

Earths GMagus 671

Chapter 671 - Privileges

Having one magus to another, acting as what seemed to be a personal guide and escort, did allow Emery to catch a glimpse of how much privileges the privileged class acolytes had in their hands.

"We will see each other many times in the future, so I hope to know you well, Ambrose!" said Magus Ramora with a smile on her face.

"Just call me Emery. Emery will be fine.. Senior," replied Emery respectfully.

The smile on her face widened slightly when she saw how Emery reacted.

"Aaah, you are not like other privileges, aren't you? ..humble and polite, do you..? Too bad.. You might not last long here with that kind of attitude."

Magus Ramora looked like she was in her late 20s, just like how Magus Xion looked. However, Emery could roughly perceive her strength from the aura she gave off; she should at least be a Half Moon stage Magus.

"No! No, not there! This way." said Magus Ramora quickly when she saw Emery walk in the wrong direction.

The blue hair magus then explained that the privileged acolytes were here as a supplementary.

The yellow planet called Hyperion was actually one of the 4 special planets that Magus Alliance deemed as the best place to cultivate, hence the mainstay here was mostly the specially chosen magus.

This was proven by the fact that there was 50 times more magus training in this place than the privileged acolytes and due to their relatively small number, the privileged had their own separate place.

Magus Ramora proceeded to take Emery on a tour of the place. The two did a lap around the place while the former explained which section was which.

"A Wing is for the top elite magus, while B Wing is for the other special magus. As for you, a privileged acolyte, C Wing will be the place for you from now on."

As soon as they reached the place, Emery started to see familiar faces dressed in their white uniforms. However, there were only a few of them seen around; all big white halls and glass views of the sky but almost no one else was around.

As if she knew what he was thinking without asking, Magus Ramora said.

"Well, it's a common sight actually. Everyone is mostly in their own accommodation, busy training. People only come here for the common facility and when they need to go out of the planet."

Afterwards, Emery was taken to one side of the place and shown a map of the whole planet while looking at the wide view window in front of them. It was this moment that he realized that the whole planet was a series of floating islands.

There were three dozen of them, and half of them were bigger than the hub island he was currently at.

Emery noticed how one third of the islands didn't have any description in the map and were marked as classified. Eight of them were elemental islands, while the remaining were savage islands, which was as the name implied: places where ferocious creatures and monsters resided.

This whole planet of unique disposition was exclusively catered for about five thousand individuals; truly a one-of-the-kind privilege to enjoy.

"Also, this is very important!" Magus Ramora said as she reached the end of her words. "The whole planet is a gas giant, so you don't want to fall down the mist unless you are tired of life. And also this.. I almost forgot about this."

She gave Emery a flat crystal box. Inside, there were the white uniform of the privileged class acolyte and a bracelet.

Emery's gaze was fixed on the bracelet lying peacefully on top of the uniform.

"Wear the bracelet first," Magus Ramora said.

Emery took the bracelet from the box and examined it carefully. It was a silver bracelet with several markings engraved on its surface and emit a faint glow when he wore it. Furthermore, it also reacted with the symbol on his palm.

[Scanning Bearer of the privilege bracelet]

[Identity confirmed]

[Emery Ambrose]

[Privilege acolytes member id: 83192008]

[You have 3 items on your storage]

[10 x spirit stone (red)]

[10 x spirit foundation pill]

[One Orbiter tier 2]

It took Emery a moment to process what he just received. He rubbed his eyes once more, making sure what he was seeing at the moment was true.

One red spirit stone worth 10.000 normal spirit stones, which meant he just received a total worth of 100.000 spirit stones. This still hadn't included the 10 Spirit Foundation Pill - something that was extremely hard to come by even when you had the money to buy it. To put the cherry on top, there was also an orbiter given to him.

Orbiter is the transportation device that would allow one to travel through the air, to put it simply: flying. Unlike the magus, acolytes were not able to fly yet, hence Emery would be depending on this orbiter during his time here.

Magus Ramora then told Emery to go change to his uniform which after Emery realized that the white uniform had a similar effect to tier 3 protective armor, but with more comfort.

Emery couldn't help but take a deep breath as he enjoyed one of the many luxuries the privileged class acolytes boasted. When he returned to Magus Ramora, she gave a strange smile at him.

"What's wrong? Is there something on me?" asked Emery.

She shook her head and said, "It's nothing. I just couldn't help but think that now you are wearing this uniform, you finally have the same look as the others... just cuter."

Emery pretended to not hear the last remark she spoke and asked,

"Alright. What should I do next?"

"Well, you already have all the information about the island and you can visit the ones you are interested in for a place to stay. In fact, most of the planet's residents will find their own places all around the island. Either from one of the large islands or from the thousands of stone pillars that rose from the mist; just check which area is open for the acolytes and if no one claimed it, then it's yours."

Hearing this made Emery excited as he couldn't wait to start on his training in this favorable environment. He was bidding farewell to the magus and was about to find his own place when she suddenly stopped him.

Apparently, she almost forgot to tell him another important fact.

Magus Ramora took out a sphere from her spatial ring and handed it to Emery, telling him to check it.

He quickly pressed a button on the sphere, and immediately, a holographic screen appeared where a list of names with numbers were listed next to them.

[Privilege Ranking]

He scrolled through the list briefly, to see who were the top acolytes. Then, he finally searched for his name.

[Rank 99 - Emery Ambrose]

"Ah, I am the 99th. I guess I am not the lowest," said Emery with a smile. The reason he said this was because he knew the privileged class consisted of 100 people.

Unexpectedly, Magus Ramora laughed when she heard that.

"Hahahaha! Actually, one is expelled and the other died, hence your rank is 99th. So no, you are still the lowest."

Emery was shocked to hear that. After all, it had only been eight days since they had returned, but one had already died.

"Anyway, my point is, keep your ranking up you will get a better reward" Her expression then suddenly turned cheeky as she said, "Do you want to test and see if you can rank better? You are , after all, the champion of yesterday's game."

Chapter 672 - Test

"A test? What kind of test?" asked Emery curiously.

Magus Ramora inwardly smiled when she heard that. She didn't say anything more and instead immediately led Emery to a long hallway with a dozen doors. Some of them were closed while others were wide open; apparently, the ones being closed meant it was currently occupied by the privileged acolytes.

The two of them walked past the closed doors and into the open door they came to first. Emery looked at the plaque beside the doorway and saw it was "Room 7".

Entering inside, he saw three people wearing the staff uniforms already waiting.

Immediately after, as if they had rehearsed it a thousand times, one of the staff members told Emery to undress while the others prepared the instruments needed for the test. Afterwards, he was asked to lie in a tube-like chamber at the back of the room.

Emery laid there on the cold surface of the chamber, confused as he watched the staff members sticking several translucent cables onto various parts of his body; the temple, the nape, the chest, the shoulders, the arms, the thighs, the legs, and others.

Of course, Emery asked what these cables were for. This didn't seem to be a secret as one of the staff members immediately explained that they were very helpful in the tests he was about to take; one of them was to ensure much more accurate data.

Before Emery managed to ask more, the tube-like chamber was closed and he quickly found himself entering the virtual space. Realizing that the test would be held in the virtual arena, he subconsciously heaved a sigh of relief.

The place he entered was a circular-shaped dome, every nook and cranny was colored porcelain white leaving no spots unscathed. There was nothing in the room except Emery himself, until a notification suddenly appeared in front of him.

[You are now entering a physical test. You are stripped from your ability to cast spells]

[Level 1 will soon begin]

Seeing that, Emery quickly warmed up and prepared for whatever was about to be thrown at him.

All of a sudden, from the corner of his eye, he noticed that there was something coming out from the walls. Turning his head towards it, he saw a tube-like instrument that was strangely familiar to him.

After scouring through his memories, Emery finally recalled what it reminded him of. The instrument that just came out of the walls looked really similar to the weapon used by the Zaiueo acolytes.

There were ten of such instruments, surrounding Emery from all directions with the barrel pointed at him.

Swsh!

Without any notice, a large rock was shot from one of the instruments, flying rapidly through the air towards Emery. Seeing the arrival of rock as big as a fist, Emery quickly stepped aside to avoid it.

Things didn't stop there as immediately all ten instruments fired the same rock at once. Without further ado, Emery immediately leaned his body while stepping to the side, avoiding the rocks that were coming towards him.

Even though the rocks travelled fast and came from multiple tricky angles, various trajectories, as well as different intervals, Emery was still able to avoid them with relative ease.

At some point, the instruments started to move around and shift from their initial position which made Emery have to pay special attention to their before and after positions.

He continued to dodge the rocks thrown at him for several minutes until the instruments stopped firing altogether. With it, another notification appeared in front of him.

[You have passed level 1]

[Level 2 will soon begin]

The walls opened up again as more instruments appeared. Now, there were twice the number of instruments. This time, all of them were shooting a grey-colored stone.

Swsh! Swsh! Swsh!

Moving his head to the right, Emery watched as the stone flew past his eyes. He immediately shifted his location again because he sensed several other stones coming from his left, targeting various parts of his body.

This level 2 was harder than level 1 because not only was the stone faster and harder to dodge, the firing speed of the instruments were also increased.? Even so, Emery eventually was still able to avoid all the stones perfectly.

[You have passed level 2]

[Level 3 will soon begin]

Emery noticed how no more instruments were added. Therefore, he subconsciously relaxed his body because he thought that the test gave him some break time. It was at this moment that Emery was caught off guard and stumbled on his feet, as his body suddenly felt much heavier than before.

A notification appeared before him again, telling him what exactly happened.

[Gravity Space activated; 3 times gravitational force applied]

This meant that Emery's weight was now three times heavier than before. The drastic burden suddenly imposed on his body was enough to lose his balance in the short term while slowing him down by 10 to 20% in the long term.

Even so, Emery was able to quickly adapt to the changes on his body. There were some instances where the stones almost hit his body, but eventually he could dodge the stones thrown at him perfectly after some time.

Several minutes later, the instruments had once again stopped firing stones.

[You have passed level 3]

[Level 4 will soon begin]

[Gravity Space activated; 5 times gravitational force applied]

This time, a flustered look appeared on Emery as he finally had some difficulty moving his body. Just a few seconds after level 4 began, a stone hit one of his arms because he miscalculated the speed at which his body was moving.

It was quite painful and even almost made him fall to the ground. Knowing that his current position was an easy target, Emery quickly used his battle art.

[Immortal Gate - stage 5]

[Battle power added 32 points]

Faint layer of energy enveloped Emery's body as the battle art took effect. Thanks to the fact that [Immortal Gate] was a battle art, not a spell; he was able to use it and boost his battle power significantly.

With that, Emery managed to pass level 4 as well.

[You have passed level 4]

[Level 5 will soon begin]

As the notification disappeared, the walls opened up and once again brought more instruments out in the open. This time, ten more instruments were added to the fray. In addition, the instruments now fired jet black stones which seem sharper and harder than its predecessor.

There wasn't any increase in the gravity level, but thanks to the newly-added instruments, the space that Emery could use to dodge became very limited quickly. As time went on, Emery was even forced to start using his battle art [Weeping Phantom] to dodge the hailstones that were coming his way.

Emery continued to focus on dodging the stones until he found nothing flying in his direction again. Unknowingly, he had already passed the level.

[You have passed level 5]

Emery managed to pass level 5 after much difficulty; however, before the next level started, he suddenly realized that a new set of information came into his mind.

[Your physical score 6000 - rank 97]

A notification came into his mind, informing him that he had managed to surpass two privileged acolytes in terms of physical capability. Apparently, it meant there were two acolytes who didn't manage to pass level 5.

[Level 6 will soon begin]

[Gravity Space activated; 10 times gravitational force applied]

It was clear that level 6 was a massive gulf when compared to level 5; ten times gravity was no joke as it drastically affected his mobility, slowing it down by 30% even with the help of [Immortal Gate]. Within seconds, Emery tasted how painful the pitch-black stone was when it landed on his body.

Emery felt like some of his bones were fractured by it; the stone was much harder and painful than the gray stone that hit him at level 3. His right shoulder that was hit was rapidly bleeding, but the former was clearly determined not to give up.

Immediately, Emery regained his footing and dodged the stone that was flying towards his stomach. He kept dodging the stones to the best of his ability, but a stone or two still managed to hit the mark.

In the corner of his eye, Emery noticed that the longer he endured this stone onslaught, the higher his number became.

[Your physical score 6320 - rank 94]

[Your physical score 6410 - rank 89]

The live broadcast of his number that continued to rise naturally made Emery spirited. It was as if he was on drugs; how his body moved as he fully focused all his concentration to dodge the stones coming from all directions.

Even as the stones hit his body, Emery simply gritted his teeth and continued to avoid them as best he could. Until eventually, a notification appeared once again.

[You have passed level 6]

[Your physical score 7000 - rank 73]

The first time Emery took the test, he had managed to pass 22 acolytes already.

[Level 7 will soon begin]

[Gravity Space activated; 20 times gravitational force applied]

As soon as the notification disappeared, Emery instantly realized that he could barely move his body an inch, even when he had given everything he had. The instruments scattered around the room immediately fired, sending dozens of stones towards him.

Seeing the volley of stones heading in his direction, Emery knew he had to use his last card. Otherwise, his journey would end here.

[Fey Transformation - stage 2]

ROAR!!!

Chapter 673 - Rank

Emery didn't want to take any risk, not when he had reached this far. Therefore, he unhesitantly decided to instantly use his second stage transformation. Fearing that the act wasn't enough to save him from the predicament, he also used [Battle Howl] to further increase his prowess.

HOOOWWLLLLL!!

Immediately, a series of notifications appeared in Emery's mind.

[Battle power increased 30 points]

[Battle power increased 10 points]

[Battle power 180]

Thanks to his transformation ability, not only did Emery's speed increase, his strength and endurance also increased, which desced the pain when the stones hit his body.

As the newfound strength coursed through his entire being, Emery quickly went into action. He started to block and punch some of the stones he couldn't avoid, while dodging the remaining to preserve his condition.

HOWL!

[You have passed level 7]

[Your physical score 8000 - rank 42]

As if he just leaped over a massive guld, Emery discovered his rank immediately shot to the sky and passed over 30 acolytes. Apparently, not many privileged acolytes had the ability to withstand the ten times gravity, while simultaneously dodging the stones coming in their direction.

Emery would definitely suffer the same fate, as the thirty people now below him if he didn't have his transformation ability. Now that he was still brimming with power, he quickly faced the next level.

[Level 8 will soon begin]

[Gravity Space activated: 30 times gravitational force applied]

Not only did the gravity level increase exponentially, the walls also opened up again and added ten more instruments to the fray, bringing the total instruments that were about to fire at Emery to 40. As if that wasn't enough, the projectiles fired by them had changed again into white crystal-like stone.

Splat!

One of the stones managed to hit Emery's left shoulder while he was still trying to adapt to the sudden change in gravity. It flew right through his flesh and created a glaring hole that one could see blood starting to flow profusely like a rushing river.

Despite the piercing pain, Emery quickly stomped his feet and dashed around the room, avoiding the rest of the stones.

10 seconds under this new wave of stone onslaught, Emery realized how his numbers had gone up again.

[Your physical score 8210 - rank 36]

Five more seconds passed, and the number changed again.

[Your physical score 8350 - rank 32]

When he reached the 18 seconds mark, a dozen stones already hit their mark and punctured various parts of Emery's wolf body. His entire body was covered by his own blood. The next moment, he fell to the ground.

Everything turned dark.

[Physical Test concluded]

[Your physical score 8460 - rank 28]

When Emery opened his eyes, he found he was apparently still inside the virtual space, as what greeted him was the same circular dome-shaped porcelain white room. The room had returned to its initial state, where there were no more instruments pointing their barrel at him.

Emery was panting, even though the test was only virtual, the sensations were all real, including the mental shock that came after one experienced death.

All of a sudden, a voice echoed through the room. It took Emery a few moments before he realized it was Magus Ramona's voice.

"As expected from the Savage Acolyte, the Champion of Magus Game!!"

Evidently, Emery in his [Fey Transformation - stage 2] managed to clutch the rank 28, meaning he was physically stronger than the other 71 acolytes below him. This was certainly a good result, but this also made him wonder what kind of people were the other 27 above him.

Then suddenly, he thought of the Titan's Bloodline holder Sigurd and the Dragon Bloodline Zach. The two of them, who respectively had a monstrous body of their own right, were probably among these 27 people, but the real question was: what rank were they?

Moreover, Emery realized something during his deep contemplation.

With this kind of test, an acolyte with superb speed-type battle art technique, as well as proportionately strong body could still breeze through level 8. The same could be said for those who only had a body that was durable enough to withstand the barrage of stones, as one only needed to endure until the instruments stopped shooting.

"The test is still not over though, Emery!" Magus Ramora's voice resounded. "You need to complete another one, the spirit test."

Emery took a deep breath as he closed his eyes. Opening them again, he said in a determined tone, "Alright, I am ready. Bring it on!"

His vigilance immediately rose to the maximum, as Emery was waiting for anything else to come out from the walls just like before. However, he was bound to be disappointed, as the porcelain white walls, instead of opening, turned black and started to sparkle with light.

The sight reminded him of the view of the night sky in Fey Village. All of a sudden, Emery found himself standing in the middle of the space, surrounded by the stars.

[You are now entering the spirit test]

[Level 1 will soon begin]

Emery watched as one of the stars around him came closer to him. It didn't look particularly threatening, but the closer it got the more uncomfortable he felt.

He tried to figure out what was making him uncomfortable and realized the bright light from the stars was the culprit. As it got close, Emery could clearly see the real form of the star. The light emitted by the bright orb put some kind of pressure on him, which produced an uncomfortable sensation.

"A spirit attack!"

Fortunately, the spirit attack wasn't like Klea's or any other spirit attacks that came in suddenly and rapidly. On the contrary, it took its time by approaching slowly but surely.

The orb continued to make its way to Emery and stopped when it was one meter away from him. He felt his dual cores being warmed by the light, followed by a tickling sensation of pressure. Afterwards, a notification appeared in front of him.

[You have passed level 1]

Another orb moved and got closer to Emery, until it also stopped one meter away from him. He endured the pressure radiating from the two orbs for several more seconds, before the notification telling him he had passed the level appeared.

The same process basically happened when level 3 and 4 started, but Emery quickly found himself in trouble at the latter, as the pressure grew exponentially stronger at that level. After his time at level 4, his body was sweating bullets, while his double cores beat rapidly as if they were about to explode.

[You have passed level 4]

By this point, the uncomfortable sensation had grown until it reached a height Emery never imagined it could reach. His mind was in shambles and started spinning around, however, it was not until level 5 that his rank started to show.

[Your mental score 5720 - rank 98]

Worst of all, the number rose very, very slowly; miles of differences compared to his result in the physical test.

Emery actually thought he would be much better off getting hit by those dozen white crystal-like stones again, than being put under such a spirit onslaught. This agonizing sensation that slowly gnawed on his very being was surely something he didn't want to experience any longer.

Even so, Emery still hadn't given up. Rousing both of his cores to their maximum potential, he gritted his teeth and continued to endure the trial he was put into. Only a few minutes had passed since he had started the spirit test, but he felt as if he had been here for hours or even days. Finally, the notification he had been waiting for appeared.

[You have passed level 6]

[Level 6 will soon begin]

[Your mental score 6120 - rank 94]

Emery was preparing himself to endure another round of suffering, when he suddenly felt as if the shining orbs were staring at him. He didn't even have a chance to think about what happened, before he 'saw' them suddenly entering his mind and destroying his spirit core.

Without him realizing what had happened, everything went dark.

[Spirit Test concluded]

[Your mental score 6330 - rank 91]

[Calculating your new ranking from the physical and mental score...]

[Congratulations! Your final rank is 68th]

At the same time as the last notification appeared, Emery returned to the real world, where his body was lying in the tube-like chamber. Afterwards, the tube-like chamber was opened and he noticed that Magus Ramona was staring at him.

"Too bad... I was hoping to see more," Magus Ramora smiled. Noticing the complicated expression on Emery's face, she said, "Don't be too disheartened. Rank 68 is still something, especially for someone like you, who is the only rank 8 acolyte in the privileged class."

Chapter 674 - Data

[Physical score 8460 - rank 28]

[Mental score 6330 - rank 91]

[Your final test rank is 68]

Emery managed to reach level 8 for the physical test, but only level 6 for his spirit test. The test allowed him to know the numerical value of his prowess and the stark differences between the two factors being examined.

In the past, Emery knew he was strong when compared to his peers of the same rank, but he didn't know exactly how much stronger he was. Now, he finally found out how strong and which aspect he should focus on in the future to further improve.

The result that Emery managed to achieve in his first time was really exceptional, especially for someone in the rank 8 acolyte like him. In fact, Rank 68 was a good enough result for someone who just entered the privileged class, as it basically had exceeded almost one third of the universe's most talented young acolytes.

However, there was some kind of unexpected feeling of disappointment brewing and nestling in Emery's heart. Before he took the test, Emery expected he would get an outstanding result with the many factors and advantages that he had over his peers: the Wolf Bloodline, the double core, the Khaos Space and even the guidance from many esteemed masters.

Magus Ramora didn't know what Emery was thinking to make his expression look like that, but she was genuinely amused when she saw his face, as he came out of the tube-like chamber.

"I can see that you are not happy." She said while snickering. "Good, good, this kind of attitude is what is needed from a privileged class acolyte."

Emery only flashed a wry smile at the provocation thrown in his direction. After he put his white privilege uniform back on, one of the three staff members approached him. Apparently, he was given the opportunity to see the data generated by the test.

"First we shall show you the physical test result."

[Emery Ambrose]

[Privilege acolytes member ID: 83192008]

[Average stat comparison]

[Battle Power 108 (180) A]

[Strength 105 (204) - A]

[Agility 112 (195)] - A]

[Endurance 85 (145) - B]

The staff told him all the data the test managed to gather from his overall performance, with the one on the right being his added maximum buff. As for the letter was the average marking compared with the other privileged acolytes, with S as the highest mark.

Apparently, Emery had a below-average human body, which honestly surprised him when he heard that. Fortunately, he had the A rank battle art [Immortal Gate] and above-average bloodline that compensated for his shortcomings and even brought it to another level altogether.

The battle art, in particular, provided an all-around upgrade to all three stats: muscle power (strength), muscle flexibility (agility) and (endurance), which increased skin, flesh and bone density. The latter also improved the stamina one had and the body's regeneration capability from injuries.

On the other hand, Emery's [Fey Transformation] increased his strength explosively and also improved his agility to some degree. Unfortunately, the ability gave almost no increase in endurance, hence his attempt ended when he received too many injuries.

"Our advice is to improve the physique of your normal body by going through various kinds of training. In particular, we strongly advise endurance training. We, unfortunately, have no solution for your bloodline in this facility, but we can tell you from this data the battle art you are currently using has some negative consequences on your body, especially when it is pushed to the next stage."

Emery showed a look of surprise, as he heard the staff member speaking and saw the data presented before him. It was a very thorough data and analysis with its own chart and numbers. They even recommended what to do to remedy their weakness and improve further.

Once again, this showed the benefits of being in a privileged facility that could only be enjoyed by very few people.

"Now, for your spirit test result."

[Average stat comparison]

[Spirit Force 904 - B]

[Spirit Power? - A]

[Spirit Control - C]

[Spirit Pool - A]

"The double cores you have brought an excellent quality of spirit power and spirit pool, but as you are still a rank 8 acolyte, they still don't have the boost that a rank 9 acolyte has. Furthermore, your earlier performance and the data result showed that your control is below average than your peers, hence the reason you are unable to protect your mind efficiently during the test."

This kind of result certainly shocked Emery, as it was truly average when compared to the other acolytes. Him having C in Spirit Control meant he was probably the worst among his peers.

Emery actually thought he had good control of his spirit force. He hadn't realized it was this kind of bad.

"Can you elaborate about these three stats?" Emery asked, while pointing at the stats below Spirit Force.

"Naturally," the staff member replied with a smile.

Spirit Power was the maximum limit of power one could put into a spell, while Spirit Pool was how many times he could cast the spell within a specific instance.

Spirit Control, on the other hand, was the one who controlled the two. If one was not an expert, the end result would only achieve a mediocre result, while the resources used were highly inefficient and wasted.

As he heard the explanation, Emery was reminded of his past training with Magus Xion, the one with the leaves and the thunder mice.

The truth was, ever since he obtained his double cores, Emery hadn't been able to cast spells as easily as he was before. However, he didn't dwell on that matter, because the increase in power and the newfound ability to be able to cast spells many times more that came with the double cores had compensated for it.

But now, he realized his thought process back then was horribly wrong.

The staff then proceeded to show some diagrams that displayed the flow of spirit energy he used to defend himself from the spirit attack launched by those 'orbs'. Curiosity as well as eagerness appeared on his face, as he examined the diagrams.

Afterwards, Emery inquired about the spells he normally used. The staff was surprisingly knowledgeable enough to give an elaborate explanation of most spells he mentioned like [Shadow Edge], [Shadow Root], [Dark Matter] that he used often.

Apparently, all of those spells were considered channeling-type spells, which normally had lower requirements for control. As for his most frequently used spell [Blink], it only needed minimum spirit energy on its part, which had a small, if not nonexistent, margin of error for control.

Then suddenly, the staff member asked a question that made Emery think.

"You have a powerful battle art that enhances your physique and battle power. I wonder if you have any spell that can help you resist magic-based attacks? If you don't, then I suggest you get some, as they will tremendously help you defend against spirit attacks and, subsequently, increase your rank."

The staff member's words made Emery think of his [Fey Shaman Transformation] that gave him substantial improvement in spell power and magic resistance, which he didn't get the chance to use earlier.

Emery was about to answer, but it was also at this moment that Magus Ramona once again opened her mouth.

"Yes! He does!" Magus Ramora answered quickly, though she wasn't the one being asked. Turning to Emery, she said, "Didn't you have another transformation that can exactly do that? Why didn't you show it just now?"

Emery opened his mouth and was about to answer again, when Magus Ramona cut him off once more.

"Do you want to take the test one more time?"

Chapter 675 - Incentives

"Would you like to redo the test?" the staff member asked, when he heard Magus Ramora's words.

The question should have been easy to answer for Emery, as he would definitely gain better results now that he knew what was to come.

However, Emery suddenly had a gut feeling that rising in the ranks too fast without knowing and finding more about the privileged class would be nothing but sheer foolishness on his part.

Once again, he checked the names of the 99 privilege acolytes. Among them, he found names that he recognized.

[Rank? 8 - Zach Talon]

[Rank 15 - Sigurd]

[Rank 32 - Vida Themari]

[Rank 47 - Annara Vairmont]

[Rank 55 - YunXiao]

[Rank 64 - Armand Nephilim]

[Rank 74 - Trish]

[Rank 82 - Orion]

[Rank 94 - Roran Harlight]

[Rank 99 - Emery Ambrose]

As he checked his rank, Emery realized his name was still in the same rank 99th, despite him scoring the 68th rank in the test earlier.

Emery glanced at Magus Ramora in confusion. In response, she turned slightly flustered, as she realized her blunder.

"Ahhh!! Yes, yes... I'm sorry, what kind of guide am I to forget explaining this important thing..."

The magus then proceeded to explain that the test rank was just the first step to enter the ranks of the privilege acolytes. His test result of rank 68 didn't mean he would immediately depose those above him and replace their position.

Instead, because he managed to acquire the 68th rank, he now was allowed to challenge all privilege acolytes from rank 68 to 99 - to replace their position and gain the benefits of the related rank.

For example, if he managed to defeat Trish, the girl who ranked first in the first years' ranking, then he would receive her 74th rank, while she would drop to rank 75th.

It was overall quite easy to understand, however, the main purpose of the acolytes here was to train. Hence, there were some rules for these challenges to make sure it didn't bother the acolytes training too much.

When a formal challenge was issued, the acolyte who received said challenge had until the end of the month to make a decision, if he/she failed to come for the challenge, then the acolyte would automatically lose the position.

Magus Ramora then explained the reason for the ranks and the incentive to push all the acolytes to fight for it.

Depending on their rank, at the beginning of the month, they would receive the precious spirit foundation pills as a reward.

[Rank 1-5 : 40 pills]

[Rank 6-10 : 35 pills]

[Rank 11-20 : 30 pills]

[Rank? 21-40 : 25 pills]

[Rank 41-60 : 20 pills]

[Rank 61-80 : 15 pills]

[Rank 81-100 : 10 pills]

There were 12 months for the third year, which meant the first five ranked acolytes would receive more than 400 pills, which priced at 30,000 contributions points each on the shop. That was definitely a big incentive to aim.

Right now, as Emery was still on the 99th rank, he was only eligible to receive 10 pills, all of which had already been given in the silver bracelets just now.

Other than the precious pills, there was also another coveted reward that was fought over so much by the privileged class acolytes. This reward could only be obtained if they managed to stay within the required rank until the end of the year.

[Rank 1-5 receives Divine Art - rank A]

[Rank 6-10 receives Divine Art - rank B]

[Rank 11-30 receives Divine Art - Rank C]

A divine skill was an extremely rare skill that could even cause magus to kill each other for the chance to gain one. Hence, this level of incentive did give a lot of motivation for the acolytes to do their absolute best to climb higher or maintain their current rank.

Emery decided to quickly check the names of those in the top ranks. To his surprise, he found a familiar family name.

[Rank 3 - Eesho Nephilim]

When he saw that family name at the back, Emery let out a slight sigh. Scrolling through the list again to make sure he didn't see wrong, he let out another sigh

So apparently, there were 5 Nephilims in the privileged class.

[Rank 22 - Jinkan Nephilim]

Then there was also Armand and the other two nephilims, which ranked 64, 78 and 82 respectively.

From the grapevine, Emery had heard that Armand was just someone that was an outer member of the family, so it was somewhat self-explanatory that his rank would be lower. Therefore, he could safely conclude that those two others at the top echelon must be from the inner circle.

As he read more about the competitive rewards, rules and the list of those who made it into the privilege class, Emery's smile turned wider, his body trembled slightly and his heart thumped violently, burning with passion, as his resolve to reach the top rank of the privilege class was embedded deep in his heart.

It was an unexpected feeling. Emery couldn't wait to fight those above his rank and shoot for the highest rank. Even Zach, the dragon bloodline, who was able to defeat him easily was only a rank 8 in the class, which showed how fierce and cutthroat the competition was.

Emery was so lost in his own thoughts about the new class, that he almost forgot about Magus Ramona. As he glanced at the magus, he realized she was still waiting for his answer about retrying the test.

"So will you do the test again?"

Emery gave her a slight smile and said, "No need... I'll do it later."

It was indeed tempting to retry and gain the highest rank he could, however right now, there was not much point in gaining ranks in the test, as it didn't affect his real rank. After all, it only granted him the right to challenge the higher ranking acolytes.

Emery was basically a newcomer from a low realm with almost no support. He thought it was better for him to stay in the low ranks until he had improved the aspects he lacked. He thought that Armand of the Nephilims was already a problem for him. So he should treat these elite individuals extremely carefully.

There were also 3 more weeks until the time he would receive the next monthly reward, hence there was no point in rushing and challenging people at this time other than just painting a target on his back.

If Emery did not manage to improve his strength by then, it would be much safer for him to postpone the challenge for next following month. After all, his life was more precious than the chance to earn 5 extra pills.

Now that he had gotten all the information he needed, Emery decided to walk out of the room and leave the place. He couldn't wait anymore to start his training.

He knew what he lacked, but he had no idea how to improve it as soon as possible. He decided to ask the blue hair magus, who was walking next to him.

In elite class 7 there were 5 magus ready to teach and give counsel to the 50 elite acolytes in the class. Therefore, he couldn't wait to know what kind of magus was provided to teach him in the privileged class.

However, Magus Ramona raised her eyebrows, as if Emery had just asked something silly out of the blue. The answer he received from her was no less shocking.

"Teacher? There are no teachers provided here... all privileged acolytes have their own grand magus as their official mentor and they can provide dozens of magus to teach him or her... Don't you have one yourself?"

"....."

Upon hearing such an answer, Emery fell into a stunned silence.. A grand magus master? No, he didn't have one. Did this mean he would be practicing by himself?

Chapter 676 - Priority

No grand magus teacher, not even a magus was provided for him on this whole planet.

Come to think of it, it was part of last year's privilege reward to receive a grand magus as a master, just like how Annara became Zenonia's disciple.

If she were to be taken as an example, with a grand magus of Zenonia's caliber as her master, being given a different master at the privileged class would certainly become a problem by itself.

Emery was at a loss for words.

Didn't that mean he was going to be the only one in the privileged class to not have a grand magus as a master? As they walked out toward the Hyperion base grand lobby, his thought was quickly picked up by Magus Remora.

"Ah, that's right, aren't you that acolyte who didn't get picked by any of the grand magus last year?" As if she just remembered about it, Magus Ramora stopped in her tracks for a brief moment before speaking. The magus did not even try to stifle her laugh the slightest bit as she said those unflattering words.

Her attitude made Emery wonder why this kind of magus was chosen to be a guide, but he did not say anything.

"Haha, my apologies. Actually, there are so many beneficial things for you on this planet that you probably will not even have time to meet your master, even if you have one. Of course, even though you do not, there is no need to worry. As your guide, I can help you with whatever problems you might need help with. Tell me, what do you need?" the magus offered.

Emery gave it a little thought. From the previous information, he knew that he was lacking in spirit control and endurance, hence those two were currently his priority. Not to mention, with his upcoming mission that had a high probability of endangering his life, having a more durable body and increasing his capability to stop spirit attacks were necessary for his survival.

He decided to take her up on her offer and briefly explain his needs, and upon hearing about them, Magus Ramora thought about it for a short while.

"I might not understand your double core or elements, but I know exactly what you need right now," Magus Ramora began speaking with confidence.

For a more durable body, she advised him to check on a certain island on the planet. After that, she also told him about one of the functions of the bracelets distributed to the privileged acolytes.

"For what you need next, you can get them from the store. Fortunately, for privileged acolytes, the function is available as the bracelets are connected to the universe store."

Magus Ramora instructed Emery to access the store function.

[Store]

[Scrolls] [Consumables] [Artifacts]

"To put it simply, as a privileged acolyte, you are entitled to a VVIP service, which means not only are you entitled to receive discounted prices for the items, but also free delivery service! Isn't that great!?"

She then instructed Emery to access the scrolls section and seek a particular special meditation technique.

"All right, this is one the basic techniques that are compulsory for privileged students to master. Most acolytes from prominent families have been taught this since they were little, but I'm sure you haven't, so mastering this technique will be of great use to you. This practice will help your spiritual core be more relaxed, and trust me, you will thank me later," Magus Ramora explained, assuring Emery of the usefulness of the technique.

Emery currently had more than 100,000 spirit stones and almost 500,000 contribution points, so he was not afraid of browsing the list of items. However, as soon as he saw the prices, his movements halted for a second.

[Soul tempering meditation - Book One - 50,000 contribution points]

[Soul tempering meditation - Book Two - 100,000 contribution points]

[Soul tempering meditation - Book Three - 150,000 contribution points]

Seeing that Emery was a little hesitant, Magus Ramora let out a sigh before trying to convince him more, "You should know that we humans have much weaker soul power compared to our enemy the elves, so this practice will be important for you. Although it won't really be a problem to buy just the first one, I suggest you buy all three of them if you want enough improvement. The difference is quite significant."

As much as he wants to believe the magus words, considering the free delivery, it will be smarter to just buy only the first one right now.

After all, why wouldn't he use such a convenient privilege?

[Soul Tempering - Book One - 50,000 contribution points]

[20% privilege discount - 40,000 contribution points]

[Buy scroll?]

"Yes!" Emery agreed without hesitation.

[Contribution Points: 454,550]

[Item will be delivered in a few hours.]

When he saw how responsive the system was, he once again realized how different it was being a privileged acolyte. Emery unconsciously slightly furrowed his brows.

Seeing Emery's slightly furrowed brows, Magus Ramora assured him once again, "Don't worry, you will not regret it."

Last but not least, the magus told him about another function of the bracelets; to communicate with other bracelet holders.

"You only need to press one button to call me if you have any questions, and I will find you as soon as possible," Magus Ramora ended her explanation with a satisfied smile.

Now that he had been properly briefed, Emery decided not to waste any time. He expressed his gratitude and bowed to the magus before walking toward the huge balcony. Feeling the wind blow, he took out the orbiter he got from inside his bracelet and hopped onto it.

Emery started flying slowly with the orbiter under his feet and a gas cloud under it. Checking on the location Magus Ramora recommended him to visit, he picked up speed.

It took him about an hour of flying at the fastest speed the orbiter could go before he finally reached his destination. In front of him now was a small flying island about the size of a Briton castle. Even from the distance, he could see a huge construct that was blowing smoke from its top into the air.

As he flew closer to the island, he could see the dome-like structure with multiple pipes on top that each blew up different-colored smokes.

As soon as he arrived, another member of the academy staff welcomed him.

"Welcome to the furnace center, are you here for the body-tempering service?"

Chapter 677 - Tempering

There were hundreds of thousands of worlds in the universe where humanity existed, but none of them were similar to each other.

Some were so ancient that their origin could be dated back to the creation of the universe while some were basically akin to a newborn baby, some were so big that they were comparable to the solar system where Earth was while some were even smaller than the moon orbiting around Earth.

The same could also be said with human genetics. Most civilization came from an influence of higher realm humans who came into the primitive ones. However, during this entire process, the genetics would gradually change, dwindling and developing into other directions in the evolutionary path.

Hence, no human had the same quality of body.

"Here in this facility, we help to temper the human body to its maximum potential by an exquisite and complex method of elements and alchemy," explained the staff member as the two of them did a tour around the place that was apparently called the furnace.

As they walked, Emery could see several large five meter high black cauldrons placed in various corners of the place being heated. He could clearly feel the searing high temperature in the air as they got closer to them.

In all honesty, Emery could not help but think that the direction this conversation was headed in was both exciting and terrifying.

"Here is the warden of the facility, Master Dulin."

The staff pointed at the back of the figure who was busy fiddling with one of the cauldrons. Unsurprisingly, standing before them was a dwarf with a red beard and a rather splendid mustache that caught Emery off guard for a moment.

Now that his job was done, the staff quickly retreated several steps backward before turning around and leaving the two of them alone.

On the other hand, Master Dulin became visibly excited when he saw Emery.

"Ahhh, new customer!! Amazing! Come with me," said Master Dulin as he grabbed Emery's hand and basically dragged him away.

Without asking for Emery's consent, Master Dulin immediately pushed him into some kind of a box. He didn't even have a chance to utter one coherent word before the former started to insert long, thin sharp needles into various parts of his body. They easily pierced through his skin and went deep into the flesh, sending waves of slight pain that made Emery frown.

Noticing the obvious dissatisfied look on Emery's face, Master Dulin wore a smile on his face and spoke, "Don't worry, this will only take a second."

The whole situation went so fast that Emery didn't even have a chance to react, and subsequently, quite disturbing to him. If this place was not recommended by Magus Ramora who was the official guide the academy arranged for him, then Emery would have run out and away from this place by now.

Some time later, Master Dulin finally pulled the end of the needles and connected it to a certain cable. Afterwards, Emery watched as multiple information and values appeared on the holographic display next to the former.

[Skin - 36% - below average]

[Flesh - 49% - average]

[Muscle - 58%? - average]

[Organs - 52% - average]

[Veins - 42% - below average]

"Hmmm... such an awful condition. Fortunately your innate bloodline has helped develop your muscle and flesh to a certain degree, otherwise there's really no help for you." Master Dulin said those words while wearing a smile on his face.

Then suddenly, he exclaimed loudly. "Ahh! I see now, the lower realm... It's like your body is still a virgin!"

Emery was dumbfounded when he heard such a word from the red-bearded dwarf. In fact, it only raised the current level of awkwardness between the two of them to another height altogether. Alas, the latter didn't seem to realize this.

Master Dulin continued to do what he planned to do, nonchalantly taking out all the inserted needles on Emery's body and then telling him to sit on a certain table. Immediately after, he opened his mouth again.

"Don't think of what I just said in the wrong way.. After all, it means both good and bad news for you.. So which one do you like to hear first?"

Emery didn't expect such a result, hence he took a deep breath and said, "The bad news first!"

Master Dulin nodded his head slightly, as if he understood Emery's intention. "Alright, the bad news is that your body is just untainted; means in order to temper it, you must go through a certain painful and expensive process."

Hearing about money, Emery couldn't help but wonder if this was really a benefit to be accepted in the privileged class. Just before he was being lean toward buying books that cost hundreds of thousands of contribution points.

Fortunately, he had some riches to spare from winning the Magus Game. Still, he asked how much he would exactly need.

"How much?"

[Elemental Body Tempering - 2.000 contribution points]

Effectively temper one's skin, flesh, and muscle - elevating them into the next level of hardness to better endure hits.

[Alchemical Body Tempering - 5.000 contribution points]

Effectively temper one's flesh, organ, and veins - enhancing as well as strengthening the internal organs by capitalizing the miraculous feat the alchemy is capable of.

[Heavenly Body Tempering - 10.000 contribution points]

The combination of both methods, which will generate maximum results faster and tremendously lessen the pain.

Emery was so happy to see the affordable number stated next to the three methods. At least that was the case until Master Dulin told him that was the price for only a 24 hour treatment.

"... its a daily cost?"

The revelation almost choked him to death due to how outrageous it was.

"Of course its expensive, it was filled with expensive and rare herbs" answer the dwarf

"Then ..Err... and how many days would someone like me need to temper their body to its maximum condition?"

It was at this moment that Master Dulin beamed a wide smile at Emery, which naturally caught him off guard.

"Excellent! Yes, that is exactly the good news! Our facility is currently available for you to use as many days as you need! Really good news ain't it?"

"... So... how many days?" Dread gradually appeared on Emery's face, as he had a hunch that he would definitely not like what he was about to hear.

The dwarf master got closer to Emery and whispered, "One... hundred days."

"..."

Such audacity; that's a grand total of 1 million contribution points that Emery had to spend in order to temper his body to its 'maximum condition' as they called it.

Recalling how the extraordinary feat of killing the Undead Dragon only gave him an extra 25.000 contribution points made Emery once again speechless by how expensive the treatment was.

Emery quickly turned his body around and started to walk away without saying anything more. He needed to get away from this place as fast as possible before he died of a heart attack.

Seeing that he was leaving, Master Dulin immediately gave chase.

"I guarantee you won't get a better offer than this! Prices offered outside this place are twice as expensive. Moreover..."

Emery ignored the other party's words and took another step forward. All of a sudden, the dwarf master's attitude turned 180 degrees as he suddenly resorted to begging.

"Please..! I am so bored here! All those elites and special magus; they don't need body tempering at all anymore!! How about this? I will give you a big discount! So please!!"

Emery's step hadn't faltered even once as Master Dulin continued to throw his offer.

"5%!!! No! 10%!!!"

What the other party didn't know was that Emery also felt helpless inside. He, of course, wanted to temper his body but he really didn't have the necessary ability to do it. He shook his head slightly and decided to really leave when the dwarf said something that made him stop in his tracks.

"Stop! Think about it... I am sure no amount of money can be compared to saving your life, right..?"

That last, exact sentence managed to bring Emery's feet into a stop. He took a deep long breath as he thought that maybe he should at least try a day or two and see how much of an impact the treatment would make before he finally made up his decision.

Turning around and looking Master Dulin in the eye, Emery said, "Alright, I'll try for one day!"

A happy expression immediately replaced the pitiful look on the dwarf's face.

"Excellent!"

Right now, Emery felt the dwarf master in front of him didn't look like a master artisan at all. Instead, he looked much like a wicked trader.

Heaving a sigh of helplessness, Emery could only hope that all of this would be worth it as he followed the latter back.

Chapter 678 - Hot Bath

With only one month left until he would be called into mission, Emery had no time to test the lower-grade body tempering option. Hence, of course, he took the best option available.

"Heavenly body-tempering for one day!"

The red-bearded dwarf was so excited that he personally dragged him again, this time toward the nearest room available.

"You will not be disappointed! The liquid in this cauldron is concocted using the most precious ingredients for one year. Only the best for you, an acolyte from the lower realms," Master Dulin proudly explained with a wide smile on his face.

Emery was then brought in front of a massive black cauldron and told to enter the cauldron.

Apparently, it was just as he feared, he really would be turned into a human potion.

It was actually self-explanatory. As Emery was studying apothecary as well, he quickly understood what the dwarf was planning to do to his body. His body was going to be the main object being concocted into.

Before Emery could even say a word of question about the process, the dwarf rushed him to undress and enter the black liquid in the cauldron.

As his whole body needed to be submerged inside the liquid, he was given a small tube to breathe. Emery did not refuse since he needed to stay submerged for 24 full hours without getting out, his water breathing spell was not really an option.

The moment Emery entered the black liquid, he could feel the heat almost scalding his skin. Thankfully, it did not pose a problem as his body quickly adapted to the temperature.

As Emery put more of his body into the black liquid, he also felt the thickness of the liquid slightly hindering his movement. The combination of the thickness and the temperature of the liquid vaguely reminded Emery of the liquid that came out of a burning mountain.

Just before he put his head inside, the dwarf had a wicked grin on his face as he reminded Emery.

"As I said, it will be very painful. No matter how painful it gets, don't get out until it's over. If you do, the tempering will not be as effective."

After saying such a thing, Master Dulin ordered two of his staff members to put a heavy lid on top of the cauldron. Apart from the very small hole on the lid for the tube, there was no other opening.

Clank!

At first, Emery did not feel worried at all. He even began to feel that it was somewhat comfortable. But after a while, he felt the temperature slowly rising, and after about 10 minutes, Emery started to regret agreeing to this.

Emery was beginning to get the urge to cast a spell to protect himself. Unfortunately, he was not allowed to cast any spells nor use his battle art. He had to allow the liquid and the heat to enter his body.

Urrrggghhh!!

Emery's brows tightly furrowed. It felt like his whole body was in a sea of flames!

An hour passed, and just when he thought that the heat was already at its maximum, he was instantly proven wrong.

At that instant, the black liquid turned twice hotter than it was just a moment ago. If the previous temperature made him feel as if his skin was burning, he now felt like his internal organs were also burning.

Being fully submerged in such a hellish liquid, he was unable to scream and could only resist. He could not even clench his fists due to the heat; the muscles of his entire body felt as if they were going to rip apart.

Three hours passed and it finally reached its maximum heat, but at this point, Emery felt all of his skin and parts of his flesh already torn apart. Just when he was on the verge of passing out from the pain, new skin and flesh grew all over his body.

It was as if the liquid had the capability to push his regeneration ability

6 hours later, Emery felt as if his newly-grown skin was once again burning and regenerating at the same time.

Emery desperately wished he could just get out of this cauldron now, but a notification suddenly popped up in his mind.

[Battle power increased by one.]

Seeing the message, his resolution became more firm. The excruciating pain was almost unbearable, but he endured.

Another six hours passed.

[Battle power increased by one.]

Two points of battle power increased permanently within 12 hours. It was not the time to stop at all.

[Battle power increased by one.]

At this point, 20 hours had passed and Emery had already gotten used to the pain. Just as he was looking forward to the next notification, the heat began to cool down.

"No... no... no...!"

A few hours later, Emery could see light slowly coming from above. When the lid was finally opened, Emery got out of the cauldron in a bad mood.

The dwarf, however, was waiting for him with a smile.

"It looks like your body's condition was worse than I thought. It managed to absorb the essence like a sponge... So, what do you think? Do you want extra days?"

The knowing wicked smile Master Durin had on his face irritated Emery even more. However, he had to admit, the dwarf promoted his product really well. One day was certainly not enough, there was no way he was going to stop now.

He had 20 days left until the end of the month to compete for the rank.

Thinking about the 450 thousand contribution points that he had,? he decided.

"10 days! Give me 10 days!" he told the dwarf.

Although it was expensive, the tempering was the real deal. 3 points of permanent battle power in one day was definitely amazing.

"Excellent!" The dwarf's eyes were beaming with satisfaction.

While the cauldron was being prepared by the staff members, an individual in gray uniform came approaching him.

"Ah, that's right, this guy has been waiting on you for hours."

The man, who was a magus, did not speak much. As soon as he made sure that the person receiving the item was correct, he immediately left. When Emery opened the box, he found that the item inside was the [Soul Tempering meditation - Book One] he ordered not long ago, delivered in person by the magus.

'Perfect timing.'

The book came at the perfect time. Now that the technique book was here, he could bathe in the body-tempering liquid for 10 days with something to do.. Hopefully, this technique would help him keep his mind off the pain.

Chapter 679 - Body Tempering

"Hahaha, my alchemy is truly the best! 37 different rare ingredients! This is the peak of alchemy ingenuity!"

Master Dulin's face was full of pride, as he looked at the result of Emery's blood test prior to the first 24-hour body tempering.

[Skin - 36% (39%) - below average]

[Flesh - 49% (51%) - average]

[Muscle - 58% (59%) - average]

[Organs - 52% (56%) - average]

[Veins - 42% (48%) - average]

The outer body transformation showed satisfying results: his skin, flesh and muscles gained an increase of 3%, 2% and 1% respectively. While it may not seem much, it was actually significant, especially considering how Emery had only soaked in the body-tempering liquid for one day.

Of course, the reason for the dwarf's excitement was not only that. Rather, it was for how significant the improvement of the inner body, both organs and veins, was.

"I recently upgraded the formula. I must admit, the improvement result is amazing! Hahaha, with this, it won't be long until I can finally get my grandmaster title!" Master Dulin heartily laughed with satisfaction.

Although Emery also benefited from the 3 points of battle power increase, he felt a little uncomfortable when he heard the dwarf's words. If the dwarf was telling the truth, didn't that mean the body-

tempering liquid Emery had used was something still on trial? If it had gone wrong, he would have been the one to pay the price!

[Heavenly body-tempering - 1 day]

[10% discount - 9,000 contribution points]

[Pay now?]

"Yes!"

[Contribution Points: 445,550]

Fortunately, nothing went wrong in the process. 3 points of battle power for 9,000 contribution points indeed sounded like a great deal, so Emery was more than happy to pay.

"Thank you, thank you..."

However, after receiving the payment, the smile on the dwarf's face changed.

"Ermmm... for the next 10 days, I will be adding more ingredients every day... so I will be needing payment in advance... That is the rule... you don't mind, do you?"

The awkward manners once again made Emery doubt if the dwarf in front of him was really an apothecary master. Even so, Emery had no problem with paying in advance, hence he agreed with a sigh.

[Heavenly body-tempering - 10 days]

[10% discount - 90,000 contribution points]

[Pay now?]

"Yes!"

[Contribution Points: 355,550]

Seeing the number of contribution points he had dropped so much, Emery felt a pang of pain inside.

Those were his hard-earned contribution points!

"Haha, don't worry, you will not regret it! You are in good hands, good hands!" Master Dulin happily patted Emery's back and assured him before calling a few staff members to help with the process.

Once again, Emery entered the huge black cauldron. Once the staff members put the lid on the cauldron, everything went just like before.

The first few hours were a little easier. Just like before, the temperature started to increase significantly with the passing time, until every part of Emery's body was once again filled with pain.

[Battle power increased by one.]

Emery gritted his teeth trying to resist the ordeal. He had not even been here for half the amount of supposed time, yet he was already beginning to regret agreeing to this torture again.

Urggghhh!

[Battle power increased by one.]

Emery endured the pain as much as he could. If it were not for these constant announcements, reminding him that he had to persist, he would have probably started to lose his sanity already.

[Battle power increased by one.]

24 hours finally passed. Once again, Emery received 3 points of battle power in a day.

Only two days in, yet Emery could already feel changes in his body after several painful developments. When he touched his arm, he could feel that under the newly-grown smooth skin, there was a certain thickness showing the muscles that laid on top of his flesh.

Emery's whole body gradually transformed, as the liquid also began to replace his body fluids and did its wonder.

After 24 hours passed, Master Dulin started to do his job. The dwarf removed part of the old liquid and added an amount of the new one to replace the missing amount. After he made sure that all was just right, Master Dulin went back to controlling the liquid's temperature.

The one-hour transition was like a breath of fresh air for Emery, freeing him from the fiery torture. Unfortunately, it did not last long. Before he could fully enjoy the relief, the burning pain returned, this time even more painful, as it spread to every corner of his body.

It was an hour, but it only felt like a minute.

"Hang in there, kid!! Let us make history together!!" The red-bearded dwarf enthusiastically encouraged, while controlling the body-tempering liquid's temperature.

'This kid's body was so awful, but because of that, the result of the 10-day tempering will be the best data for my grandmaster test!'

Thinking of his grandmaster title, Master Dulin became even more enthusiastic. To make sure that nothing went wrong, he paid particular attention to the process.

Another 24 hours passed, but this time, Emery only received two notifications. This meant that, unlike before, where he got 3 points of battle power, he only got an increase of 2.

On the third day, however, he received 3 points of battle power once again. He was not sure about the reason for the inconsistency, but the points made all the pain he had to endure and all the contribution points he spent worth it.

On the fourth day, Emery finally managed to get used to the hellish temperature. Not only that, but he could even properly think with his senses, while in the body-tempering liquid.

Knowing he should not waste any of his limited time, Emery began to access the information he just absorbed before entering the cauldron.

[Soul-Tempering Meditation - Book One]

The information he was currently accessing was a certain theory on circulating the spirit flow during meditation.

While also enduring the burning pain, Emery started to follow the instructions. Slowly, energy flowed from the seven main spirit points in his body.

After another 24 hours passed, not only did Emery get 3 more points of battle power, but he had also gotten the hang of the new meditation technique.

While he was in the middle of the soul-tempering meditation, he suddenly felt the burning heat coming not only from the liquid itself, but also from his inner self.

'What have I done!!'

Emery quickly panicked. There was definitely something wrong with the way he did things.

This was why a master was needed to guide the acolyte, before doing things like this.

Chapter 680 - The Soul

What actually was the soul?

This was part of the sentences Emery read from the [Soul Tempering Meditation] book. It couldn't help but catch his entire attention, making him fall into a deep contemplation.

For a normal living being, the soul would generally mean the person's consciousness. The spiritual part of a person that was believed to give life to the body.

However, the same couldn't really be applied for cultivators, as this particular group of people had a way to make the soul the center of power, allowing them to live forever.

The book he bought with his precious contribution points contained extensive knowledge and explained the 7 major spirit points that controlled the consciousness of a person's body that would strengthen a somebody's soul. Emery couldn't help but be amazed, as he continued to read the book's contents.

7 major spirit points in humans body

The crown, which is placed on the top of the human head.

The third eye, right in the middle between two eyes.

The throat, which gave power through voices.

The heart, that is the central system of the body.

The solar plexus situated under the chest, where the spirit core was.

The sacral, the one that gave pleasure.

The root, which is located at the end of the spine.

These 7 points would eventually all centralize on the solar plexus below the chest, where the spirit core was. The meditation book showed how to channel the spirit energy into these 7 points in order to achieve its intended effect.

This would then result in the strengthening to the flow of energy coursing through the 7 points, subsequently creating a smoother control of one's spirit energy, as well nourishing the soul.

However, 24 hours after going through such meditation, Emery suddenly discovered a certain anomaly from one of the major spirit points within his body: the chest area. where the heart point was. The place where the blood was pumping from and circulating throughout the whole body.

He realized the liquid and the heated cauldron, which were currently tempering his organs and veins had been rapidly driving his blood in and out of his heart. Meanwhile, the added meditation apparently amplified the anomaly and subsequently generated a chain reaction in the heart, causing his blood to be extremely restless and active.

Due to all these factors, Emery felt as if his body was cooked, roasted and braised by scorching fire from outside and inside at . At first, the sensation he felt was slightly more painful, but as time went on, the pain became twice as much as before.

What Emery was experiencing at the moment was not pain anymore, but the definition of pure agony.

"ARGHHH!!"

"What is going on?!" Master Dulin shouted, as he dashed to the cauldron where Emery was. He quickly did an examination and found out some anomaly on his precious cauldron.

The staff, who were tasked to keep watch of the cauldron, was also confused by the sudden incident. The former told the latter that the internal heat of the cauldron was gradually rising by itself and that the collection of rare ingredients they put in 12 hours ago had largely diminished, making him have to put in more ingredients than the usual routine.

"Should we stop it, Master?" the staff asked Master Dulin, who was currently busy trying to find out what was actually happening.

The situation forced him to use more ingredients than he should have and it certainly made him lose money. However for him, what he hated and was afraid of the most was inconsistent data. For a researcher like him, inconsistent data would naturally mean incorrect results, which subsequently meant disaster.

Based on his experience in the field of alchemy, Master Dulin knew this was a sign before a potion failed in its process. For this particular case, it would lead to the death of the person inside.

"No! If a privileged acolyte died in my lab it would be extremely bad, both for me and you. I might even lose my master title!!"

The dwarf master turn furious and called out more of his staff to come and help this particular cauldron.

"Hurry up and put more ingredients inside! You have to make sure the temperature is still within our control and margin of error!"

Unfortunately, both sides, Emery and Master Dulin, had absolutely no clue of what was going on in each of their sides, which obviously was the recipe of disaster.

[Battle point increase by one]

[Battle point increase by one]

[Battle point increase by one]

[Battle point increase by one]

[Battle point increase by one]

While Emery undergoing a hellish torture akin to his body slowly being torn apart bit by bit, his battle points on the other hand grew twice as fast. It was as if the excruciating pain and suffering he experienced was a currency and exchanged for a precious commodity called battle points.

The truth was, Emery was already prepared to quit and escape from this cauldron, but immediately after he found he was unable to move his body, no matter how hard he tried.

He couldn't even make any sound or cast any spell, as the pain had taken over his entire body function.

He could clearly feel his heart was pumping like crazy, as if it was on drugs, while his blood was boiling into its highest ceiling. It was also at this point that Emery could even feel some changes in his blood.

There was something that managed to emerge from the blood, a little bit from all over his body, it then coalesced with each other before rushing into his heart. The moment it did so, a shocking message popped into his mind.

[Unknown essence has entered your heart]

[Your body has been corrupted]

'What is that supposed to mean?', Emery thought in the midst of his seemingly perpetual agony.

Then all of a sudden, Emery felt as if his heart had cut off all connection to his spirit cores, making him unable to feel his two cores and his other 6 spirit points. Then, he started feeling his consciousness begin to diminish.

"W-what is... happening... to me..."

As if it answered his question, another message appeared in his mind.

[Warning! Your body is unable to keep up with the rapid changes currently happening]

This time, Emery could tell the notification came with him losing control of his body. It was as if his body finally couldn't take it and decided to shut itself down.

Everything started to turn dark. Emery instinctively knew this could be his last.

"No..." muttered Emery weakly. "I... cannot give up now... I can't..."

Mustering the last energy and willpower he had, Emery forced his consciousness to enter his dual core that was full of spirit energy. Afterwards, he exploded all the energy inside like setting off a firework.

BOOOMM!!!

The huge cauldron exploded, shocking the alchemy master and a group of staff standing around him. They all had gathered because of the commotion.

After everything had calmed down, Master Dulin and his staff quickly rushed over and the latter immediately inspected the body that was lying on the floor, only to discover something that evoked shock and disbelief on his face.

"Master... he's dead."

Master Dulin's instantly changed when he heard that. He immediately pushed the staff aside and inspected Emery's body himself. Moments later, his face turned ugly as he came to the same conclusion his staff had made.

It's true the kid's heart had stopped beating. If that wasn't enough to prove the kid was dead, Master Dulin could no longer detect any activity in the former's brain.

"He's really dead!"