest.

Anyway, he took his time to check the other items as he might need them on the higher floors.

The second item, the Crystal of Elemental Shield, was quite an enchanting item. It was a shimmering crystal, transparent yet radiating an ethereal glow. Aside from it being usable only twice a day, it was also an item that could not be repaired if damaged. It was quite fragile for a defensive item.

It possessed the ability to create a protective barrier, granting Vale enhanced defense against various forms of elemental attacks. It was unfortunate that it could only protect him from Elemental Attacks, but it was a good addition to his defenses.

With the Crystal of Elemental Shield in his coat's inner pocket, Vale felt a newfound sense of security.

The third Mystical Item was an orb that pulsed with a weak blue light.

The Orb of Arcane Insight was a powerful tool that would unlock the depths of arcane spells and mysticisms.

By harnessing the Orb's energy, Vale would gain heightened intuition and a deeper understanding of the ancient spells and enchantments he would encounter. It would also enable him to decipher cryptic inscriptions, unravel complex puzzles, and tap into hidden sources of mystical power. With this invaluable tool at his disposal, Vale knew that he would be able to navigate any traps or trapping formations with ease.

Unfortunately, the Orb has limited energy. As soon as it was consumed, he would have no way of replenishing it. At the very least, it doesn't have any negative effects on its users.

Upon feeling a sense of satisfaction with the mystical items he had obtained, Vale continued his ascent to the fourth floor of the Ascension Tower.

However, what awaited him on this floor turned out to be quite unexpected.

"What kind of test is this?" Vale muttered.

Unlike the challenges that tested his speed, strength, and arcane abilities, the fourth floor presented him with a different kind of trial — a test of knowledge.

As Vale entered the fourth floor, he was greeted by the sight of a broken Ritual Magic Circle sprawled across the floor.

He spread out his Magic Zone only to discover that no other living beings were inside...

It became apparent to him that in order to progress to the fifth floor, he would need to complete this ritual or the magic circle.

He surveyed the scattered materials strewn about the room, noticing candles, oil, incense, and various other objects that held the potential to aid him in completing the magic circle.

Whether they are all needed, he wasn't aware of it yet.

Fortunately, Vale had always been diligent in his studies, particularly in the realm of magic circles. In his second year, he had achieved a decent grade in Magic Circle Fundamentals.

In the following year, he had even ranked second in the Advanced Magic Circle Class, surpassed only by the exceptional Lisa Grayback. Moreover, the current year's Ancient Magic Circle Class had proven to be relatively easy for him as well.

Armed with this knowledge and experience, Vale felt prepared to tackle the challenge before him.

"Let's see..." Vale muttered to himself as he knelt down to analyze the intricate details of the broken magic circle.

His eyes carefully scanned each line, curve, and symbol etched into the floor. He noted the position of the half circle made of silver powder, as well as the placement of the candles, oil, incense, and other objects that surrounded it.

Vale's mind raced as he recalled the principles and theories he had learned throughout his magical education... but he couldn't solve it.

Vale scratched his head as he decided to just use the Orb of Arcane Insight that he obtained a while ago. Anyway, this item was meant to be used.

As soon as he poured his energy into it, the Orb pulsated with bright blue light, and his eyes also started to glow.

Then, he began to piece together the puzzle, mentally filling in the missing lines and symbols, envisioning how the magic circle was meant to be completed.

He assessed the purpose and intent behind each element of the ritual, considering how they would combine to create the desired effect.

'Mhmm... This Orb is too good...' Vale thought to himself as he continued analyzing the Magic Circle.

The Orb, together with his analytical mind and deep understanding of magic circles, allowed him to approach the task with confidence and precision.

As he continued to delve into the intricacies of the broken magic circle, Vale's confidence grew.

After carefully analyzing the arrangement of the scattered materials, he felt a surge of certainty that he could solve the problem at hand.

"Let's begin..." Vale whispered to himself, ready to take action. With a steady hand and a focused mind, he began the process of completing the magic circle.

The silver powder was meticulously placed, connecting the fragmented lines and restoring the circle's integrity. The candles were positioned in their designated spots, their flickering flames casting an enchanting glow. The incense was carefully ignited, releasing fragrant wisps of smoke into the air.

With the physical components in place, Vale knew that the final piece of the puzzle lay in the incantation.

'But how would I know the incantation?' Vale thought to himself.

Chapter 459 Vale's Tower Ascension (3)

Of course, since Vale chose the Ritual Branch in the Academy, he had some ideas about the incantation that must be used. However, he had no idea about the number of attempts he could use the Magic Circle that he had arranged.

After some thought, Vale looked at one of his mystical items.

Once again, he used the Orb's ability and almost exhausted its energy.

"Mhmm... So it was like that." Vale muttered as various hints and clues became apparent in his mind.

It didn't completely resolve the problem, but he gained the proper insight on how to resolve this issue.

Given that the magic circle he was working with did not involve the entities of the Spirit World, he deduced that the incantation required would be relatively simple, serving as a direct reference to the Fifth Floor of the Ascension Tower.

Without hesitation, Vale began to weave the words of power, his voice resonating with a commanding tone. In a melodic rhythm, he chanted in Oardic:

"By the sacred circle's embrace, Let the path to the fifth floor be in place. As I invoke this incantation true, Grant me passage, the challenges anew. May the mysteries of the Tower unfold As I ascend to heights untold."

This incantation was quite a typical pattern based on their studies, and he only made a few changes. It wasn't something unique.

Vale's voice carried the weight of his determination and knowledge, each word infused with intent. The incantation echoed through the room, resonating with the energies of the completed magic circle.

A moment of silence followed as Vale noticed a subtle hum of Arcane Energy being triggered by his incantation.

Then, as if in response to Vale's invocation, the Magic Circle ignited with a brilliant surge of light. The room trembled, and a gateway to the fifth floor materialized before him, shimmering with an aura of mystery.

"Whoa~ I feel like a genuine Ritualist this time..." Vale couldn't help but smile and praise himself for a well-done job.

As Vale's heart swelled with triumph upon unlocking the path to the fifth floor of the Ascension Tower, he couldn't help but feel a surge of curiosity about the mysteries that lay ahead.

After all, the Fifth Floor seemed to be a very difficult challenge that stopped most of the competitors. Not just for the fourth-year students. It was the same for the higher-year students, according to Anderson and the others.

"Right... My rewards first..."

Before venturing further, his attention was drawn to a familiar sight at the bottom of the stairs leading to the fifth floor.

There, gleaming in the dimly lit room, stood a Bronze Treasure Chest.

It was no longer a Wooden Treasure Chest from the first to the third floor.

"So, am I getting a better reward?" Vale smiled at the thought.

He believed that the intricate engravings and ornate design hinted at the treasures it held within. Vale was certainly excited to see what was inside.

Approaching the Bronze Treasure Chest with a mix of anticipation and caution, Vale gently opened it to reveal three Mystical Items carefully placed inside.

These items were specifically crafted to aid in the creation of advanced magic circles, further enhancing Vale's abilities in the mystical arts.

"Oh... It's related to Magic Circles this time, huh..." Vale nodded.

The first item he retrieved was a Sky Crystal Prism, its multifaceted surface shimmering with an array of colors. This prism possessed the unique property of refracting and channeling magical energies, allowing Vale to manipulate and control the flow of mana within a magic circle. With this mystical tool, his precision and control over the intricate patterns of magic would be greatly enhanced.

It was like a core to a Magic Circle... However, not all Magic Circle requires such an item unless they're at a higher level.

The second item he got from the chest was an Ancient Rune Scroll, weathered and inscribed with ancient symbols. This scroll contained an unknown Rune, and he probably had to get this thing appraised since he had no idea how to use it... He had to get this deciphered, and he could only hope that it wouldn't be too expensive.

The final item that awaited Vale's grasp was a Spirit Inkwell, its ink infused with spiritual essences.

'Mhm... This was mentioned in one of our classes...' Vale muttered as he recalled his lessons.

This ink possessed an inherent connection to the spiritual realms, allowing Vale to infuse his magic circles with spiritual energies. By utilizing this mystical ink, Vale could enhance the spiritual aspects of his rituals, unlocking new possibilities and tapping into higher planes of existence... if possible.

"These things can be bought for 15 Contribution Points in the Academy, not bad..." Vale nodded in satisfaction.

With these three potent Mystical Items in his possession, Vale felt that he had gotten richer.

After he kept the items in his coat's inner pocket, Vale continued on his ascend.

As Vale stepped foot onto the fifth floor of the Ascension Tower, an eerie atmosphere enveloped him.

The air grew heavy with a sense of foreboding, and a thick bloodlust filled the hall. The surroundings took on a darker tone, illuminated only by faint, flickering torches that cast dancing shadows on the stone walls.

The hall itself was vast and grand, adorned with intricate carvings and symbols that spoke of ancient rituals and forgotten knowledge.

In the center of the hall stood a towering figure, bathed in an ominous aura. It was the goat-headed creature, reminiscent of the Baphomet from Vale's past life.

The creature's eyes gleamed with a malevolent intelligence, and its black sword crackled with dark energy, casting an unsettling glow.

If the other students who had reached this floor had seen this, they would easily realize that the being they confronted was nothing compared to the one in front of Vale.

"So this we're getting serious now?" Vale muttered as if he was talking to the Tower.

As Vale locked eyes with the enemy before him, he could sense the raw power emanating from the creature. This being was certainly stronger than the Evil Creatures he had met before but a lot weaker than the Evil Entity that was summoned in the city.

The goat-headed creature spoke, its voice echoing through the hall, carrying an unsettling blend of menace and slyness.

"So, you have finally arrived, seeker of Ascended Being. I am the Guardian of the Fifth Floor, tasked with testing your mettle and pushing you to your limits. Prepare yourself, for only those who prove worthy shall progress further."

Chapter 460 Vale's Tower Ascension (4)

"Oh? You can talk?" Vale was surprised as soon as he heard the being's voice.

According to the Headmaster and even the Seniors who had experienced entering the Tower, they had never encountered someone inside the Tower who was capable of communicating with others.

He couldn't help but wonder if the other fourth-year students encountered the same thing.

"Wait—Did you just call me an Ascended Being?" Vale asked as he suddenly recalled how he was addressed by the creature. As for the pressure being emitted by the creature, he was able to dismiss it thanks to his Phantasm State.

Nevertheless, the demonic being doesn't seem to have plans to answer his questions.

Instead, it raised its black sword...

Without warning, the Goat-Headed Creature unleashed a deafening roar, shaking the very foundation of the hall.

The twelve pillars in the hall had even started shaking!

Whoosh~

Its sword swung with lightning speed, slicing through the air with a trail of malevolent energy.

Vale's instincts kicked in, his reflexes honed through memories he had obtained while training his Shadowblade Dance.

With a swift motion, Vale brandished his Stormbringer Sword, a weapon forged with ancient enchantments.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

The clash of steel reverberated through the hall as Vale parried the creature's strikes with deft precision.

He relied on his incredible strength and mastery of the Shadowblade Dance, a sword technique that blended grace and deadly precision.

His sudden sword usage wasn't just because he wanted to compete with this weapon. Actually, Vale found himself unable to rely on his Arcane Spells.

A sudden restriction in his Spell Models limited his access to the arcane arts. Though he possessed the ability to break free from these constraints, he made a conscious decision to embrace the challenge and face his foe head-on with his sword alone.

'It must be that roar... My Spell Dispersion worked passively, but it failed to completely stop its effects... Well, it's at least weakened.' Vale thought as he also felt worried that forcefully removing the restrictions would result in some unusual reaction.

Vale started considering how to end this creature while he showcased the mastery of his sword technique.

Each swing of his sword was met with a fierce counterattack from the Goat-Headed Creature, its strikes fueled by malevolent magic.

The hall echoed with the clash of their weapons that continued for another two minutes...

With every passing moment, Vale realized that the Goat-Headed Creature had two other interesting abilities aside from the roar.

One of them was related to Enhancement, while the other was related to the Aura it was emitting and trying to corrupt his body.

'Alright... That's enough...'

Vale's determination burned bright. With a stroke of his sword, he channeled his inner strength, his 100 Power Strands were activated!

Boom!

That attack surprised the creature as its sword was pushed back and almost lost in his hands.

Vale smiled as he had already analyzed the Goat-Headed Creature's patterns and discovered its area of vulnerabilities.

With a surge of energy, he launched into a series of rapid strikes, his Shadowblade Dance reaching its crescendo.

The Goat-Headed Creature staggered under Vale's relentless assault, its dark magic flickering. Sensing an opportunity, Vale pressed forward. He summoned the unique ability of the Stormbringer Sword as bolts of lightning started arcing through the air with a final, decisive blow.

The creature let out a haunting screech. Its right arm that was holding the sword was torn off!

At this time, Vale jumped forward, grabbed the horn of the Goat-Head Creature, and dragged it to the ground.

Boom!

Without hesitation, Vale continued... He activated his Extraction System and focused on claiming the Roar Spell.

Well, he only had one Spell Slot on him, so he could only take one more Spell.

[Mystical Being has been discovered. Would you like to start the extraction?]

'Yes...'

[Extraction Successful. Energy +100, Strength +0.4, Agility +0.2, Intelligence +0.1, Complete Conqueror's Roar Spell Model, Malevolent Essence +40]

[Available Extractions: 4]

"Oh? What's this?" Vale muttered. He was first surprised to see that there was already a value in the Essence he had extracted.

However, what surprised him the most was the remark telling him that there were four more available attributes or properties that he could extract.

Of course, he immediately triggered the Spell and confirmed that it was the two remaining abilities of the creature, including the Corrupted Memories and Corrupted Essence.

Vale didn't think too much of this since he no longer had a spare slot or Spell Light in his body. As for the Corrupted Memories and Essence, he declined to take them in his body.

'Right... Let me advance my Incorruptible Body to Perfection.' Vale muttered as he felt that this was a good place to advance his physique.

However, before that, he noticed that the Goat-Headed Creature's form started dissolving into shadows, leaving only the large sword as his loot.

It seemed that the Extraction helped end its life faster.

After ensuring that he was the lone inhabitant of the fifth floor, Vale found solace in the center of the hall.

With a determined expression, he activated his Divine Extraction System. From the array of options, he carefully selected the Incorruptible Body and advanced it.

Just like that, his 15,360 Energy Points had disappeared, and he felt the changes in his body.

"It's starting..."

Vale felt a tingling sensation spread throughout his body. The air around him crackled with an intense energy, signaling the initiation of a profound transformation.

This was the first time he had advanced his Spell Model to the Perfect Realm, and just like what he thought, this wasn't a simple matter.

Vale took a deep breath, mentally bracing himself for the upcoming ordeal.

"Ugh!" Vale gritted his teeth as the process was not without consequence; pain lanced through his being, searing his nerves and testing his endurance.

Waves of agony coursed through his veins, threatening to overwhelm him.

He endured in silence, refusing to yield to the torment. As each moment passed, he could sense his body undergoing a remarkable metamorphosis, adapting to the newfound power coursing through his veins.

Minutes stretched into what felt like an eternity as Vale endured the excruciating pain. Every fiber of his being screamed in protest, yet he persisted.

He had yearned for this moment, the realization of the Perfect Realm of the Incorruptible Body—a state of being that had probably transcended mortal limitations!

'Isn't that a bit too painful? Is it because I advanced it through my Energy Points and not through some sort of training?' Vale thought to himself.