

D. Extraction 701

Chapter 701 Private Meeting

Chad smiled brightly after he received the ring from Sir Roland. To be honest, he really liked to use other spells to create a better combination of techniques with his current set of spells.

At this time, he could only wield a few elemental spells thanks to his Dragon Blood, dark spells as a Dark Magician, and some Spirit Arts.

Unlike what everyone thought, he wasn't actually a Half-Human and a Half-Dragon anymore.

Because of his Ghost King Body, he could be considered a part of the Spirit race! He was considered a Half-Spirit before he even obtained the Dragon's Blood and Blessing.

However, after he managed to receive the blessings of the Dragons, his physique was no longer that of a human. There was no more human blood on him!

At present, he should be a Half-Spirit and a Half-Dragon!

'Should I ask Pearl for her Psychic Art? I really like that spell that can forcefully command other people.' Chad thought but he immediately thought of another idea.

'No, maybe Vale's lightning strike will do... Ahhh—But that's too powerful. The ring may not be strong enough to store it... Maybe I can ask him to save a Movement Technique instead? It would be great if I had something to help me escape any life-and-death situation.' Chad mused as he couldn't help but feel excited at the prospect of using three Arcane Spells from any Paths.

However, he was soon brought into the present as he realized that the representatives wanted to have a private meeting with him.

'Did I look so handsome after defeating those two... Hehe... Miya's voice sound angelic. I'm sure she's beautiful beneath that veil. She even wants to meet me in private... Is she going to confess?' Chad thought as he couldn't help but blush a little. He never had a girl express their feelings to him.

Unfortunately, Vale's voice from telepathy doused him from his excitement.

"Be careful... They'll want you for your bloodline." Vale said

"Ahh... Yes?" Chad replied, feeling a bit confused. It took him some time to realize what Vale was trying to tell him.

"Are they going to seduce me or something to take my seed?" Chad asked in surprise.

Vale couldn't help but laugh at his reaction.

Instead of answering, he simply assured him that they wouldn't be able to use force against him.

Soon, Chad and Miya met together in another room.

As soon as they were inside, Chad remained composed and waited for Miya to speak. He didn't trigger his Magic Zone as well since he was confident that Miya wouldn't hurt him.

"Wait a moment..." Miya said before she looked around the room.

Suddenly, Miya cast a spell that created a concealment barrier inside the room.

This prevented anyone from listening in on their conversation. However, Chad couldn't tell that.

"What is this spell? How does it work?" He asked curiously. Although he couldn't tell what barrier it was, he could tell that it wasn't meant to harm him.

Miya smiled at his calm reaction and replied.

"This is a concealment spell. After casting it in a small room, it blocks sound and sight from entering or leaving the room. It also prevents any magical detection or interference from outside. It is a useful spell for privacy and security. It is one of the exclusive of the Church of the Lord of the Secrets. It can be learned by any path."

Chad nodded in understanding.

"I see. It is a clever spell. I have never seen anything like it before..." Chad replied with a gentle nod.

If he used his Dragon's True Sight, he would certainly understand how it works but he didn't bother doing it.

"Yes, it is a great spell. But it is not the only secret I have... I have another secret that I want to share with you. And it might surprise you..."

Chad raised his eyebrows as he somehow felt excited. However, he decided to remain calm.

"I will be surprised? Tell me." With that said, Miya reached for her ring and removed the artifact that disguised her appearance. She also removed the veil blocking her face.

"This is my secret. This is an artifact that can change my appearance. It's one of the Church's Artifacts. They're really great in terms of creating Seals, Concealment, Stealth, and others..."

As Miya was speaking, Chad watched her appearance changed!

Her hair turned from black to blond, her eyes turned from green to blue, and her skin turned from tan to pale. Her features changed from exotic to familiar, from foreign to local, from Miya to Maya.

"Ahhh..." Chad was stunned.

She was Maya Featherstar!

She was his fellow student from Vermont Academy!

He didn't expect that his fellow student from Vermont Academy would stand in front of him.

He had many questions in mind. Why is she connected to the Lord of the Secrets now? Is the Featherstar Family aware of this? Does she know he was here and deliberately visited the castle for him?

Chad gasped and asked.

"Maya? Is that you? What are you doing here? What is going on?"

Maya wryly smiled after being asked.

"I escaped from my family. The Church of the Lord of the Secrets is the only place I could think of... Haaa~ It's a long story... Anyway, this isn't what I want to tell you. To be honest, our Church

may need plenty of help since we are only great at concealment. Fighting isn't our strength... Once the Demon Saints arrived. We would be the first ones to be targeted, so all the concealments that the Church created would be undone... It would be great if we could become allies with Immortal... and of course, with the Half-Dragon."

Maya then paused for a moment to look at Chad's reaction before she continued.

"Ahem... you don't have to decide quickly. Can you tell me first how did you become a Half-Dragon?" She asked.

In the meantime, while Chad and Maya were chatting in the private room, Agent Axe finally arrived at the castle.

The presence of the Arcane Bureau officer shocked everyone in the reception hall!

Chapter 702 Secret Dungeon

Vale was surprised to hear that Agent Axe had visited the castle once again. After all, they wouldn't normally use people as messengers.

After enslaving the two Council members, he was already receiving reports through summoned creatures or other mystical means.

However, there were only a few times when an agent was used to send a message.

'It must be important then...' With that said, he informed Faith to send the Agent in.

As soon as Agent Axe entered, he immediately felt the presence of the Arcanists, who all had an intimidating aura.

'Ah? What are they doing here?' Agent Axe was shocked as he realized the identity of some of them.

As part of the Bureau, he certainly knew some high-profile individuals in the world of Arcanists. Without a doubt, all these people here had special agents assigned to monitor their movements! They were that high-profile!

Unfortunately, since he wasn't a superior or in a position to get reports about them, he had no idea that they were here.

"Interesting... So it's true that the Arcane Bureau is connected to the Immortal..." Sir Roland muttered while looking at Agent Axe.

"No wonder they're working hard to stop us from visiting this castle." Lady Eve couldn't help but comment as she recalled the problems she had encountered just to cross the country and visit this territory.

"They've probably benefited a lot and don't want to share the blessings. It's not that surprising." Ceres added as she only glanced at him before shifting her attention to the private room where Miya and Chad were meeting.

"It's not unexpected for the Bureau to be selfish people. However, I'm curious about his visit here. Did they learn that we've visited the Immortal and wanted to send us away?" Sir Geoffrey softly said, and it immediately took everyone's attention.

They expressed their opinions, but after a few moments, they also looked at the beautiful woman who had barely entered their senses!

It took them quite a while before they realized that the Agent was being escorted by another person!

'This...'

There was no doubt that she was one of the Immortal's subordinates!

'Who is this woman?!' Sir Roland was shocked as he realized that the Half-Dragon wasn't the Immortal's strongest companion!

This was what the others had realized as well!

Chad wasn't the best among the Immortal's subordinates! It truly opened everyone's eyes.

Nonetheless, Agent Axe heard their comments about him, so he quickly waved his hand.

"No... No... It's not like that. I didn't know the Immortal had a visitor here. I'm only here to give an important report. Please continue with your business with him." Agent Axe immediately explained.

At this time, Sir Roland still wanted to say something, but the Immortal decided to step in.

"I hope that it is indeed an important report. Follow me..." Vale said under his mask.

On the other hand, Agent Axe was curious why the Immortal decided to use a mask...

'I guess he wanted to be mysterious in front of these people.' Agent Axe thought, but his eyes landed on Ceres. The Princess of the Milton Kingdom...

'Ahhh... He didn't want to be recognized... I guess even an Immortal has his own concerns.' Agent Axe mused.

Soon, Vale and Agent Axe entered another private room. After they sat down, Faith closed the door behind them, leaving them alone.

"Agent Axe, you know about the rules... What brings you here?" Vale asked.

Agent Axe gulped for a moment before he replied.

"Sir, I have some urgent news and an item for you. It's about a hidden dungeon that has been discovered recently. There is an otherworldly artifact inside, and we need to destroy or take it away. Unfortunately, even the Half-Immortals failed to take it... We are hoping to receive your assistance. You can either have the otherworldly Artifact or destroy it. In case you decide to take it, I have an item that can help you contain the Artifact..." Agent Axe explained without pause.

He took out a small metal box from his pocket and handed it to Vale.

"This is the item. The otherworldly Artifact is a golden key that can fit in his small box. As you can tell, this box is an Immortal Item." He said.

"It's indeed feels like an Immortal Item..." Vale muttered as he accepted the box and checked it with his senses.

Vale opened the box, and although it seemed just a normal box, it emitted a mysterious and ancient aura as soon as it was opened.

'Interesting... This aura... I can't be mistaken.' Vale mused.

Furthermore, he got a notification from his Extraction System!

[Immortal Artifact has been discovered. Would you like to extract it?]

It wasn't a Fragment or a Shard! It was a genuine Immortal Artifact!

Of course, he didn't extract it since it would help him store a mysterious object.

"Where did you get this? What does it do?" Vale asked.

Agent Axe shook his head.

"I don't know, sir. It probably came from the founders of the Bureau. It may actually possess an unknown ability that we are not aware of. However, we call this Artifact a Prison Box, as it can easily seal any violent Artifacts that we normally encounter... Unfortunately, we can't even get close to the otherworldly Artifact, so we can't take it away."

Vale gently nodded as he looked at the Agent.

"Then it must be very dangerous. Where is the dungeon? How do we get there? Why do you have to take or destroy that Artifact anyway?"

Agent Axe helplessly smiled after hearing the last question

"The dungeon is located in a remote and hidden area. It is not on any map or record. Normally, it is only accessible through the help of Sage Merlin or the Overseer. However, the Bureau also has a secret access to it..."

Agent Axe then paused for a moment to take a deep breath before he continued.

"This Dungeon had another name, and it's called the Remnant of the Celestial Realm..."

Chapter 703 The Castle's Secret

Vale jolted as he heard the name of the Dungeon.

"Remnant of the Celestial Realm?" He asked once again.

Agent Axe could tell that the Immortal was indeed surprised. Vale ascended as an Immortal without the help of an Immortal Spirit. Because of that, he didn't inherit the common knowledge of other Immortals that had walked in this realm.

With a gentle nod, Agent Axe replied.

"That's right, Sir Immortal. It's only discovered about six months ago... The problem is that this land or Dungeon is not stable anymore... Because of that, the Half-Immortal are having difficulty taking the treasure."

"What about it being unstable?" Vale asked, although he already had an idea.

"According to the reports, ruptures can form, and controlling your Immortal powers may be difficult in that realm. Lastly, there are Void Creatures that were stopping our Half-Immortals from taking the Artifact. As for the reason it must be taken or destroyed, I'm simply told that the golden key or the Otherworldly Artifact may be the key that was sealing a nightmare that must be forgotten..."

Agent Axe replied.

"A nightmare?" Vale repeated, intrigued by such a description.

"Yes... I'm not too sure, but the Bureau has some clues that it can be one of the keys that can be used in the Prison Realm. Anyone in that Realm is a dangerous being sealed by the Immortals or other powerful beings. As for the nightmare, we're not too sure, but it's probably a being that we can't win against. So it was better to destroy the key or seal it forever."

Agent Axe said...

Vale finally realized what was going on.

"This Bureau seemed quite amazing... They actually know so much."

"Ahem... We are still a huge organization, and our archeology team is the best in the whole continent. Our organization studies every clue about our past to ensure that the previous disasters we encountered will no longer be repeated."

Agent Axe said proudly.

However, after not hearing a reply for a few moments, he cleared his throat and continued.

"Ahem... I can show you the way to the Dungeon. There are already people there protecting the place, and they can also help maintain the entrance... According to the Half-Immortals, the Dungeon is protected by many traps and is guarded by many void creatures or those who have come from unknown realms and somehow end up in the Dungeon. I hope you can agree to our request, Sir Immortal."

"Do I have to do this now?" Vale asked.

Agent Axe shook his head and answered.

"Although the Dungeon is also time-sensitive, you still have some time to prepare. It will remain open for the next four days, and it will close after that. Opening it again may only take a year or two, but we're worried that the Golden Key will be possessed by other people who could also access the Dungeon in a different place. We hope you can visit the place within two days so you'll have enough time to take the Artifact."

Vale then considered a few things before giving a reply.

Well, he doesn't want to leave this castle undefended. He knew very well that the Demon Saints may still be watching the castle from afar.

If they somehow learned that he was absent, he was worried that they would attack the castle and kill all the people he treasures.

'So I have to call back Sage Merlin and the Pontiff...' Vale mused as he also considered whether to call those two Council Members to guard the castle.

However, he suddenly thought of an idea! It should be the best method to ensure the safety of the castle!

Vale then nodded and replied to the Agent.

"I understand. I will go there and take the Artifact. I will go there tomorrow, first thing in the morning. You should stay here and lead me the way tomorrow."

Agent Axe smiled as he heard this reply. "That's great, Sir Immortal! I'm glad you agree. I will accompany you and serve you to the best of my ability."

"Alright... You've already visited this place, so I won't ask the others to show you around. You already know about the guest room, so you can help yourself. Just don't visit the restricted places, and you won't be in trouble." Vale said.

He then closed the small box and put it in his pocket.

After that, he called for Magnus to handle the representatives, who wanted to speak with Chad.

Vale didn't want to waste any more time. He made his way to a secret chamber concealed beneath the castle.

Descending into the Mausoleum, Vale was met with rows of neatly arranged coffins.

The chamber exuded an aura of solemnity, and the air was heavy with the amount of mysterious energy being released by the coffins and the laid bodies.

The coffins were arranged in two parallel rows, ten on each side, with intricate engravings adorning their surfaces. Twelve of the coffins contained the remains of the deceased, their presence a silent testament to the passage of time.

Six of them are Demon Saints, and the other six are Immortal. These corpses have been providing Vale with some Divinity and Corrupted Divinity Points with the help of Divine Extraction System.

However, Vale's attention was focused on the remaining eight coffins, each housing beings that appeared to be in a state of slumber rather than death.

Indeed, these enigmatic figures seemed to exist in a state between life and death, their forms exuding an otherworldly presence.

Four of these beings held the essence of Demon Saints, distinguished by their imposing, horned visages.

Their skin was red but with a hint of purple. They had sharp teeth, claws, and tails, which were quite different from the other Demon Saints, and seemed less like monsters. Nonetheless, they all radiated a sinister and evil aura.

Furthermore, they were the enemies of the Immortals and the scourge of the world.

On the other hand, the other four exuded the aura of Immortals, their genderless forms shrouded in an ethereal glow. They had smooth hair, elegant features, and graceful bodies. They emitted a noble and divine aura.

They were also in a state of what Vale liked to call hibernation.

'I should be fine... All the Formation Arts and Seals had been placed. Pearl and Magnus arranged them together... If I still postpone this, it would be a shame for my title as an Immortal.' Vale thought as he approached the coffins and decided to extract the seals of the Immortals.

He had been doing this extraction for a while, using his Divine Extraction System.

He had done it slowly and carefully, fearing that if he rushed the process, he would harm the sleeping beings.

Right now, he felt that it was the perfect time to wake them.

He wanted to know their names, their stories, their powers. Lastly, he wanted to know if they were allies or enemies.

After all, he wasn't a normal Immortal but a Shadow Immortal.

He wanted to know if they would cooperate with him or if he could trust them... If not, he would have no other option but to either eliminate or enslave them with his Slave Mark Spell.

Vale then chose one of the coffins, and touched it with his hand.

'It's now or never...' He thought.

He then activated his Divine Extraction System.

[Energy Source has been discovered. Would you like to start the extraction?]

"Yes..." Vale replied.

[Extraction Successful. Energy +200]

[Extraction Successful. Energy +200]

[Extraction Successful. Energy +200]

[Extraction Successful. Energy +200]

[Extraction Successful. Energy +200]

...

Soon, Vale felt the seal's energy flow into him. As he was doing this, he saw the seal's pattern being completely exposed and as he continued with his extraction, he heard the seal's breaking sound!

The Divinity of the Immortal in the coffin had also started leaking!

The coffin was now completely open and revealed the Immortal inside!

It was an Immortal with human-like appearance but genderless... He had long silver hair, and fair skin...

He had a slender figure and seemed very calm as he slowly spread his Divinity to observe his surroundings.

After some time, he opened his eyes and looked at Vale with curiosity... His eyes were blue and clear. However, they had no pupils and no irises.

Vale was a bit started as he felt no emotion and no life.

It was completely different from him!

'So this is a True Immortal... It's quite different from what I thought, but it certainly does make sense.

The Immortal then spoke, and his voice was soft and cold.

"Who are you? Where am I? What is this place?" He asked calmly. However, there was something in his voice and aura!

Vale felt a chill run down his spine!

He sensed a powerful and ancient presence from him...

'This guy... Is he testing me?'

Vale sensed a hidden and dangerous potential in him. Nonetheless, both of them had also sensed a familiar and mysterious connection between them.

Chapter 704 The Battle of the Will

Vale considered for a few seconds as he wasn't sure how to respond.

After a few moments, Vale answered, and his voice was confident and warm.

"I am Vale. You are in my castle. This is the Mausoleum, where you have been sleeping for a long time. I have awakened you, and freed you from your seal. I am your savior... and your master."

Vale said as he decided to be bold and cast the Slave Mark on the Immortal!

As Vale said this, he decided to be bold and cast the Slave Mark on the Immortal!

It was a spell that could bind the will of another being to his own. It was a spell that could make the Immortal his slave.

Just from how the Immortal behaved and how he had spoken to him, Vale could tell that there would be many problems if he let him be.

Furthermore, the current state of the Immortal was incredibly weakened.

The Divinity and the mutated Spell Models in their bodies weren't in their perfect shape as of yet. It was the perfect time to do this... If he decided to postpone this, the Immortal may recover his strength!

'I can do this... Although the Immortal is emitting a very powerful presence and ancient aura, it's only for intimidation. It lacks substance.' Vale thought after using his Dragon's True Sight to observe the flow of the Immortal's Energy.

Considering all this, Vale was eager to enslave the Immortal.

He wanted to have his power and his secrets. He wanted to have the loyalty and obedience of a True Immortal or a Celestial that was worshipped by many.

He knew that it would be an outstanding achievement and wanted to have him.

'If you didn't sound scary, I will not do this... You have to blame yourself.' Vale thought.

Nonetheless, he knew that this wouldn't be easy.

The Immortal was not a weak or foolish being. He was a powerful and ancient being. Furthermore, he had a strong and independent will. He would not submit easily.

"Mhmm? You want to control me?" The Immortal spoke to Vale through Telepathy.

"I think you're dangerous, so you must be controlled to a certain degree... And this era doesn't need a True Immortal like yourself." Vale said, but he didn't even fully agree with what he said.

However, it was enough to make the Immortal rethink his actions...

"If you think that I'm a dangerous being for this era. Then you must do your best to succeed, or I am the one who's going to enslave you." The Immortal also spoke before he suddenly tried casting an enslavement spell on Vale!

Vale frowned as he realized that the Immortal decided to counterattack instead of focusing on his defense!

'Are you underestimating my mental energy?' Vale thought as the two of them battled with their wills!

They didn't fight physically, but mentally!

While they were standing there, staring at each other, the two Immortals clashed with their minds, their souls, and their essences!

There wasn't any chaotic energy or pulse of energy that could destroy the surroundings, but within their minds, they fought for control, freedom, and dominance.

"Mhmm... You have a very strong mental energy for a new Immortal. I can tell that it hasn't been a hundred years since you ascended to this.

It was a fierce and intense battle, but it was also a silent and invisible battle.

However, of all the battles that Vale has fought, this was the most dangerous and risky battle.

'Tsk... This is getting too tough. I guess this is only expected for Celestials.'

Vale felt the Immortal's will resisting his Spell.

The two of them possessed a different type of mental energy. The Immortal's mental energy was closely related to their Divinity, while normal Arcanist's mental energy was cultivated by simply their minds.

Because of that, Vale could easily tell that the difficulty of this match was on the highest scale.

"Don't get too distracted..." The Immortal spoke to his mind.

"You—"

Vale then felt the Immortal's will trying to break his mental defense. He also felt the Immortal's Will challenge his Slave Mark Spell.

"I'm going to reflect your enslavement spell. Try to fight against two enslavement spells." The Immortal declared as if he was truly capable of returning his Spell to him!

Vale frowned at this as he realized that the Immortal was playing mind games on him. He felt the Immortal's will probing his mind.

Then, to Vale's surprise, he felt the Immortal's Will attempting to search his memories.

Vale didn't know how it was happening or how he could tell what the Immortal was doing, but he had to stop this from happening.

As he felt the Immortal's will seizing to learn his secrets, Vale felt a surge of fear and anger.

There was simply no way he wanted the Immortal to know his secrets.

His Divine Extraction System wasn't something that an Immortal should find out. He also didn't want the Immortal to see any of his weaknesses or let him exploit his flaws.

"You're going too far!"

'You think you can cast so many spells while dealing with my Slave Mark Spell? I feel underestimated... And that's perfect!'

Vale's plan was perfect, as soon as the Immortal multitasked and didn't focus on breaking his Slave Mark Spell, he strengthened his will and pushed back.

He blocked the Immortal's Will from his mind.

It happened so quickly and felt a wave of pain as well since the Immortal's Will was still filled with power.

However, Vale didn't stop there, he finally decided to use his Divine Extraction System! There was no way he wouldn't use this!

This was the reason why he was confident in winning this mind battle!

While his Slave Mark Spell was trying to take over his mind, Vale started with his Extraction.

[Living Immortal has been discovered. Would you like to start the extraction?]

"Yes!"

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Immortal Essence +100]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Immortal Essence +100]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Immortal Essence +100]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Immortal Essence +100]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Immortal Essence +100]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Immortal Essence +100]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Complete Evolved Spell Light]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Complete Evolved Spell Light]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Complete True Invisibility Spell Model]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Complete Meteor Summon Spell Model]

'Meteor Summon? Not bad... This is a good Spell and will work perfectly with Pearl's Starfall.' Vale mused as he recalled Pearl's impressive Starfall Spell. To be honest, he actually envied Pearl a little when he saw her summoning those meteors in the sky!

However, now that he had this Spell, he could finally forget about his slight bitterness.

"What?! What are you doing?! Draining Magic? You're a Demon?!" The Immortal was obviously shocked as he realized that he was being drained by the mysterious Immortal in front of him.

This wasn't something that he had expected. Perhaps, if he was in his peak condition, he would've noticed his actions before it was too late!

"A Demon? Don't panic... My Slave Mark Spell Model is still active." Vale replied with a grin on his face. He actually wanted to use some of the Demon Saint's spell to surprise this Immortal. After all he extracted quite a few Demon Saint's Spells from previous battles like the Demon Eyes, Abyssal Fire, Demon's Wrath, Corruption Curse, and some others.

However, he decided against it since Immortal doesn't seem to be giving up yet...

Then, the Immortal's eyes widened and at the same time, Vale felt the Immortal's will struggling in his Slave Mark Spell.

Slowly, he felt the Immortal's will suffering in his Spell...

As he continued with his Extraction, he felt the Immortal's Will yielding in his Slave Mark Spell.

"I will take care of you. You can have a rest now..." As he said this, the Immortal was still not giving up and trying to muster some of his remaining Divinity.

However, Vale simply smiled and spoke softly.

"You are mine, Immortal. From now on, you will obey my words." As Vale said this, he cast another Slave Mark Spell!

'It's over...'

He saw the Immortal's eyes widen in horror and despair.

Slowly, he saw the Immortal's eyes turned blank, even more lifeless than before... The Immortal's eyes had just become dull and empty.

Vale had won.

He had enslaved the Immortal successfully!

Vale felt a burst of joy and pride as he knew that no one else had a slave Immortal aside from him!

He felt a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. Furthermore, he would learn plenty of things from this Immortal, so he felt a thrill of excitement and curiosity.

'Now... I should continue with the others.'

Chapter 705 New Slaves

'Let's see the others...' Vale thought as he moved to the next coffin and touched it.

Similar to what he did before, he activated his Divine Extraction System, and felt the seal's energy flow into him.

[Energy Source has been discovered. Would you like to start the extraction?]

"Yes..." Vale replied.

[Extraction Successful. Energy +200]

[Extraction Successful. Energy +200]

[Extraction Successful. Energy +200]

[Extraction Successful. Energy +200]

[Extraction Successful. Energy +200]

...

This time, Vale decided to hasten his pace...

Thud!

Suddenly, he saw the seal's pattern being revealed and broke it. This time, as he was already familiar with the intricate Formation Art or sealing technique engraved on the coffin, he felt a lot more confident to quicken his actions.

Creeaak~

The coffin soon opened and revealed the Immortal inside.

Once again, it had the appearance of a genderless man.

However, this Immortal had short gold hair and tan skin. Vale also confirmed that he had no horns whatsoever that could make his identity as a Demon Saint instead.

'Mhmm... This Immortal looks really good.' Vale couldn't help but comment. Although he certainly doesn't swing that way, he couldn't help but appreciate this Immortal who seemed like a Greek God or something similar in the Greek Mythology of his past life.

Although Vale also had a great body, he was still too young and small compared to this Immortal.

Well, the Immortal had a muscular figure and a fierce posture. He also had a natural intimidating expression and a violent aura.

'Anyway, you're still going to be my Slave for now. You guys are just too dangerous.'

As soon as the Immortal opened his eyes, he immediately scanned the surroundings and glared at Vale. His eyes were red and even seemed fiery!

Although they'd just woken up, they were also not showing any traces of fear at all.

'Right... You're not going to be spared.' Vale thought after seeing his expression.

Of course, he also confirmed that they had no pupils, and no irises similar to the previous Immortal that he hadn't named yet.

'Right... I should ask for his name later.' Vale thought as he turned his full attention to the new Immortal.

"A new Immortal? You don't have an Immortal Spirit that helped you? Interesting..." The Immortal mumbled to himself as he helped himself up from the coffin.

"Anyway, give me something to wear... Aren't you being too rude to wake me up and not prepare any clothing? Just how long had passed?" The Immortal continued as he frowned at Vale who failed to properly serve him.

Vale was silent for now as he realized that this Immortal was indeed different from the other Immortal. He was more aggressive or perhaps, he was more proud and stubborn.

"Wow..." Vale could only say after realizing the Immortal's attitude.

'So this is another True Immortal. He is not like the other one, but this is certainly better... I'll probably learn more things about Immortals from this guy...' Vale thought.

The Immortal spoke once again after not hearing a proper reply from Vale, his voice was loud and harsh.

"Hey! Are you not listening? Who are you? Where am I? What is this place?" He demanded.

"If you're annoyed by your situation, you shouldn't blame it on me." Vale replied.

Vale replied as he felt a wave of hostility and challenge from him.

With that said Vale decided to use his Slave Mark Spell once again! This time, he used it with his full force! He immediately surrounded the Immortal with his Mental Energy, aiming to overwhelm him into submission.

"As expected... You're a Demon! Hey! Help me here!" The Immortal spoke. The last part was him referring to the enslaved Immortal. He actually failed to notice that the Immortal was already controlled by Vale!

'So you're really weakened, huh... You can't even tell that he's already marked.' Vale thought as he confirmed that this weakened Immortal would certainly become his second Immortal Slave.

"Tsk! You're going too far!" The Immortal shouted.

Soon, Vale felt the Immortal's Will resist his Spell.

However, instead of just countering him with another Mind Controlling Spell, he felt the Immortal's will trying to attack his Slave Mark Spell.

He felt the Immortal's Will rejecting his Spell with a burst of Divinity and Mental Energy!

Nonetheless, the Immortals seemed to be very proud of themselves as they didn't just focus on their defense! After setting up a defensive measure against this Slave Mark Spell, they seemed to be thinking that the Spell would just naturally stop and lose its energy!

Just like the first one, Vale also felt the Immortal's will invading his mind. He was trying to assault his memories!

'I want this Spell! I'll take it!' Vale thought! Unlike before, he no longer felt fear after the Immortal tried to attack his mind.

Instead, he welcomed it!

Vales strengthened his mental defense with his Divinity and by activating his Oblivion Trance!

With this Spell, Vale pushed back.

He triggered his Divine Extraction System!

[Living Immortal has been discovered. Would you like to start the extraction?]

"Yes!"

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Immortal Essence +100]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Immortal Essence +100]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Immortal Essence +100]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Immortal Essence +100]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Immortal Essence +100]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Immortal Essence +100]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Complete Evolved Spell Light]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Complete Evolved Spell Light]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Complete Mind Break Spell Model]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Complete Ash Resurrection Spell Model]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +0.5, Vitality +0.5, Complete Avatar Creation Spell Model]

Vale didn't have the time to celebrate as he also blocked the Immortal's Will from leaving his mind.

He wanted the Immortal to have divided attention so his Slave Mark could push through!

"You're taking everything away from me! You're not being fair! You're a charlatan! You should fight me fair and square! This is foolishness!"

The Immortal realized what was happening and started cursing Vale for being unfair!

Well, although Vale has some confidence in his strength because of his Divine Extraction and a very good set of spells, he was still not going to fight another Immortal in a fair duel.

They were just too unpredictable!

Now that he saw his Extracted Spells, Ash Resurrection might've saved this Immortal if he didn't extract it! There are simply too many Spells in the world, and Vale couldn't be sure what kind of Spell his opponent had.

"Blame yourself for being strong... I had no other choice but to do this to win against you, Immortal." Vale said as he felt the Slave Mark Spell entering the Immortal's mind!

He felt the Immortal's Will final struggle against his Spell. However, Vale's Slave Mark Spell didn't weaken at all throughout the whole duration. It remained consistent in terms of strength until Vale felt the Immortal's Will yielding in his Spell.

"You fought well... Don't worry, I won't mistreat those who are loyal to me. You might even benefit since I can extract all you unneeded Spell Models." Vale muttered as he confirmed his control over the Immortal.

As soon as he saw the Immortal's eyes become dull and empty and his Slave Mark Spell dissolving in the Immortal's mind, Vale heaved a sigh of relief.

Once again, he had enslaved an Immortal.

He moved on to the next two coffins and did the same thing. He extracted their seals and cast his Slave Mark Spell on the Immortals. He battled with their Wills and overcame them.

It took quite some time but in the end, he had Marked them, and made them his slaves.

He had enslaved four Immortals!

He looked at them and felt a mix of emotions. He felt proud of his achievements and curious about their identities.

Of course, Vale felt excited about the secrets he would learn from them.

Right now, he truly felt powerful and confident, but he knew that he couldn't be arrogant at this moment.

He decided to take a break and rest for a while. He had used a lot of energy and concentration. Although he extracted a lot of Immortal Essence and Divinity, he had exerted a lot of effort and skill. Right now, his mind was already buzzing. It was already telling him to rest to recover his strength and focus.

After all, he needed to prepare for the next challenge.

He planned to continue with the last four coffins, where four Demon Saints were sleeping. He wanted to do the same thing to them. He wanted to mark them and make them his slaves.

However, after some thought, he decided to leave the Mausoleum.

He took the four Immortals with him, and he decided to discuss a few things with them later on. He allowed them to look around, but they could not show themselves to the visitors.

Then, Vale went to his own room and lay down on his bed.

Finally, he closed his eyes and relaxed his body.

Chapter 706 Return

The morning sun had barely crept over the horizon when the noise of construction jolted Denise awake.

"Ughh... Why are they so noisy early in the morning? I should've brought Magnus' Formation Core..." Denise muttered, referring to the Formation Art that could stop any noise of a certain level from entering the protected area.

Rubbing the sleep from her eyes, she peered through the window of her rented hotel room, observing the industrious scene unfolding below.

The Ruri Kingdom was undergoing a transformation, with the railway expansion project spearheaded by the new king bringing a profound sense of progress and prosperity.

Of course, this wasn't just happening here, but throughout the whole kingdom.

The once quiet villages and small towns were now bustling with activity, the railway lines weaving through them like veins of life, providing jobs, improving trade, and solving the age-old problems of food and shelter.

It was certainly a lot better when Vale and the others had just entered this kingdom.

'The air quality is still bad, though... I think we should do something about it.' Denise commented in her mind as she could see the thick black smoke belching out of various factories within the town.

Unfortunately, she couldn't think of a solution to that she only thought of solving it but she never really did anything about it.

Denise then turned away from the window, her gaze falling upon Arthur and Lancelot.

They weren't his male servants serving her during the night.

Instead, they were two metal golems—or androids, as Vale preferred to call them—stood sentinel beside her bed.

No matter how awesome she was and how reliable Lotus was, she was still a weak Alchemist. Her average physique was still a problem for her.

'Mhmm... I should try making them look more handsome...' Denise thought as she looked at the two.

Their gleaming metallic forms were still, yet there was an alertness about them that belied their inanimate nature.

Although they were not moving, Denise was confident that not even a mosquito would touch her skin with the two guarding her.

Nonetheless, what she liked about them was that they required no sleep, no rest, and no salary needed to pay them.

They will remain as her untiring guardians, ready to protect her at a moment's notice.

"Good morning, Arthur, Lancelot," Denise greeted them with a warm smile as she prepared for the day. The androids responded with a series of soft whirs and clicks, the only indication of their acknowledgment.

It was something that Denise had taught to them.

Denise couldn't help but smile after seeing them react this way.

Anyway, today, Denise had a mission.

The town was ripe with opportunities, and she intended to explore every nook and cranny for any interesting or beautiful magical artifacts that she might like.

Well, magic artifacts don't always have to be powerful, in her opinion. If they looked good on her, she didn't mind purchasing them as well.

The airship she had arrived in was laden with goods from Vale's castle. They were items that would fetch a handsome price in the markets of various towns and cities... There were only a few of them remaining, which were extras just in case they needed to sell more products. Of course, Denise didn't mind if they weren't sold.

But trade was a two-way street, and Denise was always on the lookout for unique products to take back with her. It was a mission that Vale had given to her to ensure that they weren't missing out on profitable business.

'Mhmm... Looks good.' Denise thought.

With a final glance at the mirror, she adjusted her cloak and strapped her satchel securely across her shoulder.

Thump. Thump. Thump.

Arthur and Lancelot fell into step behind her as she exited the room, their heavy footsteps a stark contrast to her light tread.

The town was already alive with the sounds of merchants setting up their stalls and the chatter of early shoppers.

Denise's eyes were sharp, scanning the displays for anything that glinted with the tell-tale shimmer of enchantment.

It didn't take long before she found something that caught her eye.

She paused at a stall where a collection of amulets lay spread out on a velvet cloth, each one pulsing with a faint magical aura.

"Good day, miss..." The merchant greeted, following her gaze.

"Interested in protection charms, are we?"

Denise picked up an amulet, feeling the fluctuation of energy within.

"Perhaps. Tell me, where do these come from?" Denise asked curiously. The reaction she got from the item was quite unusual. It doesn't feel like the common Artifacts made by the Magic Craftsman of this generation.

She could tell this much since she was an Alchemist herself. She had been exposed to many kinds of magic items from Heinz's laboratory and collections.

The merchant leaned in, and an excited gleam showed in his eye.

"Ah, these are from the ancient ruins in the cold mountains in the northern region. They said that a corrupted Elementalist who was once a powerful being dwelled there, and his magic still lingers in these trinkets."

Intrigued, Denise considered the amulet in her hand.

It seemed that there was something in this item, as she could tell that it was sealed. This was precisely the type of item that would intrigue Vale—steeped in history and brimming with latent power.

She could still remember how Vale told her about the story of the corrupted shoes that were connected to a demon. Because of that, she couldn't help but feel quite interested in any items like this.

Anyway, she made a mental note to research the ruins before her departure. She also purchased the item trinket since it wasn't too expensive.

She would let Vale appraise this item once she was back.

As the day wore on, Denise's collection of intriguing items grew.

She found a scroll of Rain Summoning Spell from a wandering Summoner, a Potion of Clairvoyance from an old Sorcerer, who had a weird laugh that sent shivers down her spine, and a set of Enchanted Daggers from a blacksmith... What weird about this Daggers was the fact that Lotus could wield them!

Apparently this Dagger was made from a black stone that dropped from the sky! Indeed, it was from a meteorite, and Lotus had no issues wielding it!

By the time the sun reached its peak, Denise had already gathered a trove of treasures that promised to make this trip a lucrative one.

Her task in the town was complete, and it was time to return to the castle.

'Well... I am late by a few days, but it shouldn't matter since I sent the visitors to the castle. That took quite some time.' Denise thought, but the real reason was that she was enjoying her visits to the various towns and cities.

Soon, she stepped out into the bustling streets, her mind already on the journey ahead.

The airship, a marvel of engineering and magic, awaited her outside the town, its sleek hull gleaming in the sunlight.

The airship was a sight to behold, drawing curious onlookers from all around.

It was not just the size of the vessel that captivated them, but the intricate runes etched along its sides... As soon as she got near, she informed the Androids to start the engine and soon, the runes started pulsing with a soft blue glow.

The androids, her loyal protectors, stood guard around it, their exposed polished metal bodies reflecting the sun's rays.

As Denise approached, the crowd parted like the sea, a mixture of reverence and awe on their faces.

'Ohhh... What a nice feeling. I can't get used to this.' Denise giggled as she felt like a princess being welcomed by the people.

The androids then moved, forming a perfect line.

With mechanical precision, they extended the stairs, allowing Denise to ascend with dignity.

Of course, Denise taught these actions to them before they left the castle. She felt quite proud of this since Vale and the others were also surprised that she could command these androids like this.

Well, they really thought that they were just good for combat. However, she had a different thought about it.

With a nod of acknowledgment to the onlookers, Denise boarded the airship.

The engines, quiet until now, began to rumble, a deep, thrumming sound that grew louder, commanding the attention of everyone present.

The ground vibrated with the power of the airship as it prepared to take flight.

"Awesome... I wish that princess will visit us again."

"I wonder how much is that?"

"That will probably cost a castle or two..."

"The owner was also beautiful!"

The crowd watched, transfixed, as the airship lifted gracefully into the sky, its engines roaring exultantly.

Denise stood at the helm, her gaze fixed on the horizon, the wind tugging at her cloak.

'Yes... I really look like a princess... Hehehe...' Denise smiled widely as she heard the crowd's compliments.

The journey back to the castle was smooth. The Airship was able to travel fast since they weren't worried about any regulations that would stop them from doing so.

Upon her arrival, the castle's familiar towers welcomed her home.

After docking the Airship, she immediately thought of reporting to Vale about what happened to the products and the items she purchased.

But there was an unexpected presence—some visitors who had stayed in the castle.

Chapter 707 Puppets?

Denise recalled that this person was also one of the representatives that she had brought to the Castle a few days ago.

If she wasn't mistaken, her name was Lady Eve of the Brotherhood of the Scarlet Serpent. Previously, this woman wore a red dress that hugged her body and a snake pendant hanging from her neck.

Denise regarded Lady Eve with curiosity since she couldn't believe that Vale allowed her to stay for this long.

'I think two days had already passed. But why is she still here? Is this woman Vale's type?' Denise mused as she observed Lady Eve.

She was still quite seductive, although she had already changed her dress into a more comfortable one covered by a long trench coat.

"Eve, correct?" Denise greeted with a calm voice.

After seeing Eve nod, she continued.

"I didn't think that you'd still be here."

"The Immortal found our proposal favorable," Eve replied, her tone laced with a hint of triumph.

"He had urgent matters to attend to and left in haste. He suggested I discuss the particulars of the Utara's Serpent Herb trade with you. Ah... He also mentioned that you can confirm the details with the Dragon Disciple if you doubt my words."

Without hesitation, Denise reached out with her mind, connecting with Chad, through a silent channel of telepathy.

"Chad, can you confirm the details of the trade agreement with Lady Eve?" she inquired mentally.

Chad, who was still reminiscing his conversation with the multiple representatives, jolted awake from Denise's voice as he immediately replied.

Lady Eve didn't wait that long as the confirmation came swiftly, a testament to the efficiency of their communication.

'Is that Telepathy? I didn't sense any fluctuation of Arcane Energy at all. It was as if she didn't cast any spell to communicate with Chad. Very impressive.'

With the details affirmed, Denise turned her attention back to Lady Eve.

As the manager of the Castle's Trade Industry, it was her responsibility to ensure the smooth execution of this deal.

Luckily, as an unofficial Alchemist, Denise was well-versed in the properties of the Utara's Serpent Herb. Its rarity and potency made it a valuable commodity, capable of purging the most resilient curses and enhancing one's vitality. She also learned from Heinz that the Brotherhood's monopoly over its cultivation made them the sole purveyors of this coveted resource.

"Hmm... So the terms of the trade are quite clear..." Denise began, her voice carrying the weight of authority.

"In exchange for a steady supply of the herb, the Brotherhood seeks the protection of the Immortal—or, at the very least, the right to operate under his banner to ward off any covetous factions."

Lady Eve nodded, her eyes reflecting a calculated satisfaction. "That is correct. We believe this alliance will be mutually beneficial."

"I guess you already have some organizations in your mind that's aiming your production facilities or something?" Denise asked.

Lady Eve didn't hide it and nodded.

"Yes... There were some Organizations previously allied to us that were protecting our trade routes before, but because of the backing of the group that was trying to take our Herbs, these security organizations all backed out, and we're having trouble operating. I believe that an Immortal would not be swayed by this organization, so I took a risk and visited this place." Lady Eve explained

She actually received offers from other organizations to help their Brotherhood. However, their demands would basically remove her from the position, and it would also destroy the Brotherhood that she had inherited. She didn't want that to happen.

"Mhmmm... Are you telling me that the backer is part of a noble family? Or maybe Arcanist family?" Denise asked.

"It's both... It's the Duffey Family. The current head is a Viscount, and they're also Arcanists. They're connected to the Knights Faction."

"Duffey Family... Got it. We'll do our own investigations first."

Denise knew the importance of safeguarding their new allies.

After some thought, she decided to enlist Lisa, the Vampire whose prowess in combat was unmatched. With her summoning techniques, she also believed that she would be able to tell the truth about the Brotherhood.

Furthermore, she would also get more information about the Duffey Family and if they were really trying to take the Herbs that the Vale was eyeing.

Lastly, though Denise was protected by her androids, her own combat abilities were limited. It was better to have Lisa become the enforcer or the shield against any who dared to threaten their acquisition of the said Herbs.

With the agreement sealed, Denise set the wheels in motion, ensuring that the trade would flourish under her watchful eye and the protective shadow of the Immortal's banner.

'Well, I can't let this fail since it would put Vale's reputation at risk.' Denise thought as she glanced at the other visitor who had stayed in the Castle.

She decided to ask Chad about the situation of that man as well and confirmed that he was from the Shadow Consortium. His name was Cane, and apparently, he wanted Vale's Blood to make a Divine Talisman!

'That's quite ambitious, but I can't blame him... It's not like we'll just suddenly find another living Immortal.' Denise shook her head at this as she suddenly froze for a moment...

'What did you just say?' Denise asked Lotus, who was hiding in her shadow.

She just heard Lotus say something ridiculous.

'It's not a mistake... There are four Immortals on the second floor... However, I can also feel Vale's energy inside their bodies.' Lotus said.

'Inside their bodies?'

Denise somehow froze up after hearing that.

'Oh... You mean his Divinity?' She asked.

'Did you think those four are his girlfriends?' Lotus asked.

'Ahemm...Who knows? Since Vale is an Immortal, he can hook up with other Immortals. Anyway, are you sure they're not enemies?' Denise asked.

'I can guarantee that... I believe they were Vale's slaves or even summons.' Lotus replied.

'Summoning an Immortal? That's probably possible... However, I just recalled that the Castle is hiding a few Immortal Corpses. I think these are animated Immortal Corpses instead. I remember that Vale liked corpses, so maybe this is the reason he wanted to look for corpses... He probably possess a Forbidden Technique to make some puppets from those...' Denise guessed.

With that said, Denise decided to look for the Immortals on the higher floor, she wanted to appreciate their beauty and strength.

As for Lady Eve, she had already made a plan, and they could meet tomorrow for the final discussion of the deal.

Denise's ascent to the upper floor of the castle felt completely different from how she recalled it a few days ago...

The corridors felt like they were exuding an aura of ancient times, and the air itself seemed charged with a power she couldn't explain...

'Was it Divinity?' She mused.

As she reached the floor where Lotus pointed at, the sight that greeted her was one that would have left even the Heinz in awe.

The four Immortals stood like statues from a forgotten era, their attire speaks of history woven with threads of magic.

'What in the world? Why did Vale choose this attire? This is similar to the paintings in the church! Ugh... I didn't know he had this fetish...' Denise thought.

Well, since she believed that they were Vale's puppets, their embarrassing attire should fall into him.

After observing them for quite some time, Denise sighed.

'At least they all looked good. Did Vale use Transformation Arts on them?' Denise mused as she couldn't help but appreciate their beauty.

Each garment was a masterpiece, rich fabrics in deep hues of sapphire, emerald, and gold, adorned with intricate embroidery...

Their clothes were not merely dresses and robes, but they showed their nobility...

'But we're already at the start of the Industrial Magic Era... This forest may even have railways passing through in a couple of years. The way they dress is no longer appropriate, Vale... You should've chosen something that wouldn't stand out too much.' Denise commented in her mind as she recalled her androids. She believed that as long as they didn't have metallic physiques, they would surely pass as ordinary humans when seen in public.

However, these four are on a different level. It seemed that they were dressed this way to ensure that they would catch people's attention.

Haaa~

Denise sighed.

"Vale's handiwork is indeed a marvel to behold..." Denise whispered, her voice barely above a breath, lest she disturb the solemn grandeur of the scene.

"To animate such beings, to clothe them in such splendor... I can give him 10 out of 10 for this..." Denise muttered.

On the other hand, the Immortals' eyes remained calm as they simply observed Denise.

It seemed that they were able to recognize her from Vale's instructions.

'But somehow... I can feel that there's more to it...' Denise mused.

It felt like they were more than just animated figures...

Denise felt more curious about this as she decided to try if she could make a conversation with these puppets.

"Welcome to our midst..." She addressed them, her voice steady and clear.

"I am Denise, you can think of me as the Golem Expert of the castle. I also manage the External Trade. I look forward to working alongside you."

Denise said with a chuckle, but to her shock, the Immortals nodded and replied!

Chapter 708 Not Ignorant

Denise was just joking around when she talked to the Immortal Puppets. She believed that they would just ignore her or react similarly to how golems acknowledge the presence of others.

They would only look at her and perhaps give a gentle nod.

However, after she spoke, the Immortals looked at her at the same time, which surprised her for a moment. Then, one of them responded.

"Denise White... The Dark Alchemist who created those Androids. You have an amazing talent. It was no wonder Immortal Vale trusted you with such heavy responsibilities." One of the Immortals said, which stunned Denise for a while.

She didn't react and simply looked at the Immortals with her eyes widened.

The three other Immortals behind simply nodded, their acknowledgment was silent but profound.

"T-thank you, Immortals."

With a respectful bow, she left them to their silent vigil. Her mind was a bit of a mess as she realized that they were not puppets! They were probably Vale's Immortal Friends!

She immediately confirmed this from Chad, who had told her that the Immortals were indeed Vale's companions who were tasked to protect the castle while he was away.

Apparently, Vale was considering whether to ask the Pontiff and Sage Merlin to halt their mission and return to the castle while he was away. However, instead of doing that, Vale somehow managed to wake up the sleeping Immortals beneath the castle and became his friend.

Well, Chad was also unsure of the details of how Vale befriended those, but nonetheless, they were here to ensure their safety while Vale was away.

'I guess that previous surprise attack from the Demon Saints weighed heavily in his mind.' Denise mused as she recalled what happened several months ago.

Anyway, their presence was certainly reassuring.

This castle was probably the safest place on the continent right now. So she still liked them having her here.

"Now... Where did Vale go?" Denise asked.

Meanwhile, faraway from the Eastern Region of the Ruri Kingdom, a huge Airship disguised as a Merchant Ship passed through the skies with a humming sound coming from its engine.

Of course, this Airship was secretly owned by the Arcane Bureau.

'Whom~'

The sound of the Airship's engine didn't bother Vale as he stood on the deck.

Vale was currently on a mission.

He even had to postpone marking the Demon Saints since he would need the help of the four immortals to do that. After all, the Demon Saints had strange physique that had resistance against mind-controlling Spells.

However, that wasn't perfect immunity, and as long as he got the assistance of the four Immortals, he would surely have captured the Demon Saints.

Unfortunately, the Immortals weren't in their best condition after Vale marked them. They required some time to recover, and Vale couldn't wait for that to happen. The Dungeon he had to enter had some time limit, so he had to leave after he had some rest back in the castle.

As he had boarded the Airship of the Arcane Bureau and travelled for about six hours, a Branch Director of the Bureau boarded the Airship from the Capital of the Ruri Kingdom.

It was Director Lark and of course, Vale had already confirmed that the Director was not a Demon Saint.

Anyway, the Director gave him more details about the expedition to the Remnant of the Celestial Realm, a hidden dungeon that was rumored to contain the secrets of the ancient Immortals but was only treated now as a dangerous place.

"Mhmm... I feel like this Airship is quite different." Vale commented after learning everything about the work dungeon.

The Airship that they were using doesn't have the balance of Magic and Technology that he had seen to many other Airships.

To his surprise, he could barely feel the presence of Magic in this Airship!

Nonetheless, this sleek vessel soared through the skies with ease and speed, better than the ones that were mostly relying on the Magic.

"Kehehe... Isn't it amazing? Sir Immortal? This is only one of the technologies that the Arcane Bureau is proud of. As you know, the Bureau isn't just for protecting the world of arcanists, it's also meant to protect the world of men."

Director Lark then paused for a moment before he continued.

"Ahem... This Airship is also equipped with various devices and instruments that monitor the weather, the terrain, and the magical fluctuations. It is also armed with powerful weapons and shields that could fend off any threats. This is really different from normal Airship."

Vale could only nod as he already noticed this.

Then, the Director continued with his speech by talking about the greatness of the Bureau.

He mentioned that the Airship was also filled with agents of the Bureau, men and women who had dedicated their lives to the pursuit of knowledge and adventure.

He explained that they were experts in various fields, such as combat, research, exploration, and diplomacy.

'What is he trying to do? Does he want me to be part of Bureau? Aren't we done with this?' Vale mused but he decided to just let the Director speak.

"Sir Immortal, I would like to arrange a few things for our dinner later. I really wish I can see your face... Ahem, if you need anything, just let me know." Director Lark said before leaving.

Well, Vale was actually wearing his white mask, a simple yet elegant Magic Artifact that concealed his identity.

Though it was a bit uncomfortable, he wanted to keep some mystery about himself and also avoid any unwanted attention once he removed the mask and decided to just roam around.

"The journey will still take more than twelve hours... I should just enjoy myself here." Vale mused.

Luckily, as an Immortal, he was treated with utmost courtesy and hospitality by the agents, who offered him anything he might need or want.

They provided him with the best or most comfortable cabin, a variety of food and drinks, and access to their library and archives.

They also engaged him in polite and stimulating conversations, asking him about his experiences, his opinions, and his insights.

Currently, Vale has decided to visit the library on the Airship. He found it quite an interesting place since he didn't expect a library in such a place.

"Sir, may I ask you a question?" one of the agents approached him, holding a book in his hand. He was a young man, with blond hair and glasses. He had introduced himself as Agent Reed, a researcher of the Bureau.

"Of course, Agent Reed. What is it?" Vale replied, his voice calm and friendly.

"I was reading this book about the history of the Immortals, and I was wondering if you could confirm some of the facts. For example, is it true that the Immortals were once human, but they transcended their mortality through a ritual of ascension?" Agent Reed asked, his eyes shining with curiosity.

Vale smiled, amused by the agent's enthusiasm.

Luckily, he already chatted with four other Immortals before he left, so he was no longer an ignorant Immortal!

He decided to answer his question, without revealing too much.

"That is partially true, Agent Reed. The Immortals were once human, but they did not all ascend through the same ritual. There were different paths to immortality, and each one had its own benefits and drawbacks."

"Really? What were the different paths?" Agent Reed pressed, eager to learn more.

"I can answer you if you give me something..." Vale replied.

"Hmm? What can I give you, Sir Immortal?"

"How about 10 years of your life?" Vale joked.

However, the answer he received was unexpected.

"Alright, 10 years it is!" Agent Reed said without hesitation.

This answer stunned Vale as he didn't expect him to be an idiot.

"Are you sure? I can tell you, but you have to ensure that no one will know or you will die." Vale said as he couldn't help but frown while looking at the Agent.

'How did this guy become part of the Bureau?'

Vale could only shake his head at this thought.

"Understood!" Agent Reed replied, filled with excitement.

Vale considered his answer, weighing the pros and cons of sharing his knowledge. He decided to give a brief overview without going into details.

Of course, he first cast a spell to block anyone who was trying to secretly listen to their conversation.

"There were four main paths: the path of the elements, the path of the soul, the path of the mind, and the path of the body. Each path focused on a different aspect of the human being, and enhanced it to the point of transcendence..."

Vale said as he looked at the young man to confirm that he was listening before he continued.

"The path of the elements granted mastery over the forces of nature, the path of the soul granted insight into the mysteries of the spirit, the path of the mind granted wisdom and intelligence beyond measure, and the path of the body granted strength and vitality that defied aging and disease."

Chapter 709 Arrival

Vale's answer was like the words of deities that came to bless the young researcher. This answer wasn't something that he could read in any textbooks! It was something that not even the most prestigious academies would willingly share with their precious students!

Of course, Vale didn't tell him a very important detail.

His explanation only works for the Immortals that had originally come from this Human Realm. There were still other Immortals that were already born as Immortals in the Celestial Realm were all kinds of transcendent beings lives. For those beings, there was no need for any sort of Ascension at all.

Nonetheless, Vale didn't think that telling this information would be helpful at all. In any case, he was just casually chatting with this person and trying to act like a truly knowledgeable immortal.

It certainly felt quite good to act knowledgeable from time to time.

On the other hand, Agent Reed had already finished processing the words he just said.

"Wow, that's amazing. Which path did you follow, sir?" Agent Reed asked, his eyes wide with awe.

Vale paused, wondering if he should reveal his choice.

However, he immediately felt against telling the truth. He decided to give a vague answer instead.

"I followed the path of the mind, Agent Reed. But I also learned from the other paths and integrated them into my own. That is why I have a variety of abilities and a balanced perspective."

Well, he certainly didn't follow the normal path because of his Divine Extraction System.

"I see. That's very impressive, sir. Thank you for sharing your knowledge with me. I hope you don't mind if I ask you more questions later..." Agent Reed said, his voice full of gratitude and admiration.

"Not at all, Agent Reed. I can take more of your life when you ask more questions. Right, since you made a follow-up question. I will take a total 15 years of your life then." Vale said, his voice warm and polite.

"Come here..."

Vale said as he raised his hand, wanting to touch Reed's shoulder.

Although he could also extract without needing to touch him and only use his spell, he decided to show the need to make contact instead.

Reed suddenly froze up as he seemed to have just realized what kind of deal he had made to the Immortal.

"Ahem... So you're not joking about that Sir Immortal." Reed weakly said as he stepped forward. Although he obviously didn't like what was about to happen, he still accepted his fate and allowed the Immortal to touch him and take his life. In any case, he brought this to himself, and he had no one to blame

On the other hand, Vale simply looked at the Spell Models of this Researcher. He was actually practicing the Alchemy Path, which seemed to be very useful in most research.

However, most of this person's spells were meant for Weapon Crafting, Potion Brewing, Talisman Making, and Pill Creation.

In short, they were spells that he didn't need since he had Magnus and Denise for that. He didn't want to take their jobs, so he might as well stay away from these Spells.

Well, Vale didn't really expect to get an incredible Spell Model from an unknown researcher. Things like that won't just happen randomly.

Anyway, Vale decided to just extract some Energy Point from the man. It was something that would weaken him for a while but would certainly not take his life.

As soon as Agent Reed felt weakened, he kneeled to the ground to support himself.

'So that was 15 years gone in my life...' Agent Reed thought, but surprisingly, he didn't feel very against it since he knew that the knowledge he got would probably become a heirloom for his family.

Of course, he had no idea that his Vitality Points or any of his Attribute Points weren't taken away at all. He simply felt tired after his energy was taken away. He would still recover after some rest, but Vale had no plans to tell him about that.

After taking a few deep breaths to calm himself, Agent Reed slowly stood up.

"Thank you, sir. You are very kind and generous," He said, bowing slightly. He also showed his genuine feelings with those words.

Vale didn't feel any hatred or discontent from him.

Agent Reed then returned to his seat on the other side of the library while clutching the book to his chest. At this moment, his mind was filled with new information, and he had some more questions about the immortals. However, he could no longer waste his life.

'Should I go and tell the others to ask their questions in exchange for their life?' He mused for a moment. There would probably be fanatics who would willingly give up their lives, but he also felt guilty to ruin their lives for that.

In the end, he decided not to tell the others about this.

Vale watched Agent Reed go, feeling a sense of satisfaction and amusement.

He somehow enjoyed talking to the curious Agents and sharing bits of knowledge with them.

Of course, while he was here, he also enjoyed learning from them and finding out more about the Bureau, its history, its structure, and its projects.

Although he had Agent Axe and others who could provide this information, he also wanted to hear these from the perspective of the normal Agents in the Bureau.

After asking around, he also learned more about the Remnant of the Celestial Realm, the destination of their journey.

It was a dungeon that had been discovered by the Bureau many years ago, in a remote and snowy region.

However, as it was guarded by Sage Merlin, they weren't able to explore it and only knew a few details about it.

Thankfully, Sage Merlin was now under his control, so the Bureau was able to launch better explorations.

Anyway, the Dungeon's entrance appears like a massive crack of space. It was deep underground and they had to pass through multiple chambers and levels before being able to see it...

At this time, to ensure that not just anyone could enter it, and that no dangerous beings could come out of it, the Half-

Immortals of the Bureau had arranged various traps, formation arts, and guardians around it.

"How did you guys know that it's a Remnant of the Celestial Realm?" Vale asked the Agent Axe after he visited the lounge of the Airship and found the Agent having some snacks.

Vale then joined him and chatted for a bit.

"Ahem... Sir Immortal, aside from the information we found out from the Overseer, we believe that it's the Celestial Realm since we confirmed that there's a Celestial Palace there... Although it was already abandoned, it matched the description by the Three Paragons in their church's codex. And similar descriptions were also found in the codex used by the Church of the Eminence of the Sea."

"So it was like that..." Vale gently nodded.

He further learned that the Celestial Palace was where the ancient Transcendent Beings had once lived and ruled.

It was said to contain their relics, their records, and their secrets. There were other amazing rumors about it, but in the end, it was already in an unknown state after most of the realm had been destroyed.

Vale also learned that the Bureau had been exploring the periphery of the 'dungeon' for a while now... Aside from the Golden Key that he needed to take, they had discovered plenty of things in the Dungeon.

They had encountered many difficulties and dangers, and they had lost many Agents in the process...

Nonetheless, because of these sacrifices, they also found many wonders and treasures in that Dungeon.

"Sir, we are about to arrive at the location of the Dungeon's entrance. Please prepare for landing," a voice announced over the intercom, interrupting Vale's thoughts.

Vale nodded and got up from his seat.

Agent Axe also did the same, as they followed Director Lark and a few other agents to the exit of the aircraft.

As soon as Vale was seen, they all greeted him warmly and thanked him for his cooperation in this mission.

Directly Lark also briefed him on the situation below.

"Sir, we are glad to have you with us I hope that you'll succeed in sealing that Golden Key. As for the Dimensional Creatures that could possibly lurk around, we can't really give you a piece of advice on it since we have no idea how to kill it." Director Lark said, his voice confident and respectful.

"I'll work on it." Vale said, his voice calm and sincere.

"Thank you, sir. We appreciate your help, and your trust..." Director Lark said, his voice grateful and sincere.

Vale nodded and smiled.

He was now prepared to enter the Dungeon, and to see what it had in store.

He was ready to explore the Remnant of the Celestial Realm and to find out about the Golden Key!

Chapter 710 Entering the Dungeon

After twelve hours of flying, the Airship finally arrived at the location of the Dungeon's entrance.

It was a snowy field surrounded by mountains and forests.

A camp had been set up by the Bureau, with tents, vehicles, and equipment.

Then, Vale saw a large metal door that marked the entrance leading to the Dungeon. Aside from the guards around the perimeter of the camp, there were also a few First-Class Arcanists guarding the entrance.

Furthermore, Vale could see more than a dozen Ice Spirits!

These Elemental Spirits were thoroughly guarding the entrance, although they only seemed to be sleeping around.

As Vale scanned the area with his Divine Sense, he didn't find any Psychic Arts, Transformation Arts, and Dark Arts Practitioners.

It seemed that these Arcane Paths weren't prevalent in this region.

'Alright... Let's see what we got here.'

Vale stepped off the Airship, accompanied by Director Lark and a handful of agents. He was greeted by a group of Arcanists who had been waiting for his arrival. They were part of the team that would assist Vale in the outskirts of the Dungeon, while he ventured deeper into its secrets.

These Arcanists were all Mystic Arts Practitioners, and they had a map of the Dungeon and a device that could detect the Dimensional Creatures, beings that lurked in the cracks between worlds.

Vale was intrigued by the device, but he refrained from asking about it, knowing that he would find out more about it soon enough.

Anyway, aside from this device, they also had weapons, tools, and various supplies. They were prepared for anything that could happen in the Dungeon.

The leader of the Arcanists was a middle-aged man with silver hair and a stern expression. He introduced himself as Master Steins, the head of the Mystic Arts Division of the Bureau.

He bowed respectfully to Vale and thanked him for his cooperation, something that Vale had already heard for several times.

"Lord Immortal, it is an honor to have you with us. We are here to support you in your exploration of the Dungeon, and to provide you with any information or assistance you may need. We have been studying the Dungeon for a long time, and we have some clues about its nature and origin. However, we barely managed to reach the broken Celestial Palace before we encountered many obstacles and dangers. Including Dimensional Creatures. We hope that with your help, we can finally unlock the secrets of the Realm and ensure that the Golden Key will not be taken by anyone else." Master Steins said.

Vale nodded as he used his Spells to ensure that they weren't Demon Saints.

After confirming that everything was fine, he allowed them to lead him...

Anyway, he was already excited to learn more about the Immortals of the past. At this time, he simply agreed to their words and followed their guidance.

"Steins... If you have anything in your mind. Just let me know." Vale said.

"Thank you, Lord Immortal. We just hope that if you ever sensed the Dimensional Creatures. Try not to fight against it if you're unsure whether you can defeat. Those creatures could mess up the already dying Realm, so it's better not to agitate them if possible."

Master Steins said, his voice sincere and respectful.

"Mhmm... I'll take note of that." Vale spoke behind his mask.

Vale then followed Steins and the other Arcanists to the entrance leading to the Dungeon.

It was a large metal door, guarded by Ice Spirits, creatures of frost and magic that served as the Dungeon's first line of defense. Steins used his authority to deactivate the security system, and the door opened with a loud creak.

They entered the Dungeon, and were met with a labyrinth of corridors and chambers, filled with various traps and guardians. Steins then led the way, using his device to navigate the Dungeon and avoid or disable the dangers.

Soon, they passed through several high-level Formation Arts and traps, that were designed to prevent any intruders from entering or escaping the Dungeon.

After some time, they finally reached the lowest level, and Vale saw a huge crack in space.

It was dark and ominous, but he could feel a familiar sensation emanating from it. It was undoubtedly the remnant of the Celestial Realm, the Realm where the ancient Immortals had once dwelled.

"Interesting..." Vale muttered as he felt the leaking energy from it.

Then, his attention was brought to the gatekeeper sitting close to the entrance.

It was a person guarding the crack, an old man with a pale complexion and a cold demeanor. He was a Half-Immortal, a hybrid of human and Immortal blood, and Vale recognized him from the files that he received before. This man was also part of the Council and worked for the Bureau as the Guardian of the Dungeon.

This Half-Immortal recognized Vale and immediately introduced himself.

"Lord Immortal, welcome to the Dungeon. I am Kai, and I am here to ensure the entrance's safety and prevent any unauthorized access. Ahem... I have been expecting you, and I have prepared everything for your journey. Please, have a safe trip, Lord Immortal."

Vale nodded and thanked him. He doesn't really know what more to say to this hardworking man.

'He doesn't look like a Demon Saint anyway...'

Vale was now ready to explore the Remnant of the Celestial Realm, and to find out the truth about the Golden Key.

It didn't take long before Steins entered the crack, followed by the Arcanists, and Vale entered last.

As Vale and the others stepped through the crack, they felt a sudden jolt of dizziness, as if they had fallen into a bottomless abyss.

The surrounding energy became suffocating, and the usual laws of nature seemed to change in this place.

They were able to quickly tell that using normal Arcane Spells in this place may either be impossible or completely difficult.

"So this is it, huh..." Vale muttered as his senses spread throughout the surroundings.

To his surprise, however, his Magic Zone could only cover a kilometer after entering this place.

'Interesting...' He thought as he started to look around.

In a concise description, they seemed to have found themselves in a dark and desolate world, a world that was crumbling and fading away.

The sky above them was a vast expanse of blackness, pierced by countless stars that twinkled like dying embers. The ground below them was cracked and barren, littered with debris and ruins. The air around them was thin and cold, filled with a sense of dread and decay.

Vale simply couldn't describe what he was feeling just by looking at this place. Just mere words may not be enough.

'Well, this situation perfectly fits being called the Remnant of the Celestial Realm... It would have been great to see this in its glory.' Vale thought to himself.

Unfortunately, this was not the Realm of glory and splendor that it was before. This was now a realm of ruin and despair, a realm that was on the verge of collapse.

"Sir Immortal... I'm curious, can you tell that this is indeed the Celestial Realm where all the Transcendent Beings had lived before?" Master Steins asked as he looked at the Masked Immortal.

Vale didn't immediately answer as he slowly used his Divinity and even his Divine Extraction System to get a better understanding of the place.

After some time, he answered.

"Yes, this is it. I can tell from its traces of energy. But this is not how it used to be. This is how it is now, after the Cataclysm..." Vale said, his voice calm and solemn.

From the four Immortals in the castle, he also learned quite a few things about the past of this Realm.

"The Cataclysm? What's that?" one of the Arcanists asked, his eyes wide with curiosity and fear. Although they already have some idea, they still couldn't help but ask.

Anyway, their devices were still adjusting to the changes within the 'dungeon', so they had to wait until now.

"It's the event that destroyed the Celestial Realm, and the Immortals who lived in it. Just think of it as a war that involved multiple Transcendent Beings. These includes Celestials, Demon Lords, Dimensional Creatures and there might even be Time Manipulators." Vale explained, his voice grave and serious.

"Dimensional creatures..." The group of Arcanists repeated as they knew about the Dimensional Creatures. As a matter of fact, these creatures were the ones they wanted to avoid while inside this Realm!

Unfortunately, as if on cue, a loud roar echoed through the air, followed by a series of thuds and crashes.

The group turned and saw a massive creature emerging from the shadows, its eyes glowing with a sinister light.

It was a creature of the void, a creature of the Dimensional Realm.

Vale looked at this creature and realized why the Arcanists and even the Half-Immortals were afraid of it!

It was a monstrous beast, a twisted abomination of the void.

It was a creature of terror and was befitting its name as a Dimensional Creature, a creature of the Cataclysm!