

EMPEROR 2191

Chapter 2191: Countermeasures?

Both Davis and Myria seemed to be deep in contemplation, while the others appeared downtrodden. Even though Myria said something like waiting for the right opportunity to strike back, they had the cognition to see and think for themselves.

p???? ?????? Just how were they supposed to strike at their weaknesses at the right moment? Especially when getting attacked by life-threatening attacks that could potentially end their lives?

Perhaps, the imitations were holding back from totally killing the challengers because of the rules. Wouldn't it be worse from the sixth time and above if that was the case?

Honestly, they felt like stopping Davis, recalling his words that this lucky opportunity was merely one of many needles hidden in a haystack. The treasure was tempting, even to them, but they preferred having Davis alive if the end result was his death, or even worse, being taken over by that raved imitation even though they could be said to be the same person from what they understood as Ellia took over and explained, seemingly worried for Davis while still healing.

"Still, it's as expected." Myria abruptly opened her mouth, gaining all of their attention again, "It seems like this formation made from Chaos Laws and Five Elements Laws is unable to replicate your physique."

"It did, actually." Davis dryly smiled as he shook his head, "However, it faced some kind of obstruction in that process and quickly rescinded forming my unique physique."

'I doubt if it could also replicate my Emperor Sigil as it is as it contains the essence of Fallen Heaven...!' He couldn't help but think.

His words certainly made Myria think of the heavens, but she still appeared contemplative, pausing for a while before she nodded.

"In that case, there must be a formation spirit or perhaps, a palace spirit seeing these battles through. Otherwise, it's just not possible for a formation to react by itself unless it's made that way in the first place, but that would make the formation even more complex that I doubt that even 'that' person is capable of making such a finely-detailed formation for a trial."

"..."

Davis already had his brows raised in shock. Does that mean all that he conversed with his imitation was heard by this so-called formation spirit or palace spirit?

He didn't know what to say to that statement, pursing his lips in worry, but since this place supposedly belonged to that world master, he began to ignore it. What would come for him would surely come, and that is where his reckoning probably laid.

'That is where I must truly form a countermeasure instead of mulling over this battle...!'

He thought but still couldn't arrive at a possibility of winning, finding himself stumbling at the lower steps funnily enough. He raised his head to look at Myria.

"Are you going to challenge again soon?"

"Yes."

"Any chances of winning?"

"Abysmal."

"Thought so..."

Davis lowered his head, smiling because he felt that he wasn't stupid since Myria felt the same, not having an answer to win this overwhelming challenge.

"It would've been fine if were someone else. However, winning against someone who is over a level higher than yourself but also knows almost all your own thoughts and could predict how you would think is..."

Myria shook her head, "... basically impossible, just like the sixth floor and below where every imitation was defeated by their originals without suspense."

Mingzhi, Niera, Fiora, Evelynn, and Natalya couldn't help but wryly smile as they faced opponents who were a level lower or more than them. Mingzhi, Niera, and Fiora especially found it extremely, the former just finishing the battle with a slap while the others also defeated their imitations quickly.

Evelynn took some time, but that was because she was in a conversation. However, she still sealed her imitation with Sealing Hex, easily winning the battle when she required, and Natalya also didn't face much of a problem defeating her imitation. Both of them faced imitations that were only one level lower, but they still came out on top, basically trampling over them, although they had a problem or two, which wasn't much.

With such a result, how could Davis possibly win this challenge? Even though they had immense confidence, they couldn't see it happening and hence thought of walking out from this challenge as they could at least enjoy the immortal treasures they grabbed from the lower floors, even ready to give everything to Davis so that he could use those treasures to further his comprehension and cultivation.

"However, I'm not going in there anytime soon, and you're free to challenge it again if you want. Moreover, I won't say much other than to utilize the increased time in this space that's altered by a formation governed by Spacetime Laws to perfect your escape and killing techniques. The imitations will know what we're trying to do, but those are the only chances we have and don't bother using external items like weapons and pills or summoning spirits. They would be recreated by the formation, and I'm well aware you hold the advantage to winning this challenge over me but don't count yourself lucky. I still have a few things up my sleeves."

Myria coldly spoke as though warning before she left, leaving Davis blinking thrice as he was unable to understand if she wanted to caution or threaten him. Nonetheless, he was now incapable of battling as he had to heal himself for some more time, perhaps even a day or two.

However, he couldn't help but narrow her eyes.pa??a ??????

The palace was extremely spacious, and therefore, Myria went to the other side of the corner, her back seemingly lonely.

'Reminds me of... me?'

He wryly smiled as he thought about his past self, shaking his head when suddenly Mingzhi's smiling face entered his vision, causing his smile to freeze.

"Davis, your imitation, no, you were so cute in there, burning with jealousy..."

"..." Instantly, his smile became bashful, unable to hide his emotions amidst her teasing expression, which made him sigh as though he was caught.

"Curses... you all saw it..."

"Goes to say how much he wants us. It makes me feel overjoyed~"

Natalya clamored as she spun around, causing Mingzhi to become tongue-tied momentarily. She only tried to change this gloomy atmosphere, but Natalya's words instantly had everyone nodding as though she was the villainess for making such a statement.

'The council of harem is scary...'

Even Mingzhi didn't want to offend them, obediently stepping back as though she never existed. However, a hand caught her wrist, causing her to instantly feel as though she was floating as she landed on a lap, finding herself caught by Davis.

"Pervert. Let me go~ You haven't even finished healing yet, but you want me already?"

Instantly, Mingzhi blushed as she felt the gazes of everyone landing on her. She was bold but not bold enough to be intimate in front of everyone.

"My other hand hasn't regrown yet, or I would do some crazy things with you in front of all your sisters, my lovely Mingzhi."

Davis tightly held her with one hand, disallowing her to leave as he smiled like a rogue, his face closing in on her to kiss her as she moved back in a rhythm, her cheeks appearing crimson. However, Mingzhi instantly calmed, seemingly raising her brow in disdain.

"You're forgetting that your little sister and aunt are also here."

"...!"

Clara and Tia instantly looked away, seemingly blushing that they got caught, while Davis and the others appeared to be in an awkward position.

"..." Davis blinked at those two before he shrugged.

"Whatever, they're also adults."

"Shameless!!!"

Instantly, a chorus of melodious voices echoed with embarrassment, causing Davis to be dumbfounded. Using this chance, Mingzhi successfully escaped, wiping the sweat off her forehead in an imaginary manner.

'Phew, safe from being culled by the council of harem...'

She felt that it would've been fine if she did something worthy of being praised for being intimate in front of everyone, but after everyone misunderstood her, she would basically be playing with fire if she continued on. However, a slap to the butt woke her out of her reverie, causing her to look at a green-robed woman grinning at her.

"Don't overthink it. If your naughty body could help him cheer up, then we would collectively send you and him together to a lone space without a second thought~"

"You...!"

Looking at Fiora giggling loudly along with the others, Mingzhi turned crimson with shame, thinking that she was stupid to have thought deep into it. As expected, these women were crazed for him, willing to do almost anything like her if something untoward happened to him.

Chapter 2192: Counterattack

After the heat from the defeat died as Mingzhi and the others joked around, Davis told the others to go to the lower floors and use the immortal treasures to further their cultivations while taking advantage of the time that ran as much as ten times faster, supposedly.

On the first floor, Shirley, Dalila, Niera, and Zestria sat around the Fire Essence Orb and practiced cultivation as they comprehended insights from it. Like them, the second floor had Tanya and Pia Noel practicing in front of the Ice Essence Orb.

On the third floor sat Fiora and Zephyra, her wind spirit as they cultivated before the Wind Essence Orb.

As for the fourth floor, there was Isabella, Tina, and Bylai used the Earth Essence Orb, while the fifth and sixth floors were occupied by Natalya, Ilesha, and Sophie as they cultivated in front of the Yin Essence Orb and Yang Essence Orb.

Meanwhile, the seventh floor housed Mingzhi and Evelyn as they seemed to be engaged with comprehending from Darkness Essence Orb.

Lastly, the eighth floor had Lea, Clara, and Tia meditating upon the Space Essence Orb. However, they looked at Schleya, who sat before the stairs leading to the ninth floor, seemingly not interested in anything and instead, silently seated with a cautious aura as though she was guarding them.

As righteous path people, they truly couldn't understand her thoughts, although they knew that she was more or less smitten with Davis.

Nonetheless, although they were all sitting in meditation, they occasionally frowned, appearing unable to concentrate and, at certain times, even left as though taking a break.

After all, they were worried about Davis.

At first, although they were hesitant and tried to convince Davis that these treasures would be wholly useful for him, he threatened that he would throw away those immortal treasures if they didn't use them, simply leaving them with no choice but to use them.

Since they took him as a man of his words, they didn't dare to be too forceful and reluctantly headed to the lower floors, wondering why he was sending them away when they were worried to death. They knew that he didn't want them to know some of his secrets, but obviously, they were too worried enough to start cultivating that they occasionally ran upstairs and saw him still recuperating.

It was like this for a day or two before they finally calmed, becoming able to meditate and cultivate.

However, there was still one person who rose up to the ninth floor.

That crimson-robed woman seemingly walked past Davis, heading towards the icy-blue-robed woman.

"What's wrong, Shirley?"

Shirley appeared stiff as she stared at Myria, her lips quivering as her eyes couldn't help but quickly tear up.

"Forgive me~"

She quickly turned around and left while Davis opened one of his eyes to check Shirley's safety before he turned to look at Myria, matching gazes with her as he shot a bland smile, knowing that their discarded plan had been probably exposed.

However, he didn't blame Shirley as he didn't want any of them to feel guilty at all.

"Wha- What just happened?"

Ellia's voice echoed in Myria's soul sea, causing Myria to look away and lightly shake her head.

"Shirley is a deeply passionate woman. She'll go to any lengths for the people she loves, especially the man she loves. After all, she even dared to sacrifice her innocence, not knowing whether he would wake up or not. If such a woman asked forgiveness from us, then they must've collectively come a decision to go against us a few days ago when we were battling."

"It doesn't seem like that..." Ellia seemed to doubt it, not knowing that it was the truth.

"Perhaps, because they saw me being kicked out miserably and became assured that they had a valid chance. Ostensibly, they had probably planned to take it while I was deeply injured, but it doesn't matter since I didn't end up victorious. In any case, if they make a move against us, know that I won't hold back, Ellia."

"..."

Ellia's emotions fell. However, she still conveyed her thoughts.

"I don't want to say this again, but if you keep thinking like that, then please be sure to kill me as well. I won't stop you as I don't wish harm to you. However, I won't change my mind either, so just put me out of my misery."

"Ellia, why are you like this?" Myria's voice sounded a bit angered.

Hearing that, Ellia's soul trembled before she snapped.

"You've never loved anyone with all your heart, so you wouldn't know! Besides, you're only alive because Prince Davis loves me! If not, you would've died the moment you were reborn and almost caused destruction to his family in an awakening and confused rage!"

"..." Myria became stupefied at this sudden outburst that she went silent.

A few moments later, she called out.

"Ellia..."

"..."

Myria called out again, but there was no reply, causing her to lower her head.

Meanwhile, Davis, who wondered what Myria was thinking about Shirley's apology, saw her figure appear as though a downcast aura engulfed her.

'Why does she seem more lonely than before?'

It made him feel confused as he narrowed his brows, but as he looked at her abruptly stand up, and head towards the chamber of challenge, his eyes widened.

'Oh, she's finally up for it...'

Myria headed past the line of divide and raised her reincarnation barrier.

"Ah, what a cheapskate... Only the two of us here, and yet she's not willing to share information pertaining to the batt-"

Bang!~

As he mumbled in discontent, he abruptly saw her flying out like a kite that had its strings cut, crashing on the ground as she rolled like a beaten rag, appearing deeply injured as one of the legs from the knee seemed to be missing. She spat a mouthful of blood as she tried to sit up, causing him to see that even one of her eyes was missing, dripping with blood.

"Wha- Why did you even go try...?"

"Shut up...!"

Davis appeared flabbergasted, no, stupefied as this was worse than the first try, while Myria clenched her teeth, her body shaking in rage and shame, not expecting the imitation to actually use every ounce of her power to barrage her with all sorts of terrifying killing techniques while not paying attention to her defense, almost slaughtering her in an instant, perhaps if it were not for the rule.

Davis turned his head and saw the fake Myria grinning with a half-torn body amidst the receding wall of reincarnation energy before she disappeared, seemingly returning instead of losing, probably because Myria lost first.

"..."

Davis returned his gaze to the heavily wounded Myria, his heart leaping in unease as he saw Myria's trembling eye as she held the deep pain, not even releasing a single scream.

It was not only him as the both of them realized to a deep level that as they were planning countermeasures, the imitations could also come up with the same, instantly foiling their plans without mercy.

After all, as long as the imitations don't die first, the imitations could be as ruthless as they wanted, which meant that the more chances they, as the challengers, used, the more ruthless attacks the imitations would come up with, not at all worried about their body as in a battle of ruthlessness as they, the challengers would surely lose because of their lower prowess.

Chapter 2193: Strengths And Weaknesses

Myria's figure became enveloped in a pure white light as she began to heal herself using her life energy. As the prowess of her imitation was only one level higher, she was still capable of healing, but due to the heavy injuries caused by reincarnation energy, it would take more time for her to become fully healed. Although she could mitigate the threat of reincarnation energy with her own, it wouldn't be as efficient in extinguishing it as the imitation's reincarnation energy was still powerful.

Losing a layer of skin was different from losing an entire limb or an eye, after all.

Davis appeared a bit mortified to see Ellia appear injured, wanting to help her, but it was possible that Myria would become reverse-angered instead, as his help would probably hurt her pride.

Still, he saw her sit up properly in a lotus position even without a leg and dwell in utter concentration like it was her second nature.

'What kind of unshakable will does she possess?' He was inwardly taken aback.

Judging by her attitude, Davis could tell that she had never experienced defeat at the same stage and level until she met him, and now, being defeated two more times miserably, her heart still didn't seem to have lost pride. Perhaps, it was because of the fact that she was defeated by herself, which makes it null but still, to maintain an undefeatable heart is what gives a cultivator immense confidence to do things average or even geniuses are incapable of doing.

He could see such things in her, but also he couldn't help but feel that she was as lonely him as he was back then, but since some eccentric people preferred solitude over companionship, he really didn't see it as a weakness. Moreover, for an Anarchic Divergent like Myria, who could probably live forever, perhaps as long as the cosmos exists, having a friend or even companion is like a curse as death is permanent for them while not for her.

Although he figured that she could use Reincarnation Laws to revive people, which Myria herself hinted at, he guessed that there were limits to it. After all, anything that tips the balance of the entirety of the cosmos is bound to receive a backlash from the will that governs it. It was especially the case for him and what he understood so far from facing heavenly tribulations.

Nonetheless, he quickly stood up, using the anger from seeing Ellia become hurt to destroy his nervousness about facing a more ruthless himself.

As soon as he crossed the divide line and the barrier came up, he didn't bother to put up a barrier himself. Instead, he quickly formed a circular spiral of dark crimson flames encased by black-silver

lightning, quickly forming a defense as heavenly flames and heavenly lightning formed a kirin-faced shield.

Bang!~

The shield trembled from being struck by dark crimson flames and black lightning, abruptly overwhelming the entirety of the shield and surging towards him. However, Davis had already started to retreat as he rushed sideways, quickly escaping the onslaught of his imitation.

"Ahaha! That's right! Run like the bitch you are!"

"Catch this bitch if you can, utterly fake bitch."

Davis scoffed at the provocation as he returned his own, grinning like a crass slum dweller.

Myria was shocked yet approving to see Davis enter even after witnessing what had happened to her, but looking at their crass exchange, she closed what remained of her eyes, returning to focus on healing her wounded body.

Extinction lightning flashed at an extremely fast speed as it approached Davis, but when it hit the shield he formed behind him, its powers were suppressed and induced half the damage it would normally do. Even then, it brought cracks to his Blazing Arc Volt Shield, constantly causing him to repeatedly use this technique as soon as the shield broke.

Whoosh!~

Whoosh!~

One figure chased the other, seemingly engaged in a battle of attrition as lightning and flames stormed the space.

'I still have some advantage because of my heavenly physique. Moreover, the formation didn't even try to replicate my heavenly physique this time...'

Davis mused, wondering if there was really a palace or a formation spirit.

Boom!~

Destructive immolation flames surged like a heavy plume of smoke and exploded flat out on him, but Davis used his other hand to form a makeshift heavenly flame shield, narrowly blocking it from having his head explode into bloody pieces as he was sent flying from the impact.

'Fuck! He's more ruthless than I thought...!'

He quickly moved again using the momentum, heading from one corner to another. However, he was gathering intel as much as he could, finding a way to drag this battle.

"Give up, Davis." The fake Davis's lips curved like a wild tiger, "Your plan to have me run out of energy is quite childish. I could do this all day long!"

"Don't bluff." Davis arrived at a spot, turning to look at his imitation that stopped, "Utmost, you could keep this up for a few hours, but if you constantly keep using techniques to barrage me like this, then you'll run out of energy sooner or later."

"Is that so? Did you not think the formation would supply me with boundless energy in case I run out of it? After all, the formation is testing you, not me."

"Ridiculous. Things need to be fair if something or someone is testing me. Otherwise, there's no point in measuring the worth of a character. Besides, I'm sure that the trial will allow you to become free if I fail in the end. Isn't that what you're after? And you think you're smart, using my own techniques against me?"

Davis launched a bolt of heavenly lightning to his side abruptly, causing a transparent figure to suddenly tremble and emerge from thin air, looking at him with killing intent brewing in intensity.

"My comprehension of Illusion Laws is crap. Just because you're a prowess higher, you dare to use it against me?"

Davis scoffed and rushed away again, causing the imitation's lips to twitch.

"Seems like you really need a reality check."

"Not something a fake has the right to say."

"...!"

A vein popped on the fake's forehead.

Whoosh!~

The imitation shot after Davis with immense speed, black lightning swirling around him as they churned into terrifying spheres that kept sending lightning bolts at Davis.

Bang!~ *Bang!~* *Bang!~*

Davis couldn't survive more than nine concentrated strikes of extinction lightning bolts as his Blazing Arc Volt Shield collapsed upon receiving the ninth strike. The tenth bolt of lightning struck his body, causing him to spurt a mouthful of blood as he felt his internal organs being fried despite him sending heavenly lightning to suppress them.

He had another Blazing Arc Volt Shield come up at the same time and defend against more black lightning bolts that kept bombarding him with an obnoxious amount of energy, making him feel maddened enough to retreat again. He was really a subtle second late from propping up the defensive technique, causing him to become harmed.

Looking at the imitation that kept grinning at him from a distance, never really closing in, he knew that his imitation was playing it safe from him.

After all, Davis could only strike the imitation's body or soul only if it neared him and to get into range while being barraged by a bunch of powerful techniques was suicidal.

Davis clenched his teeth and gained more distance. However, it wasn't until twenty minutes later he flew out of the chamber, his purple robes appearing bloodied while he had a chunk of his left waist ripped out of him, its surface appearing to be burned, not to mention that he had half his right arm missing and scorched beyond recovery although not for him.

"Seven more chances left, but I'll kill you in four and gain what's rightfully mine."

The imitation behind the transparent barrier chuckled before it disappeared, causing Davis's brows to twitch.

'Shit... to think that I would run out of energy first, not to mention...'

"It freaking hurts...!"

Davis bellowed out as he twisted his hips, straightening his body that had its bones dislocated from trying to escape as much as he could while getting bombarded while his imitation was playing soccer, except using his hands.

Consequently, his flesh churned and spurted more blood out as though it was squeezed, making Davis shudder ever so lightly before he calmed and sat in a lotus position, beginning to heal himself as his soul force got into work, turning into a grayish-white light that began soothing his pain as recovery took place.

However, it was quite slow like before.

Nonetheless, the second try felt like an improvement over the first, causing Davis to hold some hope when a voice suddenly echoed from a distance.

Chapter 2194: Loopholes

"Why did you even enter?"

Davis turned to look at Myria, who seemed to have already had one of her eyes that was missing back in her socket already, appearing as beautiful as ever, except there was still a leg missing, which made him aware that she prioritized healing her eye first.

Nonetheless, was this returning back his words to her?

He didn't bother about that, but his lips couldn't help but curve as he couldn't help but make use of this rare chance to...

"Just to let you know that I could last longer..." to crack a lame yet provocative joke.

"..."

Myria looked quite taken aback before she shook her head, her voice sounding exasperated, "I see. Quite childish as your imitation said..."

'Hmm, I don't think you understood the nuance in it.'

Davis inwardly shook his head, thinking that it was a wasted gag, but since Myria didn't seem to be provoked, he didn't bother anymore and opened his lips.

"Do you still want to try again?"

Myria smiled as though she had heard the funniest thing in the world.

"I'll do all nine challenges or die trying. I refuse to believe that I can't win against myself even though it's a prowess higher. There must be some kind of way."

Davis raised his brows in response, "Didn't you say that you had some tricks up your sleeves?"

"That would require time, and it was precisely because of that my imitation was more ruthless than yours, barraging me with all it got without a care for accidentally dying first..."

'Mine is more cautious, like me...'

Davis shrugged but narrowing his eyes a second later, he couldn't help but ask.

"If you don't mind telling, what kind of method were you about to employ to defeat your powerful imitation?"

"A spirit formation."

Myria didn't even hesitate to reveal while Davis appeared taken aback.

"...? What kind?"

"A simple one, one that increases your Soul Forging Cultivation's prowess by a bit but by sacrificing my soul essence, I can allow my prowess to increase by a level."

"..." Davis couldn't help but gawk.

If Myria used blood essence, it was obvious that the imitation would do the same as it seemed to be made of the same flesh and blood, although the severed flesh was transformed back into chaotic energy and was pulled back into the formation.

Nevertheless, even if the imitation used blood essence and used the same spirit formation, there was something called a restrictive limit put on it, which made it so that its prowess could not raise above eight levels unless the original directly used their blood essence to improve their prowess rather than use a spirit formation to increase their prowess!

This was a freaking loophole, and Myria found it, causing him to become stunned!

"However, its cast time is five seconds, which is small considering that it's a spirit formation but not for battles like these. I almost got slaughtered halfway into concocting my plan into reality. It's not viable, to say the least."

Myria's voice dryly echoed, surprisingly seeming to be in the mood for a discussion as she opened up about her plan.

Perhaps, his way of acknowledging her battle by going himself to battle had moved her slightly?

Davis didn't know. However, he also didn't understand, his brows frowning.

"In that case, why didn't you use such spirit formations during our battle?"

He was also aware that Ellia gave a lot of spirit formations to Yotan and Threelotus but naturally, how could they compare to what Myria was about to use.

That spirit formation was probably at the Immortal Grade, but still, she should still have a spirit formation that allows her to increase her prowess at a lower level when they battled.

However, Myria smilingly shook her head, not believing he actually brought it up at this time.

"Then you would've resorted to using that damned treasure's killing prowess on me, not to mention that I didn't have cast time in the end once I realized that you have that damned treasure. Knowing you, you would've reacted the same as your imitation did, not letting me construct an unknown spirit formation and barraged me with all you got. Besides, how could you best me at using Reincarnation Laws?"

"I didn't expect you to use it quickly at all as I said once before that it's impossible to properly use Reincarnation Laws before Immortal King Stage, much less overwhelm me. Although I was careless, I accept that it's my loss, but it won't be the same in this trial, so you better watch out."

"..."

Davis remained speechless.

Did she hold back or not back then?

He took a deep breath, knowing not to underestimate her as back then, he only won by a slight margin, taking her by surprise.

Nonetheless, now that he knew that the advantage he held in this trial was only by a slight margin again as she found a loophole that she could use as long as she found the time to cast that spirit formation that increased her prowess to eight levels while using reincarnation energy, he felt the urgency that had disappeared, return.

If he kept slowly grinding to find a viable way to defeat his imitation, then it was obvious to him that she would quickly find a way to cast that spirit formation and emerge as the victor.

'Damn it. If I at least had my Supreme Immortal Runes, I could at least temporarily unleash a technique that's eight levels higher but sacrificing those two Supreme Immortal Runes is the price to pay for creating this heavenly physique. Although the runes are sacrificed, I still have the insights. As long as I could create a powerful technique using the same insights...'

Davis couldn't help but wonder as he brainstormed.

Runes were something that resonated with the heaven and earth energy, acknowledging their insights and unleashing tremendous energy contained within it on top of using a large part of their essence energy. However, battle techniques were different. They were unleashed through the learner's own insights and practice. Although it was possible for them to borrow heaven and earth energy while using these battle techniques, they were mostly unleashing their own energy quite literally.

But still, if his imitation also got hold of that technique, although its prowess would be limited to the peak of eight levels in prowess, it wouldn't fare much better when he unleashed unless he released that battle technique at a point-blank range.

However, his imitation was cautious enough not to get closer to him while barraging him with powerful techniques.

Moreover, now that Myria had revealed her tricks, he knew he lacked the time and couldn't wait to develop a technique of such power.

'Is there no other way to rely on Fallen Heaven...?'

Davis couldn't help but feel disheartened, but he instantly shook his head.

'No, I want to win by myself and prove to myself that I'm stronger than her!'

Davis felt that it was a pity that he couldn't win against Myria last time using his own powers, but now, since they were competing for a treasure, if he won using his own powers, it would naturally make him the winner. That battle was a tie on his knot and perhaps Myria as well.

However, just because they wanted to make it clear who was the exact winner, as Myria claimed to have been careless, they couldn't have a rematch to the death. That would break the precarious relations they built so far, but to compete for a treasure they both wanted, and the trials appeared somewhat fair, then it became fair enough for whoever came out on top to declare themselves as the winner of both battles!

Davis and Myria both eyed each other from the corner of their eyes, seemingly having their own gripes about that battle and wanting to prove themselves. However, with both of them appearing heavily injured, they didn't go battle again anytime soon as they focused on healing.

After a week, they decided to try again.

The third chance; naturally ended in failure!

However, Myria was able to survive her imitation's onslaught for well over twenty minutes, while Davis survived for thirty minutes straight.

They were again heavily wounded, even missing some organs but made it outside nonetheless.

Evelynn and the others who occasionally came to check up on him couldn't help but shed tears as they saw his bloodied figure, worried and restless that he might die if this continued. However, they didn't dare try to change his mind, afraid that he might become discouraged if they pressed him to leave and eventually fail because of them.

After all, these battles only required an intrinsic breakthrough to change the tide and evolve within the battle like Shirley did, although in her case, it was easier as she could achieve a similar prowess by combining ice and fire while Davis and Myria couldn't still reach that level.

Time passed again, and it was a long while before they used their fourth chance to challenge the trial.

??? ??-?? ??? . ??? But once again, they were met with failure and heavy wounds. It wasn't long before they used their fifth chance, but they failed to defeat their imitations likewise.

However, their injuries were far less and less harmful, their bodies, or rather, instincts, becoming used to dodging their own strengths and taking advantage of their own weaknesses!

But still, their brows couldn't help but hold a deep frown as they were no longer immune to being killed by their imitations!

Chapter 2195: Using A Loophole

Bang!~

"Davis!"

Evelynn bellowed as she hit a barrier made out of heavenly lightning. It seared her arm, causing her to retract it as she trembled, pursing her lips as she imagined that Davis was currently engaged in a battle to the death in intense worry.

Not only her but everyone else had also gathered on the stairs, appearing agitated. However, Davis had sealed the ninth floor with Eldia's heavenly lightning, disallowing them to enter.

"Eldia, remove this barrier!"

An icy-white light surged out from Natalya as Ilesha clenched her white teeth, appearing angered. However, Eldia, who was hovering in the barrier made of heavenly lightning, appeared downtrodden, unable to look them in the eye.

"Master said to not allow you all to enter, and that's it's better for you all to continue cultivating-"

"As if we can even concentrate!"

Mingzhi looked furious, waving her hand, "Open this barrier right now!"

"I..."

Eldia appeared indecisive, not knowing what to do.

"Move aside~"

Abruptly, Shirley flew into the air, her figure burning with ice-cold flames and scarlet flames, turning into the alternating image of a fire and ice phoenix as she swiftly flew towards the barrier.

Bang!~

Her ice and fire flames surging with immense power that neared the immortal level instantly broke through the layer of heavenly lightning and made a pathway into the ninth floor, causing everyone else to enter. However, they were dumbfounded to look at their Davis stand with his arms folded, his gaze focusing on the chamber where Myria seemed to be battling.

They relaxed on seeing him look alright, appearing to not have entered yet.

"Davis, why would you block us...?"

Shirley arrived before him and appeared aggrieved, causing Davis to smile wryly as he turned to look at them.

'Precisely because you're all too worried and want me to quit, although I understand why because I still don't have a way to defeat it with my own power...'

He thought but didn't say it out loud.

"I thought you would all understand my resolve." He opened his mouth, appearing transcendental.

"Screw your resolve!"

"..."

Davis almost lost his footing, turning to look at Mingzhi, who rushed forwards with angry steps while having tears in her eyes.

"We haven't resolved to lose you yet, so don't go losing your life when this is just suicidal. Just when I obtained you and became content... you can't do this..."

"..."

"Come here."

Davis pulled Mingzhi and embraced her, letting her rest on his chest as he looked at the others who looked similarly worried, putting a large smile on his face.

"I love how you all won't let me die even if I want to, but this..."

He turned to look at the chamber where iridescent black-white reincarnation energy revolved like tidal waves surging from the sea, constantly clashing with another wave of reincarnation energy that was much more powerful than hers, and yet, Myria, although on the losing end, was barely keeping her life in check as she kept drawing a spirit formation with her feet so skillfully yet occasionally disturbed by the imitation which ruined the casting process!

"I don't want to lose to her who's not even terrified at the face of death, but more than that, I must get that Chaos Essence Orb and Grand Chaos Body Art to survive the immortal tribulation."

"You said that there are other options~"

Mingzhi tip-toed as she closed in on his face, appearing angered.

Davis nodded, "There are other opportunities in the boundless cosmos, but it could also just be that I was delusional as how many are we going to come across? Even if we do chance upon a heavenly treasure, do you think those lucky chances could compare to this?"

"You... you're twisting words." She clenched her teeth.

"That's what I do, sometimes even the unseeable." Davis lightly smirked, "However, worry not because I don't plan on dying. Did you all forget that I have something that Myria wants at my disposal? I'll still win regardless. It's just... I don't want to use that and use my own power instead."

Davis didn't hide Fallen Heaven's existence from them as he knew that they could vaguely tell. At this point, most of them were just being nice by not asking him what it was, and neither was he going to tell them what it truly was as there remained karmic burden to incur or deny its existence, for that matter, because that would be foolish and treating them like they were ignorant.

To them, his treasure was a void, and Davis kept it that way for the time being while they pretended that he didn't have one.

"Then promise me we'll go back together, of course... with all your women you care about, pervert~"

Mingzhi's lips trembled as she tried to motivate him through beauties, causing Davis to smile brightly.

"Of course. I'm double, no triple loaded in these two months."

"Pervert! Be serious!"

Mingzhi bit on his shoulders as she blushed heavily, her teeth sinking on him without mercy, while Davis laughed as he could only feel ticklish. He looked at the others blush at his crass joke, finding that the solemn atmosphere had finally dissolved.

? ?? ??-?? ??? ??? "Alright, I'll be serious. We're going out no matter what with the Chaos Essence Orb and the Grand Chaos Body Art. Besides, I'm worried about the outside situation. Although time is ten times faster here, I'm still worried if something could've taken place in these six days. Hopefully, nothing has happened, but we'll make haste."

"Mhm~ But don't rush it and mess up unless you want to be only capable of beating yourself."

'That sounded different...'

Davis frowned, but Mingzhi ran away daintily, causing him to understand that she really meant to beat his meat. He smilingly shook his head and watched Myria raise her hand and bring it down like a sword.

Reincarnation energy surged from her move as she slashed, causing everything it sliced through to become non-existent. It simply didn't leave anything in its wake, even tearing apart a thin line of space that really didn't cut through the fabric of space or make cracks because of the stability here.

However, it still caused the air it touched to constantly disappear, surging with a menacing existential force every time they clashed.

Boom!~~~

The air around them trembled ever so lightly as Myria became suppressed again, the imitation's reincarnation energy almost getting to her. However, with an additional wave of her hand and a stomp of her foot, she unleashed her reincarnation energy as a pitch-black light enveloped her, causing her soul's prowess to surge.

"How can you survive my onslaught?" The imitation uttered with disbelief and rage written all over its face.

"You can't tell?"

Myria raised her brows, her eyes releasing sharp killing intent with a deathly aura as reincarnation energy swirled around her like typhoons. She sent it towards the fake Myria as the other party did the same, once again clashing, except their powers appeared equal, raging with intensity as neither side lost.

"Battling with you is like battling with another source of Eternal Life Soul, which signifies a source of Reincarnation Laws. Never have I improved so much in Reincarnation Laws that with each clash, I have new insights that I'm constantly incorporating into my soul force."

"...!"

Myria smiled, her expression appearing one that of a demon, while the fake Myria's eyes shook, not having expected this to happen. How could she not naturally receive the insights Myria comprehended from previous battles if that was the case?

"Oh, I understand." As though answering her question, Myria grinned, "Because you were created during the first iteration, it seems like your insights are not up to par with mine, although my memories seemed to be copied with each challenge, which makes it so that you must comprehend them yourself. Is this a loophole in the formation? But that's understandable as there's a limit to how real you can be."

Myria gently sighed, but inwardly, she couldn't help but think.

'Perhaps it's not a loophole at all but an untoward consequence of this formation trying to accommodate my Eternal Life Soul Physique, or not as it's balanced for everyone, and that's why there are nine chances given to overcome one's own limitations in comprehension, furthering the quality of their Laws that eventually allows them to defeat their powerful imitation.'

She contrived from what she had seen so far. However, she couldn't help but also wonder as she imagined his silhouette.

'Did I get somewhere near the Reincarnation Laws he unleashed...?'

Myria inwardly shook her head, thinking that was the purest strands of reincarnation energy that she had ever seen in her life. To get that level of purity seemed almost impossible unless she obtained that damned treasure herself.

'It's practically made for me, yet why does he deny giving it to me!?'

A vein popped on Myria's forehead as she attacked with all her might, reincarnation energy surging with a furious aura as she displayed it at her imitation.

Pruff!~

The sound of gas clashing against each other and nether worldly screeches echoed around the spacious chamber.

However, the battle raged on without the imitation losing ground. Their power was equal, ending in the destruction of their attacks every time without both of them gaining space and closing the distance.

However, the spirit formation itself was short-lived, lasting for no more than ten minutes, causing Myria to reluctantly take this as a loss and retreat at the last second.

Looking at Myria returning with an extreme speed amidst the enraged screams of the fake Myria, Davis inwardly heaved a sigh of relief, thinking that she was almost close to clearing the ninth floor and obtaining those valuable treasures that he sought.

"Can't she just utter that she gives up on stopping the battle?"

Davis shook his head as he explained to Evelyn, who appeared curious and worried.

They tried uttering that they had given up at the end of the battles they fought, but the imitations didn't seem to recognize it, meaning that the only way to forfeit the battle was to voluntarily leave the barrier enclosing the chamber.

His explanation just left them more worried, but since he assured them that he would win regardless, they believed him.

Following Myria, Davis entered the chamber and maintained an edge for about an hour before finally beginning to lose two hours later. By that time, his essence energy had depleted, and he had to leave as Myria did.

This went on for the seventh battle as well, although they lost their edge as their imitations seemed to learn from them.

Myria's imitation had also improved its Reincarnation Laws, making it so that the advantage Myria gained had been slightly cut off since Myria herself was also making massive improvements with each battle.

It could be seen that she never had a source of Reincarnation Laws to comprehend from that she was making quick progress with increasing its quality.

She didn't exactly think that she herself, in the form of imitation, would become a source, which felt ironic, to say the least.

Nonetheless, the imitations no longer resorted to provoking them in front of everyone, perhaps because the imitations themselves didn't want the others to know about their secrets. Why? Because they would soon take over if their originals lost, they kept silent and battled, purely intent on killing them.

Like this, they finally arrived at their eighth chance, a junction where they should stop challenging as they could no longer pull out if they failed and consequently face the ninth challenge, and failure in that final chance meant death and perhaps, repossession by their imitations!

Chapter 2196: Three Months Inside

? ?? ??-?? ??? . ???

Three months had passed from the moment Davis and the others entered the Nine-Treasured Palace. In other words, ninety days or nine days on the outside. The situation outside was unknown, so they all couldn't help but worry one way or another, but they didn't want to make a mistake in these challenges by being hasty.

While Davis and Myria stood in front of the chamber, a crimson-robed woman abruptly appeared in front of them, her crimson eyes appearing complex.

"You're really going to challenge the trial the eighth time? There's no going back."

"Yes."

Davis simply nodded to Shirley, causing her to heave a gentle sigh as she raised her hand and touched his chest.

"Just remember that your life isn't yours alone. It's ours."

"I understand."

Davis inwardly laughed that even if Shirley said that his life was hers, he would've nodded since she practically revived him using her chance to invoke a nirvanic rebirth, although she had later gained it after the Ice Phoenix Mistress gave her soul essence.

Shirley stared at him with a faint light in her eyes before she looked elsewhere, walking away before arriving in front of another person.

"You too, Myria. This isn't a game."

Myria opened one of her eyes and gazed at Shirley before closing her eyes.

"I appreciate you for worrying, Shirley but this... I absolutely recognize this as a matter of life and death."

"... Forgi-"

"You don't have to say that twice when you haven't even made a move against me. There's nothing there for me to forgive."

"..."

With Myria making it clear, Shirley said no more as she turned around and left, arriving before the others who smiled at her because they saw that both of their resolves were firm as an unshakable mountain.

"I'll be going first then."

Myria took a step forward, turning to look at Davis, who nodded as it was only after she battled would he enter every chance, and there was no change to that order, but he quickly shot a vague smile.

"I won't wish you luck."

"As it should be."

Myria smirked at Davis and left, entering the chamber with resounding steps. Once she crossed the line of divide, the transparent barrier came up behind her, while to her front, an icy-blue robed manifested in plain sight, her lips moving behind her veil.

"You're truly a foolish woman, knowing that you only have less than ten percent chance to win against me even with all the odds accounted for, and yet, insist on challenging me for the eighth time. Did going through so many incarnations put a dent in my intellectual capacity?"

"Indeed." Myria raised her hand, beginning to outline a spirit formation, "After all, you're already speaking as though you've possessed me."

"Isn't that just a matter of course at this point?"

The imitation mockingly smiled, appearing completely calm even while Myria was summoning the spirit formation that would allow her to increase her prowess to eight levels higher. It went to show how it no longer cared about Myria powering up, giving the intent that it could still handle Myria, which made the latter increasingly cold and utterly calm.

"We'll see about that~"

Zumm!~

A pitch-black light emerged as it encased her body, increasing her soul force's prowess by a level. Her reincarnation energy that flowed out like tendrils out of her body rapidly grew in strength while exuding a terrifying might of existential threat.

"Die!"

Black-white iridescent strands of energy conjoined into one and released at the fake Myria, who hurled a similar attack. Both of their reincarnation energy transformed into a serpent-like head with a black-white horn, opening their mouths as they displayed their large fangs.

"Otherworld Serpent's Death Snare!"

Their melodious voices bellowed out with seething intent as both the serpents clashed and bit each other's necks, tearing apart the essence of the technique as they flailed. Their struggle brought a huge gust that transformed into a tornado, causing the air to reverberate with intensity as they twisted and wrapped around themselves.

Their clash made each other tremble ever so slightly as they felt the danger to their existence. After all, this was a move that eradicated souls, cutting off their ability to reincarnate, although the chances were not high. However, it still caused the physical souls of the victim to be completely eradicated so that not even their next incarnations wouldn't remember that they had a life like that, even if they procured resources to remember their previous life like Alia Silverwind or Ancestor Aries.

It caused their pupils to dilate as they were never the recipients of one of the three ultimate techniques Myria devised.

Bang!~

Both attacks collapsed upon each other, unable to gain an advantage, but Myria knew that her technique had lost ground, a few kilometers ever so lightly. Clenching her teeth, she was about to make the next move when her imitation abruptly appeared to her side, keeping both of its hands together.

"Soul Subsistence Breaker!~"

Two palms abruptly appeared beside Myria as they threatened to crush her to death! Her white hair raised in goosebumps as she knew if she got crushed by it, even her Eternal Life Soul might fail to sustain her life as it caused the soul's tie to this world to break as it corrupted the spiritual souls, making it so that it would eventually collapse and return to the reincarnation cycle for healing as though it was natural.

Myria instantly raised her two hands to the side as her reincarnation energy swelled out.

In truth, the Soul Subsistence Breaker's effect on her Eternal Life Soul was unknown, but she wasn't about to let her fake make her as the experiment subject, quickly surging out with a black-white iridescent force that transformed into one single needle-like lance that spun with a tremendous force as though absorbing or creating a vortex of heaven and earth energy that became aggressive and threatening before they struck the two iridescent palms.

Bang!~

Their clash shattered the palms while Myria leaped and arrived before her fake, waving her hand as six black-white iridescent lances shot out, only to be countered by the imitation's six lances that were hurled at her.

Bang!~ *Bang!~* *Bang!~*

Reincarnation energy kept exploding, causing the air to shudder. If any souls were in the vicinity, it was of little doubt that they would quickly collapse amidst these otherworldly explosions that didn't release any smoke or fire but an aura that ravaged the fabric of souls.

Their figures kept rushing past each other as resounding booms kept echoing.

"..."

Outside, Davis was watching their battle with wide eyes, comprehending their live execution of Reincarnation Laws. He had already watched many instances of their battles, and the more he watched them with focus, the more he gained insights into Reincarnation Laws that he felt like he wasn't far from it and only lacked a moment of enlightenment or an impetus to fuse life and death.

'Perhaps, it is like Myria said... that I would find it difficult to fuse life and death energy on my own before I become an Immortal King, no, an Immortal at the very least...'

Nonetheless, he still couldn't help but want to try if he could comprehend the way of fusing Life and Death Laws before he could become immortalized.

Chapter 2197: To Win

While Davis was in his own thoughts, only a few minutes passed as Myria's battle reached a closing.

Boom!~

Copious amounts of blood spilled from Myria as she seemed to have lost her left hand from her wrist while the imitation didn't fare any better, losing a leg from the knee. Their overflowing reincarnation energy was used to the fullest extent as they cast terrifying techniques, expending enormous amounts of soul force in a single move that their rate of soul force recovery couldn't keep up.

One had their casting compromised and the other their speed, and a few other techniques that could be unleashed with the leg.

The two of them were at a close distance, exchanging numerous attacks that kept repeatedly scraping off each other's flesh as blood splashed. Their jade white skin possessed a hint of bloody rosiness that kept quickly shattering and healed by life energy, repeating a cycle of life and death at least a hundred times.

"Kill!"

Abruptly, the imitation raised its hands, its eyes bloodshot as it surged with an overwhelming amount of reincarnation energy, swaying with an immense force that gathered into the palm of its hands.

She stretched out her hand and drew out a greater reincarnation lance that seemed like a spear that would send even a heaven's favored to the otherworld.

"Spear of Damnation"

Noticing the third and final destructive reincarnation technique being unleashed, Myria's scalp turned numb as she quickly generated the same, screaming atop of her lungs as she launched it at her fake!

Boom!~

The two Spears of Damnation struck each other and exploded into a cloud of chaotic reincarnation energy. It didn't cause Myria and her imitation to be sent flying but overwhelmed them in a field of gas that quickly started to cause their flesh to start disappearing as though it didn't exist.

Their robes made up of reincarnation energy fought against the invasion, but it passed through and eroded the flesh. Even the blood, before it could spill two centimeters away, ends up disappearing into thin air.

However, within that threatening black-white reincarnation field swam Myria and the imitation, closing in on each other as they struck out with their hands, their palms holding an exquisite amount of energy.

Bzzz!~

Puchi!~

"Ahg!~"

Myria grunted as she felt her entire soul shudder as though it was going to collapse, the imitation having captured her forehead and injecting with a killer move at a close range. However, her Eternal Life Soul abruptly released a blinding black-white light that seared the incoming attack, causing it to vanish.

On the other hand, Myria had stabbed her imitation's bosom, her hand grasping a bloody heart as the reincarnation energy she contained within her palm exploded, imploding inside the imitation's heart. However, the implosion not only caused the heart to erode but caused the fake's whole body to collapse.

"...!"

Davis and the others could see the imitation disappear starting from the place she was pierced as though she was a collection of withering petals of flowers into nothingness.

Myria had won while the imitation had lost.

Davis and the others could see copious amounts of blood emerging out of Myria's eyes, ears, nose, and mouth, bleeding from all seven orifices before she quickly shook her head, looking at the barrier only to notice that it hadn't disappeared.

Quickly, she turned to look around, her gaze moving left, right, and above before looking below, her expression changing as she saw an image of herself rise above from the ground while exiting from a camouflaged state.

"Weren't you close? Even still cautious enough to check the barrier to see if I was killed at a moment of joy..."

The imitation rose like a ghost, blocking Myria's path to the exit with a crazed smile on her face.

"Curses...!"

"You really thought you could kill me that easily? Unfortunately, I know you ran out of soul force to perform that final attack. Take this!~"

The imitation's soul body surged with reincarnation energy, enveloping the region as her Supreme Immortal Sigil was activated.

Simultaneously, Myria did the same even before the imitation took action, activating her Supreme Immortal Sigil as it counteracted her fake prowess. However, instead of attacking, Myria used it to escape as she shot into a dark ray of light and rushed past the imitation.

However, an impending wave of doom struck her back as reincarnation energy flailed and eroded her flesh, causing a heavy dent to form on her body as her beating heart became visible, blood splashing in the air before it evaporated into thin air.

"Hhg~"

? ?? ??-?? ??? . ??? Myria clenched her teeth as she silently moaned in pain. However, she didn't stop to check but escaped with great speed, piercing through the barrier as she made it out and was instantly forced down by the laws of the palace, which caused her to crash to the ground as she rolled like a shattering boulder, leaving a heavy trace of blood on the tiles.

Watching this, the imitation merely smiled, but that smile was one that was assured of her victory before she disappeared into thin air.

Gasp!~

Myria gasped, quickly sitting up as life energy surged from her soul as it began to encase her body. However, since she activated her Supreme Immortal Sigil and the spirit formation was still active, her prowess became naturally higher, allowing her to heal more efficiently as the wounds on her body closed, especially her severed left hand and the big hole behind her bosom.

However...

"Myria, it hurts... I... feel like I'm going to disappear..."

Ellia's voice sounded frail, as though she was a mere smoke that was about to dissipate into thin air.

"Don't worry. You're just losing consciousness from the soul injury. I'll recover right now!"

Myria sternly consoled Ellia, her mind slightly trembling in panic as she really had been heavily wounded in the soul, one that almost equated to or as severe as the one she received back then when she died.

The thought that she had been having entered her mind as it became clear that her imitation had the thought of heavily wounding her soul in this battle and planned to finish her off in the ninth and final challenge!

On the other hand, Davis calmed his beating heart, becoming relieved that Myria had lost. She had almost won the challenge, causing him to sweat buckets. Still, he couldn't help but be worried over her injuries as he walked toward her.

However, noticing that her wounds were healing faster than before, he became assured, and although he was worried about her soul injury as he witnessed her imitation grabbing her forehead, he understood that the Eternal Life Soul was perhaps the most resilient soul when it came to soul attacks, able to passively heal even if she was out cold.

He was no longer worried, smiling as he turned around and walked into the chamber, his eyes blazing with the intent to win!

As soon as he entered, the barrier that had just dispersed came back, blocking the other's path inside before the chamber quickly formed his imitation.

The imitation grinned like a devil, his chin raising up in a victorious pose.

"You just saw Myria getting her ass handed to her, and you have the gall to challenge me again? If anything, I have to praise my own art of courting death that would allow me to live!"

Chapter 2198: All Out?

"..."

Myria almost spat blood as she heard Davis's imitation rudely talking about her.

Is that what he was thinking about all day, or perhaps months, as she from time to time could sense his gaze?

However, her injuries to the soul were so severe that she couldn't divert her focus elsewhere, forcefully calming herself as she returned to healing her soul as life energy kept overflowing her Eternal Life Soul, practically repairing itself.

Evelynn and the others looked worried more so than ever because the fake didn't seem to be lying but understood that it could still hide things. Hence, their hearts were still calm.

Davis lightly shook his head, unable to believe that his confidence to defeat someone who owned Fallen Heaven was overwhelming. What gave him the idea that he could essentially win against someone like that?

Moreover, he had the assistance of law suppression, and although the imitation still had the advantage in prowess, it was only by a slight margin that didn't make much difference as the imitation was unable to defeat him, allowing him to escape each time.

Unlike Myria's imitation, which constantly grasped Reincarnation Laws as Myria did, his imitation's comprehension of Fire and Lightning Laws seemed to make little yet different kind of progress as he did so in Fire and Lightning Laws.

After all, both of them used fire and lightning with different properties, hence the disparity and difference between their comprehension routes.

For Davis, this was not a threat as he still possessed the advantage of law suppression. However, looking at his imitation taking another route of comprehension, wasn't it truly like another him for real?

This formation truly had him terrified from the depths of his heart, not because he was afraid of being possessed, but it made him question if he was real, although the answer was obvious, not to mention the implications of this formation.

The world master was someone who could break the balance just like him and Myria. It was no wonder that grand character was able to seal Fallen Heaven despite having been pushed to dire straits, as Myria had once said.

'Thundering Horn Spear.'

Davis raised his hand as a black-silver spear appeared above his palm. He grasped it, clasping it as dark crimson flames emerged and enveloped the spear, surging with an apocalyptic might. The oppressive aura it exuded caused the imitation's brows to frown as it retaliated with its own move, forming a wheel with the power of extinction lightning and immolation flames.

Its destructive might was apparent as soon as it formed, exuding a threatening aura that caused Davis to also frown.

It was the Destructive Wheel of Firestorm from his Blazing Thunderlight Kirin's Firestorm World Ode, a move that even countered Ellia's attack, although she had only been showcasing her prowess in the two cultivation systems other than the soul.

Regardless, Davis pushed on forwards with his spear amassed with heavenly lightning and heavenly flames. His legs were draped in black-silver lighting as he moved, his figure flashing through the air as he arrived before his imitation.

Rrup!~

He unleashed the heavenly spear, and along with his momentum, it shot towards the imitation with a frightening speed as it seared apart the air. Despite its destructive prowess, the imitation appeared solemnly calm as it unleashed the Destructive Wheel of Firestorm, its destructive might surging to a far superior level than what Davis used in the competition.

The flaming wheel of lightning and fire spun like a drill, the essence of fire and lightning gathering at the center as they struck the heavenly spear!

Bang!~

Their clash resounded with an ear-screaming sound as they stopped, trying to overpower the other, but the moment the spear slightly swiveled due to the rotating force of the Destructive Wheel of Firestorm, their powers abruptly exploded into a blast of firestorm engulfing the space.

It was probable that even a cultivator who had just become an immortal wouldn't survive the aftermath of their attacks.

However, within that destruction zone traveled Davis and his imitation as they were each clad in lightning and flames and similar nature yet qualitative difference. Lightning crackled, and flames seared as they readied their techniques again, clashing once again with storming intensity.

Rumble!~

Thunder resounded from each of their hits. Lightning spears that were incomparable to the one before were launched at each other as they tried to put a hole through their bodies. It almost became close-quarters combat when the imitation quickly saw that it was momentarily losing it out because of the law suppression.

Only stronger attacks could keep the original at bay, so it instantly retreated as it fought.

Bang!~ *Bang!~*

Bolts of black-silver lightning were launched in an arc. However, the imitation successfully dodged one of them before hurling the lightning spears at the rest. Its black extinction lightning abruptly clashed with the heavenly lightning bolts as it caused them to collapse from within.

The tiny explosions that would've otherwise caused Eighth Stage Cultivators to die in an instant didn't even put a mere scratch on them. Now, it was Davis who was chasing while the imitation ran with its tail between its legs.

However, Davis knew not to trust this fake Davis as it had been severely plotting, making him aware that was what he would do if he didn't have Fallen Heaven. He had his fair share of almost falling prey to the fake Davis's plotting but managed to come out alive each time, and this time, he felt no different as he was the rightful original.

Abruptly, the imitation turned around and pushed into his blind spot, causing Davis to harrumph.

"Hmph! Keep trying!"

A burst of heavenly flames and heavenly lightning abruptly exploded from Davis's own body, causing the imitation pupils to dilate as it unleashed its move and rapidly retreated.

"Thunder-Lightning Kirin Burst!"

With a clap of its hands, extinction lightning burst out like a resounding thunder.

However, the heavenly flames and heavenly lightning overwhelmed it, even engulfing it as it stuck onto its body, rapidly injuring it in a second before its extinction lightning and immolation flames surged out and extinguished the deterioration.

? ?? ??-??? ??, ?,?,? Although the damage was mitigated and the injuries were considerably less, the imitation raised its head and stared at Davis with a not-so-minute amount of hatred as it saw the burning figure that injured himself.

Whenever it got into Davis's range while it had the advantage, Davis would strike back with a suicidal attack like he was planning to die.

With this simple yet daring strategy, he kept it from overpowering him, and after unleashing the suicidal attack, he would quickly use his life energy to heal his organs and meridian pathways while paying no heed to the flesh.

If it weren't for his heavenly lightning and heavenly flame shield draped around his body at all times, he would probably be burned and fried like a roasted chicken.

Of course, the imitation tried this move, but because of the law suppression and not having a physique of that kind, it had to eat shit as its powers only worked after overpowering the suppression while the heavenly nature of his original's naturally reigned superior.

Moreover, due to Davis lacking his Supreme Immortal Runes, it had two because only through the formation of runes allows it to step into the Law Rune Stage, but it was restricted to use it! More than that, because it lacked Fallen Heaven, its Emperor Sigil was not up to par, making it so that his prowess in life energy and death energy was trifling!

This very feeling of being created inferior had the imitation gnashing its teeth. After all, even Myria's imitation thrashed its original, but how come it was unable to do so!?

Davis healed himself as he inwardly grumbled, 'We've been at a stalemate for the past three battles. If only I could get inside his range after he used his technique...'

Like the imitation had its own worries, Davis had his own, unable to enter close-quarters combat as it was precarious for the both of them.

This was the result of him refusing to use Fallen Heaven's powers.

However, from being kicked like a football in the first battle and battling almost equally in this eighth battle, Davis knew that he had tremendously improved his battle skills and developed an extreme understanding of his strengths and weaknesses.

It was difficult to catch him off-guard, and that confidence gave him an overwhelming boost in confidence in going toe-to-toe with his imitation.

But still, he was out of ideas.

Besides, Davis did ask Myria to teach him about that spirit formation, but she refused. It was understandable.

After all, why would she bother to increase his chances of winning this trial and obtaining the rewards?

Moreover, it was likely he would take months to comprehend that spirit formation considering that he only knew less about spirit formations, unlike Yotan and Threelotus, who spent years studying them while they fairly understood the workings of almost every type of spirit formation.

As he was thinking about how to defeat his imitation, he couldn't help but pause ever so lightly as a spark of insight appeared in his mind. It was very sudden, causing him to quickly enter a state of enlightenment as he brought his hands together.

'Thunder-Lightning Kirin Burst...? From this of a long-range...?'

The imitation couldn't help but become cautious, wondering what Davis was doing when its scalp abruptly turned numb!

It watched the so-called original surge with oppressive heavenly flames and heavenly lightning as he abruptly clapped his hands when the black-silver arcs of lightning and dark crimson flames that had a bright red hue conjoined, transforming a black-crimson hue while still radiating a silverish ember.

Their prowess surged to eight levels higher as they transformed into a bolt, sending a spike of lightning and flames towards the imitation, causing it to dodge.

Bang!~

However, it was like the very first time Davis entered the ninth floor.

The imitation looked at its left forearm disappear into ashes before disappearing into the formation as his arm was struck by the heavenly bolt, which made him feel extreme pain. He clenched his teeth in pain as the remnant heavenly flames and lightning stuck to his elbow like there were millions of terrifying ants gnawing on them.

Lighting cackled on his right hand as he swung it towards his left arm, cutting it off in an instant without hesitation whatsoever.

Davis shuddered ever so lightly as he felt like he used up a large part of his soul force, although he quickly understood that it was the backlash of abruptly using this new power.

'Even Shirley exercised caution when using the combination of ice and fire...'

Davis couldn't help but grin at this moment, a grin of victory.

After all, just at this moment, he had comprehended the combination between Fire Laws and Lightning Laws!

Blazing flames and sparkling lightning wasn't even storming in the air when he had comprehended the combination of heavenly lightning and heavenly flames, and yet, he suddenly felt like he understood as he was low-key studying an Immortal Grade Manual, furthering his comprehension of those two Laws, closing his distance to Firestorm Laws, a Supreme Law, and although not as powerful as Icefire Laws at normal, was perhaps equal or more powerful than Icefire Laws when heavenly nature was mixed into it!

"Fuck you. I'll go all out!"

However, before he could even celebrate, his identical twin, whom he had done short work of, became furious as its figure became engulfed in extinction lightning and immolation flames.

Boom!~

It arrived in front of him and exploded like a volcano that repeatedly had its humongous body struck by lightning all year long, roaring with an apocalyptic might as the imitation hurled dark crimson wisp of flames and crackling extinction lightning at him!

Boom!~ *Boom!~* *Boom!~*

Two different types of lightning and flames clashed, surging with greater intensity each time, while the energy expenditure didn't go any less but drastically increased.

In that chaotic situation, Davis deeply grinned while exchanging a flurry of flaming and crackling barrages. After all, since the imitation lost one of his arms, victory was practically on his side as long as he didn't mess up!

He kept his focus at max and tried to overwhelm his imitation, who no longer seemed to have its cool, probably having come to the conclusion that it could die during this eighth battle.

Boom!~ *Boom!~* *Boom!~*

Heavenly lightning spears and extinction lightning spears. Deadly burning heavenly flames and immolation flames. Their clash caused the spacious and well-lit chamber to become dim and sickly as their attacks shrouded the space while thousands of spears clashed against each other.

The situation was completely extreme and anarchistic that Evelyynn and the others turned aghast, not knowing how the battle would tip to one side as they didn't understand the finer details, some of them even wondering why they didn't use their other cultivation systems, even if it could just defend against a single spear and give them even a strand of time to make an additional attack which would eventually make them win.

However, both Davis and the imitation couldn't afford to use their other two cultivation systems because of their inadequate prowess. If they used it and even wasted a few milliseconds, then the consequences were worse than severe, easily allowing them to end up dead with those hundreds of exchanges within that few seconds.

The women weren't aware of such extremity and could only stare with their wishful eyes, hoping that Davis would win.

Abruptly, Davis twisted his hand as he brought it up before pushing it down like unleashing a billowing wave. It caused the heavenly flames to twist and conjoin with heavenly lightning, turning into that black-crimson monstrosity that radiated a silver hue.

The very first step to Firestorm Laws rushed down like a resounding lightning strike as it struck the imitation!

Boom!~

However, raging flames billowed like a sun's supernova tide above, momentarily stopping the firestorm energy from piercing through. However, it held just for a second before the kirin-faced black-crimson energy pierced through, witnessing the imitation's calm expression.

Bang!~

A bolt of black-crimson energy struck the kirin-faced heavenly wave of lightning and flames, causing an explosion to occur, sending the both of them flying miserably.

"What...?"

Davis spat a mouthful of blood as he quickly swiveled his head to look at his imitation crash into the ground, suffering gruesome injuries than him as its face charred. However...

Did his imitation just comprehend the combination of Fire and Lightning Laws?

His pupils couldn't help but tremble in pure shock.

Chapter 2199: Dying?

By this time, after seven battles with his imitation, Davis had drastically improved in his usage of Essence Gathering Cultivation as well as keeping heavenly fire and heavenly lightning together. It must also be known that he hadn't reached the level of combination and could only stick them together, thanks to both heavenly flames and heavenly lightning being yang in nature.

Although they were destructive and could explode upon contact, his heavenly physique made it so that he could easily keep them unagitated until they hit the target.

Now, it was possible for him to combine them, drastically increasing their prowess.

However, what made it possible for his imitation to learn combination shortly after him?

Myria's imitation was too prideful. Since that imitation also had the advantage, it didn't bother to comprehend insights from their battle and tried to wholeheartedly kill the original. Hence, its laws weren't up to par with Myria's.

But then, it learned its lesson, learning with each battle after their sixth battle and somewhat improved its Reincarnation Laws, able to match Myria and even slightly overwhelm her due to its higher prowess.

However, Davis's imitation was different.

From the start, it knew that Davis possessed Fallen Heaven to kill it and that he could wake it up anytime he wanted. Therefore, it was extremely cautious, maintained a distance, and always tried to come up with something to kill the original and even considered comprehending the combination of fire and lightning, and as it saw Davis use it on top of its own insights, it naturally had a moment of enlightenment like Davis and reached that level within the battle, countering him.

This remained a fact even though Davis consciously tried to avoid re-reading his memories of the Immortal Grade Essence Gathering Cultivation Manual he procured from Fallen Heaven that contained the insights of fusion between fire and lightning, only trying to comprehend it during their battle so that the imitation doesn't gain an advantage.

Even then, his imitation managed to have a miraculous comprehension, just like him.

Nonetheless, Davis quickly descended, arriving before his imitation and strands of black-silver lightning revolved around him.

Davis's burned body was slowly healing, but the imitation's body had suffered more wounds at this junction, its body responding slowly to its commands.

The imitation had stood up, heavily gasping for breath while looking like a charred piece of wood as its expression was stiff. It abruptly released a wave of flames, enveloping Davis in a tsunami of immolation

flames, when suddenly those thick billowing waves of dark crimson flames exploded, engulfing Davis within.

It swiftly flew toward the exit without even looking at Davis, blood constantly leaking from its body before those drops kept disappearing each second later.

"I see. You have injured your meridians and consequently lost your essence energy more than you should. You ran out of essence energy, didn't you?"

Within that raging flames, Davis walked out as he was clad in black-silver lightning, his chest heaving as he heaved a sigh of relief.

After all, even he received a backlash from suddenly using the combination of fire and lightning, so how could a physique-less version of him endure? It had obviously sustained more injuries that required quick recovery or even had a chance to end up crippled.

However, even though Davis possessed the absolute advantage at this moment, his expression couldn't help but turn cold.

"That said, why are you trying to go outside the barrier? Did you confuse your memories with mine at the precipice of the battle, forgetting that only the originals could exit...?"

"...!"

The imitation appeared frozen on its tracks. However, it was already near the exit, staring at the other side, where Evelynn and the others remained.

"Seems like this formation is extremely close to reality to a fault that it should perhaps... never exist."

Davis's voice echoed from behind. However, the imitation paid no heed to it as it stared at Evelynn, its bloodied yet sapphire pupils trembling before its lips moved.

"Evelynn, you won't betray me... right?"

"...!"

Evelynn's heart shook. That face, that voice... everything was similar. However, her heart turned cold, causing a murderous intent to brew within her.

"I won't, but you're not Davis, so just drop dead."

The imitation appeared like it had lost all strength and dropped to its knees, but in truth, its blood fell as his body refused to listen to his commands. Its eyes were wide with disbelief as it panned its gaze from Shirley to everyone else to the end, who was Natalya, who shook under its gaze.

???-??? ??, ?,?,? "Damn... this isn't fair... you all..." Its voice cracked. However...

"I guess that's just how my obsession towards Evelynn and the others runs deep..."

Davis waved his hand, beheading his imitation while a strand of heavenly lightning penetrated into the soul sea and struck the soul! ??? a ???e?

However, a burst of soul force exploded as death energy surged like a tide, about to envelop Davis within when his hand struck out like a snake and held that ball of expanding death energy, crushing it into nothingness.

'I thought you wouldn't give up till the end, but unfortunately, my soul force at the moment is weaker than my essence energy.'

The body fell to the ground, resounding with a thud. However, it too ended up disappearing into the formation while the barrier simultaneously disappeared.

"Davis~"

Evelynn gently called out, her smile blooming like a lotus which made Davis's cold expression leave as he smiled.

"I won."

"Indeed~"

"Yes!!!"

Natalya and the others celebrated as they jumped. Even Lea, who had aged enough among them, couldn't help but tremble with wide eyes, her body constantly shuddering in excitement.

'So he won...'

Myria inwardly sighed as she lowered her head, her lips lightly curving.

"...!"

But suddenly, a wave of dizziness hit her, causing her heart to shake.

'Huh...? I'm losing consciousness...? Why...? Because... I relaxed...?' She couldn't believe her own thoughts but quickly tried to take action.

'That's bad... if... I... don't... heal...'

"Shir-"

Myria called out, or so she thought when her mouth didn't make much of a sound that it was more like a squeak instead.

However, the celebrating Shirley looked like she heard something as she doubtfully turned to look at Myria as she was rather standing close to her.

"Did you call me?"

"..."

However, there was no answer but just a Myria who had her head lowered, seemingly in utter focus.

Shirley's lips couldn't help, but quiver as her joy left her body and soul.

Was Myria no longer going to talk to her as she did before? After all, Davis had won, and that might affect their relationship in a bad way.

Or did she, out of guilt, just imagine that Myria was calling her?

Davis hadn't stepped out yet. He waited for a few words of congratulations from the palace, but nothing came up which seemed eerie and suspicious on its own, but since the coast was free and the treasures seemed ripe for the taking, he was about to step out and take some advantage of his beauties when his body froze.

"Congratulations!"

"...!? He turned around, catching sight of an existence that could only be described as a fairy.

"If you had used the apex treasure in this challenge... I might've had to change my mind... Fortunately, you didn't use it..."

"...!!!?"

Chapter 2200: Nine-Treasured Immortal Ordeal Palace

"Who... are you?"

Davis instantly went cautious as he saw the pink-robed fairy sitting on top of a white cloud. Her sharp yet bright eyes, chiseled nose, and fleshy lips exuded an immense charm, even while she wore a pink veil, not to mention that her curves also appeared bountiful, practically heaving as the cloud slightly swayed every second.

Moreover, she had a dragon horn that twisted to the back of her head. Her lips curved into a smile, although it looked as though it was forced.

"Once again, welcome to the Nine-Treasured Immortal Ordeal Palace. I'm this construct's spirit, Lereza. I'm... pleased to make your acquaintance, ma- whatever."

"..."

Davis blinked, his rapidly beating heart calming its pounding as he heard that it was this palace's spirit. For a moment, he thought it was the world master, causing his scalp to turn numb.

Rumble!~

However, his scalp did turn numb as the entire palace began shaking like it was going to self-destruct, causing him to want to leave right now.

Just when he eyed the Chaos Essence Orb and the Grand Chaos Body Art and was looking for the right opportune moment to sidestep the spirit, the trembling suddenly stopped, causing him to narrow his eyes as he stared at the palace spirit.

"You broke the imitation formation?" His lips moved with disbelief.

Lereza turned to look at her finger daintily as she brought it to her face, giggling ever so lightly.

? ?? ??-??? ??, ?,?,? "This kind of formation should never see the light of the day, or you know what would happen."

'What would happen!?'

Although Davis could guess that it would probably incur the wrath of the heavens, he wanted to know the exact answer so badly but didn't want to come off as half-ignorant to this spirit that already seemed to be biased against him, refusing to call him master for some reason.

But after being done with giggling like a little girl, the voluptuous spirit spoke again.

"These treasures and the palace belong to you."

She lifted her hands and sent a token to him, which became clear that it was a controlling core of this so-called Nine-Treasured Immortal Ordeal Palace that had its name changed from the one introduced.

"Moreover, the Temporal Speeding Formation using Spacetime Laws is available for use as well, although the energy required for it is just as humongous as your usage. Use it well on your cultivation path, and make sure you benefit the one who made all of this possible. However, if you need me for something, don't call me. I haven't approved of you yet."

"What? Wait..."

Davis quickly spoke, wanting to ask so many questions. However, the spirit abruptly seemed to have a bland expression on her face, seemingly looking away.

"Wait? I had been waiting for a long time. Quite ironic, I must say."

Davis followed her gaze and saw that she was glancing at Myria, who still seemed to have her head lowered.

'So this treasure palace was really meant for her...'

Davis didn't know what to feel about this matter, but it was not important at the moment since they fought fairly.

'Or was it fair when my imitation was disadvantaged with unable to retain my heavenly physique?'

But inwardly, he shook his head, knowing that plundering from the heavens and creating his own physique had to do with his own daringness rather than having it called unfairness or having that achievement negated just because he had Fallen Heaven's aid in allowing him to refine heavenly lightning and heavenly flames.

In the end, he had to face the karmic burden for it, after all, so he felt that this was still fair, and this formation being unable to recreate his heavenly physique, was the advantage he gained for himself.

Nonetheless, he truly wanted to talk to this palace spirit. After all, this spirit obviously knew about Fallen Heaven that he felt even the slightest information was valuable. Moreover, he wanted to also ask what the world master's intentions were, and although he knew that he would not likely receive an answer, he had still wanted to try. ??? a ???e?

But before he could even turn around and open his mouth, the spirit faded away like it was never there.

His lips hung agape before he closed them, looking at the golden token that was still floating in front of him.

However, he couldn't help but hesitate.

After all, should he really be using or housing his people in something that the world master made? Judging by this non-cooperative spirit's attitude, it was most likely loyal to the world master and would betray him at a moment's notice, perhaps trapping him or his people.

Even if this Nine-Treasured immortal Ordeal Palace was extremely strong and durable, he really didn't have the urge to tie it to him but instead had the urge to run away as soon as possible.

However, its benefits, such as speeding up time remained deeply attractive.

Myria had mentioned that this palace was encased in a Spacetime Formation, sounding obvious to the fusion of Space and Time. If it wasn't clear enough for him before, he now understood that to speed time or perhaps even slow down time in an enclosed space, Space was also a major player.

Basically, time is a construct that is perceived through light falling on Earth from the Sun, but in truth, there was only one single time for everyone in the cosmos, but it still kept its ultimate property of being relative, being able to change the flow of time for a few entities at a particular point in space, although temporarily.

This was the enlightenment he had in the Alternating Time Flow Valley and consequently reached Level One Intent in Time Laws. However, for Time to move, space needed to exist, and space was ever-present, just like Time. However, the space itself needed to accommodate the change in time. Otherwise, misconstrues would occur in nature, causing imbalance to emerge in the cosmos as one particular area couldn't stay in a different time but constantly move at a different rate, just like the Alternating Time Flow Valley.

From this, he understood that temporarily changing time was what Time Laws enforced. Even if he slowed down time during a battle or hastened it, it really wouldn't affect his own lifespan or the enemies, but to affect them at a deeper level, Space Laws needed to be included.

'In other words, time can be hastened or slowed in a battle using Time Laws, which makes it advantageous for the user to react as it mostly affects the perception, but for it really affect reality on a deeper scale, there needs to be a fusion with space, which makes it so Spacetime Laws is required.'

Comprehending these insights, which made him feel as though he was about to break through to the next intent in Space Laws and Time Laws, Davis was in awe, although he couldn't help but wryly smile.

'Are you an ally or the end boss?'

Chaos and Spacetime Laws, not to mention Five Element Laws...

Who the actual fuck was he dealing with?

Perhaps, this palace was just something that the world master had hired or threatened a few masters to construct. He couldn't help but console himself.

Nonetheless, looking at the golden token and the palace that would come into his control, especially the Spacetime Formation, he couldn't help but feel like taking the risk, if only it didn't pose a threat to his family.

'Then I'll just designate this palace as a training palace instead...'

He reached out his hand and grasped the golden token, his soul making contact with it as his strand pierced into it. As he sacrificed a bit of his soul essence to form a connection, he could quickly feel a sense of ownership to this palace as well as the spirit's location, but there was a kind of wall that made him feel like he could not summon her. Nevertheless, he concentrated on the few sentences of information that popped into his mind.

"...!"

Davis's smile became more prevalent because it seemed that this Nine-Treasured Immortal Ordeal Palace seemed to be an Immortal King Grade Construct! Moreover, the nine floors had formations that emulated the immortal treasures, meaning that as long as he could obtain an essence orb, it would be able to emulate the environment of that treasure and allow them to make twice the progress with half the effort added on top of having the essence itself!

However...

'Immortal Crystals...?'

It seemed like attributed amalgamations of heaven and earth energy were also accepted in these formations, but they were no longer Spirit Stones but were called Immortal Crystals, also the currency in the immortal world on top of Spirit Stones.

Davis pursed his lips, wondering if Isabella and Shirley possessed Immortal Crystals in their inheritances. Due to their lack of knowledge, they might've missed it, or perhaps, it was tightly enclosed so as to not lose their energy and purity.

He couldn't help but wonder as he turned to look at Evelyn and the others but saw that they were still shocked over what had happened.