Gacha 1001

Chapter 1001 - Empty

A few months later, inside the familiar looking house, a girl was lying down on a rocky field, looking at the blue sky. She never expected that without the person who she had been relying on, she could progress even faster.

Of course, it wasn't her cultivation but other aspects.

Not knowing why, a thought of reading the letter that he sent a few months ago came across her mind.

Although her hands were shaking, she raised her hand and took out the letter, reading it.

"I don't have many things to say to you, to be honest. I have taught you everything that you need to know, and the training itself is repetitive. Even without me training you, you will be able to get stronger just fine.

"What I want to mention are a few important things. Firstly, you shall partake in several missions before the Sword Pavilion event comes. Trust me. This will do you good, and don't just because you are confident in your Sword Eye, you keep using it.

"I trust you that you won't use it that much even without me beside you...I want you to experience many things, including how people behave. Haven't you got played by the Grayfig Family? With your talent, you shouldn't get played like that. You lack the experience to incorporate all your ideas into a sharp spear that can destroy your opponent.

"So, yeah, you should go for a few missions. Three will be ideal. That's my first task for you. I hope you can complete it.

"The second thing is regarding the technique I gave you... It's the technique to turn your Sword Qi into Pure Sword Qi, the basic requirement to reach God King. This was the reason why the Sword God could become a God King.

"Of course, you shouldn't feel too proud just because you are able to wield this technique. There are several reasons why not many people can reach God King. They can't master their unique ability to a perfect degree, such as the Sword Qi turns into a Pure Sword Qi...This is something like a normal Fire turns into a Pure Fire.

"You should know what I mean, right? You should keep striving for the goal in your mind and make your way without getting bothered by outside people.

"And this is just a warning for the technique. You can learn to change your Sword Qi to a Pure Sword Qi, but you should turn them completely after you become a God Rank Expert. When it has become the Divine Sword Qi, you will know that it's easier than to replace them and turn them into a Divine Sword Qi, so yeah, no need to waste your time to turn them now.

"Third thing is advice from me. I want you to go to the Sword Pavilion once again, challenging it. I believe the important person that keeps the Pavilion going will recognize the Pure Sword Qi. You might get a bigger reward than the others, so go for it.

"Last but not least, when you leave this world and want to come to my world, there will be someone coming for you. His name is Zark and other than that name, you shouldn't go along with him. And...this is just a precaution, but when you meet that person, you should ask him, "Do guts exist?"

"If he answers with "That's not guts. It means Spirits. And yes, the Spirit Race does exist." Then, that's the guy. I am sorry for this inconvenience, but I have many things going on, so I can only ask you to do this.

"That's all I want to say. I hope you stay safe and be careful out there. Visit your family once in a while, because family is the best thing you have...Of course, a good family that is. Good luck."

Aria couldn't help but smile when she read this. She managed to understand more and more about the outside worlds, including how dark it's out there. It's beyond her imagination. People betrayed her because of reward. Assassins just wanted to live and took the commission because they were forced to.

She had experienced it all, but none of them managed to kill her.

Due to Alex's death, Ilevis announced Aria to be the second favorite disciple, so no one dared to attack her openly. At the very least, history won't repeat itself.

Unfortunately, it also meant that many people would start knowing her existence. When they learned she had learned the Purgatory Sword to the highest degree, they began to attack her by sending assassins and others since they couldn't act openly due to the protection from the sect.

Of course, it only applied to those from outside the sect. If a disciple of the Unsurpassed Blade Sect wanted to kill her, they could try it, but they also needed to be prepared for her retaliation. Luckily, Aria never appeared in the sect, so she didn't antagonize anymore. And the last one had been killed.

In any case, Aria had a really unexpected time for the past few months.

As for the second thing, she was qualified to receive the knowledge about the Pure Sword Qi. Even the Sword God acknowledged her.

He wanted to teach Letizia, Evelyn, and even Rose about this technique, but he needed to send them first to this world to gain the necessary knowledge and how the people here thought about their weapons. After that, even if they wanted him to teach them about this Pure Qi, he would do it without hesitation.

The third one was a bit of a dilemma. Alex might come to her again in this opportunity since no one could see each other and it was isolated from the outside world. As long as he could figure out the Sword Pavilion, he would be able to meet her to see her progress before leaving this world.

However, he had no confidence in doing it, so he only asked her to the Sword Pavilion because she could improve there.

The last one might be the most important. Because of what happened to Evelyn and Silvia, he didn't want the people he knew to suffer such a thing anymore, so he came up with an abrupt code like this. And Zark had the authority to take her by force if someone dared to stop her.

Aria let out a long sigh to the sky. "The sky is clear, but I can't just shake this excitement. There are five levels in the Sword Pavilion, or in other words, five trials. The first time I went there, I managed to pass the second level. And the second time, I passed the third level.

"I wonder, what is the fourth level...And if it's possible to reach the fifth level?" Aria muttered and thought of Alex. "That man must be able to reach that level...If not, I will be confused. Well, I have turned one percent of my Sword Qi into Pure Sword Qi for testing the technique, and I am already pretty good at it. I will halt this progress and just show the Pure Sword Qi when I go to the pavilion. Anyway, I need to prepare since I should get going tomorrow or I will be late."

With an eager expression, she rose from the ground and walked to the house. But when she opened the door, she didn't immediately go in. Instead, she turned around and looked at the empty field.

She remembered how Silvia usually still trained with Alex since she would be the first one to collapse. She recalled how Heilo tried to catch Leka because her dodging ability was a top notch. All those were good memories, but none of them stayed here any longer, turning this lively mansion into a dead mansion with only her inside.

Aria could only shake her head and sigh. "It feels empty now without all four of you..."

...

A few weeks later, Aria had arrived in the town that protected the Sword Pavilion.

With her senses alone, she could find many powerful people all over the city. Whether they came from this city or the other three sects, they came to this place to seek more powerful knowledge from the Sword Pavilion.

'He must have come, right?' Aria thought before sighing inwardly. Even if Alex came, she wouldn't be able to meet him, so there was no point in searching for him. In fact, it would make the situation more suspicious if she met someone.

Because of her nature, Aria came to this place alone despite the peak master wanting her to bring a few people along. She just felt uncomfortable when being surrounded by people, especially those who had hidden intentions, so she pushed them away.

Walking through the city, she arrived in front of a tower that shot into the sky. It looked majestic, but what made it unique was the Sword Qi surrounding it.

Even after a few thousand years, the Sword Qi that the Sword God left behind wasn't depleted yet. However, after getting the knowledge about the Pure Sword Qi, he understood that this tower contained his Pure Sword Qi.

If Alex were here, he might be able to decipher the tower better than her, but she could only suck it out and stare at it.

This purple-colored tower looked extremely powerful as if it was a weapon. She walked closer and observed this powerful tower from up close.

A bit further on her left was a pair of giant doors that would surely let people inside when the time had arrived. She then looked around and sighed. It was a bit hard to go around this tower because its diameter was more than one kilometer, showing how colossal it was.

'Most people actually fail on the first and second stage. When one becomes more mature, they should be able to get past the second stage, but I have never heard someone reaching the fifth stage. Even passing the third stage is considered a genius, and if a Martial Saint can beat the fourth stage, they are geniuses among geniuses.

'Well, I don't really care about the things called talents, but I truly want to see how far I can get this time.' She couldn't help but smile when facing such a challenge.

After a while, she had seen enough and planned to go back. When she turned around, a man passed her.

He had long white hair and wore a graceful long robe. There wasn't a single weapon on his body other than the bamboo fan on his hand.

When observing the girl, the man couldn't contain his smile that would make someone question his manner. However, there was a different meaning in his smile. It wasn't a vulgar smile or even an excited smile. Instead, it was a gentle smile as if a teacher was proud of his student.

'You've gotten stronger...And I assure you, you will just get even stronger from now on.'

She received the thought transmission and subconsciously opened her eyes, turning around to search where it came from. No one but her knew what those words meant. It was none other than Alex's message, the one she had been waiting for.

In other words, Alex indeed came to this place. It made her anxious about what would happen to the tower if Alex beat the fifth stage, but her worry was unnecessary. A careful person like him who would stage his own death should be fine.

She only needed to know that Alex was safe and sound, so she continued walking to her inn while closing her eyes again. She thought, 'So, he really comes. Time to show my progress in this Sword Pavilion then...Well, it's not like we can show anything to the outside world. But yeah, I need to aim as high as possible.'

With that determination, she returned, preparing to enter the tower that would be opened two days later.

Meanwhile, the white-haired young man turned around and watched her back until she disappeared with a smile.

After a few more minutes, he turned around and started staring at the tower from the bottom. A word escaped from his mouth.

"Interesting."

Chapter 1002 - Trials

The day the gate opened was greeted by euphoria from all cultivators there. This was one of the biggest opportunities in their life, so they were not going to waste it. After all, only those who were one hundred fifteen years old or younger could enter this place. If they combined with the time they needed to reach Martial Emperor, which was the basic requirement to enter this place, most of them only had around five tries before they were too old to participate.

Thus, not a single person who wanted to improve themselves wasted this opportunity.

Alex looked at the tower from afar with a smile. He might have noticed something they never had.

The Sword Qi that surrounded the tower was a Pure Sword Qi, but more than that, it was replenished by the Sword Qi from all the people. In fact, all the strength they expended during their stay in this city and inside the tower was converted by the tower to sustain its life.

Of course, it wasn't very effective, but with enough hype, the place was bound to be popular, diminishing that weakness.

The excess of Sword Qi was then given to the participants here by a certain someone in the tower. Although he didn't know who he was, he noticed a powerful existence inside the tower. Most probably, a Rank 3 God if not Rank 2 God.

It seemed to be the administrator that the Sword God told him.

The problem he needed to face was how to climb this tower.

The important people started coming to this place, watching everything unfolded. The crowd began getting into it, shouting how great those people were.

Alex ignored them all along and kept watching the tower with his Spirit Eyes.

Suddenly, many words appeared in front of the tower. They were separated into five parts.

The first part was the lowest one, and it made a certain riddle for the people to understand.

"You are cultivators who use weapons. Follow your own path."

As much as he wanted to decipher the first code, he decided to see the others first.

"Strength is not always the answer."

"Trust your weapons."

"What is a weapon to you?"

"Only those qualified may enter."

The riddles were not long and complicated, but they did hold deep meaning. Even Alex couldn't understand them easily.

When he was about to think about the riddles, the cracking sound echoed in everyone's ears as the door gradually opened, inviting everyone to enter.

"Hey, it's open!"

"We need to go now!"

"This door will only be opened for another ten minutes."

Many started coming toward the door, trying to get inside the tower, but Alex still had no intention of coming in.

He waited and pondered the five riddles.

The bottom was surely the first riddle and the first trial, so he wanted to at least understand what it meant.

"You are cultivators who use weapons...Follow my path?" Alex narrowed his eyes. No matter how he thought, he couldn't understand the real meaning of this riddle.

At one point, he thought that he only needed to believe in his path and continuously walked inside a white room that had no end, but he felt something was wrong.

The riddle still had its first half, which emphasized the weapons, but Alex couldn't understand it. He thought everything would be solved if he brought his weapon, but he knew it wouldn't be the case.

Anyway, several minutes had passed, and the people were reduced to only a tenth of its original number. Alex found Aria still standing outside, watching the five riddles.

At the very least, she wasn't rash in making decisions, so yeah, he was pretty happy about it.

"Well, I understand the latter part, so I think I should go inside as well. It's not like I want to go together with these people who seem to have big status," Alex muttered to himself before leaping from his inn.

He flew straight to the gate, passing everyone, including Aria.

Aria was still in deep thought, so she didn't notice him.

Alex didn't plan to meet her as well, so he also didn't look at her, and the scenery changed as soon as he entered the gate.

It turned out to be an enclosed space. Alex found himself in a small tunnel that could fit three people in at the same time. The height wasn't that great as well.

Alex took a deep breath, activated his Spirit Eyes and investigated the area. To his surprise, he couldn't see any people nearby. Even though the tower was spacious, he should be able to find many people because there were millions of people coming here.

But the fact that it showed no one and only Spiritual Energy that surrounded him, Alex knew that this was a special realm array or an illusion array. These two were the only ones that could mess with Alex right now.

He might have immunity to illusion, but his sense would still get messed up since the target was his sense of direction.

"Wait a minute...Is there a chance that this is not an illusion. But another realm or something? Or there is a chance that I am..." Alex suddenly realized something and raised his vision.

He was surprised to find many people above him. He then looked down and realized another clue by finding another batch of people.

When he saw the people of the town were also above him, he noticed the fact that they were underground.

"I see. This tower is not only going to the sky but goes deep down inside the ground. The goal is to go up, I guess?" Alex speculated and nodded.

"Alright then. What should I do?" Alex narrowed his eyes. This place was full of Sword Qi, so he thought about cultivating since it would be beneficial for his Sword Qi, but there was also a time limit preventing him from doing that.

"According to the information I got from Aria, each level had a time limit of five days..." Alex narrowed his eyes. "In that case, I should search for the entrance of the second stage and cultivate. When the time limit is near, I will then go inside. Wait a minute. There is no telling that the entrance will lead to the second stage, so I should spare a day to make sure I have enough time if I am wrong."

With that thought in mind, he finally took a step forward.

"Follow my path." Alex was muttering the riddle over and over again while he stormed inside the maze but to no avail. His first plan in believing his path had become a failure since nothing came in even after several hours of walking.

Well, he hadn't deemed it as a failure yet because there might be a chance that something would happen in a day or so. But at this point, he found something more interesting. It was on the first half of the riddle.

Why would the riddle specifically mention them as a weapon user? Normally, people didn't put any thoughts into it because they knew weapon users were people who used weapons. As simple as that. And all people coming here would think of themselves as one.

At first, it looked like a greeting to them, but if Alex thought about it even further. He felt there was a deep meaning behind the first half.

"Weapons huh..." Alex muttered to himself and almost forgot the fact that this place was surrounded by Sword Qi.

"This is not my Sword Qi...Yes. I have been led by this Sword Qi since the beginning. Even though I was walking while believing that my path is right, it wasn't enough. This Qi is the one making the path, and I just unintentionally followed it. In that case..." Alex seemed to have solved the problem and released his own Sword Qi.

Suddenly, a huge change occurred when Alex's Sword Qi influenced the other Sword Qi around him. The brown bricks for the wall, floor, and ceiling gradually turned black. The Sword Qi also retreated from his front.

Alex noticed that he was right and continued walking, believing his path was right. And as he expected, he found a giant door after several minutes.

"This must lead to the second stage." Alex smiled. "I will stay here for three days before opening this door. I can't waste this precious chance after all."

When he was about to sit on the floor, words appeared on the door, telling Alex something.

Alex furrowed his eyebrows and read it.

"Continue. The time will be accumulated and assessed for the last reward and time for practice."

"Does this mean it wants me to keep up my pace or even complete it faster?" Alex narrowed his eyes and contemplated. "I want the reward, but is it worth the effort? I mean, the training is more tempting to me. And it said I would have time for practice later?"

Alex was in a dilemma. On one hand, he wanted to jump straight to the second stage because of the time for practice. On the other hand, he didn't know the calculation process. If the reward were not worth it, he would regret it.

"What should I do?" He muttered for a moment. Ultimately, he decided to continue, gambling it all. With the Sword Pavilion's reputation that gave many people something useful, he believed the reward shouldn't be too disappointing.

He stood back on his feet and opened the door that led to somewhere. Unfortunately, he couldn't see it at the moment because it was just covered with light.

When his finger touched the door, he got sucked in and arrived in another place but still a maze.

"Again?" Alex furrowed his eyebrows, but when he found different types of energy appeared both on the floor and ceiling, he realized something was wrong. "Traps?"

Because he wasn't sure about this, he took out this water bottle and threw it.

The bottle rolled around the floor while smearing the floor with water. Suddenly, the floor reacted and swallowed the water as a whole before crushing the bottle.

Alex looked at the ceiling that suddenly dropped down and returned after crushing the bottle.

"Hmm...This is intriguing. Strength is not always an answer, huh." Alex contemplated for a minute before finding something interesting.

A bit farther away from here was a red button which seemed to be the clue to the next stage.

"I think I need to push that button, but I can't use my strength. No, if I enter the traps, I will be crushed. That means there is a way for me to get around it."

However, Alex was still a bit playful by summoning a Rank 1 Spear which could be thrown away anytime. He raised his stance like a baseball player and threw the spear as fast as possible.

"Spear Throwing Art, Spin Throwing!"

He used the long-forgotten Spear Throwing Art. The attack wasn't all that powerful, but the speed should be able to bypass the crushing ceiling.

The spear continued making its way toward the button, and none of the ceilings could crush it. Every time it almost hit the spear, the spear managed to get away with speed alone.

Since it kept returning to its original state, Alex could see the progress of his spear.

It had covered half of the distance and kept slipping past. A few seconds later, it managed to pass ninety percent of the distance, ready to hit the button after passing the last one. And as he predicted, it passed the last one.

"Well...That was easy," Alex muttered.

The trial might want to mess with him as right in front of the button appeared a transparent barrier. The spear struck the barrier instead, keeping the button from getting hit.

Alex widened his eyes, not knowing what to say. He thought everything would go smoothly, but it seemed the tower wanted to make the challenge harder by using that. Well, he couldn't really say it since he used the strength of a Divine Body that was far stronger than that of a Martial Saint.

....

"Never mind."

Chapter 1003 - Trials Part 2

Seeing his attempt failed, Alex analyzed the reason by observing the transparent barrier.

"Hmm...It's like an array that will stop any physical things from entering. In that case, it means I am not required to face all these ceilings that will drop to me. And since I am sealing my power to only a Martial Saint, I won't be able to pass the speed of the drop.

"In that case, there is something more to this challenge. The problem is what kind of thing I need to send to hit that red button." Alex narrowed his eyes. "Since physical won't work, I guess Spiritual Energy or something?"

When Alex thought about this, he suddenly figured it out.

He raised his hand and waved it to the front, sending a wisp of Spiritual Energy. To his surprise, the ceiling went down again, blocking the Spiritual Energy from passing it.

"Hmm." Alex became confused again before a wild idea came into his mind. He never tried this as a standalone, but he had done it so many times in a fight. Since the first stage was to open the path using his Sword Qi, he thought it would be something like that.

Hence, he planned to send an attack toward the button but only with his Sword Qi.

"This is not strength, but speed." Alex smiled. He pulled out his sword and swung it down. Since he wouldn't be able to send them with these two alone, he infused the Spiritual Energy into the technique.

The Sword Wave flew at a slower speed than the spear, but it managed to avoid every obstacle and steadily made its way toward the red button.

However, what he got was another failure. The barrier blocked it again.

"Should I just use my Divine Strength to destroy that red button?" Alex twitched his eyebrows. "Well, there must be something going on that I can use to pass the stage. I just couldn't find it yet."

Suddenly, six other red buttons appeared. Some were on the ground, some were on the wall, or some even stuck on the ceiling.

Alex found this a challenge because he realized that the last attack wasn't exactly a failure. According to his Spirit Eyes, these six red buttons were connected to the main red button, so he came up with two ways to deal with this.

The first would be speed. He would hit each button one by one in succession, and the barrier might open at that time. As for the second method, it was Control. He needed to control his strength and sent six attacks at the same time.

Contemplating for a minute, he chose to do both.

"Let's try the first one. The consequence shouldn't be that harsh, right? I mean, even the last one is not that bad." Alex thought and prepared his sword.

He sent the same sword strike to hit those six red buttons in succession. He didn't do anything special, so he had no problem using it continuously.

What surprised him was the fact that the button would return to its original state when another button got hit.

This strengthened his belief in the second option.

"It seems I need to hit them at the same time." Alex smiled and took out another sword. He aimed all those six buttons and sent the Sword Waves flying.

The ceiling wasn't a problem anymore, so the Sword Waves managed to hit all six buttons at the same time. This made Alex happy and feel excited about what would happen when he succeeded.

His expectation was betrayed because nothing happened. The six buttons were indeed successfully hit by the Sword Waves and didn't return to normal, but there seemed to be no visible change like the appearance of the six buttons.

Remembering what happened earlier, he decided to wait for ten minutes to see if there was any change like earlier, but nothing still happened.

Since he couldn't see what this stage wanted him to do, he just needed to overpower it, albeit he stopped after activating his Spirit Eyes again.

The ground and ceiling might still be an obstacle, but there was no more barrier that would stop him. Because of that, Alex threw another Rank 1 Spear as hard as he got and smashed that red button.

Crank.

He felt something was breaking inside the wall and the wheel inside the wall seemed to be undone. Some sort of machinery inside started doing something, and a path finally revealed itself.

There was nothing wrong with this path, not even energy, so Alex never thought there was a path behind the wall. Next to the main red button, he could find another door that just opened.

"It seems taking this path is the way to go." Alex thought and proceeded inside the tunnel.

His Spirit Eyes remained active to see the change of this maze. Nonetheless, he had beaten two challenges already, so the progress was good.

When he arrived at the other side, he noticed another door, similar to the one he saw on the first floor. This was no doubt the gate to the third stage.

Alex now wondered whether he would become famous because of this. And if it were broadcasted to many people, he would soon get too famous for him to hide his own ability. Leaving this planet would also make those people begin investigating him.

But the time limit appeared again, signaling him to enter within five minutes. Without much choice, he opened the gate again, traveling to another dimension.

What shocked him was not the place. The look was still the same, but this time, Eve had come out of her sword.

"Eve? What are you doing?" Alex asked while furrowing his eyebrows.

"I am sorry, Master. I don't know why but there is something calling me. And it forces me to stay in this form. It feels weird." Eve explained her action.

Alex also became confused and recalled the third riddle. "Trust your weapons..."

"Trust me?" Eve tilted her head in confusion.

"Yeah. It seems to be that way. Let's look at it from another perspective. Unlike you who have a form like this, the others only have consciousness...Wait. In that case..." Alex suddenly took out another weapon.

When he channeled his energy inside, he felt something was responding to him, asking him to move to his left.

Because of this response, Alex asked Eve. "Where is the thing calling for you?"

"It's this way." Eve pointed at his front, different from the one that the other one showed him, disappointing a bit because he didn't know what to do.

However, Eve added another explanation and pointed to his left. "But I believe this is also a maze, and we need to take this path. I believe this is the only one that will allow us to reach that place."

"!!!" Alex widened his eyes, confirming that both of them told the truth.

It seemed the energy around here was telling the real path, and since the test told him to trust his weapon, Alex instantly trusted Eve without any explanation. "Can you lead the way?"

"Yes. But are you sure this is the right way?"

"I believe so." Alex nodded.

"I understand. Let me show you the way." Eve nodded and started walking inside the maze.

Since it was a rare walk with Alex, she decided to slow down her pace and walked beside him instead of in front of him. It might be due to the favor Alex had given to her this whole time or she just got used to having stayed beside him all the time, considering she was always in his waist during the trips.

Either way, she followed the track and arrived at the first hurdle.

Alex narrowed his eyes and found many huge spikes in the area. However, there seemed to be a path between them, allowing them to move on.

To his surprise, Eve suddenly stopped and looked at one of the spikes with a confused eye.

"What's wrong?" Alex asked.

"I don't know, but something is telling me to ask you to stab your own hand to this spike." She pointed at the middle spike out of the three spikes.

Alex didn't doubt her and immediately slammed his palm into this spike until it pierced him.

Eve's body shook as she never expected Alex would do it without hesitation. This showed how much Alex trusted her. This wasn't the level of the riddle. After all, it was normal for humans to not trust their tools that much, especially one where they would meet pain.

Yet, Alex did it.

The blood started flowing to the metal, turning it red.

"Master...It's enough. Please raise your hand." She worriedly asked him to stop.

"Is that enough?" Alex smiled.

"..." She hesitated for a few seconds until she felt another order. Only at that time, she finally nodded her head, and Alex raised his hand.

It was painful, but Alex had experienced something much more painful, so he could keep his calm to not worry Eve too much.

As soon as his hand was free, the Spiritual Energy around instantly recovered him and regenerated his body as if nothing happened. The blood was still there and activated the hidden mechanism to retract all spikes in the area.

Alex let Eve take a look at his hand and smiled. "See? I am fine."

Eve nodded with a serious expression. She continued leading Alex through the maze until they found the second obstacle.

The same as the previous obstacle. This one needed blood to be spilled.

Alex had no hesitation and injured himself.

However, the wound this time didn't regenerate like last time, leaving a hole in his palm.

"This..." Alex widened his eyes and looked around with his Spirit Eyes, trying to see whether the mechanism was still running smoothly or not. If it were not, there would be a chance for him to die in this stage.

"Master...Are you alright?" Eve started worrying about him because she felt there was something wrong with this stage.

However, Alex forced her to lead him until everything finished.

The third obstacle was a single path with armor on it. It was full body armor, except for the sleeve part. In other words, his arms would be exposed.

When he saw the holes on the wall, he figured out what would happen if he crossed this.

Even Eve became suspicious and wanted to stop him, but Alex only asked. "What is the quest?"

"It's to cross this path and have the arrows hit you." Eve clenched her fists.

Alex nodded and started walking across the path without hesitation. Once again, Alex trusted her completely.

If it were a normal person, when their weapons asked them to sacrifice their lives, they would surely throw them away.

However, it was very different for Alex. As soon as he decided to take in Eve, he considered her a family even though she was only a Sword Spirit.

He wouldn't betray the trust that easily.

Alex walked across the path, and the arrows started flying one by one while Eve waited on the same spot.

The arrows began piercing his arms, and blood started to get spilled.

He must be experiencing pain that she couldn't imagine.

Unable to see him like that, she clenched her teeth and decided not to obey the order that had been echoing in her mind.

She planned to use herself as a meat shield to protect Alex, but surprisingly, all arrows pierced through her as if going through a ghost.

In the end, she was only a Sword Spirit. Her main body was a sword, and this was just a mere astral body, so the arrows kept hitting Alex.

"Master..."

"Is this a part of the mission?" Alex asked with a soft tone, but she clearly noticed his shaking voice.

She clenched her fists and shook her head. "I just can't see Master like this...But I can't even protect you during a time like this. This must be a fraud."

"You don't need to care about that." Alex smiled. Even if he failed this one, his relationship with Eve had improved, so it wasn't a loss. This would improve their coordination as well.

Ultimately, Alex smiled at her and asked while holding her hand. "Want to cross this path together?"

Even though no arrow would hit her, Alex still asked her that question. She obviously felt something new that she never had this whole time.

'So, this is what it feels to have a master that will trust you no matter what...I am very lucky to have such a master.' She held his hand tightly and nodded.

"Let's go together then."

Chapter 1004 - Trial Parts 3

Alex didn't scream during the whole time he got rained by arrows. The pain was absurd that could easily pummel someone to the ground. Even so, Alex still managed to pass that path without letting a sound other than the talk with Eve.

However, Eve also knew how much pain he endured because his hand kept contracting and relaxing every time an arrow hit his hands.

She couldn't help but shake her head after recalling how easy people a few thousand years ago betrayed their friends because of stupid reasons. That created the unwillingness and spread the killing intent. It was the power that she fed during the past few thousand years, so she exactly understood if Alex screamed and doubted her.

There was no telling that she told the truth. There might be another safer path somewhere, and she simply didn't want to say it.

This test was meant to test the relationship between the sword and its master. The Sword Qi in this place was powering up the Sword Consciousness or the Sword Spirit to be able to communicate with their master.

Most people who failed here couldn't take it because they believed that the weapon had betrayed them. There might be some cases like that since the master themselves didn't treat their weapon well.

Either way, Alex and Eve had yet to realize the meaning behind this trial.

Alex simply took all the arrows out of his arms and tried to recuperate from his wound.

To his surprise, the wound couldn't be healed. Even after taking a pill that usually regenerated and plucked the wound, nothing happened.

Seeing this Eve wanted to stop the trial because she couldn't bear it anymore, but Alex kept holding her hand and smiled with a pale face. "It's okay. I am fine. Let's continue according to your senses."

"Master..." Eve clenched her teeth and nodded unwillingly. She forced herself to continue forward, where they met the same condition as the first one.

"So, what should I do again?" Alex asked. But when he saw the unwillingness of Eve to tell him what he needed to do, he patted her head. "Don't worry about me. Those arrows can't injure me easily, no, I should say, Rose's arrows are more painful than that. That's why, please tell me and beat this trial."

Eve walked toward the same spike with difficulty.

"Oh?! Is it the same as the first one?" Alex smiled.

Eve didn't reply to him. She kept staring at him with a complicated expression.

When Alex wanted to try it again, Eve screamed. "Ahhh!"

He was startled, but he saw Eve raising her hand before having the spike pierced her hand, creating the same wound on him.

Unlike the previous trap, she could be hurt this time, which made Alex confused. It shouldn't be possible, and her hand should pass the spike like that of a ghost, but he could see blood coming out of her hand.

"Eve! What are you doing?" Alex was worried about her instead of pondering over the mission.

"I can't...I can't let Master do this thing again." Eve let out tears. She never experienced pain like this ever since she was created, so there was no pain like this recorded in her memory. All the feelings were fresh in her mind and that made it look more painful. "I am sorry, Master. Eve is selfish."

Alex realized that this mission was for him, but Eve didn't want to let him do it because she simply couldn't bear him sacrificing himself just because he trusted her completely. No, it might be the reason why she chose this action.

There might be a chance for him to endure more and more things ahead, so if he could pass like this while she shared his burden, it would be awesome. But if it couldn't, she would feel guilty to Alex because she unintentionally ruined her master's trials.

Yet, there was no hatred or whatsoever in Alex's eyes. Instead, it was pain. He looked like he experienced the pain she endured as well, but she knew that Alex felt it because he...also couldn't bear to see her like that.

"You..."

When Eve heard another thing, she panted and slowly raised her hand, letting him see the hole in her hand.

"Master... It's a success. You won't need to endure this alone." Eve tried her best to smile, but it was too hard due to the pain.

Alex subconsciously grabbed her hand, wondering what he should do to treat her. "I need to go to a Forging Master."

"It's alright, Master. Eve is also alright."

Unknowingly, their two blood mixed with each other, and a gate appeared out of nowhere.

The energy around healed them again completely and Eve turned back to what she was before.

Word after word came into their vision.

"You are partners. The master trusts his weapon and cuts down every enemy standing in his way. The sword understands her master. And thus, the bond is created and forms a symphony between both of you. The blood and pain she experienced was everything you spilled along the way."

When Alex read this, he realized many things, including why he needed to shed so much blood. All the blood was stored just to grant her a moment to experience what he felt. If they understood each other, they would work together better because they knew what to do and what they couldn't do.

Alex and Eve exchanged looks and both smiled.

"Let's go then, Eve."

"Yes. Master."

Alex and Eve went toward the fourth gate while still holding hands.

As expected, they arrived at the same maze like before. Nothing really changed, including the pattern in this maze.

"Master. It's telling me to go this way." Eve pointed to the right.

Alex nodded and immediately proceeded according to Eve's direction. If he had fully trusted before, this trust became even more unbreakable after the third test.

Alex and Eve continued for a minute before they met their first obstacle. It was flying stones.

There was a gap between his side and the other side, and they could only pass it by stepping on the stone.

There was even an introduction to the obstacle.

Go to the other side without flying.

Alex and Eve had no problem in stepping on those stones, but Eve had another brilliant plant.

"Master, Master. The pit is too low, and the room is a bit bigger than I expected..." She paused for a moment. "Even so, I think there is something I want to try. What do you think, Master?"

"Something you want to try?" Alex tilted his head in confusion.

"Yes. Please use your Swallowing Heaven, Master. I will cross this path in that form and become a bridge, so you can "go to the other side without flying."

Alex widened his eyes, never expecting her to suggest something like this. "But it means you will be flying, right?"

"Not really. Master can just throw me there, and it's not flying." Eve shrugged.

"..." Alex scratched the back of his head. If it were the previous him, he might not agree with this plan because there were too many variables. But he seemed to understand her train of thoughts and agreed to her request.

"What is a weapon to me, huh..." Alex muttered while answering it inwardly. 'We are obviously partners that will rely on each other.'

Alex touched Eve's main body, AKA the sword, and channeled his Spiritual Energy there. The dragon appeared and was ready to be thrown.

However, Alex made sure there was nothing in the way by checking it with his Spirit Eyes.

After confirming there was no mysterious Spiritual Energy, he threw the dragon's body to the other side.

Eve grabbed the floor and stretched her body to make a solid bridge for Alex. "Master. I am ready."

Alex nodded with a serious expression and leaped on top of the dragon before walking across the gap that would lead to the void.

It was very safe and had nothing to worry about.

As soon as he reached the other side, Eve turned back to her human form and let out a long sigh. "We did it!"

"Yes." Alex smiled. They had a high-five.

"I am glad that it works."

"Of course it will work. It doesn't break any rule." Alex shrugged before remembering something. "Though, I can simply use my Teleportation to go to this side..."

Eve opened her mouth before covering it with her hand. She forgot about that because Alex had been sealing his Space Element while inside this world.

"Haha..." Alex lightly flicked her forehead and said, "Let's continue."

"Geez. You should treat me better, Master. I am still far older than you, no?" She pouted.

"Sorry, I can't see you as a legal loli."

"Well, I am a sword, not a loli." She shrugged, saying the obvious thing with a poker face.

11 11

The two then continued to the next obstacles. This tested their abilities to cope up with the situation together. At one time, Eve did everything alone. Alex also used the sword when he needed to fight against a creature that stood in their way.

This showed Eve could become his friend, partner, sharpest weapon, shield, and so on, depending on how they solved the situation.

It was a bountiful experience for Alex and Eve. The former learned how to wield a sword better by understanding the sword he wielded instead. This was a fresh approach from his perspective because he usually never cared about what sword he used back when he was still below Martial Saint.

Eve, on the other hand, understood the concept of a sword, like when she needed to release her energy, how to control the dragon better and many other things.

At one point, the two often joked around while doing the task as if they didn't feel pressured at all since they watched each other back.

After the fiftieth test, Alex took a deep breath. "How many more of this? It starts becoming repetitive."

"Indeed. I am starting to get bored. At first, it was interesting since I never experienced a thrilling adventure like this despite this place looking like the cave I was in." She nodded.

"Haha... Don't think much about it. I will lead you to see a bigger world after this, so wait for it patiently. I am sure you will be surprised by how different each world is." Alex boasted his own experiences to Eve.

"Master...I still can't understand why you are boasting to me." She rolled her eyes.

Alex shrugged. "I only told you that you would have more surprises after this, so don't say this is the best experience yet because there might be something even better in the future."

"Indeed. But I still should say this. The trial is the one thing I won't regret in the future. I feel like I can understand Master better. To think Master endure such a pain when we are fighting an opponent."

"That is if I am injured." Alex shrugged.

"Yes. That's why I will do my best to protect you."

"I am looking forward to it." Alex smiled.

They both kept walking while having this kind of conversation. Despite the numerous hassle they needed to pass, they continuously marched forward.

Until they passed a hundred tests, they ended up in a long corridor without any sign of another test.

Alex and Eve then arrived at the end of the corridor not long after, finding another gate that led them to the last stage. However, Alex remembered the riddle for this last stage was "those who qualified may enter." In that case, he didn't know whether he could reach the end or not.

Even so, it didn't stop his desire to try it. They both walked toward the gate before it suddenly opened.

What he could see was only white light illuminating the entire room.

Not long after that, a shadow gradually made its appearance.

Alex barely saw his appearance. It was a she.

"Welcome to the fifth floor. You have succeeded the test and qualify to enter the secret garden. No, I should say, I have been waiting for you to reach this place, Sir Alexander Sirius. Or should I call you, Sir Spirit God?" The woman smiled mysteriously.

Chapter 1005 - Trials Part 4

Alex narrowed his eyes when the other party mentioned his previous title. He took two deep breaths before shaking his head. "My name is Alexander Sirius."

The woman instantly understood the meaning behind his words and changed her approach. "In that case, Sir Alexander Sirius. Please come to the highest place of this tower first. I would like to explain something to you. My Master, the Peerless Sword God, has told me that you will come to this place, so please don't worry."

Alex hesitated because he didn't know who the woman was. But when he checked her cultivation, he decided to follow her. If someone like her wanted to do something, he would have died already. After all, the woman before him was a Rank 2 God. And yes, she is still alive.

Eve looked at him moving and followed him.

When they crossed the gate, they arrived inside a huge field filled with medicinal herbs, books, scrolls, and a few things for paper production.

"This..." Alex looked around with his Spirit Eyes. He found a tree to make paper and traditional machinery. When his vision turned a bit to the right, he found a bunch of scrolls and books, so he realized the machinery was to make paper.

In the middle of the field, Alex saw a building made of wood. The woman smiled and explained. "I am sorry for this messy place. I have many things that I need to do in this area, starting from paper productions, copying the techniques from books, and gardening."

"Is this where you control everything?" Alex asked.

"Yes. The reward, challenges, and punishment are from this place. And I am the one doing it all."

"It must take most of your time..."

"Well, it was certainly true at first. But when you grew accustomed to it, you would have done it within a year or two, leaving all the other eight years to cultivate." She smiled.

"..." Alex never thought that someone lived in this tower that was supposed to be a place to change one's fate.

"Before that, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Zera, Eighth Zeroth Sword of his majesty, the Sword God." She bowed her head to Alex as if she was in the presence of the Spirit God. "I have been in this tower since I was a Martial Monarch, so it's already a few thousand years."

"You never thought about going outside?"

"Not really." She shook her head without a change of expression. "Just like your Six Elemental Gods, Five Guardians, there is always someone who is loyal to you. I am here to wait for the next Sword God to appear, but it seems it won't be too long."

Alex felt a mysterious glance from her as if implying Alex would do something. He remembered his promise to the Sword God and nodded. "I can only do it when the time is right. I need a hundred years at maximum to settle everything before I can fulfill that promise."

"It's fine. I don't really mind. A hundred years feels short to me." She smiled.

Alex paused for a second and asked Lin Xingzhi. 'What is she talking about? Six Elemental Gods? Five Guardians?"

[The strongest warriors of Eulja. Six Elemental Gods are former rulers before the true Spirit God ascended. It's better to meet them when you are back due to the matter of Evelyn before. As for the Five Guardians, they are the ones holding the fort of our territory.]

[West, North, East, South, and Center. These five were the ones protecting the territory from any kind of threats. There is one last title, which is the Ten Commandants. They are the ones protecting Eulja when others are not there, AKA in war. Zark is one of the Ten Commandants.]

'I see. It seems I really know nothing about Eulja. Maybe I should take my time to learn when I return next.' Alex nodded with a serious expression.

[I will teach you everything and try to make a secret meeting to meet all of them.]

'Thanks.' Alex then turned to Zera. "Still, a Martial Monarch huh."

"I was given a second chance in the past from him, and he was my master. After Master's death, the others decided to go to war and died by the swords like how they wanted to. But I received Master's last will to wait for someone to come here that would become his successor.

"Me, who was only a weak person at that time, agreed to be the administrator of this tower, learning everything I needed to maintain this tower. And yes, I was the one who accompanied my Lord in his last time, and his grave is here. That's why you can't find his grave in the outside world." She smiled.

Alex looked at her and smiled. "He was lucky to meet you."

"No, no. It was the other way around." She shook her head, facing Alex with a conviction.

Alex had no plan to mock that conviction because all the people under him were similar to her.

"When he met you in the Sword Stone, his will in this place appeared and told me about you. Hence...Would you like to listen to my story?" She smiled.

Alex nodded and followed her to the house. She then took out a wooden table and chairs so the three of them could sit down to talk.

When they finally had the chance to relax, she suddenly forgot what to say. "Hm...What should I tell you again..."

Alex twitched his eyebrows. "How should I know?"

"Anyway, how about I tell you about my identity first? Maybe I will remember it after that."

Alex nodded.

"Sorry for that. Living here alone makes me a bit too forgetful since I can simply take my time to search around since nothing will lose here." She chuckled. "Anyway, my purpose here is to administer the tower until his successor comes here.

"From what my Lord told me, you will be the one taking him here. Is that true?"

"Yes. I promised him to teach someone as his successor. Is that meant I need to give him to you?"

"No, no. You can teach him like how you usually do. When the time is right, please send him here. I will be his mentor and explain everything about the Sword God and myself."

"I see." Alex nodded. "I understand. It's simple then. I will teach him what I know and when I have nothing to teach him anymore, I will send him to you."

"I appreciate it."

Alex then looked around and found many things that would allow her to be sustainable in this place. "Those are..."

"I am a Forging Master, you know. I got all the items needed from the people who died during the test. In exchange, I use a portion of my time to create papers and manage all the things for inheritance in this place.

"Well, there is a reason for this too. Do you know the material of this tower? It's one of the most durables in the universe. My Lord acquired a giant chunk of this material and turned it into this tower. And when the new Sword God is born, I will be the one creating the perfect weapon for him.

"Well, it's pretty boring despite all these jobs, so I often talked to people when I opened the gate. I only appeared to those I deemed interesting. Unfortunately, not a single of them appeared to be qualified to be the next Sword God, which was the reason why they never reached this place, or you could say, the place beyond the fifth stage."

Alex closed his eyes for a bit before asking. "I wonder what all those people will think when there is actually a Rank 2 God in here all this time."

"Haha...They will go insane." She chuckled. "However, I can't go out no matter what. My Lord believed we would face a catastrophe in the future, so he asked me to increase my strength here until that time comes. I don't know what that is, though."

Alex shrugged. He thought it would be the ancient beast, but he doubted it because it must be his ego talking about that. "I see. But are you sure you don't need to watch the rest?"

"No need for the time being. The settings and layout are there, and we will just need to wait for the result. Besides, you have cleared this place in less than half a day. Normally, I can wrap it up after three days or something since most participants should have left this place. That's why I have enough time to chat with you. The one that was known as someone who could go toe to toe with my master."

Alex shrugged.

"Haha...You have come to terms with it, so I won't talk about it anymore. I only want to warn you about a certain thing. This world can't be trusted."

"You don't need to tell me that. I have never placed any trust in this world to begin with." Alex nodded, remembering how they conquered that planet just for training.

"In that case, do you want something in particular? Such as techniques or items?" She asked.

"I don't need anything, only the Sword Qi. I am trying to aim as high as possible. Depending on how long, I might be able to reach Rank 8 before leaving this world."

"Oh. In that case, I can give you two months here. At the same time, I will help you in accumulating the Sword Qi from this place, so you can absorb it faster. Of course, I can only do this after this place is closed again."

"That's interesting enough for me." Alex nodded.

Suddenly, Zera recalled something. "I am still wondering..."

Alex furrowed his eyebrows when he saw Zera's eyes move to Eve. "Is that a Sword Spirit? I have seen the Sword Breaker, but I never know there is another one like him."

"Yes. She is a Sword Spirit, and she is from this world too. What do you want?"

"No need to be so hostile. I have no bad intentions." She hurriedly waved her hands. "I just want to ask whether you want me to teach her some controls as a Sword Spirit or not? After all, I knew almost every technique in this world since I had copied all of them. And my Lord also taught me about the Sword Spirit in the past, so I believe I can teach her something. This will surely make your coordination better. In fact, that's the purpose of the trials.

"For example, the first one is to know about your ability about the Sword and trust it. After all, you have walked in this path, so you need to use it constantly to open the next path. That's the essence of the first trial.

"The second stage is all about exploring your talent in sword and measuring it by seeing how good your control is. As for the third stage, it's about the bond with your Sword, and since you have a Sword Spirit, it's easier for you to pass the stage because you two can understand each other easier than any other people.

"Normally, only the Master would do all the things, but there was a trick there. When your weapon chose to sacrifice itself just to protect you, I believe you were qualified enough to pass that stage. After all, people know about the consciousness inside a weapon, and it will have a stronger response when it's smarter, which I tweak a little bit on the third stage.

"Either way, it is a good measure to know your relationship with your Sword. Master always told me to trust my weapon because it will be the one that cuts my enemy and protects me from many attacks.

"After realizing the bond between you and your weapon, the fourth stage is to deepen it by going through many challenges. Lastly, the fifth stage is the place of an endless maze. This is only to see their determination whether they can be a good warrior or not.

"But you...I let you skip it because you are already "Qualified," so there is no hard feeling."

Chapter 1006 - Trials Part 5

"I see." Alex nodded in understanding. "It's a good meaning behind each stage."

"Right?!" She smiled.

"That's right. I wonder how you maintain this tower?" Alex asked since he felt this mechanism would be useful for him if he decided to create a dungeon in a certain world.

"The Spiritual Energy is coming from nearby areas by using Arrays. It is also accumulated enough energy every ten years to create a test like this, and I also don't have any problem absorbing the Spiritual Energy around.

"As for the Sword Qi, this tower is supposed to be a material for the weapon for the successor of the Peerless Sword God, so the Sword Qi, no, Pure Sword Qi is used to strengthen this material. From where? It's from me and the people that keep coming every ten years.

"The tower absorbs the Sword Qi in a level they can't realize, so it's working this whole time. After that, I am the one turning them into Pure Sword Qi, some are for me to absorb while the rest is for the tower's maintenance.

"And yeah, I think that's all." She thought for a moment, not finding any other mechanisms.

"Fair enough. If you take one Spirit Crystal from each person, but you let a million people come in, you will get one million Spirit Crystals. However, I believe this is far less than ten percent of what you get, right?" Alex asked with a smile.

"Yes. It's less than one percent to be exact."

"No wonder you have enough Spiritual Energy to do everything." Alex nodded.

"I am honored for the praise."

"Still...You have done a lot..." Alex looked around. The house must be made from the woods that Zera planted in the garden. All things are also made by herself, so it can be seen how hard she works and learns how to make things. After all, as a cultivator, she wouldn't know the details on how to make a house and all other things around.

He had a lot of respect for such a person, especially regarding her loyalty.

"Do you want to do something? If I am not wrong, the person you have chosen is also inside this tower, right? Do you want to see her progress?"

"Yes, please." Alex nodded.

"Sure. Please follow me." She asked Alex to follow her inside the house, finding many memory crystals recording all the people inside.

She went to the bigger one and operated the system, showing Alex a certain girl's progress.

Before Alex even talked, Zera already made a comment with amazement. "This girl is indeed something else. I remember her because of her blind eyes. I give a technique to allow her to enhance her senses, so it's quite useful. Congratulations for picking someone so talented."

"Well, I didn't ask her because of that." Alex shrugged. "I was impressed by her temperament. That's all."

"Right."

Suddenly, she walked toward her wardrobe and grabbed a token. "This is my token. If you have something you want to get from this place, you can enter this tower again with this token."

"Well, I have a few people to send here." Alex nodded. "Maybe, I can ask for your help?"

"Sure. In fact, they can come straight to this place. I will be teaching them." She nodded. "This is a part of the reward and a part of my thanks to you for making a promise to find the successor."

"In that case, I will be taking that." Alex finally agreed since he believed she was far stronger and had a deeper knowledge about weapons, so it would be best to leave them to her. "Actually, I have three people to send. Two sword users and one bow user."

"I don't really mind. Although I am not a bow user, I understand the basics. And it's not like a bow is much different than a sword." She shrugged. "I believe I can teach her to learn about Bow Qi which is probably your goal to let them train here, right?"

"Yes. Don't worry. The girl is a genius, so as long as she gets the basic right, she would have tremendous power." Alex smiled as he was confident in his Bow Mastery he gave to Rose.

"Hoh? Is she your wife?"

"Nope. She is my disciple."

"No wonder."

"Then, I will leave it to you. In exchange, I will send someone your way in the future. Don't worry. I will be honest and search for the best one I can find."

"The promise from you is worth billions of Spirit Crystals. So, of course, I will believe it."

"Back to the topic, this girl is smart. Taking a look at how she considers her situation and try various things. She even uses a riskier method just to make sure she could pass the challenge." She narrowed her eyes.

Aria was on the third floor, facing the challenge of trust. Unlike Alex's complete trust in Eve, Aria didn't have that much confidence in her sword. After all, it was just a sword that she barely got less than two years ago.

Although it was far slower than Alex, she managed to slowly make her way to the fourth stage, so Alex didn't need to worry about her.

'I think I have made my decision.' He suddenly whispered something to the system.

[What is it?]

'I will grant her the power of the system.'

[You sure?]

'Yeah. But give it to her after she passes the fourth stage. I don't really care about the fifth stage.'

[Alright.]

Alex then turned to Zera. "Do you know any way to contact her or something?"

"You can talk to her when she is in the fifth stage. Like earlier, I will open a gate for you to meet her."

"That's good enough. Since I will be leaving this world after this last training, I will talk to her one last time." Alex nodded.

"Alright. I will arrange it for you. Do you need anything else?"

"I don't think so." Alex shook his head. "I am just going to practice in the meantime."

"You can train in the field over there." She pointed at an empty field where she usually trained. "That's the spot I usually used."

"You are not going to practice or something?"

"It can wait. Besides, I can focus on my task first while you are doing it, so no big deal." She shrugged. "I will inform you when she reaches the fifth stage."

"I appreciate it."

Alex then walked toward the field as he planned to start his training.

Zera waited for him until he began before doing her work in managing this Sword Pavilion.

Alex felt the concentration of Sword Qi here, so he got a bit overwhelmed first. However, he soon grew accustomed to this situation and eventually reached the maximum limit on how he could turn the Sword Qi to Pure Sword Qi.

Just like Zera's information, the concentration of Sword Qi became denser after three days. The people that got stuck from the first and second stages began to leave the tower. In fact, the majority of people were there, so he felt the increase was around fifty percent or more.

A few days later, specifically a week after he first entered this tower, the people on the third floor finally left the Pavilion. As expected, people on the Fourth Stage were Martial Saints. He couldn't find a single Martial Monarch there.

And to his surprise, there were several people on the fifth stage, and Aria was one of them.

"What is the reward for those in the fifth stage anyway?" Alex asked as he walked together with Zera to the portal to meet Aria.

"There is nothing much. I don't offer a single Spirit Crystal, so it's mostly technique or training time, depending on their need. Like my teacher said, I need to have a good grasp of their ability before teaching them. If I can do this, I will understand other people better and do a good job maintaining this tower."

"I agree." Alex nodded. "So, what are you planning to give to her?"

"You are worried?" She smirked as if wanting to tease him.

"I'm just asking."

"Well, I believe a technique and two weeks of training are enough for her. The technique she shows, the one that emphasizes the speed, is good, but it lacks power. I know that my Lord gave her a technique, but there should be another one to build up the foundation for when she reaches God Rank."

"I do have a plan for that, but the situation doesn't allow me to give. Well, I have given her the technique for Pure Sword Qi, so she won't get any trouble soon."

"Do you want me to take care of her for the time being?"

"Nope. She is fine as she is. I have no doubt that she will do everything just fine."

"Alright. I will just give you the time to meet. Or do you want to give the reward to her as well?"

"Sure." Alex nodded.

Zera handed a scroll to him along with a token that would teleport her outside when the time limit came.

Alex thanked her again and walked through the portal.

In Aria's perspective, it was as if a door appeared out of nowhere, making her confused. She raised her defensive stance, ready to strike if an enemy came out of that door.

"Oi, oi. You are going to point that sword at me?"

Suddenly, Alex's voice echoed in her ears as she widened her eyes, never expecting to see him again. "You..."

Alex waved his hand and made his appearance. "It's been a while. You have grown even stronger."

"Y-yes. All thanks to you. It turns out experiencing many things allows me to understand my opponents and myself better."

"That I agree."

"By the way, how do you just appear... Don't tell me..." She looked at her with a weird expression.

"I am not her friend or something. I arrived at this place too soon, so I got pretty lucky to meet the administrator of this pavilion. I don't know if I should be talking about this though."

"Well, it's not that important. But I think I will fail in this fifth stage."

"You sure?"

"Yes. From what I know, there is another hidden criterion to reach a place beyond the fifth stage."

Alex thought for a moment and smiled. "Yes. There is indeed a hidden criterion. Well, it's impossible for you to pass this gate simply because you are someone on my side."

"I see." She looked down and thought about something. "Is this related to the Sword God?"

"Yep. It's not a big deal to talk about this, so I will just blurt it out. The requirement is to be the Sword God's successor." Alex smiled.

"No wonder. Even if I have that qualification, I don't have a plan to do that."

"Well, I appreciate the thought." Alex then handed the reward to her. "This is the reward. Your time limit to train here is two weeks. And I think this is the last time I will see you."

Aria gradually opened her eyes, still seeing his disguised appearance. "Well, I don't have anything to say, considering I am going to chase you as soon as I become a God Rank Expert, so do you need me to say anything?"

"Not really. I just want to see your growth." Alex waved his hand. "How are you in the sect?"

"I am good. A bit restricted, but not much. I can easily slip away." She shrugged. "By the way, how about your situation? Especially with that Nella?"

"There is nothing much. According to my information, she has forgotten about me. It's good to know since I don't need to deal with her again."

"Pfft." She chuckled.

"Anyway, I will be returning to the floor for one last thing. After that, I will leave this world completely. Take care of yourself, will you?"

"Yes."

Alex then turned around, returning to the field while closing the gate.

"Thank you very much!" Aria shouted while bowing her head until Alex disappeared.

However, there seemed to be another surprise from Alex because as soon as she raised her head again, a blue screen appeared in front of her.

[Hello, I am Alex's Divine Gacha System.]

Chapter 1007 - Just A Past Story

When Alex returned, he found Zera with a smug on her face as if she witnessed something amazing that she could make fun of.

"What?" Alex asked with a poker face.

"Nothing." Her tone was playful. She must have thought something inappropriate.

"Anyway, I am going back to cultivate. I can't really waste my time." Alex decided to ignore her thoughts and went back to where he usually practiced.

"Alright. With your pace, I believe you can reach your goal within the time limit." She nodded and left him alone.

After seeing her going inside the house, he proceeded to the cultivation.

There was nothing happening in the meantime. It was a peaceful two months. Even those in Eulja were having their relaxing time, waiting for Alex to return. They were eager to see him again after the information about him coming over to meet up with them rang on their ears.

Obviously, Lin Xingzhi was the one spreading it. They were trying hard to prepare for something special to greet him.

Alex was unaware of the fact that these two months actually gave them a headache. Nonetheless, they felt pretty good about it.

...

Two weeks passed, Aria gradually woke up from her cultivation, knowing that her time was up. She looked at the glowing token and rose from the floor.

Before leaving, she looked at the gate that had disappeared and was never seen again, thinking about Alex. This was the man who changed her life from a dreamer to a fighter. She didn't wish to be a powerful expert anymore. Instead, she fought for it and would attain it by herself.

With another bow, she channeled her Spiritual Energy, and the token teleported her outside the tower.

When she left, she found llevis waiting for her alone.

"Peak Master?" Aria was amazed to see someone at her level standing before the gate and waiting for her this whole time.

"Fu." The latter let out a sigh of relief and explained. "I thought something happened to you, considering you are the last one to leave this place."

"I am the last one?" Aria tilted her head in confusion. She thought she would leave this place together with the other people since Alex said there were a few people that managed to get into the fifth stage.

However, Ilevis explained. "The others have left the Pavilion since a week ago."

"Eh?" Aria noticed once again. It was Alex's doing. If not because of Alex, she must only have one week to practice inside the tower. She thought, 'He helped me again. Now, I can finally understand why the Sword God told me how lucky I am...'

She couldn't help but smile.

"Why are you smiling? Do you not know how worried I am?" Ilevis narrowed her eyes.

Aria faced Ilevis with a calm expression while thinking, 'You worry about me? No, you are worried about my ability. Because of what happened to Nyx...Alex, you are afraid that I will suddenly disappear. The worry from you and Alex is far different. One has a hidden intention and the other one has sincerity.'

The thought was harsh but pretty accurate. Unfortunately, Aria couldn't say anything to avoid her suspicion. It would be a problem if she couldn't leave this world in the future. She simply smiled and assured her. "Don't worry. I know how to take care of myself, Peak Master. I won't let anything happen to me before I take care of my revenge for him."

"..." Ilevis frowned. Aria seemed to be "obsessed" with taking her revenge, and every time she advised her, she wouldn't listen.

Little did she know the "revenge" she was talking about was just a fake, just so she could give her a little freedom for missions and her personal matters. And ultimately, she would sneak out of this world.

She smiled and asked. "Should we go back?"

"Y-yeah." Ilevis nodded, and the two flew away.

...

The remaining time passed quickly, and Alex officially had a Rank 8 Sword Qi and Spear Qi. He felt satisfied because there was only one more step to reach Divine Rank.

When he opened his eyes, he found Zera sitting on her couch while sleeping.

Next to her was a mountain of papers that were filled with techniques. She seemed to have done all this without rest for a month or so since she had prepared so many things.

She gradually opened her eyes the moment she realized Alex's presence and hurriedly fixed her appearance. "Ah, I am sorry. I dozed off."

"No, no. I am the one who needs to apologize for waking you up. You have worked hard, so it's better to rest." Alex advised her while glancing over the mountain of works.

"Uh. I wonder why we are always so sleepy when doing all these works while we don't need a single sleep when cultivating for years. Working is really mystical."

"I need to agree with you." Alex nodded in approval.

"Haha! So, what are you going to do now? Leave? There are two more days before the time limit."

"I will use my time efficiently, so I will continue my training, but I will just take a breather for a while. Do you need any help in your work?" Alex asked. Since Zera had been helping him during the practice and would help him taking care of the trio later, he thought he should offer some help as well.

Zera couldn't be happier to introduce Alex to the works, but it turned out she was a sadist. If the work she had finished was big, the task that she introduced was at least ten times what she had done.

Alex immediately took back his words and did a few things to help.

When they were working, Zera suddenly started a random talk about her Master, the Sword God. "Do you know that my Master actually hates you?"

"Yes, I do."

"I wonder why..." Zera sighed. "I mean, you both didn't have a conflict with each other, but Master always talked bad about you. At the same time, he kept smiling every single time. It perplexed us every time we witnessed that.

"I once asked him whether he really hated you, and it turned out he didn't say a single lie." Zera smiled and looked at Alex with a smile.

"So, you are going to take revenge for that hatred?" Alex asked with a calm expression.

"Nope. This was what happened to the Eight Swords. We misunderstood this relationship. In his retirement, I had a chance to ask Master again, finding that it turned out he didn't say all the things about you.

"It was true that he hated you, but there was another meaning behind it. He couldn't comprehend your action and your strength. I mean, whenever you were in a pinch situation and your people were about to be killed, you would become a demon.

"You were the scariest person in the Universe during that time. When he fought against you, he often wished that you knew how to run away. After all, you were a careful person who thought about all risks.

"Yet, that power allowed you to protect your people and became feared, making no one want to mess with you. When I asked him about this, he always told me one story. I know that you don't want to mix your current life with your past life, but I just couldn't help but tell you this story. This was my favorite story when I was young after all.

"Back then, there was a situation where Eulja only had around one hundred God Rank Experts while the enemies had a thousand God Rank Experts. The power level was similar, so this overwhelming number would surely become the downfall.

"But everything happened differently than anyone could predict. Not only could you win the battle, you still had thirty people after killing eight hundred people of your enemies. In the end, the enemies escaped because they felt they would lose.

"You know what happened? You led them in front like a demon god. Despite your injury, you wouldn't think anything other than fighting to open up an escape route for all your subordinates. At that time, your subordinates became something similar to you because of your action.

"They became a symbol of martyrdom. People said you had a few seconds to live when your heart was stabbed, and they exactly used that last second to kill more enemies. It was amazing and scary at the same time.

"And in that battle, you became famous as someone that people shouldn't mess with. My master was around that area, so he witnessed that battle. Of course, you couldn't expect him to help you, right? Considering you were not friends or anything. At the same time, it was at a time like that, my Master started taking a liking to you and tried to understand your strength.

"He always wondered what kind of power could emit a terrifying power like that and the answer was too ridiculous to believe. My Master then ended up believing it and asked us to know about that as well.

"Unfortunately, none of us could become someone like you. What you have is simply nothing but friends. The courage to take on a whole world just for your friends, the strength to gain people's admiration, and the trust between each other.

"Those three...Most people only have the second one. Even when they trust their comrades, people could still find the sliver of doubt in their eyes, so they failed. As for the first one...It was just too ridiculous to be true. Some people tried that and died in the process.

"I am telling you this because I believe you have the potential to surpass your past self and just want to show that even though my Master hated you so much, he also had the utmost respect for you." She cupped her hands and bowed deeply. "You might not be the same person, but I know deep down you are the same. You are...Alexander Sirius after all."

Alex couldn't let out a single word. He never expected to hear a story like this and didn't know how to respond. People often compared himself to his past self, but he paid no heed because he would do what he deemed right.

But in this story, he realized. He is he, the Spirit God is the Spirit God. This won't change. But there was another sentence after that, they both are Alexander Sirius.

Alex closed his eyes and fell into deep thought.

Zera knew that he seemed to have an inner struggle, so she stopped, waiting for him until he finished.

It took him one hour before he finally opened his eyes again. "Thank you for reminding me about this."

"I didn't have that intention though, but I will still claim the thanks."

Alex shook his head helplessly. From what he understood, he didn't compare himself to his previous life wasn't due to them being a separate entity. However, it was all wrong. The only reason was that he escaped from his previous self, afraid to be compared.

It was an act of cowardice. During this conflict, he learned his dignity, responsibility, and determination. He would prove that he, Alexander Sirius, was qualified to be the king of Eulja, not because it came from his past self, but he himself had influenced the people's heart with his action.

Even Zera called him Alexander Sirius was only due to him asking for it along with the influence of the past Spirit God, not because of his name.

"Thanks to you, I have figured out what I need to do." Alex smiled. "This time, I will let people know the name of Alexander Sirius instead of the Spirit God. It will be hard, but it's not impossible."

"I don't know what you want to do, but I wish you the best."

[I will support you in achieving your dream.]

Alex smiled. He knew that all his wives had accepted him for who he is, so he knew he had someone in his back that would support him no matter what, reassuring him.

"Thank you." Alex smiled, saying his thanks not only to Zera but also Lin Xingzhi.

Chapter 1008 - New World

"Then, goodbye for now. I feel like I need to meet you again in the future."

Zera nodded with a smile. "I will be looking forward to it. I wonder what you will have the next time I meet...I am prepared to be surprised by your achievement, such as your cultivation."

"Haha...I am doing my best." Alex shrugged.

"In that case...I will send you off." She smiled and took out a Teleportation Array Plate that would teleport him to outer space.

He had no intention to reveal his Space Element even to her, so he could only accept her suggestion and thanked her.

"See you again." She waved her hands as the Teleportation Array Plate was activated.

Alex also waved his hand until he disappeared.

The next second, he was surrounded by darkness. He was already in outer space.

[Where are you going now? You are not going back immediately, right?]

"Yes." Alex nodded with a serious expression. If he came back right now, he would need at least a year before going somewhere else, so he couldn't afford to return yet. "I have several places in mind. The first will be where I can evolve my Fire Authority. I also need to go to Encore. And the place where I can plant the seed of this system."

[In that case, I suggest you go to the new planet. They are about to have a transition, so I think this is a perfect time. I believe it's better to go there right now, and I think you can speed it up a little bit. Those old guys are also "preparing" something.]

"Fair enough. The other two won't have any difference, while if I plant this one as soon as possible, I will have a few days' worths of Spirit Crystals. Considering it won't be that much in the beginning, it will surely become better in the long range." Alex nodded in agreement. "Alright. Give me the compass. I will go there."

[Understood. By the way, I will send the information regarding that planet as well.]

"Thanks."

Lin Xingzhi first gave him the compass while she compiled all the information. Due to the lack of time, he chose to go toward the planet first and stayed on that planet for a few days to learn all the information. Only after that would he plant the seed.

A few hours later, he finally found the planet. From what he could see, this planet looked amazing. It was so dark that he barely saw the light from outer space, meaning there was no light like the modern world or cultivation world.

"I wonder what kind of planet is this..." Alex furrowed his eyebrows and decided to go to the other side of the planet.

Lin Xingzhi had yet to send the information, so he wondered whether to enter first or wait for the information.

After several considerations, he decided to enter the world. It had two suns and four moons from what he could see from here, so it would be an amazing experience.

Using his Teleportation Array, he arrived inside the world. Because he randomly chose the location, he looked around him, finding himself surrounded by sand.

"Hmm?" Alex narrowed his eyes and looked around to find anyone nearby but to no avail. In that case, he decided to look at the sky and watch the amazing two suns. Remembering the four moons outside, he thought the night would be something he wanted to see.

[Alex, I have gathered the information.]

"Sure thing. Send me." Alex nodded. The information he had been waiting for finally arrived. He instantly took it out of his Inventory and read it.

However, before he could even start, he sensed a huge creature creeping on the ground. It seemed to have sensed him as well and leaped to the sky, trying to swallow him when it fell.

Alex just took a glance over its giant body and used his hand to stop the creature.

It turned out the creature was a kind of worm but had a giant mouth that seemed to be capable of swallowing anything.

When Alex stopped it, the latter looked surprised. It didn't have eyes and ears, but it could understand what Alex just did.

"Just go back. I don't wish to fight you." Alex shrugged. Because he had no information regarding this world, he thought the place was filled with monsters. However, he seemed to be wrong.

The worm was enraged by his arrogance and struggled from his hand.

"I see. The inhabitants are not monsters...Since you are so annoying, let's kill you." Alex released his killing intent, startling the worm.

It realized that Alex was far scarier than it expected at first and tried to escape.

However, Alex stepped on the sand and created an immeasurable pressure over the worm, crushing it.

The worm soon collapsed to the ground lifelessly.

"It's only a Foundation Rank worm." Alex nodded and leaped to the top of the worm while reading the information.

"Hmm...According to the information, this world is known as a world of Light and Darkness. Its nickname was granted because this world never had any cycles of night and day. Interesting...

"The rotation itself is the same as its revolution, so the planet keeps facing the sun while the other side of the planet won't have the time to see the sun. Such an ironic place to live.

"Anyway, because of the strange phenomenon, the time is too absurd and they have something to reach that time by seeing their body ability to withstand sleep. To that end, seven days are the utmost limit, so after some calculations, they know that each day has around forty-five hours per day. Thirty hours to work and fifteen hours to sleep.

"This is an interesting world to be honest, but the condition is harsh. In any case, the humans on this side have severe water problems because it is hot here while the other side is too cold, so they need lamps and clothes.

"Now I think about it, doesn't this mean I can market my own water bottle? This will surely be popular here. I don't want to take advantage of this to amass money, but it's enough for them to use my system to get a water bottle. Even if they are the trash among the trash, it's like a treasure for this place...Which I am glad. I won't just take advantage of them here, but I am also helping them by supplying these items.

"Anyway, I don't have information regarding this place. Lin Xingzhi even took hours to get this little information. In that case, I should start going to the city near him and investigate them. After mixing with the locals and understanding this place better, I will place the seed or you can say the seal so my Gacha System can have access to all people in this world...

"I will probably make a certain agreement with the World's will that will undergo its own evolution soon. After that, I will participate in several missions to make sure that the system doesn't have a bug or something."

[That sounds like a plan. I will try to monitor the situation.]

"By the way, are you a programmer?" Alex asked.

[If you think I can make a program like this, then the answer is no. This is already included in the system, so it must be built by the previous owner, the Dungeon God.]

"Oh." Alex nodded a few times. "Well, I will try to get information, so I might be staying in this place for a few weeks to a few months. It won't be more than three months. I promise."

[Don't worry. It's not like you need to rush like that. Besides, the evolution of your Fire Authority will take longer than this.]

"Ahaha..." Alex felt a bit guilty before letting out a long sigh. "Alright. Time to find a human settlement. By the way, I don't see the name of this world."

[It's Lida World. No need to laugh about its name. Yes, it's from Light and Dark. And it seems the two sides are fighting against each other. The dark side wants to see the amazing life from the light side, but the latter treats them as someone that God has abandoned. However, due to its extreme environment, the dark is a bit stronger than the light side.]

"Alright. Thanks." Alex nodded. "It seems there is also a third party or a borderline that is always evening where the sun almost sets."

[Yes, but it's mostly mountain range, so not many people are living there. Only some small villages around the globe.]

"Ho? Anything else?"

[I have printed it, but I will say it too. The world situation is like what Earth experiences after getting defeated. They have ancient civilizations that fight against each other with the power of kingdoms. But all the influences on both sides have joined hands respectively to defeat the other side, so you can somehow understand me, no? And they have a bit of magical energy, so you can treat it as a lower-rank world that only has Foundation Rank. There might be a master rank, but I am not so sure.]

"Got it. I have sealed my cultivation to Master rank, so there must be someone with cultivation similar to that of a Martial Master." Alex contemplated for a minute before saying, "Time to go then."

[Yes, be careful.]

"Of course. Besides, I already have a clue..." Alex smiled and saw the dust kicked up not far from here.

It was surely a group of people. Depending on their identities, Alex had a plan to either kill them or negotiate with them.

He simply waited for them to approach while reading the information once again to make sure he didn't leave any of the information.

A few minutes later, he sensed a group of thirty people riding their camels to cross this desert. They seemed to be well-armed, considering each of them has weapons and shields as if they were ready to war.

Although there was no armor visible, they showed their abs because not a single of them used closed clothes. It must be due to their living environment, which was the desert.

The one leading the group was a young man without an expression. He only had a little bit of surprise when he saw Alex sitting on top of the worm.

The others were staring with shocked expressions before glancing at the leader, wondering what they should do.

To their surprise, the leader jumped off his camel and looked at Alex with a serious expression. He slightly bowed his head while placing his hand on his chest as if it was a noble greeting.

"Gentleman. May I know what you are doing here?"

"Is that a problem?" Alex put down the paper and looked at the leader.

The leader closed his eyes for a few seconds before shaking his head. "No. However, I am required to know because we can't really have someone as strong as you this close to our place. After all, I have an obligation to prevent any unknown threat. I hope you can forgive me for asking this and can understand me."

Alex frowned. The one before him had etiquette, making him think he was someone important. Seeing he was so educated, he thought he could use him to gain information and mix in their territory.

"Well, I am traveling without aim. I always stopped in every place to restock my supply." Alex answered.

The leader considered a few things, especially Alex's age. His complexion told him that Alex was not that old, probably younger than him. With age like that and the little bit of scary power he leaked this whole time, he knew that Alex was someone extraordinary. Not even him could have this power.

He decided it would be best for him to reach out to Alex.

"In that case, if you don't mind, I can give you a tour in my place. It's not far from here. Of course, this is only if you want. I can't force you here." The leader smiled.

"Sounds good."

"Before that, I would like to introduce myself. I am Xivaxi, the first prince of the Rawak Kingdom. Pleased to meet you."

Alex stared at him mysteriously before saying his name. "Nyx."

Chapter 1009 - I Refuse

"Nyx." Alex presented his fake name again while observing these people's expressions. There wasn't a sliver of doubt in their eyes. It might be due to their fear of his strength or was just shocked by the sight of him sitting on top of a worm, whatever the case, Alex felt it was enough for him to know that these people were not a reckless bunch.

The problem would be their leader. He was wondering whether the prince in front of him was not respected by his subordinates or not, since when he talked highly before their prince, they didn't do anything.

After hearing his name, the prince closed his eyes for a bit and smiled. "Many thanks. In that case, would you like to follow me to my kingdom?"

Alex narrowed his eyes and nodded. "Sure."

He hopped off the worm. The prince took another glance at the worm and Alex before leading the company to the kingdom.

What Alex found was a kingdom without a wall. No, it couldn't be said as a kingdom anymore. It was a city, but he could only find some rundown houses in the outskirts.

There was no castle in sight either, so he wondered if this was truly a kingdom.

"I apologize for the poor appearance of my country." The prince made a sad smile. "We just lost a war, and our place was reduced to this."

The prince finally told the truth. He didn't want someone like Alex to go away easily if he told the truth earlier. However, when a time like this, Alex would surely have three possibilities. The first would be taking pity on them.

The second was him leaving in rage and disappointment, and the third was ignoring this and just doing all the things he wanted. From the way Alex talked, he would take the third possibility, but that was all his prediction.

And it turned out he was right. Alex didn't know these people, so even though he could see many people were miserable, he had no intention to help. He might have the heart to help them, but he wasn't a saint.

If he helped one person, the others would start flocking. It would just be a disaster coming his way. In that case, it would be better to steel his heart once no matter how hard it was.

The prince hesitated but still led him to the palace.

It looked like a temple. No wonder he couldn't see it earlier, the palace was only one story high, and its appearance wasn't really that great.

"I am embarrassed to say this, but this is my palace. How about staying for a night, Sir Nyx?" Even the prince said humbly to Alex.

Alex could understand why his action was like this and the guards around him didn't say anything about the disrespect.

Alex nodded. To know more about the world, he indeed needed someone with high status. And getting treatment like this wasn't really detrimental for him.

"Please." The prince smiled and stretched his hand, leading Alex through the palace. He didn't really meet anyone during this time, making him wonder what happened to this kingdom.

He led him to a room that didn't have much decoration inside. It looked poor that he even doubted that this place was coming from royalty.

"Then, I would like to leave and meet my father first to report the whole situation. If you need anything, there is a bell on the table. If you ring it, someone will come to you." The prince bowed politely and left him.

Alex fell silent and looked at the outside.

"I wonder what is happening in this world...Is the world this poor?" Alex muttered.

[Not really.]

"What do you mean?"

[From what I know, each influence is well known and rich. By the way, you haven't checked the condition of the world with your Spirit Eyes and just entered this place.]

"Why should I do that? My objective is to check this place, plant the seal, test it for a while with myself, and leave."

[No. I think there is something weird in this place.]

"Such as?"

[There is a possibility that the world has started to evolve, and another world has begun its invasion.]

"Ho?" Alex narrowed his eyes. "Even so, the portal shouldn't have stabilized, right? At least, it won't be stable enough for people to cross."

[That's why I want you to check. Don't you feel that the Spiritual Energy is increasing little by little?]

"Really?" Alex narrowed his eyes.

[Yes. You can't see it?]

"I am not paying attention to it. Besides, how the heck can you know?"

[I can see what you see. When you activated your Spirit Eyes once after you came in, I could see the slight difference in the Spiritual Energy.]

"Oi, oi. Are you serious?"

[I am a Nature Goddess not for nothing. My main power is Spiritual Energy that is classified as Nature. No, it should be said I can become a God King because I can control Spiritual Energy.]

"So, you are very sensitive in this area?"

[Yes.]

"..." Alex facepalmed. "And you want me to see what only an expert like you can see? I have forgotten this feeling...Are you going to start another argument with me again?"

[I will...If it's on the bed.]

"..." Alex let out a long sigh and decided to move on from the conversation. After not being teased by her for too long, he had forgotten how frustrated it was to be teased by her.

[Haha. Anyway, I'm out. That's the only clue I can tell you in this situation. The rest will be up to you.]

"Alright. Thanks for the information. I will use it well." Alex nodded and immediately activated his Spirit Eyes. As expected, he couldn't see the difference in the Spiritual Energy. He wondered how high her sense to spot on something like that.

Since he got here in the evening, the people will start sleeping, so he needs a place to wait. In the meantime, he looked around to see what people were doing in this place.

They looked pale and thin, appearing to be somewhat weak than a normal person. He thought this was the norm in this place, but he soon realized it wasn't the case.

If he took another look at the center area, he found a fountain that had been covered with dust as if it wasn't used for long.

"This place lacks water?" Alex narrowed his eyes. "No, should I say this country is very poor? If what..."

Before he finished his sentence, he could feel someone's presence walking in the corridor near his room. He never heard this kind of footsteps during his stay in this room, so it took his attention.

When he checked it with his Spirit Eyes, he found a woman's energy coming right to his room.

She seemed to be carrying something.

As one would expect, the woman knocked on the door.

"Sir Nyx. I am the second princess of Rawak Kingdom, Mileda. May I request your audience?" A soft woman's voice echoed from the other side of the door.

Alex narrowed his eyes, wondering if this was the king's scam?

He wanted to gather information in this place, so he decided to let her in.

"Come in."

As soon as she heard Alex's voice, she gently pushed open the door, revealing her appearance. Just like the people outside, she wore revealing clothing, just enough to cover her breast and crotch. There was a shawl that covered a bit of her body just to make her look sexier.

Her grey hair was different than the prince's blue hair, but it assimilated very well with the building that made her look stunning.

However, Alex's eyes were focused on the bucket of water she brought along with the wipe.

"Please excuse me..." The princess looked down, a bit ashamed of her appearance. Even so, she still tried to make some movements that she was taught to gain someone's attention to a certain part of her body, albeit her movement was rather stiff.

Alex didn't care about it and asked. "So, is there anything I can do to help you, Princess?"

The princess stiffened and hurriedly answered. "I-I just want to wipe your body!"

This answer alone was enough for him to understand what she was trying to do. And Alex immediately rejected her. "I refuse."

"I...I..." The princess tried to explain the things to him, but Alex stopped her while looking at the fountain outside. "With that precious water, you are trying to wash my body?"

She was surprised to hear that from Alex. And Alex got his answer from her expression.

"It seems my speculation is true. This kingdom...Is it really yours?" Alex looked at her and leaked a bit of his killing intent.

The princess felt that Alex began doubting them. Even so, she didn't back down. She gritted her teeth and clenched her fists, staring at Alex with unwillingness.

"Hmm...That pride. It seems this kingdom is yours. But is this place really your kingdom?" Alex then changed his question. "From the prince that I met earlier, you just lost a war."

"If you want to humiliate me, please do it on me. I won't stand down if you keep mocking my country!"

"Ho?! This kind of pride won't appear in a small country. However, it will surely appear on someone who loves their country a lot, and that country is powerful...No, not is. It 'was' powerful." Alex narrowed his eyes. "So, care to explain to me what happened?"

"You-you." The princess clenched her fists until blood fell to the floor but soon loosened it.

"No. Rather than explaining what happened, I want to know your purpose for visiting me. Depending on your explanation and action, I might leave this place or stay for a bit longer."

Remembering what her brother told him about the man before her, she knew that Alex wasn't joking.

She thought for a moment and decided to tell him the truth. "I...I am here to serve you, so you can stay for a bit longer."

"As expected." Alex let out a long sigh. "Now, I want to see what kind of kingdom actually sacrifices its princess to do this?"

[It's the Acacia Kingdom.]

'You shut up first.' Alex twitched his eyebrows.

[Haha. I will be telling this to Alicia.]

'You really want to fight, huh? Fine by me.'

[You are only coming back in another few months, so you won't be able to catch me while I am telling her.]

'Whatever.' Alex sighed in defeat. He was tired of arguing with her.

[Just a reminder. Don't do a one-night stand, alright?]

'I know, I know. Do I look like someone who will do something like that?'

[Nope. But you might pity her later or whatever.]

'It's fine. I won't do that. Even if I pity her, I will do something with power, not this.'

[Okay.]

Alex was finally free from Lin Xingzhi's teasing again and faced the princess with a serious expression. "So, what do you wish to gain from doing this? It's not only for me to stay longer, right?"

The princess nodded. "Yes. Since my brother had told you about us losing a war, it's all about that. No, I shouldn't say it was a war. It was a slaughter."

"A slaughter?" Alex narrowed his eyes. It seemed what Lin Xingzhi said was true. Another world had invaded this place. From what he knew, the Upper World where he used to train was only a small world at the beginning. When it evolved into an Upper World, it attracted many worlds, and numerous portals were created.

That was the reason why he could go to another world when he was there.

"A slaughter?" Alex asked to get more information.

"Yes. Our country was big and had powerful warriors, but they were slaughtered one by one by a group of monsters. The monsters were the same as the one you defeated out there."

He recalled the worm and thought, 'Now that she mentioned it, the worm was indeed a Rank 9...Or you can say a Peak Foundation Rank. In this world, it should be hard to find a creature as strong as that.'

"So, the reason for you to make me stay longer..." Alex narrowed his eyes.

Looking at Alex's expression, she knew Alex had figured it out. She looked down and kneeled in front of him. "Please take care of me."

"I still refuse."

Chapter 1010 - One Man's Trash Is Another Man's Treasure

"I still refuse." Alex looked at her with a serious expression.

The princess's body shook. Normally, people would look at her body, but the man in front of her was different. This type of guy could only be seen among the five percent. However, that wasn't what she wanted at the moment.

If she couldn't get a hold of Alex, there was a chance for her kingdom to perish. Even if she needed to sacrifice herself, she would do it.

"I...I can do everything for you." She began to become desperate.

But Alex didn't have a change of expression, telling her that no matter how she begged him, there wasn't a chance for that.

"Enough with that crap." Alex's voice was stern, echoing inside her heart. "Instead, I have a better proposal for you. As you know, I am just a wanderer and rarely return to a big city. So, I lack information. Give me enough information, I can supply what the city needs."

Alex told her his demand, but he specifically said "the city needs" instead of what she wanted. In this request, he wanted to see whether the royalty also took care of its people. If they were greedy and tried to get all the things from his hand, he would move somewhere else and search for another place to get information.

However, the princess instantly nodded her head. "I understand. As long as it's not the information that will lead to the total annihilation of my kingdom, I will provide it for you."

There wasn't a trace of doubt in her eyes. It was different from what she showed him earlier.

Alex couldn't understand this absurd change, but he decided to pay no heed about it and continued on his demand. "Good. Now, what do you need for this city?"

She thought for a moment and opened her mouth. "Before going into that, I think you have the right to know what happened to this country."

"Ho?"

"I..." The princess looked away and started getting embarrassed after realizing how she acted so differently. Ultimately, she began telling Alex her story.

"I am the second princess of the Rawak Kingdom. That's not a lie. And our Rawak Kingdom was actually far from here. In fact, compared to this, we were like Heaven. There was no shortage of food, goods, and water.

"Even our soldiers were well known through the land as people who had no fear. I and my brother, who you met earlier, were known as two successors. We both had fought for achievement from this country's management and wars.

"However, everything came to an end when we found a giant spiral that kept swirling in one place. No one dared to check it for a period of time until the kingdom mobilized its army to check into it, but none came back.

"Instead of them, there were hundreds of worms like the one you killed coming out, decimating the city. We fought them but could only kill half of them before seventy of our forces were wiped out.

"At that time, my father dragged my brother and me to flee along with twenty percent of our force. My brother...I mean, the second prince and the first princess fought to let us escape with the little soldiers they had.

"Night after night, we kept escaping, but the worms still managed to get us. And now, we didn't even have one percent of our power and needed to settle down in this city, the farthest place in our kingdom's territory. Even our father... No, his majesty needed to bring up the rear just for us to reach this place."

Alex narrowed his eyes. "So, that's why this place is so poor. And that's how the proud princess is reduced to be someone like this."

The princess wanted to rebuke him, but she couldn't. Alex was simply right and spotted on.

"So, what do you want from me?" Alex asked after confirming that the portal indeed had manifested. It seemed his time would be quicker than he expected.

"I...No, we need daily necessities. But water is fine." She only told him one item because Alex was alone. There was no way he had the ability to bring so many items. At the very least, through her sacrifice, they would get one daily necessity.

Alex closed his eyes for a minute.

"We don't really need much. There is a pond behind us. If we buy water from another country, it will only be two thousand Bils. After that, you...You can do anything to me." She thought Alex closed his eyes because he couldn't afford to do it, so she lowered it even more.

At the very least, the pond would let them and the whole city last for a month without needing to worry about water. It was the first step to rebuild their kingdom.

Alex gradually opened his eyes and asked. "Why don't you ask something from another place?"

"We had. And they also had sent reinforcement. However, their armies were also wiped out, and they finally abandoned us because they couldn't take it anymore. Some were still hiding under the sand, so we couldn't really move out of this city easily."

"Hmm..." Alex contemplated for a second.

"Then...As long as you can help us with anything, I...I can still offer myself to you." She lowered it again. This was a normal trick of a merchant, but it also showed how desperate she was in this kind of situation.

"Come back tomorrow, and we can talk about this. I don't care who is talking to me tomorrow." Alex decided to send her off the room.

Noticing this, the princess looked down. Sadly, the hope that her brother found seemed to be unable to do anything. She was only thankful because Alex wasn't one of the lustful people, so she didn't need to offer herself for nothing.

However, him asking her to leave also meant that there was a chance for Alex to leave this place during the night.

With a person at his level, there wasn't someone who could stop him from leaving.

Either way, she had no chance of convincing him. Rather than displeasing him, she better returned to not make their current situation even worse under Alex's wrath.

After she left, Alex finally had the time to think.

[So, you are going to help them?]

"It's better this way, right? They are easier to trade than other territories that have abandoned them. In this desperate situation, one man's trash is another man's treasure."

[I see what you are doing. Information is the last thing they need, especially on the verge of being destroyed. On the other hand, water bottles, food, or clothes were treasures for them, especially since you have so many of them.]

"Yes. Thanks to a certain someone from giving me this much."

[That someone is your past self, you know. It's true that I gave you in the beginning, but you couldn't claim it anymore when the Inventory was opened fully. Everything there was yours to take, including one planet's worth of water that could last them for thousands of years.]

"Tch." Alex clicked his tongue and sighed. "In any case, they won't easily suspect me from getting information about this world since I am a "wanderer." Unlike the other countries, they wouldn't agree with my terms and would surely try to follow my movement."

[Indeed.]

"Hence, I am going to use this place as a base of operation. The investigation will probably take a few days, planting the seal won't take too long either, and I will do the trial run for two weeks? Anyway, I will round it up to a month."

[Understood. What are you going to do in the meantime? There is no night in this place, you know.]

"Just train until everyone in this place falls asleep." Alex finally closed his eyes for a second while observing the others in this place. After a few hours, the activity started becoming lesser and lesser.

"Still, I am surprised they can make a cool place like this even though they are under the sun for as long as they can remember."

[True. This is an amazing sight to see. And I believe the other side is cold because it never sees the sun. And if we calculate its distance from the two suns, I think it's the most habitable planet in that solar system.]

"Fair enough. If not, they won't live in this place. Well, I wonder what will happen during the evolution."

[Many things. The energy becomes far too dense for a normal world to handle, so there will be many disturbances from Fire Disturbances to Space Disturbances. Portals will start to appear and connect the two worlds. Tsunamis, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and so on. You name it.]

"I see. Natural disasters, huh. There will be typhoons for wind disturbance and so on." Alex nodded in understanding.

[Yep. It's amazing to see from our perspective, but it's a nightmare for the people in that world. And after surviving, they need to endure the invasion from other planets.]

"It feels like using this opportunity makes it look like I am fishing in muddy water."

[You have given them enough benefits that can be equal to when they are living normally. Besides, they indeed need that power if they want to get stronger. At least, strong enough to survive in this cruel world. I mean, the portal will become stable over time, so before that time, the other worlds can only send people at a certain cultivation stage. As you know, you need to consolidate your cultivation after breaking through. That's the same concept, and it will take a few years or decades, depending on the world.]

"I see. No wonder." Alex nodded and rose from his seat. "I think it's time for me to go to that pond."

[Alright.]

Alex sneaked out of his room and searched for the so-called pond.

There was indeed a pond, but it seemed to be a bit small.

"Hmm...Around one month of supply if they are using it wisely." Alex calculated the size of the pond.

[I agree. But with people in here not having enough water, they will be a bit greedy in the first few days. So, you need to chip down a few days.]

"Right. It's the same for a poor person that becomes rich overnight. They will spend many things for the things they don't need consciously or unconsciously." Alex nodded with a serious expression. "Anyway, I think three Water Tanks are enough."

[Yes. Probably need one or two more gallons if you want to fill it to the brim.]

"We will see." Alex nodded and stepped on the pond. It seemed to be a man-made pond to catch rainwater or something. They even put bricks to make sure the sand wasn't around it. At the very least, it was good storage unless the people broke in and stole this water.

He waved his hands, summoning three water tanks. The tanks had a shape of a cylinder and contained around thirty thousand liters of water.

Since he didn't want to make a commotion or a sound, he used his Sound Insulation Array and opened the tanks, pouring the water into the pond.

Luckily, the holes were huge enough, so it only took him two minutes to empty the tanks, and no one saw him doing this.

It was almost full, and just like Lin Xingzhi said, he only needed a few more gallons to fill it. However, Alex didn't do it because of several reasons.

This water was only him showing his ability. In other words, he only wanted them to know that he had the ability to provide them what they needed. As long as they showed their sincerity, he would give them.

[Today's objective is complete then?]

"Yep." Alex nodded.

[I bet they will come to you soon.]

"Probably. But let's see what they have to offer tomorrow." Alex smiled and waved his hand again, retracting the Sound Insulation Array. He then disappeared from the pond, returning to his room.