

D. Extraction 871

Chapter 871 Blown

Vale was happier to see that Lisa had already become Immortal. To be honest, after learning about the existence of higher realms, he felt a lot of pressure since, aside from him and the True Immortals he had woken up and the Demon Saints he controlled, there weren't really other people who could help him protect this realm.

If they really received a full frontal assault from the Abyss Realm, Time Manipulators, the Death God's Underworld Realm, and some other Realms that might want to obtain his Divine Extraction, Vale knew that it would be impossible to protect this place no matter how powerful he was.

Their option was to make the Will of the Realm become stronger and block off all other Realms from entering this place. Aside from that, the Overseer also mentioned that they have to ascend to the Higher Realm and obtain protection...

It was similar to what the Three Paragons had done to the Human Realm and obtained protection. However, after the Paragons disappeared, this protection had disappeared for a long time. However, it was enough for the Will of the Realm to get stronger.

On the other hand, the Eminence of the Sea, Goddess of Fortune, and Divine Sorcerer, weren't really doing anything that much to protect this realm from foreign invasions since, according to the Lord of the Secrets, these Ascended Immortals had many other worshippers in different Realms. They weren't originally from this Human Realm although they claimed to be in order to attract more worshippers.

In short, although this place was still important to them, it wasn't that vital to them whether they disappeared or not.

Nonetheless, because of this, Vale was also considering ascending if necessary in order to obtain true peace in this Realm. The only problem was that he knew it wouldn't be easy to do it alone, so he was considering going there with others.

'I really don't want to leave this land if possible... However, the Time Manipulators are already here... The Abyss Realm also knows about our location. It's only a matter of time before they return. I just hope that they'll take centuries to recover their strength.' Vale said as he wryly smiled...

Anyway, he knew that it would still take the Abyss Realm decades in order to recover their strength. However, Vale didn't like the fact that there was still a looming threat that could cause them trouble in the future. He needed to resolve it.

In the meantime, as Lisa was able to stabilize her newfound strength, she looked at Vale, the Shadow Immortal, and smiled.

"Thank you... So... How about we spar?" she asked, her eyes gleaming with excitement. She knew that she had gotten incredibly strong, but she couldn't have a proper grasp of her strength unless she used them in battle.

Vale laughed, sensing her eagerness.

After a few moments, they disappeared from the chamber and soon, reappeared on a vast frozen lake in the northern region of the Empire.

The icy expanse stretched out before them. However, the cold air wasn't doing anything on their bodies.

Confirming that there were no signs of human life around this place, they knew that it was the perfect arena for their sparring match.

"Since I'm weaker, allow me to make my move first." Lisa chuckled as she summoned her Vampiric Aura...

She then moved first... In the blink of an eye, she closed the distance between them. She struck with her fist, but not to hit Vale with her physical force. Instead, each of her punches would release a Vampiric Energy that aimed to corrupt her target.

Vale parried her attacks effortlessly. He used his control of shadows like a protective barrier... He wasn't going in the aggressive yet, as he wanted to see more of the True Vampire Immortal's power.

"Impressive," Vale remarked, his voice calm. "But you'll need to do better than that."

Lisa grinned, her fangs glinting in the sunlight.

She then summoned her vampiric powers with a hint of Divinity!

She then moved swiftly and launched a series of rapid strikes. This time, she decided to resort to physical attacks! Although this wasn't her real fighting style, she wanted to see how fast and strong she was compared to Vale!

Bang! Bang! Bang! Nôv(el)B\\jnn

Each blow was infused with her Divinity as the ice beneath them started cracking with the force of their clash.

Vale then countered with his own abilities, his shadows lashing out like tendrils of darkness.

They started wrapping around Lisa, attempting to bind her, but she broke free with a burst of energy!

Boom!

The two combatants moved with incredible speed. At this time, their forms were just barely visible as they fought across the frozen lake.

"Haa!"

Lisa unleashed a wave of dark energy, the force sent shards of ice flying in all directions!

Vale responded with a shadowy barrier, absorbing the impact and dissipating the energy. He then retaliated with a series of shadow spears, each one aimed immobilize her.

The battle raged on, the frozen lake becoming a battlefield of ice and darkness...

Lisa's vampiric powers and strength were matched by Vale's mastery of the shadows.

'Eh? She's actually draining my powers?' Vale was shocked as he realized how scary a Vampire Immortal was! She didn't have to suck his blood or have physical contact as she simply had to get near and her opponent must release her energy and she could already absorb it!

As the fight continued, Lisa felt her confidence growing.

She had never felt so powerful, so alive. She pushed herself harder, her attacks becoming more aggressive, and faster.

Vale had no other choice but to use some of his Celestial Arts and met her with equal intensity...

Finally, with a burst of energy, Lisa managed to break through Vale's defenses. She landed a powerful blow, sending him skidding across the ice. She stood tall, her chest heaving with exertion, a triumphant smile on her lips.

Vale rose to his feet, a look of admiration in his eyes. "Well done, Lisa. You've truly embraced your new power." He was happy with this result.

Lisa nodded, her smile widening. "Thank you, Vale. However, since you're just an Avatar with limited Divinity, you can't really use your full force. Once your real body is back, let's spar again."

Chapter 872 Saved

In the meantime, as Vale's Avatar and Lisa were sparring, Denise had finally completed her preparations. She was ready to start the critical task of saving Vale's main body with the help of her latest creation: the Apex Guardian, powered by a powerful Soul given by Vale's Avatar.

Denise had spent countless hours perfecting her plan, and she had confirmed with the two Dragons, Red Dragon Ryzoir and Purple Dragon Orden, that her strategy could indeed save Vale's main body. The Soul they had obtained was from one of the Seven Deadly Sins, a formidable force that would be crucial in their attempt.

With everything in place, Denise entered the Dragon's Chamber. The place was tense as she approached Vale's frozen body.

The sight of him encased in ice sent various emotions in her....

Around him, a trace of Deathly Aura lingered, a remnant of the Death God who was attempting to steal Vale's body at this very moment.

This was why the two Dragons had to keep Vale's body frozen—to prevent the Death God's Spirit from fully taking over.

The Death God's Spirit was immensely powerful, having existed for countless eons. No matter how great Vale was, his Spirit couldn't compare to the ancient and malevolent force of the Death God. He had simply lived for too short compared to the Death God.

Denise took a deep breath as she felt a little nervous about what they were about to do...

After briefing the Dragons and even Magnus on what they were planning to do, they finally started.

She activated the Apex Guardian Android, its eyes glowing with a fierce light as it came to life.

The Android was designed to withstand immense spiritual pressure and had been imbued with the Soul of one of the Seven Deadly Sins, making it a formidable ally in their task.

"Sir Ryzoir, Sir Orden, are you ready?" Denise asked, her voice steady.

The two Dragons nodded, their eyes fixed on Vale's frozen form. "We are ready," Ryzoir rumbled, his voice deep and resonant. Nôv(el)B\\jnn

"We will support you with our power."

Denise approached Vale's body, and touched the ice that trapped him.

She then began to chant an incantation that the dragons had taught her.

The Apex Guardian then stepped forward, and its presence started radiating with a powerful Soul Force.

As Denise's incantation reached its peak, the ice around Vale began to crack and shatter.

The Dragons tensed up as they knew that there was no going back after this. They had to save Vale this time!

The Deathly Aura intensified, and the Death God's Spirit surged, attempting to seize control!

Immediately, the Aura of the two Dragons tried to protect Vale's body! They may not be capable of controlling the Death God's Spirit but they were still capable of shielding Vale's body, even if it was temporary!

After doing all of this, Denise immediately took action!

With a final, powerful chant, she directed the Android to engage the Death God's Spirit.

The Android's core glowed brightly, and it extended its hands towards Vale. Tendrils of energy shot out, wrapping around the Death God's Spirit and pulling it away from Vale.

The process seemed so simple, but this was certainly not possible for other creatures without being killed! After all, the Death God's aura could easily decay living things!

However, it was different for the machine!

The Death God's Spirit resisted, its malevolent force pushing back with all its might.

But the Apex Guardian, powered by the Soul of one of the Seven Deadly Sins, held firm.

"Now, Ryzoir! Orden!" Denise commanded.

The two Dragons unleashed their combined power, their flames merging into a torrent of energy that enveloped the Death God's Spirit.

It was only enough to contain the Death God's Spirit for a few moments! However, it was more than enough to save Vale!

The Spirit howled in fury, but it was no match for the combined might of the Dragons and the Android.

Slowly, the Death God's Spirit was drawn into the Android's core!

After a few moments, Denise and the two Dragon's looked at the Apex Guardian worriedly. After all, although Denise used some godly materials to create the Android, there was still a small chance that they could fail!

Thankfully, its malevolent energy was still contained and neutralized!

The chamber fell silent as the last remnants of the Deathly Aura dissipated.

"W-we did it!"

Denise collapsed to her knees, exhausted but triumphant.

Even the two Dragons couldn't believe that they'd really survived the deadly corruption of the Death God's Spirit!

"Ahh..." Ryzoir then looked around and realized that although they were not affected, the surroundings of the Dragon Chamber were actually almost destroyed already!

The only reason that the chamber didn't collapse was most likely the mysterious Arcane Circle that Vale had previously drawn on the floor.

"This is a kind of miracle..." Orden muttered as he looked at the Android that Denise had made. At this point, there really was nothing they could teach Denise in terms of golem-making.

The Apex Guardian was definitely a being that could already contend against True Immortals!

She looked up at Vale's body, now free from the Death God's influence. Vale was still unconscious but he was alive.

"We did it," she whispered, a smile of relief spreading across her face. She then turned her attention to the Guardian.

The Apex Guardian stood still...

After a quick inspection, its core was glowing with the captured Spirit. It seemed that it was slowly integrating with the power of the Death God!

'Will it become an android that can use Death Energy?' Denise mused as she knew that this Android she had made was completely different from the others she had created.

Ryzoir and Orden, already in their human forms, approached Denise, their expressions filled with respect and gratitude.

"You have saved him," Orden said softly. "You did really well."

Denise nodded, her eyes filled with happiness.

"Yes... For now, we must ensure that Vale recovers fully..."

Chapter 873 Secret Mission

In the meantime, as Vale was woken up by Denise in the Dragon Chamber, far to the west of the continent, the Church of the Divine Sorcerer was preparing for a grand ceremony.

The majestic cathedral, with its towering spikes and intricate stained glass windows, was filled with people, both Arcanists and those who were not.

Currently, the faithful members of the Church have gathered from all corners of the land to witness the Blessing of the 50 new High Sorcerers of the Church.

The current Pontiff, a venerable figure draped in brilliant robes adorned with Oardic symbols, stood at the altar.

His features could not be seen, but his eyes were glowing with magic. It was a mysterious appearance, and for most of them, this was their first time seeing the Pontiff in person. All of them were feeling blessed even just by the sight of him.

Cling~

A chime of a bell was heard as everyone was filled with anticipation.

The ceremony was an important occasion, marking the ascension of these fifty sorcerers to a higher echelon of power and responsibility.

Among the new High Sorcerers was Claud, the son of the famous Illustrious Liquidator of the Mystic Arts Faction, Clyde.

Clyde was a legendary figure with the Mystic Arts Faction. Claud's heart pounded with a mix of excitement and pride. He had trained rigorously for this day, and now he stood on the cusp of greatness.

"Father... This is for you." Claud muttered to himself as Clyde had disappeared during the Abyss Invasion after fighting against three Demon Saints.

At that time, they only found Clyde's favorite red frock coat and pieces of tattered red pants in the battle scene. Clyde had probably been eaten by a Demon Saint or was completely eradicated to the point that almost nothing was left.

Nonetheless, the ceremony continued. The grand hall was illuminated by the soft glow of enchanted candles, as everyone waited for the event to start.

Not long after, the congregation watched in silence as the Pontiff raised his hands, signaling the beginning of the ritual.

"Today, we gather to bestow the divine blessing upon these worthy sorcerers," the Pontiff declared with his voice resonating through the hall.

"They have proven their dedication, their strength, and their commitment to the path of the Divine Sorcerer."

The 50 new High Sorcerers, clad in ceremonial robes, stepped forward in unison. They formed a semicircle around the altar. Most of them displayed excitement in their expression, while the others showed solemnity and anticipation.

Claud stood among them, his gaze fixed on the mysterious Pontiff.

The Pontiff began to chant an ancient incantation, but it was surely not a language they were aware of.

The air around him shimmered with ethereal light, and the ground beneath the sorcerers' feet seemed to hum with energy. As the incantation reached its end, the Pontiff extended his hands, and beams of radiant light shot forth, enveloping each of the new High Sorcerers.

Claud felt the light wash over him, filling him with a warmth that resonated deep within his soul.

'Mhmm... So this is Divine Sorcerer's Light Blessing.'

The light was not just a physical sensation; it felt like a divine power was being shared to them by the Pontiff.

It was surely a blessing that would elevate their abilities but at the same time, bind them to the sacred duty of a High Sorcerer.

"By the grace of the Divine Sorcerer, you are now blessed," the Pontiff declared. "May your magic be a beacon of hope and a shield against darkness. Serve with honor, wisdom, and compassion."

As the light faded, the new High Sorcerers felt a surge of power coursing through their veins.

They had been transformed, their Arcane Powers enhanced and their connection to the deity was strengthened.

Claud could feel the difference immediately; his senses were sharper, his mind clearer, and his magic more powerful than ever before.

The Pontiff approached each sorcerer, placing a hand on their shoulders and offering words of encouragement.

When he reached Claud, he paused, his eyes meeting Claud's with a knowing gaze.

"Claud, son of Clyde, you carry the legacy of the past Archbishop," the Pontiff said softly. "Your path will be challenging, but I have faith that you will rise to the occasion. May your journey be guided by the light of the Divine Sorcerer."

Claud bowed deeply, his heart swelling with pride as the Pontiff actually remembered that his father had also served the Church before.

"Thank you, Pontiff. I will honor this Blessing and serve the Church with all my strength."
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The ceremony concluded with a final blessing, and the congregation erupted in applause.

The new High Sorcerers were now officially recognized, their status elevated, but their responsibilities had also increased.

As the crowd dispersed, the 50 new High Sorcerers and a few other officials of the Church remained.

As for the Pontiff, he had already returned to his chamber, leaving the Archbishop to handle the rest.

Archbishop Hans surveyed the group; his gaze was sharp, and he was inspecting each of them.

"Good... All of you had gotten stronger... Some of you even gained twenty to thirty Spirit Strands... As for the Power Strands, it's fine even if the increase didn't reach ten. You can check your strands later with the prepared Spirit Converging Crystals..." The Archbishop said before he paused for a moment.

Seeing that everyone was listening, he continued.

"High Sorcerers... You have been blessed and elevated to your new positions. With this honor comes great responsibility. Your first mission is of utmost importance and must be carried out with the utmost secrecy."

The sorcerers listened intently.

Claud stood among them, waiting for the instruction. Everyone was expecting to receive a mission, so they were all filled with anticipation.

"The Church of the Fortune Goddess has been protecting Psychic Arts Practitioners or Mind Controllers," Archbishop Hans continued. "These individuals pose a significant threat to our order and the stability of the land. Your mission is to eliminate them. This task must be executed discreetly and efficiently. The Church of the Divine Sorcerer cannot be implicated in these actions."

Chapter 874 Vale's Day

Everyone was surprised after hearing this revelation. After all, on the surface, the Church of the Fortune Goddess and the Divine Sorcerer don't seem to have any problems with each other.

The Holy Priests should be aware that the Sorcerers like them disdained these Mind Controllers who liked to enslave people without their consent.

Although Sorcerers like them also purchase people from time to time, they were taken by them for the greater good. The people they were taking were willing to be sold or get experimented on by their Sorcery and Alchemy.

They wouldn't buy people who don't want to be bought. In short, they were still retaining their human decency despite their noble status.

They would even follow the laws of the nobles in the territories where they were purchasing humans, as they would always pay their taxes and such.

Of course, this could only happen in several nations, not including the Ruri Kingdom, Millton Kingdom, and other smaller kingdoms.

After the order was given, everyone soon dispersed so they could begin their preparation to eliminate the Mind Controllers.

In any case, this mission doesn't have a strict deadline, and as long as they could return with a decent report about what they've done against the practitioners, that would be fine as well.

"Mind Controllers... I'll be hunting you soon..." Claud muttered as he was the most excited High Sorcerer to hunt these practitioners of Psychic Arts. After all, once he killed most of them, he would be able to obtain a better status and be granted a chance to receive the third Blessing of the Divine Sorcerer.

Once that happened, his path to obtain Divinity would become one step closer.

Three days had swiftly passed since Vale's escape from the crystal and the Death God's Spirit.

His recovery had been gradual as his consciousness emerged from a deep slumber.

At the time of his release from the ice, Vale had entered a state of tranquility—a protective measure to shield him from external harm.

On the third day, clarity returned to Vale's mind.

Magnus, the castle's butler, had briefed him on the situation.

However, the reconnection with his other Avatar's mind filled in the gaps, revealing the events that had unfolded during his long slumber. n/ô/vel/b//in dot c//om

"So many things have happened over the past few years, huh..." Vale muttered to himself, contemplating the changes he had missed.

As he sat in his chamber, still adjusting to the pieces of information he had, Denise arrived.

She pushed carts filled with different corpses—Arcanists, Demon Saints, Half-Immortals, and others.

"Ah? What's going on?"

Vale's shock was evident as he surveyed the ghastly scene before him.

"Hehehe... Don't be too happy. This is just us taking care of you." Denise said, making Vale a bit confused. However, Denise just continued without waiting for his reply.

"We all know that you have a peculiar hobby—male or female, it matters not. These corpses are for you. We've collected them over the past few years."

The corpses were certainly a bizarre gift, yet he understood their purpose.

They were resources or raw materials for his Divine Extraction System... He couldn't help but laugh as this shows that they were indeed looking forward to the time when he woke up.

"Thank you, Denise... Please send my regards to the others who have collected them. I'm sure taking these corpses wasn't easy. Don't worry, I'll also give a gift to everyone later."

Denise smiled after hearing this.

"What's that gift? Can I have a clue?" She asked...

"I'm still thinking about it. However, what does having an extra Spell Light sound like?" Vale asked after some thought.

"Ahh? Extra Spell Light?" Denise's eyes widened since her Spell Lights was only fourteen! Fourteen Spells were certainly difficult for her to indulge more in Alchemy... If she had some extra Spell lights, then that would be incredible!

"Yes... You can have eight Spell Light or one Evolved Spell Light that could record a Celestial Art." Vale replied.

Denise's eyes widened after hearing this.

"T-that's possible? Evolved Spell Light? Can I really have that as well?" She asked with a hint of excitement in her voice.

However, she suddenly recalled that she doesn't really have a Celestial Art in mind that she wanted to learn. Although she knew some of them from Magnus, Faith, and Pearl's knowledge, she felt that it wasn't suited for her.

"No... I think I'd rather have Eight Spell Lights instead." She added after some consideration.

"Haha... Alright... Let's arrange that later." Vale said.

"Great! I'll look forward for that... Go ahead and indulge in your hobby. I'll be leaving now."
Denise said that although she knew very well what Vale was doing with those corpses,
However, she still liked teasing him about this matter.

With that, she departed, leaving Vale alone with the carts of lifeless bodies.

And so, Vale sat among the corpses to start his Extraction.

Another three days had quickly passed, and Vale felt the presence of a powerful being closing into his castle.

'She really became an Immortal...' Vale smiled as he thought of this.

Thud...

The grand doors of Vale's castle swung open, and Lisa stepped inside. Her vampiric aura carried her swiftly through the corridors...

The news of Vale's liberation from the ice had reached her, and she had swiftly returned after handling all the troubling matters during her absence in her castle.

Soon, she found Vale in his chamber.

His eyes met hers, and a mixture of relief and curiosity flickered in his gaze.

Lisa approached, her steps soundless on the marble floor.

"Vale, you really made us worried." she said softly, "Ahh... Before that, I've brought something that might help you someday."

From the folds of her cloak, she produced a small velvet pouch. Within it lay the Edo Stones—ancient artifacts of the Time Manipulators.

She then explained how these stones held the power to reach into the past, to extract a copy of one's former self, and to use that essence for healing.

Chapter 876 Last Attempt

Although the Talismans felt like just some sort of Charm that many Apprentice Shamans would normally sell, Vale couldn't help but reconsider these Talismans since they were still made by a powerful Time Manipulator.

"Can you tell me more about these talismans?" Vale asked and his skepticism was also evident.

The Shaman seemed to sense Vale's doubt, and he wasn't surprised. There were already many Arcanists who had found his talisman very intriguing, as if he was simply trying to scam ordinary people who didn't know much about the Arcane Arts.

"Of course," he said confidently. "The Protection Talisman wards off negative energies and bad luck. The Wealth and Prosperity Talisman attracts financial success and abundance... And the Love and Relationship Talisman strengthens bonds and attracts positive relationships. They may not seem like much, but they are powerful in their own right. They work best when kept close, even while you sleep."

The Shaman said as he decided not to share too much information about the Arcane Arts that he had used.

'I'll have to test it then...' Vale thought as he decided to buy them.

"I'll take one of each," he said, handing over the payment. All three of them were only worth 80 zen.

It was cheap for him but certainly a bit too pricey for a casual purchase.

'Why is he charging for a very cheap price if he's sure that it's effective? Is there something I'm missing?' He mused.

The Shaman then smiled and handed him the talismans. "You won't be disappointed."

Vale took the talismans and walked away, finding a quiet spot to study them. He wasn't worried that Wasa, disguised as a Shaman, would actually escape from his senses.

He then activated his Divine Sense, probing the talismans for any hidden secrets. Holding the items while inspecting it would give him more accurate information about the item than just by looking at it.

'My Divine Extraction System didn't work, huh...' Shane mused as his system wasn't triggered after touching it. He wasn't too surprised about it since there were many other items that he couldn't extract as their energy was just too negligible in most cases.

Nonetheless, after investigating it for a while, he felt a strange energy within each one, but he couldn't understand more than that.

The energy was subtle, elusive, and unlike anything he had encountered before.

'This is definitely not similar to the Temporal Energy I've seen before.' Shane mused.

In the end, Shane decided to capture this person first...

However, this would not be easy. After all, Lisa learned from Ivan that the Time Manipulators were connected with a mysterious mind network.

If one of them were attacked, he was sure that the others would learn about it and would probably use a technique that would stop him from sensing them, even with the Divine Sense Mark.

According to Ivan, they should have the ability to enter a different Time Dimension and escape from any harm...

During their escape to another dimension, even if the earth itself was destroyed, they wouldn't even be affected until they were outside this dimension.

In short, once he killed Wasa, he had to immediately deal with the remaining people before they could escape... His other option was to actually immobilize Wasa and make him unable to send a message while still alive to prevent the others from noticing something wrong.

To do this, he had to put him asleep or unconscious.

In that way, he would be sure that the rest of the Time Manipulators wouldn't immediately panic and start escaping. After all, they would also realize that they were being tracked with some sort of Arcane Arts once they noticed that one of them just died.

"Alright... Let's try putting him asleep." Vale muttered.

As he stored the Talismans in his Space Ring, he opened his Black Grimoire, the ancient tome he had obtained in the King's Castle of Ruri Kingdom.

After flipping through the pages, he soon found the summon he was looking for. After all, this Black Grimoire doesn't just have the Ghoul King, Doom Knights, and other powerful Undead Creatures.

'Here it is...' Vale's eyes lit up after a few moments.

He found the summon he needed and began to chant according to the instructions of the Black Grimoire... Doing this would consume some of his life force, but because of his trait, he would instead consume his Shadow Divinity.

Soon, a spectral figure began to materialize.

This was Somnus, the Spirit of Eternal Slumber, a creature bound within the pages of the Grimoire. Somnus was a wraith-like entity, with eyes that glowed a haunting blue.

"Somnus," Vale commanded, "I need you to put a man to sleep. Ensure he cannot resist or awaken until I say so."

The spirit nodded, its form rippling like mist. "As you wish, Master," it whispered, its aged voice making it seem like he was a very old gentleman.

Soon, Vale pointed his target, and Somnus made his move.

Vale watched as Somnus drifted away and its presence barely perceptible. Vale followed it at a distance, ensuring he remained unseen.

As the spirit moved through the crowded streets, its ethereal form passed unnoticed among the people. Not even some Shamans could sense its presence.

As Somnus approached Wasa's stall, it began to make its move...

The air around the disguised Shaman grew heavy, and a sense of drowsiness began to settle over him.

Wasa, however, was no ordinary man. He felt the intrusion, the subtle tug of magic trying to pull him into slumber.

Realizing he was under attack, Wasa's eyes widened in alarm.

He fought against the enchantment, but he knew that it was too late!

With a final burst of willpower, he managed to send a telepathic message to his companions: "I might be captured. Be careful!"

As soon as he was able to send this message, the spell took hold, and Wasa's eyes fluttered shut.

He slumped over his stall. n/ô/vel/b//jn dot c//om

Thud...

His breathing was deep as he succumbed to the sleep induced by Somnus.

Seeing the result of Somnus' work, Vale approached... His eyes scanned the surroundings to ensure no one had noticed.

He then reached out and touched Wasa's shoulder, confirming that the Time Manipulator was indeed unconscious.

"One down, three more to go."

Chapter 877: Under Protection

"Well done, Somnus," Vale said in a whisper. "You can return now..."

"Yes... Master..."

The spirit replied before he bowed and dissolved into mist, flowing back into the pages of the Black Grimoire.

Vale closed the book and tucked it away...

At this time, his mind was already racing with the next steps. He had captured Wasa, but he felt that Wasa was still able to release a fluctuation of energy that he believed to be the telepathic warning, which meant that the other Time Manipulators would be on high alert. He had actually cast his Shadow Domain as well to ensure that the people didn't know what was going on and also to stop the Time Manipulator's attempt to ask for reinforcement. However, his Shadow Domain doesn't seem to be capable of black time-related Spells just yet.

Anyway, Vale knew he had to act quickly.

'Should I just kill him then?' Vale considered since he knew that Wasa was able to warn the other Time Manipulators...

However, as he tried to feel his Divine Sense Mark, he realized that the three others were still active!

To be exact, they didn't escape to a different realm!

After considering for a while, he decided just to carry the man and bring him back to the castle with his ability to control Space.

With Wasa in his grasp, he could extract more information about the Talismans that made him curious...

As he lifted Wasa's limp form, Vale opened a portal using arrived at Denise's place... As soon as he appeared, Denise was a bit shocked, but seeing it was Vale, she immediately calmed down and ordered her Apex Guardian to stop what it was doing.

"Ahem... I ordered the android to protect me..." She said with a helpless smile on her face.

Vale awkwardly laughed since it was his fault. "Sorry about that, I'm a bit in a hurry. Please take care of this person for now. You have the Death God's Android with you anyway so you can suppress him even if he wakes up."

"Ugh... I'm not sure about that..." Denise replied.

"I just informed Lisa that this person is here... She'll help just in case. But don't worry, I already placed a few restrictions on his body. I just need to know more about his Talisman Skills." Vale said as he handed over the three Talismans to Denise in case she wanted to study it.

"Mhmm... This is quite interesting. However, Faith is looking for you. Did you meet her already? I'm sure you still have plans to rebuild the Academy, right?" Denise said as she took the Talisman.

Vale recalled his promise and nodded.

"Thanks for reminding me... Don't worry, Once the problem with the other Churches and the Time Manipulators is settled, I'll deal with Academy matters... I also wish to resolve this matter."

"Well... You have to do it faster... I think that someone's trying to manipulate the continent once again." Denise said.

Vale was surprised after hearing this as he felt suddenly confused.

"You may not have heard it, but in the past few days, there's been a rumor that there's a potion or pill or something that can help ordinary people become Arcanists. Based on the rumor, it would only take ten years before making everyone in the world an Arcanist." Denise said casually while flipping through the Talisman.

This news was actually a bit shocking and Shane couldn't help but feel curious about where this rumor came from.

"I'll look into it..." Vale replied and thanked Denise before leaving her laboratory.

He still had to deal with other Time Manipulators-Liora, Cyper, and Elysia.

With the help of Somnus, the Spirit of Eternal Slumber, he devised a plan to capture each one. Liora had infiltrated one of the Arcane Bureau's branches, posing as a diligent researcher. Vale observed her from a distance, noting her meticulous nature, and indeed, it seemed that although she got the warning from Wasa, she still felt somehow safe in her disguise... 'Weird... Is she relying on something?' Vale couldn't help but feel a bit confused with her confidence. However, he also knew to himself that the Divine Sense Mark was real. It wasn't cloned or used to bait him.

In any case, he waited until she was alone in the archives, surrounded by various documents... Summoning Somnus, Vale directed the spirit to target Liora.

Soon, Liora felt an overwhelming drowsiness. She tried to resist, but Somnus' power was too strong. It seemed that she wasn't as strong as Wasa...n/ô/vel/b//in dot c//om

Soon, her eyelids drooped, and she slumped over her desk, fast asleep.

Vale moved swiftly, securing her and ensuring she couldn't escape.

At this point, he finally realized what was going on...

"She's actually protected by another Immortal." Vale muttered in interest as he felt a weak Divinity on Liora's body.

It wasn't in Wasa's body, so he felt a bit confused. Nonetheless, if the other members were protected by this Divinity, then this Immortal must've realized that their Divinity had been compromised in Liora's body...

Nonetheless, Vale wasn't too worried as he decided to continue his hunt after sending Liora's body to Denise's Laboratory.

Next, Vale set his sights on Cyper, who had infiltrated the Order of the Lore Hunters of the Elemental Arts Faction. Cyper seemed to be in a hurry and left the Hall of the Lore Hunters...

Vale then watched as Cyper asked for protection from a few powerful Lore Hunters. To be exact, they were at the Expert Level Arcanist!

'Ohhh... Did he trade something to the Lore Hunters? Why is he being protected by these people?' Vale was curious.

However, he would know all about this later, so when the opportunity arose, Vale summoned Somnus once more. The spirit approached Cyper, and just like before, its presence was barely perceptible.

Cyper felt the familiar pull of sleep, but this time, he was able to himself thanks to the two Expert Arcanists!

"Sir Immortal, who had been offended by our guest. Please calm your anger..." One of them said to the air as they couldn't find Vale's figure.

"We are under the protection of Lord Aersus..."

Chapter 878: Main Body

"Aersus?" Vale repeated as he recalled the Aersus and Archfey Mennena had previously worked together to take the Golden Key connected to the Celestial Prison.

However, Aersus ultimately left after having a bout against Orden. As for Mennena, she had also disappeared after offering his Avatar to unlock a hidden aspect of his physique in exchange for the Golden Key.

After that, they no longer heard anything about Aersus and Mennena.

However, even though Aersus was a powerful Dragon, if Orden could make him run away, Vale was confident that he'd also win.

"Mhmm... I heard that Aersus is an Evil Dragon... You two will come with me." Vale said in the end.

The two were shocked when they realized that the Immortal indeed knew about Aersus, but he was still unafraid!

'You!'

They wanted to complain about his behavior, but it didn't take long before the Spirit of Eternal Slumber targeted them... Soon, their focus wavered, and then the three of them collapsed, unconscious.

Vale quickly captured Cyper together with the two Expert Arcanists, who seemed to be related to the Dragon. He finished binding the three with shadows to prevent any escape before sending them to Denise's laboratory, guarded by her scary Android.

To be honest, he could really feel the power of death coming from that Android. He didn't expect that Denise's ability to create such a complicated golem would be so advanced in just a few years. I hasn't even been a decade since she started learning how to make golems!

'I just hope that it would stay obedient.' Vale mused as he finally turned his attention to Elysia, who had become a private tutor for a prestigious family under the Mystic Arts Faction.

Elysia seemed to be working diligently as a tutor after observing her for half an hour.

Unlike Cyper, she didn't seem to have any plans of escaping...

Furthermore, Vale was no longer in a hurry to capture her since she was the last Time Manipulator he needed to capture.

As soon as she was alone in her room, Vale used his Shadow Domain and summoned Somnus.

The spirit drifted into the room, its ethereal form was unnoticed by Elysia.

After that, Vale also entered the room and Elysia didn't seem surprised.

"Did you kill my friends?" Elysia suddenly asked the figure who had silently entered her room. She had no idea how they were found out after changing their aura and changing their appearances. It seemed as if there were some trackers attached to them, but they had no idea how they could get rid of it since they couldn't feel anything.

"I haven't killed them yet... I might be doing that soon. After all, your presence here isn't welcome." Vale replied as he took the seat in front of Elysia.

"We're only here to find the one who has the Golden Key and to confirm the presence of the Divine Extractor." Elysia suddenly said as she looked at Vale without showing signs of being afraid.

It seemed that even if she was killed, she wouldn't mind it at all.

Vale gently nodded as it seemed that he had truly controlled the situation. She knew that she had zero chance of winning against him or escaping from him.

"The Golden Key might be possible to obtain after the expedition group returned. That also includes the complete stoppage of the Time Manipulators that might enter this Realm. However, as for the Divine Extractor, I don't know about that." Vale said with a cold smile on his face.

Elysia knew that they were really blinded by the possible prestige they'd get if they learned more about the Divine Extractor or if they captured this person.

However, the Shadow Immortal, whom they suspected as the Divine Extractor, was already beyond their imagination in terms of strength... He even has powerful retainers... Immortals, Demon Saints, Dragons, Vampires, and others that they may not be aware of.

This Immortal wasn't in a developing stage at all!

'The power of Divine Extraction is too god-like... If someone could stop him, it could only be the Chaos Alchemist or the Blood Soulcaster.' Elysia thought for a moment before shaking her head.

"Alright... Can you make more Edo Stones?" Vale suddenly asked.

This question caught her off guard... She wasn't sure if the other Time Manipulators had already answered him, and he was just trying to confirm whether their answer was true.

At this point, there was no need to light and just answer him truthfully if they wanted to live...

"It's possible as long as I have the materials I need to make them." Elysia, after taking a deep breath.

"Good..." As Vale felt satisfied with this answer, he signaled to Somnus to act.

Then, Elysia felt a sudden wave of fatigue. Instinctively, her mind tried to fight it as she struggled to stay alert.

Thud...

However, despite her efforts, she succumbed to the sleep-inducing power of Somnus.

Vale carried Elysia and ensured she couldn't awaken for a while.

'Did I become too strong?' Vale wryly smiled as he didn't expect that it would be this easy to capture all the Time Manipulators who had entered their Human Realm.

He hadn't realized that his strategy of using Somnus to put them to sleep was their weakest spot.

Apparently, their abilities required intense focus to manipulate, and Somnus' power directly affected their brains, making it nearly impossible for them to defend against.

With Wasa, Liora, Cyper, and Elysia all captured, Vale felt a sense of accomplishment.

Although they seemed weak in front of him, he knew how dangerous these people could be in manipulating Time itself.

In any case, he had neutralized a significant threat, and taking their knowledge and understanding their abilities would be his next step.

However, he recalled an issue that might cause him a problem later on.

'Aersus... If you're still here hiding in the continent... I have to make sure that you won't be able to cause any problems.' Vale thought to himself as he recalled how devious this creature was even when he had first met its soul in the Mystic Soul Tower.

Vale then thought for a moment before he decided to call for Mennena's spirit.

Well, he suspected that the mysterious Archfey's main body was actually imprisoned in the Celestial Prison Realm!

Chapter 879: Constance's Project

Vale's suspicions about Mennena's true situation weren't just a pure guess. It was also with the help of the Arcane Bureau, which had been using Mennena's abilities to complete their various missions.

After very long research and learning about Mennena's desire to acquire the Golden Key, they pieced together that she was most likely planning to save her main body in the Prison Realm. It wasn't too surprising since they all could tell that her strength was too powerful and mystical.

'I hope those guys are doing fine...' Vale thought as he recalled that Chad, Odessa, Jin, Aurion, and his other Avatar were still in that realm.

For now, however, he felt that he had to visit some of his friends. In any case, most of the immediate problems were already settled.

The matter with the mysterious potion that could turn ordinary people into Arcanists seemed intriguing as well, but he didn't really think that it would be a bad thing. Only time would tell what would happen once the number of Arcanists started to grow in an unprecedented way.

Vale then decided to visit Constance...

He had been informed that she was quite busy with her current project. Thankfully, the critical stages of her project should've been over, and he could see her now.

First, he was intrigued by the progress of her ambitious project. He made his way through the dense forest that surrounded his castle, heading towards the northern end where Constance was building her nine-floor Arcane Tower.

Indeed, she was building a tower that was even higher than those Arcane Towers built by most kingdoms.

As he approached, the sight before him was nothing short of awe-inspiring.

The construction site was a hive of activity. Numerous people, arcanists, golems, and even Elemental Creatures were hard at work.

'Those Elementals must be her summons...' Vale mused for a moment as he observed the surroundings.

Airships hovered above, transporting materials, while various vehicles moved to and fro, delivering supplies. The atmosphere buzzed with the essence of magic and machinery.

Constance, a beautiful woman with blonde hair and blue eyes, stood on another side of a hill where her temporary house was located.

She was overseeing the construction with a smile on her face. She watched as the foundation of her tower took shape and was glad that the core formation art was successfully placed yesterday.

Of course, the funds for this monumental project came partly from Vale's castle's earnings but also from her own business dealings with the kings of Ruri Kingdom and Milton Kingdom.

Nonetheless, the trade of the Divine Talisman was ultimately the main factor in how she was able to gather enough money to build this project.

After becoming a Spirit Immortal, Constance realized that advancing further in this realm was nearly impossible.

This Arcane Tower was her solution-a perfect place to develop her path of ascension. Unlike Vale, she didn't possess the ability to extract abilities, so she had to rely on her own ingenuity and resources.

Whom~

Vale suddenly appeared behind Constance and approached her. Of course, Vale didn't hide his presence, so it immediately drew her attention.

"Constance," he greeted with a warm voice.

"The tower is coming along beautifully."

Constance turned to him, her smile widening. "Vale! I'm glad you came. Yes, it's progressing well. The first three floors are almost complete. Right, are you sure that you're fully recovered?"

Vale looked around, taking in the bustling activity. "Yes... I'm already fine... I apologize for making you all worried."

"Haha! It's fine. I know that you can survive that. Did you manage to extract knowledge from the Death God, at the very least?" She asked.

"Just a little... I just learned that there were still various levels of immortals. However, it's impossible to reach that level while staying here." Vale revealed, to which Constance nodded.

She already guessed this much after seeing how Vale could easily defeat other mighty Immortal Beings. However, she still had no idea about this particular level. Perhaps she would know about it once she was able to ascend.

Nonetheless, she was still skeptical about this "going to the higher realm" or ascension since she believed that it would be better to stay in this continent and just keep it safe from other realm's influence.

Though this Arcane Tower would allow her to ascend in the future, it was also her way to be strong enough to ensure that no Realm Invaders would overpower her just in case another Invasion occurred.

Furthermore, Vale may not have mentioned this, but she knew that he was also unwilling to leave this land even after becoming an Immortal.

Instead, she believed that Vale would rather live here quietly and build the Academy and perhaps let the future Arcanists deal with the future problems...

Vale smiled, seeing how Constance remained silent. It was as if she wasn't interested with the levels of the Immortals.

"Ahem... Tell me about your Arcane Tower. How do you manage all of this?" Vale asked.

Constance chuckled. "It's a lot of work, but it's worth it. My days are filled with overseeing the construction, coordinating with the arcanists and golems, and ensuring everything runs smoothly. Each floor has its own purpose and design... Ahh... I actually recruited a group of ordinary people a few days ago. However, they just became Arcanists and wanted to learn from me... So I'm thinking of building a small school so I can have minions someday. Hehehe..."

At this mention, Vale gently nodded as he considered that it might also be the time to build the Academy that Faith had requested.

Anyway, the two continued chatting as Constance gestured towards the structure they were building and explained the purpose of each floor...

"The first floor will be the entrance hall, a place of welcome and protection. The second floor is dedicated to research and experimentation, with laboratories and libraries. The third floor will house the living quarters for myself and any visiting scholars or allies..."

Chapter 880 Denise's Dissection

Constance continued explaining her plans to Vale, and the latter certainly found this interesting. After all, Constance wasn't creating this Arcane Tower just for fun. It was to help her grow.

Vale nodded as he noticed the golems working tirelessly. He wasn't sure if it was Denise who made them or not. Then, he glanced at the various materials being transported by these golems.

"And how do you handle the logistics?" He asked curiously.

Constance's eyes sparkled with enthusiasm. "I have a team of skilled arcanists and engineers who help with the planning and execution. The golems and Elemental Creatures are invaluable—they handle the heavy lifting and intricate tasks... Ahem... I summoned all of them." Constance said proudly.

She paused for a moment and looked at Vale's shocked expression before continuing.

"The airships and vehicles you see are actually modified vehicles by Sir Magnus to get materials from the Shadow Consortium and Brotherhood of the Scarlet Serpent."

Vale's eyes widened as he also recalled these two organizations that had previously visited his castle.

He didn't expect that they had already grown to a level where they could help them supply materials for an Arcane Tower.

Constance then paused as she explained that the main materials to build the Arcane Tower's main array would actually come from somewhere else.

Apparently, she still had to get the kings of Ruri and Milton Kingdoms to assist her in acquiring those items.

Vale smiled as he would certainly need all this information once he decided to build his own Arcane Tower for some reason.

Meanwhile, while Vale and Constance were catching up, Denise stood in her laboratory, gazing at the four unconscious Time Manipulators that Vale had brought to her.

Wasa, Liora, Cyper, and Elysia lay on separate tables, their chests rising and falling in a steady rhythm. They weren't dead just yet and were simply asleep, according to Vale.

Denise felt a mix of curiosity and uncertainty as she pondered what to do with them.

'Does he want me to experiment on them? There's no way he just wants me to watch them here, right?' she mused.

Denise was known for her expertise in creating golems, and she wondered if Vale intended for her to transform these Time Manipulators into something more.

'It shouldn't be a problem if I start modifying them...' Denise smiled as she knew very well that these four people were incredibly rare subjects for her experiments. She just couldn't stop herself from touching them...

First, Denise approached Wasa, the strongest member of the group, based on the information she had received. Because this person was strong, she believed that he was the perfect target as he could definitely endure her first examination.

After preparing all her things to conduct a study, she carefully lifted him onto her main study table.

She needed to understand their physiology—specifically, how their bodies differed from ordinary humans. She wanted to understand how they circulate their energy and control the time.

After all, she didn't have any magical Spells and could only rely on the old-fashioned way of dissecting humans.

Thankfully, she gained enough experience from Alchemist Heinz and had a very thorough method of studying human bodies without killing them in the process.

Perhaps she wasn't as good as Heinz but with her set of expensive equipment and materials, she knew that her lack of skills could be compensated with that.

Denise began her examination by listing his weight, height, heart rate, and other information about his body. Then, she started injecting a few serums into his body before she picked up her scalpel.

Soon, her hands moved. At first, her scalpel moved slowly since it had been a while since she opened up a human, but as she continued, her movements started getting faster and faster.

She then stopped for a moment, she noted the subtle differences in muscle structure and the faint, almost imperceptible energy that seemed to pulse beneath Wasa's skin.

She had actually started on Wasa's stomach since that is where the strongest energy was coming from.

It was as if his body was attuned to the flow of time itself.

Using her arcane tools, Denise measured the energy levels within Wasa's body.

"Mhmm... It's really different..." Denise muttered as she already tested a True Immortal, Demon Saint, Demon Generals, and even Magnus himself.

Anyway, the readings were fascinating—his cells seemed to vibrate at a different frequency, one that resonated with the temporal plane.

She made detailed notes of this since Temporal Magic was basically non-existent in this Realm until the appearance of these people.

'If I can harness this energy,' she thought, 'I might be able to create golems with the ability to manipulate time. But how?' Denise mused as she knew that her body couldn't handle this much. However, golems, on the other hand, had the possibility to do so.

Denise continued her examination, delving deeper into the mysteries of Wasa's physiology. She compared his body to that of a typical human, Arcanists, Demons, and others. n/ô/vel/b//jn dot c//om

She noted the enhanced neural pathways and the unique structure of his brain. It was clear that Time Manipulators possessed a heightened sensitivity to temporal fluctuations.

As she worked, Denise's mind wandered to the other three prisoners. Liora, Cyper, and Elysia each had their own level of mastery over the Time Spells...

'I guess I'll have to see them all...' She mused.

She would need to study them all to fully understand the potential they held.

For now, she focused on Wasa...

After a few moments, she was sure that Vale had entrusted her with this task for a reason, and she was determined to uncover the secrets of the Time Manipulators.

Hours passed as Denise meticulously documented her findings.

She felt a sense of excitement building within her—this was uncharted territory, a new frontier in her research.

The possibilities were endless, and she was eager to explore them all!

As she finished her initial examination, Denise stepped back and looked at Wasa's figure and he seemed to be waking up.

'Not good.'