

Gacha 701

Chapter 701 - Pre-Banquet

Two weeks later,

Inside an inn right in front of the banquet would be held, Alex was looking outside of his window from the very top floor.

"I wonder if there is going to be an action or something..." Alex sighed and recalled a certain story.

"Normally, I would be asked to perform something before they start shaming me. Unfortunately, I don't really have a talent for poems and such... As for Alchemist, I doubt they are going to host an Alchemy Competition, considering it would take too long."

"You only need to slap their face and beat them brutally in the fighting, especially if that Eric Hinga goes to the stage. However, I heard that he is going to attend alongside two 8-Star Martial Saints, so it will be hard for us to kill them." A woman's voice resounded behind him as Anna made his appearance.

After some considerations, Alex chose not to have so many people accompanying him, especially when he realized that the war would happen in a few years. Only Anna, Leoz, and Neon ended up following him. Anya and Firia were holding the fort back in the forest.

"True enough. Well, I am here just to see the other geniuses and meet Song Jiaoren. If our situation is not complicated like this, I won't come to this banquet." He sighed.

"We have been killing monsters for so long, and Neon can finally release his strength as a 5-Star Martial Monarch. Luckily, he can catch up due to the fact it is easier for SR Spirits to level up than UR Spirits. So, you can ask him without hesitation if you need some information. He is a Ghost Spirit after all." Anna walked toward him and looked outside.

"Yeah. Leoz is also here to be my bodyguard." Alex nodded before furrowing his eyebrows.

"What are you watching?" Anna paused for a moment and grinned. "Are you searching for a scene where a man gets trampled by a carriage, which turns out to be a young master's carriage, and the man fights back and slaps the young master?"

"Oi, don't say it like that." Alex shrugged and pointed out his finger at a certain person walking toward the banquet hall.

"That is..." Anna was slightly surprised and found a familiar blonde guy followed by a few people and elders. "I see. That is Song Jiaoren."

Alex nodded. "Yeah. Our true target."

"Are you going to meet him with your mask?" Anna asked with an unsure tone. "I mean, your face is already all over the world, including this continent, because the Fire God Clan decided to spread the information about you. I think it is futile to put on your mask. I am sure that everyone will also recognize you."

"Yeah. There is no one who would put on a mask for a banquet like this except me. So, I think I won't put my mask on and never again." Alex nodded with a solemn expression.

"Do you need me to accompany you?"

"For what? If it's for other guys to hit on you and bring me troubles, I will go alone. It's not like I don't want you to accompany me, but our situation is a bit complicated." Alex let out a long sigh. "I don't want to get more enemies after this before solving the Fire God Clan."

"This is just my curiosity, but... When are you planning to attack the Fire God Clan?" Anna asked.

"When I reach 5-Star Martial Saints, I guess. If I don't have all of you, I will attack them only after I reach 8-Star Martial Saint. But it is far different when you are with me. All of you can reach 10-Star Martial Saints before I reach 8-Star Martial Saint. I feel like I am still useless." Alex sighed.

"If we don't have your system, we won't have that strength." Anna shrugged, even though the real reason was because they only regained the strength they sealed before becoming his Summoned Spirits.

After Song Jiaoren entered without much problem, it was Evelyn's turn to show up. She was followed by a few disciples behind her, but there were two extraordinary disciples. The first one was a female who seemed to be a master of a sword, while the other was a male. Without much thinking, Alex realized it was him, the one that pursued Evelyn.

Alex squinted his eyes, trying to see this man, albeit got slightly disappointed. He seemed to have a rash but scheming personality that could be taken advantage of.

He quickly ignored the man and smiled upon seeing Evelyn. "To think that little girl back then has grown."

"Fufu, Evelyn is one of the top beauties in this continent, you know. Many young men are waiting for her to grace them with her love before Evelyn's strength overtakes them." Anna chuckled.

"They won't have a chance after that." Alex shrugged. "I just wish for a man who has a genuine feeling for her. Nothing else."

"Then, why don't you take her as one of your wives?" Anna grinned, teasing Alex.

Alex didn't answer, or he refused to answer. Not even a word was coming out of his mouth until the next influences appeared.

"That is Snow White Mountain."

He immediately furrowed his eyebrows when he found a woman with light-blue hair. There was only one reason for him to have an interest in her. "I see. That female is the one who gets Letizia's Sacrificial Element. Does she know that her elders will sacrifice her later? In any case, I will make sure to ruin the ritual three years from now."

"You should probably meet Letizia while you are at it. After all, it has been a few years since she first locked up."

"Yeah." Alex nodded in agreement. "I will visit her first before I ruin their plan... Maybe plant my Space Mark, so I can forcefully save her if they decide to kill her."

"Noel is watching her, so she will inform you if something happens to her."

Alex nodded and watched the next group, led by a fierce young man. The first impression he gave was that of a ferocious beast. He never thought that someone from the Ancient Blue Family would be something like this.

"That is the current successor of Ancient Blue Family, Rio. He would be the first candidate to be the Family Head in a few years. Unlike the other influences, Ancient Blue Family let them become their successor as soon as they reached 1-Star Martial Saint." Anna introduced him.

"This Ancient Blue Family seems to be unique?" Alex asked.

"Yeah. Usually, the Ancient Blue Family would let their successor fight among themselves. This is to make sure that their next head will be strong and have some brains. However, there is also a lack of disciples because of this. There were many deaths every time this happened. That's why they always think about benefits first and somehow become easier to be controlled."

"Hmm... I think it is best for us to wait until that person becomes the family head then? After all, we can easily scare him. I can ask Song Jiaoren and Old Manness to persuade him altogether and have him concede." Alex smirked as if he had already formulated the plan in his head.

"It's up to you. However, it's better to wait and see first. The Ancient Blue Family is not stable right now, and it will be worse when they just elect a new head."

Alex nodded. "By the way, what is exactly the requirement to be their family head?"

"Simply reach 2-Star Martial Saint without getting killed," Anna said nonchalantly.

"I see." Alex closed his eyes. "After becoming the official successor, nobody can touch this person?"

"Yeah. He will be protected by the family, and anyone who wants to take revenge will experience worse than they can imagine." Anna nodded.

Alex thought that the trade with Song Jiaoren would determine how he can bribe the Ancient Blue Family. "Well, we can also have the Ancient Blue Family to act according to our will, such as inviting the Fire God Clan to make a big war only to find they are deserted by their ally, Ancient Blue Family. After that, we can thoroughly exterminate the Fire God Clan."

"Yeah. It will be a nice psychological attack as well, minimizing our loss."

He then took a look at another influence.

"That one is the only successor of Phantasm Sect. Their cultivation is unique since they can form their own weapon from their blood. This is a unique specialty only to their disciples. Of course, only Senior Disciples and Elders are qualified to learn the technique."

"That is truly unique. How is the strength of their weapon? If they are powerful..." Alex fell into silence.

"It is related to the strength of their soul, but it can be compared to rank 8 weapon if their strength is strong enough." Anna narrowed her eyes. "That's why we often sold our Abyss Soul Pills toward them directly, instead of Blackwade Clan, to maximize the profit. Of course, if the weapon is broken, they would suffer a terrible injury."

"They are a neutral influence, right?"

"Yeah. There is no big movement from them, especially toward the fight between us and the Fire God Clan."

Alex nodded with a solemn look and noticed a person behind him. She was wearing a big head with a veil hiding her look. However, Alex sensed familiarity in her.

Anna didn't realize this and said to Alex, breaking his curiosity. "They have come, so we should enter as well."

He nodded and recalled Anna back to the card as he walked toward the entrance.

Two guards were waiting in front of the banquet hall and quickly stopped him. "Halt! Who are you?"

They couldn't see Alex's face due to his mask, but they saw a white paper in his hand. Although the name was Seven Influences Banquet, they also invited a few small families and wanted to see if there was a hidden genius among them. The seven influences could recruit them if they took fancy of their strength.

That was why they realized Alex must be one of them. However, they found it rude to enter after the Seven Influences, making them think, who the hell are you?

Alex paid no attention and gave the invitation to them.

The guard took the invitation and checked whether it was a real invitation or not before letting him in.

A female maid bowed to him as she said, "Welcome, Esteemed Guest. I will guide you to the Banquet Hall."

Alex nodded and followed the maid. The hall itself was huge, considering they hosted so many people at once and would host a fighting competition. Yet, it was still filled with tables for the time being for the sake of the real banquet.

"I will lead you to your seat." The female maid stretched her hand, asking Alex to proceed to his right.

Of course, this type of action would invite much attention, especially Blackwade Clan's Song Jiaoren. Alex chose this timing because the Fire God Clan had yet to arrive. Hence, he quickly searched for Song Jiaoren and found them in the very front sitting alone at his table. There was an empty chair, but no one seemed to dare sit on that chair.

Only after realizing Alex had come, Song Jiaoren stretched his hand as if he was asking him to sit there.

Alex nodded and ignored the maid as he made his way toward Song Jiaoren. The other participants were stunned, making the room silence while the maid had cold feet.

There were two women that widened their eyes when they saw this mysterious masked man before many started realizing his identity.

Albeit, Alex had arrived and sat in front of Song Jiaoren.

This was the man that had been haunting the entire Heavenly Continent and his peaceful day, Song Jiaoren smiled inwardly as he wanted to see what he got. He cupped his hands politely and made a big smile. "We finally meet."

Alex nodded and took off his mask, revealing his handsome face along with his golden hair. He cupped his hands and smiled. "I have been looking forward to meeting you for the past few years."

Hiss~!

Chapter 702 - Blackwade Clan's Secret

"I have been looking forward to meeting you for the past few years." Alex cupped his hands and smiled.

Hiss~!

Although his portrait had been spread all over the continent, no one recognized his face with a single glance. It took them a minute before one of them muttered.

"Is that Alexander Sirius?"

"Alexander Sirius? The leader of Spirit Nest?"

"That mysterious influence that is rumored to be the eighth big influence?"

The people started talking among themselves, but for Alex and Song Jiaoren, the commotions were insignificant. Both of them were studying themselves and had yet to utter a single word after the greeting.

"I want to talk about many things... But I suggest it's better if we talk privately, don't you think so?" Song Jiaoren asked with a smile.

"True enough. I am sure you are sitting here because you are waiting for me, right?" Alex smiled while glancing at a few private rooms that had been filled with people from Seven Great Influences.

"Indeed. Let's go to Blackwade Clan Private Room. I will ask all of them to go out first while we are talking." Song Jiaoren rose from his seat and stretched his hand, asking Alex to follow him.

Alex nodded and followed him upstairs as the previous maid guided them. She never thought that the person she guided earlier was a big shot.

As soon as they arrived at the private room, Song Jiaoren said. "I apologize to all of you, but can you leave the room first? I want a private space with this gentleman."

No one dared to raise an objection because they knew what Spirit Nest was. With the two leaders talking to each other, they would just invite their deaths if they stayed inside.

However, the moment they opened their door to go outside, a young girl suddenly appeared and ran toward Alex before clinging to his neck.

"Big Brother Alex! Hehe..."

"Evelyn?!" Alex was startled to see Evelyn this aggressive.

"It's been so long since the last time we met." Evelyn grinned before glancing at Song Jiaoren, who simply closed his eyes.

"Are you good in the Drunken Pavilion? Did Elder Manness bully you or something?" Alex asked worriedly.

"No. I am fine. Master has been teaching me patiently this whole time, and it's thanks to your past training that I can reach 5-Star Martial Monarch at this speed." Evelyn released her hands and puffed her chest as she was proud of herself.

"That's good." Alex nodded with a smile. "Although I want to talk more with you, I have another thing to do. Can you wait for a little bit? I will talk to you later."

"Fine." She pouted and walked back. "I have many things to share with big brother Alex."

Alex waved his hand to her before his smile faded as he looked at Song Jiaoren with a serious expression.

"I have heard about your relationship with Drunken Pavilion's Evelyn, but this is the first time I see it. It seems you are more intimate than the report." Song Jiaoren checked Alex's expression.

Alex didn't answer him and simply took out his Supreme VIP Card.

"!!!" Song Jiaoren narrowed his eyes and asked. "May I check it?"

Alex nodded and placed the card on the table.

Song Jiaoren took out his card and placed it near Alex's Supreme VIP Card. The two cards started glowing in red color, making Alex somewhat confused. He vaguely remembered that it was blue when Song Yu checked it, but to think it suddenly changed. Alex started becoming nervous as he wondered if something was wrong with his card.

"Red?!" Song Jiaoren gasped as he looked at Alex with a shocked face. "This... I am sorry for my previous rudeness, Sir Alexander."

Alex tilted his head in confusion and asked. "Why are you calling me, Sir?"

"For a normal VIP Card, they will shine in Blue Color. However, there is a strict instruction from my family that if someone has ever met a person holding this red card, they need to be respectful." Song Jiaoren answered hurriedly.

'System?' Alex asked inwardly as he remembered that the system would lead him in this situation.

[It's not my time yet. Just act like usual.]

Unfortunately, he got an unsatisfactory response from her. Alex scratched his cheek and asked, "So, what is this card all about?"

"I am afraid I can't say anything about this because I am yet to know whose card you possess. May I know where you got this card?" Song Jiaoren asked politely.

[My wife gave it to me, and she is not from this world. Say it that way, Host.]

Alex twitched his eyebrows but still followed her instruction. "My wife gave it to me, and she is not from this world."

"!!!" Song Jiaoren perfectly understood this meaning and cupped his hands politely. "You are indeed the holder of our Supreme VIP Card. However, I would like to check whose card is this, and I need to check it with the main clan. Will that be alright with you, Sir?"

"Why do you need to check it?"

"As you already know that there are many worlds outside this world, our clan is merely a branch clan. The main clan is the one that has given a few Supreme VIP Cards to other people. That's why I wish to confirm the original possessor of this card. After all, we have been specifically instructed to act according to the card holder because they have their own characteristics."

Alex furrowed his eyebrows and asked. "I have checked this card before, but it shone in blue color."

"I assume you checked it with the Blackwade Clan in the Northern Continent, right?"

"Yeah."

"Then, their cards can only identify a normal VIP Card. Even in our clan, there are only a few cards that can recognize your Supreme VIP Card, and mine is one of them."

"I see." Alex thought for a moment and asked the system. 'Should I accept this invitation?'

[If you want to have their cooperation, it's better to do it early.]

Hearing the answer, Alex nodded. "Fine. We will go to your clan after this banquet. Will that be alright?"

"Thank you for your precious time, Sir." Song Jiaoren bowed to him.

Alex was startled by his sudden reaction and asked the system.

[Blackwade Clan originated from outside this world, and their power is strong with many God Rank Experts inside. I can't say many things and your connection with you, but I can still explain a few things.]

"Tell me what you can." Alex nodded.

[As long as they are not a fool, a branch like them won't dare to hurt you due to that card. The main clan has a decree about the treatment of Supreme VIP Card holders. If they raise their hands against you, the Supreme VIP Card holder can activate the card. The main clan will realize and send their expert toward the branch and exterminate the clan.]

[The real status of Supreme VIP Card holders is that of an Elder in their main clan. That's why the Blackwade Clan in this world is so scared of you and needs to be polite.]

[Of course, it is not easy to get a Supreme VIP Card from the main clan. There are many ways to get this card, but mostly they needed to turn the fate of the entire clan on their rise. Even in the whole universe, there are only six of these Supreme VIP Cards.]

"Such a precious card..." Alex was astonished. "To think I got it in the lower world and it was classified as a Rare Item to boot... I am impressed."

[The system deemed it was a weak and useless card that didn't possess a single power. That was why it was ranked so long.]

"I can relate that. You are always this way, after all." Alex chuckled inwardly. "Anyway, I can understand how big this card is."

Song Jiaoren looked at Alex with a weird expression and thought. 'It's my blessing to meet such a person in this life. According to the record, Alex could ask for a person and elevate their status in the main clan. I will try to serve him to the best of my ability and hope he can make me enter the main clan out there and become a God Rank Expert. Song Jiaoren. This is your once in a lifetime chance, don't waste it.'

For a branch clan, it would always be a dream to enter their main clan. In fact, only him, his father, and his grandfather know the existence of the main clan. If they knew that he could serve a person holding a Supreme VIP Card, they would be overjoyed and asked him to serve him well.

He clenched his hand and nodded before recalling Alex's conflict against the Fire God Clan along with the treacherous First and Third Elders. He would surely report this incident to his father and grandfather as soon as he returned to the clan and have them executed.

Meanwhile, Alex didn't know what he was planning since Lin Xingzhi didn't tell him about it. She wanted Alex to decide it himself in the future.

"Is there anything you want me to do, Sir?" Song Jiaoren asked politely.

"First of all, call me Alex. I feel troubles will come to me if you call me Sir. After all, my status is only the leader of Spirit Nest while you are the young master of Blackwade Clan. Can you do it?" Alex asked.

"As you will, Sir... Albeit, I would like to ask you to spare me because I will still act like this in private."

Alex thought for a moment and nodded. 'To think I get something like this right after meeting the rumored Song Jiaoren. If only you can inform me before this, System.'

[What are you complaining about? There is nothing much that needs to be changed in your plan, right? Don't make me the bad girl.]

'As you say...' Alex sighed inwardly before he noticed another person coming to the great hall.

He had long red hair with a graceful appearance. The maid guided him to the upstairs, signifying his status.

"That is Eric Hinga. Although he has been hidden under his brother's talent, he is harder to deal with than his brother." Song Jiaoren introduced him. "I heard you have some conflicts against the Fire God Clan. Should I kill him?"

"Do you think it's possible? He has two 8-Star Martial Saints." Alex looked at him.

Song Jiaoren fell into silence. "It will be hard because those elders will surely come to his aid. We have brought our elders as well, but I doubt we can kill him on this opportunity. And considering how his brain works, I am afraid he still has another trump card that makes him confident to come to this banquet."

Alex stroked his chin as he fell into deep thought. "We will go to your place first before discussing this. I will let him have his moment this time."

"I understand."

As soon as Eric entered his room, the walls and ceilings around them suddenly moved as if it was swallowed by the floor. It turned out that the room itself was made of soft material, and it was folded in such a way that they could open it.

This way, there was no so-called room and let the participants enjoy the banquet with each other. To his surprise, beside his room was the Phantasm Sect room.

His eyes met with the current successor of Phantasm Sect, Astennu. However, his attention was distracted by the woman on his side, which gave him a sense of familiarity.

He activated his Spirit Eyes out of curiosity as he sensed that the woman had the strength of a 3-Star Martial Monarch.

Suddenly, Astennu sent a thought transmission to him.

'Someone wants to meet you, Alexander Sirius. In fact, she is coming with me just to meet you, and she said you are a careful person, so I will say this first. I am not someone who wants to fight you, that's all. You will regret it if you don't meet her, so if you are interested, you can come to Izakura Inn, a bit farther from this place. We are staying on the top floor.'

"!!!"

Chapter 703 - Song Jiaoren and Eric Hinga

"!!!"

Alex immediately locked his eyes on Astennu. 'She is coming for me?'

There wasn't a single person coming to his mind.

Seeing there was a sense of familiarity in her, she should be someone he knew, but he knew everyone had a good life, except...

"!!!" Alex opened his mouth slightly as he never expected to have such an answer. He knew the conditions of all his acquaintances, but there was a single female that he didn't know. It was Song Yu.

Now that he thought about it, he could see that the energy inside her body was similar to that of Song Yu's. A blue sword was inside her body when he first saw with Spirit Eyes, which threw his mind. If he erased that sword and thought for a moment, he was certain that she was Song Yu.

He didn't know how she ended up with Astennu, but at the very least, he knew she was alright after seeing her current strength and Spiritual Energy.

'To think I meet with Senior Sister this way...' Alex chuckled inwardly before replying to Astennu. 'Sure. I will be visiting you tonight.'

'Sir?' Song Jiaoren noticed Alex's change of expression and furrowed his eyebrows.

'Nothing.' Alex shook his head.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very thankful for your visit to this Seven Influences Banquet." Suddenly, a woman's soft voice echoed in the room as people started looking at the stage.

A silver-haired girl slowly walked toward the stage. She wore a white ceremonial uniform coupled with a long white robe. Even so, it didn't manage to decrease her gracefulness. Instead, it boosted her charm even further.

Alex activated his Spirit Eyes and realized she was a 1-Star Martial Saint as well.

Song Jiaoren didn't know whether Alex knew this person or not, so he introduced her. "She is the crown princess of this Divine Kingdom, Elizabeth. It could be said she is the most talented person among the princes and princesses.

"From what I know, she single-handedly made the other princes and princesses submit under her. That's why the king decided to have her become the Crown Princess... And probably, she will be the absolute queen of the Divine Kingdom. Many people are trying to be her suitors, but none of them can get her heart.

"At that time, she simply said none of you are qualified to be with me. After that, there are not many that dare to try impressing her. However, there is still one opposition coming from Prince Julius. He is also a wise man and able to stand toe to toe against her because the King's faction supports him. Unfortunately, in individual charm and characteristic alone, she is still far ahead from Julius." Song Jiaoren explained.

"Mhm. I am not really interested in the Throne feud. I know they are fighting, considering the old-fashioned king wants his son to succeed the throne and doesn't want to see a woman sitting on the throne. Meanwhile, her faction wants her because they are completely subdued by force. From talent and character alone, I can say that she will become a better Monarch than that Julius... As for whether who would win or lose, I don't really care." Alex nodded without any change of expression. He just showed that he had no interest in her.

He already had prior information about this from his spies and paid no attention since they would be busy with other things.

With Alex's status alone as the Supreme VIP Card holder, he could destroy the Blackwade Clan and the Divine Kingdom easily, let alone the fact that his wife was the one who gave him the card. There was only one possibility. Alex's wife was a God Rank Expert. Elizabeth couldn't be compared to that person. Song Jiaoren thought they could have Julius as the king while marrying Elizabeth since she will be a powerful expert in the future... Albeit, she couldn't be compared to God Rank Expert. Hence, he didn't mention it again.

Unlike him, Alex was more interested in another thing. 'Elizabeth? Don't tell me that this Divine Kingdom is actually alternate England?'

"For the first part of this banquet, let us have the performances from our Divine Kingdom first." Elizabeth, who didn't know their conversations, smiled and continued the event before a few dancers came to the stage. Elizabeth then walked out of the stage while taking a glance at Alex.

Alex furrowed his eyebrows, wondered why she glanced at him and thought, 'It seems that I need to watch the Divine Kingdom closely after this. Well, Nicole is in the Blackwade Clan, Ngina is with Rose, Nano is in Ancient Blue Family, and Neon is with me currently. As for the SR spirits, Noel and Nicky are in Snow White Mountain, Noah is in this kingdom, while Njomo and Natalie are in the Fire God Clan.

'Should I ask Neon to stay in this kingdom?' Alex thought for a moment and decided to observe the situation first. He had a whole day to observe her intention after all.

After finishing his thought, he watched the performances quietly until Elizabeth appeared again.

"The purpose of this banquet is to have the younger generations show their talents. That's why if anyone wants to show their talents in front of everyone, please come to the stage." Elizabeth smiled before glancing at Alex again as if she was inviting him to go to the stage.

Alex paid no attention as a man raised his hand.

"Alright. Let's have this gentleman here to perform something for us." Elizabeth still maintained her smile before giving the time and place for the man.

However, something unexpected happened. As soon as he entered the stage, the next thing he said was a complete bullsh*t. "I would like to ask a question first. All of us here are well known in the world, but one person is different from all of us. He suddenly appeared out of nowhere and made a mess. I am wondering why he would even appear in this banquet?"

Without him saying the name of that man, everyone could already guess who it was as they stared at Alexander Sirius. They knew this action was completely challenging Alex's authority.

"You—!" Elizabeth wanted to stop him, but another unexpected thing happened.

Song Jiaoren stood up and shouted. "So, you have chosen death? Daring to question Alexander Sirius from Spirit Nest, it seems you are also trying to provoke us, Blackwade Clan?"

"What?!" Everyone, including Elizabeth, dropped their jaws, never expecting Song Jiaoren to stand up like this.

He simply snorted. "You are just a clown that doesn't know anything. I think this bullsh*t talent show is not worthy of everyone's time. How about we skip this and begin the fighting competition right now? That is the main event, right?"

Elizabeth had no words to answer. She would never expect Song Jiaoren to become this aggressive. On the other hand, Alex was watching the show in complete silence before Evelyn also rose from her seat.

"Indeed. I think this banquet is boring. Rather than watching someone perform his talent as a clown, I think it's better to have a fighting competition right now. Seeing he is 5-Star Martial Monarch, how about fighting against me, lest you say Young Master Song Jiaoren bullying the weak?" Evelyn looked at the stage coldly as she released her killing intent.

Phantasm Sect didn't do anything. However, Astennu was laughing inwardly as he was watching something amusing. He glanced at the woman and sent a thought transmission. 'To think the situation becomes interesting like this...'

'It is his charm.' The woman answered while smiling behind her veil.

Elizabeth tried to calm down the situation. "I think everyone should calm down."

"We are completely calm, Princess Elizabeth. Just take a look at my friend, Alexander, he is completely cool with all of this. However, I can't take this insult. I am by no means disrespecting you, but I certainly can't sit idle when someone dares to do this in front of me." Song Jiaoren then glanced at Eric Hinga.

"No. I think I should say thank you for inviting such a clown. What do you think, Eric Hinga? Are you up for a round?"

Eric Hinga narrowed his eyes.

Without anyone talking about it, they already knew that the only reason why a 'clown' could act that blatantly must be because he had a backing. And the only one that qualified and had a grudge with Alex would only be the successor of Fire God Clan, Eric Hinga.

Of course, there was no way he would admit it. He simply smiled and looked at Elizabeth. "This is the banquet hosted by the Divine Kingdom. It's not nice to suddenly move the schedule forward. I will let the Princess handle this matter."

Elizabeth released his Spiritual Energy as she was annoyed to the core. Looking at the man on the stage with killing intent, she asked, "So, what do you want to perform? If you don't have anything, you can go out and never come back."

Song Jiaoren laughed and praised Elizabeth. "Princess Elizabeth is indeed a woman of a character. Now, this event is asking for someone to perform their talents. The problem is, I wonder if there is anyone who wants to perform their talents?"

He also leaked his Spiritual Energy and killing intent in the room, making no one dared to perform.

Elizabeth looked at Song Jiaoren. "How about we end it right now, Young Master Song Jiaoren? Can you please give me some face?"

Alex released his Spiritual Energy a little bit and glared at Song Jiaoren. To everyone's surprise, he suddenly fell into silence and cupped his hands to Elizabeth. "Since Princess Elizabeth has said so, how can I not give you?"

Hiss~!

All of them knew that Song Jiaoren decided to retreat because of Alex, not Elizabeth. However, Elizabeth used this chance to calm the situation down. "Since the situation has been settled... How about we continue the event? Don't worry. If this situation happens again, I won't have them leave anymore because they won't be able to leave."

The people gulped down. Elizabeth was really pissed this time to the point she didn't mind killing people that dared to make a ruckus. Her aura was ready to fight even with the other big influences, but she was still smiling and continued. "Whoever wants to show us their talents, please come to the front."

After this incident, there were three people coming to the stage. Unfortunately, they couldn't perform their best because they were performing under the intense glare from Song Jiaoren, Elizabeth, Alexander, Eric Hinga, Evelyn, and Astennu.

Elizabeth was forced to move the schedule forward and hosted the fighting competition right away.

"It seems that everyone is eager to see the fighting competition. Let's start the last event for today's banquet then." She smiled as she snapped her finger before a barrier enveloped the arena. "This is a rank 8 Barrier Array that we prepare for today's fighting competition. That's why you can use all your power without worry. So, who wants to fight?"

The hall became silent before Song Jiaoren stood up once again.

Alex was confused as to why he would stand up like this. 'What are you doing?'

'I am going to fight Eric Hinga.'

'Are you planning to kill him?'

'I want to kill him if possible. However, I am only a 1-Star Martial Saint while he is a peak 10-Star Martial Monarch, close to Martial Saint. That's why I am afraid it's impossible to kill him, but I have another plan.'

'A plan?'

'Yes. I might not be able to kill him in a single strike, but I can heavily injure him or do some irreplaceable damage. My elders would protect me anyway if his elders interfere.'

'But how about your face or your clan's face?'

'It's completely insignificant. If my clan knows about this, they will shut up as soon as they know about the Supreme VIP Card. Besides, our face can be reclaimed by destroying the Fire God Clan. This might be some foolish action in your eyes, but this is also the time for me to prove that the Blackwade Clan is supporting you. Besides, won't it become easier for you to convince the Ancient Blue Family this way?'

Alex narrowed his eyes. As Song Jiaoren said, if the Ancient Blue Family knew that they would fight against Spirit Nest and Blackwade Clan, they would need to think twice before joining forces with Fire God Clan.

With the addition of Drunken Pavilion, they would think the Fire God Clan had been surrounded by three big influences and would certainly finish the discussion.

Song Jiaoren looked rash, but he had done his homework and thought before he made his decision. This was certainly astonishing.

Alex thought for a moment and sighed. 'Do what you want.'

'Thank you.' Song Jiaoren nodded and leaped to the stage.

"Oh, Young Master Song seems to want a fight. I wonder who you want to challenge? I need to remind you first that anything can happen in the battle." Elizabeth narrowed her eyes.

"Thank you for your warning, Princess. I also apologize for my rudeness before."

"Please don't mind."

Song Jiaoren nodded and glanced at Eric Hinga. "Young Master Eric. How about we have a round on the stage? I always want to see the Fire God Clan genius that has been shadowed by their first young master. Or everything is simply a lie?"

Chapter 704 - Picking a Fight with Alex? Really?

"Young Master Eric. How about we have a round on the stage? I have wanted to see the genius from the Fire God Clan that has been shadowed by their first young master. Or everything is simply a lie?"

The taunt resounded across the hall as everyone looked at Eric.

"Young Master." The two 8-Star Martial Saint Elders were looking at him.

"Fighting against him is my fault. However, seeing that Blackwade Clan is indeed siding with Spirit Nest, we will need to show our prowess as our reputation has taken a huge hit not long ago. If I don't take this fight, our clan might even start declining as soon as the information spread. To think I have been checkmated with a single misstep. I have miscalculated the relationship between Spirit Nest and Blackwade Clan." Eric narrowed his eyes and released his killing intent.

"If Young Master go to the stage, there is a possibility—"

Before the elder finished, Eric shook his head and said. "No. Song Jiaoren won't be able to kill me in this fight. Besides, I have a treasure from my father... I mean, the Patriarch. Rather than getting bullied on the stage, it's better to strike back. After all, the Blackwade Clan would suffer a big hit if he lost against me.

"Not only does he look like he is bullying me, but he is also losing miserably. That's why I will accept this fight. You two should watch out against Blackwade Clan's elders. Make sure they won't come to the stage later."

The elders looked at each other and nodded. "We understand."

Eric smirked evilly. "If I manage to cripple Blackwade Clan's status, I can surely break the alliance between Blackwade Clan and Spirit Nest. This way, the Ancient Blue Family would have more assurance to ally with the Fire God Clan and destroy the Spirit Nest with us."

Song Jiaoren and Eric Hinga. Both were having their own intention in fighting, and once they lost, they and their influences would surely be in trouble. Who would win? Everyone wanted to see it as well.

Eric stood up and glanced at Song Jiaoren. "Since Young Master Song Jiaoren wants to guide me, how can I not accept?"

The audiences gulped down as they never expected Eric to accept the duel. They looked at Eric, who flew toward the stage and looked at Elizabeth.

"I would love to fight Young Master Song Jiaoren, but I am afraid there might be someone pulling some tricks on me, I wonder what should I do, Princess?"

Elizabeth narrowed her eyes and glanced at Alex. His Pure Fire was already spread together with his picture, so she knew what Eric meant.

"As Young Master Eric Hinga said, I would like to request you to not release your Pure Fire, so the fight could proceed without any problem. What do you think, Mister Alexander Sirius?" Elizabeth asked politely.

"I won't do anything." Alex shrugged.

"Then, with mister Alexander's assurance, the fight can be held. I hope I don't need to use my hands because of interference." Elizabeth put another warning to Alex.

Alex didn't care and yawned, watching Song Jiaoren and Eric Hinga enter the stage.

At the same time, Evelyn also walked toward Alex with her senior brother and senior sister.

"Big brother Alex." Evelyn thought this was a nice time to visit Alex, considering there was no more Song Jiaoren.

"Oh, Evelyn." Alex thought this was also a nice time to have a conversation with her since he needed to visit Astennu later. "How are you?"

"Hehe... I am closing in with Big Brother Alex. Only three stars more." Evelyn grinned as she flaunted her 5-Star Martial Monarch strength.

"It seems you are confident in challenging me," Alex teased her with a smile.

"I am confident." Evelyn puffed her chest before she added. "In fighting against Big Brother Alex for twenty rounds."

Everyone widened their eyes. Alex was only an 8-Star Martial Monarch while Evelyn was a 5-Star Martial Monarch. The three stars difference could be said to be huge but also not. Evelyn was a genius at a different level that could defeat 6-Star Martial Monarch with ease due to her high-level swordsmanship and Fire Element. That was why she should be able to handle 8-Star Martial Monarch for a few hundred rounds. Yet, she said she was confident to fight Alex for a short twenty rounds?

Alex ignored their shock and smiled. "Oh. To think Evelyn can talk like this. Should we have a match?"

"Big brother wants to bully Evelyn?" Evelyn pouted. "I was saying that only if you didn't improve like crazy. But knowing big brother Alex, I am sure you have evolved to something absurd. I am afraid I won't be able to handle ten rounds."

Alex patted her head and laughed. "Haha... I am not a monster like what you described. You should be more confident in yourself."

Evelyn smiled. "Hehe..."

Looking at how intimate Alex and Evelyn was, the senior brother was filled with jealousy. He had been following Evelyn and treating her well. He was also a famous person in the sect, and many women wanted to be his. Only Evelyn was different. She had strength, talent, and beauty. She was a godsend for him. That was why he couldn't contain this feeling anymore.

Suddenly, he gritted his teeth and walked forward before trying to hug Evelyn.

"It seems you have taken care of my Evelyn this whole time. I, her boyfriend, shall thank you for your effort." He smirked.

However, before his hands reached Evelyn, the latter already disappeared, so he fell down to the ground.

"Lecher. Who is my boyfriend? You are not qualified." Evelyn snorted.

"You—!"

Alex sighed inwardly as he felt it was coming.

"The eighth big influence? Don't joke with me. Do you think I believe there is such a thing? You only fight against the Fire God Clan to gather attention. Look at the situation of the continent, and everyone will know that Spirit Nest is always hiding. You must be afraid of the Fire God Clan!" He shouted directly at Alex.

On the other hand, Alex didn't say anything and simply looked at Evelyn with a disappointed expression. "Seriously, him? Let me guess his identity. He is the son of an elder or something?"

"Ye-yeah." Evelyn nodded furiously as if she was scared. She had seen this type of expression on Alex's face before. Alex was really pissed by this direct confrontation.

"A son of an elder, but why is he retarded?" Alex facepalmed. "First of all, he can't even study the situation properly. Then he is asking me to kill him by saying this directly to my face. Lastly, he seems to be not afraid that I will kill him."

"Mhm... Mister Alexander, how about we call this a day? I will apologize on his behalf." On the other hand, the woman behind Evelyn seemed to notice something.

"What? Why are you scared? I am not like you. This is how big I love Evelyn."

"Scared? First of all, are you sure you can represent the entire Drunken Pavilion? If you can't even speak for them, you should shut up and know your place." Alex sighed. "How big is your love? Then are you telling me that fighting another influence while you can't even stand up for your own influence would do you any good? I can only see a retarded love."

"What did you say?!" He grabbed Alex's collar in anger.

"Let me guess again. He has so many pursuers that want to be his women, but he said he gives up on all of them just to pursue you. Hence, you shall respond to him by becoming his woman?" Alex glanced at Evelyn.

"How can big brother know?"

"I learned a lot from 'Literature' books." Alex shrugged. "Well, you will have a hard life if you are with him. Who knows when you will be abandoned if he finds another one."

"That's why I am rejecting him this whole time. He is a pest." She pouted.

"Say..." Alex looked at Evelyn. "If I kill him here, would Elder Manness pursue me?"

"Master won't," Evelyn answered without hesitation.

"Junior Sister... Don't pour more oil." The Senior Sister sighed. "I am Angela, Master Manness's first disciple. I would like to apologize for this incident. I will be sure to educate him after this. No matter what happens, I am sure killing is not a good solution, since his father will surely chase you. He is still a 6-Star Martial Saint after all..."

"It's big brother's choice." Evelyn shrugged. "I am sure that Master might kill that elder as well... But he can also let you finish that Elder by yourself. I am sure big brother won't have a hard time against 6-Star Martial Saint, right?"

"You know me well." Alex smiled as he knew Leoz could fight against that 6-Star Martial Saint since he had reached 3-Star Martial Saint. Although there was still a gap of three stars, everything would be solved by his EXP Cards, so he wasn't worried about it.

It seemed the system also ran out of patience by sending him a notification.

[Mission: Kill this idiotic person

Reward: 5 Premium Tickets

Description: Kill this person and let your presence is known, especially to the Ancient Blue Family.]

'Oi! How can the reward be so big when I only need to kill a single 10-Star Martial Monarch?' Alex asked.

[I didn't give you a mission after all the events under the sea, so this is the freebie I can give you. Besides, I am sure you understand the mission, right?]

'Of course. If Evelyn can cooperate with me, I can make it look like the Drunken Pavilion is siding with me. This way, the battle would be three versus two on the surface alone, scaring the Ancient Blue Family. In fact, they might immediately back away from the alliance. After losing their only ally, Fire God Clan would start declining, and we will then strike at them.'

[Fufu... I am ready to give you more and more missions, Host. Of course, this is the only exception. The rest of the mission will be hard for you to achieve.]

'I am looking forward to it. Just make sure the reward is worth it.'

[Don't worry.]

Alex thought for a moment and sighed. "Since you have challenged me, I think it's time to act."

Evelyn opened her mouth in astonishment. "It seems I lost my bet against Master."

"Lost your bet?"

"Yeah. I am betting whether someone from Drunken Pavilion will be killed in this event or not." Evelyn nodded. "It seems Master already knew this would happen."

"What did you say? Do you think I will lose?" The senior brother glared at Evelyn. "Let's bet as well. If I win, you are going to be my woman and will do anything I order you for!"

Evelyn looked at him coldly. "I won't be able to win anything in this bet since you will die. Though I still think it's a good bet, so I will take this ridiculous bet."

"I will fight you after this!" He became angrier and shouted to Alex before walking away.

Alex sighed and looked at Evelyn. "Why did you even accept that bet?"

"Ehm... I think you are not addressing the current problem?" Angela scratched her cheek. She also had Manness's instruction not to do anything, but she still wished nothing would happen. Unfortunately, it seemed this conflict was inevitable.

"It's fine, Senior Sister. There won't be anything wrong with this fight. Besides, Master also wants to kill that Elder, considering he is amassing money illegally and taking away our profit. I think Master will use this chance to eliminate him." Evelyn assured Angela.

"I know that, but..." Angela only wanted to trade and gathered more money for Drunken Pavilion, but everything seemed to revolve around fighting. She had been faint-hearted about this, and it was also the reason why Manness felt he couldn't let her be his successor.

"Senior Sister... You are kind, but most of the time, people will only take advantage of your kindness. If you don't do it, I will do it." Evelyn sighed.

Alex was watching these two happily.

Chapter 705 - Song Jiaren Vs Eric Hinga

From one surprise to another, this was one of the battles that everyone had been waiting for. Even Elizabeth's eyes glued to the arena as she was ignorant that another exciting match would happen right after this.

Not only her, but Song Jiaoren and Eric had their own focus stuck to the person in front of them.

Song Jiaoren took out his sword and smiled. "Are you ready?"

Eric released his Spiritual Energy as his spear appeared in front of him. He grabbed the spear, and the blazing flame gushed out on its tip. Stomping the ground with his spear's butt, Eric announced. "Whenever you are ready."

This was a blatant challenge for Song Jiaoren, but he didn't buy it. He only pointed his sword toward Eric and smiled. "I am looking like I am bullying you. So, you can make the first move."

Eric didn't say anything more and disappeared from the area.

Everyone was looking for him left and right, only to find him a few meters behind Song Jiaoren.

"Undying Flame Spear."

He thrust his spear and shot out a red ball containing a huge amount of Spear Intent and Fire Element.

However, Song Jiaoren already noticed his movement and coated his sword with Sword Intent before slashing his sword backward without even looking.

"Myriad Sword Strike."

The sword split the ball into two without any resistance, passed Song Jiaoren from his sides and exploded as soon as it crashed into the wall.

"Boom!"

Song Jiaoren smiled and turned around, taunting Eric. "Are you using your strength?"

"I'm just afraid that you can't take on my strength." Eric snorted.

The two individuals released their Spiritual Energy to their surroundings before both of them disappeared.

"Myriad Sword Strike!" Song Jiaoren made the first move this time by waving his sword toward Eric's neck.

Eric shifted his spear and let his sword run through his spear's body before blowing it away. He then thrust his spear a few times.

Song Jiaoren didn't lose his sword, so he parried all these thrusts effortlessly.

They continued their clash and made it look like an epic battle. Alex somehow thought he could do it more quickly after entering the Potential Tower. He remembered where he was forced to end the battle as soon as possible when he fought the Space Monsters.

It would be troublesome if he were surrounded by four of them, so he finished the Centaur with all techniques in his repertoire. This battle would probably be the same had he entered the stage. Albeit, he couldn't do something like that in a big battle due to how big the consumption of his Spiritual Energy.

He decided to see what kind of trick Song Jiaoren had in his sleeve.

When he thought about it, Eric released a powerful Fire Energy from his body. Alex was curious because this type of energy was stronger than what he predicted. However, he soon found his answer after activating his Spirit Eyes. "To think he has a trump card like that..."

Song Jiaoren slashed his sword at his arm, planning to heavily injure his right hand.

Clang!

Suddenly, a clashing sound between metal resounded across the hall. It was a sound that shouldn't exist, considering the sword should cut the hand.

Noticing this hardness, Song Jiaoren glared at Eric and gritted his teeth. "To think you are hiding armor underneath your clothes..."

"Hmph! Everything is fair in war." Eric snorted as a red metallic armor was revealed.

Alex closed his eyes and shook his head. "An armor, huh... That must be the reason why he put on extra clothes. It's to hide that armor and use it at this moment."

Now that the armor was revealed, they realized that Eric was seriously going to take down Song Jiaoren in this battle. "Die!"

"Cross Dimensional Slash!" Song Jiaoren still managed to react and passed him again before Eric suddenly spat out gastric fluid from his stomach.

Despite the fact that he didn't actually take any damage, that force alone made his stomach uncomfortable as if he was punched in his stomach.

Song Jiaoren looked at him with a cold gaze. "You can use everything in your Space Ring, but none of them can defeat I, Song Jiaoren."

"Do you think so? Fire Dragon Armor, activate!" The armor initially covered most parts of his body, including his neck and limbs. However, the moment he activated the armor, it released energy that protected his entire body. In other words, Eric looked like he was wearing a full-body armor.

Eric gritted his teeth as he charged at Song Jiaoren again. The clashes between them continued yet again.

Boom Boom Boom!

In the meantime, Evelyn was studying the battle closely before she commented with a frown. "That Song Jiaoren is going to lose like this."

"Why do you think so?" Alex asked with a smile as he also predicted the same.

"It's clear that Eric still has another trump card. Despite his acting and such, it's clear that he is waiting for the right moment to reveal his trump card."

"Yeah. I don't know what his trump card is and who he prepared it for, but I can see that due to how calm the Fire God Clan's elders."

"Does big brother want to help Song Jiaoren? You can suppress him with your Pure Fire... Or you can even use it to halt the two elders for a few seconds and have the elders from the Blackwade Clan rescue Song Jiaoren. It won't be considered as you helping Song Jiaoren that way." Evelyn suggested.

Alex shook his head and smiled. "You little devil. It seems I have trained you to a scary level."

"Hehe... I am just thinking about all possibilities as a careful person. Big brother Alex has trained me this way."

"Don't say it like that. It looks like I was training you in a lewd way." Alex twitched his eyebrows.

Evelyn stuck out of her tongue.

"This girl..." Alex shook his head before saying, "Although Eric Hinga has stronger equipment, they still have one star difference, especially with one of them being a Martial Saint and the other was a Martial Monarch. This difference was big, so I think Song Jiaoren will have time to find a chance to strike back. Of course, this is only if his opponent doesn't use his trump card."

"If it's big brother, what will you do?" Evelyn asked.

"Me?" Alex smiled and pointed his hand toward the stage. "I will simply strike the weak spots a few times. If you are looking carefully, Eric's movement gets restricted when he uses that armor. And I will

simply attack every spot where his armor couldn't reach. It's true that the energy is hard like the armor, but it's still energy.

"If I strike at the same spot a few times, the energy will become disarray. Eric will absolutely protect that area for a moment. That is the chance where I strike at the other spots or his body armor itself, creating an illusion that I attack him blindly. Eric won't know which area I am targeting.

"Then, as soon as he leaves the first spot unguarded, I will strike at it again." Alex smiled as if he was translating what in Song Jiaoren's mind.

Even Angela behind him was startled by his words. She could finally see why Alex had once taught Evelyn.

"I see." Evelyn nodded repeatedly.

In the arena, as Alex predicted, Song Jiaoren started suppressing Eric again after getting used to his movement.

Slash!

Slash!

Within a hundred rounds, Song Jiaoren somehow managed to injure him in a few areas after breaking through his Fire Dragon Armor. This was certainly surprising until Song Jiaoren finally managed to get the better of him and struck his sword.

"Myriad Sword Strike!"

Song Jiaoren thought he would be able to injure Eric at this point before continuing his attack to do some irreplaceable damage to his body, but all his plans crumbled when a shield appeared on Eric's hand.

Clang!

The lightning around his sword suddenly disappeared as if it was dispelled by something. Song Jiaoren realized what just happened and glanced at the shield.

This split-second confusion earned Eric a perfect chance to thrust his spear.

"!!!" Song Jiaoren immediately launched himself to the air and landed a few meters away from Eric. However, he was pushing the wound on the side of his stomach.

"Heh... I have predicted there might be some relationship between Blackwade Clan and Spirit Nest. That's why I am bringing this Lightning Suppressing Shield with me." Eric laughed. "Though I had indeed underestimated your relationship with Alexander Sirius. To think you would go so far earlier, albeit everything is working for me perfectly."

"You Bastard!" The two elders from Blackwade Clan quickly leaped toward the stage, only to find themselves stopped by the two elders that Eric brought.

On the other hand, Song Jiaoren gritted his teeth and thought. 'Lightning Suppressing Shield. As the name implies, it is a shield to repel my Lightning Element. It's one of the highest treasures in Fire God

Clan, considering it was created using a lightning Dragon Scale as the material, like his Fire Dragon Armor.

'I can simply back away after this, but... I need to do an account with my family because I have smeared the family reputation, and I couldn't fulfill my promise to him.' Song Jiaoren glanced at Alex. 'What should I do? I still need to defeat him no matter what. I can handle his Rank 8 Spear and rank 8 Fire Dragon Armor, but that shield will be hindering me.'

As he formulated his plan in his mind, Eric attacked him again with his spear. Song Jiaoren was forced to fight him while thinking, resulting in several injuries.

Eric knew that Song Jiaoren was in his wits' end, so he was planning to end this as quickly as possible before he could come up with a strategy. Injuring him in different areas was also his strategy.

The people were dumbfounded when they found Song Jiaoren getting suppressed like this. Although it was due to the rank 8 Lightning Suppressing Shield, Eric was able to predict it nonetheless. In other words, Eric was smart enough to look ahead and prepare everything before coming to this banquet.

"Song Jiaoren is going to lose..."

Everyone was thinking the same thing, including Elizabeth. However, she felt the thing was not so simple and looked at Alex, making sure he didn't make a move in this match. Although she was curious about this person, she still needed to maintain her neutrality.

Yet, to her surprise, Alex looked at the match without any interest. Little did he know that Alex was actually trying to understand the Lightning Suppressing Shield with his Spirit Eyes before a smile appeared on his face.

"!!!" Elizabeth was startled when she saw this and stared at him intensely to make sure he didn't do something foolish.

Chapter 706 - Alex's Help

Evelyn narrowed her eyes. "Big brother, he is going to lose, you know."

"I can see it." Alex nodded.

"I think you should help him. If he loses this match, there will be too many consequences, especially for you." Evelyn warned him.

"Don't worry." Alex smiled as he patted her head. He had been activating his Spirit Eyes and found out that the shield had a fatal weakness.

...

Song Jiaoren was panting on the stage as he was trying to search for a way to win.

Suddenly, Alex's voice resounded in his mind.

'You are still waiting for a chance to win, right?'

Song Jiaoren was surprised by this sudden thought transmission and had the urge to glance at Alex. However, Elizabeth might pick something if he acted strangely, so he decided to reply calmly. 'I'm sorry for this display.'

'I can relate to your situation. He seems to have prepared everything to fight you, and that's what makes him confident in accepting your challenge. That's why I am going to give you a way to win.'

'A way to win?' Song Jiaoren's heart skipped a beat. He was already in a hopeless situation at this point, and Alex could give the chance to overturn the situation just like that. This simply bewildered him. Although he didn't want to accept this, he had no choice. 'May I know the way to win?'

'Can you see there is a small white circle on the bottom part of the shield?'

Song Jiaoren quickly searched for the white circle and found it. 'Yes. I found it.'

'The shield is made from Thunder Tree Root that has the ability to repel Lightning Element. However, the effect has been diluted by other materials. That is if the creator of that shield is a mediocre Forging Master. From what I see, the creator of that shield was a powerful Forging Master and Array Master. He inscribed a special array in that root and enhanced the performance of the shield. That's why if you destroy... No, even a slight crack will ruin the entire array. Do you know what I mean?'

'The shield will be useless, and it will be the time for my counterattack.' Song Jiaoren widened his eyes as he took a deep breath and smirked. It seemed Alex was really an extraordinary person. As expected from a God Rank Expert's husband, he thought.

Song Jiaoren released all of his Spiritual Energy and Sword Intent.

Eric thought Song Jiaoren didn't use his Lightning Element simply because of the shield, but he was mistaken, and that would cost him this match.

"You are going to lose." Song Jiaoren raised his sword and disappeared. He was moving at his fastest speed and arrived in front of Eric.

"No, you won't win against me!" Eric thrust his spear.

Looking at this, Song Jiaoren bent down and slashed Eric from the bottom. "Myriad Sword Strike."

"Hmph." Eric snorted as he blocked Song Jiaoren's attack with his shield.

Suddenly, he felt that the force was far more powerful than all of his previous attacks. And that sword blew his shield away.

Song Jiaoren saw the chance and slashed his body, only to be blocked again by the Fire Dragon Armor.

"You won't be able to win against me." Eric laughed when he saw Song Jiaoren couldn't do anything against his armor.

Even so, the latter only smiled and continued with similar attack patterns. Striking the bottom of the shield to blow Eric's defense away, Song Jiaoren made other people think it was his last struggle. Even if Song Jiaoren lost, he would still be a great person. Everyone knew it, and that was precisely why they couldn't bear to see it.

Song Jiaoren lost to someone weaker, but with three treasures from Fire God Clan, especially in this stage where one should show their true talent instead of equipment. Yet, there was simply no rule that stated something like that, so they couldn't exactly force Eric to abandon his weapon and armor.

"Young Master!" The elders gritted their teeth as they couldn't bear the prideful Blackwade Clan to get humiliated like this.

'It's fine, two elders. Believe me and my choice. Just make sure that the two elders from Fire God Clan not to interfere later.' Song Jiaoren's voice resounded in their mind as their body froze after noticing his arro—confident tone.

The elders could do nothing but sighed as they waited patiently for the good news.

Song Jiaoren kept striking the same spot over and over again. Eric was still laughing because he thought Song Jiaoren was testing the strategy again and again, until finally...

Crack!

The cracking sound bewildered those in the arena. Elizabeth could hear it vaguely, but she was sure something was cracking. Eric also heard the sound, but he was confident it was Song Jiaoren's sword. Meanwhile, Song Jiaoren smiled upon hearing the sound as if he was listening to a peaceful melody.

Lightning started sparking around his body as he slashed the shield once more from the bottom.

"Myriad Sword Strike!" Song Jiaoren roared and struck the shield once again.

At this time, it wasn't a small sound anymore. Instead, the bottom part of the shield was completely shattered by that strike. There was no need to listen carefully because everything happened right in front of their eyes.

The lightning that was supposed to be repelled was still hovering around Song Jiaoren's sword while Eric's broken shield was blown away again.

'I found his weakness.' Song Jiaoren thought as he looked at Eric's hand, specifically the area after his wrist. He recalled what Alex said earlier and couldn't help but impress by his observation.

...

A minute ago,

Alex sent another thought transmission after seeing the abnormality around the bottom area. 'Keep it up a bit more. As soon as you are able to break that shield, aim at his hand, specifically his wrist. No matter if it's full body armor, that part couldn't be protected by the same amount of energy as his body. It's simply because his hand and fingers movement will be restricted too much. That's why if you attack that spot with your strongest attack, I believe it will be able to penetrate his Fire Dragon Armor.'

Upon hearing that, Song Jiaoren was utterly speechless while keeping his barrage of attack. And when the shield broke, he was excited as his chance finally appeared.

Song Jiaoren didn't miss this chance and waved his sword. "Blackwade Clan Secret Swordsmanship, Sword of Dawn!"

His sword was shining in blue color as the sword struck at Eric's wrist. Not expecting this attack, Eric had no time to react and put more energy around his wrist to temporarily harden it.

"Argh!" He screamed out of pain while watching how Song Jiaoren sent his hand flying.

"Young Master!" Fire God Clan's elders turned around.

"Stop!" Blackwade Clan's elders were already informed by Song Jiaoren and appeared in front of them to make sure they couldn't interfere. "You stop us from interfering, so you should also know how it feels."

As the situation up there started getting heated, the arena was also in its climax. Not wanting to waste this chance, Song Jiaoren decided to cut another hand. However, Eric was able to react first and channeled all the Spiritual Energy to that area to make it as hard as he could get.

Song Jiaoren wasn't surprised by this and decided to blow him away.

"I lose!" Eric couldn't endure it anymore and quickly shouted.

Elizabeth then appeared between both of them while facing Song Jiaoren. "Young Master Song Jiaoren is a man of might. Even after facing such a challenge, you still manage to overcome it. Unfortunately, I believe it is time to end this battle. Don't you think so?"

Song Jiaoren stared at her for a minute before letting out a long sigh. "Such a shame. His brain can handle all the scheming, but his body is not. I am afraid that a villain like him will usually turn their tail when they know they are in a hopeless situation."

He didn't forget to throw an insult before leaving the arena as the two elders finally rescued Eric. They wanted to kill this Song Jiaoren, but the two elders would kill them before that, and they would also get more enemies, including the Divine Kingdom.

"Good work." Alex smiled.

Song Jiaoren nodded calmly, but he didn't forget to thank him with a thought transmission. 'Thank you for your help.'

'It's fine. We can't kill him in this banquet, but we can still make the Fire God Clan suffer.'

'Yes. I will immediately spread the information, so the Fire God Clan can start declining.'

'Well, I still have a fight after this, so you can judge how to spread the information afterward. Anyway, try to recover your Spiritual Energy first.'

'I understand.' Song Jiaoren nodded before taking a few pills and closing his eyes.

Meanwhile, Alex rose from his seat and looked at Evelyn's senior brother with a calm expression as if he was looking down on him.

This was an insult in his eyes and quickly leaped toward the arena before pointing his finger toward Alex. "I, Adrus, want to challenge Alexander Sirius for a duel. Do you dare to fight me?"

"Big brother Alex..." Evelyn looked at him with a guilty expression. She felt bad that Alex somehow ended up with this mess because of her.

"I will be fine." Alex smiled and patted her head before flying to the arena. Of course, he didn't forget to send a message to her. "Don't forget to do what you need to do."

Alex landed on the arena with a small smile.

"You bastard! I will show the world that you are only a coward like your Spirit Nest! If you don't have the backing of the Blackwade Clan, you won't be able to rise this fast." Adrus started spouting nonsense.

'Hmm... Why do I get a retard while Song Jiaoren got a scheming opponent? Though I should be grateful because this one won't bring me too much trouble like Eric Hinga.' Alex thought. His heart was conflicted. On one hand, he loved to fight all these cliché opponents because he only needed to eliminate them once, and it would end. On the other hand, there was not much satisfaction in defeating them.

If he didn't want to show his strength to pressure the Ancient Blue Family, he wouldn't even accept the fight.

"I... No, we, Drunken Pavilion, won't do anything in case someone dies in this battle." Evelyn's voice resounded across the hall.

The people gasped when they heard the stand of Drunken Pavilion.

'Doesn't this mean Alex has the backing of Drunken Pavilion to the point they would sacrifice an elder's son?' Everyone had the same question in their mind.

Everyone... Except for Adrus.

The blood rushed into his head as he roared. "What did you say?!"

"Accept it. This is the will of the Pavilion Master." Evelyn snorted as she pointed her finger toward Angela. The latter then took out a single scroll and presented it to everyone.

Alex simply smiled as if he already knew about the scroll. In fact, he already received the information a few days ago from his N squad. Manness wanted to take advantage of him to resolve the corruption elder in the pavilion, and he accepted it because their objection was aligned. It was to sacrifice Adrus for their own benefit.

"You have been abandoned by your own influence." Alex smiled, taunting the insane Adrus.

"You Bastard! You are going to die today. And I will make sure that bitch won't be able to think anything except me... Don't worry, I won't break her so soon since it won't be fun!" Adrus released his Spiritual Energy and killing intent. A sword appeared in his hand as he gulped down a jar of wine. This was the special Martial Art from Drunken Pavilion. Drunken Style.

Alex also released his Spiritual Energy and both of his weapons.

"You may start!" Elizabeth could only start this battle when the two men were glaring at her.

"Die!" Adrus charged without hesitation and slashed his sword toward Alex.

Meanwhile, Alex smiled and activated his Spirit Step and Dragon Aura at the same time, boosting his power to a high degree. He swung his sword from the top and...

Bam!

Chapter 707 - Killing the Clown

Bam!

The conclusion came in a sudden, where Alex suddenly released a strength that shouldn't exist in the body of an 8-Star Martial Monarch.

Alex pushed him back before pinning him to the ground with his strength alone.

"What?!" The people were utterly speechless. Adrus was by no means a weak person. His strength alone was one of the highest of his peers. Yet, Alex still completely overwhelmed him with a huge difference.

When everyone dropped their jaws to the ground, Evelyn was giggling as she said. "As expected, big brother Alex is hiding his strength. That Adrus can fight a normal 1-Star Martial Saint. Even if he isn't at Eric Hinga level, he is still powerful. Yet, he couldn't handle a single swing from big brother. That would need a strength of 1-Star... No, 2-Star Martial Saint.

"I have known that big brother also cultivates his strength, but to think it's to this extent." Evelyn sighed. "This would mean my confidence is only around fifteen rounds."

On the other hand, Adrus was still struggling to break free from Alex. He gritted his teeth and stomped the ground, creating a huge crater on the stage.

The height difference before and after the stomp was quite significant, and Adrus used that to leave Alex's suppression. After spouting such a claim, Adrus was already getting into trouble in the first exchange. Without even anyone addressing it, Adrus already became a joke in this entire hall.

"You Bastard!" Adrus roared and released all of his Spiritual Energy, wanting to turn everything around.

Alex activated his Spirit Eyes and watched how this Adrus would attack. He remembered the hardship when he fought the monsters in the Potential Tower and thought Adrus was pathetic compared to them.

The Centaur and Minotaur had extraordinary strength and a sense of friendship. Their skin was also powerful since they could even block a full barrage of his Pure Fire Element. The Elf couldn't do anything against him, but her concealment and assassin ability were top class, while the Lich was really powerful support. On the contrary, Adrus's couldn't be compared to them; neither his strength nor strategy.

Alex raised his hand, looked at his sword, and thought. 'That strength alone is around 1-Star Martial Saint, but my strength is close to 3-Star Martial Saint after boosting it with Dragon Aura and Spirit Step. I assume this is the effect of the rank 8 Strength Pill... He might have swallowed it, but I doubt there are many Perfect Purity Pills. That's why the effect can only have him reach that stage.'

Adrus slashed his sword forward and shot out a powerful Sword Wave.

'Even though I want to threaten the Ancient Blue Family with my power, it's not like I can really show all my power against all of them, right?' Alex took a glimpse of it and thought. He wondered whether to use his Pure Fire in this battle. In the end, he decided to end this battle quickly to assert his dominance.

Pure Fire started gushing out of his sword as he slashed his two weapons toward this Sword Wave.

"Heaven Light Slash!"

"No way!" Adrus opened his mouth in surprise. As someone who released the attack, he certainly knew how powerful that attack was. Yet, Alex shattered it into pieces with a single swing again.

Alex thrust his spear and shot out a beam from the tip of his spear. "Mythical Spear Cannon."

"!!!" Adrus leaped to the side as fast as he could, avoiding Alex's Mythical Spear Cannon. His body had yet to react because he would never expect Alex's strength to be this powerful. "I—!"

Alex furrowed his eyebrows and thought Adrus wanted to surrender. Hence, he appeared in front of Adrus and slashed his weapons.

"Triple Draws!" Alex attacked him from six different directions, wondering whether this Adrus had the speed to parry all these attacks.

"Serpent Sword Dance." To his surprise, Adrus's movement suddenly became fluid as he parried all the attacks one inch from his body.

"Ho." Alex was slightly astonished. It seemed that he still had some abilities to back his claims.

On the other hand, Adrus gnashed his teeth, never expecting he needed to use all of his power and Original Sword Skill to block Alex's attack. Little did he know that Triple Draws and Mythical Spear Cannon were actually Alex's Original Art. Except... Triple Draws looked very normal compared to any other attacks as long as it wasn't used together with other Martial Arts. Meanwhile, his Mythical Spear Cannon looked like Fire Manipulation, considering it was shooting a beam.

The only difference between them was Alex had yet to use all of his power and simply took advantage of his extraordinary strength.

Alex continued his attack by summoning ten fire swords above his head. Although the number couldn't be compared to Sherry's, the strength was far more powerful than her, considering he had his Absolute Blade Intent.

Adrus gritted his teeth and leaped to avoid these swords that would soon shower him. At this time, Alex smiled as he successfully made Adrus get overly conscious of his fire swords and didn't see the kick that was coming toward his stomach.

Bam! The next thing he knew, Alex already blew him away straight to the wall before shooting him with his fire swords.

"Argh!"

Alex activated his eyes and saw that Adrus's energy was still going strong and noticed that there was another set of energy that was stimulating all of his energy.

The smoke was blown away by his Spiritual Energy alone as Adrus roared. "Curse you! You are the one who forced me to use the Heavenly Raging Pill! I will bring you with me to death!"

"That is not possible." Alex shook his head and slashed his swords six times.

"Triple Draws."

"Mythical Fire Slashes!"

"Hmph! My strength is now equal to you! Do you think I can't destroy this?!" Adrus harrumphed before he struck at these six Sword Waves.

"Serpent Sword Dance!"

Adrus used his Original Sword Skill once again and swung his sword back and forth. Because he didn't make a large swing and instead many small swings, he could strike all the six Sword Waves more than fifty times before they reached him. Albeit...

"What is this? Can't they be stopped? Why can't I destroy them?" Adrus remarked out loud before it turned to be his last remark as Alex's Sword Waves cut him into pieces.

"Boom!" The Sword Waves exploded and shook the entire hall, especially the barrier that was protecting them, but soon they dropped their jaws when they noticed the state of the barrier.

Although it was nearly impossible to spot it, Elizabeth still saw that the barrier was thinned slightly because of those explosions. If she checked the Spirit Crystals that she used to maintain this barrier, she would realize that she had lost big from this attack alone. After all, Alex's Pure Fire wasn't just ordinary. It also had a burning effect. It was a flame after all. She looked at Alex and turned serious.

Alex had no change of expression as he had predicted this would happen. Adrus was a strong opponent if he fought seriously from the start, but he just chose to underestimate him from the beginning. Alex didn't let this go and kept pressuring him to make him unable to use all of his strength, and it was pretty effective, considering he could win this easily.

He reached out to his Space Ring and tossed it to Evelyn. He took another glance at Adrus and thought, 'It's a fight between two Original Skills with Pure Fire and a single Original Sword Skill. It would be weird if you can stop it.'

Alex nodded to Elizabeth and flew toward his seat where Evelyn and Song Jiaoren waited.

"As expected of Big Brother Alex." Evelyn grinned and assured him. "Don't worry. We will handle the rest."

"Thank you." Alex smiled and patted her head.

Song Jiaoren only cupped his hands with a smile. He never expected that Alex was this powerful. If he were the one who fought Eric, he wouldn't end up pitifully like him. What he was thinking right now was if he fought against him... Would he be able to win?

Song Jiaoren shook the thought off his head and sighed. He had decided to follow Alex to get a chance to move to the main clan, and he also needed to talk about it to Alex sooner or later, so Alex didn't feel he was cheated by him.

Meanwhile, the reactions from others were also quite extraordinary. Eric Hinga was already leaving this banquet due to his injury, but there was a disciple watching this extraordinary battle. He panicked and left the hall almost immediately.

On the Ancient Blue Family side, the potential Family Head candidate, Rio, was already discussing with his elders.

"Then, what should we do now?" The elder asked.

"My bestial instinct is telling me that man is seriously dangerous. He must also hide his strength this entire time... And the way he looks so composed this whole time means he has been planning for this banquet for a long time. I should say that he is very confident in his plan. I think I will need to advise the family head to reconsider our alliance with the Fire God Clan."

"Why?" The elder narrowed his eyes.

"It's simple. We don't know the extent of Spirit Nest... And from our information, the Spirit Nest always calls him 'Young Master'. In other words, there will probably be a peak Martial Saint behind them. That's why they are so confident in this battle."

"10-Star Martial Saint..." The elder gasped.

"Yeah. The best thing we know is the fact that his influence isn't really that big. If not, he would already use it in those fights against other influences. Let's see... He must have a group consisting of elites that are trying to reach the peak before he becomes the head of that influence." Rio narrowed his eyes.

"!!!"

"As you just realized, there is a chance for him to destroy an influence in Heavenly Continent to be the next head of that alliance. Remember what he told the branch family when we clearly helped the Fire God Clan to fight him on the Sacred Continent?" Rio paused for a moment. "He told us not to cross our line. I assume that he doesn't really want to fight us if necessary and only target... No, because the Fire God Clan is enough.

"Besides, he seems to have planned all the way to the demise of the Fire God Clan, starting from the alliance between him and the Blackwade Clan and that Evelyn from the Drunken Pavilion. If we are fighting those three with only the Fire God Clan, then it's not possible to win." Rio sighed.

"I see. Although the Fire God Clan has offered us big time by letting the second young miss marry that Eric, it's not worth the exchange, considering he always razed the entire influences to the ground if they were his enemies. Besides, that Eric also lost his hand, so..." The elder didn't continue.

"Indeed. Rather than having this gamble with overwhelming odds, we better stay quiet for a while. I should also start consolidating my foundation in the family while trying to reach 2-Star Martial Saint as soon as possible." Rio nodded.

"I understand."

At the same time, Astennu was laughing inwardly as he found this development pretty interesting. He glanced at Alex before sending a thought transmission to Song Yu. 'He is really one of a kind.'

'Yes, he's always been.' Song Yu asked. 'Are you going to participate in this mess?'

'No way. I need to handle all the matters about you first... And I also don't like fighting in this chaotic situation. We better lay low for the time being. Besides, I am not sure if I want to help him or not.'

'Sure. He doesn't need help from me anymore, so I will just pray for his well-being inside the sect.'

'Hehe... You are going to meet him after this banquet, you know.'

'Yeah. I am looking forward to it.'

As the discussions were still going on, Elizabeth still needed to continue the banquet and had no choice other than ignoring those discussions.

Chapter 708 - Elizabeth

The fighting competition still continued, but most of them weren't paying attention to it anymore. It couldn't be helped, considering the first two battles of this competition were too intense.

Those who were fighting to get noticed could only wipe their tears away as they returned to their seats.

Elizabeth still did her best, but she felt it was better to end the banquet as soon as possible.

"Since there is no one who wants to fight anymore, we shall end it with the performance of our dancers. Before that, I would thank all of you for coming to this humble place and participating in this banquet. I hope there will be more interesting events in the next Seven Influences Banquet." Elizabeth smiled as she walked away. She didn't forget to glance at Alex with interest as he was the culprit that made this entire banquet a mess.

After a few minutes of performance, the beautiful dancers finally left the stage as all of them started rising from their seats.

"What would you do after this?" Song Jiaoren asked.

"I have something to do. I will meet you tomorrow at the west gate, and we will head the Blackwade Clan." Alex nodded with a smile.

"I understand. Then, I will excuse myself." Song Jiaoren cupped his hands and bowed.

Without anyone knowing, Astennu and the woman had gone without a trace. In fact, they were among the first one that left this banquet hall.

Alex couldn't find them and decided to visit them right after this. As for Evelyn... He was still wondering whether to let Evelyn meet Song Yu or not. Evelyn didn't know that Song Yu was missing, so he ended up not asking her to accompany him.

"Big brother Alex. I want to talk more with you." Evelyn pouted.

"I am sorry... My schedule is a bit tight." Alex scratched his cheek. "I am sure we can talk in the future."

"I understand." Evelyn looked down, a bit sad. "I will go back with big sister Angela then."

Alex nodded and watched her leaving the hall.

When he was about to leave, he suddenly felt a presence coming from his right. A silver-haired princess made her appearance in front of Alex, looking at him with a smile.

"May I borrow your time, Mister Alexander?"

Alex narrowed his eyes. On one hand, he wanted to reject this invitation because he needed to meet Astennu. On the other hand, there was a possibility of the Divine Kingdom joining the war if he didn't make time to talk to her. He wasn't scared of her; he just didn't want any unnecessary extra trouble.

"If Princess can talk here, then sure." Alex ended up not giving yes or no to her.

"Certainly. This matter is important but also not that important." Elizabeth nodded her head gracefully.

"I wonder what does mister Alexander think about my Divine Kingdom?"

"My? Princess's words are certainly not light..." Alex narrowed his eyes. The current monarch of this kingdom was still her grandfather. Yet, she already treated it as her own. There was also Julius standing on her opposition. Hence, Alex wasn't wrong by saying that her words might invite some misunderstanding.

"I think I shouldn't mask my intention anymore..." Elizabeth sighed.

"Please." Alex nodded.

"What can I do for you to help me ascend the throne?" Elizabeth asked with a serious expression.

"!!!" Alex was slightly surprised. He learned that she was capable of taking the throne, but it seemed he had overestimated her... Albeit, there must also be another factor that she considered to the point she asked this question.

"I can be your wife or whatever to gain your support. As you know yourself, I am able to control the majority of power in this kingdom, but there are still many oppositions in my way. I am confident in taking all of them over within ten years, but there is one variable that might overturn my situation..." Elizabeth stared at him.

"Me? Spirit Nest? No, I think it's my war against the Fire God Clan."

"Mister is right." Elizabeth nodded. "War would invite instability inside an influence, especially in the middle of ascension. That's why the percentage of me ascending to the throne drops from one hundred percent to thirty percent. That's how big this factor is."

"Still, I don't think there is a need for you to offer that kind of price, right?" Alex narrowed his eyes.

"Am I not beautiful in your eyes? Or am I not smart enough for you? Or are you afraid of me plotting on your back?"

"Not at all. Many people will surely be charmed by you, but I apologize, I won't be one of them." Alex shook his head. "Besides, I have another proposal for Princess to consider, and I am sure this suits me more."

"May I hear the proposal?" She looked around to make sure no one was eavesdropping and asked.

"It's nothing complicated. As long as Princess doesn't interfere in this war, I also won't interfere in your kingdom... Especially with Prince Julius. And just like you, I am also confident in winning the war."

"!!!" Elizabeth clenched her palms after getting surprised by such an offer. She thought, 'His proposal is indeed attractive. What I am most afraid of is for that brother of mine joining hand with another party to overtake me. Looking at the war situation, I can see that Spirit Nest has been preparing for this war.

'If Prince Julius makes an alliance with the Fire God Clan and gets destroyed, I am able to get the crown in an instant. On the other hand, as long as I accept this offer, he won't make an alliance with him. The problem is... There is still a probability of the Fire God Clan winning the war. Although it's slim, it's worth consideration.

'From what I see earlier, I can see there are three influences that Fire God Clan might approach. First will be this kingdom... Or me. The second will be the Phantasm Sect. But this influence seems to be neutral for most of the time, so I doubt they will join this battle and break their neutrality. In other words, they might approach Snow White Mountain.

'I heard that they just got Pure Ice Element users not long ago, and the one that came in the banquet was the Sacrificial Element user... With these two talented individuals, Snow White Mountain might join hand in hand with Fire God Clan. For Fire God Clan, they can stop the decline and get stronger with marriage, while Snow White Mountain can get some resources from them.'

"How is it, Princess?" Alex smiled.

"As expected of Young Master Alexander, it's hard for me to reject this deal. I somehow regret that I don't manage to capture your heart. Seeing your strength and actions, I am sure I can make the Divine Kingdom be the best influence with you as my king." Elizabeth smiled seductively.

"I am afraid that is not possible." Alex shook his head. "So, do you want to have a written contract?"

"No need. I believe Heavenly Oath between both of us is enough since I am sure Young Master Alexander will fulfill your promise. And I and my faction will stay neutral."

"..." Alex was a bit annoyed in his heart. She purposely said that she and her faction would stay neutral, so she couldn't promise that her brother Julius might interfere, whether by joining hands with the Fire God Clan or by participating as a third party.

"Of course, I will do my best to keep the entire kingdom in check, albeit my power is also limited. So, I will apologize in advance." Elizabeth smiled.

Alex thought for a moment and nodded. "I guess we have a deal?"

They both shook hands and made a Heavenly Oath. After that, Elizabeth added, "I want to warn Young Master Alex to be careful against Fire God Clan. They might come to the Snow White Mountain for an alliance. After all, if they win the war, they will be able to absorb your Spirit Nest, Fire God Clan, and Drunken Pavilion. And I shouldn't forget about the Ancient Blue Family since they might join the war after that alliance, making it a three versus three battle."

"Don't worry. I have everything under control." Alex smirked. He didn't say anything about his trump card, AKA, the Freedom Sect. He was planning to threaten the Ancient Blue Family with his Spirit Nest and the three influences.

"Then, I have no worries." Elizabeth nodded.

Alex nodded back and started walking away, but he suddenly remembered a question and halted his step. "I want to ask one question to you."

"Please ask. I will answer your question to the best of my ability."

"Are you not afraid that I might decide to rule the world after this?" Alex smirked and continued. "Your kingdom might become one of the preys, you know."

"I can only offer myself as your wife while offering my kingdom as your territory then." Elizabeth smiled.

Her meaning was clear to Alex and made him chuckle. He left the hall while waving his hand. "I don't want to fight you as my opponent. It's scary."

"No, no. I should be the one who says that."

Alex sighed and headed toward the inn that Astennu told him earlier. On the way, he took another glance at the hall and thought. 'At the very least, I know that the Divine Kingdom won't interfere in this battle. Judging from Elizabeth's attitude, she won't be the one to start the war in case the Divine Kingdom really moves. That was why he was fine with only Heavenly Oath. Unlike in the past, the current him can learn whether that person will search for a way to tell someone or not.

In addition, he also made sure that everything he told her wasn't a big secret.

'Still, that princess is really a scary one. Her brain and strength are like Shelka, but she is not the type who will take a huge risk just to fulfill her ambition and potentially harm me in the process.' Alex let out a sigh of relief. 'My chance in defeating the Fire God Clan has increased once again.'

After walking for a few more minutes, Alex reached the promised inn. Luckily, there was no one foolish enough to tail him from behind or send assassins to him when he was on the way. That was why he could reach this place without too much time.

Entering the inn, he quickly went upstairs as if he was a regular of this inn. His destination was the top floor, and it turned out there was only a single room on that floor.

The door was suddenly opened from the inside as if they knew Alex was coming. Alex activated his Spirit Eyes first to check whether this was a trap or not before stepping inside the room.

"Welcome to my place, Alexander Sirius." Astennu's voice resounded across the room.

Alex looked at the man and nodded with a smile. "Thank you for inviting me."

"No, no. I am just fulfilling her wish. Though I admit, I am very interested in meeting you." He smirked before stretching his hand toward the couch in front of him. "Please sit."

Alex looked at the sitting Astennu and the standing veiled woman and sat down. "Thank you."

"I am Astennu from Phantasm Sect. Nice to meet you."

"I am Alexander from Spirit Nest."

"As I said earlier, I want you to meet someone." Astennu glanced at the woman and introduced her to Alex. "She is—"

Before he could say her name, Alex stopped him.

"No need for introduction." Alex smiled and shook his head before glancing at the woman beside him and smiling at her. "It's been a while, Senior Sister Song Yu."

She was taken aback as she never expected Alex would still recognize her despite her change. Song Yu smiled and took off her veil along with the robe that camouflaged her real body.

Alex could see her face again, her blonde hair, her tiny figure, and her cheerful expression. Song Yu smiled from ear to ear as she said, "We meet again, Junior Brother!"

Chapter 709 - Astennu and Song Yu

"We meet again, Junior Brother!" Song Yu finally revealed her appearance and smiled.

"Yeah. It's been a few years." Alex nodded. "I was worried about you, considering you were plotted by the third elder of your own clan."

"Haha... It was true. But I could meet him because of that incident." Song Yu glanced at Astennu mysteriously.

Alex didn't know why, but the look in her eyes was that of a maiden in love. Thinking for a moment, he decided to ask, "May I know the relationship between Senior Sister and him?"

"I am—!" Astennu was eager to answer this question, but Song Yu beat him to it. "I am his woman... No, you can say it's girlfriend, considering his elders have yet to accept me."

"I will surely force them to accept, even if I need to use force," Astennu added with a pout.

Alex opened his eyes in surprise and blinked a few times. "Seriously? Well, seeing Senior Sister happily say it, I don't have any qualms."

"Hehe..." Song Yu giggled embarrassedly.

"Though I am curious as to what happened to you after that incident."

"Who wants to explain it? You or me?" Song Yu glanced at Astennu.

"He is your Junior Brother, right? You can tell him the full story if you trust him." Astennu shrugged.

"Alright." Song Yu nodded with a smile before starting her story-telling. "A few years ago, I was plotted by the third elder and almost died. Luckily, the fourth elder used all of his strength and let me get away. The journey was unpleasant because I needed to fly for a long time while fending the monsters.

"Long story short, I somehow managed to fly as long as possible before I passed out in the middle of the ocean. It seemed I wasn't that far from the Southwest of the continent and swept away to the shore.

"At that time, Astennu was strolling around the beach and found the unconscious me. He did it for fun, though. And—"

"Wait!" Astennu stopped her immediately and corrected her. "Why did you say it was for fun? It wasn't."

"You said so yourself. Besides, I could see that you really did it for fun."

"Fine. You can say it was for fun, but you should add that it was for fun, and that was the best decision he had made in his entire life." Astennu pouted.

"He said so himself." Song Yu chuckled and continued. "Anyway, Astennu brought me back to his home and nursed me without the knowledge of the elders. Not long after, I woke up and finally met my savior."

"He always stayed alone in his entire life in that house, so I was the second resident. Well, he never treated me like a slave or did something bad to me. Instead, he nursed me back to full health. We somehow became friends despite the awkwardness from the start."

Astennu closed his eyes and smiled, recalling the scene in his mind. "Yeah. Though I found out that she was actually coming from the Blackwade Clan, and it made me very awkward, considering there were many oppositions from having connections outside the sect."

"Let's continue with the story." Song Yu stopped him. "In the end, I tried to repay him by helping him with anything like chores or whatever and without knowing it, I fell in love with him. He treated me with gentleness and full of sincerity, despite being a young master in a huge influence..."

"I didn't know at first whether it was love or something and decided to play along with it. Until one time, the elders found out about her, and I realized I had fallen in love with her for a long time." Astennu gently smiled as he looked at Song Yu's face.

"I still remembered that day where they dragged me and almost executed me... You came and helped me to the point of risking your life as well... Nonetheless, they ended up releasing both of us and decided to approve in one condition that I needed to reach Martial Saint as soon as possible. I believe I am able to do that." Song Yu nodded.

Alex closed his eyes and sighed. "I see... I am also happy for Senior Sister."

"Hehe..." Song Yu scratched her head, embarrassed. "By the way, how is Master, Putri, and the others?"

Alex thought for a moment. "Elder Charya already knew about your condition... Maybe I will send her a letter about your well-being, including your relationship, of course. She will be thrilled to know about this."

"Indeed. I want to inform her myself, but I am occupied with the condition, so I can only refrain myself from going there. And please don't tell Master about my relationship with him first. I want to tell her myself and visit her with him." Song Yu smiled at Astennu, who smiled back.

"Alright. I will just tell her that you are alive and living a good life for the time being." Alex nodded.

"Thank you."

"As for Putri, she is still with the Blackwade Clan. Her strength has only reached 5-Star Martial Emperor due to the lack of resources. Seeing that I have a big war with the Fire God Clan, I purposely don't give her any resources, so she can stay there for a bit longer... After having betrayed and such, I really wish she could also be like you right now. Anyway, Song Jia took care of her while learning how to lead a clan herself." Alex sighed.

"Indeed. She is a good girl that deserves better. You don't need to worry about her for the time being. After I consolidate my power in this influence, I might bring her here and hope she has a good life on this continent... While Song Jia... I am really proud of her as her sister."

"I understand. I leave it in your hand." Alex nodded.

"As for Evelyn... I don't think I need to tell you, right?"

"Yeah. Since she has become the Drunken Pavilion Successor, I can track her movement better than anyone I know." Song Yu nodded. "How about Rose?"

"Rose is..." Alex was slightly afraid to tell her about Rose. If he needed to rank the ones who were the closest to him, it would be Rose, Evelyn, Putri, and Charya. Considering she was his disciple and Astennu was still listening, he decided not to talk about Rose. "Rose is fine. I am taking care of her."

Song Yu noticed his dilemma and nodded in understanding. "I understand. As long as she is happy, I am also happy."

Alex nodded before he recalled another thing. "That's right. Elder Charya has another disciple."

"Really?" Song Yu was surprised and happy at the same time. She must be lonely after her two disciples left her side and went to the Northern Continent, so Song Yu was thrilled after knowing there would be someone who was accompanying her right now.

"I have given her some enlightenment, so she shouldn't die in the process unless she is a fool... But I have tested her once, and she seems the one who will live long." Alex nodded.

"Haha... Though you shouldn't say it that way." Song Yu chuckled.

"Anyway, I am coming here just to check Senior Sister's condition. Now that I have completed my objective, I think it's time for me to go." Alex nodded and stood up.

"I think you forget a few things." Astennu suddenly stopped him.

"Hmm?" Alex narrowed his eyes.

"First of all, we haven't talked about the business yet. Considering you are going to fight the Fire God Clan, don't you fear that we are going to join this war?" Astennu smirked.

"You can try... I don't like it when I need to destroy my Senior Sister's happiness, but if push comes to shove, I will still do it." Alex sighed while glancing at Song Yu.

"It seems that I have underestimated you this whole time." Astennu was surprised with his confidence, but it seemed Song Yu's Junior Brother was extraordinary like in her mouth. "As for us interfering in a battle like this... I don't think that is possible unless you are threatening our existence. If you can

promise that your fang won't reach Phantasm Sect, I assure you that I will do everything in my end to stop my influence from participating."

"That's good then." Alex nodded. "My target is Fire God Clan. If there is another influence that joins forces with them, I can only burn them down."

Astennu understood Alex's meaning. As long as Phantasm Sect didn't come in their way, they wouldn't be hostile either. "I understand. I will relay your message to the elders. There are two elders that are following us, so they should also be able to back my claim up and shut the sect up."

"Besides, I don't have time to fight you because I have more important things to do." Astennu looked at Song Yu with a smile. "I want to resolve this situation as soon as possible and marry Song Yu."

"Hehe..." Song Yu smiled and scratched her cheek, embarrassed.

Alex smiled upon seeing how they acted. "I wish you luck."

Astennu and Song Yu nodded. "Thank you."

Alex then stood up and left the room. "I will leave then."

Song Yu decided to see him off in front of the hotel. After saying their goodbye one more time, Alex finally went back, not toward his inn, but Evelyn.

Knock Knock!

Evelyn heard the knocking sound but got surprised that it was coming from the balcony. However, she immediately opened the door without hesitation after feeling the Spiritual Energy.

"Big brother Alex, welcome."

Alex nodded with a smile. "Are you staying here alone?"

"Yeah. The others have their own rooms. We are going back in two days. Do you want to talk about the matter of Adrus? Master has planned this for a long time, so I don't think there will be any trouble coming to you."

"No. It's fine. Rather than talking about Adrus, how about talking about you? How are you in the Drunken Pavilion?"

"I am good. I..." Evelyn started talking about all her experiences inside the Drunken Pavilion and how she managed to reach this stage. However, she was stunned as soon as she heard about Rose's cultivation and realized that her effort was still not enough.

At the end of her story, she suddenly asked. "That's right. Big brother, do you know about the Ancient Ruin?"

"Ancient Ruin?" Alex furrowed his eyebrows.

"Yeah. It will open pretty soon."

"No. I mean, I know there is an Ancient Ruin, but I am still searching for information about that Ancient Ruin." Alex shook his head.

"So, that's what you mean." Evelyn realized. "This Ancient Ruin is a top-secret, so it's normal for you not to know about this. Considering you are going with that Song Jiaoren, I think he will tell you about it. Well, since I have mentioned it, I shall explain it to you."

Alex nodded. It was true that his Spirits already knew about the existence of the Ancient Ruin. However, no matter how hard they searched for the other influences, they couldn't find any information related to it. Hence, they never mentioned it again because they didn't want Alex to take a risk. In fact, they were also unsure whether the other influences would send their disciples to this ruin.

Evelyn thought for a moment. "In every single influence, they have held this secret tightly to the point there won't be more than five people knowing this secret inside the influences. Do you know why all influences' heads would have 10-Star Martial Saint or even reach God Stage?"

"Isn't it because they choose the strongest?" Alex asked.

"No. The only reason is this Ancient Ruin. Even my Master doesn't know the extent of this Ancient Ruin despite having entered it once. He said that the only reason he could reach 10-Star Martial Saint was because of this Ancient Ruin. He got an inheritance and started building up his strength according to the inheritance."

"Ho?" Alex was astonished as this topic certainly piqued his interest.

"The only reason many people are clueless about this is that there is an entry limit. Only ten people can enter this time while three influences get two spots after making a back deal." Evelyn paused for a moment and took a deep breath. "And inside of this Ancient Ruin, we can find..."

Chapter 710 - Ancient Ruin

"And inside of this Ancient Ruin, we can find God's Inheritances," Evelyn said with a solemn expression.

"God's inheritances?" Alex narrowed his eyes.

"Yeah. Master said there are a few Gods dead inside that place, and each of them is giving their inheritances to the future generation." Evelyn nodded. "Master also said this. Your master also entered this place."

"!!!" Alex was surprised to hear that his master, Maxwell, had entered this place. There was still another problem. With this world power level, there should be no problem in having someone reach 10-Star Martial Saint, but it would be impossible to have Gods in this world because they would be expelled no matter what. "System, do you know something?"

[Look at your memory about this world, and you will understand the answer.]

Alex didn't understand why she said it, but he admitted he never read the information about this world. He closed his eyes for a second before opening it again wide.

"Big Brother?" Evelyn tilted her head in confusion.

Alex looked down, stroked his chin, and fell into deep thought. 'According to my memory, this place is supposed to be a world with many God Rank Experts like Eulja. However, it was once attacked by

another planet and had a huge clash. Most of the Gods died while the rest decided to use their power to control the World's will.

'Their only wish was to seal the world and lower its power level. This way, a battle this big wouldn't occur again. It seemed that the Dwarves, Undeads, and Beastmen only came to this world after this war and didn't know a single thing about this war.

'Meanwhile, to seal the information about this war that might destroy the world and cause another massive destruction in case their descendant would avenge them, they decided to make this type of rule.'

Alex could relate this story to the Ancient Ruin because Evelyn just explained the meaning behind Ancient Ruin. If not, he wouldn't know that this story actually related to it. "I see... This is a good opportunity."

"Yeah." Evelyn nodded with a smile. "If big brother Alex participates, the Fire God Clan might not have the courage to send their experts. In case they participate, you can simply kill them and take their position."

Alex thought for a moment and nodded in agreement. "By the way, who is the one that gets two spots?"

"Drunken Pavilion, Divine Kingdom, and Ancient Blue Family."

"I see. Are you going with your senior sister?"

"Yeah. Master wants us to enter to raise our strength and, if possible, change big sister Angela's mindset." Evelyn confirmed.

"Then the Divine Kingdom's representatives would be Prince Julius and Princess Elizabeth while Ancient Blue Family would be Rio and their second miss," Alex muttered to himself.

Evelyn heard it as well and agreed with the lineup.

'But the problem will be how the Freedom Sect doesn't know about this...' Alex furrowed his eyebrows. 'No, that's not important. The fact that my Master knows about this can also be interpreted that the Freedom Sect also knows. However, their condition doesn't allow them to enter this Ancient Ruin. I can only think of it like this.'

"Then, do you know anything about this Ancient Ruin?" Alex asked.

"Master has told me a few things. The first thing is the inheritance from God Rank Expert. And the second one is the time limit." Evelyn paused for a moment. "There is no time limit inside the Ancient Ruin to be honest... Because we are usually bailed out before even reaching the time limit. However, Master said the utmost limit one could stay was around one year."

"Hmm..." Alex furrowed his eyebrows. He never joined an event that would take him more than a few months, so this one certainly intrigued him. "What kind of test is inside there?"

"Ancient Battlefield."

"Ancient Battlefield?" Alex closed his eyes.

"Like how there are inheritances from God Rank Expert, there are also enemies that are trying to kill us. And those enemies will range from 5-Star Martial Monarchs like me to 5-Star Martial Saints. It might become stronger if we have a higher cultivation base or older age. That's why Younger Generations would be the one who explores this Ancient Ruin." Evelyn explained carefully.

"I see. Isn't you the one that has the most potential in getting the inheritance?" Alex smirked. Evelyn was even younger than him with that 5-Star Martial Monarch strength, so he thought she had the most potential.

"Haha, you should also consider battle prowess. If we include everything, big brother will be at the top." Evelyn giggled.

"Anyway, what is the other thing that Elder Manness told you?" Alex asked, changing the topic.

Evelyn tapped her forehead, trying to recall the conversation. "The third one is about monsters. They are very dangerous and deadly. Luckily, we are entering that by using our soul, so we won't actually die in that place. But Master had once encountered an invisible monster. No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't beat that beast. In fact, he couldn't see how powerful that beast was."

"!!!" Alex's face was distorted when he recalled a certain type of monster. 'Is it Space Beast? The monsters that are living inside the Space Realm? Wait, if they knew about the beast's existence... What if they actually learned it from this Ancient Battlefield? Did that mean Freedom Sect actually knew about this place? Or did the Ancestors hide that fact?'

Having no other clue, Alex decided to shake the thoughts off until he entered that place himself. "How about the test itself? How can we receive the inheritances from God Rank Expert?"

"We will get thrown inside a Special World called Ancient Battlefield and need to survive there for a period of time. From time to time, we will have a certain event happening. We need to take advantage of it. Master met a God Stage Expert and received his inheritance after surviving for six months. That's why I assume the monsters are many, and they are strong." Evelyn took a deep breath.

"I see."

'I will be staying inside there for as long as I can and receive the inheritances.' Alex nodded before he realized something was wrong. "Is the world linked up with each other? Or does each of us enter a different world?"

"I think we are in the same area. Master wants me to meet up with Senior Sister by using a token after all."

"If that's the case..." Alex looked down and stroked his chin. 'Should I regroup with them? Or should I go and fend for myself alone?'

The most logical thinking would be fighting together, but he would need to restrict his strength, especially his Space Element. On the other hand, fighting together would allow him to preserve his stamina and Spiritual Energy. This was indeed a hard choice.

'I will decide after I go there, I guess...' Alex thought and looked back at Evelyn. "Do you know anything that we can take advantage of?"

"The world will constantly change, so there is no point knowing about it. According to the record, a few people arrived inside a human's settlement from a kingdom to a village. Normally, the kingdom also fends help for those people, but they ultimately collapsed under the horde of monsters. That's why Master said the only one that you could rely on is yourself and those who are close to you."

"I see." Alex nodded and thought, 'Close to me, huh... I wonder whether I can summon Anna and the others there, but seeing it's an illusion world, it means I can't do it. The only thing I can do is to fight against those monsters alone. I just hope that those monsters will give me EXPs and Gacha Tickets like the ones in Heavenly Sword Sect's Battle Tower.'

"Do you want to be together with me? Or are you going with that Song Jiaoren?" She asked.

Alex shook his head. "I have no plan for now, but I will probably go alone."

"Are you sure?" Evelyn furrowed her eyebrows, worried about him.

"Yeah." Alex nodded. 'Hopefully, there is also a chance to use Space Element, so in the worst case, I can escape to the Space World.'

"If that is big brother Alex's choice..." Evelyn looked down and nodded with a sad look.

"Don't worry. I will be alright. I am the one who needs to worry about you." Alex patted her head.

Evelyn pouted. "I think I have told you everything I know."

"Then, I think it's time for me to go. Dawn soon will come anyway, so I should get ready to go to the Blackwade Clan." Alex nodded.

"Fine."

Alex patted her head a few more times and left.

...

As soon as he entered his inn, he summoned Anna with a serious face.

"Should Leoz and I leave your side for the time being?" Anna asked instantly.

"Before that, I want to give the inheritances I got from Elder Ri Xheo to Letizia. Will that be alright?" Alex asked.

"What is your reasoning?" Anna obviously frowned. Although she thought Letizia favorably, it wasn't to the point she would give an inheritance of Ice Great Elder just like that.

"I am thinking about preparing her for the next war. We still have around three years before that Ancestor appears again, so I want her to increase her strength first. I feel that she might become another factor in this war. After all, the moment I ruin the ritual, she might be targeted. I might need to save her. Nonetheless, she would participate in the war. I wanted to give it to Alicia at first, but she already had all the resources she needed." Alex sighed.

"True enough. She is the only Ice Element User you know, and it is Pure Ice Element to boot..." Anna contemplated for a minute and sighed. "Fine. We can give it to her. She won't be able to do anything to

us in this world anyway... Meanwhile, we can simply crush her if she decides to betray us outside of this world." Anna nodded and believed in Eulja's strength.

"Yeah. We can also crush their morale and bait the Snow White Mountain." Alex nodded.

"It's your choice. There is also Ancient Ruin, but she won't participate in it. With only Sacrificial Ice Element, the elders from Snow White Mountain must want to win some in this Ancient Ruin, so their Ancestor won't be that disappointed."

"Yeah. We can't do anything to them right now."

"Then, what will I and Leoz do after this?"

Alex pondered for a moment. "As expected, I can only have you go around and raise your level. I don't know whether I can bring you inside the Ancient Ruin, so our only option is to use every opportunity to raise your level."

"I understand."

Anna went back to the card and had someone summon her together with Leoz. He then decided to retire for the day.

...

The next day, Alex said goodbye to Evelyn as he made his way toward the west gate, preparing to meet Song Jiaoren. It was easy to find him since he could simply look around with his Spirit Eyes and approached a Martial Saint followed by another two Saints.

Song Jiaoren waved his hand at him, acting as normal as possible in front of the elders. They decided to have a front of two business partners, so they were acting as equals. The two elders also had no problem seeing this and let this go, despite wondering since when they actually had this type of relationship.

"Have you finished all your business in this city?" Song Jiaoren asked.

"Yeah. We can go to the Blackwade Clan right now." Alex nodded. This journey would take very long, considering Alex would never use a few weeks just to travel. Unfortunately, he couldn't afford to reveal his Space Element for the time being and decided to follow the group.

"Very well." Song Jiaoren nodded and glanced at the two elders as they summoned a flying ship. "This is our Blackwade Clan's Flying Ship. Its speed is twice as fast as 5-Star Martial Saint, so we should be able to arrive at the clan within two weeks. I also have another thing to discuss when we arrive at the clan."

Alex nodded. He realized that the one he wanted to talk about must be the Ancient Ruin.

They then boarded the ship and flew to the horizon.