

### **Chapter 21: Meridian Refinement Stage**

Clara was placed in her cradle as she got tired of their banter. She slept peacefully like a newborn kitten while embracing her legs.

"Fortunately, your grandfather managed to erase Fallen Extinction Lightning's consciousness before dying. The previous First Prince and his son got assassinated, so it is now ripe for the taking." Claire grinned mischievously.

"If you use that Lightning Elemental to cultivate your Essence Gathering Cultivation, then you will surely be more powerful than cultivators who cultivate in other Sky Grade Essence Gathering Manuals." Claire smiled resplendently at the thought that her son will only get more powerful steadily as time passes by.

Children only concentrate on one Cultivation System at a time, while Davis happens to cultivate all three Cultivation Systems at the same time.

Hence, in Claire's eyes, her son was just becoming more and more powerful by the day, leaving his peers in the dust!

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The next day.

At the Study.

Davis sat cross-legged while examining the Meridian Refinement Stage's cultivation process.

'Apparently, it looks like I have to refine the meridians in my body, and since I would cultivate with lightning attributed manual, I should make lightning pass through my meridians, a Sky Grade one at that. I'm done for! This is obviously shock treatment! Isn't this even crueler than Body Tempering Cultivation?' His mind floated with images of people being fried to charcoal by lightning.

"Davis, are you ready?" The door suddenly opened, and Claire walked in with a smile on her face.

"Eh? Ah? Yes, I'm ready." Davis gulped as that smile kind of looked evil to him.

They then proceeded to a place that is designed for closed-door cultivations, called Cultivation Quarters.

"Relax! Father and mother are here to help you suppress the Sky Grade Lightning Elemental, don't fret over it." Claire comforted him as she can entirely see his nervousness when she suddenly walked in.

Davis nodded and didn't say anything. They then made their way to a room in these quarters. There were more than ten rooms in this place.

Claire opened the door and walked inside, and he followed her.

Inside there was a formation that was capable of suppressing the power of lightning elemental to a certain extent.

Logan was seated at the side, obviously waiting for these two to come. Even though it was just easier for all three of them to send soul transmissions, they didn't communicate through that way. They didn't want to reveal Davis's Soul Forging Cultivation under any circumstances.

"Father, let's start!"

Somehow, Davis didn't want to show weakness in front of his father.

"Well, aren't you hasty?" Logan commented and walked forwards.

He looked at Claire, and they both nodded their heads, "Let's begin then..."

"Davis, sit inside the formation's heart and refine your meridians by circulating the energy while following the circulation method from Extinction Lightning Judgment Essence Gathering Cultivation Manual. You don't need to worry about the Lightning Elemental as we will help you in suppressing it."

Davis nodded as he took a deep breath before sitting in the middle of the formation. There were no words spoken further.

Logan and Claire used the formation to control and refine the Lightning Elemental through the unique formation and began sending the lightning essence energy to Davis with utmost caution.

Davis began refining his meridians as he focused his mind on the energy that entered his body.

The formation housed the Fallen Extinction Lightning as it also works as a suppressing formation; hence, the Lightning Elemental that would have instinctively fried them became suppressed enough to be refined. Furthermore, Logan and Claire took the brunt of the refinement of the berserk lightning energy and only sent the tamed and refined lightning energy to Davis.

Davis's meridians were already strengthened because he had reached the First Stage in Body Tempering Cultivation using Tyrant Body Secrets. As he slowly circulated the lightning attributed energy in his meridians, he felt a tingling sensation at the start, followed by a burning feeling. It felt as if he was electrocuted and corroded at the same time.

Nevertheless, its effects were negligible since it's being suppressed by both his parents and the formation.

'So this is the Fallen Extinction Lightning, a Lightning Elemental that equals Fifth Stage Powerhouses... really powerful...'

'It's not bad. I don't feel much pain...'

'It is a good thing that Mother and Father are here. If not, I would have to cultivate from the bottom of the food chain if I truly were to truly be an orphan again.'

His thoughts ran astray as he felt confident enough to cultivate even without the utmost concentration. He slowly repeated the circulation method again and again until he refined his meridians to a concise level.

The process lasted for about five long hours before he advanced to the Meridian Refinement Stage.

Just when he was about to shout out in excitement. A voice rang on his mind.

"Don't lose your concentration. We'll help you absorb the Fallen Extinction Lightning. Immediately focus your soul on absorbing it now!"

Davis could feel his soul being invaded by the lightning elemental. He had his eyes closed, so he didn't see the Fallen Extinction Lightning's form.

In any case, he began absorbing it into his soul as instructed.

\*Bzzz!~\*

"Arghhhhh!!!"

Pain!

Davis, was instantly filled with extreme pain that rocked his soul sea!

It felt like his thoughts were going haywire. He almost lost concentration but continued to grit his teeth. He knew he wouldn't be able to last longer, so he concentrated anew using his whole consciousness this time to succeed without caring for any repercussions.

The process lasted for a whole five minutes, which felt like an eternity to him before he fainted out of exhaustion.

Logan and Claire both heaved a sigh of relief. They knew he had succeeded in absorbing the Fallen Extinction Lightning but also knew it was only possible thanks to his powerful soul that at least possessed the capability to hold the Lightning Elemental in his soul sea.

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After some time, Davis woke up.

He checked his soul sea and saw a pentagram shaped black lightning residing within. It maintained a certain distance from the Death Book.

Seeing that both didn't interfere with each other, he inwardly heaved a sigh of relief.

He then checked his surroundings and noticed that he was still in the same room. He saw his parents passionately... kissing each other...

"..."

They were so into it that they didn't notice him waking up. Even a slight movement should be able to alert them, but they didn't seem to notice.

Logan licked his lips with Claire's. He held her waist, and she cupped his cheeks. Her expression seemed to be sad as there were tears over her eyelids, and at the same time, her lips were savoring his taste as if it didn't want to let go. At first glance, it didn't seem like they were doing this for excitement.

Davis didn't make a sound. He stayed silent for some time before they separated from each other's lips. He didn't hear them talking, so he imagined that they must have used soul transmission to speak with each other.

After a few seconds, Davis trembled as if waking up just now.

At that instant, they instantly separated from each other's embrace.

Claire's face became red while Logan's lower garment had a tent. Davis chose to ignore it altogether before he closed his eyes and acted as if he was checking his state. That gave them enough time to be normal again.

'Something must have happened...' He thought, 'It isn't normal for them to act like that in front of me...'

'Wait, something seems to be wrong in my soul?' Davis became startled.

He immediately released his soul sense, and it extended up to 500 meters in a spherical radius.

"This... this... I reached Peak-Level Nascent Soul Stage!?"

He advanced straight from Mid-Level to Peak-Level while skipping High-Level. It wasn't as if his Soul Forging Cultivation just skipped; it was just he didn't notice that he entered High-Level Nascent Soul Stage when he fainted out of exhaustion.

Logan and Claire smiled as they knew the reason.

Davis forgot that lightning has the effect temper one's soul. Hence, absorbing the Low-Level Sky Grade Lightning Elemental became an incredible boon for him. He belatedly remembered that fact.

He then abruptly felt complicated since his father also seemed to train in Extinction Lightning Judgment, which meant that the Fallen Extinction Lightning is heavily useful to him as well, but they decided to let it be and passed on the big pie to him.

Not only was it heavily useful to Logan, but the Fallen Extinction Lightning can also perhaps increase Logan's Soul Forging Cultivation. However, Logan didn't take it selfishly and left the imperial treasure to him.

This also indirectly meant that they acknowledged him... That...

He... is their rightful heir!

## **Chapter 22: Going to the Prison**

Logan and Claire were both ecstatic that their son was able to achieve this feat of cultivating all three Cultivation Systems at the same time, at such a tender age. They were even more extremely proud when they realized he was just five years old.

Davis was now able to use his First Layer of Extinction Lightning Judgement.

The First Layer provided the ability to amplify his body with lightning. He can amplify his legs to move faster, clad his arms in lightning to paralyze, and corrode his opponents' flesh. He can even use it on his own brain to increase his thought process and analytical ability, but that requires an extremely high control over his lightning or else he would just fry or corrode his own brain.

The Fallen Extinction Lightning, with its property, increased the effectiveness of his powers and battle prowess. After all, it adds an annihilative and corrosive effect to the lightning he employs.

Since Davis has achieved basic proficiency in all three Cultivation Systems, he wanted to test the limitations of his Death Book as soon as possible. He didn't even know if it worked the same way or not anymore.

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Half a year passed.

Logan, Claire, and Hendrickson taught him more about cultivation during this half-year period.

However, they only taught him for at most an hour every day. They seemed like they were busy with something.

He still didn't get a chance to use his Death Book because he felt like he was always being monitored.

His parents were acting even more strangely. It was especially the case in this half a year. He knew that something fishy was going on here, but since his parents wouldn't tell him, then he didn't feel the need to ask.

Davis went to ask his parents if he could practice his powers on live targets. His parents thought for a moment before they refused.

Davis was adamant about it and proposed an idea to them.

"Father, if you don't let me practice on live targets, how can I be an expert?"

"Enough Davis, how can you be adamant like this? You are just five years old, there's no need for you to fight people."

"Alright father, how about I take a step back and try my powers on restricted opponents who are in the Prison."

"Huh? Why don't you take me on then?" Logan retorted, clearly annoyed.

"But father, I won't even be able to beat you, you are too powerful."

Davis shamelessly gave up as he whined.

Claire who was beside glanced at them and laughed. She sent a Soul Transmission to Logan.

Logan's face changed. He then sighed and permitted him to go to Prison.

"Only this time will I be yielding to you, there's no next time! You hear me?!" Logan made a face full of anger and berated him.

"Yes! Thanks, father" Davis chuckled.

"Let's go!" Logan then walked in the direction of the Prison.

"Okay..." Davis obediently followed and put on a black robe to cover himself.

On the way, for some reason, the palace guards and maids acted like they didn't see him. They only greeted the Emperor and the atmosphere seemed tense. He could feel that a Soul Technique was activated on him. He then knew that he was being cloaked by his father.

'Is it so bad for a child of royalty to go to the Prison? Is that the reason?' Davis thought as he felt like he couldn't understand the intricacies of the Royal Family.

They then arrived in front of the Prison. Logan stopped there while the Prison Guards went on their knees and greeted him.

The guards looked at the Emperor with awe and reverence.

The Leader of the Prison Guard stepped up and bowed again.

Only his face could be seen which was pale. He was wearing a blue armor tinted with a yellow crest at the sides.

"You are?"

"Reporting to the Emperor! My name is Bowen."

The previous Leader of the Prison Guards colluded with the rebels. Fortunately, Logan, who found his betrayal, managed to kill him before he released all the prisoners.

"Bowen, I see..."

The two of them then stayed silent, it can be seen that they were communicating through Soul Transmission.

Bowen had a confused face, then nodded his head vehemently.

Then all three of them entered the Prison.

Logan stopped cloaking Davis at this point.

"You understand, right?" Logan asked him with a ruthless glare.

"Yes, your majesty!" Bowen replied meekly, he understood that, at this point, he shouldn't do anything the Emperor dislikes.

Logan then left Davis there, not turning around to inform anything.

\*Cough!~\*

"Your highness, let me show you around the Prison first." Bowen waved his hands.

"Okay!" Davis cheerfully replied.

Bowen then took him around the Prison. While walking in the corridor, he informed Davis about the prisoners. There were cells on both sides of the corridor, which held the prisoners.

While he explained, he just told about their crimes while leaving the gory part behind.

After Davis heard about what he said, he couldn't help but cringe. Their crimes were devoid of humanity. But he didn't stop listening to him nor did he command him to stop.

Davis looked at the prisoners, all of them looked ruthless with no hint of humanity, while some seemed to act as if they were innocent, and then there were some prisoners who looked at him with lascivious eyes.

Davis's eyes turned red. He glared at those prisoners one by one. He thought for a moment before questioning Bowen.

"Bowen." He suddenly interrupted him.

"Yes, Prince?" Bowen looked at him.

"Why aren't these prisoners put to death?" He glared at Bowen.

"It's not like that, your highness. The Royal Capital holds a public execution each month. They are put to death one by one, it also acts as a deterrent to other wicked criminals. Until then, they stay here waiting for their deaths." Bowen explained.

"Mhm... Do you have a list of the prisoners held in here?"

"I do, but what is it for, your highness?" Bowen was confused, but he still handed over the list from his spatial ring. Davis took the list and saw the name of the prisoner who was going to be executed this month.

"Wagner? I saw him before, lead me to him." Davis didn't reply to Bowen but just commanded him.

"Yes," Bowen didn't refuse though he was confused, 'What is a five-year-old child going to do meeting a prisoner? Make him change his ways? Heck, I'll be damned!'

### **Chapter 23: Empire Under Invasion?**

Davis and Bowen made their way to the cell, where Wagner was locked inside.

The formation in that cell was active, and it prevented Wagner from being able to use his cultivation, and the formation also made him unable to see what was going on outside.

Wagner, who was undoubtedly a male, looked at the ceiling with a blank expression on his face. It was as if he was considering when he was going to die this month.

Davis then saw a circle switch near the cell's gate. He pressed it.

Nothing seemed to happen visibly, but Wagner turned around his face.

He saw a small child with blonde hair along with a Prison Guard.

"Heh, don't tell me you brought a brat for me to enjoy?" Wagner seemed to jest, but it was obvious that he viewed Davis with lascivious eyes.

"Why are you looking at me like that?" Davis only asked a question.

He already made up his mind to make him his first target, but he still wanted an impetus.

"Heh, of course, to brutally murder and rape you!" Wagner's breathing hastened as he a crazy glint encroached his eyes.

Davis became thoroughly disgusted, but his face remained the same.

It was written in the records that Wagner had necrophilia, and it didn't seem to be faked.

On the other hand, Wagner didn't care for anything as he was fated to die this month. It didn't matter whether he offended a big person or not, much less a child.

"I understand," Davis replied calmly. He then switched off the mechanism.

'You understand?' Bowen became utterly dumbfounded. He couldn't understand where this conversation was headed to...

"Bowen, leave the prison!" Davis commanded.

"I can't do that, your highness." Bowen was stunned before he replied with a calm expression on his face.

"You won't listen to my command?" Davis narrowed his eyes.

"I was told by his Majesty to protect you no matter what happens..." Bowen shook his head.

He looked as if he wasn't going to leave Davis alone, no matter what.

Davis slightly narrowed his eyes, but then a smile lit up over his face.

"I see, then I will have no choice but to say to my father that you molested me in the Prison."

"W-What!?" Bowen couldn't believe his ear, 'What kind of words did this five-year-old child utter?'

His mind momentarily stopped working, unable to form a reply.

"I said that I would have no choice but to say that you violated me in the Prison."

'That is totally different than what you said before!!!' Bowen started sweating heavily, but he didn't dare retort.

'Could it be that all the Imperial Family members are like this?'

"This... your highness... don't make this difficult for me. I was only tasked to protect you in this Prison."

"Do you think my imperial father won't act against you? Do you think that the Emperor will believe your words or mine?" Davis profoundly asked as if there's an underlying meaning in his words.

'What did I do to deserve this? This child is a demon in human form!'

Bowen was on the verge of tears, and he didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"How about this... you're only tasked to protect me, right? Stand guard near the entrance of the Prison. This way, you can both protect me and do what I told you, right? You think that these prisoners who are suppressed by these formations can harm me?"

"This... Alright." Bowen considered a moment before yielding. He was truly afraid that the little prince, no, the little demon would do as he said.



"Good, you're not allowed to use your senses on me, and you're not allowed to peek either. I will come to you to accept food every four hours, and with this, you can verify my safety every now and then."

"Eh? This... I understand."

Although Bowen felt reluctant, what else could he reply? He already accepted his highness' conditions once, and it did seem that he was able to protect the prince through this method. He at least had the confidence that no matter what happened, he would be able to protect him in the Prison.

Only he couldn't understand why the prince forbade him from using his soul sense on him. He imagined that it must have to do something with the Imperial Family's secret, so he didn't dare to ask.

'After all, a child, especially an imperial child, wouldn't come to this place, just to sightsee, right?' Bowen inwardly thought he left that part of the corridor and made his way towards the prison entrance.

Davis checked his surroundings before tugging on the soul, summoning the Death Book.

A black aura encircled around him as it changed into a hazy appearance.

A book appeared on his hand as he looked at it. It was pure black on both sides of the note, and there wasn't anything written on the cover. He opened the book and turned the pages only to see that it was pure white, without a single speck of dust.

He pressed the switch again, only to see Wagner moving his right arm up and down.

"Honestly, there's no redemption for a bastard like you." Davis wrote his name while he felt disgusted. He'll be sure to give him a worse death.

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Three days later.

Davis was still roaming inside the Imperial Prison, experimenting with the Death Book.

In the Imperial Castle, Throne Hall.

Logan was seated in his throne while Claire sat beside him, but both of their faces appeared extremely grave.

The whole Throne Hall remained crowded even though it was a hundred meters long and wide.

People were assembled here, ranging from Middle-Class Officials to High-Class Officials from the Imperial Palace and the Army. The atmosphere enshrouding here was tense. No one dared to utter a word, afraid that they might be cast out or outright killed.

\*Creek!~\*

A sound made from opening the huge door of the Throne Hall echoed, making the people present slightly shudder as if it was a crack from the underworld.

An older adult with a commanding disposition walked in with great strides. He was covered in dark blue armor, and he held his grand headgear in his arms. He walked forward until he was in line with five

other men who were clad in different yet luxurious garments. He kneeled on a single leg on the floor and clasped his hands.

"Reporting to the Emperor..." He took a deep breath and shouted.

"The Albert Kingdom, which is under our jurisdiction, has been conquered by invading forces two days ago..."

Beads of sweat formed on his face, "We... we were unable to defend against the invasion of the combined alliance of the Raven Empire and Tritor Empire!"

With a bang that caused numerous people to flinch, he kowtowed, "We were made to retreat in the face of the giant threat, and I cowardly made the decision for the army to retreat to the Imperial Capital. Please let this cowardly one die and atone for this mistake! Your majesty!"

Without hesitation, he instantly drew his sword from his scabbard and proceeded to stab it into his heart.

\*Bang!~\*

Robust yet formless energy came out from nowhere and knocked the sword out of his hand. He stared blankly, not knowing who did it.

"It's fine, this Emperor forgives you, Supreme Army Commander Randal," Logan replied with a calm expression on his face.

"Instead of making our army die a cruel and meaningless death, you made the right choice by giving the order to tactically retreat to the Imperial Capital in exchange for your own reputation."

#### **Chapter 24: Royal Capital Under Siege**

Randal's eyes became moist as he felt incredibly moved.

He hardened his heart and made a great sacrifice by ruining his own reputation when retreating, and he cared for his subordinates so he couldn't let them die a meaningless death. He didn't think anyone or even the new Emperor would understand him or his decision to retreat.

So when he came to the Imperial Palace, he was prepared to die by taking his own life in return for his failure.

Logan knew that Randal was a loyal commander in the Army. As far as he knew, his Imperial Father would praise him a lot for his bravery and courage, but he also mentioned how he was compassionate and loyal.

Logan also knew that Randal's subordinates admired and obeyed him, so losing him would mean a great loss to the already weakened Loret Empire, as the army morale would be at an all-time low.

Logan, the current Emperor, should've in all right beheaded Randal by himself for the mistakes he had committed to establish his authority in the Throne Hall. But he also understood that doing so was foolish, as it would only lead to dissatisfaction and chaos among his men.

In reality, he had started to doubt whether if there were any people already planning to desert his Loret Empire.

"How dare you show your face in front of the Emperor after that miserable defeat!? Instantly show yourself out."

A handsome middle-aged man with sharp facial features berated the Army Commander, Randal.

His face looked sharp, yet his eyes were slightly lazy, but even then, he exuded a solemnness that didn't give someone the opportunity to mock him. He had lush green hair that is neck-length long.

He is none other than the current head of the Cauldon Family, one of the two Noble Families which sided with the Imperial Family to quell the rebels.

"Now now, Duke Evan Cauldon, there's no need for that, our Majesty has already forgiven him."

Another middle-aged man replied with a calm expression on his face.

He looked dashing and had bright red hair that cascaded down to waist-length.

He is none other than the current head of the Nolan Family, the other of the two Noble Families that sided with the Imperial Family during the rebellion.

"Hmph, are you in support of a coward in the midst of a war, Duke John Nolan?!" Duke Evan Cauldon questioned.

"There's no need to fight among ourselves now, and show some restraint, you're in front of the Emperor, Duke Cauldon." Hendrickson calmly interjected as if he was tired of this farce.

Duke Evan Cauldon harrumphed and said nothing more. He was not that afraid of an Emperor that was just a little more powerful than him.

What he didn't know was that Logan had already broken through to Adult Soul Stage. If he knew, then he would've not dared to be this disrespectful towards the young Emperor.

The other two were silent as if this had nothing to do with them. They were the leaders of the Ruthless Sword Sect and Piercing Dragon Sect.

Both of the Sects were Sky Grade Sects, albeit Low-Level in which they only had a single Law Seed Stage Powerhouse sitting on the helm of their respective sects.

Nevertheless, the current Imperial Loret Family wasn't that different from them since they had lost most of their power due to the rebellion.

The destruction of an Empire has nothing to do with those two sects, but since they have connections to the Imperial Family previously, there will probably be a chance for them to get eliminated by the invading Empires. They were here to decide whether to help the Empire cross over this calamity or not.

"Enough!"

Logan echoed, his voice influenced almost everyone present visibly as they subconsciously turned attentive. His voice was magical, along with undulations that surprised each and everyone present.

"Adult Soul Stage!" The five of them were astonished.

They then replied in unison as they bowed, "Congratulations to the Emperor on breaking through to the Adult Soul Stage."

The crowd in the back echoed as well.

Logan nodded his head casually.

"Randal, when exactly will they invade the Imperial Capital?" He questioned.

"Reporting to your majesty! The invading Empires will march here within a day." Randal replied to the best of his knowledge.

Communications were lost, and the scouts no longer replied to him. This was the best answer he could give out right now.

There was a momentary silence in the Throne Hall.

"This is bad!"

"There's no way we will be able to survive..."

"Should we run?"

Various whispers and soul transmissions were swirling around the Throne Hall simultaneously.

"Silence!" Hendrickson bellowed.

The crowd stood horrified and shut their mouths.

Logan knew that this scenario remained hopeless. Most likely, the probable situation is that they would have to escape and reclaim the Empire later.

Logan felt like he was stuck in a mire now.

On the one hand, he felt like he had to protect his family no matter what. On the other hand, if he escaped, he felt like he was acting opposite to whatever he learned in his life and that he would have no face to meet his ancestors after death.

The Loret Family had always heavily valued morals and victory. From an early age, Logan was influenced by these values.

To run and leave his Empire to be pillaged, isn't that just the opposite of its teachings?

\*Woooo!~\*

Suddenly, the sound of a war horn being blown echoed throughout the Imperial Capital.

Everyone was suddenly petrified. A random guard came inside the Throne Room with hurried strides and reported. "Your Majesty! This is bad! The invaders have arrived behind our Northern Gates!"

Logan had an ugly expression on his face, 'So soon?!'

He immediately looked at Claire, who was silently seated beside him, and his heart was almost convinced to escape when he heard a voice.

"Your Majesty, do you plan to escape?" The two Sect Leaders asked in unison with a cold face.

Logan became startled.

He shot a glare at those two Sect Leaders, trying to obtain something out of their faces. He could vaguely see that they were not afraid of the consequences of betraying him.

He knew that if he tried to escape, these two could betray him anytime they saw fit. He could even see them probably handing over his head to appease the invading Empires.

A hand grabbed Logan's palm, and he turned back to see Claire smiling beautifully at him. The same smile that made him remember the vow they took together when they married each other.

[We live together and die together!]

Logan tightly grabbed her hand and nodded at her. He then turned around to them and majestically uttered, "Escape? Are you two so afraid of death that you would support the prospect of me escaping so that you could escape yourselves with the remaining shameless faces you have left?"

The two Sect Leaders' faces flushed quickly with a red hue by being berated in this Throne Hall, where many people were witnessing their 'grandeur'. Just when they were about to counter-attack with words, they heard the Emperor's voice again.

"I'm going to war! If you have the guts, follow me or else scam the hell out of my Empire!" Logan shouted with fervor and made his way out of the Throne Room while heading towards the North Gate of the Imperial Capital, making Claire also followed behind.

The two Sect Leaders were left with no choice but to follow.

The other four of them also followed behind the Emperor as he walked with a grand disposition, and witnessing that the Emperor himself was leading them, the crowd automatically followed behind them.

Logan abruptly sent a soul transmission to Imperial Advisor Hendrickson.

"Escape with Davis and Clara!"

## **Chapter 25: Invaders**

Hendrickson made a slight pause in his steps but kept walking instantly.

"Clara is in the Empress's quarters while Davis is in the Imperial Prison... safely guarded. Find a chance to slip out, immediately secure them, and escape." Logan sent a soul transmission again.

The war was also why he and Claire allowed Davis into the Prison. To let him experience some combat so that he could adapt to their current situation, he didn't think that before they could get him back, the main invading army would already be here at the capital.

The main invading army's speed was lightning fast than he expected. He knew this must be the work of numerous assassins executing their scouts.

Logan then immediately told Hendrickson on how to deactivate the formation guarding the Empress's Quarters. As for what that formation was for, one could guess easily.

Logan then turned around his head, as if checking who were all currently following behind him.

Hendrickson imperceptibly nodded his head, so no one ended up noticing their conversation. As for Logan's Soul Forging Cultivation, it was too powerful for them to detect his soul transmission.

They then continued to travel towards the North Gate. Not even halfway there, Hendrickson suddenly echoed. "Your Majesty! Your subordinate has forgotten his weapon in the Imperial Castle, and without that, I would not be able to use my full strength. Your subordinate will quickly return once I retrieve my weapon back."

"What? Are you scared?" Logan shot a glare at him as his killing intent erupted, "Are you trying to escape?"

"I wouldn't dare, your Majesty! If you command me to die, then I will quickly kill myself to prove my innocence!" Hendrickson trembled as if his plan was seen through.

The other five of them thought that it was strange.

They heard that Imperial Advisor Hendrickson was brave and courageous, as well as a loyal man. They didn't expect him to back out at this last moment.

"Kill yourself then!" Logan commanded in a cold-hearted tone.

"Yes!" Hendrickson severely trembled.

He took out a normal sword from his spatial ring and stabbed right at his heart as he pulled his arm towards himself.

\*Puchi!~\*

\*Bang!~\*

Just when his sword was already halfway to his heart after piercing the body, some kind of energy knocked the sword off from his hands.

"I now know your loyalty. You can go right now and quickly come back because we need your strength in this war." Logan replied, his face still cold.

"Yes, your majesty." Hendrickson then left to the Imperial Castle while healing the wound in his chest.

"Does anyone here would like to get their weapons back?" Logan asked with an indifferent face. He was emitting a dense killing intent that made the other four shut their mouths.

Logan then continued to travel while the others followed behind.

'Wasn't that a lame reason to use? But thanks to his actions, I was able to successfully send him out without much suspicion.' Logan slightly grinned while he started to take flight from the platform.

Revolving Core Stage cultivators were able to fly, after all, not to mention that Logan is at the Law Seed Stage, the Fifth Stage of Essence Gathering Cultivation. His speed was even greater than 'mere' Revolving Core Cultivators could reach!

"Let's make haste!" He echoed and sped off towards the Northern Gate.

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Ten minutes later.

Hendrickson made his way to the Imperial Castle and went to his room before sneaking out stealthily dressed in a black robe that covered his features. He arrived in front of the Empress's Quarters and knocked out the hidden experts and maids. He went inside and took Clara into his arms.

Clara was sleeping, so she didn't notice and cry. He covered her with a black sheet and then made his way out.

Just when he headed out of the room, he saw a flash of light.

\*Slash!~\*

A blinding light slashed at his head, Hendrickson immediately ducked down. He rapidly retreated and saw the attacker's attire.

'Assassin!'

"Eh? Nicely evaded." The assassin's tone sounded surprised.

"Brother, are you here to abduct that royal baby as well?"

"Yes," Hendrickson replied with a hoarse voice.

"Hehe, you sure are kind, only knocking out those guards..."

"Uwaaa!~"

Clara, who was in Hendrickson's arms, was startled awake, and she immediately cried upon seeing strange people surrounding her.

"Brother, just leave the baby, I won't make this difficult for you."

'Tch, trash trying to waste my time.'

Hendrickson immediately took out his prized sword. He released his Peak-Level Silver Stage battle aura that radiated a fiendish might!

The assassin visibly flinched, "Ah! Brother, it's a misunderstanding, you can have the baby, and we'll have the-"

\*Boom!~\*

Hendrickson immediately covered the distance between him and slashed, not even seeing the result of his attack. He then made his way out the Imperial Castle and to the Prison in a hurried manner.

'Did they find out where the First Prince is? This is bad!'

=====

"Logan Loret! Get out here now, and face our Emperor!"

"Logan Loret, you coward, get the fuck here now!"

"Cowardly Emperor, show yourself!"

Various degenerating cries were heard behind the northern gate of the Imperial Capital.

The allied warriors of the two invading Empires were throwing out various provocations. They didn't seem to be afraid as the two Emperors of their own Empires were standing behind them.

"Hahaha, it seems like we will be able to win this war without incurring many casualties..." A hearty laugh sounded out.

"Surely, didn't we ally for this endeavor? Jejeje" An eerie laugh sounded out, but it almost sounded depraved.

The man who heartily laughed looked fat yet strong with bulging arms. He had two luscious beauties on his thighs. He was holding their waists while flirting with them and commenting about the war.

He is none other than the current Emperor of the Raven Empire, Mike Raven.

The other man who laughed eerily looked thin and cunning. He just provided these two beauties to the fat man, either enriching his relationship with the fat Emperor or plotting something.

He is none other than the Emperor of the Tritor Empire, Ken Tritor.

"Two bastards who dared to invade my Empire! Come out!"

An angry voice could be heard out loud as it resounded through the whole army.

"Ah... He is here." A middle-aged man beside Emperor Raven voiced.

"Tch, how can I enjoy these beauties now? His timing cannot be any worse!" Emperor Raven had dissatisfaction etched on his face.

"Emperor Raven can enjoy these beauties later, and I'm sure these gifts will be worth your time." A voluptuous woman who was wearing revealing clothes chimed in with an alluring voice.

She was beside Emperor Tritor.

"Haha, you are right, my daughter-in-law." Emperor Raven laughed.

The four of them simultaneously flew out and stared at Logan and his subordinates in the airspace near the Northern Gate.

"Hahaha, Little Emperor, you sure are powerful."

"Adult Soul Stage around thirty years old! Jejeje"



Both of the Emperors cackled eerily, yet they were inwardly relieved that they had made this move sooner. Or else, wouldn't this treasure, known as the Loret Empire be out of their sights and hands after a few years.

"Greetings, allow me to introduce myself formally. I am the Emperor of the Raven Empire, Mike Raven."

Emperor Raven introduced himself to the Loret Emperor, followed by Ken Tritor.

"Ken Tritor, Emperor of the Tritor Empire."

Logan looked at the two people who looked contrasting yet had the same disposition. He couldn't help but question coldly.

"Aren't you ashamed of yourselves, teaming up to beat an Empire which has already lost its strength during the rebellion?"

"Shame? Can you eat it? Can you change it to cultivation resources? Heh, stop your nonsense, Little Emperor." Emperor Raven mockingly laughed.

"Jeje, we do possess shame, but do you think that we are supposed to attack when you are recovered and strong, naïve! This is the world of the strong, and weaklings can only beg and grovel!" Emperor Tritor grinned deviously.

"Oh? You two think you can defeat us with this line-up? Don't think you will be safe enough to leave in one piece!" Logan spat out with a cold expression on his face.

"Haha, you are right. Everyone, I, Mike Raven, will not destroy anyone who does not help the Loret Emperor. In fact, I will award you with the plundered riches. How about it? Those behind him?" Emperor Raven shot a greedy look to the people behind Logan.

Logan was waiting for this exact moment as well. He was not afraid but wanted to see who and all will choose to desert him in this hopeless war.

But right at this moment, he and Claire felt the soul marks they left on Davis being erased, their expressions waning into despair.

## **Chapter 26: Abducted?**

Logan and Claire looked at each other with apprehension in their eyes.

The disappearance of the soul mark could only mean that Davis had either died or the soul mark they had placed on his soul had been erased by some method.

The soul mark Logan left had been relatively gentle, not leaving an ounce of heaviness or restriction in Davis's soul. Hence, the soul mark can also be easily dealt with by any Third Stage Soul Forging Cultivators without much trouble.

Logan and Claire clearly trembled, wanting to rush to see Davis's wellbeing, yet now, they could only hope that Hendrickson had rescued Davis in time.

There was a moment of silence before a voice sounded out.

"Do you promise not to touch the Ruthless Sword Sect and Piercing Dragon Sect?" The two Sect Leaders who were behind Logan came forward together.

"Of course, I have heard of your famous names across the continent, Sect Leader Heian and Sect Leader Pedro."

"Good, then we'll sit this one out." Heian, the Sect Leader of Ruthless Sword Sect, accepted and withdrew.

"Your Majesty, this isn't considered betrayal as we are just going to watch from the side-lines. The result doesn't concern us as we are staying out of this mess." Pedro, the Sect Leader of Piercing Dragon Sect, gave out some trivial reasons as he moved out of their way.

Logan didn't even glance at them and was just looking at the two Emperors coldly.

"Anyone else? Our promise still stands, and we absolutely won't attack anyone who stays out of this war." Emperor Raven still expected some people to defect as he could see some hesitation in the two Noble Family Heads.

The two Noble Family Heads looked like they were in deep contemplation.

After a few seconds of consideration, they raised their heads and declared, "We will stand by the Loret Empire; hence, nothing will stand in our way to protect our Empire."

"Hmm?" Not expecting the two Noble Family Heads to reject, Emperor Raven frowned.

"Hahaha!"

Logan laughed heartily. He didn't expect that this would happen, but he held hope. After all, the three families crossed the rebellion together.

"Emperor Raven, do you think that those who have crossed the rebellion with me can betray the Empire or me that easily? If they wanted to betray, they would've done it long ago during the rebellion." Logan indifferently said.

"So what? I've still got a proposal. Oh, Little Emperor, we both know that we don't have to harm each other. If we fight, we cannot say who might win this battle." Emperor Tritor abruptly said.

"Heh... What is this? Are you backing out?" Logan sneered.

"It isn't we who needs to back out, but you!" Emperor Raven shot a look at Claire, who was beside Logan.

"Hmm? What's this? Isn't the Empress pregnant? What a joyous affair! Do you want to see your wife brutally murdered and violated before you die?" Emperor Tritor shouted out, his voice echoing throughout the battlefield.

"You dare!?" Logan immediately tried to rush out but received a soul transmission, prompting him to a halt.

"Dear! Don't go! They're provoking you!" Claire shouted in his mind.

Her stomach was a little bloated, as a baby was forming inside her womb.

Logan stopped but shot a glance filled with hatred towards these two bastard Emperors.

He could only swallow down this humiliation. If he went out to fight, one would hold him back while the other might do something worse to Claire.

"That's why I've got an idea. Why don't we play a game? We make our armies fight each other. If your side wins, then we will immediately back out of this Empire. But if we win, hand over the Loret Empire to us. You see, we don't want to pillage this beautiful capital filled with beautiful women." Emperor Tritor laughed deviously.

"Isn't the end already clear? You bastards will surely win! What is this game for? Further humiliation?" Logan gritted his teeth and shouted in anger.

"Are you up for this game or not?" The two Emperors further laughed, clearly wanting to humiliate him before enjoying the looted riches.

Logan gnashed his teeth so hard that blood was coming out his mouth. His eyes spewed flames of anger and hatred.

If he made a move, he could say goodbye to Claire without a doubt, but if he doesn't make a move, then his army will be decimated.

'I thought I would be able to die proudly defending my Empire! Naïve, I was too naïve! I couldn't give my family up! I'm a failure of an Emperor.' His palms were bleeding as he put so much pressure with his fingers while tightly clenching his fists.

He wanted nothing more than to ruthlessly hack them to pieces, but he was powerless to do so!

At this time, he received a sound transmission from Hendrickson. His face immediately turned ugly.

"What did you do to my son!?"

"Oh? Did the assassins I sent succeed? No worries, I will release your son if you accept the game and win."

Claire became stunned for a second.

"Nooo!!!" She miserably let out a scream hearing the conversation between them.

'No!!! Am I going to lose him again? I don't want to lose him again!! This isn't happening, no, no, no, no!!!' She almost started having a mental breakdown while hovering in the air.

Logan grit his teeth as he wished that he could kill and slice their corpses into ten thousand pieces. He wished that he could subject them to every available torture method in this world.

"Your Majesty, allow me and my subordinates to leave our lives for the Empire." A voice could be heard behind him. He checked behind to see Commander Randal kneeling in front of him.

"You all will die..." Logan replied, his voice heavy and sorrowful.

Randal kowtowed, "I know, we just request your Majesty to give us a chance to prove ourselves on the battlefield, that we aren't cowards who would run without facing our enemies. Please let us get back the honor we lost in the Alfred Kingdom."

Logan became moved. He etched this scene into his heart as he turned back to look at those two Emperors and unwaveringly said.

"I agree!"

"Good, let's sit back and enjoy this show to our heart's content!" Emperor Tritor laughed as he returned towards their camp.

An army of 2,500,000 soldiers marched outside the Imperial Capital.

Raven Empire had 1,000,000 soldiers, while the Tritor Empire had about 1,500,000 soldiers.

They were all cultivators, and most of them were at the First Stage while some of them were at the Second Stage, and very few were at the Third Stage, most likely the captains and commanders. As for their Supreme Commanders, perhaps they were at the Fourth Stage.

Soldiers mostly trained in Essence Gathering Cultivation and secondly in Body Tempering Cultivation. Hence, their Soul Forging Cultivation could be said to be pretty much non-existent or extremely weak.

Soul Forging Cultivation Manuals were a luxury, and perhaps over 95% of the population in the Grand Sea Continent does not have access to it. Hence, the road to training in Soul Forging Cultivation required status, wealth, talent, and luck.

Looking at their line-up, most people of the Loret Empire realized that their enemies probably conducted a mass recruiting in their Empires to invade their Empire, but no one knew if this matter was true or not.

The soldiers of the Raven Empire were clad in black armor while the Tritor Empire's soldiers were clad in reddish-grey armor.

An army of 1,000,000 soldiers stood outside the gates of the Imperial Capital. They were the soldiers of the Loret Empire. They were clad in blue armor, and their presence on the battlefield was imposing and heavy, but their counterpart released a heavier presence and pressure at them, rendering their courage and battle experience almost useless.

The Loret Empire's army line-up was the same as the invading empire, only having experts up to the Third Stage when excluding the Supreme Army Commander, Randal.

A war filled with cultivators wasn't like a mortal's war. Whoever possessed the greatest fist ends up winning, but the Loret Empire seemed to have only one such individual while the other two Empires possessed many.

"Hoho, this is pretty pitiable, why don't we add something into the fray?" Emperor Raven shook his head and laughed.

"You are right, jejeje! Little Emperor, you can call people from the Imperial Capital to fight for you. Anyone below the Third Stage is welcome..." Emperor Tritor added fuel to the flames.

Logan had an ugly expression on his face. Involving the people of the Empire was forbidden as the morale would drop, and even his own people might defect. Not only would he become a laughing stock, but all the other empires might besmirch him at the same time.

Logan's pupils trembled as he could see that this war is... utterly hopeless.

### **Chapter 27: Massacred!**

The respective armies of the three empires assembled themselves in various battle formations that were used for warring and let out an imposing war cry from time to time as if they measured each other's capacity.

The Loret Army fortified themselves on the walls of the northern gate. Ground Troops were set in front of the gate as well. Various Magical Beast Mounts were also used, forming cavalry and aerial troops flying in mid-air, overlooking the battlefield's scenery.

The Raven Army took the west front of the Northern Gate while the Tritor Army took the east front of the Northern Gate. This formation persisted clearly to attack the Loret Empire from both sides, pinning them down.

After all, they could successfully flank them from both sides if the Loret Army were to be caught off guard.

There were also many experts atop the walls of the Imperial Capital who were observing the war with their senses.

\*Boom!~\*

\*Boom!~\*

\*Boom!~\*

The war drums started to echo throughout the battlefield, signaling the start of the war.

Each Commander of the respective armies took charge and led the soldiers into war.

On top of the Northern Gate, in an inconspicuous corner, a silhouette of a person wearing a black robe could be seen. The silhouette was there for about some time listening to the conversation of these people above in the air.

Its eyes were scarlet red as it scanned around the battlefield, a murderous light dwelling in it.

Its lips moved as if it were talking to someone, "You're the ones who came to invade, so don't expect any mercy from me!"

It looked at the hope ridden battlefield and uttered in a low yet hateful voice.

"Die!"

\*THUMP!~\*

A big heartbeat sound, akin to a loud resounding thunderclap reverberated across the battlefield!

Multiple screams of agony echoed across the battlefield as more than two million soldiers clutched their chests as they fell to their knees. The ones on the Magical Beast Mounts dropped to the ground, and numerous aerial troops who were above fell towards the surface.

A second later, everyone collapsed to the ground, like a pillar that had lost its foundation.

There was absolute silence on the battlefield, and no one alive dared to talk. It felt like their souls had fallen into purgatory for a brief moment, silent yet deadly. No blood and no sound remained on the battlefield.

This scene was so unbelievable that they couldn't fathom what had happened right now.

The two Emperors who were so ecstatic were now trembling in fear, their eyes wide and their faces pale with fright. They could not even detect anything as their army was massacred in the blink of an eye.

Logan, who was in despair, suddenly trembled with excitement even though he couldn't believe his eyes. The reason for his excitement was because he could see that his army was not targeted for some reason!

Logan wasn't a fool. He instantly clasped his hands with a boom as the air reverberated with his might and bowed down in the air with the utmost respect.

"Senior! This lowly Emperor is extremely thankful for your aid! Do I have the honor to invite you to the Imperial Castle of my Loret Empire?"

Silence again! Absolute silence!

A few seconds passed, yet there was no answer, and a few minutes later, there was still no answer. All of them present here were obedient like a child, yet no one dared to disrupt the silent atmosphere.

No voice could still be heard.

The two Emperors heaved a sigh of relief while Logan smiled as if a burden had been taken away from his heart.

"Sect Leaders of the Ruthless Sword Sect and Piercing Sword Sect, are you still going to watch by the side-lines?" Logan asked coldly.

The two of them immediately came behind him and hurriedly conveyed.

"Emperor, we didn't betray you! We only acted with the safety of our sects in our minds!"

"Yes, yes! We didn't have any thoughts of betrayal, and we only sat this one out instead of joining the other side!"

Logan watched them with an amusing gaze and harrumphed coldly. He couldn't afford to make them an enemy right now. Hence, he turned around and viewed the two Emperors with a gloating expression on his face.

"Huh? Why are you two bastards still staying here? Aren't your armies utterly decimated? Hurry up and scram!" Logan laughed heartily, he felt like still killing them, but he knew what was important to him.

"Don't you dare to be haughty in front of us! We will readdress this humiliation at a later date!"

"Oh? You're saying that you're going to pick a fight with... Senior?"

Emperor Raven and Emperor Tritor's face changed.

They didn't dare say anything, and the four of them immediately left in the direction of their respective Empires along with the surviving entourage. They immediately left because they didn't even know if that Senior was still in the Loret Empire's airspace, watching them with cold and indifferent eyes.

Their losses were immense, and they've lost their entire military prowess and are now vulnerable to all other Empires. So if they don't return to their respective Empires, then they will suffer the same fate as once Loret Empire did, being invaded by other Empires.

Claire looked at Logan with a wronged expression on her face. Logan then immediately remembered that those two Empires abducted his son. His face turned ugly.

'Damn! I was so immersed at the thought of defeating them! I forgot about Davis!'

Regret! Extreme regret! He felt like utter sh\*t right now for getting complacent with his victory over the two Empires.

Claire knew that he had forgotten temporarily. Even so, she did not blame him. She thought this was perhaps what being an Emperor meant... To only care about one's Empire at times of war.

"Don't worry. I'll get him! I swear I'll return with him! If I can't, then take care of Clara!" Logan immediately left chasing those two Emperors who had gone at least more than a thousand meters away from him.

"Don't go! I don't want to lose you too!" Claire cried out and tried to follow after him.

He hardened his heart and didn't look back or reply to her.

The two Family Heads and the others who were there immediately stopped Claire from following the Emperor. They received a soul transmission from Logan so they could only hold her back and try to protect her.

Just when he was halfway there, he received a sound transmission from Hendrickson.

=====

A few minutes earlier, while Hendrickson had just secured Clara.

In the Imperial Prison, Davis was still experimenting on the prisoners when unbeknownst to him, a silhouette in black robes entered the Prison.

There was no one standing guard before the entrance.

The silhouette entered and started searching. It went through various corridors when suddenly a voice rang out.

"I'll avenge my comrades!"

\*Slash!~\*

The silhouette easily dodged the attack and commented with a concealed yet mocking voice, "Oye, if you're going to sneak attack, at least do it sneakily."

"You wretched assassin, die!"

Bowen slashed his sword furiously at the assassin. He felt intense regret seeing his comrades die one by one from inside the Prison through special means.

The silhouette kept dodging his furious slashes. The assassin suddenly saw an opening and kicked Bowen in his stomach.

Bowen felt his stomach rumbling while he was sent flying. He instantly realized that the assassin was way more powerful than him.

Davis was near, so he heard the commotion and came to check.

"Eh?" Davis had no idea what was going on here, but soon as he saw the silhouette in black robes, he had an inkling of what was going on.

"Oh, the kid is here, lucky, hehe!" The assassin laughed without care.

"Who are you, mister?" Davis asked with an innocent expression on his face.

"Prince Davis, run!"

Bowen gritted his teeth and shouted as he had lost all hope in being able to protect Davis.

## **Chapter 28: Faking It**

"You, shut up!" The assassin swirled his body and kicked Bowen's head, instantly rendering him unconscious.

"Eh? Why did you beat him?"

Davis revealed a frightened expression on his face, but he could tell that someone was now targeting him.

"Haha, Prince Davis, no need to worry. I've been tasked by your imperial father to rescue you and this guard just won't let me take you away from here. My name is Tyke." The assassin removed his hood.

He possessed a handsome face that made him very easy to approach.

"Is it true? But why does my imperial father need to rescue me? Davis questioned.

"You don't know your highness? The war between our Loret Empire and two other Empires, the Raven Empire and Tritor Empire is ongoing for more than a year!"

"Really? Will my imperial father be able to win?" Davis asked worriedly.

Inwardly, he became astonished as he finally knew what had and still has been plaguing his parents for so long. He had tried to find out before, but no one surprisingly let out a word of it.



Unlike modern earth, the information could be easily suppressed as long as people looked the other way, and the imperial castle was an enclosed space where information could be easily contained or let out depending upon the brass.

"There is no way our Emperor will be able to win against two Empires, that's why we are going to escape!" Tyke explained.

"Uh? Okay, so father did send you to rescue me, yay!" Davis cheered. His expression was as he had entirely believed him.

"Yes, your highness, let's go!" Tyke equally encouraged but sneered inwardly, and he felt somewhat pleasurable to trap a Prince with cheap tricks.

"Okay!" Davis smiled as he held Tyke's hand over his own accord.

Tyke almost laughed, but he kept his cool and smiled refreshingly at the prince. They looked as if they were father and son, happily walking while holding each other's hand.

Tyke felt increasingly wanting to tease the prince. He didn't think tricking a child of higher status can be this addicting and easy. His lips were slightly twitching, wanting to remove his own facade so that he could see the stupid expression on the prince's face. His eyes lit up as he thought up a plan.

Just when they were at the entrance, Tyke suddenly uttered. "Ah! Prince! I just remembered that I was sent by the invading empires and not your imperial father!"

"Eh? You're lying!" Davis made a surprised sound and an expression that said that he didn't believe him at all.

Tyke slowly turned around, his face filled with scars while not looking handsome anymore. He wanted to see the terror on the prince's face so that he can finally proceed to knock him out and abduct him.

Davis suddenly let out a mocking expression, his lips curving into a grin.

"Eh?" Tyke became astonished as he realized that the prince didn't seem to be terrorized.

"Why don't we end this farce? Mister Casper..." Davis calmly spoke, his adorable eyes becoming abnormally sharp.

Tyke's pupils dilated as he immediately felt that something was wrong and jumped back. His instincts as an assassin were screaming for him to retreat.

However, his eyes that were wide open turned soulless, and before long, he then started spilling out any information about the current situation he knew before he clenched his heart and died.

Davis removed Assassin Casper's spatial ring and bound it as his own. He then erased the soul marks of his father and mother using the power of the Death Book.

During the experiments, he noticed that the Death Book inside his soul emits a dark and perhaps an evil like energy which is especially useful to corrode and exterminate souls.

With this kind of energy at his disposal, he found it extremely easy to get rid of his parents' soul marks that hovered in his soul sea like a floating rock in the ocean.

He then wore the Low-Level Sky Grade Black Robe, which was given to him by Logan. It conceals a person's cultivation undulations deeply. He then proceeded to store Casper's corpse in the spatial ring as he made his way to the Northern Gate.

A few minutes later, after he left, Hendrickson reached the Prison. He was incredibly angry to see all the guards before the entrance was brutally murdered.

He went inside furiously, only to see the Head Guard, Bowen unconscious, and the prince missing!

He then woke Bowen up and managed to learn that Davis had been abducted. He then took out his crystal and reported it to Logan.

After arriving at the North Gate, Davis saw how his father despaired as well as how his mother got humiliated by them. With a hateful expression on his face, he imagined that he would immediately give the two Emperors cruel deaths but then realized that their soul was more powerful than his killing prowess with the Death Book by a few unknown levels and stages.

Davis had reached Low-Level Infant Soul Stage while he was in Prison.

He had found that the Death Book can absorb the souls that it kills, and refines it to increase his Soul Forging Cultivation. He was already on the verge of breaking through earlier from the Peak-Level, so this ability had helped him a lot in breaking to the Infant Soul Stage.

However, it cost the lives of a few prisoners as some of their Soul Forging Cultivation were very weak.

The people above the battlefield then talked about their armies fighting each other as Davis silently waited for his opportunity to massacre them.

He used his Death God Sense, the ability he gained after reaching the Infant Soul Stage during his stay in the Prison, to write the names of all the soldiers and commanders of the opposing army.

He used the Death Book in tune with his soul sense to use the Death God Sense. Using it, he could see the names and lifespans of all the people who were within the range of his soul sense.

The Death God Sense was used along with his Death God Eyes. Hence, his mind worked fast enough to cast the names on the Death Book residing in his soul. His soul force did all the work at extreme speed, writing all two million names within a minute on the Death Book.

After massacring them while watching it with cold eyes, Davis didn't opt to absorb their deceased souls afraid that he felt that he would get caught.

He felt that the gathering of millions of souls might attract attention, and he needed to be closer to a corpse to absorb it as far as he knew. Hence, the two million-plus souls had all gone to waste.

Perhaps if he absorbed it, there wouldn't be much of a change since the soldiers seemed to have no Soul Forging Cultivation. Even the prisoners were better as they had some level of Soul Forging Cultivation.

Hence, even if he absorbed all these two million-plus souls, he felt that he wouldn't have much of an impact since he learned that quality matters when absorbing and refining the souls.

He perceived that even if he discarded all his inhibitions and threw away his caution to the wind and absorbed all these souls, he could tell that he would perhaps reach the Peak-Level of Infant Soul Stage and not the next stage, the Young Soul Stage.

Davis then promptly left the Northern Gate slowly when no one dared to speak or probe around with their senses in fear of the so-called 'senior'.

After that, he swiftly returned to the Prison and saw that there was no one present currently except the prisoners.

He swiftly had an idea.

He went into an isolated cell that hosted a living prisoner and entered it.

Davis then used the Death Book to write the prisoner's name to make him his puppet.

He then retrieved Casper's corpse, a dagger and a sword from the spatial ring, unbound it from himself and placed it on the corpse. He then gave the sword and the dagger to the prisoner.

The prisoner stabbed the sword at the heart of Casper's corpse. The sword plunged right into the chest, piercing into Casper's heart.

Davis then took a deep breath. He clenched his fists made his soul blindly fluctuate two thousand meters to his surroundings and made himself faint beside the corpse. This caused a slight amount of damage to his soul but was quite negligible in the long run as he could heal it.

The prisoner who saw that bit his own fingers and drew on the wall of the cell with his blood. He then stabbed himself in the heart using the assassin's dagger.

Hendrickson, who was wildly escaping with Clara and Bowen in the southern direction, immediately noticed the soul fluctuation.

"It's coming from the direction of the prison!" Both exclaimed simultaneously.

Hendrickson looked at Clara and gritted his teeth. He then gave Bowen a transmission crystal and ordered.

"Bowen, immediately check what's happening in the Prison!"

Bowen accepted and quickly went to check inside the Prison, only to find Davis fainted beside the assassin's corpse and a prisoner's corpse.

Bowen instantly went aghast but then saw some words written on the wall that looked like a dying message.

"I hope that with this, the Loret Empire will forgive my sins."

Bowen belatedly understood and checked that the prince was still alive and only fainted. He promptly reported it to Hendrickson, who then relayed it to Logan.

=====

"Emperor! We've found the prince fainted in the Imperial Prison along with two corpses! One seems to be a prisoner while the other seems to be an assassin."

"What!?" Hearing that, Logan was so ecstatic that he couldn't believe his ears. After all, he thought that Davis was abducted.

"Yes! What I've said is true! I am at the Southern Gate of the Imperial Capital with Clara. Bowen made his way to secure Davis and escape!"

"No need! We won the war! Return to the Imperial Castle as quickly as possible with Bowen and Davis!" Logan commanded excitedly.

"What!? Did we truly triumph this war?"

Hendrickson couldn't believe his ears. He remembered that the situation was in despair... How could it possibly change?

But there was no way the Emperor would lie to him, especially when the safety of Clara Loret, the First Princess, depended on him.

"Yes!!"

Hendrickson immediately changed his course and headed back to the Imperial Castle while informing Bowen to return to the Imperial Castle with Davis hurriedly.

He trusted the Emperor's words, so he tried to return as soon as possible.

Logan hastily returned to Claire, who was still trying to get away from their encirclement while launching flaming attacks at them. However, due to pregnancy, her attacks were so weak that it was unable to harm the Family Heads of the Noble Families and the others.

They just passively defended, trying to quell the Empress's anger with words.

When Logan saw her, he immediately sent a soul transmission to her.

"Claire! Davis is safe!"

Claire, who stopped attacking upon sensing Logan's return, became ecstatic but also despaired that she lost Davis. Her heart sank, but when she heard Logan's words, she had an angry yet confused expression on her face that remained lit with hope.

"What!? You're lying! How!!?"

She cried and believed that Logan was lying, just to make her calm down.

"Really! Hendrickson and Bowen managed to find Davis fainted inside the Imperial Prison, let's go back to the Imperial Castle and meet them." Logan excitedly explained.

Claire became stunned, 'A misunderstanding?'

She then became so ecstatic that she immediately left in the direction of the Imperial Castle before Logan could even catch up with her.

Claire reached the Imperial Castle, and just when she entered, she immediately saw the unconscious Davis, who was being carried by Bowen.

"Davis!"

Claire immediately took Davis from Bowen and wrapped Davis in her arms as she hugged him tightly, shedding tears of joy.

Logan also arrived and finally let out a contentful smile when he saw the spectacle. He then heavily heaved a sigh of relief as he thought of successfully avoiding the worst possible outcome after that mysterious 'senior' had saved them.

## **Chapter 29: Grand Sea Continent**

A month passed from the time the invasion ended.

Davis managed to explain that he and a prisoner teamed up to kill the assassin. He explained it in a way that implied that he knew the prisoner and somehow befriended him before the assassination attempt.

He said that the assassin and the prisoner managed to stab each other when he attacked the assassin's soul, which made the assassin an easier target.

Although his parents had their suspicions about the whole scenario, they did not cast much suspicion on him, and neither did they even doubt if he was the one behind the massacre of the two million-plus soldiers.

Not even one person connected the whole massacre to Davis, and neither did they have enough evidence to link that Davis and that mysterious senior was one and the same person.

After all, the massacre of two million people occurring in their sight without even making much of a sound other than that single amplified heartbeat was only a feat only capable of powers unknown to them. They were even thankful for this miraculous event and wouldn't dare to doubt the authenticity one bit.

That is the effect that one could achieve with absolute power!

Davis hadn't managed to kill those two Emperors because he guessed that their Soul Forging Cultivation was way more powerful than him. He didn't want to fail, only to be backtraced. Hence, he made sure to kill the two million-plus soldiers at the same time to create a deterrent effect.

And just as he thought, the two Emperors turned tail and fled without much of surprise.

The Loret Empire gradually managed to gain peace while the Raven Empire and Tritor Empire were caught up in the flames of war, temporarily invaded by the other Empires.

Logan managed to establish his authority once again, so no one would dare to test his authority anymore, not even the two Sky Grade Sect Leaders who were in the Loret Empire.

Claire felt eternally grateful to the mysterious senior who had managed to make them cross this calamity. This was even more so when she realized that she would soon give birth to a child and was expectantly looking forward to it.

Rumors spread about the extremely powerful and mysterious senior throughout the Grand Sea Continent. They even dared to make claims whether if the mysterious senior was an Immortal existence, which the people strived to reach for in their entire lives.

At that point, no one was sure if that person was related to the Loret Empire or not by any chance, and no one dared to test it either.

All the surrounding Empires personally announced that they would soon visit Loret Empire, except the Raven Empire and Tritor Empire. After all, they were more than convinced that they would face their deaths after arriving at the Loret Empire.

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Davis wandered into the study as he sighed a lot these days.

He had a lot to think about the massacre he performed that day. He only killed a single life before, so he was feeling down for a whole month but eventually came out of it.

He eventually understood that he would have to kill a lot of people in this world to climb up the hierarchy ladder to protect himself and the people he cared about.

'Seriously! This world is the same sh\*t-hole as Earth. The only thing different was that I have lived in peaceful times after escaping from Mo Wuming.'

'There's no use of thinking! I would have to kill a lot of people or let them kill me! This world follows the rule of the survival of the fittest, more than any other world.'

After the war, he learned many things. The casualties in the army of his Empire were so high that his kill count was higher than the people he killed during the last battle.

Originally, the Loret Empire upheld its peace with its big and powerful army as well as its experts, but after the rebellion begetting division among the army, it couldn't keep up with the command to battle against the two Empires, so about more than sixty percent of them had died before the final battle began.

Even some common people, numbering to a million, had been slaughtered in the war even though they didn't resist, and combined with this fact, it was proved that the Loret Empire's casualties were higher than the enemy's side.

This was such a huge blow to the Empire's morale.

Even though morals exist, people would have to uphold it, but in the world of the strong, only fists speak. People would kill at the slightest dissatisfaction, scheme when they dislike, backstab at the sight of a little opportunity.

He finally acknowledged that people's lives were of no value to the powerful and depraved.

Being showered in the love of his parents, he almost forgot what kind of a world he was living in because the walls of the Imperial Castle was so secure and peaceful, that he found himself enjoying his life while being on experimenting over his newfound powers borne from cultivation.

However, he finally got out of this mindset. After all, the war and his 'visit' to the Imperial Prison taught him more about the cruel side of this world.

Being able to kill more than a million people in a heartbeat... Leaving the guilt that he would experience despite the fact that they were the ones who invaded his Loret Empire, the sheer emotions of possessing such power was enough to make him enter the path of depravity.

"I swear I won't misuse my powers. At least, I definitely won't harm the innocents unless I absolutely need to..." Davis affirmed to himself not to fall into the path of depravity.

Davis didn't like to resort to this kind of massacre. If he could've, he would've killed the two Emperors instead, and that would have sent the army running with its tail caught between its legs.

Nevertheless, in the future, he knew that he would have to resort to this kind of drastic measure to protect himself and the people he loved.

Davis lost himself in his thoughts, staring at the ceiling as he contemplated.

"Davis, you should get ready. Grand characters from other empires should be arriving at any moment now."

Logan came inside his room at that moment. He was clothed in a luxurious blue imperial robe, decorated with golden dragon patterns.

"Hmm? Yes, I'll be ready in a minute."

Today is the day where people from other empires would visit the Imperial Castle. Logan wasn't arrogant as he knew for what they were visiting for.

In reality, everyone knew they were paying respects to the rumored mysterious senior behind the Loret Empire.

Although they weren't sure that if the mysterious senior was present, merely making good relations with the Loret Empire was advantageous to them as well.

Davis readied himself as he wore a blue imperial robe of his small size, adorned with blue crystals on his shoulders that glowed like a sapphire gem.

Davis nodded, and they both headed to the Throne Hall.

They reached the Throne Hall and sat on their seats. Logan was seated on the throne while Davis sat beside him on a small seat. The Empress's seat was empty as Claire was nowhere to be seen.

Claire chose to stay in her quarters since she was seven months pregnant. Clearly, there was no need for her to attend.

Clara was with Claire, although it was unknown whether she was sleeping peacefully with an adorable face or playing with all her strength.

"Davis, let me give you a heads up. Other than those two empires who invaded us, there are five more empires in this continent." Logan explained, afraid that Davis didn't know who and all were visiting.

"I know, father. I've seen the continental map before, and my geography tutor had rather made me learn almost all the important locations." Davis grinned.

"Oh? Good, then explain what the other four Empires are in our Grand Sea Continent?" Logan tested him.

"Yes, mhm... Although there are many low-grade self-proclaimed empires between all seven of us in this Grand Sea Continent, I'll not mention them. From our position, the Ruth Empire is on the South, while the Ashton Empire is at the North West. West of us is the Ross Empire, and in the East is the Claymore Empire." Davis explained.

"Yes, you are right. The Ruth Empire's royalty has the Dragon Bloodline.

Legend has it that a Flood Dragon had been buried there a long time ago, and it has formed as an inheritance for the Imperialty of that Empire." Logan continued.

"The Ashton Empire is adept at destruction as they use fire-attributed Cultivation Techniques. The Ross Empire uses water-attributed Cultivation Techniques. And for that sole reason, they are at each other's throats whenever they have the chance..." Logan smiled.

He let out a chuckle as he continued, "The Claymore Empire uses swords as their main weapons, but they are not picky with the type of cultivation manuals. They are highly skilled at using swords and rumored to have even reached the realm of so-called Sword Intent."

Suddenly, Logan's face changed to a baleful expression, "The Raven Empire has the bloodline of the Dark Raven, and it is rumored to be equal in power to the Flood Dragon. It is in the North and is currently warring with the Ashton Empire to defend their territory."

His face had changed to a gleeful expression as he said that.

"The Tritor Empire specializes in dark-attributed cultivation techniques; in other words, they train in wicked and despicable cultivation methods. They have all kinds of Cultivation Techniques that lean on the dark side. One that absorbs blood from others, ones that plunder essence energy from others, ones that even supplement yang by plundering yin and vice versa."

"They are in the North East. Hehe, they are also currently in war with the Claymore Empire!"

"Serves both of those bastards right!"

Anger surfaced on his face at the mention of those two wretched characters.

'I will have my revenge! Raven Emperor and Tritor Emperor, you bastards, just wait for it!'

Logan's eyes were full of hatred.

"Don't worry, father. You will have your revenge soon! I know it!" Davis smiled comfortingly, but hidden behind his smile was also a deep hatred.

Enmity had been formed, and his first two targets were already decided! Emperor Raven and Emperor Tritor, two Fifth Stage Powerhouses right off the bat!

**Chapter 30: You Have Only One Wife, Right?**



"I know, Davis." Logan smiled while forcing a smile but at the same time, he felt heartened that all of them were safe in the end.

"Father won't forget the most important thing. I might be a failure of an Emperor but I'll protect you guys at the cost of my life!"

Logan stated with a determined expression on his face.

Davis's lips widened in glee as he was content that his father thought this way. He didn't want a father who was spouting all emperor nonsense in any way.

A few minutes passed before a guard announced the arrival of the various personnel from the other Empires, one by one. The first to show up was the Ruth Empire, followed by the Ashton Empire, Ross Empire, and finally the Claymore Empire.

Logan lifted his brows but was not surprised.

The ones who showed up were the Emperors of each Empire, not the envoys. They gave respect to the rumored senior behind the Empire, not him, the current Emperor of the Loret Empire.

He thought that they would send some envoys but it looked like they actually came as they said they would.

They greeted each other and sat in their designated seats respectively.

A banquet was set up way before they arrived at the venue. Each of them enjoyed a variety of exceptional delicacies consisting of Peak-Level Sky Beast Stage Magical Beasts.

Sky Beast Stage Magical Beasts were equal to the Third Stage of the Human Cultivation.

"Emperor Loret, this Blazing Tiger meat is delicious and nourishing as well... This should've cost severely, are you sure that's it's not going to diminish your Empire's Treasury?" Emperor Alex Claymore curiously questioned. His face looked sharp while his eyes emitted sword-like intent that was capable of killing with a single look. He looked fit with his body draped with a tight-fit luxurious sword patterned robe.

Alex Claymore couldn't fathom how they were still rich even after facing two major calamities and almost thought that it was due to that mysterious senior.

'Damn, his looks can kill, literally!'

'Is that the formless sword intent?'

Davis's thoughts were swirling around his mind. One look at Emperor Claymore and that left his mind feeling dizzy inadvertently.

He kept an innocent face while looking left and right, gauging the so-called grand characters of the Grand Sea Continent.

"Haha, how can I hold back when I heard that the Emperors were going to personally visit my Empire? Naturally, if I can do this, then it is within my means." Logan grinned as he responded, his expression on the epitome of 'I can do it all' attitude.

"Haha, the Loret Empire sure is rich!" Emperor Van Ross laughed.

His face looked amiable, and his eyes were ocean blue different from Emperor Loret's sapphire colored eyes. He looked a little fat, but that doesn't warrant others to look down on him as he was strong. He wore a lavish deep blue imperial robe with beautiful droplet patterns.

'Looks can be quite deceiving...'

Davis conceived as he gained a vague sense of unease while looking at him.

"Long years of peace must have filled their pockets immeasurably, maybe the Loret Empire is even rich compared to the four of us combined..." Emperor Louis Ashton smirked as he laughed.

His face looked handsomely evil, and he wore dark red imperial robes with azure flame patterns.

Davis looked at him but didn't feel a sense of unease like Ross Emperor.

'Heavens, this guy looks so sinister... yet nice?' He couldn't help but think, a little bit confused about his temperament.

Davis was the observing type. He used his own methods to judge a person's character, and it was ninety percent correct most of the time.

"Haha, surely you jest, Emperor Ashton..." Logan shook his head as he laughed.

"Now now, there is no use probing, hence, let's enjoy the banquet a little more gentlemen." Empress Isabella Ruth commented with a beautiful smile on her face.

She looked like a beauty who could deeply quench a man's desire. She looked mesmerizing with her laidback personality and waist-long purple hair, with puff and wavy bangs. She had a fairy-like skin tone, her body ample with assets that would make a man drool. She wore an azure royal robe that accentuated her beauty tenfold.

Davis gulped silently, his gaze attracted by her curves, 'Perfect!'

Fortunately, no one looked at him so he measured them as much as he liked.

"Yes, yes..." All three Emperors simultaneously echoed as they laughed.

Even Logan shook his head secretly. Her beauty was able to mesmerize everybody in this hall so much that they glanced at her from the corner of their eyes and didn't dare to connect gaze with her for even a short time.

All the other three Emperors were more than two hundred years old.

Everybody would think that she was a woman who lived for more than a hundred years, but the truth was that her age was even lower than that of Logan.

Nobody in this hall dared to underestimate this woman. Rumors had it that she was a power-hungry woman who had chanced upon an incredible lucky chance and had managed to secure the throne of her Empire.

"So, Emperor Loret, you know what we all are here for, and since none of us is going to be straightforward about it, I might as well as begin..." Empress Isabella Ruth sighed with a flutter of her eyebrows, her movements no longer laidback.

She hesitated for a moment but gritted her teeth in apprehension and asked away, "The question is... does the rumored senior even exist?"

There was a moment of silence in the hall.

Everybody was tensed except Davis, even acting as if he didn't know what these people were talking about.

"Haha, Empress Ruth, the senior truly does exist but the point is, that grand person doesn't want to speak to me either." Logan smiled confidently and bullsh\*tted.

Everyone gasped in confusion but also, relief.

"Can we possibly meet this senior?" Emperor Ross timidly asked, albeit almost everyone knew that it was an act.

"How is it possible? Senior would be very busy and probably wouldn't want to meet us, lowly emperors, in the first place. If senior doesn't want to meet us, then we can't possibly force him either." Logan answered calmly as he shook his head.

"Then do you know the place where senior is currently in seclusion?" Emperor Ashton asked.

"Who knows? I have no idea..." Logan grinned, his hands spread wide. He made it look like he knew the place but wouldn't tell them even if they begged.

Davis imperceptibly grinned as he inwardly praised his father, 'Damn, father, you sure are good at bullsh\*tting!'

The discussion about the mysterious senior went on for about five more minutes. Seeing that the conversation isn't going anywhere, Emperor Ross decided to change the topic as he sighed.

"Ah... leave it. I've already come this far, might as well make good relations with you Emperor Loret."

He snapped his fingers and then presented a small treasure chest to Logan.

"It's my pleasure, Emperor Ross."

Logan nodded and accepted the gift graciously. He opened it and was astonished to see an orange square-shaped fruit in it.

He instantly identified it as the Mystic Tyrant Fruit!

'Excellent! This could help Davis attain the Tyrant Physique!' Logan became truly pleased but also secretly laughed.

The Mystic Tyrant Fruit is a Low-Level Sky Grade Treasure, an ingredient that is used in making pills and it has the effects to greatly strengthen the body.

However, no one other than the higher-ups of the Loret Empire knew that the Mystic Tyrant Fruit aided in realizing the Tyrant Physique! The Tyrant Body Secrets Manual solely belonged to the Loret Empire, hence, Emperor Ross could have said to make a loss, no, an extreme loss since he literally helped a prince of another Empire grow extremely stronger.

"I'm glad to see that you are content about it, Emperor Loret." Emperor Ross chuckled.

After that, Emperor Claymore and Empress Ruth gave their gifts, but they were lower in quality to the Mystic Tyrant Fruit. From this, it would be seen that the Ross Empire was at least sincere in their motive to make friends with the Loret Empire.

But who could deem that it was in good faith?

"Hoho? What's wrong Emperor Ashton? Why are you still not presenting your gift? Don't tell me you forgot to bring one?" Emperor Ross sneered as he made fun of his nemesis.

Emperor Ashton narrowed his eyes in displeasure.

One could tell that Emperor Ross was spot on.

Emperor Ashton was a selfish person. He didn't think that Emperor Ross would give out a valuable gift. He didn't want to offer a valuable gift either, nor could he afford to lose in front of his fated enemy.

He suddenly remembered about a matter that he was worried about recently and smiled at Logan.

"Emperor Logan, we all know that you only have one wife! Isn't that right?" Emperor Ashton smiled with a devilish countenance.

'Eh? I don't like where this conversation is heading...!' Logan suddenly had a bad feeling about this.