

D. Extraction 611

Chapter 611 Changes

611 Changes

After the supplies were transferred to the castle, everyone became occupied as they began organizing the items they needed.

Soon, they would be returning to their respective workshops or laboratories to conduct their own projects.

Faith couldn't help but notice something about the items that Vale had ordered.

"So these are the Rare Formation Nodes you've been looking for. They're quite mysterious," Faith muttered as she inspected one of them closely.

The nodes weren't heavy and were emitting a faint blue glow once touched. It was as if it was reacting to the Arcanist that had touched them.

Nevertheless, her Magic Zone couldn't pass through the inside of the stone. Yet, it seemed so fragile that it might get broken if she tightened her hold.

Vale's eyes lit up after seeing this.

"Can you tell its secret?" He asked with a hint of excitement in his voice.

He stopped himself from extracting all the crates containing Immortal Shards for now since he had plenty of time to do this later.

Right now, he was more interested in seeing if the others could perceive the Divinity they contained. He even planned to ask Pearl about this since she also has Divinity.

'Lady Faith is a Half-Spirit so her senses on these things must be great... However, she probably hasn't seen or experienced the Divinity yet.' Vale mused.

"Mhmm... These stones feel as if they had better use than being Formation Nodes... I'd probably need plenty of research to come up with an idea since I can't properly distinguish the energy inside. It feels otherworldly to me. If my guess is right, these stones were probably from another realm, or at the very least, they're influenced by an energy from a different realm and turned into this." Faith replied after thinking for a moment.

Vale was surprised that Faith had already realized that the energy it contained was otherworldly.

Indeed, Divinity was something that was not normal in the Arcanist World, so he couldn't blame Faith for not recognizing it at all.

Anyway, he already expected that she hadn't experienced the power of Divinity yet, so she was quite clueless.

Nevertheless, it was a good analysis from her.

"You can take a few of them if you want to do research..." Vale replied as he took a crate with him.

Apparently, Marquis Morgan had given him a total of 12 crates of them!

"Then, I will not reject that offer," Faith said as she took five Immortal Shards with her.

Meanwhile, as Vale and the others were rejoicing over the obtained supplies, a massive town in the eastern part of the Ruri Kingdom was being consumed by a raging inferno.

"Hurry! Call the Water Magicians!"

"We don't have those people!"

"All the magicians have gathered in the capital city!"

"No one will save us! We have to evacuate now!"

The townspeople were in a state of panic, not knowing how to deal with the sudden, enormous blaze that engulfed the market and the surrounding buildings.

Due to the recent rumors of Arcanists being hunted for their blood and flesh for a forbidden ritual, most of them had already left for larger cities or the capital of the kingdom, where they deemed it to be completely safe.

At this time, aside from Combat Arts Practitioners, who were basically the most common Arcanists in the world, no one else practiced the Arcane Arts.

"Do not panic!"

The police officers and firefighters were powerless since the fire wasn't normal either.

It was fire made of magic, and their only option was to assist the people trying to escape and ensure that no one else would get injured.

"Am I really just going to watch my town burn to ashes?" Tyler, one of the police officers in the town, muttered helplessly as he watched the flames grow larger. He could only silently pray that a miracle could happen and the energy powering the fire would run out.

He knew that the fire would soon spread throughout the whole town because the buildings were built too close to each other. If that happened, then it wouldn't be long before this town would be completely erased.

Furthermore, they had been too reliant on the Elementalists to resolve this type of problem. They do not have any Artifacts or even Talismans that could help them in such situations.

Luckily, his silent prayer was answered.

"Just control the crowd, and we'll do the rest." Suddenly, an angelic female voice echoed behind him.

He immediately turned around to see a group of mysterious individuals.

He didn't need to ask; he immediately knew that they were Arcanists!

Furthermore, their leader seemed to be an angel sent from heaven. She was so incredibly beautiful that rejecting any of her requests would feel like a crime.

Tyler immediately spoke...

"Yes! We will control the crowd. Please take care of the fire!"

After the police officer left, a female Arcanist behind her spoke up.

"Miss Gale, isn't that charm spell unnecessary?" Denise inquired, noting the reaction of the police officer upon seeing Gale.

"Huh... Do you think I used a charm spell just now? There was no need for that. I just simply showed my face. Once you grow up a bit more, you can also do that naturally. Do you want to learn from me? I can consider accepting you as my disciple..." Gale Evans remarked.

Then, she shifted her gaze to one of the Dark Arcanists in her group, hinting to address the fire.

In truth, all the Arcanists who had joined her were tenth-year students of the Vermont Academy. They were already formidable enough to assist her in her mission, so she wasn't overly concerned about them.

"I'll take care of the fire." One of the students spoke with confidence.

"Keep in mind that we can't appear as Dark Magicians..." Gale reminded.

"Yes, Miss Gale!"

The student, well aware of this stipulation, swiftly took action.

"Dark Void".

Suddenly, a strange phenomenon occurred in the atmosphere as a dark, swirling vortex materialized in the sky above the town.

This ominous phenomenon resembled a small black hole, its edges tinged with an eerie, iridescent glow that seemed to defy the laws of nature.

As soon as Gale saw this, she shook her head in disappointment.

Chapter 612 The Mysterious Castle

612 The Mysterious Castle

The tiny black void that had appeared in the sky wasn't noticed by many since most of the people were already busy taking anything they could to flee from the fire.

They had no time to watch the fire as they could tell that it would spread everywhere.

Nevertheless, the spell continued to act... The void seemed to have created gravitational pull, drawing the searing flames toward it with an irresistible force!

As the flames were inexorably drawn upward, they twisted and writhed as their once-fierce intensity gradually waned in the presence of the enigmatic void.

As soon as this happened, the people couldn't help but stop as they wanted to see why the heat brought by the fire disappeared so suddenly.

"W-what is that?"

"The fire is being taken by that dark thing!"

"Magic! Only Magicians are capable of that!"

"Oh my! Thank you, Fortune Goddess! It's the blessing of the goddess!"

"No, it must be the Divine Sorcerer! It must be the Black Seal!"

"Right, that's the Black Seal of the Divine Sorcerer that stopped the demons from invading!"

Spectators watched in awe as the fiery blaze was silently and methodically consumed by the unfathomable darkness, leaving behind only a faint, spectral residue of dissipating smoke.

Soon, a profound stillness settled over the town as the last vestiges of the flames were inexorably drawn into the enigmatic void, leaving behind a haunting tranquility in their wake.

The spectacle soon ended as the small black hole suspended in the sky slowly disappeared after it effortlessly quelled the raging inferno.

The people couldn't help but feel grateful as they thanked whoever they believed made it happen.

Tyler, the leading police officer in the town, immediately started looking for the magicians who had saved them from the catastrophe.

"Esteemed Arcanists! Thank you for saving us!" Tyler expressed, as the two other police officers followed suit, conveying their gratitude.

Despite being only fourth-class Combat Arts practitioners, possessing merely 2 or 3 Spell Lights in their bodies, they were still able to discern the fluctuation of Arcane Energy emanating from the Arcanists before the appearance of the black hole.

There was no doubt that one of the individuals in their group was responsible for unleashing that enigmatic spell.

They had no idea what Arcane Path was used at that time or if that was simply a Talisman or a Magic Artifact. However, the method they used was not important right now.

They were really grateful for the help they received at such a perfect time.

"Mhmm... You're welcome. Now that the problem is settled, can we ask you something about the recent incidents around here? We've been looking for someone." Gale inquired as she approached the police officers.

Tyler's eyes brightened upon hearing this. He was certain that their town chief would be unable to adequately reward these individuals for their assistance, so he hoped that they would be content with simply answering their questions.

"Recent incidents? Are you talking about the disappearance of many Arcanists? We have no idea about this as well, but if we have a guess about it..." Tyler paused, lowering his voice before continuing.

"It's probably the Kingdom's forces trying to—"

"Ahem, we already know about that..." Gale interjected, halting Tyler's explanation.

"What I want to hear is the truth... I know that all the places in the eastern and southern region are now controlled by the leader of the Rebel Army or the Marquis... I want to know about the mysterious helpers he obtained that live in a disappearing castle in the depths of the Mystic Forest. We heard that the people in that place have an airship that visits towns and cities from time to time." Gale asked.

Evidently, Gale and her companions had conducted extensive investigations in the eastern region, yielding a wealth of information.

One significant discovery was the presence of the Masked Devil Incarnate in the heart of the Mystic Forest, where they observed numerous lightning strikes being unleashed.

However, despite their efforts to trace the origin of these lightning strikes, their attempts proved futile. They wasted a lot of time just for this task!

Subsequently, they fortuitously interrogated a group of rebels who disclosed the existence of the castle. It was during this time that they grasped the current state of affairs in the eastern region of the kingdom.

Nevertheless, even with their persistent search within the forest for the castle, they still failed to catch even a glimpse of it after weeks of relentless effort.

They were even going back and forth in the castle and forest multiple times to replenish their supplies, yet their actions ended in disappointment.

Upon finding a few high-ranking rebels, they gleaned information about the airship utilized by the enigmatic castle for transporting goods and materials, as well as selling their potions in the market.

"That airship? Ugh... I apologize, but we only know a few things about it. We don't even know their names. We only know that they can be trusted since the Marquis approved them. However, if you wish to procure their products, you may do so in the next city... All their products were already sold out in our town." Tyler responded.

"What if we wish to converse with them?" Gale inquired, her eyes faintly glowing.

"Ahem... Then you can await their arrival in three days, as they are scheduled to deliver several potions here... Despite the lessened number of Arcanists, the low-level potions they offer can be utilized by ordinary individuals to alleviate ailments, treat injuries, aid in sleep, and more... So they are still earning a lot of money in this town..." Tyler replied.

"Interesting... I wonder how much money they needed that they were even actively selling to a small town..." Gale muttered with a smile.

She finally found an opportunity to meet the Masked Devil.

"I'm hoping that the missing people were really in that place..." One of the tenth-year students whispered.

After all, the main reason for coming here was to find the missing Dark Arcanists, including Miss Faith, who was rumored to have taken all the treasures in the Academy before going missing!

Chapter 613 Mythical Creature

?613 Mythical Creature

"Dragons, huh..." Chad pondered aloud as he was unable to shake off Vale's words.

He harbored no doubt about Vale's ability to summon a Dragon through a ritual, having witnessed numerous miracles performed by Vale.

Vale possessed Spirit Strands, Power Strands, and Life Strands that surpassed his own by a significant margin.

In fact, even licensed Arcanists or graduates would not possess such an extraordinary set of Strands. Moreover, aside from defeating some senior students, he had heard of Vale's record-

breaking feats in the Twelve Academy Competition, an event previously reserved for sixth-year students and above.

"But here I am... still average compared to him... Even Lisa became stronger already." Chad sighed, recalling this.

Initially, he had believed that after attaining the Ghost King Body, he would at least be on par with Vale. However, even after reaching the second level of the Ghost King Body, he realized that he still fell short.

He arrived at this conclusion after challenging Vale to a test of strength in the training ground, bolstered by the effects of his Ghost King Body. This happened just a few days ago.

After activating his physique's effect, his strength should have approached 40 Strands or even more. Even if Vale had 50 Strands, Chad expected the battle to be challenging. However, after being effortlessly defeated, he knew that Vale's Power Strand was already way above 50 Strands!

'Was it 60? Or maybe 70 Strands?'

It may seem absurd since the human body shouldn't be capable of that, but if Vale had a blessed physique or he was truly a halfling, then that would explain everything.

'Can I also get a boost in my bloodline?' Chad wryly smiled as he knew that his family was already above normal.

As a matter of fact, they were considered to be a powerful clan because of their Ghost King Body. However, the people around him were just too strong!

Lost in these ruminations, he suddenly heard Vale's voice outside his room.

"Chad, do you want to join me? I'm planning to visit the sealed creatures underground."

"Huh?" Chad expressed his confusion upon hearing Vale's proposal.

While he had heard about the sealed creatures that empowered the castle's impregnable barriers and formation arts, he had never considered meeting them, deeming it potentially dangerous and unfruitful.

He believed that the encounter would likely involve observing a chained or restrained creature on a formation circle while its energy was continuously drained.

Unless one had a fascination for creatures from another realm or an interest in studying Formation Arts, there would be little to gain.

Nevertheless, since it was Vale who extended the invitation and he had no other pressing matters, Chad promptly assented.

"Alright! Let me change my clothes first," he replied, swiftly adjusting his attire before joining Vale.

"Do you want me to do something?" Chad inquired as they strolled along the hallway.

"Well, I just thought that you might be interested to see the creatures. They're quite rare and powerful. They can also talk to humans, so I thought you could try talking to them," Vale responded with a faint smile on his face.

"What?" Chad questioned, unable to fathom what creatures they might encounter.

He fell silent for a moment while contemplating Vale's words.

"They are powerful and can talk to humans... They were also creatures I can be interested with?"

If these beings possessed the strength to bolster the castle's defenses, Chad speculated that they might be mythical entities.

Moreover, considering that Magnus had summoned and imprisoned them, they were likely affiliated with his Arcane Arts.

Since Magnus was leaning towards Alchemy, then...

'Is it chimera? A giant? Maybe a powerful Evil Entity? If not, then perhaps an apostle of the demon king? No, that's already for the Dark Magicians. I think it should be something related Alchemy... So it's probably a living cauldron or something...' Chad pondered to himself.

He couldn't help but smile at this thought.

He no longer asked Vale since he was already meeting them, so it wouldn't take long before he got the answer.

Soon, Chad entered into the depths of the castle while following Vale.

Even without entering his Magic Zone, he could discern the vast array of Formation Arts fortifying this stronghold.

He couldn't help but marvel at the years Magnus must have dedicated to constructing this place.

Moreover, he could only speculate about the staggering amount of resources channeled into inscribing the Magic Circles and implementing the Formation Arts. He must have used a mountain of wealth to get these resources!

Thud... Thud...

As they descended the spiral staircase, the ambient temperature plummeted.

While still tolerable, Chad harbored doubts about whether the cold would persist.

Since his Magic Zone couldn't last for a long time, he was only planning to use it once the cold became unbearable.

Before long, Chad found himself in a colossal hall.

The hall was dimly lit by flickering torches, casting eerie shadows across the expansive chamber.

The walls were adorned with intricate runes and symbols, pulsating with a faint, otherworldly glow.

'I don't want to admit but that Magnus is indeed an old monster... Just how did he make these? No wonder Vale didn't kill him. He's really useful.' Chad mused as he appreciated the remarkable effort put into building this place.

Then, he noticed Vale waving his hand as if to remove the dark veil that was inside the hall...

Indeed, as soon as he waved his hand, the Darkness Veil that was covering the two imprisoned creatures slowly dispersed!

Massive chains crisscrossed the chamber, converging at the center where two colossal creatures were restrained!

Chad's eyes widened as he beheld the sight before him.

Two majestic Dragons, their scales shimmering in the dim light, were bound by chains that seemed barely capable of restraining their immense power.

The Dragons exuded an aura of an ancient force and raw, untamed might.

Despite their captivity, they emanated an undeniable presence as their eyes were still gleaming with defiance.

The Dragons then grunted after seeing their appearance, and it reverberated through the hall, rattling the chains binding them.

Chapter 614 Trade

614 Trade

'This..'

Chad stood frozen, unable to move or speak as he beheld the two Dragons fix their gaze upon him.

The thought of entering his Phantasm State didn't even cross his mind, fearing that it might be interpreted as rude, potentially offending the majestic creatures before him.

'Vale! Why in the world did you bring me here?!' Chad inwardly lamented, nearly peeing at the sight of these colossal beings.

On the other hand, though Vale was also taken aback, his surprise was fleeting. He soon adopted an enthusiastic expression as he addressed the Dragons.

"Do you know Aersus the Soul Eater?" Vale inquired, referencing the Water Dragon he had encountered in the Mystic Soul Tower.

He didn't even ask about the Dragons themselves but immediately asked about someone.

Chad couldn't help but take a deep breath.

Nevertheless, the Dragons remained unresponsive to his query. They simply shifted their attention to Vale.

With this, Vale was prompted to continue.

"I know that you can speak since Magnus mentioned it to me. I'm Vale Chambers, and I'm now the new owner of this castle, with Magnus as my slave. In short, I can arrange your freedom or return to your Dragon Realm if you satisfy me..." Vale declared before he decided to show his Dragon's True Sight.

His eyes suddenly glowed with a faint jade light as he tried to see through the dragon's body.

Upon hearing Vale's words and seeing his Dragon-like Spell, the dragons exchanged a meaningful look, seemingly communicating telepathically.

On the other hand, Vale expected their reaction as he smiled, patiently awaiting their response. He was mindful not to rush in such a delicate situation.

"Vale Chambers... Do you have plans of removing these chains?" inquired the dragon with purple scales. It seemed quite similar to Aersus but its wings were slightly shorter than those of the red dragon beside it.

"Of course... It's not like I'll be living in this castle forever. Once this place has served its purpose, you will be able to leave. In any case, you have a very long lifespan, so three or four years shouldn't be a big problem. However, that will only happen if you're cooperative..." Vale assured, his tone was calm and there wasn't a hint of nervousness at all.

"You must keep your word..." asserted the red dragon.

"Of course... Now, can you introduce yourself to us? If you don't, I'll just call you red dragon and purple dragon." Vale proposed, bringing a sense of ease to Chad.

Observing Vale's ability to shift the atmosphere, Chad couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief. As long as he remained at his classmate's side, there seemed to be nothing to fret about.

After a moment of hesitation, the purple dragon spoke, followed by the red dragon.

"Orden..."

"Ryzoir..."

"Your names do sound majestic, Sir Orden and Sir Ryzior..." Vale responded while withdrawing his ineffective Dragon's True Sight.

It appeared that using a dragon spell on genuine dragons was futile. Nevertheless, it certainly caught the attention of the two dragons.

"I have a request, Sir dragons... I need some of your Draconic Essence to help my friend here. As you can see, he has the Ghost King's Body, and if we use your essence, it will greatly benefit him and awaken his true potential..." Vale implored.

This stunned Chad for a moment as he didn't expect that his friend was planning to help him! Chad's eyes lit up in excitement.

However, the dragon immediately rejected Vale's request.

"Hmph! You can see that we're imprisoned here. Once our Draconic Essence diminishes, our energy will wane, and these chains will sap us dry..." Orden, the purple dragon, retorted.

"If you want us to help you, make it reasonable or just leave... Even if you have the dragon's blood in you, it doesn't mean that we'll cooperate." Ryzoir added.

Vale sighed upon hearing this, but he remained undeterred.

While he could resort to his Extraction System, these two intelligent Dragons hadn't wronged him in any way that warranted forceful extraction while they were already being drained by the formation.

It felt unjust to extract their essence without consent while they were in such dire straits.

"If that's the case, then can you teach us your Spell Models?" Vale requested.

"Spell Models?" the two Dragons appeared puzzled. Teaching humans their Spell Models was them asking for death! Their Spell Models weren't something humans could control in their bodies.

"Yes, we would like to study them. We will not use them directly. However, even if they're not suitable for humans like us, they will still serve as valuable research material. In exchange for that, you can make a request like food or anything else you desire, except for the release of those chains. We will free the two of you once we decide to leave this castle..." Vale proposed with a hint of confident in his tone.

Upon hearing these words, the Dragons couldn't help but laugh.

It seemed absurd to them that humans would take an interest in their Dragon Spells. Nonetheless, they immediately recollected how Vale had used a spell faintly similar to their Draconic Eyes. The resemblance was slight, but it was undeniably present.

"Fine... I will show you two Draconic Spell Models... But I want you to bring me a few Arcane Ores," Orden declared.

"Mhmm... Orden, you want to transform into your human form?" Ryzoir inquired.

"Yes... I'm bored crouching here. I want to start moving around since we will be able to leave here in three years. I thought it would still take 50 more years until that Magnus dies..." Orden responded.

"Well... Then, I want the same thing. I'll show you two Draconic Spell Models.." Ryzoir stated.

Meanwhile, Vale was already grinning.

"Great! Let's do it. Please show them now. I will arrange for the collection of Arcane Ores. It will take a few weeks. Don't worry, I will keep my word so we can continue more transactions at a later date..." Vale assured.

Chapter 615 Aersus

?615 Aersus

Soon, the two Dragon's shared their Spell Models with the two. They used some kind of magic similar to the books in the library of the Academy.

Nevertheless, it felt as if they used a memory transfer spell to show them what the Spell Models looked like. It was certainly more effective as the image of the Spell Models was very clear.

They were Draconic Scale Armor, Dragon's Roar, Draconic Breath, Dragon's Wrath.

The Draconic Scale Armor could be used by humans and it grants the caster a layer of scales that covers their skin, similar to a dragon... It can be used to protect against physical or magical damage, or to enhance strength and durability.

However, even if humans could record this Spell through some luck, they would not be able to utilize it with its full might because they are missing the Dragon's blood and physique.

On the other hand, the Dragon's Roar allows the caster to unleash a powerful roar that can stun, frighten, or damage enemies, similar to a dragon. It could be used to intimidate, distract, or weaken targets.

Unfortunately, this powerful Spell could not differentiate between friend and foe. Even if this could incapacitate your enemies, it would be the same for your companions.

Nevertheless, Vale accepted this Spell since it could also be fused to other spells once he had successfully recorded it.

The third Spell, which was Draconic Breath, was a bit trickier to record.

During the recording process, you have to be in an environment with rich elemental essence.

If you are on a volcano, the Draconic Breath Spell would become Fire Dragon's Breath, and a stream of fire from your mouth could be released... This Spell Model was very magical and Vale wanted to experiment on it.

'If I record this Spell amidst the lightning strikes... Then, will I get the Lightning Breath?' Vale mused as he heard Ryzoir's explanation.

It seems that after many years of staying here in the basement, they were still glad that some people had decided to visit and talk to them.

Vale may be imagining it, but he could feel that these two weren't terrible Dragons at all. They were just unlucky that Magnus had bad intentions when summoning them.

Lastly, the Dragon's Wrath Spell was probably the finest support spell Vale could ever ask for.

This Spell increases the caster's power, speed, and helps all Spell Lights in his body to have a lower cooldown!

Like a dragon, the caster would become more fierce and formidable in combat!

It could be used to dominate or destroy enemies in short durations!

"I hope there is nothing wrong in these Spell Models..." Vale muttered as he inspected the Spell Models that the Dragons had shown to them.

"You can easily tell if there are problems in those Spell Models. You don't have to agitate us." Orden said.

"Send us the Arcane Ores immediately... As for that kid beside you, you can leave him to us. We will reward him if he entertains us with his Ghost King's Spells... I'm sure he can use the Nether Ice Spell and others, right?" Ryzoir suddenly said which stunned Vale for a moment.

It wasn't his plan to leave Chad here at all. He was simply planning to create a reason to give him the Dragon Essence in his collection.

After all, he knew that he couldn't just summon some Dragon Essence and give it to Chad. He had to at least show that he had a connection to Dragon.

Furthermore, even if he decided to transform into a Dragon and attack the capital later, he could just blame these two Dragons and say that they taught the Spell to him during their free time.

"If you're not planning to harm him, then... Chad, what do you think?" Vale inquired, shifting his attention to Chad.

He could sense that Chad was eager to leave, but upon hearing the Dragon express interest in him, Chad couldn't help but pause for a moment to consider his words.

"I... I don't know... Vale, I'm scared to be alone with these Dragons." Chad honestly replied.

It would have been stranger if he didn't feel scared at all.

Vale then contemplated for a moment before asking Yvaine to retrieve one of Aersus' Dragon Scales and handing it to Chad.

"Although I don't think they'll harm you. This scale can protect you from them and for your peace of mind. It's enough to give you some time to escape and for their chains to activate, limiting their strength by a significant degree as a penalty."

As soon as the Dragon Scale appeared, the two dragons immediately recognized it as a genuine scale of a Dragon.

"Incredible! So you have one of these!" Chad exclaimed, feeling the power emanating from the scales.

There was no doubt about its strength at all.

Chad swiftly inspected it, and soon, he discovered that a Rune Art was engraved on it. Once his Dark Energy entered the scale, he could trigger the Rune Art that would activate the barrier for him.

Unsurprisingly, this was Vale's creation.

It was all thanks to his Rune Arts, specifically the Rune Creation Spell, Rune Simplification Spell, and the Protection Rune Spell that he had extracted before.

Typically, Runes must be engraved using a tool and specific techniques. However, with the existence of the Protection Rune Spell, he could cast this spell without relying on tools and imprinting them on items.

Naturally, this meant that he couldn't create any Runes aside from those he already possessed, as manually creating them was impossible without the required knowledge passed on him.

"Interesting... You asked about Aersus, the Soul Eater, right?" Orden asked.

"Yes... Can you answer me now?" Vale asked as he looked at the Dragon's eyes without flinching.

Although the aura of the two Dragons was quite overwhelming inside this prison hall, Vale had a Half-Celestial Physique, and he was even at the limit of his body in terms of his attributes.

"Mhmm... I've heard about Aersus, the dragon that had betrayed the Dragon Realm. Aersus managed to escape by sending dozens of clones to different realms... It seems that the one you have is one of his clone's scales..."

Orden then paused for a moment before he continued...

"It means that once his real body enters this Human Realm, you will be his first target for slaying his clone."

Chapter 616 Payment

?616 Payment

"That Aersus is a clone?" Vale was taken aback, as he had believed the dragon he encountered to be genuine.

He had even extracted Aersus, yielding him hundreds of Draconic Essence, two Spell Models, and several Water Dragon Scales, in addition to the attributes he obtained.

"Yes... Even if they're clones, they were still made of true Dragon's Essence, so it is not wrong to call them Dragons as well. Aersus' technique is so incredible that his clones can be stronger than other true Dragons." Orden explained.

'So it's like that...'

Vale nodded gently upon hearing this. He hadn't anticipated Aersus to be so remarkable. He was certainly looking forward to meeting Aersus' real body someday.

'I wonder if he'll remember our encounter...' Vale mused.

If Aersus had memories of Vale, he would certainly be enraged once they've met again.

Vale then thanked the two dragons for the valuable information as he left Chad in their care.

In any case, he believed that Chad would benefit from this encounter since the two dragons would soon receive the items they desired, the Arcane Ores. They shouldn't think of doing something stupid that would increase their number of years of being imprisoned.

Furthermore, Vale already hinted that he could kill a dragon. They should know how to conduct themselves by now.

"I wonder where we could get them..." Vale mused as he walked outside the castle. He was referring to the Arcane Ore.

Although he knew of their existence, he had no idea where to get them since there was not a time when he needed to use them.

"Is there a problem?" Faith suddenly asked after hearing Vale's words.

She had appeared behind Vale, seeming to have just come from her room. Vale also couldn't help but notice how she smelled great, as if she had just taken a bath.

Vale immediately shook his head to dispel his random thoughts and replied.

"Miss Faith, I didn't notice you coming. Do you know where to get the Arcane Ores? Are they expensive? I need plenty of them."

"Arcane Ores? I know where to get them, and you're right, they're quite expensive since they are not just materials to craft certain Magic Artifacts, but they're also used to summon Elemental Spirits. You can expect the monopoly from the Elemental Arts Faction... but there are still other sources..." Faith replied.

As expected of the Manager of the Contribution Points Exchange Hall, she knew about plenty of items.

"That's excellent news! I heard that we made over 300 thousand zen from selling all the potions and talismans that Magnus crafted... After deducting our purchases, we should still have around a hundred thousand zen, correct?" Vale said as he recalled their recent earnings.

"Yes... But still, a small ore can be sold for 5 thousand zen, so you won't get many of them."

"What? They're so expensive?" Vale exclaimed as he compared the price of the Immortal Shards.

"It's mainly because they're being hoarded by several factions. They aren't scarce, but they're difficult to buy. I have a few of them with me. How many do you need?" Faith suddenly said, giving hope to Vale.

"What? Is that true? I need as many as I can..." Vale said and continued to explain that it was for the Dragons imprisoned in the underground hall of the castle.

He also mentioned that Chad was currently there, accompanying the two dragons.

"That's interesting... Alright, I can provide you with about 300 of them..." Faith said after recalling the number of ores that she had brought with her.

"That's great! How much will that be?" Vale inquired.

"Mhmmm... I don't need money, but I need something from you..." Faith said with a faint smile.

Vale couldn't help but feel a little nervous, but he still returned a smile and replied, "Let me know, I'll do my best to fulfill your request."

"That's good to hear... I've been interested in the pocketwatch you've been keeping in your pocket all this time... My senses tell me that it's an ordinary item, but when I open my eyes, I notice that it's quite extraordinary. Although it's sealed, it seems as if it has the power to change the world," Faith asked.

"I'm not planning to take it from you. I'm only interested in seeing the seal it has and finding out what it can do." She added.

Vale was stunned after hearing this.

Faith seemed blind, as she always had her eyes closed. However, it was clearly not the case from her words just now. Vale had been pondering about this for some time, as Faith had never acted blind, even though she always had her eyes closed.

"This timepiece is quite important to me, Miss Faith..." Vale said after some thought.

"I know... I will not damage it. I've been handling magic artifacts for many years, and I can say that even the Headmaster doesn't have the skill that I have when it comes to handling artifacts." Faith said.

Vale lapsed into silence for a moment.

Upon reflection, it didn't sound too bad after all.

If Faith studied the timepiece, he could also gain insights into how it functions. He didn't even mind if the item was fully unsealed.

In fact, he might even ask her to unseal the Creation Ring as well!

But then, a thought struck him, 'No... Not the Creation Ring... Pearl said that I can use it to deal with the Abyss Realm and even stop the invasion. It's better to ask Pearl. I'll keep it for now...'

Vale mused as he retrieved the Temporal Timepiece.

"Here it is... I only know a few things about this pocket watch. I know that it looked similar to the Temporal Timepiece. It is one of the items owned by the Three Paragons that was left here before they ascended... according to what I've read. I've concealed this item using a basic sealing technique

a few times and hidden it inside the academy. However, after being outside for a long time, I stopped sealing it, so you managed to sense its presence..." Vale explained.

Chapter 617 Earning Money

?617 Earning Money

"No wonder I only sensed it now... If it's really an item from the Paragons... Then maybe I can really assist you in making this fully yours..." Faith said with a confident smile.

It felt as if this wasn't her first time doing this!

Vale's eyes sparkled upon hearing her words.

"If that's the case, then you can take it. I will wait for good news," Vale said, deciding to trust Faith.

It was commendable that she chose to stay in the castle to help the young "students" of the Academy instead of returning to the Dark Arts Faction.

This decision demonstrated her genuine care for their well-being.

There was no doubt that he could trust this Half-Spirit.

"Then, you can take the Arcane Ores in my room tomorrow since I still have to arrange them..." Faith said as she took the Temporal Timepiece from Vale.

As soon as she did, she felt the item grow hot, and she immediately shrouded herself with a mysterious aura.

Vale noticed this but he waited for her to speak.

"This item doesn't like me... I guess it will be tougher than I expected..." Faith said in a soft voice as she held the pocket watch tightly. Although it no longer hurt her after she cast a spell, it didn't mean that she had already tamed the artifact.

She needed plenty of time to get used to it and find the safest way to research it.

"I probably need several months to study this item." Faith said with a helpless smile.

"That's fine, Miss Faith. As long as it doesn't get destroyed, you can even study it for a year," Vale reassured her.

"Mhmm... That's probably what's going to happen. Of course, if we obtain the other two items of the Paragons, then this will be a lot easier. In any case, I'll be leaving now. Thank you for accepting my request; I finally obtained a decent research project..." Faith said as she turned around and left to return to her room.

Vale, on the other hand, was equally pleased with this outcome.

He then visited Magnus in his laboratory to see how many talismans and potions he had made so far. Their livelihood mostly depended on Magnus, so Vale considered assisting him to help them earn more money.

Upon entering Magnus' laboratory, Vale immediately sensed a powerful energy fluctuation.

He wasn't sure where it was coming from, but he quickly closed the door to prevent the disturbance from affecting others who are also busy on their tasks.

He then observed Magnus, who was deeply engrossed in writing on a talisman. From his vantage point, Vale could barely discern a word written in Heumish, a language commonly used by practitioners of the Knight Arts.

'Oh... I thought he was making Elemental Talismans. Is it not the profitable talisman?' Vale silently pondered. He refrained from interrupting Magnus, knowing that the materials for the talisman were not inexpensive, and any mistakes would incur significant costs.

Since they were planning to make this castle an impregnable fortress, they needed plenty of money since Marquis Morgan would not give everything to them for free.

After about five more minutes, Magnus completed the talisman. He put down his brush before addressing Vale, who had just arrived.

"Master Vale..."

"Not bad... What is this talisman for?" Vale inquired upon seeing the finished product.

"This is a high-grade Evil-Warding Talisman. You previously mentioned encountering the Gluttony in a certain city. I also heard that the number of Evil Creatures had been increasing over the past few weeks. It feels as if someone is releasing a huge number of evil spirits. This problem may be in this region and other kingdoms in every part of the world. I believe that this is a sign that the Abyss Realm's invasion is getting near." Magnus explained.

He then paused for a moment to give the Talisman to Vale before continuing.

"This time, I'm planning to earn money from the nobles and rich businessmen... This would surely help us complete our preparations faster."

"Ohh... So you're already preparing for that! Nice..." Vale remarked, realizing that Magnus had proactively altered his target customers, a step beyond what he had suggested.

"But how about the potions and talismans we're sending every week to the towns and villages? They're our line of defense if the invasion starts, so it's better to make them a bit stronger with our supplies," Vale inquired. He didn't want to stop supplying potions and talismans to these places since it would attract Arcanists to gather in these places which would benefit them in the long run.

Magnus smiled after hearing his Master's concern.

"Don't worry, Master... Lisa has decided to take care of a part of it. It will only take her at least 4 hours a day to make hundreds of low-level talismans. As for the potions, I can still handle that..."

Vale was unaware of Lisa's growing talent.

But it certainly made sense since she learned from Magnus for a few months already.

Furthermore, it seemed that her transformation into a vampire had significantly altered her sleeping patterns. Perhaps she had grown bored and thus volunteered for the task...

'Right... We can't always stay in the castle with few people. There should be some sort of socializing as well...' Vale mused silently, recognizing the scarcity of social interaction.

With this in mind, he resolved to accompany their next trip to the towns and cities to sell their products. He intended to take advantage of the opportunity to explore and spend time with his friends.

'I think it's not that bad to have some fun from time to time... Once the invasion starts for real, we will no longer have a peaceful time like this...' Vale reflected, immediately contemplating which places they should visit.

"Alright... Do you have amulets here?" Vale inquired.

"Yes, Master Vale... We have 2,000 amulets, as you've requested. I was planning to make Healing Amulets from them... However, they will be too expensive, and selling them in small towns will be difficult. The doctors or alchemists will also hate us for that. May I ask what you plan on using them, Master?" Magnus asked.

"Mhmm... I don't really have any other options. I can only make Protection Runes..." Vale responded.

He wasn't sure if this item could sell, but he would try it in the small towns they'd be visiting next week.

He could only hope that nothing goes wrong at that time...

Chapter 618 Possessed

?618 Possessed

Lilia was experiencing a headache after numerous people were possessed in their small town. Specifically, there have been 30 incidents of living people being possessed by evil spirits.

Dealing with these possessions wasn't as challenging as handling Evil Creatures, or corpses possessed by Evil Spirits, but it was still a significant issue for a small town like theirs.

Dealing with the possessed living people was not easy, as their relatives would typically attempt to rouse their family members, resulting in casualties in the process. It could be argued that dealing with a possessed corpse was a lot easier, as there was no risk of harming the person.

They could just use the firearms or runic weapons of the special police officers, and they would have a higher chance of solving it without casualties.

"I hope everything will be fine today..." Lilia sighed as she looked at the mirror to brush her hair.

She was the mayor of the town and was only 31 years old.

She had long, flowing chestnut hair that framed her delicate features. Her piercing blue eyes exuded both warmth and weariness. Despite the weight of her responsibilities, she maintained a composed and dignified demeanor, often wearing a simple yet elegant attire that reflected her practical approach to governance.

Lilia had become the mayor at a young age compared to other mayors because her father, the previous mayor, had passed away a few months ago. It was after he was suspected of sympathizing with the rebels.

Unfortunately, the current ruler of the kingdom was quite cruel. They didn't even feel satisfied with the death of their mayor and increased the tax by more than 50%.

Luckily, Marquis Morgan had recently taken full control of the eastern and southern parts of the kingdom, preparing to usurp the throne. He had reduced their taxes and provided support to small towns like theirs. However, due to the impending civil war, the number of Arcanists in their town had significantly decreased, and supernatural events were becoming increasingly difficult to manage.

At this time, she could only pray that the Marquis could ascend to the throne immediately and restore peace to their land.

Thud... Thud... Thud...

Suddenly, she heard hurried footsteps approaching her room.

"Mayor! Mayor! Miss Parkinson has been possessed!"

A female servant reported as soon as she knocked on her door.

"How? Ugh... This is concerning..." Lilia abandoned her attempt to fix her hair, hastily leaving with the household servant. Upon stepping outside, she was met by a group of guards who escorted her to the location where Miss Parkinson was causing some disturbance.

The commotion was taking place at Miss Parkinson's residence, which also served as a flower shop. Upon arrival, Lilia noticed Miss Parkinson's skin had turned purple, with prominent blue veins seemingly on the verge of bursting.

This was quite common to the possessed people, so she was no longer surprised.

Strangely, she had started consuming the flowers being sold in her shop. This was something she had never seen before.

Lilia, perplexed by the situation, had no time to dwell on it.

She immediately inquired of the police officer.

"What's happening? We need to restrain her... Where are the special police officers?"

"Mayor! They already attempted and were injured. They should be in the clinic right now. It seems Miss Parkinson only wants to eat the flowers. She becomes agitated if we try to stop her..." The police officer responded.

He had an idea why Miss Parkinson was eating flowers... However, it was not important at this moment since there were other pressing matters. It was already good enough that she wasn't targeting other people.

"This is not good. If her possession lasts for three hours, there's no coming back... Don't we have any evil-warding talismans left?" Mayor Lilia inquired.

"Unfortunately, they've all been used up over the past few days... At this point, we can only try to restrain her and have her drink the holy water. We only have two of them, so we can't use it to douse her since it will be ineffective..." The police officer explained.

Holy Water was also a solution but the quality of their Holy Water wasn't great, and there are only two of them. To maximize their usage, they have to make the possessed person drink it!

"How are we going to restrain her?" Mayor Lilia asked, even though she already knew the answer—they couldn't. It was impossible for them to do it!

The special police officers were the Combat Arts Practitioners of their small town. They were the only Arcanists in their town.

If they had been easily defeated by the possessed Miss Parkinson, there was no way ordinary people could subdue her without causing harm.

While they did possess firearms that could potentially injure Miss Parkinson, doing so would be a death sentence.

Lilia observed Miss Parkinson's young children, only around 5 and 6 years old, being comforted by a few kind neighbors.

She could not let those two become orphans. She was unwilling to resort to shooting unless Miss Parkinson began to rampage and started targeting people.

"We have to act before that occurs..." Lilia declared solemnly.

After a while, other police officers arrived with several ropes in an attempt to restrain Miss Parkinson. They were compelled to act swiftly as the supply of flowers she was consuming was running low.

Apparently, the flowers had recently been bestowed with an Arcane Blessing by a wandering Arcanist just two days prior. The officers speculated that this blessing was the sole reason for Miss Parkinson's malevolent interest in the blooms, perceiving them as a source of sustenance.

Graaahh!

Suddenly, a guttural, unearthly sound emanated from Miss Parkinson. It was completely different from her original gentle voice, sending shivers down the spines of all present.

Her voice echoed as if she had just come from the depths of hell.

Then, the town was enveloped in an aura of death, instilling fear in everyone around.

"Not good! It's becoming more powerful!" Lilia exclaimed, clutching the necklace her father had given her.

She was told that she could only use this if she was in danger.

'Father... Please help me...' Lilia silently prayed as she thought of activating the necklace.

However, before she could act, the distinct sound of an airship resonated above the town, interrupting the tense atmosphere.

Chapter 619 Assistance

?619 Assistance

"What's that?"

"An Airship! Is it from the capital?"

"Oh no... Are they going to increase the taxes again?"

"They might even kill us at this rate!"

The news immediately sparked concern among the people. The arrival of an Airship from the capital typically signified trouble. If the Royal Knights descended upon their town, it would likely not be for assistance, but rather to penalize them for supporting the Marquis!

"No... Look at that flag! It's the enigmatic Airship from the cursed forest!"

As soon as someone said this, they immediately looked closely. They didn't even care even if their eyes were hurting from the sun.

"You're right! We're saved!"

"Hurry! Wave something! Do your best to catch their attention!"

Upon the officers' directive, the townspeople hastily utilized clothes and other items to attract the airship's notice. They feared that the mysterious vessel might bypass them and head for larger towns or cities instead.

Although they communicated with the people of this airship, they knew that they were a better choice than the royal knights.

Luckily, their efforts proved fruitful as the airship decelerated and began its descent.

To their surprise, a figure leaped from the deck and descended even faster than the airship itself. It was unmistakably an Arcanist!

"We're saved!" Lilia realized that the arrival of a flying Arcanist offered hope for resolving the situation without resorting to lethal measures against Miss Parkinson.

However, as the figure drew closer, an overwhelming presence emanated from her. The descending individual was a pallid woman exuding an aura of darkness.

'A Vampire?' Lilia speculated inwardly, refraining from voicing her thoughts. She didn't want the crowd to panic if they heard her words.

It was not uncommon to encounter Arcanists with various alterations or peculiarities in their physiques. These alterations were often observed in rogue Arcanists who lacked proper training to combat the madness induced by the Special State that enables their entry into their Magic Zone.

'I hope we can ask her to deal with this without killing Miss Parkinson...' Lilia pondered as she stepped forward to address the airborne Arcanist.

Before Lilia could address the female Arcanist, who she suspected might be a Vampire, the Arcanist swiftly moved to subdue the possessed flower shop owner.

"Esteemed Arcanist! Please don't kill her!" Lilia urgently pleaded, unwilling to let the two children be left orphaned.

Thankfully, the female Arcanist appeared conscious of her actions. Unperturbed by Lilia's plea, she caused several dark tendrils to emerge from the ground, swiftly immobilizing Miss Parkinson.

'A Dark Magician?' Lilia mused.

'No wonder they're in the cursed forest, they're probably hiding from the Holy Arts Faction.'

"Grrraaahhh!"

Miss Parkinson bellowed desperately, unleashing a wave of mysterious energy that was exuding an aura of death.

However, the female Arcanist promptly quelled this deathly aura, exhibiting complete mastery over it.

Obviously, the female Arcanist was a master of Dark Arts!

Since the possessed woman was already lacking substantial energy because she used everything in that roar, the battle didn't last that long.

Soon, the dark tendrils enshrouded her entire form.

Subsequently, agonizing cries reverberated, this time originating from Miss Parkinson's true voice!

"Ma!" The children shouted as soon as they heard their mother's voice. There was also a hint of relief in their voice as they thought that they could never hear her true voice again.

Just as Lilia was about to intercede once more, the dark tendrils enveloping Miss Parkinson suddenly dissipated, leaving the nearly unclothed woman to vomit the contents of her stomach.

Blegh~

Miss Parkinson reverted to her normal state as she expelled the things she had eaten a while ago.

Her purple complexion had vanished, and although she may have sustained injuries, she remained alive!

Lisa furrowed her brow as she descended beside the woman who had fallen victim to an 'Evil Spirit'.

'I don't feel good about this...' Lisa mused.

The entity that had possessed the woman was no ordinary evil spirit. Lisa suspected it was a powerful entity, possibly a Phantom Spirit capable of harnessing the Arcane Spells of the Arcanist it had possessed.

Unlike ordinary evil spirits, Phantom Spirits could access an Arcanist's Spell Lights and employ them to their advantage. If there are many of these Spirits roaming around this region, normal evil-warding talismans, low-grade holy water, and weak fate protection amulet may not work on them.

'This could be quite a predicament if they've spread to many towns and villages... Good thing we have the perfect item for this situation...' Lisa reflected.

In hindsight, she should have utilized the Evil-Warding Talisman to demonstrate its effectiveness in expelling spirits from the possessed individual.

"Esteemed Arcanist! Thank you for aiding us! I'm Lilia, the Mayor of this town... You've been providing us with various potions and talismans, and now, you've even assisted us in dealing with the Evil Spirit," Lilia said gratefully.

"Oh? I believe this is our first visit here..." Lisa remarked. She was always with Chad when going out to sell their products so she knew that they've never sold a product here.

"True, but you've visited the neighboring town, and they have shared your blessings with us and spread word about your enigmatic merchant airship..." Lilia explained as she recalled how the Mayor of another town had given them a few supplies of potions that they've needed.

They were lucky that their relationship with other towns was great, so they were able to survive for a long time. It was all thanks to the late Mayor.

"I see. We have a limited supply of potions and talismans, so we haven't been able to reach all the small towns. However, we have scaled up our production this time and plan to visit all the towns and villages surrounding the forest..." Lisa responded with a smile, confident in the success of their enterprise.

Just now, the locals lauded her actions, seemingly unconcerned about her practice of Dark Arts. It was evident that the influence of the Church of the Fortune Goddess did not hold sway here.

"It seems true that only the believers of the Church of the Divine Sorcerer reside here." Lisa pondered as she was soon invited to the Mayor's house.

It was time to turn a profit!

Chapter 620 Visitor

Upon the airship's arrival and subsequent docking in a field near the small town, Vale, Chad, and Magnus disembarked to attend to their respective tasks.

Specifically, Chad and Magnus set out to finalize a transaction within the small town, while Vale took the opportunity to explore the area.

Apparently, it was Vale who had detected a disturbance in the small town, prompting him to dispatch Lisa to address the situation.

Although he was capable of handling it himself, Vale opted to have Lisa take charge, in order to leave a favorable impression.

After all, it was her responsibility to sell their products to the public. It means that she would have more interactions with them than Vale.

"Vale, we're heading ahead... We should be done in about an hour..." Chad informed Vale as he observed him gazing at the town square.

After being together with the dragons for a week, Chad felt that he no longer had anything to fear, so he felt comfortable going to unfamiliar places, like this small town.

"Alright... I'll take a look around the town. Just wait for me in the airship..." Vale replied as he waved his hand to Chad.

With his Presence Shift Spell, he possessed the ability to move effortlessly within his Magic Zone, ensuring that he wouldn't be lost or left behind by his companions.

As Vale roamed the small town, he made a startling discovery – an abundance of cursed items were being circulated in the area!

'What's going on here?' Vale mused.

He also keenly observed the conspicuous absence of Arcanists in the vicinity, a fact that struck him as highly unusual considering the magical nature of their surroundings.

'I felt a huge amount of Arcane Energy a while ago... But there are only a few Combat Arcanists around when I arrived... Did it all come from the evil spirits?'

This absence of magical practitioners raised further concerns about the town's predicament and the potential impact of the cursed items.

He also couldn't help but feel puzzled by the origin of these items and their sinister nature. There was no way these items were gathered here by coincidence.

Vale could tell that they were not ordinary cursed artifacts, considering how difficult it was to notice the curses inside.

It was only thanks to his advanced detection spells that he was able to discern the hidden curses within the numerous items being peddled in the market.

While he couldn't definitively identify the nature of the curses imbued in each of them, they all bore signs associated with malevolent spirits. There was no way he would make a mistake on this.

Vale sighed as he realized that the issue at hand was more significant than he had initially perceived.

'There must be someone deliberately orchestrating this...' Vale mused as he started asking around the two to find the source of these artifacts.

He couldn't let these artifacts remain here.

He already envisioned a scenario where once these cursed items accumulated sufficient dark energy, they would promptly possess anyone in close proximity, ultimately transforming the land into a realm of malevolence.

'I can't let that happen...' Vale mused as he believed that he should destroy these items! Nôv(el)B\\jnn

Soon, Vale made the decision to gather the townspeople who possessed the mysterious artifacts.

During this time, he discovered that these items were being sold as protection artifacts, a fact that had been confirmed by several previous Arcanists who had visited the town.

According to these Arcanists, the artifacts had the ability to absorb malevolent energy, effectively safeguarding their owners from harm.

However, this seemingly positive attribute was also the source of the problem. While the artifacts indeed provided protection by absorbing evil energy, they were inadvertently nurturing the curses embedded within them.

'What a sinister move... I didn't expect that someone would use such a method to bring harm to people...' Vale thought.

"Alright! If you hand over these Artifacts to me... We will be able to sell you our Protection Amulets for half the price!" Vale proposed while also relaying the plan to Lisa and the others through telepathy.

Fortunately, the townspeople embraced the idea and cooperated with Vale's proposal.

Everything proceeded smoothly, thanks to the reputation of their merchant airship among the public. Subsequently, Vale enlisted Yvaine's assistance to store all the artifacts in his shadow.

Everything seemed peaceful as Lisa finalized their transaction with the small town.

Regrettably, this tranquil interlude didn't last for long as an unexpected visitor arrived in the city.

'Mhmm? When did he get here?' Vale thought as he activated his Arcane Armor. It was a practiced reaction since Arcane Armor could defend almost against any form of attack.

Vale then squinted his eyes as he triggered his detection spells on the figure that has arrived.

The newcomer was a man adorned with two black horns protruding from his head and fiery red hair.

He wasn't emitting any form of energy as he arrived at the town square without being noticed by Vale's Magic Zone until he had appeared near him!

He had a strikingly pale complexion, a handsome countenance, and discernible fangs. Clad in a robe exuding an otherworldly aura, he had undoubtedly made a mysterious entrance...

"Mhmmm... No wonder my items disappeared here... Did you destroy them, incomplete immortal?" The visitor spoke in a deep voice as he looked at Vale with an emotionless eye.

Vale found himself at a loss regarding the identity of the enigmatic man, but a realization dawned upon him as he took note of the distinctive horns and the manner in which he was addressed.

'Demon Saint?!' Vale couldn't help but draw a deep breath as the pieces of the puzzle fell into place.

While he had anticipated an encounter with them, he had not expected it to unfold at this particular moment, especially when he had only intended to explore the nearby towns and cities around their castle.

His plans to treat Lisa and the others to an extravagant meal after completing their tasks now seemed like a distant luxury.