

Earths GMagus 1031

Chapter 1031 Private Training

Emery had thought of teaching his [36 Dao Divine Sword Technique] to Klea ever since the two of them began to learn [Hexagram Technique]. However, he still contemplated it.

The reason was because he was unsure whether Klea would be able to see the training through to the end, since he actually did not know how much interest she had in the art of the sword. Hence, now that he had seen how serious and keen she was, Emery decided to teach her the technique.

Emery decided to bring Klea back to his spirit cave. He would teach the technique to her there, and when they achieved some progress, they could return to the training facility and fight the wooden puppet to find out the result.

Hearing that the two were going back, Magus Shena naturally followed them along.

Emery and Klea found themselves within the cave. The two of them were sitting across from each other in the lotus position, ready to start the training.

She looked at him with a faint smile hanging on her face, "Now teach me, I'm ready. I'll definitely be your good disciple." She said flirtatiously, in a blatant suggestive tone.

Hearing such words, Emery quickly shook his head. He must be the stronger person here. He had to focus on what they were going to do, so he decided to act as if he didn't hear what she said earlier.

Despite seeing Emery's monk-like reaction, Klea still didn't seem to want to give up.

"If you don't like good, I can be bad too... Really, really bad..."

Emery inwardly heaved a sigh in defeat. It was definitely not easy, being so close in training like this.

With a serious expression on his face, he asked, "Let me see at which stage the Dao have learned until?"

In order for Klea to be able to learn about this particular sword technique of his, the girl must first meet the initial requirement which was a high understanding of the concept of Dao. Thanks to the three weeks with the Eastern Sage, she has made some progress with it..

With a jolly smile, she said, "I am on stage 4."

Emery once again heaved a sigh, this time lamenting how talented the girl was in comparison to himself. The number of instances where the girl was serious could be counted by hand, but when she finally did, it would certainly not take her long to learn all of the Sage divine techniques. She might even be able to do it before Emery can finish his.

With the confirmation that Klea met the requirements to learn the [36 Dao Divine Sword Technique], Emery wasted no more time and started chanting the version of his Dao that helped him make his previous breakthrough. He even gave the girl half of all the Spirit Foundation Pills in his possession to help her further.

"Aaa... Emery, you are so sweet!" said Klea with a wink,

This action of his also caused the girl to cast a mischievous smile at him once again. Seeing that, Emery was forced to do something to prevent the undesirable.

[Jade Wall]

The spell was cast, and a wall quickly rose in the empty space between them and separated the two of them.

"This is something to help us concentrate more," explained Emery from the other side of the wall in haste, so as to make sure there was no possibility of misunderstandings arising between them.

Emery could hear the girl's amused chuckle from the other side of the wall. "If you really think that this wall could stop me, then you are sorely mistaken, Emery."

But just when Emery was afraid that she was going to act on it, Klea stopped and her voice turned serious. "Let's start." Although he was perplexed by the abrupt change, Emery was relieved that she had finally stopped teasing him and started training.

While Klea was learning [Dao Divine Technique], Emery quietly made his way out and went to the herb garden to check on Twik and Chizpur brothers.

He gathered them all and sat close to them before using [One Mind] to communicate with them. However, he did not say or start any conversation. This time, Emery decided to just listen to what they wanted and talk about.

"Kuang Kuang.. Ku Ku..."

A few seconds into overhearing the plant creatures' conversation, Emery discovered that the Chizpur brothers were actually looking forward to another adventure like the one they had in Andora. As for Twik, he came crawling to his arm again and seemed to try to extend his body continuously.

Seeing what he was trying to do, Emery quickly realized that Twik wanted to try their combined skill again. Memories of the skill's impressive display flashed back into Emery's mind.

[Plant Fusion]

It was such an extraordinary skill that allowed Emery to wield a strength comparable to a peak magus. If Emery could master such skill, then wouldn't he need not worry about Kronos champion anymore?

The thought gave him a smile.

Unfortunately, ever since the spirit creatures left his body, Emery seemed to have lost the connection he had with the power within Twik. On the other hand, Twik also didn't have enough spirit energy to perform and sustain such a transformation.

Looking at his plant creature who had been growing so much over the last few months, Emery took out a book from his spatial storage. It was the [Metamorph Theory] given by the Arbor master.

Emery recalled the human-looking plant creature that surrounded the Arbor master at that time. Therefore he gave the book another read, looking for a way to further improve his plant creatures.

After a while, Emery thought of the idea of casting the [Photosynthesis] spell on the plant creatures again. Not only had he gained a lot of spirit force since he nurtured them, he also now had affinity and proficiency in the Light element that he previously lacked.

Emery was hoping that with these two factors, the spell would have a new impact on the creatures. Hence without further ado, he did just that.

[Photosynthesis]

He cast the spell on the Twik and Chizpur brothers one by one in turn. Moments later, he could definitely feel some effect on the plant creatures. But at the same time, he knew that he was missing something. Apothecary involvement.

Emery read the book again, delving on the rows of words so deep that he didn't realize that morning light had once again through the cave interior. Reading a lot of apothecary recipes within the text made Emery remember the promise he had not yet fulfilled.

Knowing that Klea's training would take some time, Emery decided to leave the spirit cave for a period of time. Of course, he didn't forget to tell her about his plan.

"I have to go see someone, Klea. I'll be right back."

Emery took an orbiter and swiftly headed towards his destination, to meet the dwarf master at the tempering facility.

Chapter 1032 Furnace Center

His feet atop an orbiter, Emery's figure flew across the Hyperion planet, heading towards his destination – the furnace center. The place where the elites could get access to a body tempering service – the service which he already did six months ago.

He went there with only one intention, to keep his promise to Master Dulin the Dwarf master who was in charge of the furnace center. It had been months since that promise was made, and Emery had finally had time to fulfill it.

As he flew over the sky of Hyperion city, Emery noticed that a figure was flying right behind him at an unprecedented speed, bridging the distance between them fast. He was startled by the unexpected discovery, but it lasted only for a moment because he soon realized who it was.

Thanks to Spirit Reading, Emery learned that the figure was actually Magus Shena who was flying with a pair of wings that was the result of her second Bloodline transformation. When she finally caught up and flew parallel to Emery, the magus said.

"You should have told me you were leaving."

Emery was surprised when he heard her words, but fortunately the wind blowing over his face helped hide his expression. Meanwhile, he couldn't help but wonder as to why the magus seemed so determined to follow him so closely.

"Senior, if my safety is the main concern, you don't need to. This is the Hyperion planet. I'm sure that I'm pretty much safe here."

Unexpectedly, the female magus gave him a little smirk before saying some incomprehensible words. "You really think so, don't you..."

Emery was wholly perplexed by the answer. He then tried to use the opportunity to ask further, however, the female magus either deflected or diverted the question. In the end, she simply said that it was all her duty to the king to keep a close eye and ensure his safety.

Her words sent Emery's brain raging once again, as countless thoughts began to appear in his mind. Unfortunately, Emery did not have the opportunity to dwell on them because he had finally arrived at the flying island where the furnace center was.

Emery was quickly greeted by the familiar sight of the huge construct. Its many metal pipes spouting out different colors of smoke once again entered his field of vision. A faint smile subconsciously appeared on Emery's face.

As soon as his orbiter descended to the ground, Emery made his way into the place. Stepping through the door, he saw that the place was quite bustling with people. The reception was almost filled to the brim as the staff seemed to be busy handling the customers – privileged acolytes and elite magus alike.

Emery could see some familiar faces in the crowd. Among them were the Nephilim trio – Armand and his two friends – whom he did not wish to talk with. Hence Emery acted as if he didn't see them and swiftly walked over to one of the staff who was free.

"Welcome to Hyperion's furnace center. I apologize but we are very busy at the moment. If you are looking for body tempering service, an open slot will be in four weeks' time. We apologize for the inconvenience."

Emery was a little taken aback by the fact that the queue was full for up to a month, knowing how much it would cost to have a body tempering service. It was at this time that Emery, once again, realized that becoming an apothecary seemed to have very bright prospects.

For a moment, he wondered if he had taken the wrong profession and that he should have become an apothecary instead. A moment later, Emery violently shook his head to dispel that thought.

'No no.. this is a crazy thought.'

Waking up from his random little episode of contemplation, Emery smiled at the staff and said,

"Hello, and no. I'm actually not looking for a tempering service. Instead, I'm looking for Master Dulin. Please let him know that Emery Ambrose is here."

The staff did not contact the Dwarf master. She told Emery that the master was also very busy at the moment, so unless he had an appointment beforehand, they couldn't let him in. She then said that he should come again in three weeks.

Not willing to give up, Emery gritted his teeth before saying, "Actually, I am his brother, Master Grom's disciple, and it is really important for me to meet him as soon as possible. It's about...Herbs. Yes, important herbs."

The staff seemed very surprised when she heard Emery's reason and saw his expression. She quickly had a change of attitude and let Emery in.

"Hopefully I don't get in trouble for this," muttered Emery under his breath as he entered the inner area.

He quickly walked through the corridor he had been in before and arrived at a familiar room – Master Dulin's main workshop. From afar, he saw that the dwarf master apparently had a guest with him.

A young man around his age, with a grand magus figure standing next to him. Emery could clearly see how respectful the dwarf master was towards the other party.

From outside, Emery could hear the young man speak in a serious tone, "I will come again in two weeks, and it better be ready or the Cross family will hear about this." The subdued voice of the dwarf master sounded quickly afterward.

'Yes.. yes... Of course. I will make sure it will be ready by then.'

The young man didn't say anything else and turned around. When he saw Emery standing on the door, he stopped in front of him and said in an arrogant manner.

"Huh, Emery Ambrose. I see that you are preparing for the final as well." He suddenly snorted and scoffed. "I am telling you, don't waste your time. I will not let any of you half-bloods get into the top 5."

Emery was caught off guard by the young man's sudden words. He was kind of confused, and carefully opened his mouth. "Uhm... I'm sorry, but who are you?"

Hearing the reply, the young man suddenly flew into rage.

"You!! You! How dare you?!"

The young man seemed to want to say more, but the grand magus behind him quickly stopped him by saying, "Young master, this is not the place and time. Please hold your anger."

In the end, the youth snorted in anger and left the place after throwing a hateful glare at Emery. On the other hand, Emery was left standing there, completely clueless and dumbfounded. Moments later, he finally opened his mouth.

"What just happened?"

Chapter 1033 Harvester

Realizing that Master Dulin was finally not occupied, Emery quickly entered the workshop and walked over to the man. The dwarf master seemed to be lost in his thoughts as he didn't even turn his head when Emery's steps drew near.

"Excuse me, Master Dulin."

Hearing someone calling his name, the dwarf master turned his head around. A surprise look appeared on his face when he saw Emery.

"You... you... I know you..."

Emery inwardly let out a wry smile. Apparently, this dwarf master did not remember his name.

"I am Emery Ambrose."

"AH! Yes.. that dead kid...You are still alive.. That's good..." Heaving a sigh, the man added, "What do you want?"

Understanding that the dwarf master was busy, Emery didn't waste time on pleasantries and immediately went straight to the point.

"I came here for what I owe, Master."

Hearing such words, the dwarf instantly became shocked. "What owe? I never owe anything in my life! You... Did you get a side effect? No no, you have signed a clause that we are not responsible for anything that happened to you after the procedure. So you don't have any business here—"

Emery watched the man blurting out words rapidly. It seemed the man was so busy with his work and so deep in thought that he misunderstood his words completely. Waving his hand, he tried to get his intention across to the other party.

"No, Master. You misunderstand. What I mean is that I owe you. I have come to pay back my debt."

Hearing that it wasn't actually him but Emery who owed, the dwarf master's face swiftly changed. "Ahh yes.. I apologize for my earlier unsightly behavior. It seems that I have overworked myself too much, plus that Cross family.." The man muttered the last part under his breath.

Hearing the dwarf master talk about the one spoken with Emery before, made him curious and ask "Who is that man actually master?"

Master Dulin looked surprised and said, "You are a privileged acolyte aren't you? That young man is in top rank last I heard"

Emery just realized the family name "Cross, Shatter Cross, Rank 5" Emery heaved a sigh wondering if he just made another trouble.

The dwarf master's expressions changed again as quickly as before he said, "So how much did you owe me again?"

Once again, it was clear that the dwarf master had completely forgotten about this matter. If he wants, he actually could just escape from his debt, but that is not him. Feeling responsible for owing the money, he clearly remembered the amount he owed.

"It's 882,000 contribution points."

The dwarf's face was adorned by a smile once again, but then he suddenly said something confusing. "No no, my brother said that I shouldn't... although, why should I listen to that liar..? After all, he's the one who makes me into such a mess now."

Seeing that the dwarf started to talk to himself, Emery quickly opened his mouth.

"Yes, Master. I know that I promised I will pay the debt with assisting your work here, but to be honest, I currently do not have much time to spend on apothecary. I need to focus on my training. So... I wonder if I can just pay with contribution points..?"

The dwarf master seemed to be in thought when he heard Emery's words. Then suddenly, Emery noticed the master glanced behind him, where Magus Shena was, before saying, "No. No... actually... I can't actually let you do that."

Emery was so surprised by the fact his offer got rejected that it showed on his face.

Seeing the expression, the dwarf master quickly opened his mouth. "Spirit stones, I have in abundance right now. But on the other hand, as you can see yourself, I'm really busy and do need an extra hand to take some of this load off." Staring at Emery, he added, "You are an Apothecary Apprentice, aren't you?, you are my brother's disciple.. You should be able to do this..."

"Yes, Master. I am, but—"

The dwarf interrupted. "No but, a promise is a promise. Or.. do you intend to break one you made yourself?"

Emery was momentarily silenced by the dwarf master's words. He was not one who randomly broke promises, but knowing the other promise with his friends and the safety of Earth was at stake, he steeled his resolve and voiced his rejection in a sincere tone.

"I truly, very sorry, Master. Please take the contribution points, I really need to focus on my training."

"No.. no.. you are mistaken. I actually have a job perfect for you, one which will allow you to keep your promise of helping me and also train you at the same time." The dwarf boasted an expression as if he had just found the best idea in the world as he said, "I need you to be my harvester."

Harvester. Emery had heard of this job during his study of apothecary. Harvester's job was to find and collect herbs as well as other materials which were required in the apothecary. It was also done by hiring protectors, as many places with rare precious materials were those of most danger.

"Dangerous place! It means training for you, isn't?" the dwarf master exclaimed. "Yes, I truly am a genius!"

The other party's antics did amuse Emery a little, but he really had no time to spend on going to some secluded corner of the world and risking his life. He would probably consider it if he didn't have the contribution points, but right now he did. So he expressed his rejection again.

"No no.. you are mistaken again.." the dwarf's voice changed, transitioning into a lower tone as he said, "Do you know the reason why I agreed to take care of business in this godforsaken planet and forced myself through the agony of tolerating all arrogant elites in this place?"

"Hm..." A pondering look appeared on Emery's face. "I guess the payment..?"

"..."

"...Yes that too, but that's not the point."

The dwarf master then explained about the access he got to certain special islands which were the habitat of extremely rare plants on the Hyperion planet. After explaining the countless precious herbs that Emery could obtain if he accepted the job, the dwarf heaved a sigh before continuing to speak.

"Alright.. If I have to be honest with you, my harvester just quit his job along with his team of protectors, and during months like this where all elites need tempering services, having no flow of ingredients coming in is a big problem.." Sighing heavily, he continued, "Worst, my asshole brother couldn't help either..."

Emery could clearly hear the exhaustion within the dwarf master's voice.

"So what do you think? Could you please me out here?"

Seeing Emery's hesitation, the dwarf said, "There are indeed many powerful magical and legendary beast in those islands, but I see you have a magus protector with you.." He turned to smile at Magus Shena before adding, "I will still pay you full price for each herb you collected, and as long as you can fill in the monthly quota for...three months, I won't bother you again. What do you think?"

Emery was actually about to agree on the offer when he heard there were powerful beasts. After all, he still needed to fix his [undefine] pillar by devouring beasts, and now knowing that it would also involve an opportunity to obtain numerous rare herbs, he was very much interested.

Casting his eyes at the dwarf master, Emery nodded his head in agreement.

"Alright, I will do it. When and where do I need to start?"

"That's great!" A look of happiness flashed across the dwarf master's face when he heard Emery's reply. He was extremely elated. "Wait a minute, I'll give you a map and the list."

The dwarf master shot off towards a corner of the workshop, scouring through the drawers, before running back to Emery with a parchment scroll. Pointing a spot within the parchment, it was the first place Emery needed to go to. Apparently, it was a certain cave within a jungle-filled island.

"In order to increase your chance of success in harvesting these ingredients, you need to be able to analyze up to Rank 5 plants. Can you do that?"

Emery heaved a sigh. When he passed the rank 3 Apothecary Apprentice, he only had the necessary skills for up to Rank 4. It seemed that he should drop by the apothecary center for a while later.

"Remember, Emery, I need the items on the list at the end of the month. So that's 3 weeks at the latest."

Nodding his head, Emery left the dwarf master's workshop with Magus Shena following right behind. Their next destination, Golden City.

In addition, knowing that he would be leaving longer than he initially thought, Emery was reminded of the girl who was still training in his spirit cave. Well, at least Twik and the others were there to accompany her in his absence.

Chapter 1034 Apothecary

Emery honestly felt that there were too many things that he had to and wanted to do.

Challenging the top 10 of the privileged class, completing the level 10 combat puppet for his claw technique, practicing the Hexagram Technique with Klea, fixing his cracked Devour Pillar, mastering the new spells he got his hands on. And now, he also had to keep his promise to the dwarf master.

If he could have a wish right now, Emery would definitely wish time had stopped.

As he arrived at the magnificent Golden City, seeing the high-rise buildings and the flying boats, Emery couldn't help but once again wanting to explore more about the world. Especially as his feet stood in front of the apothecary center, his mind wandered to the joy of doing things that he loved.

If his home planet Earth was not in danger, if he could choose whatever path he wanted, Emery honestly would rather spend his entire time doing apothecary.

A deep sigh escaped his mouth, and Emery once again wished that he could have had more time. 4 months was simply not enough. He realized that not only did he have to leave the academy, he also actually had to leave the entire universe to return home, leaving all these opportunities behind until he reached the magus realm.

This chain of thought, however, once again reminded Emery to use all his remaining days to the fullest. Even being here in the apothecary center, he really hoped that it would be a productive day.

Before he enters the apothecary institute, the female magus next to him stop and said

"It would be inappropriate for me to follow you inside this time. But don't worry, I'll be around,"

Nodding his head, Emery said, "I understand. I shouldn't take long."

As the female magus' figure disappeared from sight, Emery stepped into the apothecary center. He immediately made a beeline to the shop and asked for the attendant for the two skills he had that needed to be upgraded.

[Universal Flora Knowledge – Rank 3] and [Analyze Flora – Rank 3]. The two would be Emery's only way to successfully identify and harvest the Tier 5 plants. To be more precise, he needed to get them right away and swiftly went search for the plant.

However, once again the situation and things did not go as he wished.

"I sincerely apologize, acolyte. Here it said that you are a Rank 3 Apprentice. On the other hand, the skills you requested can only be given to Rank 4"

Emery was quite surprised when he heard the shop attendant's words. He knew that although he got his Rank 2 skills for free when he passed the second exam, the skills could also be bought from the shop if one had the money.

However, it turned out that things were not exactly the same when the threshold was raised. Given the value and rarity of Tier 5 herbs, the Apothecary Institute forbade those who were not yet qualified to learn the skills and risked endangering the precious herbs.

Looking at his expression, it was clear how baffled Emery was by the rules. Even when he asked if there was really no other way for him to obtain the skills, the attendant's answer brought him back to square one.

"Yes, acolyte. You can take the next Rank 4 exam, passing it and become a Rank 4 Apprentice. At that time, the skills will be open for you to purchase."

"And when will the next Rank 4 exam be held?" asked Emery, hoping in his heart.

Alas, once again, Emery fell into an unfortunate situation. The monthly exam had just finished a few days ago, and hence he had to wait for a month for another exam. He was too stunned to speak after hearing the attendant's words.

"Even if you can't acquire the skills yourself, there are other ways. One of the alternative options is to hire an Artisan to do the job for you," said the attendant kindly, seeing the look on Emery's face.

Unfortunately, this idea wasn't that great either. Emery might have the money needed to hire the service, but the problem was that he could not bring more people to the Hyperion planet. Hence he left the shop with a defeated expression.

Having no other choice, Emery decided to go with plan B, to find his master Grom or his senior Cedric and ask for their help in this matter.

Thanks to his status as an official disciple of Master Grom, Emery had access to the restricted inner area which was located in the next building. As such, there was no stopping him along the way and the moment he arrived, he was surprisingly greeted with an exaggeration.

"Emery, the superstar has returned to our humble abode!"

Emery's brows twitched slightly as he watched the antics the man in front of him had. The last time he met Cedric was, infact, in the Hyperion planet after the incidents, which made him quickly ask his senior if the latter could help him with his situation.

"Master Dulin, huh... That's honestly a tricky one..." said Cedric, stroking his chin. "I'm sorry, Emery. I don't think I can't help you. The last time I was in Hyperion was because Master Grom was the one who gave me the access, and unfortunately, our master has been away and he won't be back for a while."

A look of disappointment appeared on Emery's face when he heard his senior couldn't help him. But not wanting to give up, he asked, "Cedric, is there really no other way I can learn those skills?"

Cedric shook his head. "I think you really should just wait for the exam."

Emery sighed again as he found himself back where he started. If he really waited for the next exam, then that would mean he wouldn't be able to fulfill Master Dulin's request this month, which was bad news.

At this moment, Cedric suddenly said.

"Actually Emery, I think there's a way for you." Seeing the hopeful gaze, he quickly continued his words. "I remember that before you finish your second year, you already have a product that could pass the Rank 3 exam. So maybe, if you can ask one of the examinees and show your product, you might obtain the Rank 4 Apprentice you needed after all."

Emery thought that his senior's words were too good to be true, and thus couldn't help but doubt it. "Is that even possible?"

In response, Cedric said, "Emery, you are in the privileged class, and I heard that you're some kind of hero as well. Just ask, what's the harm in that? Moreover, I knew that similar things have been done in the past, so..."

Seeing that there was light in the dire situation he was in, Emery took the opportunity he had. "I understand. Point me in the right direction please"

Chapter 1035 Grandmaster

As per what Cedric had told him, Emery took off and went to the third building within the Apothecary complex.

It was kind of similar to the second building he had visited earlier. A place where the master and grandmaster apothecary resided to further improve their skill and create numerous apothecary products.

Emery followed Cedric's words to the tee. He stepped into and accessed the moving platform, heading towards one of the highest floors of the building. The platform came to a stop, he quickly stepped off it and made his way towards the place where a beautiful female staff welcomed him with a smile.

"Welcome to Master Hazard Apothecary. Is there anything I can help you with today?"

Grandmaster Hazard was one of the leading Apothecarist within the Magus Alliance, and was as renowned as Master Grom.

However, the man had been bestowed with a special privilege. He was the examinee of this year's apothecary exam, hence the reason for Emery's arrival was apparent to see.

Just as planned beforehand, Emery introduced himself as Master Grom's disciple and a privileged class acolyte who had missed the exam. He asked for a remission, and exemption to be tested outside the official exam.

What Emery did not expect was how hard he found himself saying those words. Still, recalling the predicament he was in, he set aside the discomfort he felt and forced himself. In the end, he managed to express his intention across, albeit with difficulty.

A few minutes later, after the female staff asked Emery to wait, she returned and gestured to him to follow her. Apparently, the master had summoned him.

'It seems to work! Thank you, Cedric!' exclaimed Emery in his heart as he followed the female staff.

Emery was led through a long corridor and to a certain hall, where it was surprisingly filled with dozens of people. From the looks of it, they had just finished having a briefing or a class of some sort.

The female staff introduced the elderly man sitting at the front to Emery as the person he was looking for – Grandmaster Hazard himself. Seeing the other party's gaze fixed on him, Emery quickly bowed his body respectfully.

"Step forward, apprentice." The grandmaster said.

Emery did as he was asked and he quickly found himself standing in the center of the hall, being stared at by dozens of pairs of eyes. Emery swiftly cast his gaze across the entire room and saw that a few who were on the premises looked young and were wearing the uniform of the Magus Academy. However, adults made up most of the people here.

Seeing such a sight, Emery assumed that all those present should be Apothecary Apprentice, just like himself.

He was about to introduce himself when the old master suddenly smirked and opened his mouth.

"You are Emery Ambrose, Magus Academy's privileged acolyte?"

Emery suddenly had a bad premonition hearing the other party's words. However, he still maintained his composure. Once again, he bowed respectfully to the man and answered the question posed.

"I am, Grandmaster."

Upon hearing his reply, the grandmaster let out a chuckle and turned towards the others, saying, "Hear this, the young man standing in front of you thinks that he is better than all of you."

Emery jerked his head upwards. A look of shock as well as confusion was evident on his face. Thinking that the other party had misunderstood something, he quickly wanted to clarify and defend himself. Unfortunately, the grandmaster didn't seem to want to give him a chance.

Ignoring Emery, the man started talking about the history of the Apothecary Institute, and how without apothecary, there wouldn't even be a magus to begin with. Meanwhile, Emery stood there in confusion, not understanding what was going on.

"If we, the apothecaries, didn't create the Awakening Pill, there might not be a Magus Academy."

The man didn't stop and continued apparently using the situation as a teaching chance of some sort. But then the grandmaster's next sentence troubled him.

"When all of you, hard-working trainees, have to diligently study, practice, and fail multiple times in the exam. This young Rank 3 Apprentice dares to demand a private examination, thinking that he can pass it easily."

It was at this moment that Emery realized that the dozens of people in the room were looking at him with hateful gazes.

"No, Grandmaster. You misunderstand. I—" Emery was completely stunned by the unexpected development and was at a loss for words.

Out of nowhere, he was judged in front of these people and no one seemed willing to listen to him. Everywhere he looked, there were only gazes of hatred or hostility that greeted him, until suddenly a girl stood up and shouted.

"He's not that kind of person!"

Every pair of eyes immediately turned towards the direction of the voice, including Emery. There stood a simple-looking girl. It was a face he had not seen for more than three years. Karin, the genius apothecary that Emery met in his first exam.

"Please master, let brother Emery speak..."

The grandmaster looked surprised. It seemed that he didn't expect to be interrupted by someone. Even so, he didn't get angry and gestured with his hand for Karin to continue with her words.

Seeing that everyone's attention was on her, the girl became nervous. It could be seen from her restless gestures. However, with her eyes closed, she plucked up the courage and expressed what she was thinking.

"Master, I think you have misunderstood something. Brother Emery is the most talented and kindest acolyte that I know. There's no way he's someone you just said."

Then, much to Emery's surprise, the girl started citing things about him one by one. From his lower realm background, his misfortune during the elf attack made him miss the exam, and even to the recent missions and events. Apparently, the girl had been following news about him.

While the grandmaster and the others were still dumbfounded by what they had just heard, the girl then said, "Please master, if brother Emery asked you for a private exam, I believe he must have good reasons for that."

It was apparent that the girl's bombardment of words made the grandmaster speechless. Eventually, the old man shook his head and glanced at Emery before saying, "Young man... I will not grant your request for a private examination."

Emery sighed when he heard those words. It seemed Cedric was wrong. The merits of the Magus Alliance didn't matter much in the Apothecary Institute. But then, he realized that the grandmaster had not finished his words.

With a slightly disgruntled look, the man said, "But... if you're really as talented as my protégé here says, I'll give you a chance. The third exam just finished two days ago, and I can't make an exception just for you. However, tomorrow there will be the fourth one, the Rank 5 Artisan exam. With my authority, I will allow you to join the exam regardless of your current rank."

Staring at Emery, the man said in a serious tone. "Prove me wrong with your talent."

Artisan exam; Emery wasn't sure if he should be happy or worried.

Chapter 1036 Artisan

Once the old man – Grandmaster Hazard – made his decision, the matter was over. It was final, and there was no chance for Emery to bargain. He was quickly expelled from the hall, as the grandmaster still needed to continue his class.

Tomorrow, although not a Rank 4 Apprentice, Emery would undergo the Rank 5 Artisan exam. And if that wasn't disastrous enough, he had absolutely zero knowledge of what to do and what to prepare to tackle the said exam.

Unbeknownst to Emery, just as he was walking out of the room, a figure also came out and followed him right behind. While he was still in a state of trying to understand what had just happened, a familiar voice rang out in the air, causing him to turn his head.

"Brother Emery." It was Karin.

Seeing Emery turn his head, she continued to speak.

"I am sorry for my master's earlier actions. He's very strict, hence the reason he did such a thing.. But you don't have to worry, I'm sure you will pass the exam with flying colors, " said the girl with such a sincere smile on her face.

Emery was actually happy with her efforts to help earlier. On top of that, he could definitely use some of the trust and confidence she showed towards him, as he himself felt that he was still too incapable of taking such an exam.

"Thank you, Karin. Unfortunately, it looks like you will be disappointed this time. I haven't touched apothecary for quite a while, so I'm not sure if I can pass the exam." said Emery with a wry smile.

Much to his surprise, the girl was still smiling at his words. She said, "Brother, do you have any plans available?"

A few minutes later, Emery had taken the girl to Cedric's lab. Upon arriving, he immediately informed his seniors about how things had gone earlier and the final outcome. Immediately after, a loud scream resounded in the air.

"WHAT?!! Artisan exam!?" To say that Cedric was surprised was an understatement.

Grabbing Emery's shoulders, the young man looked his junior in the eyes and said, "Emery, are you serious about this? It took me five years to finally pass the exam and move up from Rank 4 to Rank 5. And let me tell you, it wasn't easy at all."

It was at this moment that Cedric realized that Emery was not alone. He threw a brief glance at the young girl standing slightly behind Emery, before turning his gaze back to the latter and asking, "And who the hell is this?"

However, before Emery could say anything, Karin glared at Cedric and opened her mouth.

"Are you the fool who advised brother Emery to come ask Master Hazard for a private exam? Are you secretly trying to ruin brother Emery's future? You should know that my master can do exactly that!"

Caught off guard by Karin's straightforward and jarring words, for a moment Cedric looked like he was at a loss for words. He quickly regained his bearings, and this time, carefully observed the girl who had come with Emery. A moment later, a look of realization appeared on his face.

"You are... Karin? Master Hazard's protégé, the youngest artisan in the institute?"

The girl raised her chin hearing Cedric's words, and said, "That's me, the one and only."

Realizing that they were distracted, Emery quickly came in between and interrupted the two. "So, I have to take the Artisan exam tomorrow." Looking at the two people before him, he said, "Any ideas where to start?"

Hearing Emery's words, the girl's harsh towards Cedric earlier quickly disappeared as if it was an illusion. She suddenly became gentle again and said, "Yes, brother Emery. I can actually help you with that."

In front of Emery's expectant eyes, the girl took out two large books and handed them to him. As Emery was about to receive it, Cedric glimpsed the title of the books and a look of surprise appeared on his face. He quickly interrupted.

"What are you doing? Those are manuals for artisans only!" Cedric said in a stern tone. "Even Rank 4 Apprentices were not allowed to keep them and could only read them on the spot. You were not supposed to show it to him!"

"Don't worry," Karin replied nonchalantly. "Brother Emery will be an Artisan tomorrow, so it will be fine."

While Cedric was completely dumbfounded by the girl's words, Emery on the other hand could only shake his head and smile wryly. He couldn't help but wonder what he had done to make this girl think so highly of him.

Unaware of Emery's thoughts, Karin turned to him, held out the books again, and said with a smile, "Brother Emery, don't overthink it and accept these books. You will need to learn from them if you want to do well in tomorrow's exams."

At this point, Cedric seemed to have finally realized that nothing could stop Karin's actions. Hence he only heaved a sigh of helplessness before going along the flow. Together, the two of them explained to Emery one by one the requirements to pass the exam.

In order to pass the third exam – the Rank 4 Apprentice, the participants needed to create an original potion, with a minimum quality of Tier 2 with level 3 originality or Tier 3 with level 2 originality. This was something Emery had done in the past and also the basis as to why Cedric previously suggested such a plan.

As for the fourth exam – the Rank 4 Artisan, in order to pass, Emery had to create a potion with a minimum quality of Tier 3 with level 3 originality or Tier 4 with level 2 originality. On paper, the difficulty only rose one level, but in reality, this exam was the gulf that separated those who were talented and those who weren't among apothecary apprentices.

However, the difference and difficulty didn't end there.

For the third exam, the participants could present any potions, using any ingredients, as long as they could prove that the recipe was an original of themselves. However, for the fourth exam, the ingredient used for the option would be decided on the exam.

To put it simply, tomorrow Emery would have to create an original, completely new potion from scratch and on the spot, within 12 hours of the exam's duration. The thought itself brought a chill down the spine.

After learning of such sky-high difficulty, Emery couldn't help but recall the best original products he had ever made.

[Acid potion - Tier 2, originality level 3]

[Gaia Serum - Tier 2, originality level 2]

No matter which angle he looked at, Emery was still far from the skills needed to pass the Artisan exam. Hence the reason Karin showed him the manual which was only for artisans and Rank 4 apprentices.

"Simply these manuals will teach you apothecary beyond just herbs"

Hearing such words, without further ado, Emery opened the books and read its contents. One was titled [The Biology Theory in Apothecary], while the other was titled [The Physics Theory in Apothecary].

In an instant, Emery's attention was attracted by new words he had never heard before – Biology and Physics. Seeing his expression, Karin stepped forward and quickly tried to explain about them.

"To be honest I don't know much about Physics, but for Biology, I'm very confident."

Saying those words, Karin took out a potion vial from her storage ring and showed it to Emery. A proud smile on her face, she said, "This here is my original potion, created using one of the Biology methods."

[Paralyzing Potion - Tier 4, originality level 2]

From afar, the liquid in the vial looked ordinary with a grayish tint. However, when Emery took a closer look, there were actually dozens of miniscule spider-like creatures moving to and fro in the liquid.

When he realized that, a fascinated look appeared on Emery's face. It was at this moment Karin's voice was heard again.

"Here is another one." The girl cheerfully flaunted a dark red pill that gave off an absolute repulsive stench, causing Emery to involuntarily take a step back, which the girl immediately laughed at.

[One Million Ants Pill - Tier 4, originality level 2]

"This is a very effective torture pill made from the carcasses of flaming ants. You see, brother Emery, Biology, is the use of living or dead organisms within our products."

Although very impressive, the two products made Emery and Cedric fall into an awkward silence. The girl looked so young and innocent, but the product she made gave them both a slight chill.

On the other hand, trying not to be outclassed, Cedric also explained the Physics section by showing off various equipment in his lab. Stopping in front of a metal box with a door-like hatch, he introduced the instrument with a smile on his face.

"This here is a Cryochamber. It sprays a liquid that will freeze and preserve live plants."

He then showed the two another piece of equipment that gave off a beam of light when activated. "This particular equipment would destroy the cell and recreate it into a new, mutated one." Cedric explained that both were considered Physics transformations.

Both were advanced methods that were used by high-rank apothecarist to further help the creation of higher-tier potions or pills.

"For the Artisan exam, since the ingredients will be limited by the examinee, what will be taken into the marks was the advanced method used to create the required original potion. Hence the need to know about the related knowledge and the reason the girl gave those manuals. Do you understand, Emery?"

To be honest, Emery was quite overwhelmed by what he had just seen. However, the truth was that his hands couldn't stop shaking, itching for action. The demonstration the two showed earlier was such a mind-blowing experience that he couldn't resist picking up the manual and sinking himself into the study already.

However, that didn't mean that Emery would automatically pass the test. After all, he only had until tomorrow morning to improve his apothecary skills. The two helped him understand the advanced manual, and thanks to that, after long hours without rest Emery was able to understand the basics of it. Hopefully, it was enough for the exam.

When the morning sun arrived, Emery came straight to the place where the exam would be held.

Chapter 1037 Exam

The day for the fourth exam – the Rank 5 Artisan – had finally arrived.

With little to almost no time to rest, Emery walked towards the first building of the iconic landmark of the Apothecary Institute – the Triple Tower. Entering the venue, although he didn't have the prerequisite rank, fortunately, the receptionist seemed to have gotten her hand on his records.

She quickly greeted him with a bright smile before proceeding to take out the necessary procedure. Moreover, just like before, his status of privileged acolyte allowed him to be exempt from paying the 100,000 spirit stone exam fee.

"Wow, I seem to recall that the second exam only cost 30,000... Why is this one so expensive?" Emery exclaimed in surprise.

After completing his registration, Emery quickly made his way towards the examination hall where hundreds of people had gathered. Looking at the uniforms they were wearing, it was clear that all of them were Rank 4 Apprentices and were here for the Artisan exam.

"Brother Emery, have a good exam." The little girl said before walking away, and Emery smiled wryly. He wasn't sure what to feel seeing that she didn't even try to give him any good luck wishes.

As he went to join the crowd, Emery noticed that a man was walking towards him.

"It's you again..." said the young man Emery remembered as Sabil, the same person who took the exam with him last time. Seeing the familiar face, Emery beamed a smile.

"Hey, What a coincidence!"

The young man looked irritated when he heard Emery's reply. He said, "A coincidence indeed. I finally get to beat you this time!"

Emery smiled at the young man's provocative words and said, "I think... that was what you said the last time, Good luck though. I wish you all the best."

After saying that, Emery turned and walked away from the young man who was clearly annoyed by their interaction just now.

Before long, the examiner of the exam – Grandmaster Hazard – finally arrived in the examination hall. Walking to the podium, he then began to give a speech about the history of the Apothecary and how there would be no Magus without the existence of the institute. Basically, the exact same thing he said yesterday.

Apparently, this grandmaster really loved his apothecary speeches.

"For today's exam, there are a total of 101 participants."

When the grandmaster said the last two words, Emery was sure that the old man cast his gaze on him.

After that, all one hundred and one examinees were told to join him on the basement floor of the institute. Once inside, Emery was very surprised to find that there was a giant cave with a space the size of an island. In addition, there was also a dense forest in it.

For a moment, the place reminded him of where the first exam was held. At a glance, the two places looked really similar. However, he could tell that the forest in front of them was filled with high-level plants and natural materials.

"The place is normally restricted to only those of Artisan rank, but specifically for this exam, all of you will be allowed to experience what it is like to be an Artisan Apothecary," said the grandmaster with a proud tone.

Given the size of the cave and the Golden City that was supposed to be above it, Emery came to the conclusion that there was some sort of space magic involved in the construction of this place. Otherwise, there was no way this place could exist.

On the other side of the cave, there was a place where 101 workbenches had been prepared. The place was also surrounded by various pieces of equipment that could be used freely during the exam.

After all the examinees took their positions in front of the workbenches, dozens of people could be seen entering the place. These people were Artisan-level figures who came to be the referee and make sure no one cheated on the exam.

As soon as everyone had taken their positions, the grandmaster then began to announce the rules and the main theme of the exam.

"All of you are only allowed to use ingredients found in this place for your end result. You may use any technique and method, but it must be something original and never registered in the academy database. The requirement to pass is Tier 3 with level 3 originality or Tier 4 with level 2 originality."

Grandmaster then paused for a moment, causing tension to pervade every examinee. Everyone held their breath and fell silent because the next words he said were what they had been waiting for.

"The theme for today's exam may not be the most important, but it is the most needed for the current situation of the alliance." Murmurs began to be heard among the examinees and with a proud expression, the grandmaster continued, "In the next 12 hours, all of you are required to create a healing potion or pill"

A commotion broke out as everyone started muttering. Healing-type potions was pretty basic since most acolytes and magus depend on their spells. However, there were rarely any high-tier healing potions.

To put it simply, it was an easy type of potion to make for the low tier, but very difficult for the high tier.

Emery cast his gaze around and saw that many seemed to be starting to get demoralized by the theme. On the other hand, the grandmaster seemed satisfied with the response. The next moment, he announced the start of the exam.

"The exam starts now!"

Immediately after, all one hundred examiners shot towards the forest at high speed. The forest seemed to be shaking as they all frantically searched for materials they could use for their original potions.

Emery also went into the forest. He used his [Nature Sense] to quickly look at the plants available in the place and he was amazed by what he found. But then, he suddenly realized something and was stunned by the realization. The way it is now, he was in a very, very bad predicament.

Outside the exam room, two figures were seen standing. The girl seemed to be waiting cheerfully, while the man looked a little anxious about something. A thought seemed to come into the girl's mind as she turned and asked the man.

"I never ask, but why did brother Emery need the private exam in the first place?"

"He needs to help someone harvesting raw ingredients in Hyperion, mostly Tier 5 plants. So he needs those Rank 3 skills from the Rank 4 Apprentice."

As soon as Cedric finished his words, they both looked at each other with wide eyes. The two of them had just realized that Emery didn't have the exact skill needed for this exam.

At this point, the cheerful Karin was no longer cheerful. She asked the crucial question.

"How can brother Emery succeed if he doesn't use Tier 5 plants?"

Chapter 1038 Plant Hunting

It was the most basic of the basic principles. Combining a part of higher tier elements with a lower one, in order to help bring up the quality of the lower ones.

In the field of apothecary, if one wanted to create a better quality result from Tier 3 materials, they shouldn't combine it with Tier 2 ingredients. Instead, they should use Tier 4. It was a no-brainer.

Here, Emery was standing in the middle of a massive jungle full of Tier 3 to Tier 5 plants. However, without the aid of [Universal Flora Knowledge - Rank 3] and [Analyze - Rank 3], he wouldn't be able to

identify how to harvest them, leaving him only limited to using lower tier ingredients his skills capable of harvesting.

For the first few minutes, Emery was pacing around in silence, busy thinking of the best way to deal with his current predicament.

As much as his brain tried to think of solutions, all his plans came to one conclusion. There was nothing for him to do but to accept the unfortunate situation he was in. With that acceptance, he decided to stop wasting time and use what he could to scout and analyze the plants within this forest.

Fortunately, Emery had the perfect skill to accomplish this objective.

[Nature Sense]

With that skill activated, Emery started dashing through the forest, careful not to trample anything valuable and analyzing each of them carefully. He made sure to touch the bark, leaves, or stems of any plants that had a slight restorative function and, and took notes on them.

[Wiggentree - Tier 3]

A yellow-ish tree bark with protective elements. Identifiable from its rough texture and the distinct yellow streaks extending from the leaves down to the roots, ideal as a base to create forms of protection against diseases and sickness.

[Spleenward - Tier 2]

A spike-like moss with tendrils that grows in underwater areas. It is known for its tenacity, sustaining its life even in the most contaminated water. This trait made it an ideal ingredient to cleanse poisons or any toxic substances.

[Thaumatogoria - Tier 4]

A fern cluster known for its hardy nature and famous for breaking through massive rocks. It is a plant that could thrive in almost any environment, and it is known for its high vitality and vigor. Careful preparation would ensure the transference of the effects to those who use it.

About 15 minutes had passed, and Emery had found almost a dozen plants with a restorative factor from Tier 1 to Tier 4. However, he only managed to explore a tiny part of the dense forest.

Normally, the skill range for [Nature Sense] goes up to 100 miles, or about one third of the forest area. But right now, he mainly used the skill to help his [Analyze] skill to work, so he could only sense things within one mile at most.

Time is precious, and there is still so much he has to do. Emery decided to focus on his Nature Core and enlarged the area that his [Spirit Reading] encompassed.

As the spirit energy from the core started to flow around the forest area and circle back to him, Emery was surprised. Now, he found his ability to sense the natural life around him had increased tremendously.

It was as if all of them were alive and beat for him, their lifesigns were clear like a candle in the nights. Emery can tell right away that the wonderful experience was much because of the added light pillar within his nature core.

With each passing second, millions of data came back to him, all from just the 10 miles area from where he stood.

Luckily, Emery had no need to analyze all of them. He merely needed to find a little glimpse of the restorative essence he was looking for. With that in mind, he closed his eyes and concentrated, pouring his energy into his Nature Core to cast a much stronger version of [Nature Sense] to find the specific target.

Gradually, the amount of information he received started to slow down, from overwhelming to manageable level. He was able to feel the shape of the plants, as most of the unimportant textures started to disappear. Now, information came to him in the form of hundreds of thousands of different light dots.

Emery subconsciously let out a smile, this was what he was looking for. He concentrated on himself this time to try and filter the information to find what he needed.

First of all, he took away all the duplicate genes, slowly filtering the lights into about a thousand. Then, he tried to limit the result to only plants with at least 10% restorative essence. Bit by bit, the lights dimmed, leaving only around three dozen plants.

With an elated smile, Emery opened his eyes and quickly headed over to where the plants were. He harvested one each to be analyzed later back at the workstation.

For now, his objective was finished. He dashed as quickly as he could, even going as far as to use his [Spatial Gate] and [Blink] to move towards and between his target. While the others took one or two hours to look around, only to bring back a dozen plants, Emery ended up bringing back hundreds of plants when he finally returned to his workstation.

[Tier 1: 311, Tier 2: 112, Tier 3: 42, Tier 4: 22]

Emery had almost 500 different plants, and he was confident that he managed to find about 99% of all the restorative plants hidden within the forest. He then set each plant down carefully on the workstation. Even when he noticed all eyes were staring at him, he was completely unperturbed.

A few moments later, Grandmaster Hazard, who had been walking around, arrived at Emery's workstation. He had been spending his time to see what kind of plants the 100 people have chosen. Upon seeing what Emery had chosen, he was stunned for a few seconds. Then, when he regained his composure, he finally said.

"You know, I did say you can use any of them, but I didn't mean ALL of them." He shook his head in slight exasperation.

Grandmaster Hazard then took a good look at the plants Emery chose, and he realized Emery didn't take any Tier 5 ones. He quickly realized what was going on and said, "At least you didn't harvest the expensive ones. With these many plants, even that 100.000 spirit stones entry fee won't cut it."

Emery didn't answer, instead, he only gave the grandmaster a wry smile. The old man seemed to not realize that Emery was admitted for free due to his privileged status, and it would be better for Emery to let the man remain in ignorance.

Considering how the grandmaster acted with Master Grom earlier, Emery started to wonder whether all apothecary practitioners really find money that important.

Then, he glanced towards the countdown and saw the remaining time.

[9 hours, 18 minutes]

Now comes the hard part. Emery had to wrack his brain and consider all the properties of the hundreds of different plants, then find a combination and a brewing method to emphasize their effects in order to create a result worthy of passing the exam.

Chapter 1039 Recipes

In their endeavor to create a product worthy of passing the Rank 5 Artisan exam, most other apprentices would base their recipes on two or three different Tier 5 plants. Hence their paths were already settled, and only needed to perfect the method they used to increase the potency.

As for Emery, because of his circumstances of not having tier 5 ingredients, he needed to be creative. He had to find a combination that would allow the ingredients he choose to have maximum synergies between each other.

Turning his gaze to the 500 different plants lying on his workbench, and the remaining time he had, Emery started his task with some doubt.

All of a sudden, the sound of someone laughing was heard from nearby.

"Hahaha, what are you doing here? Are you setting up shop?" Sabil said as he walked past his workstation with confident swagger.

Emery was used to being at the bottom of the list and being looked down upon, which was why he didn't take those provocative words to heart. All he had to do now was give his best and make the most of the time he had left.

The first thing Emery needed to do was analyze each and every ingredient on his workbench. Luckily, he had the best skill to carry out the simple but time-consuming task – [Fragmentation], Emery's first rare apothecary skill that allowed him to separate the essence of a plant.

With this skill, Emery could dissect a plant thoroughly, distinctly separating the essences he needed and those he didn't need. That was exactly what he was doing with the 500 plants he currently had, separating their essence and labeling each one accordingly.

The objective was to create a combination that would achieve the maximum potency, and with so many options placed before him, Emery needed to establish what kind of effect he wanted to have in his product.

"Healing," he muttered. "A restoration theme... what would a high-rank acolyte or a magus need to restore their condition?"

Like an expert, Emery quickly determined the specific effect he wanted to produce, which left him with two goals.

Since magus possessed their immortal bodies, when it came to recovery, what they really needed was a potion or pill that could replenish their spirit pool. In this case, Emery was suddenly reminded of the continuous channeling he did with his space magic during the mid-test.

If he had a pill that could fasten the rate of his spirit being refilled, that would definitely be useful for him or any acolytes or magus.

Therefore, the first product he would create would be for the energy recovery of the spirit pool. Due to its obvious nature, this recipe called for plants that possessed a lot of energy. The more the better.

Contrary to the first, the second recipe would have an effect that focused on the speed of the body's regeneration – something similar to the function of his [Undecaying Flesh]. Most magus were naturally able to heal their bodies from injuries, but a potion or pill that could increase their regeneration rate would definitely be a lifesaver in battle.

[8 hours 28 minutes]

Time was at the utmost essence for Emery, hence he quickly selected and separated all ingredients into two groups. One that would be the ingredients for the spirit, while another for the body.

This way, if he failed in one, he would have another as a back up.

To make up for time, Emery prepared two cauldrons, one for each recipe. Without further ado, Emery began devising the combination of ingredients that would make up the two recipes.

He started with the ones with the highest potency, and slowly made his way to the lower ones.

10 recipes

20 recipes

30 recipes

50 recipes

[5 hours 35 minutes]

Almost half of the time he had when he began had passed, and he had found several successful recipes, but Emery continued. He needs more samples to find the best combination.

100 different recipes were created

[4 hours 10 minutes]

After he had tried over 100 combinations, Emery chose the two combinations that he thought would produce the most output and synergy.

[Spirit Pool Potion Recipe]

[Pearl Dust Tier 4]

[Geranium Tier 4]

[Mallowsweet Tier 1]

[Hellebore Tier 2]

[Health Regeneration Pill Recipe]

[Newt Spleen Tier 4]

[Starthistle Tier 4]

[Vervain Tier 2]

[Dittany Tier 2]

Now that he had recipes to work on, it was time to perfect the concocting method for each of them. All kinds of factors were taken into account when he went through trial and error, from temperature to the amount of materials and the type and volume of liquids used.

Emery had to go into the forest once again to gather more of the eight ingredients needed for the recipes. Thankfully, after an ample amount of time and numerous trials, he finally succeeded in realizing both recipes, with the 90% excellent quality he was aiming for.

[Spirit Pool Potion - Tier 3 originality 1]

[Health Regeneration Pill - Tier 3 originality 1]

There, Emery had successfully created his Tier 3 original apothecary products. The problem was that such products weren't adequate to pass the exam he was currently taking. He needed a Tier 3 product with level 3 originality or Tier 4 with level 2 originality, which meant that he was currently two levels short.

[2 hours 42 minutes]

If only Emery had Tier 5 materials at his disposal, then he would have a high chance of achieving at least level 2 originality or Tier 4 result. Unfortunately, there was no if in life; fortunately, Emery still had other tricks up his sleeve.

Now that he had the recipe and knew the best method, Emery once again collected all eight ingredients that made up [Spirit Pool Potion] and [Health Regeneration Pill]. Others who saw him enter the forest again when there was little time left were confused by his actions.

As soon as he returned to his workstation with another batch of ingredients, Emery began to use the unique spell he had.

[Photosynthesis]

A spell taught by the Arbor master as a way to accelerate the growth rate of a plant, change its structure, as well as enhance and upgrade the energy within. It was the trump card and solution Emery thought of to deal with his precarious situation.

Emery muttered under his breath. "Well, let's see how much would this spell do for the the recipes"

Two and a half hours left on the clock and two levels increases needed to pass the exam.

Chapter 1040 Concocting

At this point, the Rank 5 Artisan exam had nearly hit the ten hour mark, leaving the examinees with only two and a half hours left to realize their original handcrafted product.

On the high podium overlooking the hundreds of work stations, where Grandmaster Hazard was seen sitting, two figures walked over.

Apparently, two more grandmasters had come to the exam venue. They came to check the final results of the best apprentices of the month. Seeing his colleagues arrive, Grandmaster Hazard stood from his seat and welcomed them.

One of the grandmasters was a woman, known as Grandmaster Hypatia. She was a beautiful middle-aged woman with long white hair tied into a bun and emitting a cold but graceful aura to the onlookers.

As for the other grandmaster, Emery would certainly recognize the other party because he had seen them before in the past. Grandmaster Anmir, the one who was the examiner on the exam that Emery last took.

"Anything interesting this year, Hazard?" said Hypatia with a condescending attitude.

"Define interesting." replied Hazard in an equally superior attitude. "It's been a year since we found a real talent."

"Alright alright. We all know already. Stop bragging about your little protégé anymore."

After the short banter, the three of them made their rounds on the one hundred work stations on the premises. As Grandmaster Apothecary, with just a glance, they could already tell the level of expertise these examinees possessed.

Not finding anything notable nor interesting, Hypatia started yawning. Her facial expression screamed the boredom she felt. It went on for quite some time, until they arrived at a workplace filled with more material than they had seen from the other examinees.

"What in the world is this kid trying to do?!" said Hypatia with an incredulous look.

She spoke those words in a soft voice, but even if she didn't, the young man she mentioned – Emery – wouldn't have responded because he had focused all his attention on what he was currently doing, which was casting a spell on the plant on his workbench.

"What kind of spell is that?" said Anmir when he saw the spell causing significant changes and bringing a unique development to the plant. Curiosity was evident in his eyes.

Upon hearing the question, Hypatia expressed her opinion. "This is definitely a spell based on some theory of Physics. You can see the changes it brings in the molecular structure of the plant."

However, Anmir seemed to have a different opinion. "No, I don't think you're right, Hypatia. This is certainly a spell involving Biology. None of the energies present in the process are extraneous, they are all natural mutations."

Hypatia seemed to want to argue more, but she held back her words when she noticed something. Her facial expression turned odd. "Wait, why is this kid not using any Tier 5 ingredients? This is an Artisan exam, is it not?"

Hearing the two grandmasters' discussion about the young man he didn't like, Grandmaster Hazard became interested. He approached Emery's workstation which he had purposely neglected earlier, inspecting the residue in the two cauldrons and the two final products he had made so far.

"Tier 3, with level one originality... Nothing special here."

As soon as he said those words, Hazard suddenly felt a huge change from the plant that Emery was currently dealing with. Sensing the same thing, the other two grandmasters were also surprised. Their attention was immediately drawn to the plant on the workbench.

"The plant just evolved to a higher level!" Hypatia exclaimed, disbelief evident in her voice. "Such an amazing spell! Who exactly is this kid?"

As Grandmaster Apothecary, they had actually seen a dozen such skills, all of which were categorized as Apothecary Divine Skills. Hence, seeing this level of skill being used by an Apprentice Apothecary shocked them.

Unaware of the commotion he caused, Emery continued to be immersed into what he was doing.

Before long, the three grandmasters saw Emery finished with the plant. As he raised his head and heaved a sigh of accomplishment, he was puzzled to see the three people standing in front of his workstation.

Even though he knew who the three people were, having no time for pleasantries, Emery ignored the three grandmasters and quickly went back to his task, casting [Photosynthesis] in other plants.

Seeing his actions once again, Grandmaster Hazard heaved a sigh, before muttering under his breath, "Privileged class... huh! giving their acolytes a divine skill, and use it like this... such a waste."

After that, the three people returned to their seats. However, they – especially Grandmaster Hypatia – still couldn't take their eyes off Emery's workstation in wonder, waiting to see what outcome would come out of his efforts.

On the other hand, Emery was anxious. He was anxious because of the spell, [Photosynthesis].

The spell, essentially, worked like [Accel Growth]. However, Emery had only ever used the spell on plant seeds, never to mature plants. Therefore, it took him a while for the spell to work as he wanted. He was worried that he was wasting too much time.

[Pearl Dust Tier 4 - Mutated]

[Geranium Tier 4 - Mutated]

[Mallowsweet Tier 1- Mutated]

[Hellebore Tier 2 - Mutated]

[Newt Spleen Tier 4 - Mutated]

[Starthistle Tier 4 - Mutated]

[Vervain Tier 2 - Mutated]

[Dittany Tier 2 - Mutated]

After a while, Emery finally finished improving the quality of the 8 plants he used as ingredients for his recipe. The system classified the improved plants as mutated plants. However, Emery could tell that each plant had increased its potency by at least one level.

Unfortunately, he didn't have much time left for trial and error. He had to make do with what he has at the moment.

[1 hour 59 minutes]

Without further ado, Emery lit the fire and once again prepared the two cauldrons. Once the cauldrons reached the perfect temperature, he quickly put the prepared ingredients in it, following the recipe to the tee.

There were some mistakes occurring in the process, and Emery needed to adjust the amount of ingredients according to the difference generated after the mutation. But in the end, he managed to make two products with 90% potency.

"It's done!"

However, after being analyzed by the system connected to the institution's database, the two products were categorized as:

[Spirit Pool Potion - Tier 3 originality 2]

[Health Regeneration Pill - Tier 4 originality 1]

Emery had managed to raise the quality of his products by one level. It was a remarkable feat, considering the limitations and circumstances he was in. However, such a results was not enough to pass the Artisan exam.

Feeling slightly downcast, Emery looked at the remaining time.

[1 hour 38 minutes]

Seeing that he still had time, Emery slapped both cheeks. "Okay, calm down, Emery. You still have time." He said to himself.

With time remaining, Emery decided to look around the corner of the exam venue. Some equipment similar to the ones he saw in Cedric's lab could be seen there.

"I should give those a try."