

D. Extraction 61

Chapter 61 Test

Vale fell asleep while thinking of the various student clubs that he can join. With so many clubs within the Academies, his choices of suitable clubs are plenty and it all comes down to what he likes.

Different clubs give him different benefits. However, if he wanted to make use of his Divine Extraction System, he has to choose something that handles corpses like Necromancy, Alchemy, and other related Research Clubs.

In the end, he fell asleep while still undecided.

The next morning, he woke up from the noise made by his roommates who are also getting ready to attend their morning class.

As soon as he came out of his room to use the bathroom, he realized that Harith and Zeno are already wearing their uniforms and about to head out.

"Vale! I heard you're in Class 2... You're classmate with Leonore Roland, right? Be careful of her..." Harith greeted him in a very unusual way.

"Leonore Roland?" Vale repeated. He had no impression of her. Of course, within their classroom, there are 15 male and 15 female students.

He doesn't know all of them yet but it's not that surprising to be unaware of their names.

Zeno noticed that Vale had no idea about her so he decided to enlighten him.

"Since we're roommates here, I'll tell you who she was..."

Vale gulped as he felt that they were being too serious about this.

"The Roland Family is part of the Ritual Branch... Since you've come from a declining noble family with a weak background in the Dark Arts Faction, it's not surprising that you don't know them. However, their family is the best in Curse Magic... If you befriended her, that's good... But if you offended her, we might get implicated in her curse so be careful around her and not bring us harm."

"..."

Vale was quite speechless about this. He thought that they were truly caring about him. Instead, they simply wanted to avoid any implications if he offended the Curse Magic experts.

"I'll be careful..." Vale could only reply as he went to the bathroom to clean himself.

He still has 23 minutes before the class so he wasn't in a hurry. After all, he only needs to walk for two or three minutes.

Zeno and Harith just shrugged at his uninterested reply and left the seventh room.

After a while, Vale also left to attend his first class of the day, Elementary Spirit Law.

As soon as he entered the room, he realized that he was the last one to arrive. There are already groups chatting about the clubs they've selected while some of them were still being invited by Neil to join the Survivor's Club.

After finding his seat beside Chad, Vale turned to him and asked.

"How are you waking up so early? Are you used to this early morning routine?"

He initially wanted to ask if they have an alarm clock but he decided to ask this way instead.

"Heh... Just sleep early and you'll wake up early. Of course, you'll also get used to it." Chad answered as he shifted his gaze to the girls behind them.

"How about you, Aubrey?" He asked.

"My roommates decided to wake each other up... Since there are no servants here, we can only help each other." Aubrey answered.

The three then looked at Lisa before the latter answered.

"I'm quite used to it... So there's no problem for me. I even had time to prepare breakfast." Lisa said which impressed Vale for a moment. He didn't even have the time to eat anything.

He can only wait until their break to fill his stomach...

At this point, Professor Stella Harwin finally arrived.

She was late for about three minutes but it doesn't really matter.

"Good morning... As I've said before, we will be testing your Spirit Strands for today. I want everyone to see their current state and compare it by the end of the year..."

Professor Harwin said as she stood behind the pulpit stand on the podium of the classroom.

As soon as she said this, everyone started whispering as they couldn't contain their excitement.

"I'll be surprising everyone with my Spirit Strands..."

"Haha... Me too, they'll be surprised to see a two-strand-student attending the Vermont Academy."

"Pfft... Indeed, everyone will be surprised how you got accepted."

"Heh. This is only the beginning. The result here doesn't matter. What matters is our growth rate."

"That's right. I might be defeated in terms of Spirit Strand today, but I'll be the best one at the end of the year."

"Dream on..."

Vale and Chad were talking about today's test while Professor Harwin was preparing the Spirit Converging Crystal.

"I wonder who gets the highest score for today... Ah--why did she bring out a big crystal? Isn't it enough to test us with 20 Spirit Strands Capacity? That crystal should provide 30 Spirit Strand, right?"

"Yes... It seems so... I've seen a Spirit Converging Crystal with a 20 Spirit Strands limit so I can tell."

Vale replied as he was also surprised at this. After all, he heard that the crystals used during this test should only be a 20-Spirit-Strand limit.

"Alright! For those who don't know what crystal is this, it's called Spirit Converging Crystal. It measures the strength of your Spirit through the white strands, or what we call Spirit Strands, that will form inside the crystal after holding it for a certain amount of time..."

Professor Harwin explained as she looked at Lisa. Then, she continued.

"It's better to see how it works. Who wants to go first?"

"Me!"

The reply was so fast and it came from the proud son of the count, Neil Somerhalder.

"Very well. You can go ahead and stand on the platform. Hold the crystal tightly and don't drop it."

"Got it!" Neil replied as he stepped onto the platform and took the crystal on the pulpit. He even raised it slightly to show everyone the process.

After a few minutes, Spirit Strands started showing up as he held it closer to Professor Harwin to confirm the number of strands.

"Neil Somerhalder. Eight Spirit Strands." Professor Harwin announced. She didn't show any reaction whether it was good or bad making it a bit awkward for Neil who was expecting to be praised by the gorgeous professor.

Chapter 62 Spirit Strands

As Neil was about to be disappointed by her lack of reaction, he finally heard his classmate's surprised voices.

"Eight Spirit Strands? Aren't we all the same age? Why is there such a big difference?" One of the boys whispered after realizing the disparity in their spirit strands. Needless to say, before he entered the Academy, he already had his Spirit Strand tested.

The others had the same thought but didn't directly voice it out since they still felt indignant about being defeated by someone who grew up from a different Arcane Path's Faction.

"That's impressive! I knew it. You should've tested your spirit last... Now, everyone else would feel like garbage..."

"As expected of my new friend. You probably have the same or even better Spirit Strands than Maya..."

His lackeys added to boost his ego.

Neil was obviously delighted by this response but there are still some of them who were unconvinced as they whispered.

"He's from Somerhalder... He might be using a Rune to increase his Spiritual Force."

"Sssh... You shouldn't accuse him of that without any piece of evidence."

"Haha... Who cares. Having eight strands might be the best achievement for starters in the past decade but it's different now."

These comments came from the female group seated behind Neil's friends. They were led by a female student who has a short figure with blonde hair tied up to make twin tails.

Vale didn't even have to ask who they were and Chad already informed them.

"That's Leonore's group..." Chad muttered.

"Do you know her?" Vale softly asked.

Chad shook his head at this and replied. "Not really... I only know the Roland's Curse... If I'm not mistaken, she's from the same Roland Family. It's better not to mess with her." Chad reminded as he also looked at the girls behind him.

However, Aubrey doesn't seem to be concerned and was only looking at her smugly.

In the meantime, Professor Harwin didn't miss all their reactions and she didn't mind it at all. She's even smiling after hearing all of this.

After having enough of their conversation, she continued.

"You can now take a seat, Neil. Thank you for showing your classmates how it's done. Next? Anyone would like to volunteer? If there's none, I'll be calling you one by one."

"Ahem... Let me try it!"

Finally, someone volunteered again. This time, it was the plump Blair Etton.

He copied Neil's actions and held the crystal for a while. After a few moments, the white strands started showing up...

"Blair Etton. Six Spirit Strands." Professor Harwin announced.

Blair was a bit disappointed at the result but he still showed his smile and thanked the professor. The latter didn't give any words of encouragement or any comment at all.

Instead, she continued asking for volunteers.

However, no one wanted to so she decided to randomly call their names one by one.

"Felicia Lobb. Four Spirit Strands."

"Emily Gagnet. Five Spirit Strands."

"Reid Baldry. Four Spirit Strands."

"Junius Robson. Five Spirit Strands."

"Alvin Vendel. Five Spirit Strands."

"Jody Lumbarde. Eight Spirit Strands."

As soon as Jody's spirit strands were revealed, a commotion occurred. Their reaction is different now since they have already realized the difference in their Spirit Strands.

Most of them only have four or five strands but Jody and Neil were actually so impressive.

Those who hadn't tested their Spirit Strands for quite a long time started getting nervous. It was the same for Lisa who never had a chance to test her Spiritual Force.

Soon, it was Aubrey Hall's turn.

She didn't feel pressured at all as she even looked at Leonore with a provoking gaze. She didn't see Jody and Neil as her opponent at all!

"Aubrey Hall. Sixteen Spirit Strands."

Almost everyone thought they heard incorrectly.

"W-what?! Is there a mistake? How can it be so high?!" Neil reacted and he even stood up in surprise.

"That's right... Sixteen is a bit too much."

"Are you sure she's only 13 years old like us? What if she's already 16 or even older than that?"

"What did you say?! I will be turning fourteen in two weeks." Aubrey felt offended after hearing the last bit. She certainly doesn't look sixteen or seventeen.

Before Professor Harwin can stop them, one of her students commented on the situation.

"Sixteen Spirit Strands isn't that surprising... I'm sure that the other students who came from the Faction's Founding Members would have similar strands."

It was Leonore who commented on this.

"Hmph! But the Hall Family doesn't even belong to any of the Dark Arts Faction... They are merchants." Neil retorted. He wasn't expecting that someone in this class would exceed his Spirit Strand by a large margin. It was even double his result!

He thought that all the monstrous students are in Class 1 already.

Upon hearing his reaction, Leonore didn't bother to explain and only smiled. She seems to know more about Aubrey's identity and Vale didn't miss that hint.

Professor Harwin decided not to comment as well but she already noted Neil's behavior.

She was about to call for Chad Bulmung but she decided to change it to Leonore...

Everyone became silent as she stepped on the platform and held the Spirit Converging Crystal.

Even Vale was interested to see the result. After all, even the proud Zeno seems to be wary of her.

"Leonore Roland. Seventeen Spirit Strands."

As soon as this was announced, several gasps were heard.

Aubrey also looked at Leonore with a sigh. She couldn't help but think about all the money she spent to achieve her current state.

It seems that even after spending millions of zens, she's still unable to match the real elites of the Dark Arts Faction.

'I'm still close to her result... It's just a difference of one strand. I just need to show the same level of progress and I'll be able to repay all the money spent by my family to give me this body.' Aubrey inwardly said as she looked at Vale curiously.

All this time, she was watching his reaction... For some reason, she couldn't get a strong reaction from him even after she revealed her 16 Strand and Leonore's 17 Strand.

Chapter 63 Results

"Chad Bulmung. Twelve Spirit Strand."

"Lisa Grayback. Nine Spirit Strand."

At this point, Neil's face was already ashen. He no longer has the energy to express his disbelief. He heard from his family that normally, the Spirit Strands of first-year students would only be four, and the highest would be eight.

If there are 13 or 14 years old with a higher Spirit Strand than that, they were most likely from the main family of each Arcane Path.

As far as he knows the Dark Arts Faction only has five Founding Members or main families... The Moontomb, Featherstar, Angelart, Ravinie, and Vermont Families.

As for the remaining families, they were just recruited by the founding members becoming the second generation or even the third generation of the Dark Arts Faction.

Neil had studied all of these families...

He thought that he only has to worry about Leonore since she was from the Second Generation Family which was connected to the Ravinies.

However, he was wrong. Jody Lumbarde is only from a Fourth Generation Family but she was already equal to him in terms of Spirit Strands!

Then, the Bulmung Family, a third-generation family which is the same as his Sommerhalder Family in the Rune Arts Faction produced Chad Bulmung who had four more strands than him!

Even the unknown girl who was recruited from the commoners had a higher baseline than him!

'I can't believe this...' Neil didn't expect that there are already 4 people who had a higher Spirit Strand than him. Not even half of them were called.

As Professor Harwin continued calling the names of his classmates, he couldn't help but feel nervous. Luckily, the next students who were called had ordinary Spirit Strands.

Most of them have 4 or 5 Spirit Strands with a few 6 or 7. No one has reached a similar or above his result.

'I guess I only have to worry about those four...' Neil sighed inwardly as he noticed that there were only three people left uncalled.

The next person was another 13-year-old male student with common brown hair. He has a freckled face and looks very ordinary. He wasn't in any groups so no one cheered for him as he stood up and walked to the front.

Soon, Professor Harwin's voice stunned many of them.

"Dalton Stranway. Sixteen spirit strands..."

This is the second 16-strand student of Class 2!

"Another one? What are we supposed to do?"

"Aren't our Class 2 so amazing?"

"I think that the teachers failed to properly distribute the students."

"Don't think too much... It's our growth speed that is important. They might have an incredible starting line but their talent may not be as good." One of Neil's lackeys consoled himself and the others who only had 4 or 5 spirit strands.

"That's right... Furthermore, having a higher spirit strand is not everything in Dark Arts... It might be true if you're in Dorelts Academy. However, we're in Vermont Academy so you can't lose hope."

It was Leonore who spoke this time. She observed Dalton very carefully but she doesn't have an impression of him at all.

Even Chad, who was most informed about the families surrounding the Dark Arts Faction, doesn't know this man at all.

"Stranway... They're probably from a fourth-generation family like the Chambers Family... I know all the second generation and most of the third generation... The Stranway Family is not included in them so he must be from a countryside branch." Chad commented.

He can't make sense of how this person was able to possess a Spirit Strand similar to those nurtured by the second generation families and even the main families.

"It's probably similar to mine... He has a special physique. It's either a natural gift or something bought with money like mine." Aubrey commented with a soft voice and only their small group heard of it.

Vale was quite surprised that Aubrey didn't mind telling her secret. Although she didn't mention what type of physique she has, this information is still quite sensitive in his opinion. Well, it's probably not a big deal considering the fact that she's from a huge merchant family.

As soon as the other person was called, Vale realized that he was the last person. He wasn't sure if the Professor deliberately arranged this...

"Warren Lawstein. Seventeen Spirit Strands."

Again, the whole class looked at Warren with a questioning gaze. This person belongs to another "weak" family.

The Lawstein doesn't even belong to a special branch of the Dark Arts Faction. Instead, they are simply a supplier of specific spiritual herbs. They don't own a huge land and only supply two types of herbs to the faction.

It was quite baffling that he could equal someone from the Second Generation Family, Leonore Roland!

Leonore looked at Warren who seemed happy about the result of his Spirit Strand test.

"Thank you, Professor. It's my first time having this test..." Warren said as he expressed his gratitude before leaving the platform.

His seatmates immediately started talking to him. They were curious as to why he had never tested his Spiritual Force before and how he was able to achieve his result...

They weren't too interested in Vale's result since they believe that he'll just get an average result...

"Ahem... I must be lucky since I heard that my father fed me the essence of Pride Pomegranate when I was young." Warren revealed.

"Pride Pomegranate? Does it really exists?"

"Hehe... Of course... I'm sure you'll learn more if you join our student club." Warren replied with an invitation to his club.

At this point, Vale already held the Spirit Converging Crystal and was waiting for the result to come out.

Aubrey, Chad, and the others who were paying attention to his actions noticed that the appearance of the Spirit Strands is taking quite some time which shouldn't be normal on this occasion.

'It's already five minutes... Why was the result delayed for such a long time?' Chad mused as he looked at the crystal with a frown.

Chapter 64 Vale's Spirit Strands

The students who were also discussing the Pride Pomegranate noticed that Vale's result was taking too much time.

"Was it broken?"

"That makes sense. There must be a malfunction after assessing a couple of 16 spirit strands and 17 spirit strands."

"Hmph! That Spirit Converging Crystal probably has a limit of 30 spirit strands. It won't malfunction just by testing us."

"Then why is he taking a long time?"

"Perhaps, he can't even produce a single strand?" Neil commented lazily. He doesn't really care about Vale's result.

"Haha! That would be embarrassing... Jody, you should publish it in our Academy Publication if he's unable to produce a single strand."

"Tsk... I haven't even joined them yet. They still want to test me." Jody replied while shaking her head.

Of course, she also thought that it would be an interesting article so she was watching Vale carefully. The test she needed to pass in order to join the club was to write an article after all.

She was already thinking of writing about Leonore's result since she's the most interesting person she knows at the moment. However, if Vale really obtained a Zero Strand result, that might be a very funny story and would give her a better chance of passing the test.

However, after ten minutes a result finally came up... This time, Professor Harwin finally showed a reaction... She was first shocked after seeing the number of strands before looking at Vale very seriously.

"Vale Chambers. Twenty-Five Strands." Professor Harwin announced.

"..."

No one reacted after hearing Vale's result but they all look dumbfounded.

"Twenty-five? That's so amazing!" Lisa reacted after processing it in her mind.

"Indeed... What kind of training did you do to reach this level?!" Chad asked with genuine curiosity. He knows fully well how difficult it was to increase someone's spiritual force.

Although developing your Spirit at an early age is much easier compared to when you're older, it should be impossible to exceed the 20-Strand limit!

"Twenty-five? Can I see the result, Professor?" Neil asked as he couldn't help but doubt what he just heard.

The others also nodded their heads since they have never heard someone of their age have this kind of Spiritual Force.

"That's right! Show us the crystal!"

"We need to make sure that it's not tampered with!"

"Having twenty-five strands is just too unbelievable. I'm unconvinced. Please allow me to see the result as well!"

Vale was stunned after hearing the sudden accusation. He didn't look at his classmates who seem to have been offended by his result but looked at the Professor who has been trying to show an indifferent expression all this time.

The latter appears amused after hearing their accusations.

"You can't believe that Vale managed to obtain such a result?" Professor Harwin asked.

"I-it's not that we're doubting you, Professor. We just want to see it to make sure." Neil replied.

"I've been handling numerous Spirit Converging Crystal in my family. I've learned that they can malfunction if they're damaged."

"Yes, he's right... We're just worried that we'll not get his real result. It's also for Vale's sake."

It came from Roswell Curtis and Larry Hegan, two of Neil's lackeys who only obtained 4 Spirit Strands.

"Very well. Vale, show it to them..." Professor Harwin nodded as she felt that there was nothing wrong with showing it to them.

However, Vale's friends didn't take this lightly.

"Professor! Isn't that a bit too much? They're doubting your ability to count the number of Strands. If there is something wrong with the Spirit Convergin Crystal, there's no way you wouldn't notice it as well."

"That's right! They're just trying to cause trouble."

Chad and Blair spoke in turn.

Neil and his friends wanted to argue but Vale spoke first. He didn't want to make this a big deal.

"It's fine... Let them check it. It's probably their first time seeing someone with 25 strands." Vale said with a chuckle as he passed it to them.

Chad and Blair also laughed as they understood Vale's intention.

The strands wouldn't disappear quickly so Vale just tossed it over to Neil's group. It would take some time and it's enough for Neil's group to count the number of Strands.

They can also check that the crystal is not damaged or malfunctioning if they tested themselves again.

Vale returned to his seat as Neil looked at him viciously. He was offended by Vale's words but he decided not to express his anger for now.

He immediately checked the crystal only to confirm that Professor Stella Harwin was right.

'Twenty-five strands... How is this possible? Even some of the sixth-year students wouldn't have this many strands!' Neil was seriously questioning Vale's identity right now.

The Chambers Family doesn't have anything in their name that can allow one of their members to achieve such a result.

He can somehow understand Aubrey Hall's uniqueness since she has a huge merchant family behind her. She was simply lucky. Her rich father might've spent a huge amount of money to procure potions or sacrificed enormous wealth to call upon a mysterious existence to help her possess a high level of spiritual force.

She might even be possessed by this existence right now.

It was the same for Warren who was lucky to be fed with a legendary fruit. His story might be an exaggeration but there is still a chance that it's true.

As for Dalton, he might've just inherited his talent from his ancestor since he had heard that the Stranway Family was previously a loyal servant of a deceased king. Not many people know of this but his Sommerhalder Family knows this well.

Neil took a deep breath as he calmed his thoughts.

He can only accept that he has seven classmates that have better baselines than him.

"It's real... Congratulations on having the highest Spirit Strands in our class." Neil gritted his teeth as he congratulated Vale's achievement.

Vale didn't think too much of this achievement since he wasn't even competing against him. However, he still smiled and acknowledged Neil's words.

In his mind, he was actually feeling quite helpless...

'My problem is probably the fact this number of strands wouldn't increase for quite a while unless I managed to find a corpse in the Academy...' Vale sighed inwardly as he was starting to consider if he has to use the Headmaster's "opportunity."

Chapter 65 Lessons (1)

This is Vale's real concern.

Thanks to the shadow taken from him by the headmaster, he can't leave the Academy unless it was willed by the holder of his shadow. Perhaps, he can only leave the Academy if he does a mission outside.

Furthermore, he wouldn't have any thought of permanently leaving the academy or escaping from it thanks to this "curse".

It was quite scary because he can't feel this "curse" at all and seem natural to him.

What if he can't extract any corpse for the next 10 years? Wouldn't he become stuck on 25-Strand?!

That would be extremely suspicious and also embarrassing. He would be a laughing stock of his batchmates for being incapable of improving... He just can't imagine doing that.

'Well, I might still improve naturally without the extraction. So I shouldn't be too worried about this.' Vale mused as he tried to console himself.

On the other hand, Chad and his classmates around him wanted to start talking about his incredible spirit strand. However, Professor Harwin already stood in front and was watching them carefully.

"The result of your Spirit Strand Test doesn't tell your talent. The reason why you're here in the academy is to improve and discover your talents. Furthermore, we are all Dark Arts Practitioners. We don't heavily rely on powerful Spiritual Force..." She explained.

"Why is that, Professor? Isn't a stronger spiritual force always better?" Felicia Lobb who had obtained 4 Spirit Strands in the test asked. She was concerned about her low result so she wanted an answer to her question.

Professor Harwin didn't mind this question as she was also planning to explain this to them.

"It's true that having more Spirit is better. However, it's not everything to us. Let me give you an example. A practitioner of the Dark Arts who had specialized in Necromancy only needed 10 Spirit Strands to summon a Phantom Knight. This Phantom Knight is equal to a 3rd Class Spirit Knight that would normally have 25 to 30 Spirit Strands..."

Professor Harwin paused as he looked at everyone's reaction. Many of them didn't know about this so they were listening attentively.

Noticing that they were taking notes, she continued...

"Another example is the Curse Magic that we have. With your 8 Spirit Strand, you can learn basic Curse Magic. As long as you possess anything that belongs to your target's body, like hair, nails, or even saliva, you can attack them without caring for their distance. Every time your Spell Light is

refilled, you can activate this Curse Magic... and that would slowly kill your target if you're diligent..."

Vale nodded at this explanation as he already thought of this after reading numerous books. The Curse Magic is truly scary and it can only be countered by a few things like Anti-Curse Spell, Mystical Artifact, or by having a huge difference in Spirit.

Of course, there are still many things left unsaid but the idea is already there so Vale didn't comment on Professor Harwin's explanation.

She continued explaining the difference between the Darkness Arcane Path to others like those in the Alchemy, Elemental, and Summoner Arcane Path...

Thanks to the Dark Spells and Rituals of their Arcane Path, they can indeed fight against those with higher Spirit... However, there is one thing that was needed in order to win... It is by having enough preparations.

Especially if you wanted to win against an opponent through rituals. It will require time and money to obtain all the resources you needed.

Another student asked a question. It was Reid Baldry who similarly obtained 4 Spirit Strands in his test.

"Professor, I heard we can't learn a third dark spell or we won't be accepted in the Academy... I didn't question my father about it but I'm curious now... May I know the reason for that?"

Vale, Lisa, and some others were also curious about this so they looked at the Professor expectantly...

"It's going to be discussed in your last subject for today, the Darkness Path class... But I guess I can still answer that... The reason is quite simple, you need to learn a total of three Dark Spells that were formulated by the Dark Arts Faction. These spells weren't something that rogue practitioners can learn... Only the Dark Arts Practitioners who had entered this Academy can learn these spells. With this set of spells, you will become stronger than those rogues..."

Her students perked up as their attention was turned to these three spells.

"May I know what those spells are, Professor?" Alvin Vendel asked

"Indeed... I only learned one spell since I'm worried that it will take a long time to create my third spell slot. I wish to learn the Dark Spells immediately." Roswell Curtis added.

Professor Stella Harwin shook her head as this wasn't something she should be teaching them.

"Your professor in that class is a retired member of the Evanescent Vessels. He will be able to answer all your questions regarding those three fundamental Dark Spells."

"Ahhh... Professor Morton Sullivan?" Chad Bulmung asked in surprise. He seems to have researched all the Professors in the Academy.

"Yes... Professor Sullivan served as a Vessel for 40 years. He had vast combat experience and will be able to explain Dark Spells in a better way than I am. What I'm going to teach you here in this

class is the way to increase your Spirit, control your Magic Zone, and advance your Phantasm State."

Stella paused for a moment as she looked at her students. She realized that they were all quite baffled at the last part...

"You probably haven't heard from your parents or tutors about the advancement of your Phantasm State... That's normal. It can be life-threatening if you decided to explore it on your own so the Academy should teach this thing to you for your safety."

Vale was certainly interested in this topic so he attentively listen...

He didn't expect that his Phantasm State can still change! At first, he thought that it is simply a requirement in order to see the Magic Zone that you have. However, it seems that he was thinking too lightly of it!

Chapter 66 Lessons (2)

The remaining time in the class was an eye-opener for them. Professor Stella Harwin taught them various things related to Magic Zone and Spirit.

She didn't make any in-depth discussion about the advancement of the Phantasm State but they will certainly touch on this subject in the next lessons.

Noticing that there were only 10 minutes left before the end of the class, Professor Harwin looked at everyone...

"Do you have any questions?" She asked.

Leonore then raised her hands to get the Professor's attention.

After being called, Leonore spoke while seated.

"Professor, you mentioned that we can increase our Spirit through meditation... You're also expecting all of those with four or five strands to end this academic year with at least 10 Strands. May I ask about your expectation of my current state?"

Since Leonore has 17 Spirit Strands, she was expecting that she'll be able to get a better result than those with 4 or 5 strands. She's curious if the meditation that she'll learn will only give her 5 more Spirit Strands for the whole Academic Year.

If that were the case, she might as well continue her family's method instead.

"The others with high Spirit Strands probably have the same question. Unfortunately, since you've exceeded the 10 Spirit Strand already, it would be difficult to say... It will all depend on your talent... What I can say is that every 10th mark would be difficult to break through. In short, those with 16 or 17 Spirit Strands would have an easier time reaching 20th but 21st Strand would not be easy."

Leonore and the others with high Spirit Strands nodded in realization.

Some of them even started looking at Vale who had a very abnormal Spirit.

They weren't sure if he was extremely talented or was simply lucky to obtain a rare treasure that was able to enhance his Spirit.

After this question was answered, Jody raised her hand for another question.

"About the Magic Zones, are we also going to learn how to change its shape?" She asked with a hint of excitement.

Previously during the class, Professor Harwin hinted that the Magic Zone they have isn't indefinite. If they have met certain requirements, their magic zone can move!

"That's right... However, you will have to ensure that your Phantasm State can last at least five minutes before we can do that."

"Aahh?! Five minutes?"

"Perhaps, five seconds?"

"Is that true, Professor?"

Many of them were obviously surprised about this while Lisa was just curiously looking at their reaction.

"Isn't five minutes a bit too much? I know a third-year student who can only last three minutes..."

"That's true... Are you also going to help us reach that duration, Professor?"

Vale noticed that even Chad Bulmung with 12 Spirit Strands was complaining. It means that he probably doesn't have a long duration as well.

Chad then turned his gaze to Vale after noticing that he was being looked at.

"Vale... How long can you last? Just tell it to me..." Chad whispered but Lisa and Aubrey heard him. They also leaned closely to Vale to hear his answer.

Vale hesitated for a moment before teasing Chad.

"You can guess..."

Chad pouted at this as he knows that Vale doesn't have plans of telling his secret. To be honest, even the Academy may not necessarily know your limit.

After all, what's important to them is that you pass the requirement for your Academic Year.

The First Year students might require a minute or two or even less when it comes to the duration of the Phantasm State.

As Vale was wondering what was the requirement for first-year students like him, Professor Harwin finally answered.

"That right... I will be helping you increase your duration... However, it wouldn't be a direct help since it will be in a different class. It's your Fundamentals in Magic Zone Class that will be taught by another Professor. Just to let you know, this year's requirement is only to last for 90 seconds. This Professor will fail you in her class if you can't reach 90 seconds for the whole academic year so you have to study well."

Stella explained. Her Class is only about Elementary Spirit Law. It is simply a theoretical class. The things that she'll teach them will only help them in other subjects.

"What?! Ninety seconds?" The students exclaimed as they felt that it was too long.

"Correct... Since we still have four minutes. I want everyone to enter their Phantasm State while raising their hands. Put it down if you ended your Phantasm State. This way, I can tell you your current level and make a better plan for you."

With that said, everyone followed her instruction and entered their Phantasm State...

This includes Lisa who had just learned the Phantasm State today. Unfortunately, she still can't enter the Phantasm State and would probably need more practice.

Stella Harwin looked at her students with a helpless smile.

Most of her students only lasted around 20 seconds. There were only a handful of students in her class that can surpass a minute...

After three minutes. It was only Vale who was left in his Phantasm State. There was no point continuing this so she ordered him to cancel his Phantasm State.

"Very good. I've seen everyone's current state. With my help, I'm sure that everyone will improve in just a few months. For now, I won't be teaching you the meditation technique to help you increase your spirit. Ahem... Your next class is Basic Usage of Mystical Artifacts... Listen attentively since your professor in this class will think that you are all fast learners..."

After saying this, Professor Stella left the classroom leaving the students confused.

Everyone was baffled until the Professor finally arrived.

She only seems to be in her forties but her hair is already turning mostly white. She has a reading glass resting on her nose and a cane that was helping her walk.

With a weak and hoarse voice, she spoke to everyone.

"Good morning. I'm Shirley Harrison. You can simply call me Professor Harrison. Unlike the Elementary Spirit Law that has 2 hours, we only have an hour in this class so I want everyone to pay your full attention to every word that I say."

Shirley took a deep breath before continuing...

"For our first class, we won't be doing boring things. Instead, we'll summon a mysterious existence through a Mystical Artifact..."

Chapter 67 Lessons (3)

"Ahh? We're going to summon a mysterious existence?"

"Awesome! Are we going to participate?"

Everyone was quite excited as soon as they heard the Professor's words. Summoning a mysterious existence seems very intriguing and all of them wanted to witness this strange phenomenon.

Professor Harrison smiled after hearing them and nodded. "That's right. I will show it to you once and we'll find volunteers to copy my actions... Before that, has anyone tried summoning a mysterious existence before?"

At this question, they all looked around their classmates only to see four people raising their hands. They were Leonore, Aubrey, Neil, and Dalton.

All four of them have decent backgrounds so Vale and the others didn't seem surprised.

"I thought you've also experienced summoning such existence before..." Vale whispered to his seatmate, Chad Bulmung.

"I've seen one before but I've never tried doing it. It's quite scary if you don't have a strong spirit. They even said that these existences might pull you when they're returning to their origin." Chad explained as he looked at his four classmates who had experienced calling a mysterious existence. With their current Spirit, there shouldn't be any problems as long as they tried summoning a weak existence in the underworld or whatever place it was.

"They can pull you? That's quite dangerous..." Vale replied with a frown. Although he knows that there is a danger in this type of ritual, he had only read it in the books and it wasn't specified what kind of danger they'll be encountering.

'I thought that being injured and spiritually exhausted are the only problems...' Vale mused. He didn't expect that being pulled by this existence is another thing that he has to worry about.

"Mhmm... Since we have experienced students, I expect that they'll volunteer later. In any case, we will summon an ArchFey and her name is Mennena... She's been living inside this mirror for hundreds of years and she can see someone's special characteristics... Like their Special Physique, Mystical Talent, or even your hidden Artifact. She can pry someone's secrets so it's quite fun calling her out." Professor Harwin explained with a smile.

On the other hand, many of her students don't think that it was fun at all!

Calling out an existence that is capable of seeing through your secrets isn't welcome! The four who had raised their hands a while ago were already regretting their actions.

After all, they will be the ones who will be trying to use the mirror first. Once this existence called Mennena appears, she might reveal their secrets in passing and it's not going to be pleasant for them.

"Alright... Don't make any noises since I'll be starting..."

Professor Harrison said as she placed the hand mirror in front of her.

After confirming that she can see her reflection clearly, she started chanting a prayer to call for this existence...

"Esteemed ArchFey of the Third Era, the 13th Warden of the Spirit World, the current Spirit of the Pristine Mirror, grant me your audience... In accordance with the vow, a practitioner of the Darkness Path will find the light within the darkness and it'll outshine even the darkest of shades."

Vale has been observing the ritual while he's in his Phantasm State since he didn't want to miss anything.

As soon as Professor Harrison finished her chant, Vale noticed that a bit of her spiritual energy was consumed.

Soon, the mirror she was holding started gathering a vast amount of energy and Vale has to cancel his Phantasm State as a result. He felt that if he didn't do so, he would be noticed by the mysterious existence that was being summoned.

As everyone was waiting for the result, they heard a high-pitched voice coming from the mirror that the Professor was holding.

"Shirley! It's been a while! You don't seem injured. You only have some sore muscles. You need to exercise from time to time. I bet you're staying in your smokey room 24/7... You should go out and smell some grass... You're only 33 years old but look like 50... Ah, are you experimenting with your eyes again? You look like you're about to---"

The voice was instantly cut off as Professor Harrison released the mirror from her hands and placed it on the pulpit stand.

"Ahem... That's how it is... Did you remember the chant I made? It will only consume a bit of Spiritual Energy so it won't be dangerous. At most, you'll need two to three days of rest to recover this energy." Professor Harrison said with an awkward tone.

The four "experienced" students were truly worried now after witnessing how Mennena, the spirit of the Mirror, was able to rant on their professor just like that.

Thankfully, there is a way to stop it from ranting and it's by unhanding the mirror itself.

Leonore, Aubrey, Neil, and Dalton gulped in nervousness as they looked at each other.

In the meantime, Vale was actually looking at Professor Harrison carefully.

'She's only 33 years old? She looks really old... I wonder what kind of experiments she's doing to look like that.' Vale was concerned about this.

Whatever she was doing, he wanted to avoid it at all costs.

"Alright, who's going to try first?" Professor Harrison asked.

Surprisingly, one of the four immediately raised a hand.

"I will do the honor, Professor..." Neil said as he stood up.

"Oh, you're brave... That's how it should be. Since I'm here watching you, there's nothing to worry about." Professor Harrison said with a gentle nod.

She likes how Neil is actively participating in her class.

"I understand, Professor. I suggest that after my attempt, the next one would be Vale Chambers." Neil said out of nowhere.

Vale was obviously confused as he knitted his brows.

'Why did I suddenly got involved?'

Professor Harrison was similarly confused so she asked Neil curiously.

"Professor, our classmate, Vale Chambers has 25 Spirit Strands. He probably has a higher Spirit Strand than our Student Representative. We just wanted to witness his skills." At these words, Neil's lackeys chimed in.

"That's right, Professor! We just want to witness the skills of our strongest classmate."

"Indeed... I'm sure he also wanted to try this activity."

Chapter 68 Lessons (4)

"Oh, so it was like that." Professor Harrison nodded in acknowledgment. She didn't know that Vale has 25 Spirit Strands and she was quite shocked to hear that number.

It is not easy for 13 or 14-year-old kids to handle such a huge amount of Spirit. There are cases that they will turn insane or lose their mind completely and become a perfect Vessel for evil spirits.

Of course, she decided not to mention this possibility since Vale looks stable in her eyes. She didn't want to scare him so she can only praise him for now.

"You have a very impressive Spiritual Force, Vale. I'll be looking forward to your participation... Ah, you indeed have a higher Spirit Strand than Maya Featherstar so your classmate was right." The Professor added.

"Ahh? He's higher than Maya?! So it was true!"

"How is that possible?"

"This is unbelievable. How come he wasn't the Student Representative?"

"That's right! He should replace Maya!"

"We should inform her about this so she can abdicate her position!"

A commotion suddenly occurred after hearing the Professor's revelation. Some of them were even deliberately making it difficult for Vale!

At this rate, there might be rumors that he was planning to replace the Student Representative after the class!

Their classmate from a countryside family had a better result than the celebrity family of the Dark Arts Faction! This news will truly shake the entire first year or even the Academy itself! Jody was already considering the article she was planning to submit.

After all, the five Founding Members of the Faction had always been at the top! There were only a few times that they were challenged and most of it didn't end well for the challengers.

She didn't care if this caused trouble for Vale. What matters is that this news is certainly juicy enough to be accepted in the Academy Publication Club!

'This...'

Vale was also surprised at this and he started to consider this matter seriously. There was no way his Spirit Strand test result would just remain inside his classroom at this moment.

Soon, it will be heard by the heir of the Moontomb Family and the Featherstar Family.

'It seems I had too much fun with my extraction...' Vale sighed inwardly. Nevertheless, even if he returned in time, he wouldn't undo such a thing. Having a higher Spirit is much better than having a lower one.

Furthermore, if he wasn't able to extract corpses, this 25 Spirit Strand would most likely be stuck in this number since at this stage, it's extremely difficult to increase your Spirit. After all, this level of Spirit is already for sixth-year students or those 19 and 20 years old.

'Should I retain my current Spirit Strand to 25 so they don't think too much of me?' Vale bit his lips as he considered this move.

If he became incapable of increasing his Spirit, anyone who was thinking that he was a thorn in their flesh would think twice if they were planning to deal with him. After all, he would seem incapable of improving if his Spirit Strand didn't change for years.

It was a cowardly move but it will essentially remove or lessen the number of people who would be keeping an eye on him...

Of course, there is also a danger in this method so he didn't want to do this as much as possible. If he can, he wanted to continue extracting corpses even if it becomes suspicious as long as he gets stronger.

After all, he realized that the flexibility of his Spell Dispersion skill doesn't simply depend on the level of this dark spell or the amount of dark energy he possesses in his body. His Spirit or Intelligence is also a factor that he has to consider if he wants to control this top-tier Dark Spell!

Vale sighed at his Professor's words and replied...

"I will try my best, Professor."

He can only agree to participate in this activity.

Neil was obviously happy after hearing this. His plan was simple, he wanted the mirror to expose Vale's secrets. Whatever little information it provides would be enough for him and his family to research it. After all, he believes that Vale was only lucky to obtain some sort of treasure.

If he learned what it was, he would certainly ask his parents to obtain it as well.

"Neil, do you remember the chant I made to call the Spirit of the Mirror?" Professor Harrison asked as Neil nervously held the mirror.

"Yes, Professor. I'm reciting it in my head so I won't forget it. I'm actually curious why it wasn't in Oardic. It would be more difficult for me to remember if that was the case." Neil replied.

"Yes... It's not in Oardic since we're communicating with a friendly existence this time. However, it will be different if we'll trying to communicate with an unfamiliar existence. You will have to use Oardic if you don't want to offend this existence." Shirley explained.

She didn't have to explain what would happen if they offended the mysterious existence or failed to communicate with them at all.

The others also nodded in agreement. Some of them didn't even notice the language that was used. Only when Neil pointed it out did they recall the uniqueness of Oardic...

"You can start now." The Professor said after noticing that Neil was ready.

Neil took a deep breath as he looked in the mirror. This is the first step that he had seen from Professor Harrison.

Then, he started to chant in Soineti.

"Esteemed ArchFey of the Third Era, the 13th Warden of the Spirit World, the current Spirit of the Pristine Mirror, grant me your audience... In accordance with the vow, a practitioner of the Darkness Path will find the light within the darkness and it'll outshine even the darkest of shades."

Soon, Neil felt a bit of his energy get sucked into the mirror. It wasn't very alarming and it was even quite gentle, unlike his first experience in his family's treasury.

"Oh~ A new face! You're Neil Sommerhalder, aren't you? A seedling from a Rune Arts Specialist attending the Dark Arts Academy, what an odd one. Ah, you actually have broken roots... You're born incapable of receiving the Rune Blessings? Or maybe you're an illegitimate son? You're mother is---"

At this point, the Mirror has already left Neil's hands and stopped talking. Neil's face was full of cold sweat as he turned his gaze to his classmates.

Right now, even Professor Harrison was already regretting this first-day activity.

Chapter 69 Spirit Of The Mirror

"Rune Blessing?" Vale repeated. He wasn't interested in Neil's identity. Whether he's an illegitimate son or even an adopted son, he doesn't care.

However, the Rune Blessing is new to him... He looked at Chad Bulmung hoping that he knows about it but unfortunately, he only shook his head.

He was also clueless about the Rune Blessing.

Luckily, Blair Etton was close to them and was able to explain what it was.

"Rune Blessing is similar to our Darkness Possession..." He explained in a few words.

Professor Harrison heard this as well and immediately found a way to divert the topic. It's not good to stay on the topic of Neil's identity.

"Ahem... Blair was right. The Rune Blessing is indeed similar to our faction's Darkness Possession, it's their ritual before accepting a practitioner. If you're curious, the Elemental Arts Faction has Elemental Baptism. The Alchemy Arts Faction has Fire Infusion. The Summoning Arts Faction has Grimoire's Election and the Mystic Arts Faction has Mystical Law's Trial to name a few."

Vale and the others repeated these rituals in their minds as they found this topic quite interesting. As someone who had suffered from the Darkness Possession, they were obviously curious about the other Arcane Paths.

"It's my first time hearing about this."

"Me too. These things weren't in any books I've read."

"I wonder if we can also walk on this path even if we already completed the Darkness Possession."

"Hah... That's possible if you want your body to collapse and die painfully."

Professor Harrison also agreed to this. "That's right. You can't walk on two paths or your body will be unable to support your life."

"Yes, Professor. We're only joking about it." Junius said as he fixed his reading glass.

In any case, learning the names of the other path's rituals felt like their horizons are broadening... They also wanted to ask the professor what was being done in those rituals she mentioned but at this time, Neil has already recovered and started to call for Vale's participation.

"I think Vale is now ready to participate. Since I've done my part, I hope that our strongest classmate will not back out." Neil said interrupting everyone's thoughts.

Of course, now that they gained some juicy information from Neil thanks to the mirror, everyone was now interested to hear Vale's information.

Vale glanced at him for a moment before shaking his head. It seems that he had truly offended this guy for having a record-high Spirit Strand.

To be honest, he was also a bit worried after watching Neil's performance. He had realized that Neil had wanted to unhand the mirror the moment it spoke but he failed to do so.

It seems that after completing the chant or the ritual to call for the mysterious existence, there would be 10 to 15 seconds where Mennena can't be interrupted while talking.

Only after passing this mark will he be able to release the mirror and cut it off from speaking.

"Vale, are you ready?" Professor Harrison asked.

"Yes, Professor..." Vale answered as he stood up from his seat.

"Don't be nervous... If you feel that your energy is being consumed, don't panic, and just let it be. It's normal to happen during a ritual since every time you call for a mysterious existence through a Mystical Item, something must be traded in exchange. In this case, the mirror will require your energy to be consumed in exchange." Professor Harrison reminded.

Vale nodded in acknowledgment before he started the ritual.

"Esteemed ArchFey of the Third Era, the 13th Warden of the Spirit World, the current Spirit of the Pristine Mirror, grant me your audience... In accordance with the vow, a practitioner of the Darkness Path will find the light within the darkness and it'll outshine even the darkest of shades."

Vale recited calmly as he observe the changes in the mirror. He didn't mind the slight decrease in his energy since he was quite used to it.

Then, the room suddenly turned quiet as everyone wanted to hear the existence's assessment of Vale. Even his new friends were curious about this matter so they all waited with bated breath.

"Hmm? You're using Vale—" Mennena didn't even finish speaking before Vale cut her off.

"Esteemed ArchFey Mennena, it's an honor to meet you." Vale interrupted.

Since he can't unhand the object, he decided to engage in a conversation instead!

Furthermore, Vale mentioned Mennena's name since according to the advanced book he read, this is the best way to communicate with the existence they called.

It must be remembered that the ritual itself doesn't include Mennena's name. However, before the activity began, Professor Harrison purposely mentioned the existence's name and he believed that it was for this reason!

It was to directly communicate with existence instead of letting it rant whatever it wanted to say.

Professor Harrison's eyes lit up after seeing Vale unafraid of communicating with the existence in the mirror.

'I guess he obtained that 25 Spirit Strand for a reason...' Shirley mused as she looked at Vale with interest.

In her previous classes over the past few years, it was normal for her to see terrified students after seeing that the Mirror would somehow emit a feminine voice.

Furthermore, the reflection that'll you'll see in the mirror will still be your face that seems to have been possessed by the spirit of the mirror... It was quite creepy and only those who were holding the mirror would understand the terrifying experience.

"Oh? So you know my name... Very well, I can tell that you have a very strong desire to find corpses. Why is that? Are you planning to be a Necromancer?" Mennena asked.

"Ahem... I haven't decided what to specialize in as of yet. Do you have a recommendation?" Vale replied politely ignoring the first question.

"I don't recommend Necromancy. Just become a normal Dark Spellcaster. Ugh, what's with your Spell Model? It's weird. I can't make a recommendation for your set of spells if you have that."

Vale immediately understood that Mennena saw through his first Spell Model. He didn't reply to that as he decided to end their conversation.

He's still uncomfortable since his whole class is listening to his conversation with the mirror.

Chapter 70 Subjects

As Vale returned to his seat, he noticed that Chad and the others were looking at him with fascination...

"What Dark Spells did you learn? Is it not listed in the Fundamental Dark Spells?" Chad curiously asked.

"Don't answer that, Vale. You need to keep it a secret. The Academy doesn't mind whatever Dark Spell you learned as long as you learned the three required Dark Spells of the Academy." Aubrey reminded.

"Cough. Cough... She's right. I was too excited. In any case, I will also keep my Spell Model a secret." Chad replied.

Vale can only dryly laugh since he can't reveal his Spell Model except for the Ghost Hand. Even if he uses the Spell Dispersion, there was no way he'd say that it's a Spell Dispersion either.

After all, this particular spell is only strong if his opponents don't know of this. This spell isn't invincible so he has to be careful whenever he uses it. Over the past year, he has been experimenting with this Spell Dispersion and learned many of its weaknesses.

One of its weaknesses is that it can't stop any summoned undead by Necromancers. It also can't stop Spells that are on the higher level and higher realm.

'It's a good thing I stopped Mennena from talking by calling out on her.' Vale heaved a sigh of relief as he looked at Professor Harrison. The Spirit of the Mirror had almost revealed his real identity!

In the meantime, Professor Shirley Harrison was looking at him and she seemed to be very satisfied with his performance.

"Alright... Next volunteer!"

The class continued as the others also tried to experience this. This includes Lisa Grayback who basically has zero experience in this matter. It was even her first time seeing a Mystical Artifact.

Fortunately, because of Vale's example, Mennena was no longer able to rant and only revealed some acceptable information...

Nevertheless, it was still enough to learn more about their classmates.

They learned that Dalton has toothache so he wasn't talking much. Leonore has been glancing at Vale over 30 times now. Emily was already thinking of the next subject, Music and Arts, since she had a great talent for this.

Chad Bulmung also tried and asked Mennena what branch he should specialize in. Although he already made a decision, he simply wanted to ask for a second opinion. In the end, Mennena suggested pursuing the path of a Dark Alchemist. The Spirit didn't mention the reason but Chad decided to consider it seriously.

"Alright, everyone... I want to remind you all again that Mennena is a friendly existence. Do not ever think that all beings you'll summon will be this kind and chatterbox. Remember what I said before about the possible dangers you'll experience."

"Yes, Professor!" The class replied in unison.

Since there are still 15 minutes left in the class, Shirley decided to explain what would they expect in this class for the rest of the year.

"In the first three months, we will be discussing various types of Mystical Artifacts and how to identify them. Just so you know, not all mystical items have mysterious existence or spirits living in them. The mirror that I showed you is just another type of mystical item. In any case, there will be an exam after the three months was up and if everyone passed, we will be visiting the Ageless Chamber so you can see our collection of mystical items." Shirley explained as she gave them something that they'll look forward to.

As expected, everyone's eyes lit up after hearing this. Now that they'd seen the wondrous ability of a mystical artifact, there was no way they would pass up such an opportunity. Hearing or reading about these things isn't as good as seeing them in real life.

"Ageless Chamber? I heard from my brother that it's the Academy's treasure vault!" Reid Baldry said in excitement as he seemed to have a brother studying in the academy.

"That's an exaggeration. At most, it's just a museum of mystical items. Most of the items placed there don't have potent abilities. Otherwise, first-year students like us wouldn't be allowed to view them." Neil chimed in as if he had already seen the chamber before.

"Professor, how many mystical items does the chamber have?" Felicia asked curiously.

Professor Harrison smiled after hearing them as she explained a bit more. "The Ageless Chamber has a couple of terrifying mystical items inside so don't underestimate it. As for the numbers, there should be about 30 of them."

The first part was addressed to Neil while the latter part answered Felicia's question.

'Huh? So the Academy only has 30 Mystical Artifacts... Isn't it a bit too low? They're actually very rare?' Vale mused as he thought that there should be over three hundred artifacts inside the academy.

It was quite underwhelming that they only have 30 of them.

However, he noticed that Neil, Leonore, and the others looked very impressed about the number of artifacts the Academy has.

'Is that actually a lot?' Vale mused as he doesn't really have anything to compare with. He only knows that his Master Heinz has a couple of Mystical Artifacts so he thought that they were quite common among the Dark Arts Practitioners.

It's a good thing that he learned of this early.

After the class ended, their Professor for the Music and Arts subject arrived 10 minutes late.

He introduced himself as Professor Axel Seddon.

"You guys are probably curious about this subject. You are all in the Academy of Dark Arts but there is a subject of Music and Arts." Professor Seddon said as he looked at everyone.

He's a gentleman in his early thirties. He carries himself like a real nobility. The way he walks to the platform and even how he looks at his students appears very polished like an art.

This was all noticed by students especially the nobles who had always attended banquets and similar gatherings.

Furthermore, these noble students recalled something else as they saw Professor Axel... it was their traumatizing etiquette tutors!