

EMPEROR 701

Chapter 701 Vile Father

Kaiser Ethren abruptly spread his hands and opened his mouth as he laughed.

"Crisis? Pfft..."

"Hahaha! You idiotic son! Don't tell me you did this all for your mother? That woman who was initially married to love her life but given to me by that love of her life on the same night instead?"

"Hahaha!" Kaiser Ethren pointed fingers at his third son, Alexi Ethren with deep scorn reflected in his eyes.

"Truly hilarious indeed... Hahaha, I didn't know that you had humor in you..."

"... Bastard!!!" Alexi Ethren's veins protruded over his forehead as he erupted in a low voice.

Wisps of essence energy shot out to his sides from his pores, forming a crimson circle over him before it lit on fire, blazing in the middle of the sky!

"Let's end this farce, Kaiser Ethren. You made me just understand that I'm disrespecting my mother by calling you, father..."

Alexi Ethren's lips trembled as he didn't think that his mother had suffered greatly under this vile person. He didn't think his mother had such a past.

Love of his mother's life? Being taken, no! Presented on the same wedding night to this bastard? Just the thought that this person was his father left him nauseous!

His eyes flashed with killing intent as his undulations soared greatly and the fires of vengeance beside him increased!

Observing that no one still made a move, Alexi Ethren waved his hands!

The ring of fire shot towards his father in a blindingly fast momentum! The ring of fire specks was so small that one would lose sight of it even if they possessed a wide view angle.

"Hmph! An inferior technique!"

Kaiser Ethren harrumphed and waved his hand.

A wave of flames soared before him, its towering heat spreading over both above and below as it formed a blazing flame wall!

The ring of fire simultaneously clashed with the wall of blazing fire and instantly exploded as nine ring-shaped holes formed in the blazing flame wall.

Kaiser Ethren's expression fell when he noticed the nine holes in his blazing flame wall. He didn't expect his third son to become this powerful, equaling his cultivation in a few years.

He didn't know why but his expression abruptly changed, becoming ghastly as he became jealous of his own son!

A few years back, he still remembered that his third son was just at the Peak of the Law Dominion Stage, and just recently, it became known that his third son reached the Eighth Stage, becoming a felicitous moment for the Empire.

Yet now, how was it possible for his third son to reach the Mid-Level Law Sea Stage in a mere few months!?

Unless his third son met with a fortuitous lucky chance, he wouldn't believe the sight he saw one bit!

However...

"Brat! You sacrificed your potential to end my life!?"

Kaiser Ethren yelled as he saw the valiant figure of his zoom in towards him. His scalp almost went numb because of the unexpected!

"That's right! Vile father! If I can kill you, then it is all worth it!" Alexi Ethren's expression was pale.

However, what he sacrificed was his blood essence!

With a flick of his hands, his fiery essence energy flowed out of his pores like an ocean tidal wave, quickly receding as it came, dissipating into the air.

Essence energy gathered in his palm as it suddenly elongated into a long, spiky halberd. It split into nine as it was simultaneously conjured and shot towards the nine holes that had been formed on the blazing flame wall.

Abruptly, three of the nine holes in the blazing flame wall closed while the other three changed shapes and shifted from the surface and blocked another three fiery halberds!

The remaining three fiery halberds shot past the three overwhelmed holes and zoomed-in towards Kaiser Ethren.

"Astra Sky Fire Waves!"

Kaiser Ethren abruptly yelled and did all he could in his power to stop those three halberds! He continuously kept waving his hands, sending waves and waves of flame energy rising through the skies, engulfing the three fiery halberds!

As if inducing a chain reaction, the three fiery halberds imploded one by one and gained momentum as they neared Kaiser Ethren.

Kaiser Ethren's expression went pale as he extended his hands to block the nine-layered technique with his own body.

He could sense that just this single fiery halberd possessed seven percent of the strength he could summon by using a single attack technique!

To perform it using layered attacks? Kaiser Ethren's pupils dilated!

\*Boom!~\*

An intense explosion reverberated as the wind generated from the force of the clash became enough to push away the concealment clouds which tried hard to keep this matter under wraps but to no avail

The Royal Protectors' gazes changed as their expressions simultaneously fell.

It could be seen that Alexi Ethren used a secret technique to raise his strength by a level, managing to catch Kaiser Ethren off-guard.

However, to raise a level in the Eighth Stage!?

"Impossible!" Aleron Ethren, a wizened old Royal Protector who has lived for more than 2,000 years exclaimed in shock. The others who were watching the battle beside him also expressed similar reactions.

Even the Ethren Empire with its history didn't possess a technique like this, yet since when did its rising junior, someone like Alexi Ethren possess it?

Gazes of greed instantly flashed in their eyes but they calmed down almost as instantly since they have yet to see the backlash.

After all, it was common knowledge for one to temporarily raise their strength, a sacrifice was required that will attack the user a little later as a form of rebound.

As for what it is, whether it was blood essence or different kind of potential, they could only guess as they waited with bated breaths for the haze caused by the flaming explosion to clear.

Contrary to their expectations, Alexi Ethren was relentless. He didn't stop attacking as he continuously launched fiery halberds into the explosion zone and made it collapse, trying to find his target in the chaotic field of undulations.

The undulations masked Kaiser Ethren's presence, so he was unable to find him with his senses. Alexi Ethren didn't delay and instantly probed the area of the explosion as he knew that he would be spent within a few minutes if he kept this up.

The longer he delayed, the greater his chances to lose!

\*Boom!~\*

\*Boom!~\*

\*Clang!~\*

Suddenly, a crisp clang echoed in the area of explosions but even the clear sound became muffled.

Alexi Ethren was unable to hear it but the undulations on that certain location became clear.

"There you are!"

Alexi Ethren hurled a fiery halberd in a direction and then shouted.

\*Whoosh!~\*

A figure flashed past the smoke clouds and tried to escape. Its luxurious and majestic robes were burnt, giving the figure a miserable makeover!

When the figure came into view, blood spurted like a rain of shower!

Because the back of Kaiser Ethren had an extreme and open wound! A deep gash!

In the open wound was the fiery blade of the halberd constantly echoed with sizzling sounds, scorching and burning the open wound in the process.

"Bastard! You shattered my protective talisman!!!" An angry shout echoed as the figure flew away towards the clouds.

"Open for me!"

Kaiser Ethren domineeringly echoed and waved his hand as a sea of flame rose in his wake, threatening to engulf the clouds in destruction.

The raging sea of flames clashed against the cloud, making the clouds disperse! A hole leading straight to the outside of the third level quickly formed, prompting Kaiser Ethren to laugh.

"Hahahaha! I'll make you chase me around till you drop dead, you ungrateful brat!"

Chapter 702 Your End Is Nigh

Alexi Ethren looked unamused as he looked at his father fly away. He closed his eyes and raised his hand as he muttered in a low voice.

"I thought you would do something like this... How predictable..."

Abruptly, a burst of light shone and a fiery array emerged from the other side of the cloud and enclosed the space that had been torn open by Kaiser Ethren's raging wave of flames.

A lithe figure with a beautiful face possessing a frigid expression appeared on the other side of the open cloud. Her mouth moved with as a cold voice echoed.

"Your end is nigh, rotten scum!"

Everyone became stunned as they looked at the newcomer with various emotions.

While the battle came to a momentary standstill, Davis heard the female voice seething with an intense amount of hatred and rage, making him blink from afar at the scene.

His concealed soul sense could penetrate the cloud formation, hence, he could see what was going on but the moment the cloud formation was torn apart, intense undulations erupted as it spread to the third level, penetrating through the second level.

In the second level, his entire group was alarmed, so he had to calm them down by sending them Soul Transmissions while using his main body.

He had easily quelled their panic with his explanation, however, Princess Isabella came out and stood guard over the residence. He came out with his main body and said that there was no need to stay but she just shook her head and shot a knowing look at him.

To him, it became obvious that she wanted to spend time with him, even if it were a serious situation like this, or it was because of a situation like this that she precisely wanted to stay with him.

Davis who became elated thought that he could spend time with Princess Isabella but his attention was quickly grabbed by this woman far away from him, floating in the air while radiating immense hatred at Kaiser Ethren!

She had unanimously grabbed everyone's complete attention, including his! It wasn't because she was kingdom-toppling beauty but because her cultivation seemed to be at the Body Transformation Stage; Fourth Stage in Essence Gathering Cultivation.

Everyone doubted their own eyesight and senses and even Davis wasn't an exception. This completely made him doubt his own eyesight and senses.

Clearly, how can a Fourth Stage Cultivator stand up against an Eighth Stage Cultivator!?

It basically came off as a suicidal action!

Just when Davis thought that this woman who was out for vengeance was crazy, he noticed that her vitality was abnormally weak with his acute senses in a belated manner.

It was so weak that he couldn't practically find any kind of vibrant vitality that would exist within a common cultivator.

His eyes flashed red before he blinked once as the red shade disappeared. However, his eyes widened in shock as he noticed that the woman was going to die sooner, perhaps within an hour.

However, there was another reason he became shocked! It's because of her name!

"..."

Davis seemed to mutter something but it became muffled by the resulting explosion that sent Kaiser Ethren into the fiery array that had been placed beside the spongy cloud.

Kaiser Ethren's expression contorted as he was sent flying from an explosion.

From the start to the end, the fight had been so fast-paced that only a half a minute had passed, making him unable to completely utilize his apocalyptic might. Just when he thought that he could play it out by exhausting Alex Ethren, a crazy woman set up a trap for him!

He deeply became enraged but the moment he was sent flying by an entirely big fiery halberd that exploded right behind his back, his entire back burned with his skin and flesh becoming completely charred.

"Argggghh!!!!!!!"

The miserable screams didn't stop. His eyes faintly glanced at the woman who brought the fiery array to the escape route as if she would know that he would escape beforehand.

He didn't even know who this woman yet at the moment he glanced, he knew that he had somehow incurred her wrath to create this death trap. Without even missing a beat, he continued to scream in scorching pain like a pig and yelled.

"I surrender!!!"

At the same time, the fiery array activated and engulfed Kaiser Ethren in a flaming hell!

"Yiahhhhhhh!!!"

Kaiser Ethren's miserable scream echoed as the array threatened him to burn him to death.

Although the woman was the one who set-up the array at the right place with the right timing, the core; the activation mechanism of the array remained in Alexi Ethren's hands as only he could effectively control the Low-Level Emperor Grade Array with his Law Sea Stage Cultivation.

An array is entirely different than a formation because it has been designated only to be used a limited number of times and it completely needs no energy to be used since the required energy was already stored in it.

All it needs is a suitable and strong controller who possesses the core of the array and a fitting place for the array to be set up!

"Stop! My husband has surrendered!"

A female voice suddenly echoed as a beautiful figure flashed past outside the cloud formation, nearing it as she stood a little bit away from the woman.

"According to the rules of the duel, the winner has the right to kill the loser! However, as the Empress Dowager, the mother of the ruling Emperor, I have the right to ask that you do not land a killing blow on my husband."

"Not to mention that he is your royal father, Alexi Ethren. No matter what he might have done in the past, an act of forgiveness will enable the relationship between you two to become amicable..."

"Iona Ethren..." Alexi Ethren muttered under his breath as he became cautious to an extent, wondering what this woman was currently plotting in her mind.

As far as he knew, he never had a good relationship with this stepmother of his as she always seemed to openly express her disgust and displeasure to him.

Now, here she was saying that his relationship with his father could become amicable.

He didn't know what kind of plot this woman was brewing but his revenge didn't require him to kill his father instantly anyway, and besides, the secret technique he used could be extended for a period of time if he didn't use it actively although the backlash would be equally worse.

"First Mother, you misunderstood. I'm not here to kill my father but publically execute him for his crimes, especially to the things which he did against my mother and my master!"

"Master?" Iona Ethren narrowed her brows.

And so did every Royal Protector intently looking at how their conversation would play out.

Alexi Ethren just pointed his finger towards the woman who stood a little away from Iona Ethren.

The woman who was pointed did not even respond but instead, deeply etched the burning Kaiser Ethren into her eyes. Her expression possessed a hint of a crazed smile. It could be seen that she was truly ecstatic with what she is witnessing currently, even going far as to display a deranged grin with her lips.

"Master? This lowly woman who is at the Body Transformation Stage?" Iona Ethren chuckled with a breath and shook her head.

"First of all, this woman interfering with the duel by placing a trap is a violation!"

"Secondly, if it weren't for my husband proclaiming that he surrendered before he got trapped in the array, I would've cried foul at the start!"

"Thirdly, you used a despicable secret technique of unknown origins!"

"Even with all this, do you still think that you fairly won against your royal father!?"

Iona Ethren roared as her eyes flashed with a concealed intent.

#### Chapter 703 List Of Crimes

Alexi Ethren calmly posed a look towards Iona Ethren before he glanced at his father, who still seemed to be screaming and begging for mercy.

At this point, he figured that his father was going to die within a few minutes if he kept this up, so he used the core of the array to stop producing flames and instead sealed his father inside.

Kaiser Ethren groaned in pain. His entire body was burnt, scorched so much that even good facial features weren't visible. He became charred black while possessing no dark blue hair, revealing himself to be bald.

Not to mention that he was completely naked, his display akin to being publicly shamed and humiliated. However, right now it was least of his concerns as he was still groaning in pain.

"Good..." Iona Ethren narrowed her eyes as she uttered a word of content.

She cast her eyes to Kaiser Ethren, her husband, and yet there was no trace of worry or care.

"First Mother, you've misunderstood again. I'll execute him after I and my master publically announce his crimes. There's no need for First Mother to step in these muddled waters."

Iona Ethren glanced at Alexi Ethren as she knitted her brows. Just when she was about to reply, she was interrupted

"First Mother, why do you think that your son, Hadre Ethren, the newly crowned Emperor hasn't appeared yet?"

Iona Ethren narrowed her eyes that it became two tiny slits.

"It's because the Emperor and I reached a consensus. I swore to the heavens in front of him that I would not target the throne of this Empire before the coronation ceremony if he didn't appear in this scene."

"And from the looks of it, the new Emperor seems to have turned a blind eye to my actions..."

Alexi Ethren chuckled.

Iona Ethren looked stunned on hearing this revelation.

"I see..." She closed her eyes before opening with a determined glint, "If that is my son's will, then so be it!"

Then even without turning to give a final look at her husband, Iona Ethren left the scene as she took to the direction of her new palace, living as the Empress Dowager.

Alexi Ethren became stunned for a moment before he shook his head.

'Sigh, a power-hungry woman indeed... She decisively chose to follow her son's footsteps since he is now in power...'

'But for Hadre to not reveal his intentions to his mother...'

'Could it be that first mother knew about this all along and only came to make a fake impression on all of us!?'

Alexi Ethren gulped thinking like this as he felt that there was a fifty percent chance for this to be plausible.

Fortunately, he wanted nothing to do with this woman or this Empire after he had got his vengeance.

He looked at his master and his heart palpitated with excitement that he never possessed before!

Contrary to what Alexi Ethren mused about the Empress Dowager, the others more or less believed that the Empress Dowager chose her son before her husband.

They could understand her, thinking that Kaiser Ethren was already a lost cause and there was no use, fighting over a broken and almost dead shell. They felt that all she could do was rely on her son to make her ends meet.

Looking at the miserable figure of his father, Alexi Ethren knew that his vengeance was a done deal, so he didn't ponder on it too much, ready to take the brunt of being a father-killer in a few minutes.

All that was left for him and his master to announce his father's crimes.

Without delaying a beat, he started by announcing the crimes, one by one, each in a detailed manner.

About how his father killed without restraint and violated numerous women... About how his father caused female infanticide, killing his own daughters in order to change his luck to father sons instead of daughters.

Lastly, it was about his mother and the things he did.

This speech alone went for five minutes and would've caused many to frown, the crimes that were listed even caused the Royal Protectors who were equally in the know to frown in displeasure.

They seemed to be thinking that even if they did it, they wouldn't do this openly or even reveal it to the public so as to maintain the image and aura of a wizened expert.

On the other hand, Kaiser Ethren was a tyrant who loved to bully people until they groveled in front of him, begging for forgiveness.

Such acts were only allowed in this Empire since he was the Emperor.

"Momentarily, my master who had trained me will continue to add to this Scum Emperor's list of crimes!"

Alexi Ethren yelled ferociously.

His meaning was clear, that no one can object to this sentencing of his or even question his authority at this point.

His master trembled and took to the front, passing by the sides of the array where one can clearly bypass the seal or the flame attack through a specific route.

Clearly, the woman seemed to know the ins and outs of the fiery array despite her meager cultivation. She almost reached inside the cloud formation and spoke as her voice thundered!

"Kaiser Ethren you womanizing scum! You will pay for your crimes!"

Five minutes were enough to time for Kaiser Ethren to at least save his face by literally keeping up and restoring his appearance. Yes, with some kind of medicinal pill, he had begun to heal his burn injuries, mainly over his face before he moved on to his privates.

He already wore new clothes, taken from his spatial ring but even then, his new clothes were stained by the pus that came out when his skin regenerated

He looked like a bloodied man who had jumped out of a heavily contaminated sewer.

However, when he heard the voice of this woman, he shuddered. It was that same voice that enraptured him into scheming for that woman when he was a madman, killing his own daughters so that he could father sons by relying on evil rituals and techniques of dubious origins.

Alexi Ethren blinked and wondered why his master changed her voice.

The answer was revealed the next moment.

"Arianna..." Kaiser Ethren seemed to mutter in a trance as his lips moved. However, it came off as inaudible to the others.

"Pfftt!!" But then he suddenly laughed as he sprayed a mouthful of blood, his injuries becoming even worse in the process.

"Hehehe!"

Alexi Ethren's master who was called Arianna laughed with him. Their peals of laughter were equally crazy as if they weren't expecting it would come to this stage at all.

Alexi Ethren frowned for a moment before he bellowed at his father, "Old fart! Stop laughing at my master!"

Kaiser Ethren looked at Alexi Ethren with a dumbfounded expression on his face.

"Hahaha!" He couldn't help but laugh again, further aggravating his injuries in the process.

"I understand... I understand now! I understand why my life would fall into this mess!"

"How long have you been calculating this!? Hahaha!"

Kaiser Ethren couldn't hold his crazed laughter. It was as if he realized whose fault that he was going to die and no longer cared about his life and death.

"Hehehe... Laugh all you want... For this day, I've been calculating for two hundred and fifty years, the day I can personally behead you myself!" Arianna coldly chuckled.

"Hahaha! Behead me yourself!?"

"Look at you! You haven't even grown in cultivation since the time I made you my woman and had you birth my child!" Kaiser Ethren mockingly laughed.

Chapter 704 Disguised

Alexi Ethren's expression changed. His fists subconsciously clenched as veins erupted on his forehead. He closed his eyes as he knew that it should more or less be like this, otherwise, there was no need for his master to be this bent on vengeance against this bastard father.

He also recognized that the time frame they met was coincidental with the time when Kaiser Ethren said to have gone crazy and berserk to engage in female infanticide.

'Another case of female infanticide, huh? Did that old bastard kill Master's only child? Was their child, a daughter?'

He couldn't help but feel pity and angry.

'Master is near the ending of her lifespan and she can finally have her revenge. This should be the best-case scenario I could present before her life ends and my secret technique fades away...'

'Honestly, my vitality is dropping by the second... If I keep it up anymore, it will lead to unresolvable consequences!'

Alexi Ethren mused and yelled as his eyes shot wide open.

"Insolent!"

"Beg my master for forgiveness, and perhaps, I can grant you a painless death!"

"Hahaha!" Kaiser Ethren mockingly laughed, "Master? Hilarious!"

"You're a motherless child indeed... But I can see that she took steps to not let you discover..."

"Laughable... truly laughable indeed..."

"Hahaha!"

Kaiser Ethren seemed to have the time of his life despite being in a miserable situation. Its purpose was unknown but it served to succeed in further aggravating Alexi Ethren as his expression became ugly.

"What do you mean!?" Alexi Ethren gritted his teeth as he articulated his words. He brought up the core of the array in his hands and waved his hand as if he were going to activate it.

Kaiser Ethren's expression slightly changed as he noticed that he was going to be roasted again. He smiled eerily and opened his mouth, "Your master is..."

"Enough!"

Tenacious winds suddenly entwined around Arianna, causing her black robes to flutter as her voice traveled towards the trapped scum. It caused Kaiser Ethren to be startled as he turned to look at her.

The tenacious winds and around her flew into her palm and condensed into a single curved blade! Kaiser Ethren's expression changed as he instinctively felt that he was going to be beheaded.

However, for that short moment of time, he momentarily became dumbfounded as he felt those Law Sea Stage undulations from Arianna!

\*Whoosh!~\*

Kaiser Ethren's pupils abruptly dilated. That short moment proved to be fatal as Arianna instantly closed the distance between them.

Kaiser Ethren saw her vengeful eyes and the crazed smile on her lips! He instantly shot towards the back as his entire body shook, further aggravating his injuries as blood enormously spurted from his wounds.

"Argh!!! Arianna! Forgive me!!! It was wrong of me to take Alexi away from you!"

"Forgive me!!!!!!!"

His scalp turned numb as he finally begged for his life!

However, for Alexi Ethren, it was as if he received a lightning bolt straight to his mind. His expression became aghast as he lifted the core.

Instantly, flames from the array spread as it trapped Kaiser Ethren from running away!

It seemed that Kaiser Ethren had seen through one of the paths he could exploit, only to be trapped again but the flames that blocked him from escaping, blocked Arianna from beheading him as well.

"You! Alexi! Quickly remove these flames from my path!" Arianna turned to look at Alexi as she bellowed.

Her shout almost gained her what she wanted as Alexi Ethren subconsciously gave weight to his master's words, however, when he thought about what this bastard of a father said, his expression couldn't help but continually change!

From hesitation to the reluctance to believe... It was all etched over his face!

"Alexi! What are you doing!?" Arianna echoed as her brows twitched once again.

"Father! The words you meant!" Alexi Ethren trembled as he asked.

"Is it true!?"

Kaiser Ethren heaved a sigh as he saw that his traitorous child had subsequently saved him. He narrowed his eyes and secretly bide his time. Although he didn't know what was going on, he knew that Arianna's surge in cultivation base should be a sacrifice of some sort, the same as the usage of a secret technique.

He could feel it too, her vitality becoming lower and fainter as if it were threatening to fade out of existence.

"Old Fart! Answer me!" Alexi Ethren bellowed and shook the core in his palm.

Flames instantly erupted as it flew towards Kaiser Ethren.

"Stop!!! She's your mother! Arianna is your mother!"

Alexi Ethren became pale as he stopped the flames from burning his father alive. He abruptly moved his head to look at his master who seemed to hold her chest in pain as her brows arched.

Arianna couldn't hold it any longer. She spat out a mouthful of blood and collapsed as she started to descend from the skies. Her undulations that were blazing at the Law Sea Stage unstably receded and fell all the way to the Body Transformation Stage!

Her cultivation base still turned out to be unstable, however, Alexi Ethren didn't care anymore! He instantly shot towards his master and scooped her up in his arms as he held her!

Arianna once again spat a mouthful of blood right at Alexi Ethren's face in her weakness, making him look blood red, however, the latter seemed to pay no mind to it as his lips trembled.

"M-mother?"

Arianna's eyes seem to greatly tremble at the mention of that single word. A ripple flashed across her pupils as she slightly shook her head.

Alexi Ethren looked at the woman whom he thought to be dead, his mother. It was a well-known fact that she was dead, at least, that is what Kaiser Ethren said after his legitimacy was asked into question.

That he had been given birth by a noblewoman of another land, only for that noblewoman to later die of an unfortunate incident after childbirth.

Everyone seemed to believe that statement since the Emperor never seemed to father sons at that time. Instead, the suspicion was cast on him, whether if he were really the Emperor's child.

He and Kaiser Ethren had been tested in the Bloodline Chamber of the Ethren Empire before finally being dissolved of that suspicion. However, after this, everyone excluded him since he had no backing and was motherless.

The maids who also took care of him more or less abused him, and instead of making a mistake at a young age like seeking justice in a cold and ruthless environment, after reaching the Revolving Core Stage, he ran away and exiled himself from the Empire.

He had faced many life and death battles, coming out on top of every battle until the last one where he had been saved by this woman whom he now held in his arms, his master!

But now, he couldn't believe that the woman he recognized as his master is his mother!

He still couldn't get out of his shock as his face remained pale!

"A-Are you r-really my mother?"

Among the gazes of the onlookers who all gasped from the revelation, Alexi Ethren finally had the energy to repeat the question.

Arianna's big bosoms heaved as she gasped for breath. She shook her head and was about to stand up, struggling in the process, however, a strong yet trembling hand grasped her wrist.

"Mother?" Alexi Ethren solemnly called out as he held her.

Arianna's eyes trembled again as she looked at the man in front of her. Her head inclined to the left before it almost moved to the right, however, she moved her head up and down, nodding to his words as tears flooded out of her eyes.

Alexi Ethren's pupils shook the same while his mother cried. He projected his senses to her face and saw that it was, disguised! She possessed a similar facial feature to him. He recognized that the shape of his eyes and the curve of her nose were almost exactly the same as his!

Chapter 705 Trading Ones Life

Feeling the senses invade her, Arianna promptly dispelled her disguise art. Her facial feature became more pronounced and her beauty turned breathtaking from the average look she had before.

However, she had a reluctant and weak expression on her face.

"Don't t-touch me..."

"... Take your hands off, Alexi..."

Alexi Ethren's mind shook as he let her go subconsciously but realizing that his mother fell from the skies without support, he hurriedly caught her in his embrace again.

Arianna struggled repeatedly as she yelled. Her expression seemed to say that she was better off falling to death rather than have her son touch her.

Alexi Ethren noticed her reluctance and he became aghast thinking that his mother didn't want a son like him anymore.

'That's right... Mast- Mother's sole life wish was to kill that bastard father and it still is...'

'And she always rejected any close contact with me...'

His grasp over her loosened as he abruptly had the urge to laugh with a wry smile.

"Heh, who would like to be touched by this bastard's son? Isn't..."

"Alexi, no!"

Arianna cried heavily.

"Your mother is not clean! Don't touch this tainted body of mine! Uwahhh~"

Alexi Ethren became stunned as he saw the woman in front of him break down like she were heartbroken. She wept and sobbed and averted her gaze from him as she tried to hide her face with her hands.

At the same time, he abruptly recalled the first time she introduced herself to him and the fact that he tried to forget.

'She was a prostitute?' Alexi Ethren's pupils greatly shook.

Looking at her struggle in his arms, he could abruptly tell that she wasn't disgusted at him but herself!

'How much did she have to despise herself? To what length? To what time?'

From the time he was born? For more than three hundred years?

His lips quivered before he forcefully strengthened his grasp on her again!

"That doesn't matter at all! It was that bastard who forced Mother to be like this!"

Alexi Ethren's pupils shook in incredible hatred.

"If it weren't only for him..."

"Yiarghhhh!!!!!"

At the same time, a miserable scream echoed in the air again. To the onlookers, it all felt familiar.

As for Arianna, Kaiser Ethren's screams were like medicine. Her facial expression that was clad in tears relaxed but there was still killing intent in her eyes. She opened her mouth, wanting to say something but spat out a mouthful of blood to the side, her undulations further dropping to the Revolving Core Stage.

"Kill him, my son..."

She echoed with little fervor but that itself contained enormous killing intent!

Alexi Ethren who had activated the core of the array in full throttle, producing blazing flames, nodded his head with all solemnness. He knew that his mother was nearing the end of her life by wasting all her vitality in exchange for the increase in power.

Raising her cultivation four stages above is quite an impossible feat, perhaps a heaven-defying feat!

The fact that his mother managed to achieve it despite being this weak meant that she had probably sacrificed almost every bit of blood essence that she could, and had to do with the fact that she had already once reached the Eighth Stage in her prime.

He looked at her with scrutiny and knew that she would only last a day at best but tears failed to come out of his eyes for some reason.

However, his expression became aghast while his lips quivered as he abruptly realized a fact. He couldn't help but ask, "Mother, the special extracts in those vials... Don't tell me that they were all your blood essences?"

Arianna averted her gaze away from him. Her tears had stopped but her eyes were still moist as her pupils shook.

Alexi Ethren's expression trembled. Looking at his mother denying to answer, he kind of knew that it should be true.

At different times at the right interval, he had absorbed four of those immense blood essences... He couldn't help but tremble at the thought that he took his mother's own life!

"From the start, you have been lying to me, weren't you? You did not near the end of your lifespan at all... You instead, sacrificed your own blood essences using some kind of mysterious technique to grant me a great increase in Essence Gathering Cultivation."

"Isn't that right, mother!?"

Alexi Ethren echoed as his voice trembled. Tears finally emerged from his eyes, wanting to know why his mother had engaged in such a suicidal cause!

"Why?"

"Why? Why!?"

He couldn't help but repeat the same thing again and again, wanting to know the answers.

Arianna bit her bottom lips as she tried to speak.

"Leave me..."

"M-mother!!!" Alexi Ethren's voice trembled.

"... The answers you seek are within my spatial ring. You can inspect it after my death..." She weakly answered.

"Don't be a fool! If Mother doesn't tell me what I want to know, I'll stop burning that old fart!" Alexi Ethren cried in anger and distress.

He lifted up the core of the array and threatened to almost break it while his fists trembled!

Arianna's eyes finally widened! It seemed that the hatred she possessed for Kaiser Ethren wasn't a small thing at all!

Alexi Ethren smiled crazily, "My cultivation will fall in a few minutes... At that time, there would be no one to kill him."

"You! Alexi! Have you gone insane!?" Arianna echoed as she tried to struggle.

Alexi Ethren's lips quivered while his arms shook. He could no longer hold back and yelled at his mother as tears flooded out of his eyes.

"You're the one who went insane, mother!!"

"Why!!? Why did you do something like that!? It's just cultivation... I can eventually... reach this stage in the future if I diligently cultivated..."

Alexi Ethren sobbed like a little child. His gentle and calm demeanor was nowhere to be seen as he brought the back of her hand and placed it on his wet cheeks.

"But... How can I hope to not be with you when I finally learned that you were alive? That you were my mother..."

Arianna's eyes greatly shook. Her hands that kept trembling abruptly stopped before she moved her fingers to wipe her son's tears.

She wanted to stop him from crying as she couldn't bear to see it but she instead cried for him, feeling that she had done something greatly wronged her son.

Her face looked incredibly sad and reluctant.

'What can I do for you when you were taken away from me in the past?'

She remembered that she had become utterly broken on the day when her child was taken away by that bastard, Kaiser Ethren! From that day onwards, everything spiraled downwards as living became unbearable for her.

She wanted nothing more than to die but the urge to kill Kaiser Ethren overwhelmed her!

She was used, thrown around, used as seen fit. However, as an act of retaliation, she schemed, plotted, dictated the fall of a kingdom, and beheaded the man, the king she once loved.

Everything seemed to turn black after that. The things she did, the things she wanted to forget, it was all in her mind, rotting there to remind her of the improper woman she had become in the past.

Even after reuniting with her son after a long while, her focus still hadn't changed. She wanted nothing more than to exact her revenge and...

"I want to end this miserable life of mine, Alexi..." Arianna softly echoed before she smiled with an endearing glint in her eyes, "Strengthening you while trading my life and power at the same time... I couldn't ask for more..."

Amidst his dumbfounded expression, Arianna removed the spatial ring from her finger and placed it in his palm after removing the blood connection.

Once the spatial ring became ownerless, she wryly smiled.

"It seems that I personally cannot kill him anymore..." Her eyes closed as if she were on the verge of death.

Chapter 706 Three Scrolls

"Mother?" Alexi Ethren noticed her cultivation further dip to the Second Stage; Energy Condensation Stage. His lips couldn't help but quiver as he understood her grave condition.

Nevertheless, she still spoke, "However, you are still here... If I can see that scum killed by your hands, then I can rest in peace..."

Arianna closed her heavy eyelids as she spoke. It became synonymous with silence while her conscious darkened. She could only hear the vague voices calling her in the dark but that too became inaudible as she completely lost consciousness.

"Mother! No! Please don't go away from me! No!"

Alexi Ethren despaired. He seemed to have a mental breakdown amidst the views of the onlookers as he miserably cried like a child. However, when he embraced her weak body, he realized that she was still alive and only lost consciousness.

He tried to calm down but it was to no avail as he knew that it was just a matter of time before she dies in her deathbed; his arms.

Anything he did, it would be of no use!

That single fact left his mind reeling in agony and despair. In his life, he had never felt these intense emotions, not even when he was about to die!

Suddenly, he felt that the way to save his mother could be in her spatial ring.

He instantly bound the spatial ring to himself and checked the contents. He instantly found four scrolls that were placed on top of everything as if it were meant to be there, found by him first other than everything in this spatial ring.

He took the nearest one and tore open the scroll as his gaze fell on it. Characters written in crimson hue appeared in his eyes. Instantly, he realized that the characters should be written with blood, perhaps her own blood.

[

Hehe, Alexi, the fact that you're reading this means that I have already died... How fortunate...

However, if it's you, trash, Kaiser Ethren, then this scroll is not for you...

Go die!

Alexi, the time I wrote this letter is when I gave you that 'special extract' for the first time. Indeed, as you perhaps guessed after I died, it is indeed my blood essence. Unlike my body which is thoroughly

tainted by the hands of numerous men, my blood essence is as pure as the day I was born since I cleansed my blood in the Blood Cleansing Fountain of the Dual Lotus Manor Territory.

So you do not need to fear that you have been tainted by my blood, the blood of your mother.

]

Alexi Ethren's lips withered as he finished reading the first scroll.

Not finding any way to save his mother, he quickly took the second scroll into his hand and tore it open!

[

As you guessed, this is the second time I gave you my blood essence, Alexi.

How can one's blood essence be used to increase the strength of others?

In theory, blood essences can indeed be used to strengthen a being but it all comes down to a matter of compatibility.

And since we're mother and son, our blood is highly compatible and you almost wouldn't receive any backlash other than your foundation becoming a little unstable.

That's why I gave you these blood essences at the right interval.

Mhm? You're curious to know what technique I used?

It's categorized as an evil technique since it's abused a lot, but to me, this is the best technique I've ever found since I found a way to strengthen your cultivation. However, I'm not telling you and I've discarded all traces of that technique since I don't want you to use it.

Unfortunately, I found this technique on a man whom I sexually devoured.

Yes, as you could guess, my entire Essence Gathering Cultivation was built on the numerous corpses of men. I slept with them, devoured their yang, and killed them all!

My hands, my entire body, almost everything about me is tainted.

You don't need to remember me as a mother, you can just see me as that old prostitute on the roadside who is about to die.

Oh right, I should already be dead by this time... How silly of me, I forgot...

]

Alexi Ethren read this part as tears fell from his eyes. He could only continuously and helplessly mutter while asking 'Why?'...

Why was there a need to push herself this far? Why was there a need to blame herself this far when it was all the scum's fault?

"Die!"

Alexi Ethren didn't stop the array from burning Kaiser Ethren alive.

At this time, no miserable throes were echoing from the array. He knew that there were only ashes remaining in the array but the flames kept blazing, wanting to remove the ashes out of existence.

Even then, pure hatred swelled through his heart as he started to greatly hate Kaiser Ethren, his father! He now wanted to nothing more than keep his father trapped in that array for centuries, making him experience the despair of what even a little bit of his mother experienced!

No! He wanted to make him experience what it means to despair ten times than his mother!

"Mother, wake up... I sent him to the underworld... With the crimes on his head, I bet that even the heavens wouldn't let him into the Reincarnation Cycle..."

Alexi Ethren pleaded, wanting his mother to open her eyes. However, there was no response, no matter how he tried. He could only feel the deteriorating condition of her body with his senses.

Biting his lips, he gazed at the onlookers in sadness before taking the third scroll to read.

[

Ahh... Alexi...

I didn't think you would become affectionate of this old prostitute... Even if you knew that I had a history like that, you still didn't treat me with scorn, but instead tried to approach me intimately, calling me master, master...

You have become quite the man I must confess, but as your mother, I must say... Do not be with a tainted woman like me!

I do not blame you for taking an interest in me romantically since I was disguised.

At that time, I understand that to you, I'm nothing but a pitiful soul who needs warmth...

I know you wanted to console me...

You are a good man, Alexi. That's why I didn't kill you but instead saved you from those bandits the first time we met.

Hehe... Surprised? I was a Law Sea Stage Cultivator at that time. Following you around was nothing but an easy task. I followed you for months before deciding not to kill you.

As I said before, I was broken, tainted, and wanted nothing more than to kill Kaiser Ethren, and even you! You were the thread of the past I wanted to sever!

The motherly feelings that I possessed for you when I had given birth to you were no more, instead, the days that I wanted to kill you too increased along with my tainted days being with those evil men.

Erasing the mark of my disgrace...

But strangely, the more I saw you be kind to people the more I saw the past me in you. Although you looked like that scum, you resembled me more. I couldn't help but feel strange in my heart.

In any case, know that I've truly acknowledged you as my son but you don't need to do the opposite since I'm just some random old prostitute who saved you from those bandits...

Nothing more, nothing less...

Or wait, you can perhaps call me master endearingly as you always do...

]

\*Skrr!~\*

Alexi Ethren grasped the scroll tightly as it bent and distorted. It went up in flames the next second while tears kept flowing down his cheeks.

Chapter 707 Finally Making A Move

Indeed, Alexi Ethren had feelings for his master. However, those were feelings that he didn't dare act upon as there was a master-disciple relationship between them.

Hence, he wanted to wait, wait till they had their revenge, and then perhaps he felt that he could provide her warmth even if she was going to die soon because of her waning lifespan. He always wanted to see a smile on that cold face which he didn't know that it was disguised until now.

He couldn't help but forcefully try to smile at his mother's sleeping face. His lips quivered as he propped her up to face him straight.

"Master..." He endearingly called out as mentioned in the letter.

But still, it garnered no attention from his mother as she lay in his arms like a corpse. He felt that even her warm body was starting to become cold.

"I'm not letting you die! I'm not reading the fourth scroll! I know that you have written your last words on the fourth scroll but I'm not ready!"

"Mother! I need you!"

Alexi Ethren embraced his mother and tightly held as if he wouldn't let her die easily.

He opened his mouth, wanting to call out again but words wouldn't come out of his mouth. He gritted his teeth and opened his mouth, wanting to yell for her to wake up but only a mouthful of blood was spat out by him.

His undulations fell from Mid-Level Law Sea Stage to Low-Level Law Sea Stage. His foundation remained stable but he radiated weak vitality that made him incredibly fatigued.

Fortunately, he inclined his head to his side, making sure that the rotten blood he spat out didn't even fall on his mother's hair.

However, his eyes saw someone whom he shouldn't see at this moment.

"First Brother! What are you doing here?"

Alexi Ethren's voice turned cold.

"Mind you... It's the Emperor for you..." Hadre Ethren sneered and pointed his finger at him.

"Royal Protectors, capture these two criminals."

Alexi Ethren groaned, "Your Majesty, do I need to remind you that this was a life and death battle that I commenced by invoking the rules of our Ethren Empire? Even you, the current Emperor do not have the right to say otherwise..."

"Hahaha!" Hadre Ethren laughed as he held his stomach, "You think I care?"

"Third brother, when you are in prison, you can rest assured that I'll take care of your mother. Don't worry, she will be lauded as the tyrant slayer as the one who took down our royal father and the skank who slept with numerous men..."

"Bastard!"

Killing intent erupted in Alexi Ethren's eyes as he heard his first brother speak ill of his mother who was dying in his arms.

Without even considering the consequences, he unleashed a move!

Fire Halberd condensed in his grasp as he waved his arm. It shot towards Hadre Ethren but the latter merely smiled.

Instantly, four to five Royal Protectors stood before him as they protected him, creating a small wall of fire that did not allow the fire halberd to even explode!

It just burned away from existence.

Alexi Ethren's expression changed as he instantly knew that he fell for the trap. His expression fell as he didn't think about changing the narrative anymore.

Once the flame wall receded, Hadre's mocking expression became visible to him.

"Aya, third brother, it is unusual for you to lose your calm. Sigh, women... especially our mothers do cause us to lose control..." Hadre Ethren shook his head in lament as he saw the beauty on his third brother's embrace.

His lips curved as he pointed his finger again, "Capture him alive! For he has overstepped his authority by attacking me, the current Emperor!"

"Yes!" The Royal Protectors all replied in unison.

It was as if they were all puppets! But Alexi Ethren knew that it was not like that at all.

It was because the Emperor possesses the family treasure! The talisman to make the Royal Protectors submit to the Emperor's authority to a degree!

The ruling Emperor's authority!

That's why they were called Royal Protectors instead of Elders and Grand Elders! The moment Kaiser Ethren stepped down as the Emperor, Hadre Ethren received this talisman instead when he ascended the throne!

Alexi Ethren glanced at Hadre Ethren's hand and noticed the five-centimeter radius token plate that's filled with patterns in his hand.

It has all the blood essence of the Royal Protectors, and when the ruling Emperor uses his blood essence to manipulate the talisman, he will be able to exert his will over them for a short period of time, and that is more than enough time for the Emperor to subdue the Royal Protectors in case of a rebellion!

=====

Davis stood at the side, watching the poor lad Alexi Ethren rush into the heart of the array with his mother in his arms. His eyes flashed red and noticed that Alexi Ethren's lifespan is still numbering in the thousands.

'Mhm... That means his mother dies today but he escapes?' He mused before a complex expression appeared on his face.

He had been rather watching all of this from a close distance, like a specter that was behind them all the time, yet no one seemed to notice his presence.

Obviously, Davis was using Dark Concealing Shroud Art the whole time, hence, no one in the vicinity was able to find him. He absolutely did nothing other than observing, hence, he was able to stay hidden among the numerous gazes of the Eighth Stage Experts.

'I finally understand why Alexi Ethren is a descendant of Old Man Garvin Woller...'

Davis's gaze fell on Alexi Ethren's mother, 'Arianna Woller... It seems like she belongs to the main branch descendants of Old Man Garvin... She must be the one who had given the necklace to her son, perhaps in acknowledgment of their master-disciple relationship.'

Needless to say, since he was hanging around close, he was able to hear their conversation and read the scrolls which Alexi Ethren pulled out of the spatial ring.

'Sigh, in any case, if I miss this opportunity, when would I have the chance to fulfill the Blood Soul Contract to Old Man Garvin?'

Davis's eyes flashed as his figure suddenly turned visible among all the chaos. His soul undulations spread, causing countless eyes to turn towards him in shock and fear.

"This... Senior! To what do we owe you the pleasure!?" Hadre Ethren was the first one to respond.

Even now, the events from that time were still fresh in his memory, and reports say that four Royal Protectors are mindlessly guarding the Conferred Queen's residence after being turned into slaves.

Despite the humiliation, they didn't dare retaliate!

The Royal Protectors who all chased Alexi Ethren became stiff at the sight of the senior. They looked towards Alexi Ethren and the senior before wondering what is up with the timing because all this just seemed too coincidental.

"I have business with Alexi Ethren..." Davis echoed in a calm and deep tone, his voice reverberating around the cloud formation.

Alexi Ethren became shocked as he watched the senior with wide eyes.

"Senior, there is no need to be like this, no?" Hadre Ethren panicked.

He didn't know why this senior had business with his third brother but at this point, he needed his third brother to die!

Otherwise, he perfectly knew that there wouldn't be another opportunity to do so.

"Oh~ Are you reluctant to give me face?"

"I dare not!" Hadre Ethren shook his head like a scared deer.

His intelligent and arrogant demeanor was nowhere to be seen.

Chapter 708 Alexis Pas

Davis inwardly smirked at Hadre Ethren's cowardice while Alexi Ethren stared at him as if he had seen his only glimpse of hope in an area that was painted in darkness within his eyesight.

"I'm willing to comply with Senior's wishes!" He instantly echoed without a shred of hesitation.

Although he had no idea why the Conferred Queen's Protector wanted him, he was on his wit's end. With no visible hope to save his mother or himself from the onslaught of his own kin, he had no choice but to rely on this unstable straw.

Hadre Ethren's expression changed as he almost yelled for his third brother to shut up, however, he didn't dare do so since Senior was still eyeing him despite his third brother's cry.

"S-senior, I... He, Alexi Ethren has done a serious crime of attacking me, his Emperor, so..."

"So?" Davis abruptly interrupted, "Did I ask for your opinion?"

He then moved his gaze to Alexi Ethren as he spoke, "I've been watching the whole time, wondering what the commotion was about... Don't try to twist the facts in front of me, or else, I might be forced to enslave the Emperor of the Ethren Empire going as far as to offend the Alstreim Family since I'm targeting its subordinate Empire..."

"But... will they pursue me for repercussions for a newly crowned Emperor whom they have no connections with?"

Hadre Ethren's expression didn't even become ugly but aghast. He shut his mouth close and dropped his head in humiliation and fear. The dark blue crown with purple ornaments present on his head looked nothing more than a decoration, nothing more than a figurehead.

Davis didn't speak to Hadre Ethren anymore. He flew towards Alexi Ethren and arrived at the heart of the array where Alexi Ethren could escape the cloud formation if he wanted so since there was still the gaping hole left open by the array.

"Remove the array, we're leaving."

Alexi Ethren didn't dare delay, however, he only hesitated for a single second before he followed the so-called senior's wishes. He waved his hand and retrieved the array plates that were set up in concealed locations.

Of course, there were no concealed locations in mid-air but the moment the array plates or formation plates are set up, they more or less have the capacity to disappear out of sight to prevent collapse and surveillance, strengthening inner stability.

Davis left the cloud formation without stopping and Alexi Ethren followed suit while princess-carrying his mother over his strong arms. Despite feeling weak himself from the backlash of the secret technique he used, he didn't want her to suffer.

Despite all her retorts that he should not touch her because of her so-called tainted body, he couldn't care less. She was his mother who suffered for centuries!

How could he turn a blind eye to his own mother whom he had never seen for centuries but only heard about in his childhood? There wasn't a day that flashed past his life without him longing for his mother in his childhood.

What she looked like?

What kind of person was she like?

If she were present, how enormously would she have pampered him with her warmth and love?

Those feelings were never something he had got to experience and gradually became a vestige of his life as he grew up but he never once believed the lie spewed by his father that his mother had died after giving childbirth.

He didn't doubt the fact she died but doubted the fact of how she died.

When he grew up, he gradually got to know the character his father possessed and arrived at the conclusion that his father must be the one who had killed his mother; perhaps due to her lowly birth.

That led to his resentment against his father and the main reason for exiling himself from this heartless Empire in his teenage years.

Funnily, no one came to bring him back or even advise him to return which completely made him realize that there was no use having second thoughts on returning to the Empire.

His goal became to get stronger and have his father pay for his crimes!

Initially, since Kaiser Ethren was his father, he just wanted to cripple that bastard and let him live the life of a mortal as he spared his life. After all, Kaiser Ethren was still his father but after he learned about the atrocities his father committed, furthermore, with his master entering his life in the later years, he wanted to completely slay his father!

There were just too many crimes on his father for him to forgive!

However, now that he killed his father and came to know that his mother was still alive in the disguise of his master, how can he still let her die!?

Alexi Ethren's eyes shook!

When he turned to look back, he saw none of those experts even move. They could only stare at him, hoping that senior would change his mind. While the Emperor lowered his head, the Royal Protectors only cast reverent and fearful glances at the senior, as if they couldn't wait to appear like obedient dogs in front of senior.

He turned to look at the mighty and straight back of the senior before looking at his mother's moist eyelids and her peaceful expression that said that she was already relieved of the burden that was on her shoulder for centuries.

The urge to become stronger, capable enough to match this senior, no, even further, entrenched his mind!

The thought of becoming this senior's disciple flashed past his mind, and so far from what he had seen, this senior seemed to be reasonable, someone whom he could acknowledge as his master.

However, he already knew that there were no chances of being accepted since this senior time and time repeated that he was nothing more than the Conferred Queen's protector.

'Should I plead and subordinate myself to the Conferred Queen?' Alexi Ethren vaguely thought before he shook his head.

First things were first!

Just when they left the third level and entered the second level, Alexi Ethren requested as he gathered his courage!

"Senior! Please save my mother!"

His voice echoed as the onlookers watched with curiosity but Davis didn't pay any heed as he flew towards his residence.

Alexi Ethren thought that his sincerity wasn't enough to garner senior's attention, however, he didn't dare raise his voice again. Even though he was impatient, he didn't want to needlessly offend this senior and become a slave in the process, only to lose his mother.

He wanted to see hope for his mother, and for that, he felt that he could do anything at the moment and it required him to be patient, however, his mother's condition is deteriorating rapidly and he didn't have time to explore this options!

"Senior! I'm willing to become subservient! Please save my mother!"

Looking at the senior not responding to his plea, Alexi Ethren became agitated. He possessed no means to save his mother and he didn't have that so-called evil technique to transfer blood essence, otherwise, he would've used his own blood essence to make his mother recover.

In any case, it was just like returning the blood essences that he absorbed from his mother, so he didn't feel reluctant in regard to that and instead, wanted to return it as soon as possible.

While he thought all of this, Davis quickly arrived at the residence, and disappeared, leaving Alexi Ethren blank-faced.

'What now!?'

Just when he was panicking that he was left behind without being given any instructions, a person appeared in front of him. With blonde hair, sapphire eyes, and handsome face, he appeared.

Alexi Ethren blinked as he didn't expect this person to show up. He recognized this person to be none other than the man who married Natalya, the woman he had his eyes on for his future other than his master, who now ironically turned out to be his mother.

Davis's main body stood in front of Alexi Ethren with a smile on his face, "Let's step inside for a while before I send you out soon enough..."

He turned and entered the residence amidst Alexi Ethren's stunned gaze.

Alexi Ethren narrowed his eyes, but when he looked at his mother's state, he didn't hesitate. Whether it'd be a trap for his life or a call for him to be humiliated because of a man's grudge, he didn't care at this point. He flew and stepped inside the residence.

Chapter 709 Change In...

The gate behind Alexi Ethren closed by itself, or rather, he didn't feel Davis's soul undulations as it didn't touch or brush past him.

Looking around in cautiousness and impatience, Alexi Ethren spoke, "Where's Senior?"

"Mhm? Do you mean Young Mistress's Protector? Why would that person even want to meet you if it weren't for my request?"

"Your request!?" Alexi Ethren became flabbergasted before he let out a sigh.

"You want to humiliate me? For Natalya?" He shook his head, "I'm sorry. I'm willing to entertain you any day but not now..."

"I need to save my mother!"

Davis blinked at his outburst and cast a glance at the woman with a peaceful expression on her face. He then glanced back at him with a smile on his face.

"Your mother? Even though she is at ease as if she is ready to die..."

"It's none of your business!" Alexi Ethren retorted as he almost lost his cool.

In truth, he knew that his mother no longer had the will to live but he selfishly wanted to make her recover, for his sake. He didn't want to see her die after knowing that the master he spent his time with was his mother.

Honestly, if he knew that she was her mother from the start, he wouldn't have desired to return to Ethren City to seek revenge sooner. After all, with his mother with him, he would've prioritized that to any other matters.

"The same way, senior's whereabouts is none of your concern as well..." Davis shrugged in an indifferent tone.

Veins protruded on his forehead as Alexi Ethren's expression became ugly. He tightened his grasp subconsciously but made himself relax once he realized that it was his mother in his arms.

His expression trembled as he asked.

"What do you want?"

Even his voice trembled and there were traces of pleading in it.

Davis smiled as he looked at this tough nut. He wanted to crack him up and leave him in despair for even having thoughts about Natalya in the past but he didn't call him here for this purpose.

He wanted to get rid of that restriction placed on his soul as soon as possible.

By handing the spatial ring over to Alexi Ethren, a valid descendant of Old Man Garvin, he would be essentially getting rid of the Blood Soul Contract as he would be fulfilling one of the conditions. He didn't need to search for those descendants anymore as it would become Alexi Ethren's headache.

After that, he could plunder from Alexi Ethren since Old Man Garvin didn't impose any rules about harming his descendants. Honestly, this was a loophole he could take advantage but the Wise Old Man Garvin didn't impose this restriction on him, making him doubt Old Man Garvin's intentions.

Was it trust in his character? Or was it something else entirely?

He didn't know but knew that to him, plundering from Old Man Garvin's descendants was in bad taste. He wouldn't do it unless the descendant insisted on offending him.

For example, if Alexi Ethren still had his eyes on Natalya, Davis didn't mind sending him to the Reincarnation Cycle.

'Oops, letting such a person enter the Reincarnation Cycle is letting them off easily... I don't mind completely erasing their existence out of the universe...'

Davis coldly smiled.

With Fallen Heaven, telling it to absorb their spiritual souls would do the trick. Their existence would be erased and they would never reincarnate!

"I don't want anything from you. It's just that, I have business with this necklace that you have on you."

Alexi Ethren became taken aback before he inclined his head. The green necklace came into his view, glittering ever so slightly from the reflection of the sunlight.

"This necklace? This is something my mas... mother gave me... What do you want to do with it?" Alexi Ethren asked.

Although he was reluctant to part with it, if it could somehow connect him to matters that could save his mother, then he would gladly hand it over.

"I don't want it." Davis shook his head.

When he looked at Alexi Ethren's knowing expression, he felt compelled to inform, "Neither does senior want your necklace..."

"Then..." Alexi Ethren's expression became pale.

Doesn't that mean he was just called to see his necklace?

Wasn't this just ridicule?

He wasn't a woman for heaven's sake!

But before anger could take over him, Davis continued as he threw a spatial ring to him.

"Your ancestor tasked me to give this spatial ring to a person who has this necklace."

The spatial ring flew midair and stopped right in front of Alexi Ethren's face. He blinked his eyes and used his soul force to capture it in his grasp and manipulate it to enter over his finger before forming a soul connection.

When he sent his senses inside the spatial ring, his entire body shook as his eyes widened from shock.

Looking at his over the edge reaction, Davis became curious but he didn't interfere since he found it lowly to confer and plunder. However, he became heartened that he fulfilled one of the two conditions imposed by Old Man Garvin.

He had finished the second condition, and as per the first condition, he only needed to take revenge for Old Man Garvin. For that, he probably has to enter the Emperor Sword Sect Territory.

Nevertheless, now wasn't the time.

Old Man Garvin had given him thousands of years' time limit. Why would he act on it soon? He initially thought that he wouldn't even find Old Man Garvin's descendant for more than a hundred years but to his fortune, he found two at the Ethren Empire, although one was on the verge of dying.

"This... This!? Ancestor? The ancestor of the Ethren Empire?" Alexi Ethren asked with a dumbfounded expression on his face.

Davis became unamused but he could understand Alexi Ethren's shock.

"Didn't you just say that the necklace is from your mother?"

Alexi Ethren's eyes cleared as he turned to glance at his mother but he shook his head, muttering impossible as seconds passed.

"But... But that scum said mother was a woman from a Kingdom that possessed Sky Grade Power... How can it be possible for my mother to be from an Emperor Grade Power!?"

"Why are you asking me that? You should ask your mother..." Davis trailed off mid-sentence as his eyes flashed red.

It wasn't him doing it manually but it was reacting to some phenomenon!

His Death God Eyes viewed Alexi Ethren before it fell on Arianna Woller, only to see her lifespan thread extend at a rapid pace!

'Fuck!' Davis cursed inwardly as he became startled this time.

'Did my actions somehow change Arianna Woller's lifespan? But... How? Her vitality is still the same... It is constantly weakening even though her lifespan thread is extending...'

'Ah, her lifespan thread stopped extending... Around ten thousand years!? You must be kidding!'

Davis recognized the thickness and the length of the lifespan thread and inferred the approximate lifespan of Arianna Woller from it. However, he didn't know how this dying woman had such a big lifespan thread when it was little over a centimeter a few seconds ago.

Just when he was still in doubt, Alexi Ethren's expression changed as lips expressed joy. A small jade container appeared on his palm. It had a furnished and refined look to it, not to mention its deep aura that made Davis's eyes wide in astonishment.

Alexi Ethren opened the container without delaying a second. The moment it opened, undulations spread! Its quality neared the High-Level of Eighth Stage, almost about to spread the undulations outside the residence since the exit was near.

He didn't delay. He took the red-orange pill out of the container and instantly fed it to his mother as he opened her jaw and guided the pill into her system with his soul force.

Davis narrowed his eyes, looking for any other changes in Arianna Woller.

In fact, even Alexi Ethren held his breath as he looked at his mother. He didn't confirm the authenticity of the pill but its undulations alone was enough to confirm that it was Mid-Level Emperor Grade Pill!

Besides, even if he had time, he didn't have the means to confirm its authenticity, and could only search for the Grand Elder of the Thousand Pill Palace Branch but even then, he was not sure how much time it would take for its properties to be even verified.

His mother didn't have much time or leisure!

#### Chapter 710 Ironic Feelings

A few seconds later under their attentive gazes, Arianna Woller's eyelids trembled while her lips quivered. Her pale face which displayed a peaceful expression became healthy as her cheeks appeared to possess a red hue.

She looked like an angel, peacefully sleeping on Alexi Ethren's arms like a beautiful princess.

"Mother..." Alexi Ethren muttered as tears emerged from his eyes. It fell on his mother's face but she still didn't wake up.

But he knew that her rapidly failing vitality was rapidly increasing right now!

Those tears that fell on his mother's cheeks weren't tears of sadness but tears of joy and satisfaction! He almost plunged to the ground from the resulting exhaustion but he stood his ground, not willing to drop his mother to the ground.

'Hmm... Is it a pill that restores vitality? Such a pill... Old Man Garvin had one?' Davis mused but then arrived at a conclusion, 'Well, considering that Old Man Garvin only possessed a soul body, I guess he didn't have the need to use this vitality bestowing pill since soul vitality is entirely a different concept, correlating with soul essence...'

Blood vitality correlated with blood essence and soul vitality correlated with soul essence.

Davis only knew the terms and some knowledge on it, but he knew more about soul essence due to him using chances to ask Fallen Heaven about Soul Essences.

"Thank... you! Thank you, fellow cultivator..." Alexi let out tears as he spoke, "I-if it wasn't for you... I would've lost my mother..."

It was as if he was back to being a child, filled with innocent, thankful, and grateful emotions.

Davis blinked at this words before he smiled, satisfied with his words.

Perhaps, it was really thanks to him since Arianna Woller's fate completely changed. If he didn't decide to hand over the spatial ring to Alexi Ethren, then that would completely result in her fate not changing at all.

'So if I didn't give him the spatial ring, and instead decided to search for another descendant to give the spatial ring for various reasons, such as holding hostility over to him because of Natalya's matter, would that have resulted in Arianna Woller's death?'

Davis mused over this matter as he felt it to be important.

With the previous experience of Agis Stirlander and Igor Stirlander's change in lifespan, and now, he could finally relate and say with confidence that his actions certainly twists fate from its fixed path.

The reason probably lied with the fate-changing Fallen Heaven with him.

But no matter how he thought, he still couldn't make sense what in Fallen Heaven was the cause for changing one's fate... Was it the underlying intent of Karma Laws that he could use through Fallen Heaven? Or was this related to Death Laws he conceived about Fallen Heaven's death-like energy?

But then, he blinked and imagined about Natalya.

Without meeting Natalya, he would've gotten rid of the Third Prince and Agis Stirlander without questions asked, resulting in Arianna Woller's death but that should have happened sooner.

So he abandoned this thought and moved further back, to the day where he and Agis Stirlander met. It was due to Natalya's Portrait that they met since the latter claimed that he had seen him before.

'Does this mean, Natalya is an integral part of my fate as Davis? That she was meant to become my woman from the day I semi-transmigrated to this world?'

Davis mused before he became confused and scratched his chin.

No matter how he thought, he still couldn't make it heads or tails of it but he did indeed feel like he was getting closer to the answer. At least, one step at a time.

His eyes returned to focus as he saw Alexi Ethren finally stop shedding his tears while endearingly looking at his mother. Now that he had fulfilled a part of the contract he had with Old Man Garvin, he felt that there was no need to keep outsiders here.

"I have given you the spatial ring and fulfilled the promise with your ancestor. Now, you can le..."

\*Plop!~\*

Alexi Ethren plopped to his butt as he fainted. Just when his arms were about to relax, Davis instinctively used his soul force to prop Arianna Woller up, not letting her fall and hit the ground.

"..."

Davis became speechless as he saw Alexi Ethren completely faint and lie over the ground like he was dead.

'Is the backlash from the strengthening technique he used, very high?' Davis mused in curiosity.

He didn't know much about this secret strengthening technique, hence he failed to make sense of it. He could only sense that Alexi Ethren's vitality was vaguely fluctuating but he knew that it should be creating enormous waves in his veins and nerves to make him faint.

However, he guessed that it should not be life-threatening.

"..."

\*Sigh\*

"Whatever..."

=====

In a certain room, Alexi Ethren lay over a bed. His eyelids trembled before his eyes shot wide open as he gasped.

"Mother!"

As if being woken up from a nightmare, he searched for his mother and stood up but halfway when he saw a female figure sleeping beside him, he became relaxed.

At the same time, he heard a voice from the other side of the direction he was facing.

"Hey you, you're finally awake..."

Alexi Ethren turned his head and saw that Alchemist Davis was sitting on a couch in a leisurely posture with his legs crossed. However, he could also perceive that it was just a soul body.

"You've been sleeping with your mother, right?"

"You!!" Alexi Ethren's expression changed.

"Don't get me wrong... Isn't it normal for all children to sleep with their mothers?" Davis smirked.

Alexi Ethren's lips twitched as he fell back on the bed with a plop. A moment later, he chuckled, "You rather have a bad taste in humor..."

"Or, you just have a dirty mind..." Davis shrugged.

Alexi Ethren ignored Davis's taunt and turned to look at his mother's peaceful expression. She even possessed a smile on her face, a gentle smile which he had never seen before.

Looking at her health figure, he became heartened.

"How many days have I been unconscious for?"

He asked while still looking at his mother's face.

"Almost two days..."

He turned to look at Davis in a complex light before clasping his hand, "I thank you once again for your kindness..."

Davis just nodded his head with a calm expression on his face.

Alexi Ethren turned to look back at his mother, his eyes radiating warmth. He extended his hand and brushed her reddish-brown hair with his fingers, feeling her silky smooth hair.

"If you want, you could try waking your mother up... I think she has healed enough to gain consciousness." Davis reminded.

Alexi Ethren smiled as he shook his head, "Mother has suffered for centuries... She is probably experiencing the sweetest of dreams right now..."

"Even if she sleeps for a year to recover, I'm willing to wait..."

\*Clap!~\*

\*Clap!~\*

\*Clap!~\*

Davis clapped thrice to display his approval. He became satisfied with the other party's character but there was still a matter to settle.

He smiled, "I'm not going to lie. If you still have any kind of intentions regarding Natalya, I will not hesitate to kill you. This is not a threat, but my stance to people who target my women."

Alexi Ethren became stunned before he blinked his eyes, "What a coincidence... I have the same stance regarding people who target my women but you're misunderstanding something."

"I completely have no romantic feelings towards Agis Stirlander's first granddaughter, Natalya. I haven't even met her once..." He shook his head.

Looking at Alchemist Davis still intent on hearing his explanation, he continued.

"Natalya was just a woman whom I thought of pursuing in the future since she had the capability to enter the Eighth Stage and above. I did not make a move on her since I was fixated on getting revenge..."

"Besides, there is the age gap of three hundred years between us which is quite laughable in itself..."

Alexi Ethren chuckled wryly and for some reason, he spoke, "But what is truly laughable is that I had romantic feelings for my master who later turned out to be my mother two days ago..."

Davis solemnly looked at Alexi Ethren laughing and determined that he should not be lying, considering his personality. Besides, since he was here with just his soul body, he was unable to use Misdirection to pull out the real truth.

But judging by the other party's lamenting tone, depressed posture, and self-deprecating laughter, he guessed that it should be the truth.

Otherwise, he would have to revise his impression of this righteous and caring Third Prince.