

D. Extraction 651

Chapter 651 The Mysterious Castle

"What a strange Formation Art... Did they collect all the Mystic Formation Nodes to produce this?" Marcus III remarked after he realized that his senses could pass through the illusion, but his physical body could not.

It means that if they didn't deliberately go through this path, they would've missed this place entirely... It was such an amazing Formation Art!

As Marcus III touched the strange barrier, he started analyzing its structure, hoping to find its weakness.

Although he was already touching it, he could only feel a faint trace of a formation that was camouflaged among the trees, rocks, and the mountain itself. It was a complex and intricate formation that used several Mystic Arts to create an illusion.

It was a formation that could only be made by a master of Formation Arts.

If he wasn't mistaken, this Formation Arts was simply an outer barrier. Once they'd broken through this, they would still have to pass through another barrier where they could really enter the castle.

'What an amazing Formation Art... They must have an incredible source of energy to make this.' Marcus III remarked as he continued to analyze the barrier and illusion...

After a few more inspections of it, the Pontiff became even more surprised and impressed by the formation.

He couldn't help but wonder who had made this... Perhaps, if not for his Divinity, he would be clueless on how to destroy this barrier.

However, now that he had completed his examinations, he decided to break it, and to reveal the secret.

"Move back..."

Marcus said softly, and the Storm Knights immediately acted. They moved away from the Pontiff, but they were still on guard in case the Pontiff needed help.

After all, anything could happen when dismantling a Formation Art.

As the Pontiff gathered his power, a huge fluctuation of energy spread out, alarming all the animals and even Evil Creatures around the area.

Soon, he unleashed a bolt of lightning followed by a pulse of mysterious energy that tried to burst the illusions and the barrier.

Bang!

The Pontiff didn't just randomly hit the Formation, but he aimed at the nodes that were powering the barriers! He also hit several spots where he sensed a weak point.

He hoped to destroy the Formation in this attack!

But he was wrong!

The Formation was stronger than he expected. It absorbed his attack, and then retaliated. It sent out a wave of Dark Energy, that countered his Lightning Bolt!

Boom!

It was a formation that could also attack!

The Pontiff and the Storm Knights were caught off guard, and they were hit by the wave. They felt a sharp pain, and a dizzying sensation.

Luckily, the Pontiff's attack didn't end there. His Staff activated and released another piercing force of Lightning Energy that tore through the barrier! This time, the barrier was unable to defend!

The attack created a hole big enough for them to pass through!

"We're going to enter first, Your Holiness!" The leader of the Storm Knights immediately said as he stood in front of Marcus III.

Although he was also affected by the barrier's counterattack, he was able to quickly recover thanks to his high-level armor.

"Very well... I will follow behind." Marcus III said as he looked at the torn barrier. It was slowly recovering, but it might take three to four hours before it could repair itself, so he wasn't in a hurry.

It didn't take long before their group passed through the outer barrier of the castle.

Indeed, the Pontiff was right!

As the Storm Knights looked around, they saw that the forest had changed.

The trees from afar had turned into walls, and the muddy ground and rocks had disappeared.

As they looked behind the walls, they saw the grand silhouette of the castle, its towering spires reaching toward the sky, exuding an aura of formidable strength and ancient majesty.

The walls, adorned with intricate carvings and imposing battlements, stood as a testament to the castle's rich history.

Amidst this awe-inspiring sight, the Merchant Airship, the subject of many stories they heard in towns and cities, lay docked to the left of the castle, its sleek frame and ethereal design casting a mesmerizing allure.

This Merchant Airship was certainly better-looking than their Church's Airship!

Nevertheless, their attention was abruptly drawn to a figure standing at the gate of the castle.

"Welcome, Intruders... I am Magnus. I would normally entertain a visitor, but not for today. If you don't want to die, fix the barrier and leave this place." His voice resonated through the air, carrying an enigmatic and foreboding weight that left an unsettling impression on the group.

As they gazed upon Magnus, they beheld a figure of imposing stature, clad in regal attire that seemed similar to the nobles of this country.

What made the Pontiff dislike this man was his piercing gaze that was trying to penetrate the very core of their beings...

Suddenly, a surge of potent energy radiated from Magnus, enveloping the Pontiff and the Storm Knights in a suffocating aura that sought to force them into submission!

But the Pontiff was not an easy target.

He was Marcus III, the Pontiff of the Church of the Eminence of the Sea, a Half-Immortal! He had faced many enemies and dangers, and he had never bowed to anyone.

Thud!

He struck his Staff on the ground, gathered his own force, and unleashed his Divinity!

He aimed at Magnus, hoping to break his aura and challenge him.

With a solemn yet unwavering voice, he declared.

"You're not the Dragon Summoner or the Immortal I'm looking for... We shall not yield to your malevolent influence, Magnus. Our purpose here transcends any obstacle you may place in our path."

The Pontiff's attack clashed with Magnus' aura, creating a bright flash and a loud noise.

It was a clash of mixed Arcane Energy against the Pontiff's Divinity!

Nevertheless, the two forces were evenly matched, and neither of them could gain the upper hand.

Magnus was surprised by the Pontiff's resistance. He had expected him to be overwhelmed by his power, and to surrender without a fight.

After all, he was also using the castle's barrier when defending against the Pontiff's attack!

Needless to say, without the protection of the Formation Barrier powered by the two Dragons, he would be utterly defeated by the Pontiff!

Chapter 652 Magnus

Magnus knew that he was at a disadvantage against the Pontiff, but he refused to admit defeat.

"You're incredibly strong... However, it's not every day that I get to meet a strong opponent like you. I will not fall so easily! Entertain me!" Magnus roared as he used one of the Arcane Paths that he hadn't fully mastered. It was the Dark Arts.

Well, if Vale hadn't extracted his Cursed Flame, he would've certainly used that Alchemy Art and had a good fight against the Pontiff.

Nevertheless, this allowed him to focus on other Arcane Paths!

This time, he decided to use his Dark Spells, hoping to gain an edge over his opponent. After all, his Dark Spells were the best when dealing with multiple targets.

Magnus chanted a series of words, and summoned a swarm of black crows.

"Kill them all!"

He commanded them to fly towards the Pontiff and the Storm Knight. They weren't too powerful but could peck and scratch with their sharp beaks and claws. Furthermore, they weren't easy to kill with lightning attributes.

They were perfect to use against these Arcanists.

"Night Crows? That's futile!"

The Pontiff saw the crows coming, and he waved his scepter.

He created a barrier of water that blocked the crows from reaching him. It didn't protect the Storm Knights, but he wasn't worried about them since they were all equipped with helmets and armor that had Runes imbued to them.

They should be able to defend themselves for some time.

He then gathered his Divinity sent out a shockwave of Divine Wind Energy that dispersed the crows and turned them into feathers!

Whoooshh~

They were killed so easily! However, Magnus was not deterred by this. He knew very well that his opponent was a Half-Immortal.

He chanted another series of words, and conjured a cloud of Dark Mist. He spread it over the area, and tried to blind and suffocate the Pontiff and the Storm Knights!

Magnus wanted to command his controlled beasts around the castle to attack the group of intruders but he stopped himself from doing so.

These beasts only had one life... Furthermore, most of them are trained to search or detect the Demons. It would be a pity if they get killed by the Pontiff and the Storm Knights this early.

Instead, Magnus applied a Severe Ailment Spell to the dark mist to weaken the immunity of the enemies. He also continued to cast several more curses that was absorbed by the Dark Mist that he made!

"A Dark Mist this time, huh... You're just prolonging your inevitable death." The Pontiff thought as he realized that the Dark Mist wasn't that threatening to them.

Well, at the very least, it was quite difficult to disperse since Dark Mist had a strange resistance against Wind Spells.

However, as the Pontiff felt the mist enveloping him, he immediately knew that something was off, and he held his breath.

He then used his Divinity to focus them in his eyes to enhance his vision.

This was quite a difficult technique when using Divinity but he pulled it off almost without delay.

After using this, he saw through the cursed surrounding the Dark Mist, and he also saw through the darkness, and he spotted Magnus!

Dealing with the Dark Mist might be difficult, but if he killed or heavily injure its caster, then it would just naturally disappear.

He then pointed his scepter at him, and fired a bolt of lightning, that pierced through the mist and aimed at Magnus.

Although this lightning was weakened a lot because of the Dark Mist's energy, it was still enough to threaten Magnus.

Magnus sensed the bolt of lightning approaching, and he dodged it!

It was close, and he was only grazed on his shoulder!

Because he imbued several Curses in that Dark Mist, Magnus failed to erect a defensive barrier at that time!

Magnus then triggered another Spell and created a circle of Dark Flames. It wasn't as strong as the Cursed Flame, but this Dark Flame could last longer than the Cursed Flame from the Alchemy Path...

"If I can't defeat you, I'll at least defeat all your subordinates!" Magnus roared as he pointed at the Pontiff's direction.

He expanded the flames and tried to burn the Pontiff and the Storm Knights behind him, who were still resisting the Curses he had thrown together with the Dark Mist!

"Dark Flame?"

The Pontiff saw the flames rising, and he frowned. Although this was indeed not a scorching flame that could melt through everything, Dark Flame greatly disturbed the energy of the Arcanists. It would mess up their energy flow, and they would have difficulty casting spells in a short period.

'Tsk... I can only use my scepter 5 more times... This is getting more and more annoying.' The Pontiff remarked as he swung his scepter and created a whirlwind!

He blew away the Dark Flames and removed the Dark Mist! However, he spent a huge amount of Divinity to make this work!

Nevertheless, this action finally exposed Magnus!

Marcus III could see that Magnus was also reaching his limit! Without hesitation, he charged at him and used his robe's brilliance spell to blind Magnus for a brief moment!

Then, he opened his palm and activated his glove's Drain Touch!

He only needs to grab Magnus to end this farce!

However, Magnus wasn't affected by the Robe's Brilliance Spell. With his Light Absorption Spell, he easily avoided getting caught off guard.

Then, he saw the Pontiff rushing at him, and he clenched his teeth.

Hell Chain!

He summoned a searing chain of dark metal!

He aimed the chain at the Pontiff and tried to bind him!

The Pontiff saw the chain flying at him, and he smirked.

"That's futile!"

He caught the chain with his hand and pulled it! He was actually unaffected by the Hell Chain! He dragged Magnus towards him and then smashed him with his scepter!

Boom!

Magnus felt the impact of the scepter, and he coughed up blood.

The man fell to the ground, and he groaned in pain.

He had used a lot of Arcane Energy in that bout, but he had failed to defeat the Pontiff and lost the battle.

Chapter 653 Dragon Summoner

"You will be a good vessel for a Fallen Messenger." Marcus III muttered after defeating Magnus.

He was certainly not planning to let Magnus go after what he had done to his group.

However, Marcus III suddenly felt something off.

A threatening aura that was coming from the castle was cast on him.

Then, his gaze shifted upward to the castle wall, where a mysterious figure stood. He only noticed this figure now, and he seemed to be silently observing their battle from the very beginning.

'What can you do when you're far away? I will take this rude bastard's life, and no one can stop me!'

Fueled by his annoyance about being forced to use his scepter several times, the Pontiff sought to bring an end to Magnus' life, intending to destroy his soul and preserve its body.

However, before he could act, the figure above the wall made a subtle gesture, and with a wave of their hand, Magnus vanished from view, leaving the Pontiff astonished by the mysterious display of power.

Marcus III had been a Pontiff for more than five decades already, and although he had strong Arcanists, he would be able to easily see through their Spells because of his Divinity.

However, the technique that made Magnus disappear was completely new to him. He only felt a slight fluctuation of energy, and the man who was about to die disappeared in the blink of an eye.

'Space Folding? No, it was too quick and simple... Is it that Concealment Spell from the Lord of the Secrets?' Marcus III was deep in his thoughts as he looked at the figure standing at the castle wall.

Puzzled by the enigmatic magic that had whisked Magnus away, the Pontiff found himself unable to comprehend the nature of the strange sorcery that had been wielded against him.

Then, he used his spell to inspect the man looking at him.

"I can't feel your Divinity... However, I can sense your incredible strength... Are you the Dragon Summoner?" The Pontiff inquired, seeking to unravel the mystery of the figure's identity and intentions.

In response, the figure offered a cryptic smile, choosing not to verbally confirm their identity as the Dragon Summoner.

Instead, the man revealed a black Grimoire, a tangible affirmation of their status as a Summoner...

"So, I am correct... The Dragon Summoner is hiding here... However, I'm filled with curiosity. Where is the Immortal? Why has he not deigned to greet me? As a Half-Immortal, I am deserving of an audience with the Immortal!" The Pontiff declared, filled with conviction.

On the other hand, the Summoner remained silent and mysterious.

He did not reveal his name or speak any words. He only opened his Black Grimoire and summoned a five-meter tall giant that had some of its parts covered by white cloth.

Rooaaarr!

It was a Mummy King, a powerful undead creature that had once ruled over an ancient civilization in another realm.

It had a bandaged body, a golden crown, and a scepter. It also had glowing red eyes and a sinister aura emanating from its rotten body...

The Pontiff's eyes lit up as he recognized the creature.

"A Mummy King... Very well, there's no doubt about it, you are the Dragon Summoner... I wanted to negotiate with you about your Dragon since I wanted to have them... However, your Grimoire seemed to contain a lot more mystical beings than I thought. If you hand it over to me, I will pay the price for removing your link to that Grimoire, and I will let you off..."

Marcus said as he looked at the mysterious figure.

However, he didn't receive any response and only saw the man ordering the Mummy King to attack.

"So I'm dealing with a mute this time..." Marcus III said as he ordered his recovering Storm Knights to join the battle.

"Your Holiness! Please let us handle this creature!"

"Go ahead!" The Pontiff replied.

Soon, the battle between the Mummy King and the Storm Knights started.

The Mummy King used its scepter to cast various spells, such as curses, plagues, and sandstorms!

It also used its physical strength to swing its scepter and punch its Storm Knights and make them scatter...

It was a formidable opponent, and if this continued, their Arcane Energy might get exhausted!

Luckily, although the Mummy King was formidable, it was still considered as an Undead.

The Pontiff used his own Scepter to counter some of Mummy King's spells. This, he finally decided to cast his Holy Arts and used Sanctify and Holy Smite against the Mummy King!

As a Half-Immortal, he had actually learned four Arcane Paths. They were the Mystic Arts, Elemental Arts, Psychic Arts, and Holy Arts!

His Holy Spells, however, didn't stop the Mummy King's attack, but it certainly slowed it down.

The Storm Knights used their weapons and mounts to assist the Pontiff and attack the Mummy King. They used swords and spears while some of the Summoners sent their contracted beasts.

Without a doubt, they posed a threat to the Summoner and the Mummy King...

However, the mysterious and silent Summoner seemed to be enjoying this battle.

He used his Grimoire to control the Mummy King, and summoned more creatures! He actually summoned a Dark Knight and Ghoul Sovereign!

"Impossible! Three Mystical beings at the same time?!"

"How can he summon them and not pass out!"

"This guy... Does he have the same amount of Spirit Strands with His Holiness?!"

"Impossible... Are you telling me that he also has 70 or more Spirit Strands?!"

"Not good! We're definitely fighting against a Half-Immortal!"

"Just support the Holiness! This is out of our league! Even if we have to sacrifice our lives, we must do it! We have to protect His Holiness!"

The Storm Knights had almost given up, but their captain immediately brought them together.

Of course, the Pontiff had a plan and wasn't deterred after seeing two more powerful summons.

He still hasn't spent all his Divinity. He still had over half of it and was saving most of it once he faced the True Immortal.

Nonetheless, he knew that the Summoner was the key to the battle and that he had to defeat him first. The Summoner was hiding behind the Mummy King, and once his plan worked, that black Grimoire would be his!

Chapter 654 Failed

Marcus III took a deep breath as he faced the Mummy King, the Dark Knight, and the Ghoul Sovereign.

He was confident that he could win against them as an Immortal. However, that would exhaust a lot of his Divinity.

He also knew that his Storm Knights could win against these creatures, but that would use most of their life's essence. He didn't want that to happen this early.

At the very least, he was planning to use the trump card of the Storm Knights as a backup once something went wrong with his confrontation with the new Immortal.

With all of this in consideration, he decided to use a risky but effective strategy.

"Knight Joseph and Knight Val! Form two squads under your leadership and stop the Dark Knight and the Ghoul Sovereign! They're weak against lightning! I will deal with the Mummy King!"

Marcus III said and the two Storm Knights immediately divided the remaining knights into two.

On the other hand, Marcus III didn't wait and fought against the Mummy King using some of his Elemental Arts.

After some time, he started the next phase of his plan.

Boom!

He was hit by the Mummy King's scepter and was thrown to the ground!

'That's a good one...' Marcus III thought as he pretended to be exhausted and wounded. Then, he lowered his guard to appear even weaker.

This worried the Storm Knights, but they knew that the Pontiff had a plan.

Furthermore, they knew that they would be called if the Pontiff really needed some assistance.

Boom!

Once again, Marcus III let the Mummy King hit him with his scepter while he was flying...

This time, however, he landed near the Summoner, below the castle wall, and he acted as if he was unconscious. No, it wasn't just acting, he cast a spell that would make him seem like he was unconscious and slowly dying.

Thud!

Marcus III could tell that the Summoner was already smiling after seeing his defeat.

As expected, the Mummy King stopped attacking after he fell unconscious.

'I did it! I won!' Marcus III thought as he heard the Summoner's footsteps.

The Summoner had indeed gone down to check on his condition or capture him!

Just like what he thought, this person would certainly not kill a Pontiff of a powerful church so easily! This opportunity wasn't something they would waste. They would undoubtedly try to keep him alive to obtain his wealth, his Sovereign Artifacts, or even to get the secrets of the Eminence of the Sea.

Soon, the Summoner approached the Pontiff and checked his condition.

After confirming that he was unconscious, the Summoner reached for Pontiff's Scepter. It was the most valuable item that he had.

But before the Summoner could touch it, the Pontiff opened his eyes, and he grabbed the Summoner's hand!

"You're dead!"

As he said this, he activated his glove's Drain Touch, and he drained the Summoner's energy!

After utilizing the drain touch, Marcus III, the Pontiff, felt a surge of energy entering his body.

'This is it! Your life is mine!'

He celebrated in his mind.

However, the potency of the energy was not as substantial as he had expected. It left him puzzled, pondering the true nature of the being he had just confronted.

'Why is it so weak?' He thought.

Then, something unexpected happened.

The "Summoner" vanished, leaving behind only its garments, and with the Grimoire nowhere to be found.

Before it completely disappeared, however, the Pontiff glanced at the figure that he had just Drained with his gloves.

Marcus III immediately realized the unsettling truth!

"A Shadow Soldier!" He exclaimed, his mind racing to comprehend the gravity of the situation. He didn't expect that the "Summoner" was merely a decoy!

'Impossible... It doesn't make sense! My Divine Sense and Divinity failed?!'

He couldn't comprehend how he hadn't noticed this from the very start!

"Hahaha! That was a good one, Pontiff!"

Suddenly, a chilling laugh echoed from above the castle walls, sending shivers down the Pontiff's spine.

The laughter signaled a new twist in the unfolding events...

'Not good...'

Marcus III braced himself, knowing that the true challenge was far from over.

As expected, he didn't even have the chance to recover his strength, and he was attacked by the Summoner.

He found himself in a dire situation as the man above the castle walls used Chain of Souls to bind him. Despite deflecting it with his Robe's Radiance, he faced a barrage of subsequent spells!

An Abyssal Fire emerged beneath his feet, and just as he prepared to escape using his flight spell, the mysterious man cast a Spell Dispersion!

His flight spell didn't even activate!

'He's not just a Summoner! This person practices other Arcane Paths!' Marcus III thought but he didn't think that this Summoner was an Immortal.

After all, no Immortal uses Grimoire to summon creatures. If they have a summons, they could do it without relying on a medium like a Grimoire.

Nevertheless, he had no other choice in this situation. Marcus III had to shield himself with his Divinity. It protected him from the Abyssal Fire, but he was still in danger.

He was planning to use his Scepter's Elemental Protection, but a Spell that was aimed at his soul was released by his enemy!

It was Soul Reaper!

If he didn't invoke his Divinity, he would surely die from that attack!

Then, he was bombarded by other spells. They were Cursed Flame, Holy Smite, Water Vortex, and Toxic Tempest!

After the Toxic Tempest hit him, his Divinity was critically low!

Marcus gritted his teeth as he knew that he couldn't win with his current strength!

He still had two more trump cards, but once he used them, the other powerful beings within the castle that he felt a moment ago would crush him!

There was no point revealing everything he had at this point!

'I need to escape for now, but I shall return!'

With that thought, his eyes, seemingly adorned with ancient Runes, glowed brightly as he attempted to flee!

However, an unexpected attack targeted his mind - the dreaded Slave Mark!

Chapter 655 Interference

"A mind-controlling Spell?! Not good!" Marcus III immediately canceled his Runic Eyes' teleportation ability.

If he continued to release this ability, he wouldn't have the confidence to defend against the Psychic Art.

He knew very well that a mind-controlling Spell released by such a powerful Arcanist would be very strong. It was definitely not a simple Charm or Allure Spell but a spell that could enslave the mind of the target, and make them obey the caster's will.

As he suppressed the Psychic Art, he confirmed that it was indeed a spell that was forbidden by most of the Churches and even the Arcanist Bureau!

It was a spell that made the Order of the Oracle Hivemind feared by many.

It was a Slave Marking Technique!

"You wicked human! You don't even have Divinity, and you think you can control me?" Marcus III gritted his teeth as he resisted the Spell that was causing havoc in his mind.

Luckily, he had also practiced Psychic Arts, and he had a certain level of control with his Mind Energy... He tried to isolate the Spell that was invading his mind!

On the other hand, the man above the castle walls intensified his Slave Mark on Marcus III, hoping to capture him and make him his puppet.

He probably realized that Marcus III was a Half Immortal, and he wanted to use his power for his own purposes.

"You will not succeed!" Marcus III said as he looked at the man above him.

This was now a battle of their will!

Unfortunately, this battle didn't last long, as the Pontiff was suddenly attacked by the Mummy King!

Boom!

The earth trembled as the Mummy King struck the ground, causing the surrounding terrain to collapse in an attempt to entomb him alive.

Forced to muster all his remaining Divinity to fend off the Slave Mark and withstand the Mummy King's onslaught, Marcus found himself compelled to utilize one of his trump cards.

With a sorrowful heart, he made the decision to activate the scepter's ultimate ability!

Thud!

With a thump on the collapsing ground, the scepter started disintegrating and was turned into specks of light!

Marcus lamented the loss of his Sovereign Artifact. This scepter is a Sovereign Artifact that he had imbued with Divinity for over three decades.

Thanks to his dedication, this artifact obtained an ability that only Arcana could possibly have. However, it could only be used once.

"Miracle Catalyst..."

The specks of light flew out, and they passed through the Mummy King, then to the Dark Knight, then to the Ghoul Sovereign. They all ended up dying!

The Storm Knights who were battling them were certainly surprised by their sudden collapse but they knew that the Pontiff did something!

The specks of light were the essence of the Miracle Catalyst, and they could destroy anything that was, including those evil or corrupted.

They were the ultimate weapon against the dark forces.

After defeating the three summons, there were still a few specks of light that were left, and they turned to the Dragon Summoner!

Boom!

The specks of light were blocked by the castle's last Barrier!

The clash between the Miracle and the Barrier resulted in the Barrier's trembling and subsequent collapse, accompanied by the dispersion of the remaining specks of light.

Although the Dragon Summoner remained unscathed, the Barrier was finally gone!

"Oh... That's an impressive attack." Vale spoke as he also felt threatened by that light. However, he trusted the castle's barrier that was powered by the two dragons, so he didn't flinch.

Vale felt a bit pity since he wanted that scepter. Nevertheless, he stopped worrying about it and continued with what he was doing

"Slave Mark..."

This time, the Pontiff could no longer defend himself.

A few minutes ago, while the forces of the Church of the Eminence of the Sea battled against the Dragon Summoner, several figures were silently watching their battle from a far.

They were Sage Merlin and his three disciples!

"Master, I think we have to leave this place..." One of the disciples said.

"That's right, Master. We can't offend that being! That's definitely the Immortal!" Another disciple said.

"I'm also guessing that that was the Immortal and was simply hiding his Divinity. There's no human who could summon those three Undead Beings at the same time!" The third disciple said.

They were all nervous and scared, and they wanted to escape from the castle. They thought that the Immortal was suppressed by the Will of the Human Realm.

However, they were definitely wrong!

That Summoner was definitely a disguised Immortal! Although he wasn't showing any Divinity, it must be a trick!

However, even with the three's persuasion, Sage Merlin shook his head and spoke in a calm and firm voice.

"No, we will not leave. We will stay and observe. This is a rare opportunity to witness their true strength... We may learn something valuable from this. We may also find a chance to obtain their Arcana. But we will not act rashly, or recklessly. We will wait for the right moment, and we will act wisely. Do you understand?"

It seemed that their Master already had a plan in mind, so the three disciples could only nod and obey their Master.

Well, they still trusted his wisdom and judgment.

As they stayed behind their master, they witnessed an incredible scene.

They saw the Pontiff use his Scepter's ultimate ability, the Miracle Catalyst, and they saw the Mummy King, the Dark Knight, and the Ghoul Sovereign die.

They saw how the castle's barrier was destroyed, and they saw the Pontiff was about to succumb to the Mind Controlling Spell!

Even if the Storm Knights had freed themselves from the undead creatures, the three disciples knew that they would surely fail to help the Pontiff!

On the other hand, as Sage Merlin saw the Pontiff in a critical condition, he decided to act and save him!

He had a reason for doing so, and it was not out of compassion or kindness!

Chapter 656 Closed

As soon as Sage Merlin decided to save the Pontiff, he did not hesitate to release his Divinity...

The pressure that was coming from him stunned the Storm Knights and even Vale for a brief moment. However, after Lisa and Chad warned him about the other Half-Immortal in this Kingdom, he immediately realized what was going on and watched the man go after the Pontiff.

"I will save your Pontiff. Prepare to escape!" Merlin shouted to the leaders of the Storm Knights, Joseph and Val.

The two immediately recognized the Overseer and quickly acted...

Sage Merlin knew very well that his opponent was a True Immortal who was masquerading as a Dragon Summoner.

They had to act swiftly to succeed. Although he didn't want to admit it, Sage Merlin miscalculated the strength of the new Immortal. It felt as if he wasn't being suppressed by the Will of the Human Realm!

Because of that, he knew that sending this Immortal to another realm, to keep the balance of the Human Realm, would be challenging to do alone.

He needed the assistance of the Pontiff to do that!

He immediately attacked the Summoner, or perhaps Immortal Summoner, with his Ice Spells, unleashing a barrage of ice shards, snowflakes, and frostbites.

He also released two Ice Spirits, who were as powerful as a First Class Arcanist.

"Help me kill that person! He's probably an Immortal, so don't hold back!" Merlin ordered the two Ice Spirits.

Without hesitation, they swiftly flew towards Vale in an attempt to freeze him to death while Merline tried to save the Pontiff!

The Ice Spirits were the creations of Sage Merlin, and they were different from other Ice Spirits summoned from another realm.

He had used his Divinity, sacrificed souls, and used mystical ice treasures to infuse life and intelligence into two ice sculptures he made.

Now, they had become Ice Spirits who were loyal and obedient to him, and they followed his commands.

However, Vale didn't panic after seeing this and swiftly acted. He decided to send out his Ember Spirit and Wind Spirit to fight against the two Ice Spirits!

The Ice Spirits used their ice shards, snowflakes, and frostbites to pierce, cut, and freeze their enemies. They also used their ice walls, snowstorms, and icebergs to block, blind, and crush their enemies.

The Ember Spirit, on the other hand, used its fireballs, flames, and explosions to burn, scorch, and blast their enemies. The Wind Spirit also used its wind blades, gusts, and tornadoes to slice, push, and spin their enemies.

Then, As the four Elemental Spirits engaged in battle, Sage Merlin used a short-distance movement technique that allowed him to reach the Pontiff's side!

Then, Merlin grabbed the Pontiff's body, intending to bring him away quickly.

At this time, he also felt the Pontiff's weak pulse, and he felt a surge of pity and relief... He pitied him because, as a fellow Half-Immortal, he probably never considered to be in such a predicament...

However, he was also relived since his plan wouldn't work if the Pontiff died.

He wanted to save the Pontiff and to use him later. He also wanted to get something out of this situation, and he thought that the Pontiff would give a decent reward for this... This reward would certainly benefit his three disciples once he decided to send them out and experience the world.

'Alright... Let's do this...'

With this thought, Sage Merlin teleported again and moved to a safe distance from the Immortal Summoner.

Unfortunately, the outer barrier had already been repaired, and he couldn't get out so easily.

At the same time, he also transferred some of his Divinity to the Pontiff...

"Immortal Summoner, I think that this is already more than enough. You already taught this person a lesson, and he will no longer return to this place... You can't kill this person since it will create chaos, and you will only face endless trouble. I'm telling you this now, not because I can't leave this place with the Pontiff. I just don't want to waste my Divinity to destroy that barrier... Just give us a path to escape and we will leave... This person will also send his tribute to you every year—No, every month if you wanted."

Sage Merlin said as he tried to buy some time.

He then looked at the Immortal Summoner, ignoring the battle between the Elemental Spirits.

However, before he could hear the Dragon Summoner's answer, he felt a sudden pain in his chest.

"W-what?"

He was confused...

He slowly looked down, and he saw the Pontiff's hand gripping his heart.

At the same time, he saw the Pontiff's eyes, and he saw a cold and sinister gleam in them...

"Y-you!"

He realized that he had made a terrible mistake!

The Pontiff was already controlled by the Dragon Summoner!

'How could a Half-Immortal be controlled so easily! This is impossible! Not even True Immortals could do such a thing this easily!'

He had fallen into a trap, and he had been fooled...

He had grabbed the Pontiff, thinking that he was unconscious, but he had actually grabbed a puppet, a new weapon of the Immortal Summoner!

The Pontiff smiled wickedly, and he spoke in a mocking and cruel voice.

"Sage Merlin, you are a fool..."

Merlin wasn't sure if these words were from the Pontiff or from the mysterious Immortal. However, he knew that he was indeed like a fool for trying to save the Pontiff.

He trusted the physique of Half-Immortals too much! They were supposed to be immune against any mind-controlling spells of the Psychics!

Then, he could only glare at the Pontiff as the latter squeezed his heart.

He felt a sharp pain, and he felt his life force draining...

He also felt his will slowly fading.

He wanted to resist and fight back since he hadn't even fully shown all his Spells!

He had a total of 25 recorded Spell Models and several Artifacts he hadn't even used yet! However, it was too late. He had lost the battle and was about to perish!

Sage Merlin then looked at the Immortal Summoner, and he saw him chuckling before he closed his eyes.

Chapter 657 The Protectors

Outside the castle, the Storm Knights and the three Disciples of the Sage were puzzled by what was happening.

As soon as their Master rushed to save the Pontiff and instructed the Storm Knights to make preparations, he suddenly stopped moving the moment he used his movement technique to grab the Pontiff.

Indeed, Sage Merlin was standing dazed in front of the Pontiff!

The Pontiff had already stood up and was simply staring at the Sage as he was observing a specimen!

"Why is Master not doing anything?"

"This is confusing... I think they're fighting through their minds. It's probably some kind of Divinity at work... It's out of our league."

"That's possible... The Ice Spirits are still fighting. So, it means that Master is still fighting through other means. There's still hope!"

The three disciples commented as they tried to understand the situation.

But they did not know that Sage Merlin was under hypnosis all along!

On the other hand, Vale was smiling widely after confirming that he had marked the two Half-Immortals with his Slave Mark spell.

There was no way he would just kill the Half-Immortal who tried to harm his friends. Just like Magnus, he wanted him to be a weapon he could use against the demons of the Abyss Realm.

As a Half-Immortal, Sage Merlin would surely bolster his castle's defense.

'However, this move consumed so much Divinity... Although I can already produce them, spending 500 of them at once just to mark these two is still too much.' Vale thought as he looked at the Sage and Pontiff. Luckily, the Pontiff knew some dangerous illusion spell.

Just now, he applied Divinity to his Slave Mark Spell to make it stronger.

Of course, it wasn't just that. He also suppressed them with his Doombringer Ring!

That's right! This item that was approaching the level of Sovereign Artifacts was used against the two Half-Immortals.

The Doombringer Ring could turn their targets into an undead! It was no doubt effective against ordinary people but against Half-Immortals, this effect was certainly weakened by several times.

However, Vale had obtained Corrupted Divinity from the Demon Saints!

With the help of this Corrupted Divinity, he was able to strengthen the effect of the Doombringer Ring! Because of that, the two Half-Immortals were attacked by two Spells that consumed the minds of their target!

Vale then used his Telepathy and commanded the Sage to retrieve his Ice Spirits.

At this time, Vale was also considering taking the Storm Knights or killing them to ensure that the Pontiff being controlled would remain a secret to the whole Church.

However, at this time, something unexpected happened.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of explosions occurred! The castle's external barrier was being destroyed!

Vale didn't expect something like this to happen.

He immediately thought that the Demon Saints had arrived to avenge their fallen comrade.

However, as he looked above and saw a massive hole in the castle's barrier, he noticed a group of people flying in...

They were wearing the uniforms of the Arcane Bureau!

Magnus had mentioned them to him before!

'What are they doing here?' Vale frowned as he saw dozens of them flying above his castle...

It seemed that they were using Artifacts that granted them the ability to fly. It was quite a magnificent sight to behold.

The Storm Knights and the three disciples were similarly surprised.

The people who had just arrived were the agents of the Arcane Bureau, the mysterious organization that regulated and monitored the use of Arcane Arts in the world.

They wouldn't normally interfere unless it was extremely important that it could affect the stability of the Arcane World.

"The Arcanist Bureau had come!" Knight Joseph exclaimed as he immediately recognized them.

"I hope they're not here to serve the new Immortal..." Knight Val muttered as he clenched his sword tightly.

The Pontiff and the Sage were acting strange. They knew that there was something wrong, but they couldn't do anything about it. They could only hope that these agents weren't here to add problems to them.

Agent Fox was a tall and slender woman with blue hair and green eyes under her monocle...She was a senior agent of the Arcane Bureau, who had been assigned to lead a special unit to investigate the castle, or specifically, Magnus, the owner of the castle.

However, after some investigations, she was able to meet other Agents and realized that the castle had four observation targets.

They were Vale Chambers, Constance of the Mystic Tower, the Unholy Faith, and the Genius Magnus.

There were various reasons why these people were being observed, but they all had one thing in common: they had a chance of breaking the balance of the Arcane World and making it unstable.

After getting a tip that something was happening in the castle, she gathered her unit, and they prepared for the operation.

Soon, Agent Fox commanded his unit to proceed with their operation.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

In an instant, they destroyed the barrier and barged inside after activating their Float Necklace...

As soon as they did this, they felt their bodies being scanned by a powerful Magic Zone. It was something that they could only feel from the Councils of the Arcane Bureau, who were the highest authorities and the strongest Arcanists in the world.

This sensation did not last long, as the wave of aura just passed over them. But it made them uneasy and alert. Then, she looked at the situation below her.

Agent Fox and her team then witness the situation below them...

"This is a mess..." Agent Fox muttered as she looked at the two Half-Immortals, who were defeated by the mysterious subjects they had been observing for a long time now.

They were the Pontiff and Sage Merlin, two famous and influential figures in the world of magic! They were motionless, and her monocle could tell that they were both being controlled!

She also saw the mysterious subject, Vale Chambers, who was holding a black Grimoire in his left hand while looking at them with a calm yet intimidating gaze.

Chapter 658 Too Late

"We're too late..." Agent Fox said as she saw that the Pontiff and the Sage were already under control. To be exact, she didn't even expect them to be controlled by their observation target.

'Vale Chambers... So the suggestion that he killed the Vessels and disguised as a Red Imp was probably close to the truth.' Agent Fox thought as she recalled the incident in the Roaring Summit.

Anyway, she was expecting to see the three groups fighting against each other since they are at the same level of strength!

In the end, their Arcane Bureau still underestimated the young man who had shown mysterious abilities in the Twelve Academies Competition.

After all, her mission was to stop the fight and prevent both sides from being wiped out, not to fight against Vale!

She then checked her communication crystal as she wanted to report the situation to their headquarters.

However, something seemed to be interfering with their connection, so she had no other choice but to take the lead and decide their course of action.

She fell silent for a while as she considered what to do.

The Arcane Bureau wanted to keep these Half-Immortals alive. They didn't want them to destroy each other as it would disturb the balance of this realm...

After some hesitation, Agent Fox gave a secret command to the other agents before she slowly approached Vale.

"I'm Agent Fox of the Arcane Bureau. Vale Chambers, I ask you to release these two gentlemen... Sage Merlin is the Overseer of this Continent and he only wanted to ensure that this continent wouldn't have another Berserk Immortal that would rampage and kill innocent lives. His Holiness Marcus III also needed to be released since the Eminence of the Sea might target you... I'm not talking about a deity in legends but a real one..." Agent Fox solemnly said.

However, Vale was not interested in her request. Sage Merlin had malicious intentions, and he also felt the Pontiff's greed on his possession, the Black Grimoire.

He looked at her with a cold smile and said...

"Why should I? They tried to kill me and my friends. They deserve to be my slaves. And you... Your Arcane Bureau is just a bunch of meddlers who think you can control everything. You have no authority over me." Vale replied as he confirmed the number of Arcane Bureau agents that had surrounded his castle.

He was still a bit unsure how to deal with them, so he considered listening to them for now before he could decide on his next actions.

Agent Fox frowned and said...

"Don't be foolish. You don't know what you're doing. These two are Half-Immortals. They have a vital role in maintaining the stability of the Arcane World. If you harm them, you'll cause a disaster that will affect everyone. Many innocent lives will be at stake. You'll also make more enemies than you have now... Do you really want to do that?" Agent Fox said that she really wanted to resolve this through a simple negotiation as much as possible.

However, it seemed that the man in front of her was too greedy with the power he had obtained.

'We should've arrested this man that moment he showed strange actions during the Evil Entity Case.' Agent Fox silently thought.

On the other hand, Vale just shrugged and replied with a calm tone.

"I don't care. I have my own goals and plans. I don't need to listen to anyone. And I'm not afraid of having enemies. We both know that the Abyss Realm's Invasion is coming. I will be needing their assistance to protect this place."

Agent Fox's eyes widened as she realized that Vale had a vague idea about the Abyss Realm Invasion, just like their Bureau. However, considering the mysterious people gathered in this castle, it doesn't seem to be surprising as she thinks about it.

Agen Fox sighed and said.

"I see. You're stubborn and arrogant. You leave me no choice. I'll have to use force to make you comply. Agents, attack!"

As she said that, she and the other agents launched their spells at Vale. They used various types of Elemental Arts, such as fire, lightning, wind, earth, water, and more. They hoped to overwhelm him with their numbers and power!

However, their main mission was to remove the bindings of the two Half-Immortals!

Once they're freed from their Spell controlling their minds, their escape would be easy, and her mission would come to an end.

But Vale was not impressed.

He raised his hand to shield himself from the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Elemental Spells and used his Darkness Manipulation, or perhaps Shadow Manipulation to stop their attacks.

Those who managed to pass through these attacks were removed by the Spell Dispersion Spell!

"You think you can defeat me with your weak spells? You have to do better than that, Agent Fox. I still have two Half-

Immortals under my command. The two of you, show them your might!"

As he said that, he used his Telepathy to order the Pontiff and the Sage to fight for him.

The two Half-Immortals obeyed his will and unleashed their own spells at the Agents. Of course, Vale had still had some use with these people, so he didn't order them to kill these agents.

With that in consideration, the Sage used his Ice Spirits and his Divinity, against the Arcane Arts of the Agents.

As for the Pontiff, he waved his hand to create a storm that made the floating Agents immediately descend to the ground to avoid being flung away by the gust of strong wind!

Needless to say, this attack was also powered by Divinity!

Except for Agent Fox and a few elite agents, most of them were shocked and terrified by the power shown by the two Half-Immortals.

They knew that they weren't even showing their full might!

They immediately looked at Agent Fox as they waited for her command to release their secret weapons.

These weapons were meant to be used against entities from another realm, but in their current situation, they must use them now!

They realized that they had underestimated Vale's mind-

controlling power! He actually had no issue commanding two Half Immortals at the same time!

He wasn't like other Mind Controllers they had met before!

Chapter 659 Offer

?The agents tried to defend themselves, but they were no match for the Half-Immortals. They were quickly overwhelmed and defeated by the powerful spells...

However, because they couldn't feel the killing intent from the spells coming from the two Half-Immortals, Agent Fox and the others were hesitant to reveal their secret weapons.

In the end, Agent Fox ordered a retreat...

As soon as she did this, four Runecasters stepped forward and threw an orb to the ground.

Boom!

The orb created a mist that allowed them to retreat away from the castle walls. Furthermore, the place they retreat in already has a huge Magic Circle drawn on the ground that they can activate anytime!

Apparently, one of the Agents was setting up this Magic Circle while they were battling against the two Half-Immortals.

Vale had no idea what that Magic Circle could do, but if he were to make a guess, he felt that it was most likely used to escape...

Nevertheless, Agent Fox remained in her position, standing closest to Vale and the two Half-Immortals.

She was slightly injured and exhausted since, even with the smokescreen made by Runecasters, the two Half-Immortals were still able to send several Spells targeted to the weaker Agents.

She had no choice but to make her move and protect them as their leader. As a matter of fact, their attacks were also aimed at the Storm Knights, who were thinking of saving the Pontiff.

'Dealing with those two Half-Immortals is too much... Our squad can't handle this! Tsk... Those analysts from the Headquarters must be fired! They can't even assess the difficulty of this mission.' Agent Fox thought she looked at Vale with a mix of fear and anger.

"You... You monster... How could you do this? How could you enslave two Half-Immortals and use them against us?"

Vale squinted his eyes after hearing this. These rhetorical questions were useless at this point.

He wanted to just end this farce as he wanted to ask many questions to the two Half-Immortal. He couldn't even be bothered if these agents managed to escape.

However, as he was about to reply, he felt the space warp and fold!

A Space-Attributed spell was being activated!

It didn't take long before a rip in the space near the Pontiff and the Sage appeared!

Vale squinted his eyes as he readied his Spells. He wasn't sure if the Arcanists who could manipulate space were a friend or foe, so he had to be careful.

Soon, a figure stepped out of the ripped space!

Agent Fox instantly recognized the figure!

"Director Virgo!"

He was a tall and muscular man with silver hair and blue eyes. He wore a white suit and a blue tie, and he had a badge with the symbol of the Arcane Bureau on his chest.

He was the Director of the Arcane Bureau and he had arrived here as soon as he lost contact with Agent Fox's side! He was worried that one of his best agents was killed in action!

As soon as he stepped out, he confirmed that his agents were still alive and heaved a sigh of relief.

Then, he looked at the two Half-Immortals before shifting his gaze to Vale and the castle behind him.

"So we're dealing with a True Immortal... All of you can retreat. I will have a talk with him as a fellow Immortal." Director Virgo said.

"I don't think I've given them the permission to do so..." Vale interjected as he summoned a Divine Lightning empowered by Divinity to attack the Director.

He couldn't gauge the man's strength with his Divine Sense, so he greeted him with this Celestial Art to get a clue.

Boom!

The Divine Lightning struck down and forced the two Half-

Immortals to retreat. It was so powerful that it made the Storm Knights stunned.

They could also summon a bolt of lightning... It was a Fusion Spell of three Tier 2 Spells of Elemental Arts.

However, none of them could summon a lightning that could reach this level! Not even their Pontiff!

Whoosh~

Nevertheless, as the dust cleared, Director Virgo was still standing, unscathed by the attack!

The Director didn't look angry at the surprise attack launched by Vale and muttered.

"That's a nice move... It's probably one of those Celestial Arts that can only be recorded with a special method. Is that your way of greeting me?"

Vale smiled after hearing this and tried to test the Director with another Celestial Art, Shadow Mutilation...

However, just like his Divine Lightning, it didn't work on the Director either!

"Oh..." Vale grinned after seeing the Director's reaction. Although it wasn't successful, this time, the Director looked annoyed as he sensed the invisible spell that was thrown at him.

Director Virgo then looked at the Vale one more time before he gently nodded as if he just realized something.

"Mhmm... I get it now... You're an Immortal who ascended through a different way and not with the help of an Immortal Spirit." His voice sounded surprised, and he was also relieved.

'You can tell that much?' Vale eyes twitched after hearing this.

This made Vale realize that this person was on a different level.

Finally, Vale had met a True Immortal!

'I guess I need this person as well... No, I think that the whole Arcane Bureau would be a great help...' Vale thought as he ordered his two Half-Immortals to guard the Agents of the Bureau and not let them escape if they ever attempted to do so.

"So you're not planning to let them escape?" Director Virgo frowned after seeing the Pontiff and the Sage move.

"Yes... They entered my territory without my permission. They can't expect to leave this place without paying the price." Vale replied.

This answer made Director Virgo a bit helpless.

"What do you want in exchange? If you want to ascend to the Immortal Realm... I can help you with it. Although Sage Merlin could also do so, it is dangerous for you, and you might lose all your Spell Models in the process."

He then paused for a moment to see Vale's reaction before he continued...

"Our Bureau has a different method. As a matter of fact, I want to invite you to be part of the Council. We will turn a blind eye to the situation of those two Half-Immortals if you agree to be part of the Bureau. How about it?"

Chapter 660 Decision

Vale was intrigued by the Director's sudden offer. It never occurred to him that this secretive organization would even bother to give such an offer.

'I barely know anything about this Arcane Bureau... Might as well learn about them now. It's not like I can make an enemy to everyone.' Vale thought as he wondered what the Arcane Bureau was and how it worked.

After some contemplation, he asked, "That sounds interesting... But I need more information before I make a decision. What is the Arcane Bureau? What is the Council you mentioned? What are the benefits and responsibilities of being part of them?"

He wanted to be direct in his questions as he also didn't want to waste his time with them.

The Director didn't even mind not being invited inside the castle to discuss this matter.

He just smiled and replied with a confident tone, "I'm glad you're curious. I'm sure you are at least aware that the Arcane Bureau is an organization that oversees and regulates the use of Arcane Arts in the world. You can think of us as the modern Overseer while Sage Merlin is an ancient Overseer..."

He then paused for a moment to see Vale's reaction before he continued.

"Sage Merlin's position was handed over by the previous Overseer, who had already become an Immortal and left this realm. On the other hand, the Arcane Bureau was made by Half-Immortals and a True Immortal..."

"Anyway, our organization has agents who monitor and intervene in severe situations that involve Arcane Arts, such as conflicts, crimes, disasters, and anomalies. We also have researchers who study and develop new Arcane Arts, such as spells, artifacts, and techniques. If you're not interested

in that, we also have educators who teach and train new Arcanists, such as students, apprentices, and teachers. It's completely different from the normal Arcane Academies..."

"It seems you have a huge organization..." Vale muttered as he listened to the man's words.

"Yes... We also have diplomats who communicate and cooperate with other organizations, such as the Church, the Secret Orders, the Kingdoms, and even to some Cults if necessary... Finally, there are leaders who make decisions and policies for the World of Arcanists, such as the Council which belongs to the Bureau."

Vale pondered for a moment as he looked at the Director and the Agents behind him.

Then, he used his Telepathy to communicate with Pearl and Faith... Well, he wanted to know their opinion of the Arcane Bureau before making decisions.

To be honest, he could see the benefits that the Bureau could bring. Just the fact that they would ignore his two Half-Immortal Slaves was already a great thing for him. Although there might still be some retaliation, it wouldn't come from an organization with an Immortal like the Director.

Seeing that Vale wasn't replying, the Director felt that he had to convince him more.

Director Virgo continued, "The secret Council is the highest authority and the most powerful group in the Arcane Bureau. It consists of twelve members, each representing a different aspect of the Arcane World. However, we only have nine members at this time, and I'm part of it. The Councils are the ones who set the rules and goals for the Arcane Bureau, and they are the ones who handle the most important and difficult matters. Of course, as a member of the Council, you will have access to most resources and privileges, such as access to the best Arcane Arts, the best Artifacts, and of course, the Immortal Spirits that will help you ascend to another realm..."

The Director took a deep breath for a moment before he continued with a few more words.

"I will not lie to you... Being part of the Council is a great honor and a great challenge. You will have a lot of benefits, but you will also have responsibilities. It's not an easy path, but it's a rewarding one. However, I can tell that it's not a path for everyone, but it's a path for you."

"So, what do you say?"

Vale sighed as he completed his chat with the people inside the castle.

In the end, he nodded to the Director and accepted the offer.

"I think being part of the Arcane Bureau will benefit me. However, what will happen to the Church without the Pontiff and those three Disciples of Sage Merlin?" He asked.

"There will be another Pontiff in a few weeks... But we won't interfere if the Eminence of the Sea decides to punish you. Even though the Eminence is not here, he may have other ways."

"So it was like that.... That's fine. I'll face the consequences of my actions." Vale answered.

Although he wasn't sure how strong the Eminence of the Sea was, as long as he wasn't going to personally come and visit him, he felt that he would have a high chance of winning now that he had become a Shadow Celestial who wielded and produce Divinity with his own ability.

The Director nodded at this and continued, "As for the three Disciples, they were groomed to become Overseers. Maybe in a decade or two, they'll become Half-Immortals and replace the Sage. Just let them go. They're not a threat to you."

Vale thought that was fair, so he accepted it. The disciples were still too young and may bore some grudge to him, but it would take a lot of time before they could become a threat. When they possessed the strength to become a Half-Immortal, he probably extracted thousands of Demonic Beings from the Abyss Realm.

"Alright... I am fine with that. However, I will not join the Council, Director Virgo." Vale replied.

Even though being part of the Council sounded prestigious, he didn't want to deal with such a big responsibility. The Abyss Realm Invasion was approaching. Once it started, the Bureau and the Council would have a lot of work to do. And he didn't want to be part of that.

He wanted to focus on his own survival...

After all, once the Abyss Realm opened, the Demon Saints would also come for him.