

EMPEROR 1821

Chapter 1821: Breezing Through

The ray of light caused Davis to be on guard. However, sensing that it had no offensive power but was more like a mark of achievement or something, he let it be and eventually approached him and touched his hand, imbuing it with some kind of strange energy as a dull mark of a kirin's face appeared on the back of his palm.

'Could it be that this energy is required to access the second trial?'

His gaze traveled far, and he spotted another monument, making him wonder before he shook his head.

"Not that it matters to me..."

Davis stepped forward with an indifferent expression, but in truth, he was angered.

It may just have been a misunderstanding, but this kind of setup of enslaving people in the guise of helping them was going too far. He hated such people, and perhaps, this is what happens when immortals don't value the character of their inheritors. He could certainly see that lazy Blazing Thunderlight Kirin Immortal be carefree enough to let its inheritance go to a wicked person who schemes like this.

After all, it even awarded him the Firestorm World Ode Manual on a mere whim.

Soon, he neared the twenty-meter tall monument and read the fairly old script of carved characters.

[Congratulations on passing the first trial. The second trial will test your endurance, in other words, your ability to defend. As long as you stay alive for a whole minute under the ruthless attack of the opponent whose level is one level higher than your prowess, you will gain the recognition of the monument like before and gain access to the last trial. Don't give up. I have high hopes for you if you've come halfway already.]

"Ridiculous. High hopes for what? Turning me into a slave?"

Davis scoffed to himself before he raised his hand and pointed at the same weak point he had coincidentally targeted before. A terrifying and ominous ray of pitch-black dark light shot through the dark atmosphere and penetrated the monument without even making a sound when the monument suddenly trembled.

Boom!~

It shattered like before, causing Davis to smile satisfactorily. He never felt that he had it in him to gain satisfaction from destroying things as he loved it at this moment. Amidst the dust of the crumbling monument, he saw another ray of light shoot towards him before it embedded in his hand again, causing the kirin mark to become a bit brighter.

Davis raised his hand and gave a closer look of scrutiny at it.

"This isn't the slave seal, right?"

His soul sense roamed over it, but he couldn't find such negative type of intricacies tied to the mark other than it connecting to the third monument before him and something else towards the end of this tiled road, which he saw with the help of invoking the karmic tendrils of Fallen Heaven.

He was a bit skeptical but wasn't that cautious towards it as he proceeded and appeared in front of the third monument.

[Very good! The fact that you arrived here means that you are far more talented and competent than I thought. Not any person could even last a single strike from an opponent a level higher than them, and even though defending is said to be easier in the lower stages, it applies the same more or less. You have proved yourself to be almost worthy, but there is still the last trial. Speed!]

[Yes, you won't be able to get far in almost everything without speed, even if you have powerful might and endurance. In this trial, you won't have an opponent. Instead, you got to escape the range catered to your cultivation base within two seconds or face death. Don't die on me now and coming this far, you can neither turn back.]

"Two seconds?"

Davis didn't know how many times he felt this whole tomb was ridiculous and probably rigged to only let the most talented complete. Otherwise, he couldn't see how any average genius could pass it. The number of ashes before this particular monument told him how many people had died to this third trial, probably close to a hundred.

Nevertheless, since the monuments were still working, he knew that the blood essences were not taken away yet.

He raised his hand again and shattered the core out of the monument, causing it to collapse into rubble before another light shot out of it again. It swirled in the air before shooting straight towards him and, when it neared, seeped into the back of his hand and brightened the mark even more.

However, Davis smiled suddenly, coming to notice that its aura suddenly became similar to the soul mark the Blazing Thunderlight Kirin Immortal gave him. He came to understand that this mark posed no danger as it looked like a weaker version of the soul mark.

He dropped his hand and began walking forwards when he momentarily noticed the rubble and saw that its grade was at least four levels higher than top quality Peak-Level Emperor Stage. He thought only objects that were enhanced like Legacy Artifacts could reach such a level, but it seems like ores of that level existed as well, just not as common as it seemed here.

Nevertheless, he didn't take the rubble like a miser as his two wives were richer. They had just got to become immortals themselves, and abundant wealth would follow suit.

Soon, he walked the tiled road of the dark tomb lit with lanterns before he arrived in front of a gate with the same kirin image he saw back in the trial zone's entrance after surmounting the flight of stairs, except it became clear to him this was the treasury as the image was more majestic and beautiful.

Unlike the previous three locations, there was nothing written here as far as his eyes could perceive.

Davis waved his hand without dallying, and the Blazing Thunderlight Kirin's soul mark flew out. When the soul mark touched the gate, the Blazing Thunderlight Kirin glowed, its features becoming more visible before it trembled and opened as the ground shook.

'If I could walk past these monuments without having to take the trial, then I wouldn't have even needed to destroy them...'

Davis felt a bit amused as he saw the gates open without even having to use the mark on his right hand. He didn't even need to touch the gate, which made this whole trial zone a waste and even more useless if it weren't for the monuments blocking his path.

"So much thought has been put out to overpower the trialist, but it didn't account for cheating, like me who can pass the trials without having to take it by destroying the monuments. Sigh..."

With an amused sigh, he walked into the treasury with his hands behind his back, appearing to be full of himself with arrogance and pride.

"Ahahaha! Congratulations, outer disciple! The blood essences in the altar are yours. After going through the trial in the pocket spaces, I'm sure that you would be dead tired. Take some rest, and then absorb the three blood essences. Otherwise, you might die from overexerting yourself."

"Tch, no one is here. Just a sound emitting stone..."

Davis felt that it was a wasted opportunity for him to act pompous towards the inheritor, bragging about how he managed to overwhelm their trials and pick a fight.

Nevertheless, he smiled as he looked at the three drops of blood essences placed at the altar in front of him, each drop in a cylindrical vial, radiating an immense destructive aura, making him feel the familiarity to the destructive fire he practiced in his dantian.

The blood in his body actually boiled, wanting to have the taste of the blood essence.

Davis's smile faded as he felt like a vampire lusting after blood, first having his blood calm before he made any decisions. He turned to look around, noticing if he had missed anything. However, there only seemed to be the blood essences and nothing else.

He became a bit infuriated but was still satisfied with what he managed to find.

With a wave of his hand, he plundered the three blood essences into his spatial ring, thinking it was not safe to remain here when suddenly the tomb shook.

'As expected...'

Davis thought that it was such a cliché that the tomb was going to collapse, but in all the shuddering, a compartment suddenly opened, revealing a peculiar object that looked like a transparent yet crystal ball but at the same time, the ceiling above him moved, multiple times as layers of floors kept opening, revealing the red skies of the Inferno Spirit Chamber Territory.

He narrowed his eyes as a few assumptions came to his mind when he suddenly heard an unidentifiable voice again.

“You have offensive power, defensive capability, and extreme speed. However, do you have... luck?”

“Bitch, I swear I’m going to kill you when I find you...!”

Davis swore as he sensed multiple presences gathering above the tomb.

Chapter 1822: Notoriety

Davis couldn’t understand if this inheritor intended to enslave or troll his successor. All that test to give the results to someone else? Someone probably who relied on the status and ended up very weak?

He couldn’t get it for a moment before he looked at the crystal core, quickly understanding.

However, he smirked with disdain as he ascended the floors of the tomb before he arrived above, looking at the plethora of spirits, even some humans in the far distance with calm and composure.

“Spirit Destroyer! How dare you kill many of our Spirit Ancestors? Do you think we’ll stand back and watch you commit further slaughter!?”

Bzzz~ Zzzz!~

Lightning furiously crackled as it threatened to destroy the space around him as ripples began to appear, making the space unstable.

Davis looked at the purple-robed woman with a long trident in her hand, becoming surprised to meet a female lightning spirit. Her skin possessed a light purple tone, and the arcs of lightning crackling around her was also purple, making her appear extremely charming to him as he liked the color of purple, not to mention that there was also a crown on her head, but it was different than Ilesha’s as she had it in front, adorning her forehead.

However, he couldn’t tell what her Spirit Attribute Source Origin was, but still, a few Lightning Elemental names did pop up in his mind, making him feel like she was either a Piercing Amethyst Lightning ranked fifteenth or an Unrestrained Lightning Heir ranked second.

Their piercing power rivaled that of Sword Laws, making them more destructive than the extinction of lightning but not as enduring.

His gaze swept past all else, and he saw that the odds were not so much against him even though there were thirty Spirit Ancestors surrounding him, at least six of them radiating terrifying soul undulations, their prowess becoming apparent that they were one level higher while the others seemed to be strong Peak-Level Ninth Stage Spirit Ancestors.

He also noticed a familiar silhouette whom he had fought before, but he didn’t bother to talk first as he looked at the female lightning spirit with narrowed eyes.

“I’ll warn you only once, so hear me out. I did kill your powerhouses, but it was because they failed to heed my warni-“

“Die!”

The female lightning spirit lashed out with intensity as her purple lightning imbued into her long trident as it shot straight towards Davis.

Davis's pupils dilated. The sharp purple trident was so fast that he felt suppressed and instantly made his move as a barrier appeared. The pitch-black darkness of the edge of the spherical barrier met with the purple lightning trident when suddenly it pierced through without any impediment, making its way towards Davis.

At the same time he released his Emperor Soul Domain fueled with death energy, Davis raised his hand, pointed towards the purple lightning trident, and unleashed his Death Ray. The concentrated cannon of death energy shot forwards with intense speed while the trident also arrived as they both struck in mid-air and caused a massive explosion!

Boom!~

The explosion rapidly tore apart space in a two hundred meter radius, instantly swallowing the overgrown mountains to the side and the plethora of crimson trees that grew on it.

The female spirit's eyes sharply narrowed as she didn't expect the human to be this strong even though it was assumed that he was as powerful as her, able to battle two levels higher from Peak-Level Ninth Stage. However, she didn't expect him to have the same terrifying destructive prowess as her, able to stop her attack.

At the same time, amidst the distortion of space, she sensed the human disappearing from her senses.

"Hmph!~"

With a haughty harrumph, purple arcs of lightning began to fill the area while the other spirits left the range, appearing to be wary of her lightning. Instantly, the surrounding twenty kilometers became covered in purple lightning as the stability of space became unsure. Instead of patching up like space would usually do, it started elongating slowly, tearing more and more.

Puchi!~

"Wha-!?"

The female lightning spirit shook as she lowered her head and saw a hand coming out from her cleavage, brimming with the sight of her imperial blood. Her teeth shuddered before she threw her head up.

"Ahhhh!!!!"

She screamed in pain as purple lightning crackled all over her body, but her voice quickly died down as pitch-black darkness overwhelmed her.

"You were just too slow in turning this entire area into my deathbed, but what a stupid woman you are, not even listening to my reasons..."

Davis exasperatedly spoke. However, she was no longer there to listen.

Before long, her entire body disappeared, leaving Davis with a charred right arm that eventually crumbled into ashes when he moved slightly, causing his wrist to fall. However, he captured it with his left hand before disintegrating it with his own death energy.

His brows twitched in pain.

Even with his death energy covering him, she still managed to erode it and turned a part of his arm in her body into ashes, but he understood that's the cost of quickly ending this battle as he foresaw this dragging out or ending up in his death if he didn't use Fallen Heaven.

After all, she was just as powerful as him, Evelynn, Nadia, and Lea Weiss, perhaps even more with her destructive prowess when purely speaking in terms of raw power.

While he disintegrated his right hand, a new arm grew anew from his right elbow, quickly forming, but it was in its nascent form, weak as a Martial Master Stage arm. However, the more the life energy healed his right arm, the quicker it went back into shape, eventually reaching Peak-Level Martial Overlord Stage in terms of prowess.

He raised his chin and grabbed the lustrous purple spirit core as he saw that the sea of purple lightning had disappeared while space was stitching itself back. However, the spirits and even the humans ran away with all their strength while having their tails between their legs.

He assumed that this female lightning spirit, whose name and origin he didn't know, was one of the apex spirits of the Spirit Ancestral Ground. Since he killed her, the others naturally ran away, and even the most powerful human, Tiran, the Leader of the Renegade Human Shelter, who seemed to be as strong as the past him, scrambled for his life.

However, one spirit remained to face him, looking at him without moving their gaze.

Davis looked at that spirit with calm eyes, wondering what they wanted to say for a few seconds before he didn't bother anymore and moved towards the tomb entrance below, which became more visible after the surface was erased by spatial destruction and ravaging lightning.

"How is my daughter?"

Davis suddenly stopped before he turned to look at Ilesha's imperial father.

"She's alright, making immense progress in her cultivation."

"..."

There was a moment of silence before Ilesha's imperial father nodded with a sigh.

"I see..."

"I'll also be marrying her when time allows me to do so."

His eyes suddenly shot wide as he heard Davis speak with importance seething in his voice.

A human and an imperial spirit together?

He felt ridiculous but then, recalling that he almost killed his daughter for honor and that she probably hated him to the core, he nodded his head.

"If that's her decision, then I won't interfere."

"As if you can interfere in the first place..."

Davis rolled his eyes before he flew towards Ilesha's father, "Give me some ninth stage ice-attribute spirit cores. Your daughter needs it."

Ilesha's imperial father looked at Davis with wide eyes, wanting to find if he was joking but looking at him appear serious, he couldn't help but find this human shameless. Was he threatening him to hand them over, or else he would destroy him?

But the next second, ten tiny jade containers appeared, each of them embedding a ninth stage ice-attribute spirit core in the containers.

"These are from other race ice spirits. Be sure to hand them all over to Ilesha."

Ilesha's imperial father uttered with an annoyed expression on his face, but the voice that usually sounded cold radiated an unseen gentleness, causing Davis to narrow his eyes before he took the jade containers into his spatial ring with a swipe of his hands.

"What about your Frigid World Spirit's Spirit Cores? Surely, you have many from your ancestors."

"Ilesha has deep respect for her ancestors and wouldn't use their spirit cores. If you want, you can take it."

Ilesha's imperial father raised his hand with helplessness, and five more tiny jade containers appeared.

"Mhmmm."

Davis hummed before he turned back, leaving Ilesha's father hanging with the ancestral spirit cores. However, before he entered the tomb, he stopped and spoke.

"I'll be sure to tell Ilesha that her father still cares for her and deeply regrets his mistake."

Ilesha's imperial father trembled a bit. He took a deep breath as he stored the ancestral heirlooms before turning around and leaving.

Davis came back to the treasury and saw the crystal core, which was none other than the core of the tomb. He raised both of his hands and began to refine it, and within a few seconds, his soul formed a connection with it as he became the owner of the tomb.

At the same time the tomb became his, that unidentifiable voice echoed out.

"There's no such thing as luck. Carve the path in front of you by yourself, just like when you managed to come hereafter crossing so many trials and tribulations after finding the Inflamed Kirin Cherry Fruit. The Blazing Thunderlight Sect will support you in your cultivation path. Ascend and join the sect, outer disciple."

"..."

'I see, so he or she meant to give the successor a boost of confidence and belonging by having them kill the enemies with the power of this tomb. Pretty slick for a scheme hatched with so many holes...'

After a silent pause, Davis shook his head as he thought, hoping that it was just his misunderstanding, but his instincts told him it definitely was not, no matter how he pondered.

Chapter 1823: Martial Congregation

Davis shook his head, thinking that it was no use to be prying the intention of the inheritor.

At least, he refined a tomb, no, a temple-like construct that was made into a remnant tomb. Judging by its endurance and capability to attack and defend, he found that it was four levels higher than Peak-Level Ninth Stage. However, he wrecked the front entrance formation out of spite and anger, so that was lost. But still, he sensed that there were many other formations embedded into this construct.

A Peak-Level Emperor Grade Concealment Formation, two Peak-Level Emperor Grade Killing Formation to the sides in a hundred and eighty degrees, and one big Peak-Level Emperor Grade Defensive Formation that covered the entire tomb, which was at least five kilometers long and two kilometers tall, capable of flying. However, they were also four levels higher in prowess except for the concealment formation, which was only three levels higher.

Davis felt like he could use it as a mobile base, but he bet that Isabella and Shirley had better constructs to rely on.

‘Hmm... after Shirley gives birth to our child, she agreed to help Clara gain back her right to inherit the Ice Phoenix Immortal Inheritance. I’ll be there to convince the Ice Phoenix Immortal too, so if all goes right, Clara should get the inheritance back.’

With this, Davis felt that there would be three inheritors in their group, which made them all the more powerful to face future threats with ease.

Thinking like this, he had an urge to see them all and share happiness once again as he felt like a burden was taken from his shoulder due to becoming a bit more powerful, but he quickly suppressed that feeling and sat down, taking the three vials of Blazing Thunderlight Kirin Blood Essence.

His gaze roamed over its magnificence.

However, Davis felt a bit confused about what would happen if he absorbed these three drops of immortal blood essences.

His blood was already mixed with the majority of Earth Dragon and Fire Phoenix Blood in his body, while the blood of Fire Dragon was also there but negligible. The latter two was something he obtained from taking Shirley and Zestia as his women, their gentle yin merging with his yang to give him better rates at absorbing them, but this destructive and overbearing aura radiating from the immortal blood essence certainly had him feel doubtful if it would cause problems to his cultivation.

The quantity of blood essences he had absorbed wasn’t enough to make him a fey, but absorbing this blood certainly increased his chances.

‘Well, as long as it doesn’t reach a certain level of danger, Fallen Heaven’s life energy should be able to heal the unhealthy changes to some degree...’

Davis thought as he recalled how it purified Evelynn’s fey bloodline and made her appear more beautiful but wasn’t able to restore her bloodline to the human race. Perhaps it could, but it just wasn’t powerful enough, making him speculate.

‘This is immortal blood, and clearly, current Fallen Heaven’s prowess won’t do...’

He hesitated a bit before his eyes became ruthless.

With a flick of his finger, he opened the lid of the vial and swallowed a drop of Blazing Thunderlight Kirin Immortal's Blood Essence into his mouth as it began undulating crazily, releasing its energy unto him as it began to merge in an unrestrained manner.

If he was unable to take the energy, his body would explode, especially as he had no contact with this kind of blood essence or help from a person who possessed the blood essence, but with his current soul force's prowess, he was able to restrain it to a vast degree and started refining. And then slowly, he took the second blood essence and the third, improving his Essence Gathering Cultivation at a rapid pace!

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Many people were walking through the wilderness in a certain part of the Fifty-Two Territories, heading to someplace. Many constructs like carriages were carried by magical beasts or driven purely with energy, flying boats drifting through the skies, warships monstrosly moving through the convoluted skies, appearing extremely big and magnificent over the plethora of small constructs that moved along with them.

They all came from different directions, but they were all heading to the same location. This kind of occasion has been going on for the past few days, and people could be seen camping around many areas in this particular region, mingling with their own groups.

With most of the powers gathered, one could tell that chaos would ensue, but surprisingly, there were no fights, and even though there was little bickering, there was more enjoyment compared to that as well as an atmosphere of tension and excitement for some as they looked into the distance where a massive structure was built.

It was a battle arena stretching hundreds of kilometers in an elliptical way while covering an area of seven hundred thousand square kilometers, capable of seating millions of people.

The excitement in the air to enter the arena was high, to begin with, but it became more and more infectious because it signified not only the end of an era but also the advent of the new era with new experts and powerhouses revealing themselves to the wide world, a few of them possibly changing the fate where the world headed towards.

On a particular corner, a white-red-robed old man looked at the outer walls of the battle arena and was greatly moved.

He was none other than the remaining Ancestor of the Twilight Physician Hall.

There was an ardent glow in his eyes that sought prosperity.

Ever since Ancestor Kain Bloodlife fell from the Emperor of Death's mystic arts, he found that his power's destiny was cut off as it was slowly degrading, being harassed by other higher powers, but then, with the blessing of this event hosted in his Territory, he had high hopes for the revival of his Twilight Physician Hall.

And this grand structure dubbed as the New Era Battle Arena brought his power endless riches, further strengthening his Twilight Physician Hall that was on the verge of collapsing. If the Four Great Righteous

Sects hadn't stepped up to aid him with their powerful forces, he really didn't know what kind of fate he would've faced, much less walk alive after the Emperor of Death seized control over the three easternmost Territories.

He waited for the battle arena to open with utmost reverence. However, he also knew that it wouldn't open without all the hegemonies at the same time. With the Four Great Righteous Sect overseeing, he only felt that it was a matter of time before everyone gathered, and even five seconds didn't pass before he saw the first arrival with his own eyes.

A hundred-meter diameter spherical construct soared the skies as it made its way towards them.

Many people found out that it was the pill hegemon of the Nine Western Territories, the Thousand Pill Palace.

The atmosphere throttled but then instantly became full of fervor as they saw an icy white palace with crystal clear water falling from the curved and edges of the exterior, forming into ice at the bottom before it was sucked into the palace, surging to the top before falling as water as it maintained a perpetual cycle of melting and freezing.

Everyone instantly realized that the palace belonged to the Mystic Ice Sect beauties, becoming charmed by their construct alone that looked one with nature. It radiated a different charm than the pill-like construct of the Thousand Pill Palace, which released a certain aroma that instantly enriched the quality of heaven and earth energy.

It could be seen that both powers were giving it their all to come out on top.

Nevertheless, they were eagerly waiting for the power that almost flipped the state of the Fifty-Two Territories. The upheavals that power brought were nothing short of the Calamity Light itself so far and could even be said to be the sole power that had the most chances to survive it.

Everyone craved to join that power, but it was closed off, and the only one who could allow them to enter was a young individual that they couldn't hope to meet or look straight in their eyes.

Even though they eagerly waited for them, they were unable to see them. Instead, they saw a plethora of other hegemonies appear, their constructs and fleet of warships or abodes appearing to be grander and flamboyant than the others.

The Dual Lotus Manor appeared in a heart-shaped construct with their two leaders standing on the two edges of the heart.

The Pill Refining Sect also appeared in a pill-shaped construct, but there was also a towering palace on top of it.

The Emperor Sword Sect practically all flew on a giant sword that carried them all the way to this place, radiating a sharp might that threatened to stab their eyes but didn't as it was just an illusion of their fears.

The Soul Palace journeyed in giant flying palaces and abodes as the aura of a vast soul pressure could be felt.

The Jade Lotus Valley appeared in a beautiful five-petal lotus construct and swirled around as it flew, appearing charming like the beauties inside.

The Glorious Pill Palace showed up in a vast pill-shaped construct grander than that of the other two pill hegemony while having numerous palaces as their fleet.

The Burning Phoenix Ridge were all extremely magnificent, flying in a grand crimson palace that was a few hundred meters tall while a flock of Burning Phoenixes blazed with flames as they majestically made their way.

All the Mid-Sized Territories swiftly flew in, and the congregation of their strength, all gathered in one place, shook the hearts of millions of people gathered in this particular region today.

Followed by them, even the main fleet of the Heaven Gazing Villa, Vast Sky Emperor Palace, Astral Light Sect, the Dragon Families, and the other prominent powers in Large-Sized Territories appeared, making the crowd erupt into a huge cacophony of roars and screams.

The bunch of spectacles they had witnessed today had crossed their imagination as they all felt like they were living something many people failed to see in their lifetime!

However, the bustling atmosphere suddenly became silent as they felt an oppressive aura abruptly appear to overwhelm them. When they turned to look, they saw nothing but a black dot in the distance, standing above a grand palace adorned with the patterns of a brownish-golden dragon and its statues all over the walls and the ledges of the palace.

Everyone couldn't help but suck in a breath of cold air that some even started coughing as they recognized that black dot was none other than that ominous magical beast that once terrified the hell out of them all, even in their dreams when they had just heard a description of it.

Still, they all recognized that this grand palace was none other than the Grand Alstreim Family!

"Today officially marks the grand opening of the Nine Western Territories Young Expert Competition! Since the hegemony have all arrived, everyone can enter the New Era Battle Arena now!"

A resounding voice echoed, and some recognized this voice as the Mandate Emperor's voice. However, for most people, they didn't care as the authority of the voice was grander than anything they had heard before, causing them to erupt.

"!!!!!!!"

A deafening roar shook the heaven and earth, completely overwhelming the entirety of the New Era Battle Arena and the surroundings with the massive yet harmless shockwave of cheers!

The upcoming days would decide the fate of their human race!

Chapter 1824: New Era Battle Arena

Hordes of people flew into the many entrances of the New Era Battle Arena after the authoritative announcement from the Mandate Emperor. He panned his gaze and looked at the powers who arrived settle in a few mountain ranges nearby before approaching them.

As the host, he arranged a few individuals to welcome and show the way to their seating area. After all, the hegemon all had their own seating area, regardless of the true power the other powers possessed.

With this arrangement, the Small-Sized Territories would essentially sit together on the same floor as the Mid-Sized Territories and the Large-Sized Territories, and although it may offend some people, maybe a lot of people, that was what being a hegemon meant, having control over a Territory with the help of their own strength or through the help of the Four Great Righteous Sects.

It couldn't be disputed unless they wanted to take it to the Four Great Righteous Sects.

The first hegemon to enter the New Era Battle Arena was the Thousand Pill Palace. The emblem of their sect was on the back of their robes, while some of them were also equipped with grand flags that flailed in the wind as they walked to their seats.

Along with the three Ancestors walked a veiled beauty who instantly garnered the attention of all the gathered men in the New Era Battle Arena.

Sounds of whispers and awed statements could be heard. Some of them were from fairly powerful families and sects. They looked at their alchemist beauties like they were contemplating whom to take.

The Thousand Pill Palace couldn't help but feel wry as they saw this scene.

They were once the overseers of this competition, but the authority was taken away from them. However, in no way could they make something this grand and control this kind of powerful crowd, so in a way, although they felt that it was apt that they were ousted, they still felt irked to be a nobody in this competition that hailed them for every few hundred years.

"Woah...!"

Without a change in how they would react, the men in the crowd erupted as they saw the Mystic Ice Sect walk in. Most of them felt like their eyes were blessed by their icy-white skin and robe, while their icy gaze also made them feel like they were beneath them to even look at them. This kind of gap had them shaking from the cold atmosphere that emerged with their entrance.

All of them looked quite young and beautiful that they couldn't tell who was who if it weren't for their robes and the emblem they wore indicating their status.

Their Sect Master Bing Luli was especially voluptuous and walking in the front, she instantly caught the eyes of many, making them feel like wanting to have her as she was still not taken, retaining her innocence which was highly attractive to them. Not only her, but they were staring at the other higher-than-thou looking beauties with interest, wondering if they would reciprocate if they were to head to talk.

This competition was not only a martial exchange but there were going to be a lot of relationships and alliances formed here, through marriage and other tie-ups. Everyone was aware of that and couldn't help but feel that they should stand in line before the others could take them away.

However, this was not the time.

Sss~

Suddenly the atmosphere became hot as the icy air disappeared.

An old lady and a voluptuous crimson robed woman led the entourage while the latter wore a veil on her face.

They saw it was none other than the Burning Phoenix Ridge's sole remaining Ancestor and Sect Master, causing them to hold their breaths.

They led a group of handsome men which instantly garnered the ladies' eyes to become wide. The bevy of women they possessed also made the men widen their eyes, but they were scared since the women of Burning Phoenix Ridge were said to be quite fiery and bad-mouthed, unlike the Mystic Ice Sect beauties whose cold air automatically placed a sealing talisman to their mouths while they simultaneously radiated elegance.

Nevertheless, the people still remembered how the wicked path invaded it but still stood tall by receiving the help of the Emperor of Death, who ultimately killed four hegemony of the wicked path.

That matter shook their hearts, completely flipping their view on the Emperor of Death who protected the Burning Phoenix Ridge from total annihilation and finally had them believe that he was not entirely a threat to their righteous path.

“!!!”

The Emperor Sword Sect then entered, which instantly garnered screams from crazy women who looked at the handsome and sharp men with charm in their eyes.

In the Emperor Sword Sect's entourage, the vastly strong Sect Master flew in the front along with a few Ancestors, making their way towards their seating. The top disciples were slowly flying on top of their swords like immortals. However, the moment they turned to look around and cast a smile at them, their hearts almost jumped out of their throats, causing them to erupt into a melodious peal of screams, bragging to their best female disciples that the top disciples were looking at them.

The men were flabbergasted and even jealous as they looked at their own junior sisters and senior sisters going crazy for them that they truly felt the threat of the Emperor Sword Sect's men, who boasted the most powerful offensive attack which made highly attractive as strength always attracted women.

“...”

Next, as a group of dark-green-robed women entered the New Era Battle Arena, the silence grew instead of resounding as it did before as both the men and women witnessing their walk became silent. The women in their entourage were as beautiful as the Mystic Ice Sect and Burning Phoenix Ridge women, wearing a green-blue veil that accentuated their looks and sometimes their blue hair. However, due to the secluded space, a natural barrier they lived in, little was known about them.

They only had relations with the Emperor Sword Sect, and the resulting alliance between them made their progenies almost invincibly handsome and gorgeous in terms of looks alone. Nevertheless, all they knew was that the Jade Lotus Valley's women were off-limits. Otherwise, they would risk offending the Emperor Sword Sect.

Looking at the resulting silence, the Emperor Sword Sect's men also looked smug as they looked like they were enjoying the monopoly over the beauties of the Jade Lotus Valley.

As the Mid-Sized Territories Hegemons entered one by one, the atmosphere became more heated, especially when the couples of the Dual Lotus Manor entered. It was unknown how many tried to hide their faces or displayed disgust as they reacted like they hadn't been to the Dual Lotus Manor for 'that' before. Some were genuine, but most were purely to act righteous and hypocritical, causing a storm of reactions to brew when they entered.

However, most of their rumors were squashed at this moment as they could see the Dual Lotus Manor's couples were all dressed modestly contrary to what they heard through hearsay. They were not as devious, licentious, and shameless as they heard them be but appeared moderately common, perhaps even elegant as they radiated a certain charm of resilience.

However, looking at some men amidst them walk with a bevy of women around them still irked them to some degree, making them inwardly curse them to death.

Bzzz!~

After the Mid-Sized Territory Hegemons entered, the Large-Sized Territory Hegemons followed suit.

Their lineup made people suck in a deep breath of cold air, for the energy and aura they radiated was vastly stronger than anyone else they felt at this moment. Only the Emperor Sword Sect's Sect Master came closer to the magnificence of the Starnova Emperor, who led the entourage of the Astral Light Sect.

Furthermore, to make things spicier and interesting, he was even with the Glorious Pill Palace's number one beauty, Farah Lanate! To them, it became little doubt that the Starnova Emperor managed to woo the beauty!

The core disciples or top disciples, in some cases, also looked impressive than the previous lineup of youths they had seen, appearing more powerful.

The Heaven Gazing Sect approached next without any fanfare, but they were taken aback by looking at a young blond beauty. Recently, she was said to have become the successor to the Heaven Gazing Sect, which made them feel doubtful. Nevertheless, with the Heaven Gazing Sect's arrival, it was quickly followed suit by the Heaven Mandate Temple, which made the people look at both of them with a pious and thankful attitude.

After all, if it weren't for these two powers, peace, despite the occasional chaos, for the most part, wouldn't have lasted for century millenniums.

However, they also noticed a blonde, young, veiled-beauty floating along with the Heaven Mandate Temple. They noticed her purple eyes radiated a kind of curiosity as she looked at them, as though she was a saintess untainted by the world. It made them not only feel giddy but realize that they could feel a certain type of emotion swelling within them for her, reverence.

"...!?"

They quickly shook their heads to calm themselves out of their outrageous emotions of inferiority that suddenly took over them somehow.

What was that? Just who was that young woman? They did hear that she had also recently become the successor to the Heaven Mandate Temple, but both of the young ladies' origins were still unknown to the majority of the people.

Chapter 1825: Three Segments

The origins of the two young blonde beauties instantly became a topic to discuss. Most of them pointed out the similarity to the Alstreim Family's features and characteristics and a few others were sure that they came from the Alstreim Family.

However, how was it possible that so many talented individuals came from the Alstreim Family? They refused to believe that these two beauties were also a part of Alstreim Family even though there were certain pieces of evidence that suggested it.

Followed by them, the Vast Sky Palace also entered, brimming with a burst of confidence as they entered, both young men and young women. They practiced Wind and Spatial Laws, and that itself elevated them to a height far above anyone else since both laws complimented each other. However, it was not like any of them mastered the ability to fuse them both, which made them only a bit stronger than the other Great Righteous Sects.

However, their overall capability far surpassed any power they've encountered, making them the most force to be not reckoned with!

With this many entering experts and powerhouses appearing, the excitement within the atmosphere reached an all time high. Just when they thought it wasn't going to get any better, all the sound died down.

It was just as they thought. It didn't get any better but the New Era Battle Arena dropped to a pin-drop silence as they looked at the bevy of veiled beauties fly through the highest entrance as the hegemons, making their way towards the seat. There were also a few men, but it could be seen that they were Ancestor or Grand Elders while even the Falling Snow Sect beauties were there.

Still, the young man that they expected wasn't there but there was an heavy surmounting pressure emanating from their group, making them almost unable to breath.

"Now, now, Nadia. There's no need to be so cautious..."

An amused female voice echoed, causing the crowd to quickly heave a sigh as they could breathe freely now, thanks to the help of the Earth Dragon Queen.

The ominous wolf that looked like a empire-toppling beauty took their breath away but the pressure she emitted left them unable to move or breathe, rapidly fastening the rate of their heartbeat. Even the hegemons looked astonished and solemn at Nadia, for they recognized that her prowess was... extremely strong!

The Mandate Emperor and Karmic Guardian Emperor's eyes were wide as they noticed that she could be stronger than the both of them combined. Last time, they had worked together and trapped but this time, it was unknown if they could do anything to her!

But unlike the ones who understood the solemnness of the situation, many were full of distaste and salty as they looked at the Alstreim Family show off by appearing the last.

Just because they had one or two individuals that surpassed everyone else, they thought they could act arrogant in front of everyone else?

They thought that were was going to be a beatdown of arrogance when nobody said anything even after a minute passed, causing them to be shocked!

This... what the hell was going on!?

The ominous wolf couldn't be just forgiven just because she was a dumb magical beast, right?

If any other magical beast had pressured everyone else present, it would certainly be taken down or even killed! After all, how many could withstand a higher stage being's pressure? It was certainly a hostile attack, so why wasn't that ominous wolf punished by everyone present!?

"Now that everyone has gathered inside, I would like to announce the events that would take place even though the schedule is already widely known."

Contrary to their expectations, the Mandate Emperor stood at the very north of the elliptical battle arena and started to speak with a solemn voice after everyone was seated in their place.

"First, this competition was meant to be something exclusive to the Nine Western Territories but due to the recent upheavals and the absence of hegemony, we decided to change the format of this competition. Those are not the only reasons since we have this..."

The Mandate Emperor looked to the skies and shook his head, "... ominous sign on top of her heads. I'm sure everyone are making preparation to face whatever that may come and this is one of those preparations."

A smile suddenly appeared on his indifferent face, "The young generation are the lifeline of any power. The oldest generation may be the pillars, but foundation crumbles over time and it is up to the younger generation to support the crumbling foundation by becoming the foundation themselves or, even become pillars and nurture the next generation of support."

"Today, we're going to be exactly seeing what our youths are going to accomplish in this New Era Battle Arena. The winners of this competition would receive our full support in cultivation resources and they wouldn't lack anything for the most part. However, would they be worthy?"

"Worthy!!!"

A cacophony of echoes from millions of voices invoked an extreme wind that brushed past everyone, causing the Mandate Emperor to deeply smile.

"The competition consists of three segments. The competition for Seventh Stage Young Experts goes on for two days, and so does the competition for Eighth Stage Young Experts for the next two days. Only

the competition for the Ninth Stage Young Powerhouses would go for three days, making it so that this Nine Western Territories Young Expert Competition would go on for a seven days for total!”

“Ninth Stage Young Powerhouses!?”

Most people sucked in a cold breath of air.

Some didn’t know when these ‘Young Powerhouses’ became so common that a competition could be hosted for them. However, they forgot that most powers were concentrating on a single or a few individuals now instead of catering to individual achievements. When most of the resources was dumped on a single or a tiny few individuals, they found that it vastly increased their prowess but didn’t increase their overall prowess.

Most powers didn’t dare to try this method since it was like putting all one’s hard earned wealth into one bucket, but since a calamity was inbound, no one had the patience to slowly increase their power’s overall prowess anymore and resorted to power leveling the most talented individuals even though it screwed up most other people who were striving and equally hardworking as them, but were now contrarily forced to look for other things to prove themselves useful through marriages and professions.

That’s why the tension in the air to look for grooms and brides were high or be accepted by a profession master. It was even more of a life-changing matter than ever before.

Nevertheless, only seven days for this competition of this scale?

They felt that the margin was too small. Usually, even the previous Nine Western Territories Young Expert Competitions lasted for two weeks, sometimes even a month, considering that it was once in a century event and needed to be grand, so they couldn’t understand why the time period for the competition was so small.

Although they weren’t nitpicking, the atmosphere became low with excitement as they remembered less days meant less days to enjoy. Both young women and men felt that this was the final time where they would be able to be themselves before being used by their power to fulfill its needs, not to mention that their time to find a potential groom or bride was severely narrowed down to seven days.

This was a place where hundreds of millions of exchange takes place but it was reduced to a short period of time? They couldn’t help but lament.

“Due to the power intricacies and disparity, no power from the Large-Sized Territories will battle in the competition for Seventh Stage Young Experts. Instead, powers from the Mid-Sized Territories are eligible to participate in this battle. I’m sure you all know this already, but let me tell you all something you don’t know.”

“Previously, it was decided that Law Tree Fruits that increases their chances to step into the Ninth Stage or even possible create a Perfect Law Domain, a mighty construct made by the Vital Tempering Sect, from the power that is unfortunately no longer alive, the Pearl Sage Ark of High-Level Emperor Grade and a Dream Dusk Dew, a heavenly resource that would increase one’s Soul Forging Cultivation to Supreme Soul Stage upon consumption, would be rewarded to the Seventh Stage Young Expert Winners but on top of that, we have decided to give them ten Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Cores of which one of them of their elemental nature which can be consumed by the top first winner alone.”

“If they stop being hypocritical about it and truly made the world a better place, I would participate in it too. However, you saw what happened to the Earth Dragon Queen before she proved herself to be a force to be reckoned with. In this kind of prosperity, the wealthy and powerful would always have the upper hand, just not explicitly and honestly as the wicked path does.”

Another black-robed woman spoke, except she was hooded and wore a mask, which made her conspicuous in her own way, but amidst the millions of people, she was just like a speck of dust in the dusty area.

These two were none other than Mo Mingzhi and Schleya.

Many people wore masks to hide their identity, and as long as they didn't do something stupid, people wouldn't generally bother with them.

Nevertheless, as they stood side by side and listened to the speech of the Mandate Emperor, they commented while the others stayed silent, making their voices sound rather glaring to the immediate crowd. Cultivators had good ears, and unless someone was purposefully limiting the range of their voice, they could still hear it, and coincidentally hearing these two women talk made their eyes twitch.

Who were these two scrawny women? They dared to bring the word 'wicked path' here?

Even if they were the Emperor of Death's women, they couldn't be this daring, right?

Coincidentally, the Mandate Emperor also heard them speak, but he didn't bother with them as he knew they were similar to their man, doubting and demonizing the righteous path for its weaknesses and areas that it couldn't cover. He just lamented why couldn't they see the overall good that came from it.

“The state of the righteous world will most likely be decided by the people who win in these battles. As a direct manifestation, we Four Great Righteous Sects have decided to allow the three top winners of the three segments to become hegemon themselves, claiming the spots to fill the gap left by a few powers of the Nine Western Territories that faded to history.”

The Mandate Emperor raised his hand and waved.

“With this, I hereby announce the start of the Nine Western Territories Young Expert Competition!”

“Long live the righteous path! Long live the Four Great Righteous Sects!!!”

The crowd chanted in an uproar, taking the atmosphere to a great high again. Quickly, powers began sending their list of youths to take part in the competition. Previously, there was a quota to the number of participants a power could send, and that hadn't changed, but the number of powers who could participate drastically increased, and the number of participants they could send was almost a third of the hegemon, which meant if a hegemonic power can send nine people, the other powers could send one or two youths representing their power.

As for vagrant cultivators, they had to join a power themselves to obtain a spot.

Many people had fought and even lost their lives to have their youths stand in these spots, so one could see how valuable it was.

The youths made their way as they walked down the red stairs of blood and glory. It signified the blood that they would shed here to make history.

However, it was both amusement and hope to see who and all would enter the top five to win!

Above the skies of the battle arena, two white-robed figures could be seen.

They were none other than Honorable Elder Julian Kruse and Honorable Elder Mihangel Evans. They both acted as arbitrators for the battle arena and the fights that were going to take place in it.

Almost everyone couldn't help but admire their stature and bearing, making them appear in a way that wouldn't be of any embarrassment to their two powers.

"Before the battles begin, we'll confirm that everyone competing in the Seventh Stage Young Expert Competition is under hundred years old amidst the watchful eyes of the crowd. This way, not only can all doubts be cleared, but the people can also appreciate how powerful our youths are at such a young age."

In the battle arena that stretched hundreds of kilometers, there were eight entrances as there were eight directions. At the entrance of each side was an Advanced Age Determining Formation. The formation trembled a bit, and each passing individual's brown color shone, making the crowd aware that they were all below a hundred years old.

Many youths with mighty, eager, indifferent, or carefree bearing entered the battle arena one by one, and the first thing they did was measure their opponents with scrutiny in their eyes. Some already had rivals. Some were alone and didn't bother to socialize, unlike a few others who quickly struck up a conversation, wanting to make alliances with their powers.

"Let's go, shall we?"

In the Alstreim Family's seating area, Sophie and Niera nodded to each other before they stepped out. They flew down above the red stairs hand-in-hand. Followed by them, Logan, Claire, and Nora stepped out, making it a total of five participants from the Alstreim Family.

No one said anything but smiled as they nodded their heads.

However, even Mo Mingzhi and Fiora joined them who were only at Law Manifestation Stage, causing the others to roll their eyes as they saw that these two troublemakers possessed wide grins on their faces as if they were going to make the participants miserable.

Overseeing them all was Evelyn. She saw if the others wanted to go before she cast a direct look at the two figures above the battle arena.

"Question. If I participate in one segment and win, am I still eligible to participate in the other two segments?"

"..."

Her melodious voice instantly started the millions of people as they came to a standstill. The atmosphere dropped to a pin-drop silence as they saw who it was. Some even gulped as they saw this

veiled yet voluptuous beauty. Her stark purple eyes were so extremely sexy that they were completely charmed for a moment before they looked away, not daring to look at her.

Not only was she the Emperor of Death's first wife, but she was also the person who massacred the entire Poison Lord Villa in retaliation, wrongfully coming to be known as the Hex Demoness! Only her might and her title were widespread, and most people had already forgotten her real name.

Even Honorable Elder Mihangel Evans gulped before her gaze as he was well aware of what she was capable of.

Was she planning on participating in this competition? Isn't that a bit too overkill!?

Chapter 1827: An Alstreim?

Nevertheless...

"Yes." With a smile on his face, Honorable Elder Mihangel Evans answered, "You can still participate in the other two segments even if you fail as we are aware that there are cultivators who are strong in body or soul cultivation but is weak in Essence Gathering Cultivation."

Everyone couldn't help but turn to look at the Soul Palace as they were a classic example of being strong in Soul Forging Cultivation but fairly weak in Essence Gathering Cultivation and weaker in Body Tempering Cultivation.

Evelynn nodded before she moved her lips again.

"Then do we need to seal our higher cultivation base?"

"No need." Honorable Elder Mihangel Evans shook his head as he smiled, "Age is the sole factor deciding who can be matched with whom. If you're below a hundred years old and are an immortal somehow, you can still take part in the Seventh Stage Young Expert Segment and the other two segments as you like. However, the cultivation you use should only be limited or lower to the segment. If you use a higher cultivation base, you would automatically be disqualified."

Evelynn nodded before she looked behind.

"Tina?"

"I'm not interested in fighting..."

Tina Roxley wryly smiled as she felt that her current prowess couldn't compare to the ones who entered.

"But if you need me to- "

"It's not a problem." Evelynn shook her head, "I'm not forcing you. There are a few spots left from our power to fill up that if it isn't, I feel that there are so many whose going to get jealous."

Tina Roxley couldn't help but giggle at Evelynn's words before the latter turned to look towards the other side.

"Natalya, are you sure that you don't want to go?"

“Evelynn, I’d feel quite embarrassed to be battling with Law Dominion Stage Experts with my current strength even if they possess a Perfect Domain.”

Evelynn couldn’t help but smile at Natalya’s confidence before she turned to look at someone else.

“Tanya Frostblight, you can head down to participate.”

“...”

Tanya Frostblight blinked before she nodded. She took a deep breath before she flew down the stairs.

The Falling Snow Sect wasn’t recognized as a hegemon anymore, but the Falling Snow Sect Territory was still theirs as the Emperor of Death allowed so after he claimed the three western-most Territories for himself. Basically, the Falling Snow Sect was under the Emperor of Death’s protection although, they still haven’t returned to their Territory since the upcoming days can be dangerous due to the Calamity Light.

Evelynn recognized that there was only one spot left for their power. She thought of going by herself just to fill up the number but decided against it as she sensed a particular gaze fall on her. She simply smiled before her lips moved again.

“I’m not participating.”

“...”

Suddenly, it was as though a heavy wind of relief brewed in the battle arena, causing the people to look at each other as though they had escaped from a disaster.

“Still... wouldn’t the Earth Dragon Queen or the Emperor of Death still basically win all the segments with their overbearing prowess if they are allowed to participate?”

Someone in the crowd suddenly couldn’t help but ask when everyone saw it was a scrawny youth from the Twilight Physician Hall. He already looked scholarly and weak enough, but everyone, especially the youths, couldn’t help but ponder as they turned to look at the two arbitrators above.

The two arbitrators didn’t know what to say as they didn’t want to offend the Alstreim Family easily by saying something they shouldn’t.

“Yes, but rest assured.”

However, Evelynn spoke at this moment, causing them to turn to look at her again.

“The Earth Dragon Queen, my third sister, is pregnant with the Emperor of Death’s child while the Emperor of Death, our husband, has still not arrived as he is secluded in cultivation.”

“Ohh!!”

“Congratulations to the Emperor of Death and the Earth Dragon Queen!”

A chorus of well-wishes echoed as most people turned towards the west and wished the Alstreim Family, causing the people from the latter to become surprised. They didn’t expect such intensity of emotion from them, and even though it is possible that they’re mostly opportunists trying to earn good favor, it still felt good to be congratulated by millions at the same time.

“But what if the Emperor of Death finishes his seclusion and comes here?” That same youth couldn’t help but ask.

“Then blame your luck.” The Mandate Emperor suddenly spoke, causing everyone’s ears to perk up with attention, “Or, you can plead and convince the Emperor of Death not to participate. As the hosts who set the rules before this competition started, we can’t stop the Emperor of Death from participating, not to mention that he’s younger than you all, which brings the question that if you have thick enough skin to stop him from participating.”

The one who asked turned crimson from embarrassment, quickly filled with shame as he felt like the Mandate Emperor berated him while Fiora and the others giggled, looking prideful of their husband. He wasn’t even here, but the Mandate Emperor held him in high regard.

As for the Twilight Physician Hall and their Ancestor sitting amidst the hegemony, they couldn’t help but hide their faces in shame as they inwardly cursed their dumb top disciple. They were already disadvantaged in terms of battles, so couldn’t he have kept his mouth shut, lost, and come back without bringing shame!?

Inside a spacious yet veiled palanquin sat Isabella and Shirley as they kept giggling. However, Isabella turned to look at Shirley as she asked.

“Don’t you want to reveal your current status?”

“It’s fine.” Shirley’s smile turned wry, “Getting pregnant before marrying is a disgrace. Everyone would know that if I reveal myself.”

As she spoke, she patted her big tummy.

“Didn’t our husband tell you not to care about that?” Isabella narrowed her eyes, “I think it is important to let people know that you truly have his first child instead of just rumors.”

Shirley bit her lips before she shook her head.

“Still, it is- ah, I felt a kick...”

“Hehe~ Yours is certainly lively but mine...”

“Don’t worry. Yours will start kicking soon enough...”

“So, is it a boy or a girl?”

Isabella raised her brows before Shirley smirked as her cherry lips curved.

“Not telling... What about you?”

“Not telling either.”

“Hehehe~” They both laughed, keeping it a secret before Shirley suddenly spoke.

“Somehow, I miss him more at these times, wanting him to be with me when I laugh...”

“Me too, but don’t worry. He’ll be here as soon as he finishes absorbing the three drops of immortal blood essences.”

Isabella consoled, to which Shirley nodded.

As pregnant ladies, they bonded well after some time. When Davis was in the Spirit Lands with the others, they had many things to share, having heart-to-heart talks most of the time while Evelyn and Nadia took care of the house and defense.

Once the participating youths all made their way to the battle arena, the edge lit up as an enormous wave of transparent white light covered them. It was a Spatial Dream Extending Formation that drastically enlarges the said space within its field and also had the ability to cast an illusion terrain.

The youths in the battle arena were looking at the formation in awe before a voice echoed.

“Wait! You are not supposed to come here...”

Suddenly, the same youth from the Twilight Physician Hall looked at a white-robed woman who suddenly appeared from the northern part of the battle arena, which was mostly empty.

Feeling confident even after experiencing shame, he put his hands behind his back, straightened his chest, and spoke.

“Youths, no matter their age, they are not allowed for this segment if they are from the Large-Sized Territory- uh... maybe you can... I don’t know...”

His body abruptly froze as he recognized the beauty in front of him. Her purple eyes shocked him to the core while the indifference that radiated from her aura pierced his heart that his pupils almost turned into the shape of a heart.

“I’m here to represent the Alstreim Family.”

“Alstreim... what? Alstreim Family? You...”

He had a second look that saw her features instead of her raw beauty before he noticed her blonde hair and purple eyes as his eyes became wide.

“What the... you do indeed have the features of the Alstreim Family. However, who are you? Are you not the successor to the Heaven Mandate Temple?”

In fact, not only him but everyone looked at her with confusion.

The white-robed woman narrowed her eyes with hesitation before she spoke.

“I don’t care about being a successor to the Heaven Mandate Temple. I am Davis Alstreim’s younger sister, Clara Alstreim.”

“email protected#\$%^&*”

‘Davis Alstreim? Isn’t that the Emperor of Death!!!?’

He screamed internally, but it was not only him as millions of mouths opened agape while expressions of shock became prevalent.

Chapter 1828: First Kill

The entire battle arena was silent for a few moments before their smiles couldn't help but appear on their faces.

This white-robed woman known as Clara wasn't telling the truth, was she?

The Mandate Emperor sighed as he looked at the reaction of the crowd.

He had gone through numerous troubles to make various stories for her identity so that she wouldn't encounter avoidable dangers and told her to be low-key like her elder brother wanted, but she ended up introducing herself to everyone as his little sister.

He felt that both the brother and sister were a headache, not listening to him as they did as they pleased.

"She's indeed the Emperor of Death's little sister. For various reasons and competence, she will become the successor to my Heaven Mandate Temple, and unless I say otherwise, there's no changing that."

"...!"

With the confirmation from the Mandate Emperor, their hearts shook in disbelief.

How could the Heaven Mandate Temple and the Alstreim Family form an alliance? Did this mean that one party was controlled by the other? They couldn't understand the intricacies behind nor tell the mystery behind Clara's path towards becoming the successor to the Heaven Mandate Temple, although they did have many opinions and speculations forming about it in their minds.

Clara nodded her head, satisfied with the confirmation, before she looked at the lanky youth and narrowed her eyes.

"Also, we have another name, the name we went by in our earlier years and represents our origin, the Loret Imperial Family of the Forsaken Phoenix Realm. My father's name is Logan Loret, and my mother's name is Claire Alstreim. We were both named Davis Loret and Clara Loret first. You would do well to remember that."

"Y-Y-Y-Yes!"

The youth from the Twilight Physician Hall felt overwhelmed by the intensity of her words that he flinched and nodded. He watched her walk away with indifference to his plight as his expression went red.

He couldn't understand. Why did he feel so compelled to listen to her words and could even feel the aura behind them?

It made him feel humiliated and amplified by the previous humiliation he received; he cast a hateful look at her. However, coming to know that she was the little sister of the Emperor of Death, he lowered his head, quickly wanting to forget the humiliation he received from her.

Clara made her way to her group before she stood in front of her parents, revealing a little smile behind her veil.

"Clara, my little princess..."

Logan shot a genuine smile before he raised his hand and patted her head.

“With you here, I don’t believe I can even come near to winning anymore.”

“Father, when the time comes, I will forfeit.” Clara shook her head like a filial child.

“Oh no, I’m just here for the experience.” Logan shook his head, “I do not have the intentions to win, nor am I that strong. Even my daughters-in-law would beat me black and blue. Haha.”

He wryly laughed, causing Sophie and Niera to panic as they spoke.

“Father-in-law. We don’t dare!”

“Besides, we’re powerful thanks to your son who goes out of his way to look after us.”

Logan’s mouth slightly parted. He wasn’t sure about the specifics as he had indulged in secluded cultivation these past few months, but it looks like Davis was certainly taking care of his women. At the same time, hearing his son act with responsibility, he wanted to see the women he left back in the Loret Imperial Castle.

However, sensing the gazes of his two main wives behind him, Claire and Nora, he felt that he and his son were living a different life of looking after their women as these two definitely wouldn’t allow him to spend more time with them than them.

“That’s right. Why didn’t brother come?”

Clara asked with narrowed eyes, her melodious voice appearing worried. She knew that he had gone to the Spirit Lands.

Did something happen?

“Don’t worry, strict little sister.” Mo Mingzhi smirked, “He informed us that he would at least appear before the competition ends. Right now, he’s truly cultivating, making massive improvements to his Essence Gathering Cultivation.”

“I see.” Clara nodded before her gaze sharpened, “Also, you should call me sister-in-law or Clara. Not strict little sister.”

“Okay, little empress...”

Mo Mingzhi wandered off as she looked away with a smile, causing the others to look away and giggle while Logan and Claire were taken aback, looking quite impressed with her.

Did she not feel intimidated by Clara?

Even as her parents, they felt a bit timed with her commanding presence that grew along with her cultivation. So how could Mo Mingzhi not?

On the other hand, Clara felt that Mo Mingzhi was intentionally making trouble with her. She didn’t feel like responding to this kind of teasing as she felt that it was childish before she suddenly turned around and looked at the two figures in the skies.

“Everyone...”

Honorable Elder Julian Kruse spoke at this moment. He flashed his token as an Honorable Elder of the Heaven Gazing Sect and moved his lips with solemnness in his face.

“It is time for the Seventh Stage Young Expert Competition to start. As you are all aware, the first round will be a round of mass elimination, which means to each their own. There are a total of 432 participants from the Twelve Hegemons and many Emperor Grade Powers from the Low-Sized and Mid-Sized Territories. You are free to form a team during this first round, even backstab, but not kill.”

“Those who kill will be disqualified and subjected to severe scrutiny as we understand that accidents do happen, but intentional moves to kill when it is clear that such a situation could be avoided will end you in a public execution. At that time, you could accept your death or revolt. Here, where the powerhouses of the righteous hegemons have gathered, it’ll be all the same.”

Some who had bad blood with each other gulped before they abandoned all thoughts of planning to kill them secretly or fake it in an accidental manner.

“You are all young people who are going to prop up your powers within a short period of time, so behave accordingly as your actions will represent the image of your powers and vastly move the reputation.”

Honorable Elder Julian Kruse nodded before he raised his hand, a formation core appearing in his hand.

“The space you’re standing will extend, and you will be sent to a random location at the start. To win a battle, all you have to do is make your opponent faint or make them admit defeat, upon which they’ll be promptly thrown out of the battle arena. Once we have only thirty-two participants left, the first round will end. Do we understand?”

“Yes!”

A loud noise of agreement resounded out from the youths, some looking eager and some already looking around whom to meet up with, even taking it beforehand.

“Any questions?” Honorable Elder Julian Kruse asked.

Seeing that none spoke, he nodded before activating the formation. The glow on the edge of the battle arena became more prevalent before the entire 432 participants disappeared from their sight, causing their eyes to go wide. However, replacing them was 432 projections that concentrated on each participant as it revealed their locations and actions.

What appeared in the crowd’s view was a sandy environment that was devoid of mountains. Just plain desert till the end of the horizon. However, there were many crevices where it seemed that it led to the abyss, seemingly capable of devouring them.

“The environmental factor dictates that falling into the crevices would figuratively mean your death. In other words, you are defeated and would be sent out of the battle arena. The first round of the Seventh Stage Young Expert Competition begins!”

The voice of Honorable Elder Julian Kruse could be heard by both the contestants and the crowd.

“Yes!!!”

The latter cheered when the 432 participants almost simultaneously started to move, flying with immense speed as they began their search for their opponents or allies.

Sophie, Niera, Mo Mingzhi, Fiora, Logan, Claire, Nora, and Clara all released their soul sense at the same time, instantly finding the plethora of participants moving around them. They were simultaneously astonished to sense that their sensory range had been drastically decreased by the spatial formation, but they also felt that it should merely be a side-effect of the expansion of space or the illusive environment they were in.

Nevertheless, they took a step a second later, heading in the direction of their allies.

However, Clara suddenly stopped and looked back.

Behind her was a crevice, but flying above that was a black-robed cloaked person who seemed to be invisible to the common eyes but not to her senses. The black-robed man was quickly startled when Clara saw him before he clenched his teeth and shot forward instead of retreating.

“Curses! You’re just a High-Level Law Dominion Stage Fairy who’s a bit powerful, but defeating you means a lifetime of glory! It’s your own fault for entering this compet-“

“You shall not fly nor move~”

“What the-...!”

That youth suddenly lost the feeling of control over his body that he froze, feeling paralyzed. His green pupils were dilated in shock before he started plunging into the crevice.

“Ahhh!!! Wait!!!!”

He screamed with fear as darkness enveloped his surroundings.

Abruptly, he felt like he had crashed into a rock before he found himself looking at the battle arena that was full of projections as he sat on the ground. He blinked three times before he could recover himself, and what resounded in his mind was a cacophony of mocking laughter and what he saw was the image of Clara turning around to leave after making him plunge into the abyss.

His cheeks turned crimson in shame as not only was he at the Peak-Level Law Dominion Stage but had also conjured a Supreme Domain, and even though it may not be a Perfect Domain, he felt that he possessed fair chances to defeat her out by surprise as he didn’t underestimate her but was found out instead, which eventually ruined his chances but what was even more shameful was that when he looked at the timer above every projection and saw that it didn’t reach ten seconds into the fray, and no one was outside, meaning that he was the first participant out of the 432 youths to be ousted!

‘... I just want to die...’

His heart broke in more ways than just one, feeling like he couldn’t battle or face anything with confidence anymore or look at another woman the same way he looked at that white-robed woman, for she had taken his heart when their gaze connected but shattered it into pieces.

This loss of being defeated within an instant as he helplessly fell into the abyss was world-shattering to his law heart, essentially ruining his cultivation path unless he could overcome it through introspection

or lucky chances, like defeating or capturing Clara to acquire her, which clearly isn't possible when she was the little sister of the Emperor of Death!

Chapter 1829: Parents Amongst The Youths

Clara turned around and flew away, heading towards her mother, whom she found was the closest to her than the others with her soul sense. But on the other hand, the people who had a good laugh saw that she was as mystical as her brother although not as powerful as him.

They already possessed deep respect for those who could use Mandate Laws, and finally confirming that she also possessed it as they saw her lock the youth down, disallowing him to move with mere words which could only be done by those who used Mandate Laws, they accepted why she was able to get into the Heaven Mandate Temple and even become its successor.

She took down an opponent whose level is a bit higher or the same with ease, and that was not an easy feat to accomplish in the Seventh Stage, one of the three last stages of mortal shedding!

Nevertheless, how come the Alstreim Family was so mysterious that they suddenly had an influx of experts?

It couldn't be that they had the destiny of rulers from the heavens, right?

They couldn't help but think before they were quickly distracted as they saw the battles occur in each of the projections.

"Hayou! Defeat him! We, the Azureclaw Family, shouldn't back down!"

"Jambei, don't you dare admit defeat! Fight till you bleed to death, bastard! Our entire Ascending Path Sect's fate is being carried on your shoulders!"

"No! Kritika, escape! That Ulyzen is a bad match for your elemental nature!"

Many people screamed at the projection with intensity. It was not just one or a few, but thousands of voices seethed with emotions as they pushed on and motivated their power's participants while some simply held their fists or sticks with nervousness and watched.

The entire New Era Battle Arena was in an uproar over the first minute before they began to calm down because, unlike the first guy who was forced out, none came out even after two minutes. Making the participants admit defeat wasn't as easy as Clara made it seem to be as she conveniently yet perfectly captured her ambusher above a crevice and made him plunge into its abyss.

The others weren't as foolish as him as they either chose to retreat upon meeting a strong opponent or ally with them or the others they encountered during their escape, essentially thwarting the opponent that was a bit stronger than them.

Many scenarios played out with intensity, causing the crowd to be still nervous or smiling with expectations.

Clara quickly caught up with her mother in the desert area as she arrived in front of her. However, she looked that her mother was staring at the empty space with a smile behind her veil.

“What’s wrong, mother?”

Clara worriedly asked.

“Hehe...” Claire came back to herself as she giggled, “I just found it funny as well as empowering that a young man similar to my age scrambled at the very moment he recognized me to be the mother of the Emperor of Death. I feel extremely proud, but at the same time sad because with this kind of precedence, no one would dare to battle me.”

Clara lightly shook her head, “I’ll battle you, mother.”

“Oh...?”

Claire turned to look at her daughter, her smile turning into one of amusement.

“Let’s battle, but after we run out of opponents to face, okay?”

Clara nodded her head before they headed together in another direction, seeking opponents to face.

In another patch of land where no crevices could be seen within the surrounding twenty-kilometer range, a white-robed man could be seen chasing a red-robed man with elegance before the former caught up to the latter.

Purple lightning shone from his body as it crackled with immense might. He raised his hand and pointed towards the red-robed man when his lips moved.

“Searing Purple Current.”

A large burst of purple lightning shot towards the red-robed man as it seared the air, making the air distort. The red-robed man turned back as he felt his scalp turn numb.

“Supreme Domain!”

He screamed with intensity as a pale green domain appeared around him, extending to hundreds, entering the thousand mark before stopping at the thousand and eight hundred meters range. However, it suddenly compressed, covering a mere twenty meters. The formation of the domain was always faster than a technique as long as it was unleashed before an attack reached them, so it became possible for the purple lightning to be stopped.

However, the thick wave of purple lightning struck the wind domain, pierced through, and seared half its way into the spherical domain before it was extinguished by the tiny blades of wind that kept cutting it into strands; making the purple lightning disappear!

Still, the red-robed man’s scalp didn’t stop feeling numb as the purple lightning managed to pierce through his domain and almost near him in its compressed form. This meant that the other party absolutely possessed a Perfect Domain, just as he expected!

He was just about to turn around and scam as he felt that he had little chance to win when his opponent suddenly blocked his path and punched out with his fist as purple lightning crackled.

The red-robed man had his windy Supreme Domain active, not worried about this close-ranged attack as he saw hope in dire straits. He didn't stop but moved to the front as he engulfed the white-robed man into his twenty-meter radius spherical domain and clenched his fist.

Instantly, the tiny blades transformed into terrifying slicers with a sharp end as they struck out against the white-robed man. The latter didn't seem to mind and simply punched out when a terrifying wave of purple lightning blasted apart the domain while two more energies, martial energy and soul force, smashed along with it, catching the red-robed man off-guard.

Bang!~

"Ahhh!!!"

A furious arc of purple lightning struck him and sent him flying, causing him to scream out in pain as it burned his chest, leaving a visible mark. The white-robed man followed suit in chasing him down before he pinned him down underneath his foot and stomped his abdomen.

"Pui!"

The red-robed man spat a mouthful of blood to the side before he raised both his hands and trembled.

"Wa- Wait...! I give up! I lost! Don't hurt me! I don't want to die!"

The white-robed man became flabbergasted. He was none other than Logan, who had his brows raised as he looked at the unnamed youth in front of him before he understood what occurred just now and inwardly sighed.

'Son, your fearful presence in their hearts straightaway takes their courage to face me, your father... This is certainly a good thing as it makes me proud but not necessarily for this competition where I came to improve myself a bit and widen my horizons...'

He pursed his lips, feeling both proud and wry as he watched the unnamed red-robed youth being covered in front of him by a white light before he vanished from his presence.

Without knowing that he defeated the second person to have lost this competition, he turned around and left, only to have an encounter again nearby a sunken plain. However, this time, he faced two opponents instead of one.

Both wore a white robe with black sword patterns and possessed black swords behind their backs, so it could be seen that they were of the same power. Nevertheless, Logan didn't bother as he took a confident stance of having his hands behind his back before he spoke with authority.

"Come."

Chapter 1830: Might Of The Alstreim Family?

The two white-robed individuals clenched their teeth as they recognized the other party. However, as disciples who used the mighty sword to carve their path, they refused to retreat as they stood their ground, appearing ready to face the Emperor of Death's father.

"Fraz Kiter of the Midnight Blade Sect greets senior!"

“Pez Kiter of the Midnight Blade Sect greets senior!”

“Here we come!”

“Watch out!”

With a bellow, they shot towards Logan, intending to defeat him despite the many consequences that they could face.

Logan narrowed his eyes as he recalled that the Midnight Blade Sect is a sect under the subordination of the Emperor Sword Sect as it was in its Territory. He didn't know much about it and its strengths and weaknesses but still struck out with his fist.

“Exploding Yang Lightning Fist!”

Bzzz!~

Purple lightning seared towards them as it caused the air to explode along the attack's pathway. Its intensity was enough to shatter Peak-Level King Grade Mountains and burn the forest on it to the ground, but when the two Midnight Blade Sect disciples took their black swords and struck out at the same time, their slash canceled out Logan's attack when they clashed!

Boom!~

The techniques crumbled as they blasted the area around them, creating a crater beneath.

Even an average Peak-Level Law Sea Stage Expert wouldn't have survived that attack, but the three Peak-Level Law Dominion Stage Young Experts looked as though nothing had happened and rushed towards each other with momentous gait.

“Twin Sword Melody!”

Fraz Kiter and Pez Kiter both bellowed as they struck out, forming a [X] that cut through the air towards Logan. The latter saw the immensity of the two sword strikes combined into one, further fueling its destructive power, which was able to match him before and even now, perhaps supersede. However, instead of becoming nervous or disheartened, he smiled with joy.

“Now it's worth it... Exploding Yang Lightning Domain!”

He bellowed as his bright purple-colored domain instantly covered a radius of four thousand and two hundred meters, causing the two Midnight Blade Sect's disciples to panic. The Twin Sword Melody rushed through the domain but was barraged by an unending amount of purple lightning strands that exploded on their attack with each collision, causing it to become inflamed, leading to their Twin Sword Melody collapsing into nothingness before it could even reach their opponent.

The two of them became pale-faced in an instant as they saw this scene!

They knew that they would have defeated this opponent instantly or risk defeat, so they didn't hesitate to combine their strengths. Normally, if they combined their strength, they could fight against a Peak-Level Law Dominion Stage who conjured a Perfect Domain with ease but never did they think that this Perfect Domain would have increased its range to 4.2 kilometers, which totally obliterated their attack.

Underneath the binding and heavy explosive force of the Exploding Yang Lightning Domain, they quickly felt their deaths near before a thick arc of purple lightning split into two strands and struck them.

Bang!~

The black swords in their hands were blasted away as their right hands became charred black as the strands of purple lightning-ignited into a spark before it exploded. However, they refused to scream out even while their expression twisted in pain.

“Surrender, or I would be forced to attack again.”

Fraz Kiter and Pez Kiter couldn't believe that one strike was all it took for the both of them to be defeated. They were twins hailing from the prominent Kiter Family in the Midnight Blade Sect, so it became mind-boggling and overwhelming for them to have lost to a single opponent, and that too in one strike from the domain.

The Midnight Blade Sect's people were stricken with an epidemic of opening their mouths to allow the disbelief to settle in. They personally knew that these twins wouldn't lose to any publicly known Peak-Level Law Dominion Stage Expert with Perfect Domain if they joined forces, so this scene came off as an incredible jaw-dropper to them.

“I... surrender...”

Fraz Kiter clenched his teeth in shame as he spoke before Pez Kiter looked at him with disbelief before he too lowered his head as his body trembled.

“We surrender.”

Their bodies became encased in a sheer bright light of white and disappeared from Logan's gaze.

Logan clasped his hands at them in respect before he moved on, sensing a familiar person nearby.

Nevertheless, he didn't pull his punches. He used his full power to defeat them at that moment, except due to the highly concentrated attack, it didn't seem as flashy as the others displayed during the course of this competition so far.

As for the explosive property of his purple yang lightning, it came from absorbing a particular Lightning Elemental in his ruthless quest for vengeance in the Purple Thunderflame Mountain Island of the Hundred Devil Thunder Archipelago, which ended when Davis came back alive. He almost died hunting it down but was able to capture it and consume it, becoming powerful to this level in addition to receiving his son's help over these few months.

He quickly made his way into the distance, traveling for about a hundred kilometers before he found the sight of a woman battling two experts.

One thing he noticed was that he couldn't see or properly sense who was who until they entered a certain range of fifty kilometers and mused that it was the effect of the spatial formation that had them here.

Nevertheless, looking at his darling eighth wife suffer against two opponents, he quickly rushed to aid after recognizing her presence.

Bzzz!~

Shhh!~

Blue lightning struck a barrier of flames, searing against each other. But at the same time, dark-blue waves of water kept extinguishing the fire, leading the fires to die a quick death.

Nora bit her lips and raised her hand, trying to keep the barrier intact against two opponents who used Lightning Laws against her. She recognized them to be the Eminent Ocean Temple from the Glorious Pill Palace Territory, but she didn't think that these two were this shameless to be ganging up on her.

Her domain of flames compressed and covered twenty meters in order to compensate for the two heavy attacks of lightning barrage and hydrowave repeatedly falling on her. Only then could she hold out against them, for her Perfect Domain was not as strong as four kilometers as hers was only two and a half kilometers.

That slight difference, not to mention the elemental difference, caused her to be at a disadvantage that would soon cause her to lose if she could not hold it out against their attacks anymore.

The blue lightning kept piercing into the barrier of flames while the dark-blue waves extinguished the fire. The deadly combination kept eating the flames that quickly formed in the domain to defend against their attacks. The two individuals who attacked her knew that their victory was near as they grinned. However, knowing that time was of the essence as they could be ambushed in this nowhere, one of them looked at the other before the latter nodded.

"Furious Tidal Shockwave!"

Both of them activated their Supreme Domains and condensed it at the same time, causing it to become incomparably powerful. The next moment, lightning and water mixed into a dark blue hue as they shot towards Nora with incomparable speed.

Nora's scalp turned numb as she sensed death approaching her. Her instincts recognized that what was coming her way could cause her to be severely injured, perhaps even die. She was involved in a battle of attrition and knew that it was her mistake to be only concentrating on defending. Nevertheless, possessing little time to maneuver, she abandoned the fiery barrier around her and unleashed her purple yin flames.

"Twisting Blaze Ash Wheel!"

A purple flame wheel appeared into existence before it drastically began to spin with intensity, unleashing purple flame wisps that spread like ashes in the air. They coalesced into yin flames sparks at such a close range when they all surged into a twisting spiral lock of flames that flew straight into the Furious Tidal Shockwave!

Boom!~

The barrier broke, and both the attacks struck against each other, causing the area to explode. However, a burst of dark-blue hydrowave emerged from the explosion, filled with arcs of blue lightning as it made its way towards Nora.

Nora's expression was aghast, but suddenly her sight became covered by a reliable back before a pale purple domain superimposed over hers. She relaxed as she no longer felt like she was in danger when the hydrowave was blasted into disruption that it splashed all over the area, making the sandy desert into an oasis while lightning still flowed in the newly formed lake, electrocuting if anything were to be present inside.

Logan lowered his hand and glared at the two blue-robed cultivators in front of him.

The two of them clenched their teeth in caution as they looked stiff in front of this person.

Due to using the Furious Tidal Shockwave Technique while they were already suppressing Nora with their normal techniques, it was weaker than its powerful state but still enough to obliterate their intended target. However, it was easily defended by this man in front of them, the man who was rumored to be the father of the Emperor of Death.

"Tch, I finally made a Perfect Domain, but I was unable to win..."

Nora clicked her tongue in annoyance and disappointment over herself.

Even after receiving all those resources from her newfound family, she was unable to win against these people when she was far stronger than a competent participant for the Nine Western Territories Young Expert Competition?

"Don't sweat it, Nora." Logan shook his head without turning back, "Those two are powerful in their own right and had the elemental advantage over you. That blue lightning was a bit weaker than the ordinary lightning but certainly complimented the dark-blue tidal wave, increasing the power of their attacks tremendously just like we can..."

Nora smiled as expectations could be seen on her face.

The Purple Yang Lightning and the Purple Yin Flame were something that ignited their love story, after all.

Meanwhile, in another location, a green-robed woman flew away using her full speed while being chased by two people, also women. The green-robed woman turned to look back as she hid her grin.

"You two dare to chase me!? I'm the fifth wife of the Emperor of Death!"

"Shameless! You can't use his name to threaten us in this competition!"

Fiora looked at the two women who were chasing her with extreme amusement as she found that she couldn't suppress her laughter anymore.

However, she didn't burst out loud and instead turned around and opened her mouth wide as she took a deep breath.

"KYAAA!!! SAVE MEEEEEE!!!"

"..."

The two women abruptly stopped following as they clenched their teeth at Fiora while she turned back to look at them while her cheeks were puffed up, on the verge of releasing a burst of uncontrolled laughter.

This was just too fun!

But outside, Natalya hid her face with her palms as the second-hand embarrassment was overwhelming.

“What kind of scream is that?”

“It must be Mingzhi who taught her that...”

Evelynn uttered as she shook her head.

Those two were getting along too well that they felt like no one could stop their playful pranks anymore!