

D. of Pride 71

Chapter 71: Bug (5)

Simon had a feeling that something went wrong the moment he pressed that option. He tried calling the dungeon menu but there was no response even after a few seconds passed. Cold sweat trickled down his body. If it was any other time, a blue window would have popped up in front of him immediately.

However, there was still no response even after he called it out a few more times. Simon was at a loss for a moment, he did know what changes occurred after he pressed the [Merge] option but he was now unable to use the dungeon menu.

It would be disastrous if he was unable to use the dungeon menu. The access to the dungeon menu was what made one a dungeon master. If he can't access the dungeon menu anymore then he wouldn't be able to perform his duty as a dungeon master much less modify the floors.

Heck, he would be unable to even leave the main floor if he didn't have the dungeon menu with him.

He was starting to panic and his heartbeat was beating like a drum as all the negative thoughts started bombarding his mind.

“What if the dungeon menu was permanently gone?”

“What if I am unable to leave the main floor for eternity?”

Maybe because he was no longer a human or maybe it was because of his stats, but he hurriedly collected himself as he controlled his breathing and his wildly beating heart. The change was so fast that even Simon himself was shocked by it.

Simon calmly pondered for a long while before calling the menu once again. The menu he called out wasn't the dungeon menu but instead, the [Main Menu]. Since the dungeon menu stopped working after he pressed that [Merge] option from the [Main Menu], he wanted to see if he could reverse it.

However, when the [Main Menu] popped up in front of him, Simon was stunned once again. The menu that appeared in front of him wasn't the dungeon menu nor did it look like the [Main Menu] he was familiar with.

The menu that popped up appeared to be a merger of the two. The [Main Menu] looked quite different than before and had some of the functions that were supposed to be on the dungeon menu.

Nonetheless, the [Main Menu] was not entirely different. It still gave off a golden-black aura and a dragon coiled around the edges of the screen. The screen now displayed the dungeon name and rank, as well as all the options that should have only been on the dungeon menu, have now appeared on the [Main Menu].

There was no doubt, it was as if the dungeon menu had merged with the skill [Main Menu]. When his thoughts reached till here, it finally dawned on him what that [Merge] option did.

“Ah, so that's how it is. The [Merge] function in the setting combined the two menus into one. Ahahaha and here I was panicking about the disappearance of the dungeon menu” Simon sighed in relief after he realised that the dungeon menu wasn't gone but had actually merged with his [Main Menu].

Although his race and stats calmed his mind, he was still panicking deep inside. But it seemed that there was no need to in the first place, the dungeon menu had not gone anywhere.

His respite only lasted for a few seconds before he was shocked by another discovery. “Eh? Ehhh??? What going on... what happened to [Gacha], [Summon] and the [Hero's Altar] function”.

Simon was stunned to find that the two options were gone and instead, there was these two unknown options [Ga?????] and [??????] on the [Main Menu]. Simon who had created the [Main Menu] himself, never had seen these two options before. And most of all, these two options appeared in question mark all over, making it hard to know what the option actually did.

After the two menus got merged, it was as if they were bugged. He was now regretting his decision for using the [Merge] option.

However, there was still a silver lining and he hurriedly opened the [Settings]. But his hopes were quickly shattered as he couldn't find the option he was looking for. Simon thought that since there was an option for merging the two menus then there should also be an option to split them.

There was no other option other than the [Merge] which was now inaccessible inside the settings function. Now he had no choice but to stick with this new menu that appeared after the merger of the previous two. Simon couldn't help but curse himself for pressing the option without knowing what it did.

These three options were the pillar through which he was going to build himself and the dungeon. But now they were gone and instead some unknown option that clearly looked quite shady appeared.

Staring at the [Main Menu] for long while, Simon sighed once again but this time it wasn't a sigh of relief but a sigh of lament.

“Hahhh, did the system get bugged after the merge?. [Main Menu] was something that I designed in my previous world and it was something that became my skill after I reincarnated into this world. Whereas the dungeon menu was something that came after I created the dungeon”

Simon pondered for a while. Why was it only these options that disappeared? And suddenly it struck him. Since the dungeon menu and the skill [Main Menu] became one, didn't that mean that his skill which had transmigrated along with him and which wasn't originally a part of this world, got integrated with it?

“I see. If something that wasn't a part of this world before became a part of it after the merger, then is that why it is unable to display [Gacha] and [Hero's Altar] which wasn't supposed to be a part of the dungeon menu? but what about the [summon] option wasn't it part of this world?”.

There were a lot of questions, and the more he thought, the more puzzled he got but at the same time, he felt as if the fog of mystery that clouded the world was getting cleared little by little.

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[Main Menu]

Dungeon Name:- Laplace Dungeon Rank:- [D]

Character

Party

Inventory

Armory

Shortcuts

Settings

Dungeon

Shop

Archive

Spawn

Ga?????

???????

Chapter 72: Nine Revolution Immortal Ice Phoenix

Two days passed just like that amidst the constant remodelling and addition of new floors. Although the menus have now merged; fortunately, the basic functions were still the same and worked like usual.

On the second day, the dungeon produced the third emblem. Emblems was something produced by the dungeon to be used by the dungeon master to summon subordinates using the [Summon] function.

Each dungeon produced its own unique emblem that can only be used on that dungeon. There can never be two similar emblems produced by two different dungeons.

His dungeon, Laplace produced an emblem every month and including this one, Simon had a total of three emblems with him.

All the three emblems were similarly coin-shaped and had a vague demon with golden black tattoos carved in it. Other than the design and the material with which it was made, the emblem looked quite ordinary.

It didn't look like something that was able to summon a powerful subordinate that would guard his dungeon. Although Simon was doubtful, Simon did not question it. During the Walpurgis night, he had seen many high ranking demons bringing along their powerful subordinates that were as strong as his Demonic Warhorse or maybe even more.

Subordinates that can be summoned have different ranks. Using one Emblem summons a [D] rank and if one is lucky they might even be able to summon a [C] rank subordinate. Two emblems at once has a chance to summon a [B] rank subordinate, a maximum of three emblems can be used together.

Although Simon got a [B] rank Bloodthorn Demonic Warhorse, that was from the [Gacha] which was completely different from [Summon] function of the dungeon menu.

Using three Emblems together has a chance of summoning a powerful [A] rank subordinate or an extremely rare [S] rank. But the chances of one appearing are as rare as a Phoenix's feather. Simon had already seen how powerful a [B] rank subordinate was and that was why he wanted a subordinate even more powerful.

Simon knew that to survive in this world, he needed strength. Therefore he couldn't be satisfied with just any rank, since he was summoning for a subordinate, he wanted the strongest [S] rank. But there was an extremely low chance of summoning a [S] rank subordinate.

He knew that his chances of summoning one were extremely low since he wasn't even able to get something good from the gacha other than the [B] rank warhorse even after drawing it every single day for the past three months. What he got was the joke items with which he wanted to annoy the players, but it came back to bite him.

However, he couldn't just give up as he knew that his starting point was the lowest and moving forward he would have to face quite a number of strong enemies. At that time if he didn't have sufficient strength, he would be squashed like an ant.

That was why Simon was waiting for the third emblem to be produced as he had something he wanted to try. But fate had played a cruel joke on him, now that the dungeon menu had merged itself with the [Main Menu], he wasn't sure anymore that the emblem would even work.

After all, the [Main Menu] was something that was not from this world and to make things worse the [Summon] option itself had disappeared.

If the emblems didn't work as they were supposed to, then he would have suffered a massive loss that would impact his and the dungeon's growth in the future. The [Summon] function and the emblems are essential factors for summoning subordinates that are important for defending the dungeon.

"What use will it have now that the [Summon] function itself had disappeared". A dejected laugh leaked out from Simon as he contemplated.

Soon after the gears in his head started turning, and his eyes focused once more, an inquisitive light flashing in them. It wasn't like this was the first hurdle he found himself in. He had faced many obstacles after reincarnating in this world and even in his previous life. Simon was already accustomed to resolving his own problems.

Unlike the [Summon] function of the dungeon menu which used emblems to summon subordinates, the [Hero's Altar] function of the [Main Menu] he designed, used an exorbitant amount of DP to summon each of those powerful characters.

The amount was so ridiculous that it made it impossible for Simon to summon any of them in the short run or so it was supposed to be before the merger.

After both the menus got merged, it became a bugged mess displayed by [?????]. He did not even know if it was the [Hero's Altar] or the [Summon] or a merger of the two. It could be even something else entirely... he did not know.

Although the two options were bugged, it didn't stop him from opening them.

The first [Ga????] turned out to be the gacha. But unlike before it did not display the currency that was the DP needed to draw anymore. However, when Simon tried putting 100,000 DP into the option, it worked just fine as a set of [C] and [D] rank items appeared in front of him from thin air.

Though there were few unusual changes, the gacha i.e is the [Ga????] worked just fine. Reliving in the success of the first bugged option working the same as usual even after the change, he was hoping that the other [??????] would work just fine.

However, the reality was different and it turned out that the last option was the one that had the most defect.

Opening the [??????], he was shocked to see that the powerful heroes he set for the players to summon were now all gone. Nor did it look like the [Summon] option through which you could summon subordinates using the emblem.

It was pitch black darkness... Yes, in place of those options was a black spiral that looked like the eye of a black hole that could devour everything when he opened the [??????] option. "The bug is quite bad" Simon grimaced as he watched the silently rotating black spiral.

Taking out the emblems, he wanted to try and see if the emblems were still usable on [??????]. After all, the situation couldn't be any worse than what it is now.

Chapter 73: Nine Revolution Immortal Ice Phoenix (2)

As soon as he tossed the three emblems inside, sparks started coming out of the main menu as the black spiral instantly swallowed the three emblems.

The sparks started getting worse and worse as they started expanding in a few meters around and quickly spread towards the whole of the main floor. Simon was jolted back as he reeled in pain "Uggh... -what's going on?".

The black spiral inside the [??????] spun faster and faster and after a few moments, whoosh... it suddenly stopped. Even the sparks that were wreaking havoc in the surrounding completely disappeared as if it was never there.

The place became completely silent. It was so eerily silent that he could even hear the sound of his breathing, seconds passed just like that but nothing happened. It seemed that the emblems didn't work on the bugged option.

Simon was downtrodden as the expectations that arose from the peculiar result were completely shattered after nothing happened for a while. What was he thinking? there was no way the emblems would work on something that was already defective without repair.

“Haaaahh @\$% @\$% @\$%... why the heck did I have to press that [Merge] option” he pulled his long black hair as he cursed out loud, he wanted to go back to that moment before he pressed that [Merge] option. But sadly there was no medicine for regret.

SPARK... SPARK...

Just when he had given up all hope, inconspicuous sparks started coming from the black spiral before he felt that the ground had trembled for a fraction of a second. The trembling was so slight that Simon nearly missed it.

While he was starting to think it was all just his imagination, the ground started trembling once again. RUMBLE RUMBLE... the trembling of the ground started intensifying until Simon felt that the whole dungeon was quaking.

The phosphorescence crystals on the ceiling started slowly dimming until darkness descended onto the whole floor as all of the crystals above stopped shining. “What’s going on now” Simon who was already distressed, looked at the peculiar scene that was happening all around the main floor.

No, it would be right to say that the same scene was taking place across all floors of the dungeon. He had never seen such an unexpected incident happening inside his dungeon before.

CRICK... CRACK... SHATTER

Simon who was the dungeon master of the dungeon could see just fine in this darkness as he stared at the strange sound that came from his front. It was as if cracks ran across a thin glass as the sound penetrated across the floor. The sound was so piercing that he felt his whole body had gone numb.

He stared with wide eyes as cracks started appearing on the space in front of him and moments later just like glass, space completely shattered. Whoosh... a black spiral that silently rotated, appeared in the place where the space was shattered a few moments ago.

Wind started blowing inside the main floor even though there was no breeze and felt quite out of place. From the moment he tossed those emblems inside the [???????], these peculiar events started happening one after the other.

“Seriously what is going on?” Simon dazedly repeated. The black hole like spiral that appeared looked exactly like the one that was inside the [??????] option of his [Main Menu]. Just many many times bigger. The black spiral was so dark that it seemed like no light could penetrate through it.

At this moment, an azure light started flashing out from the pitch-black spiral and illuminated the whole floor. The ray of light dissipated the darkness and gently shined upon the floor.

The light was so brilliant that it seemed like a primal ray of light that shone during the creation of the universe. A phoenix cry that had the ability to soothe one’s soul, came from inside the spiral.

At the exact moment, outside the dungeon.

Thick arctic clouds blotted the sky for thousands of miles with the spiral tower in the centre. The temperature of the entire Ghastly Winding Forest started to drop like crazy and some places even had frost accumulated over it.

Deep inside one of the areas of the western region of the Ghastly Winding Forest, a pair of amethyst eyes suddenly opened as resounding thunder noises erupted everywhere. The place was on top of a tall mountain range that pierced the very dome of sky.

The pair of amethyst eyes looked at the arctic clouds below and mused “My bloodline is being suppressed!! To think that it would be able to even overwhelm me, one of the Seven Kings, who exactly is that being?”.

In one of three peaks of the north side of the Ghastly Winding forest, one of its overlords the Earth Splitting Lower Dragon was in a deep slumber. Suddenly its wide draconic eyes opened in a flash as it looked towards the eastern part of the forest with dread that couldn’t be hidden. Its whole body shuddered intensely before it went inside its wide cave as if trying to hide from something.

On the main floor of the dungeon Laplace

The phosphorescence crystals in the ceiling shone with a dim light as if affected by something.

The azure light coming from the spiral became brighter and brighter before a faint outline of a person could be seen. A jade white leg that was as beautiful as crystal and seemed to be carved by the gods themselves, passed through the spiral and stepped out.

A silhouette of a beautiful woman came into view, she had icy blue hair that fell to her willowy waist like a waterfall. Wearing azure blue clothes that closely stuck to her alluring body that possessed the ability to ensnare one's soul. Her features were all absolutely perfect and irresistible.

Her beautiful face, slanted brows and phoenix eyes held an endless attractiveness to them. Simon was bewitched as soon his eyes fell on her.

The entire air around the floor appeared to have been frozen as soon as she stepped out of the spiral. The temperature rapidly plummeted and frost accumulated all across the main floor.

Her phoenix-like eyes looked around her surroundings in curiosity. It was also at this time that the phosphorescence crystals above returned to their former brightness as space mended itself and the black spiral swiftly disappeared.

Chapter 74:- Nine Revolution Immortal Ice Phoenix (3)

Appealing pink lips that glossed ever so slightly and an alluring body that had curves so perfect that they could spellbind anyone. Her pretty azure clothes covered her snow-white body, her sensational bust was so full and round that they could stir one's thoughts uncontrollably.

Her curvy buttocks were firm and seemed to hold an unbelievable softness.

Maybe it was because she sensed the intense gaze of Simon on her that she suddenly squinted her mesmerising crystal blue eyes. Her icy gaze fell on him and at that moment, Simon felt a bone piercing cold permeate through every pore of his body and gave him an illusion that he was frozen in a millennial old block of ice. Even his soul shuddered for some reason.

"Cough" he gave a forced cough as he hurriedly separated his eyes from her body. She was so beguiling that Simon had great difficulty controlling his wildly running thoughts and his eyes that were trying to sneak a peek.

After what felt like an eternity to him, his thoughts finally settled down and he finally remembered to use Analysis on her. However, the results was so peculiar that he had difficulty believing it.

Simon stared with wide disbelieving eyes at what was displayed. The result of the analysis was so ridiculous that he felt like it was some kind of a joke or maybe he was dreaming. After all, the woman in front of him despite being at level 1, held so many skills and power that broke all his common sense.

Forget about him, even the analysis failed to detect her rank.

The atmosphere was quite awkward as both the parties kept their silence. The woman named Irene calmly stared at Simon as if trying to see through his very soul. He on the other hand was stunned silenced by her absolute beauty and the results displayed the analysis.

He had never seen a status as absurd as this, not only can she command five out of the nine forms of manas, three out of the five are rare ones that only a few people in this entire world could utilise.

Even the mastery over the forms of manas she has command on has reached at the very least intermediate tier not to mention two of them have reached the realms of advanced tier.

There were skills in her status that he had never heard of and those that he knew had evolved into superior skills. Yes, even skills have tier of their own. once one reaches mastery over their skill, that skill has the potential to evolve into superior skill. Simon's [Flight] skill had evolved into a superior skill [High-Speed Flight].

How far a skill can evolve? even Simon did not know as the memories he inherited was too shallow because of his impure bloodline. He could only learn while improving and experimenting on his skills.

Her status displayed that she was also adapt in amalgamation magic of more than three forms of manas. Even amalgamating two forms of manas of intermediate tier was a difficult task but the women in front of him flipped all of his common sense upside down. Not to mention Simon had not even heard of mutated skills.

Another unusual thing about her was that for some reason, most of her skills were displayed as locked. Was she unable to use those skills? or were they locked for some reason? Simon did not know, what he knew was that the women in front of him had to be at the very least an [S] rank.

Looking at the vast list of Amalgamation, mutated and Inherent skills, he was now finally aware of why analysis failed to detect her rank. It wasn't because analysis failed to detect her rank but rather it was unable to rank her.

The [??????] skill of his [Main Menu] summoned someone unbelievable. 'She is not one of the twelve characters from the [Hero's Altar] either. To have that kind of status, what kind of being this defective option had summoned?' Simon mused.

'If her status is this insane at level 1, I can't even imagine what would happen after she levels up' Simon thought before he hurriedly detected her gaze on him.

SILENCE~~~~

A silence that was quickly becoming stifling, pervaded the area. He knew he had to do something. Simon cleared his mind of all rampant thoughts before speaking out "Nice to meet you, Miss Irene... I'm Simon the master of this dungeon".

He wanted to clear this eerie silence by striking a conversation with her. But maybe it was too hurried or his voice was too stiff, there was no reply as the woman named Irene casually moved her gaze away. Just when he thought that she had ignored him, Irene silently nodded her head.

Simon was surprised for a second it seemed that the woman did understand him.

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Five days passed while Simon was busy with the remodeling and construction of his dungeon. In these five days, he became aware of the personality of Irene. She was the cold and detached type who usually kept to herself and did not interact much.

Unless it was Simon who would start a conversation first, there would be no way she would even let out a sigh. Even then the most that he could get out of her was a nod. In the beginning, he thought that she was ill at ease after she found herself in a different and foreign environment.

However, it seemed that was no the case. Instead of Irene, it was him who was on edge all the time. He felt like a stranger in his own dungeon now that a block of ice that did not show any emotions crashed here.

There was also that message from his dungeon:-

[The dungeon has recognised Irene as one of its Guardians. Guardians are able to access some of the functions of the dungeon menu.]

[Nine Revolution Immortal Ice Phoenix, Irene has been added to your party. Due to the user having the fragment of pride, its effects are extended to the party members.]

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Name:- Irene

Race:- Nine Revolution Immortal Ice Phoenix

Rank:- ??? [Unrankable]

Level:- 1

Skills:- Permafrost Magic Mastery, Divine Magic Mastery (locked), Aeon Magic Mastery, Gale Magic Mastery, Dimensional Magic Mastery (locked), Spirit Control, Ultra High-Speed Flight, Nullification:- {Flame, Gale, Tremor, Lightning, Abyssal, Holy, Permafrost, Void, Aeon}, Ultra Enhanced Detection, Blunt Resistance, Sharp Resistance, Poison Resistance, Extreme Sense Presence, Super Heightened Agility, Super Heightened Strength, Super Heightened Endurance, Super Heightened Defence, Super Heightened Magic, Natural Recovery, Extreme Minimal Mana Consumption, High-Speed Regeneration, Form Manipulation, Condense Energy, Super Increased Mana, Supreme Mana Lines, Supreme Manaflow, Reverse Manaflow,—(locked), (locked), (locked), (locked), (locked), (locked), (locked).

Amalgamation Skills:- [Permafrost-Aeon-Void Mastery] (Locked), [Permafrost-Holy-Gale Mastery] (Locked)

Mutated Skills:- [Heavenly Frost Eternal Ice] (locked) , [Absolute Space] (locked), [Divine Seal of Aeon] (locked)

Inherent Skills:- [Heavenly Phoenix Aura], [????????], [????????], [????????], [????????], [????????], [????????]

Chapter 75: Exploring the Western Region of the Forest

Simon thought that Irene was ill at ease after suddenly finding herself in a different and foreign environment. But it seemed to not be the case.

Immediately after arriving, she chose one of the rooms that was farthest from his own inside the white palace, as if it was the most obvious thing to do. Her attitude seemed to display that she owned the place. Whenever they met, she was always having an indifferent face.

Her aura was as cold as ever and it felt like all her emotions were frozen in ice. The only time she did show some emotions was during the meals. Even then the changes were so slight that it was easy to overlook if one did not pay enough attention.

Maybe it was because she had never seen the food that was listed in the shop as all of it came from his previous world, but it seemed that she did like them. ‘Were all women fond of food?’ Simon wondered. He watched her enjoying the food before silently leaving the dining hall.

Simon chose to not bother her too much as he wanted to give her the time and space she needed to adjust herself. While he was upgrading his dungeon with his new menu, he suddenly thought about the matter of the bugged options. Five days have passed since he summoned Irene and nothing unusual has happened since then.

“It turns out the options are working just fine. The gacha worked as usual and even the summon was successful” Simon pondered. It cannot be ascertained yet that there were no changes after the merger; after all, the dungeon menu and [Main Menu] are from two different worlds. Additionally, he felt apprehensive whenever he stared at that black spiral inside the [????????] option.

Simon did not know what other unusual occurrences will take place if he used the defective summon again, but one thing was clear that the emblem worked just fine.

He was quite thankful that the summoning worked and he got a powerful subordinate or else he wouldn’t know what to do anymore. The summon function was after all a crucial key in strengthening his dungeon. But there were still some questions that kept pestering his mind, it was about that [????????] option.

Simon was sure that it wasn’t the [Hero’s Altar] as there was no such person called the Nine Revolution Immortal Ice Phoenix among the twelve characters that he had designed. He felt more

aligned to think that it was the [Summon] option from the dungeon menu since the emblems worked on it.

Then again if Irene was summoned through the [Summon] option, then why wasn't the analysis able to rank her. Nonetheless, he was not entirely sure. After all, he had not seen anything as peculiar as that black hole like spiral.

He didn't know what were the rules that dictated the new options. Were three emblems still the maximum that can be used at once? Would the option work without any emblems or were emblems the only thing that can be used to summon?

There were many such questions like that but Simon thought that the answer couldn't be rushed, as he had lots of time in the future he could use to explore and understand the options thoroughly. Above all, the options were going to remain the same since he didn't have any way to split the menus.

At the same time, he had this undescrivable vague feeling that the two options were not simple anymore as they were before.

"Ah, I nearly messed up here" Simon said snapping out of his thoughts. He was looking at a screen that was displaying all the floors of his dungeon.

Currently, he was focusing his attention on designing the floors of his dungeon for his future plans. Simon had decided to entice human adventurers into entering the dungeon now that its rank had increased. Although a [D] rank is still considered a low-rank dungeon, it was still enticing for those new and low-level adventurers looking to improve their skills and earn at the same time.

He had deliberated over this and came to a decision. The rate at which the dungeon was regenerating DP was insufficient to sustain the amount in which he was expending them. If this continues on, even the large pool of DP that he collected after the war against Gelgar, would run out.

Thus he needed to do something. Using the Elixir of Enticement would generate some DP but the process was too slow and the amount too less. No to mention that he had already spawned monsters on most of the floors and if he brought monsters from outside, they would just be fighting about themselves.

If the spawned monster dies, he would be losing either way since it took DP to spawn them and would destroy his purpose. That was why he decided to drop this idea.

Since Elixir of Enticement won't work on stronger monsters, therefore he decided that in the upcoming future, he should make his dungeon so that it is quite enticing for the adventurers to dive into.

Of course, he was aware of the dangers but sooner or later there are bound to be some adventurers who would find his dungeon. The Ghastly Winding Forest was near to the Central Continent after all.

Instead of just going with the flow until adventurers stumble upon his dungeon, he was trying to manipulate the flow in his favour and make it so that his dungeon is prepared when that time comes.

If any greedy adventurers are lusting over his dungeon core, he could just send them packing or even kill them if he must. But to do that he has to continuously increase his level, Simon did not become content after defeating Gelgar. That demon did not represent the strong. The truly strong ones wouldn't even bother to look at the current him.

If he did not want to be trampled by someone then he has to keep on growing and increase his level and that of his subordinates. He felt the urgency to get stronger more than ever. Those with bigger might reigned supreme here and are also in control of their fates.

Fortunately, Simon learned it earlier on and could make plans so that he doesn't end up becoming a pawn in someone's ploy to realise their ambition.