Gacha 961

Chapter 961 - Yeti

"All of you are going to die," Aria shouted out loud, directing all her killing intent toward Perona. "Why do you have to be so petty?!"

"You lowly b*tch. Your Cypress Family is nothing in my eyes and you dared to ignore me? Only the strength is respected, so a lowly b*tch like you should bow down and lick my feet." She snorted.

'Don't kill her first, so I can torture her later. For now, I will deal with the rest.' Alex sent a thought transmission while checking her mental state.

'Thank you.' Aria appeared to be calm, so Alex gave a go.

Alex then pulled out his sword and said, "Eve, time to kill."

Eve released her energy, telling Alex that she was ready.

Meanwhile, the Rank 10 God was scared out of his life. He wanted to apologize right now because he had offended the Sword Blossom Peak's peak master.

Obviously, Silvia didn't let him and blew him away, keeping him busy while Alex killed all of them.

"!!!" Perona finally realized what was going on and glanced at Silvia, only to find herself being in danger.

Aria already appeared right in front of her, slashing her sword downwards.

Perona blocked it out of reflex, but she immediately found her strength was completely not matched to her. Only when she realized this, she checked Aria's strength, only to find it was too late. Her 2-Star Martial Saint couldn't be compared to Aria's 4-Star Martial Saint.

However, Aria had blown her away, looking at her with a cold gaze. "You said strength matters, so I will simply kill you with my "strength." Don't say I am bullying you."

Since Aria and Silvia had their own respective opponents, Alex only focused on the remaining twenty-six people.

"I will be handling all of you guys here." Alex released his Spiritual Energy. Because of Aria's strength, he had chosen to reveal his strength at 6-Star Martial Saint. It should be enough to handle everyone without raising any suspicion, considering the enemy only had one Rank 10 God, and the second strongest was only an 8-Star Martial Saint.

"All of you are truly fools. You never realize the fact that you have been played by the Cypress Family. With your arrogance, you might never remember this, but my Grayfig Family has undergone tribulations because of your arrogance. This matter can only be solved by blood.

"I will use my strength that I have hidden this whole time to show what my Grayfig Family is capable of!" Alex finally directed his killing intent to them.

This killing intent marked the start of the battle.

"Capture him. We should be able to turn this around as long as we capture him." The 8-Star Martial Saint shouted.

"Ooh! We alone are enough." There were three 6-Star Martial Saints who felt arrogant, ignoring Alex's speech earlier while walking toward Alex. One of them pointed his hand toward Aria. "All of you can go help Miss. I am sure young miss want to destroy that woman, so make sure you don't break her before we finish—Gah!"

Before he finished his vulgar remarks, Alex had sent their heads flying with a speed that they never saw.

"You all are idiots and arrogant. This is why I will show you all the things you have done to my family were wrong." Alex acted to glorify the Grayfig Family, instilling the fact that he was a patriot who had a deep hatred for the Grata Family.

"!!!" The others were shocked by his strength. "Handle him first."

As soon as he saw ten people finally heading straight at him, Alex only smiled. They were only two 7-Star Martial Saints while the rest were less than 5-Star Martial Saints. Finding this, he became even more relaxed.

Alex slashed horizontally even though they had yet to reach him. However, his weapon shone and released an extended blade of his sword, giving enough length to reach the rest.

"One Inch Spear."

The left one raised his sword, trying to stop that strike so the others could capture Alex. He was a 7-Star Martial Saint and believed that the reason the trio was killed was due to them underestimating Alex.

Whether it was fortunate or unfortunate, he still underestimated Alex's strength. How could he know Alex actually had a Divine Body.

When he blocked it, Alex used all his strength this time. Unlike the usual way where he needed to strike a Rank 8 Sword to destroy it, Alex chose to use a portion of his Divine Sword Qi instead to destroy the Sword.

The sword continued its path, severing all ten people's heads in one slash. This completely sent a shiver down their spines. Even Perona was in shock, resulting in her getting struck by Aria right on her stomach.

"Gah?!" She spat a mouthful of blood before getting blown away, crashing into the cave wall. "How dare you?! Kill her!"

Not wanting to swallow this embarrassment, Perona ordered her subordinate out loud, only to find no one coming from her.

"You have nothing." Aria smiled while glancing to the side with Perona.

They found that all the people who surrounded Alex had died. Some had their heads rolling on the ground, some were dying on the wall. Either way, none appeared to have the ability to save her anymore.

"You shouldn't look down on others. Because of your arrogance, you have angered two families. If not due to the original hatred coming from the Grayfig Family, my Peak Master and I wouldn't know about this. Unfortunately, this is something that can't be repaired. No matter how big your family's strength is, it won't stop me from killing you." Aria looked down on her while using her Sword Eye to send the powerful pressure like how she cracked Alex's mask.

"What do you want to do?!" Perona finally had fear inside her heart. "Don't touch me. My grandfather will kill you! He is a Rank 8 God. You won't dare to touch me because he will annihilate your small family!"

"Is that so? Now, I am wondering if your grandfather dares to fight my peak master instead..." She smirked, taunting her even further.

However, Alex had cleaned up the whole mess and headed toward her, leaving only one in a half-dead state that was watching him. In other words, this person could see what happened with his eyes. As long as he altered the memory a little bit, it would be the perfect chance to shift the blame to the Grayfig Family.

"If I am not wrong, you want to rape her, right?" Alex's voice reverberated on her left ear as she looked at Alex with fear.

"You... Don't you dare!" She shouted. Her sword was already far away and the other party might be faster than her since he managed to kill all her men. "My grandfather will surely kill you. Hurry up and save me. I will not tell anyone about this matter and for—Argghhhh!"

She screamed out of pain while Alex only playfully said, "Oops. My bad. I dropped my sword because I almost fell asleep from your threat."

The Sword indeed dropped and cut Perona's hand. She raised her hand with tears streaming out of her eyes.

"This is the end of our cooperation. After this, my Grayfig Family doesn't owe you anymore and will deal with the bastards from Grata Family myself." Alex said to Aria with a serious expression.

The person behind him immediately thought the way Alex hoped for.

When he said that, Silvia returned. "Since you said that, it means I won't interfere with this matter anymore. I am only here because my favorite disciple candidate has her brother bullied. Since you are going to take her life, let's use this as a warning to make that Grata Family know that if they don't want me to move, don't they dare to attack her and her family. If not, I don't mind removing the Grata Family from this world."

Alex looked at her mysteriously and clasped his hands, bowing politely to Silvia to say his thanks. However, Perona and the one man that Alex left alive could only see Gasha Grayfig, Illevis, and Aria in their eyes.

They simply weren't aware that everything was only a plot. Alex stabbed her once more, letting her scream to make it more dramatic.

Alex had a mixed feeling this time. He never did this before unless he was the one who got provoked. That was why, when the guy confirmed everything was him, Alex thought it was enough.

"Please...Spare me. I don't want to die. Spare my life...I will even warm the bed for you." Perona couldn't endure it anymore and beg for her life with tears streaming on her face due to the pain.

"Looking at your personality, you must have done this to many people besides me and my family. How many have said this line to you? Did you spare them?" Alex raised his sword and killed her. "Die..."

Alex cleaned up the blood on his sword and sheathed it again before something happened.

"Roar." A monster's roar echoed in the cave, letting its presence known to all the people inside.

Alex, Aria, and Silvia looked at the darkness.

'I will handle this. You can alter that person's memory. He is in a half-dead state, so try to make it like he is almost dead.'

'Do you want him to think that he chose to play dead, so he could inform their master to settle the grievance?'

'Yes. That sort of thing. The Grata Family knows that they can't mess with Aria with the interference of the peak master. And with how he saw me killing them brutally, the family will know that they can't have me alive because I might become a threat that will erase my family.' Alex confirmed.

'I understand.' Silvia nodded and headed back, finding the person that Alex mentioned. She kneeled down and grabbed his head, and her eyes started shining.

"Aria! Go bring your brother outside." Alex shouted.

Aria nodded, looking at her brother that fell unconscious when the battle just started.

When she left, Alex smiled and disappeared to the darkness, heading straight toward that roar.

It took him two minutes to explore the cave until he finally entered the end of the cave, which was a spacious room. To his surprise, he could see the room easily because it was bright enough. The light came from a giant crystal above them.

However, what took his attention was the Eternal Ice Flower. This was what he was searching for. If he took this, Alicia and Letizia would improve drastically. Unfortunately, he needed to slay the monster that stood in his way first.

The monster looked like an ape but had white fur. It reminded him of a certain monster.

"This is yeti? No, the power behind this yeti is not normal. His Ice Element is very strong, not losing against Alicia and Letizia..." Alex exclaimed in surprise before a monster name that could describe this monster appeared in his mind. "It's called Yachi. Like Sherry, it is considered as the ruler of the Ice...Does he stay here because he wants to transform his ice element even further?"

"..." The monster looked at Alex with a curious glance. His instinct told him not to fight this man because he had something dangerous, but the monster's instinct forbade him to bow down.

Even so, Alex thought something that normal people would think if they had the capabilities. He looked at the Yachi with a serious expression. "You should understand my words, right? I am Alexander Sirius, a Pure Fire user. I have a contract with the ruler of fire, Celestial Fox, and I have someone whose element is Pure Ice Element. Do you want to have a contract with her? I don't wish to kill you."

Alex thought the additional monster like Sherry would surely give Letizia a big boost. There was also Alicia, but this one suited the Pure Ice Element more, so he planned to get another thing to Alicia.

Unfortunately, the ape gave the same response like how a normal monster would do. Of course, it didn't have the ability to speak human languages because it had no direct contact continuously with humans. And there was no contract either.

"Roar!"

Alex somehow understood the roar that filled with anger. "In that case, let's fight. If you lose, submit to me."

"Roar!"

Chapter 962 - Fighting The Yeti

Alex and the Yachi leaped toward each other. Alex swung his sword while the latter created an ice glove to cover his fist.

"This might be the first time you witness my real power, huh?" Alex asked Eve before using his Spirit Step. The increase of the strength was enough to blow the monster away.

"Yes, Master. I wish to see your full power."

"Fine then. Other than using the Spirit Crown and Array, I will be fighting this ape with my full strength." Alex smiled before taking another look at the Eternal Ice Flower.

It looked like a rose, but the color was blue. And it had a kind of translucent effect like that of ice. Still, it was a terrifying flower because it had a kind of domain that froze the ground around it, protecting itself from outside threats.

Programming his course of action to make sure he didn't hit the flower, he simultaneously released his Pure Fire and Space Element. A Spear appeared on his left hand, and he raised it together with his sword.

"Follow my lead."

"Understood."

The Sword then burned strongly, followed by the spear. Behind him, a dragon and a phoenix soared to the air, releasing immeasurable pressure.

Feeling all of this coming from Alex, the ape gritted its teeth and roared. The floor froze instantly, and the ape seemed to be using a technique that enhanced his own prowess.

The two Divine Energy clashed with each other until it suddenly disappeared, becoming the mark where the battle started.

Alex and the ape disappeared at the same time, but a shock wave was transmitted in the center of the cave. Alex and this yeti separated themselves once again while looking at their hands. Both seemed to be surprised with their opponent's strength, escalating this problem to another level.

To check how strong he was, Alex purposely used nothing but his physical strength from the beginning despite promising Eve.

Well, it wasn't like something special because Eve should have noticed his plan. This was not him breaking his promise. Instead, he just played it safe so he could use his trump card at the right moment.

The ape had another thought. Not wanting to lose to Alex, it stomped its right foot to the ground, sending a powerful Ice Element that tried to freeze Alex.

Alex didn't move and covered his body with Pure Fire alone and waited until the shock wave passed him without being able to do anything.

He only stared at the Yachi while saying. "Why are you even trying? I am not that easy to kill. Even if you dedicate your entire life to it, you won't be able to defeat me."

The Yachi took this offensive statement personally and smashed the ice he created earlier, sending a series of rock spikes toward Alex.

Seeing this, Alex only smiled and swung his sword with the One Inch Spear, taking down all the spikes coming toward him. It ultimately stopped the spikes, but the ape seemed to be smarter than he expected it to be.

Instead of charging at him, the Yachi realized he couldn't handle Alex and tried to escape by rushing to the gate not far from Alex.

Alex used his Spirit Eyes to see the ape's movement and used his Teleportation Array to appear in the ape's way.

"You won't escape." Alex snorted and released six attacks simultaneously.

"Triple Draws."

The ape managed to take a glimpse of its true strength and immediately raised both hands to guard the attacks.

Alex had yet to use his Divine Sword Qi this time because he thought there should be a perfect time to use it. Besides, there was a certain risk of permanently injuring the ape. This wasn't something he wanted to see.

That was why he chose to fight the ape conservatively first.

However, the ape had another plan.

It immediately retreated while grabbing all the Ice Spikes that Alex cut and threw it at Alex. That kind of big spikes hid the yeti for two seconds, giving enough time to punch the ground.

Another wave of spikes came when Alex was dealing with the thrown ice spikes.

Alex chose a different strategy and created a Spatial Gate instead, catching the ice spikes, so he had the time to destroy the incoming wave of ice spikes.

This was when the Yachi finally used its masterpiece. The punch earlier was only a distraction to use this move.

"The real intention of that punch is not to send another wave of ice spike but this?" Alex muttered while watching the ape carrying a huge chunk of ice that he shattered in that punch.

It had a diameter a third of what this cave had, so it was pretty big.

Normally, this wouldn't be a problem, but the ape covered it with another layer of ice to stop Alex from cutting it.

Knowing that he couldn't hold back anymore, he released his Divine Sword Qi along with Eve's Bloodlust. It created a brand new power, surpassed that of his usual thing.

"Mythical Fire Slash." Alex released his combined Original Technique and split the ice into two.

What made it more special was how he handled the aftermath. He didn't let the ice drop to the ground and used his Spatial Gate to collect it. Only at that time he summoned it again behind him, closing the exit.

"!!!" The Yachi was confused with Alex's way of thinking and charged at him.

Predicting it once more, Alex created another Spatial Gate in front of the Yachi to stop its movement. However, little did it know Alex had created another Spatial Gate to teleport himself to the Eternal Ice Flower.

"Xingzhi, I will be leaving this flower to you," Alex muttered.

[Sure. I am good at cultivating one like this. We can ask Firia to create a pill for it.]

"Yes." Alex nodded and sent the flower into the Inventory.

[I will be leaving your side for a moment.]

"Don't worry about me." Alex smiled before using the same Space Gate to return to his original position, seeing that the ape actually avoided his Spatial Gate to the side, afraid of getting sucked into it like the two chunks of ice behind him.

Noticing what Alex just did, the ape was furious and charged at him.

Without the flower in his mind, he could finally take this fight seriously.

The ape halted its footstep when it saw Alex's sudden change of expression. It instinctively leaped backward before opening its mouth, sending a powerful blue beam.

Alex raised his hand and summoned a giant pink sphere in front of him, swallowing the beam completely.

"Compress!" This was what Alex learned during his stay inside Encore. He compressed the beam into a tiny ball and teleported it behind the ape.

The explosion surpassed even his expectation and blew the ape toward him.

Because of this movement, the ape couldn't stop Alex from cutting him down in this exchange. However, Alex still had the thought of taming it, so he kicked the Yachi's stomach and blew him away instead.

"Roar!" The Yachi screamed out of pain when it crashed into the wall while looking at Alex fearfully. Their strength should be equal since both were Rank 9 God. Even their strength wasn't that different. Yet, Alex overpowered him in every aspect.

The doubt rose in its heart, wondering why Alex could become so strong, albeit this thought was expressed on his face, giving Alex confidence to start negotiating after this.

"That is enough. Since I have completed my original objective, I will be finishing this battle while showing you what it means to overpower someone!" Alex shouted and stepped forward. This time, his step looked very heavy as it created a small crater underneath.

Suddenly, the blazing fire flared up, turning into a fox. This was the manifestation of his Pure Fire that was above a normal Pure Fire.

"Fire Authority."

This technique left the yeti speechless. It would never expect to see someone with a far stronger element than him. As the overlord of the Ice Element beast, he obviously understood the meaning of Ice Element, including his own strength that surpassed all Ice Element monsters.

Although he never met any Pure Ice Element, he knew that their strength shouldn't be too far from him. However, Alex just shattered that kind of thinking with his Godly Pure Fire.

Just by looking at the fox, he had a strong desire to escape, albeit having no path to do that.

This was not enough. The fox raised its head, looking at the ceiling before it summoned a fireball on top of its mouth.

"Sun Descent."

"!!!" The yeti was alarmed because it could feel the immense heat coming from the fireball. At the same time, he turned downward, finding that his ice slowly melted. Even his skin started feeling burned, albeit it had yet to reach that stage.

Desperate, the ape roared and summoned its best technique that could stop Alex's rampage. It stomped the ground and sent Ice Waves to his surroundings, trying to make the air cooler.

Alex, on the other hand, simply paid no heed of this action. He chose to charge at the enemy instead.

"!!!" The Yachi summoned a full body armor made of ice and struck Kai's fire sword, repelling it once again.

Alex didn't think much about this and raised his weapons to the side as two dragons flew out of his weapons. "Swallowing Heaven."

The white ape glanced to the left and right before retreating a few steps to have a distance from Alex. Unfortunately, the latter had prepared another thing for him.

Due to how the fight became easier with Eve's help, Alex had enough focus to spare to make an Array. It came out using the Spatial Gate.

"Sword Prison Array." Alex smirked.

The ape looked down, finding a huge array. However, it didn't manage to leave because the two dragons that Alex sent earlier already arrived, circling around his stomach to prevent it from moving.

The Array summoned numerous swords that flew toward him. Unlike a normal sword, these swords didn't deal any damage to him. Instead, they were artificial swords that attacked their energy to stop the flow of energy, so the ape couldn't escape.

Alex used the element of shock well and didn't let the ape think while executing this series of combination attacks. The Sun Descent also helped him weaken the ape's ability because of its intense heat.

This allowed Alex to capture the Yachi without needing his Three Purities Slash or Twin Fusion Spear. In terms of ability alone, he managed to reach the Rank 8 God level, especially with how close he had to the Rank 8 God.

"How is it?"

"That is perfect, Master. Although I can't see how strong you are if you decide to kill, I have no words for your performance just now. In fact, it's far stronger than any other cultivators I have seen." Eve confirmed his strength.

"I am glad that you are not disappointed in me." Alex smiled and looked at the ape while pointing his sword at its neck. "So, what do you think? How about a contract with someone I know? She is a family of mine, and I don't think you will be treated badly. You will have a wider view that allows you to improve more than you can here."

The ape gritted its teeth, looking very displeased toward his action. It simply didn't prove Alex's method. This wasn't a negotiation anymore. Instead, it looked like a threat more. The moment it rejected Alex's proposal, there was no doubt Alex would kill him.

However, the situation turned in another direction because Alex had yet to stop using the Sun Descent, melting everything around his surroundings, including the crystal on the ceiling.

To everyone's surprise, they saw many crystals fall down from the ceiling. The crystals were crystal blue. It sent out the light from inside, so it must be the thing that brightened this room since the moment it fell, more than half of the room turned dark.

Both looked at the crystals and instantly recognized what it was.

"!!!"

Chapter 963 - Agreement

"Deep Frozen Crystals?" Alex exclaimed in surprise before exchanging looks with the Yeti.

The latter looked as surprised as him, so he must have no knowledge about it.

"Now that I think about it, the Eternal Ice Flower doesn't really give that much energy. Meanwhile, it needs very powerful ice energy to grow...It seems the energy comes from the Deep Frozen Crystals." Alex muttered.

These Deep Frozen Crystals were a kind of supplement that would improve one's strength as long as they had Ice Element. In some cases where the people had a weak Ice Element, they could even enhance the Ice Element.

If Alicia and Letizia had this along with the Eternal Ice Flower that would soon be turned into pills, they might even reach his level, only one step away from the Rank 8 God. However, Alex saw the Yeti's expression and smiled.

"What do you think about my proposal earlier? Although it's a kind of life and death contract, I won't treat you like a slave. Instead, you are my family. Besides, you won't be my contracted beast. You can choose to see it with your eyes first before making the decision. If you still say no, I will release you. What do you think?" Alex asked with a smile.

The latter still glared at him as if he wanted to say something.

"That flower is a no-no. I can only give you a portion of the Deep Frozen Crystals. Besides, you don't really need much because there will be an endless supply of Spirit Crystals. Of course, those who don't work, don't eat. You must understand the principle, right?"

The Yachi still hesitated, but his expression seemed to be better than the previous one. He knew that if he didn't accept this, Alex would probably kill him. However, if he accepted, not only that there was a chance to survive, he might be able to get benefits.

More importantly, Alex was far stronger than a normal Rank 9 God like him. If such a person led him, he would surely become stronger, albeit Alex wanted him to pair with another person that seemed to have a Pure Ice Element.

It was indeed not as tempting as becoming Alex's contracted beast, but considering the affinity of their elements, they might perform better than when he was with Alex.

After several minutes, the Yachi finally nodded its head.

Alex waited and observed the Yachi first, making sure he didn't lie and attack him right after he released him.

Fortunately, the one he dealt with was a monster or a beast, you might say. They weren't like humans who would betray you that easily. That was why Alex had difficulty when he taught Sherry regarding this matter.

It was part of their nature.

Alex then retracted the array and released him from every single restriction, including the Swallowing Heaven.

The Yachi looked at him and said, "Ru Ru Ru!"

"You agree with me because you feel the prospect, not because you lose? Haha, sore loser." Alex smirked and teased the monster.

The latter only stared at him without having a change in his expression.

Alex finished his business first and nodded. "Fine then. I will treat you as my family and my comrade. I do value your ability, but trust is the most important thing for me. If you dare to put your life on the line, reach my hand."

Alex stretched his hand as if asking the Yachi to shake his hand.

It thought for a moment before finally shaking his hand.

"Ru Ru Ru, Ru Ru."

"Although I agree with your condition, I want a name from you..." Alex twitched his eyebrows.

The Yeti seemed to be surprised when there was a change in Alex's expression as if he just asked something ridiculous.

It turned out he completely misunderstood him when Alex explained. "It's not like I don't want to give you a name. My naming sense sucks, so you will probably have a bad name."

"Ru."

Alex stared at his determined expression and let out a long sigh. "Since you don't mind, I will grant you a name then. Remember, I won't be the one you will make a contract with, alright?"

"Ru." The Yeti repeatedly nodded its head, telling Alex that he had understood everything.

Alex then closed his eyes for a minute before coming up with a name. "Hielo. It means Ice. What do you think?"

Hielo raised both hands as if celebrating it.

[Naming Sense Skill +1]

"Don't camouflage your teasing with that notification." Alex wanted to hit Lin Xingzhi's head once when he saw this.

[Pfft. Still, it's true that your naming sense has greatly improved. If you haven't, you might give him a name like Boro or Goro?]

"..." Alex didn't deny it because it was indeed a truth.

Heilo tilted his head in confusion, wondering who he talked to.

Noticing his gaze, Alex shook his head. "I can't say anything to you for now unless you become a contracted beast."

"Ru (I understand)."

Alex nodded before glancing at the ten Deep Frozen Crystals. "For now, let's bring those back first before discussing this later."

Walking toward the crystals, Alex saw that Heilo didn't even move a step as if complying with what Alex said earlier.

"You are indeed an intelligent one. Can you talk in the human language?"

Heilo shook his head and said, "Ru ru, ru ru ru (The human language is like a disgrace to me, so I never learn them).

"You might probably want to learn that later." Alex shrugged. "And with how you are talking, you don't have a human form as well, no?"

"Ru ru, ru ru ru (I will try because it will be easier to learn after having a human master, however, I despise human form)."

"So, you don't want to turn into one?" Alex asked, resulting in Heilo shaking his head. "Since you are so adamant about it, then no problem. Still, can you change your form into something that is not very noticeable?"

Alex asked this because Sherry could shrink to a tenth of her original size. If he could, then it probably wouldn't matter much.

This time, Heilo nodded and slowly shrank himself. He surprisingly became far smaller. The size appeared to be the same as Sherry's small form or she always said her lazy form since it didn't use much energy staying that way.

Heilo turned from a Yeti...Or Yachi to a small monkey with all his fur white as if he was an albino.

Alex bent down and stretched his hand. "Go to my shoulder."

Heilo then climbed up his hand according to his instruction.

"I do have a few questions for you." Alex recalled every single question in his mind and started asking. "Why are you here?"

"Ru Ru (I don't know. Before I knew it, I already arrived at this place)."

"So, you are not someone from here?"

Heilo nodded.

"This is interesting. Who actually brought you here?" Alex furrowed his eyebrows.

"Ru ru, ru ru (I don't know, but he felt familiar)."

"Maybe your parents?"

Heilo only shrugged his shoulder as if saying he didn't know.

"Well, that's not the problem, I guess." Alex changed the question. "Do you know someone from this world? Maybe they know about your identity and try to capture you here?"

"Ru ru. (I don't have one because no one has yet to find this cave)."

"It can be considered such too. Considering you are absorbing the Ice Energy continuously, there is no leak of energy outside, so they will have a hard time looking for such an entrance. If Adrian didn't try to look for a gap or a place to hide, I doubted he would find this place.

"The same applied to the other group. If they had no clue about Adrian being here, they wouldn't find him and this cave. In fact, Adrian should gamble it all and bring them to you while trying to stay alive as long as possible.

"The angry you will immediately attack them. And I am sure the Eternal Ice Flower will have a huge temptation for them. In that case, he will have a high chance to escape while decimating his opponents." Alex sighed, realizing that Adrian had yet to reach this level.

"Ru Ru." Heilo complained to be used like that.

"I am just saying. I won't do something like that to the one I consider friend or family. However, before I know you, you are simply another monster in my eyes." Alex shrugged.

Heilo could only look down because what he said was not wrong.

"How do you find this place, and how long have you been here?"

"Ru, ru ru ru, ru ru (The leaking energy, and two hundred years ago, due to the huge amount of energy emanating from this mountain)."

"I see. There is nothing wrong with that." Alex nodded in understanding. The power that was leaking in the past must be the energy from the Deep Frozen Crystals instead of the Eternal Ice Flower. After all, one was a tool while the other one was fuel. There was no need to see which one released more energy.

"I am going to stay here for at least one year before returning to my home. Do you find yourself uncomfortable with this schedule?"

Heilo shook his head and raised his hands.

"Fine then. If you don't have a problem, I will stay here without thinking of a way to send you back. Meanwhile, you can even start training with me. I can make sure that you will be getting stronger at a faster rate." Alex smiled with confidence.

"Anyway, use this first until I tell you to hide." Alex handed the first Deep Frozen Crystal, completing his side of the agreement.

Heilo took it humbly, not like a greedy "monkey" before licking it. It seemed to be the way to absorb it in his case, but he looked like someone who had been hungry for thousands of years.

"Let's go then." Alex smiled before walking to the exit, finding Silvia standing alone outside. He found that the rest of the bodies had been cleaned up, including the one he left alive.

When their eyes intertwined, Silvia instantly noticed the presence of a Rank 9 God beast beside Alex. "To think you manage to tame a Rank 9 God Beast when I thought you were going to kill it...Still, I believe this little boy is a Yachi, right? The ruler of Ice...Interesting." "I didn't tame him. I asked for his cooperation. If he chose to stay, it wouldn't be my fault." Alex shrugged. There was another reason he actually asked Heilo to do this was to weaken the others as well. After all, they wouldn't find another him that easily.

"Anyway, this is Silvia, a Rank 5 God. Introduce yourself, Heilo."

"Ru ru." Heilo nodded and said a few words while bowing.

"What a polite boy. Nice to meet you. I am Silvia." She smiled.

Chapter 964 - Second Earth?

"So, what's the deal?" Alex asked.

"After altering his memory, I healed him a bit so he could leave as soon as possible. Before that, I observed him from afar, and he seemed to be muttering something regarding the Grayfig Family. I don't know anything else."

"That's good then." Alex nodded.

"Let me fix your cover first while we are waiting for Aria." She smiled.

Looking at her face that seemed to have returned to normal, Alex took her offer.

"Sit down." She smiled before glancing at Heilo. "Do you mind waiting?"

Heilo shook his head and leaped to the ground while licking the Deep Frozen Crystal.

"Is that Deep Frozen Crystal?" Silvia asked while inserting a few needles.

"Yeah. I found it. Do you need them?" Alex asked with a flat tone. He felt the need to pay her back, but he realized it would be rude to her, so he tried to give her something he wanted as a present instead. After all, if he said he wanted to give Alicia or any other girls a reward for doing something for him, they would be mad at him.

This was the only solution he could ask without looking down on her.

However, the latter only shook her head. "I don't have any use for it. By the way, you have wives, right? If I am not wrong, they are the Nature Goddess, Night Butterfly Goddess, and Light Butterfly Goddess. Do you have more wives?"

"Yes." Alex nodded. "I currently have six wives."

His expression was serious, telling that this would be the best time to leave him if she found it a bit troubling to share a man.

"I see. As expected from a great man. I once thought that you would only have the three Goddesses as your wives.?Still, the number isn't that big, and I don't see you as a lustful person according to my observation." She nodded repeatedly.

"Do you have a problem with that?" Alex asked with a low voice.

"If it's a lustful person, I obviously have. After all, the harem will be too big to the point you won't pay attention to your wives. On the other hand, if the Nature Goddess, Lin Xingzhi, can accept this, why can't I?" She shrugged.

"Hmm..."

"What? Are you going to push me away?"

"Not really. I am just surprised. Instead of saying you can, you use a comparison to prove your point."

"I just don't want to have a conflict before knowing all of them, so I refrain from saying anything with confidence in myself as if I am trying to sell myself to you." She hesitated for a second before mentioning another clue she got from his mouth. "You said you currently have six wives. Does that mean you have another candidate? Or am I the only one?"

"There are another two. I don't know what will happen between us, but I have decided to confront their feelings as well. Whether it will work out or not, I will see it through." Alex nodded. "You are the third, I guess."

"Who are they?"

"Can I not speak about this for the time being?" Alex glanced at her.

"Sure thing. I am not acquainted with them too, so it's only fair if I meet them first before you say anything." Silvia nodded in understanding. "Still, I am ninth, huh..."

"I don't like numbers." Alex shook his head.

"But if you have a kid, how will your kids call your other wives?"

Alex thought about it for a few seconds before shaking his head. "I will think about it later. I still have something that I need to do before having a child."

"I see. That's a shame." She smiled and continued working on his face, knowing that the beast indeed pressured him to go faster than ever, not letting him have this kind of risky life.

"By the way, I have a matter that I would like to consult."

"No need to be that formal. Just ask me. I will see whether I can do it or not."

"In that case..." Alex revealed the problem. "I am not sure if I can stay here within the time limit. In other words, I will be leaving this world after one more year...Which is short a few months from the agreement."

She suddenly paused the treatment and looked at him with a gentle smile. "Can...I follow you?"

"I can only answer that when I leave this world." Alex shook his head in disappointment.

"Then, I will wait before saying anything regarding this. Do you have a plan after leaving this place?"

"A few things that I can and cannot say. However, I still have no plan after that. I mean...I will be a Rank 8 God when I leave this world. Meanwhile, I still need to reach the Rank 7 God within five years." Alex narrowed his eyes.

"You are a very serious person, aren't you?" She smiled. "Five years, huh..."

"Yeah. My current plan is to reach Rank 4 God within twenty-five years, reach Rank 2 God the next ten years. After that, I can't say anything."

"In that case, you will need my power again. I mean, I can still fix your body once more to give you a boost in your cultivation in the future. When the time comes, you can visit me."

"Thanks."

"Since you give me this precious information, I have something that can help you." She recalled the information about a particular world. "This world is a peculiar world. Unlike a normal world where we cultivate and get stronger, they are using science instead.

"They have things called cars and guns to do most of the things. However, I have seen a world similar but more advanced than this to the point they are capable of constructing a spaceship without the need for cultivation power to fuel the ship. That is something fascinating.

"My point is...That world has a weird system. It's like having two different types of world. On the surface, they don't have people with cultivation, but you can enter the other side of the world and find powerful cultivation. In fact, they have many God Rank Experts."

Alex furrowed his eyebrows when he learned that information. The way she described it was very similar to that of Earth. However, Alex knew Earth didn't have something like this, so he remained silent, letting her continue.

"Why do I mention this planet? There is one reason. The people of the other side can't travel to another side without paying the price. On the other hand, the people on the surface haven't realized there is this other side.

"Because of that, there is a certain barrier between them. One is longing to go to the "Surface" while the other is not aware of it. Why do you think those people want to go to the surface?"

Alex thought for a moment and said, "Resources?"

"Exactly. Because they don't know much about cultivation, they have yet to exhaust the powerful medicinal herbs or any other resources. You should be able to get all the plants that they don't care about and use them to your advantage.

"However, the barrier that is separating the two realms is thin. You need to lower your strength to Martial Master if not Foundation Stage unless you want to break that barrier. We have once sent someone there, but they die under the aggression of their so-called military and guns.

"It's quite a powerful weapon. The guns seem to be equal to Rank 2 Weapons. From what I know, there is a possibility that their strongest weapons are either Rank 4 or Rank 5 Weapons. In any case, their individuals are weak, so you can proceed without a problem. I don't think why I suggest this, right?"

Alex nodded and thought. 'The world is indeed like that of Earth, but this separate dimension is very different. If it's like she said, the other side seems to have exhausted their resources, trying their best to get the resources from the other side.

'However, there is a barrier that prevents them, so the resources are safe. The reason she told me this...' He closed his eyes and opened his mouth. "Do you want to enter together with me? I think I can spend the rest of the days gathering resources."

"Hehe. You know me well. It's a win-win situation."

"You want me to bring you because I can use my Space Element to seal my power but still have Divine Body. Those weapons won't be able to hurt me, so I am the strongest in that world. This is a big advantage that only I can have because of my strength.

"Even if you send your people there, you will have a hard time procuring their resources because they will be killed by their weapons. It's not like the people you can send are strong enough to oppose their weapons. And if you send too many people, the barrier will break and all hell will let loose."

"Exactly." Silvia gave a thumb up. "Your strength is necessary. I already have their information, so we can go there. We won't take everything from them, but I am sure you don't mind getting a few Divine Rank Herbs, right? I don't know how many herbs they have, but yeah, we can't really exhaust their resources just like that."

"I don't really mind as long as you can wait after leaving this world. I mean, I still need to pay respect to my teacher and in-laws unless I want to get killed." Alex complained jokingly.

"Sure. I am alright with that. Should I follow you to Eulja? Maybe I can talk it out with the Nature Goddess too...And probably with the others. I need to introduce myself before having them accept me, no?"

Alex scratched the back of his head before Lin Xingzhi replied.

[Sure. You can bring her. I saw her once when I confronted the Palm God. It was a few hundred years ago, so she was still a child back then. I am curious to see her development. Besides, Anna and Anya will surely become curious, especially Anya. Their abilities have the same healing attributes after all.]

Wanting to inform her that Lin Xingzhi had agreed, he chose a different way to say it because he couldn't afford to let her know about the system for the time being. He changed his wording. "Sure. I will talk to her regarding that and let you know at a later date."

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

"One thing that I don't understand, why do you keep smiling as if you don't feel everything about this weird at all? I mean, I am sure you have something that disappoints you until this day, no?"

"I do feel a bit uncomfortable when you say you have multiple wives. Like any other women out there, they will say they are jealous to see the man with another woman. However, this can be resolved by how the family operates and the relationship with the other wives, including how tolerant they are. After all, relationships can be built over time.

"For example, if the family operates like a normal family that thinks political marriage is the best thing to do to gain relationships, the relationship with the wives will be bad. However, if you prioritize the family first and do not fall in love with someone because of their body or something, you will discuss this with your wives first.

"This allows the wife to have a sense of importance in their hearts and yours. They will start supporting each other because they know something they can't do, the others can, so they need to rely on each other even if it means swallowing their desire. Of course, you need to act as the family head as well to make sure everyone is getting along."

Before continuing, she sensed someone coming that turned out to be Aria. She smiled. "I think I shouldn't discuss it right now before I meet with the others."

[I like how this girl thinks...]

Alex ignored Lin Xingzhi and nodded. "Yeah. Sorry for asking you that question."

"No problem."

Chapter 965 - Grata Family

A few weeks later.

On another continent, specifically the Grata Family.

"What?!" A middle-aged man released an earth-shattering roar while looking at the only survivor of Alex's massacre.

"Hi..." The survivor obviously feared that roar because there was no telling what would happen to him.

"My daughter was killed, you say?"

"Ye-yes."

"Then, what is the point of your life now?" The middle-aged man shouted before taking out a weapon.

"Wait. Don't do that, Patriarch. Before killing him, shouldn't you understand what happened first?" An elder, sitting not far from him, stopped him by his words.

When the middle-aged man heard that, he clenched his fists and put down his sword. "Speak. What happened?"

"There was a female that antagonized the young miss. Unfortunately, she couldn't do anything to her since she was in the sect the whole time. To lure her outside the sect, the young miss asked us to go with her to kill that person's little brother and family.

"However, that person actually brought a reinforcement, two people to be exact. The first one was a man who seemed to be a person from the Grayfig Family that lived beside the woman's family. According to the information, there shouldn't be any Divine Beings in that family, so we didn't think much about it.

"But to our surprise, that man had the ability to kill all of us, except our Rank 10 God. And he did it so effortlessly. I couldn't comprehend his strength, but he should have the ability to fight 9-Star Martial Saint with his 6-Star Martial Saint's strength alone.

"As for the young miss, that woman killed her. The only reason she dared to do that was due to the peak master. What we didn't know was that there was a relationship between the woman and the peak master of the Sword Blossom Peak.

"When she came, she immediately took down our God Rank Expert in a fit of anger and made sure that no one would interfere with her fight.

"I was half-dead back then, so I thought I should let you know what happened first. That was why I chose to stay alive and returned." He explained.

"What?! The Sword Blossom Peak's peak master? Are you insane to even pick a fight against a Rank 5 God? Do you want to have this family wiped out of the map?" An elder shouted.

Even the family head fell silent, wondering if he heard it right.

The elder beside him asked another question. "Can you explain why that girl antagonized our young miss?"

"Y-yes." He nodded repeatedly. "I am not sure myself, but when we tortured that person's younger brother, the young miss said that she dared to ignore her and humiliated her. According to the two people staying with her in the sect, when our young miss wanted to buy a Divine Herb inside the sect, she coincidentally picked the same herb with that person.

"Of course, the latter picked it first. When the young lady told her off, she immediately put it down and chose another two herbs with a total price twice what the young lady had. That was when the conflict started."

When they heard his explanations, the silence turned into an uproar. The elders couldn't contain their anger any longer.

"What?!"

"She wanted to anger a Rank 5 God only with that reason?"

"Was she insane?"

"Even though no peak master takes in a personal disciple, to antagonize someone that had her favor was still ridiculous. They didn't even dare to pick a fight against a Rank 5 God, let alone her."

"That's right. This is your fault, patriarch. If you didn't spoil her, she wouldn't do something as petty as that!"

"We now need to appease the anger of a Rank 5 God."

"Think of a way right now because we might be destroyed tomorrow."

The patriarch realized how petty these elders were. They only bullied the weak and feared the strong. Even though they often killed normal people if they angered them without thinking, they always kept their heads low when they encountered a person stronger than them. They were the epitome of hypocrisy. However, he couldn't say anything because the moment a Rank 5 God released her anger here, there would be no more Grata Family in this world.

"Enough." The elder beside the patriarch shouted, stopping all of them. He then looked at the survivor and asked. "Do you know anything else?"

"Y-yes. They said that this was only a warning for hurting her brother. If we do something like this again or even worse, she will come to us."

The moment they listened to those words; it was as if a ray of hope illuminated the room.

"That's good news."

"We don't need to face the anger of a Rank 5 God for now."

"Yeah. Still, wasn't there another person with her?"

The survivor felt the gaze of the elders return to him and immediately nodded. "Yes. I heard his words...If I am not wrong, he told them that he had returned the favor. Everything after this would be the war between him and this family. He must say it because he thought everyone died. When they left, I left, recovered for two days, and headed straight here."

"Ho?!" The important elder narrowed his eyes. "If I recall correctly, that boy is someone from the Grayfig Family, the family that lived alongside the Cypress Family that seemed to be the woman's family, right?"

"Yes. He told us that we would pay dearly because we underestimated them in the past. According to him, he trained hard to have his own revenge. The training result was indeed monstrous." The survivor confirmed it.

They sucked cold breath before the elders started shouting at each other again.

"We need to kill him before he becomes a threat."

"Get the information about that person first. Does he have any elders as his backing?"

"That's right. We also need to set up a group of assassins to kill that boy when he leaves the sect."

"For now, we should appease the Rank 5 God first. Since this is only a warning, we should appease their anger first."

"But she did it for her "favorite" disciple ... "

"We should appease this girl instead and ask her to calm her peak master. In this case, we don't need to go to bankruptcy since we are not facing a Rank 5 God."

"I will handle all the gifts we should give her to appease her anger toward us and solve this misunderstanding. And I won't forget to ask her to talk to her peak master."

"After that, we need to kill that boy from the Grayfig Family. We can't let him become even stronger because he will be a big threat to us. The moment he becomes a God Rank Expert, we can't imagine what kind of destruction he will bring."

"Don't forget about his family. For now, we should destroy that family."

"No, no. We should capture some as hostages while killing the rest."

The elders kept discussing until they reached a conclusion. As soon as the meeting was concluded, all of them turned to the patriarch with killing intent.

"Do you have anything to say, Patriarch? Before saying anything, you should have realized this is all your fault for spoiling that lowly b*tch, right?"

The family head could only grit his teeth when he heard it. Perona was his daughter from a concubine he loved, but when everything became his fault, he couldn't say anything. Even though he had the highest position in this place, it wasn't like his strength was the strongest. He only inherited this place from his father, who went into seclusion.

The patriarch hated how these guys could change completely. Normally, they would praise him, trying to get their sons to have a time with Perona, so she might fancy them. After all, everyone knew that Perona would be the key for their son to be a Patriarch.

When she died while bringing a big problem like this, they outright called her b*tch. How could this not bring him anger?

Unfortunately, no matter what he said today, every single person in this room would blame him and shut him up. The only thing he could do was to nod while remembering all these bastards.

He closed his eyes and opened his mouth. "I don't have anything to say."

The elder beside him saw this opportunity and announced it like a hero. "We need to deal with three things. We should bring gifts for the woman from the Cypress Family to appease her anger and calm down her peak master. Secondly, we need to capture a few people from the Grayfig Family before destroying them. Last but not least, we can't have that bastard to get stronger, so we shall send a group of assassins to wait for him leaving the sect and kill him."

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Back to the present.

Aria finally returned not long after Silvia finished removing all sorts of disguise from Alex's face. Her face looked calm, so they knew she should have finished her matters.

"How is it?" Alex still asked to confirm his guess.

"Thanks to Mya's help, his condition is already stable. He should wake up tomorrow." Aria nodded with a smile before turning serious and bowing her head. "Thank you for helping me."

"No problem." Silvia waved her hands, treating it like not a big deal.

"Since your brother is fine, I think it's time to return to the sect. And yeah, your family should be fine for now since they will most likely focus on the Grayfig Family for now. As long as you get stronger, they will most likely give their apologies to you...Which means money." Alex nodded.

"That is good. If they give me compensation like that, please take it as my thanks."

Alex looked at her while furrowed his eyebrows. "Nope. I won't take it. I will use it to increase your cultivation. After all, I agreed to help you because of the Eternal Ice Flower. Besides, I have gotten this little monkey and Deep Frozen Crystals. Heilo, say hi to her as well."

"Ru ru." Heilo raised and waved his hand as if saying hi to Aria.

Noticing the intelligence of the monkey, Aria smiled and greeted him back. "Nice to meet you."

Heilo stretched his hand as if asking for a handshake.

Aria was slightly surprised about this, but still shook his head. "What an intelligence monster you are."

Heilo suddenly leaped to her shoulder and told Alex that he would be fine here.

"Fufu...Does this mean he likes me more?" She joked around.

"Nope. He just shows you his lustful side." Alex shrugged without care.

"You are jealous?"

"Absolutely not." Alex then turned around and flew to the sky, heading straight to the sect. Aria and Silvia followed right behind him. "Let's go back."

Chapter 966 - Letizia

The original plan was to use the Teleportation Array Plate to return to the sect as fast as possible, but Alex changed the plan a little bit. He decided to fly back to the sect while using his Spirit Eyes to check whether there was another hidden treasure.

Unfortunately, after flying so long, he couldn't find a single thing. He wasn't ungrateful. Considering he had gotten Heilo and Deep Frozen Crystals, there was no anger in his heart.

He simply returned to the mansion and began training while Silvia asked Navin for a report during the small mission.

After knowing that her family was safe, Aria finally concentrated on her training. The days passed without any more troubles. There was a visitor during the first two weeks, which turned out to be Adrian.

To his surprise, Adrian fell on his knees and thanked him politely.

"Thank you for helping me even though I was like coercing you."

"Get up. Everything is fine, so there is no need to dwell in it. If you want to thank the peak master, I will pass the message, so you don't need to go there." Alex nodded.

"I understand."

Alex had realized one more thing during the past two weeks. Adrian and the Cypress Family actually had no confidence in sending Alex to help Adrian because of the God Rank Expert.

What they wanted was to use Alex's and Aria's relationship with the peak master to have her help. She was the only one who could solve this issue, so they asked Alex to pass the message.

Adrian's action proved it even further, so Alex needed to hide the fact that it was Silvia instead of Illevis.

After giving his thanks, Adrian politely bowed and left the house.

Alex only hoped that the peak master was not aware of it since he would be suspicious. Although he could say everything was Silvia's will, the peak master would suspect him too. There was no way Silvia would meet someone unknown.

There were only two possibilities. The first was the fact that she knew about Alex's power and helped him to gain his favor. And the second possibility was due to their prior relationship.

The latter seemed to be a bit absurd, so llevis would most likely believe the first possibility.

Aria kept apologizing when Alex explained that, but the latter only told her it was alright. He asked her to train even harder if she felt bad, and it turned out she became crazy for training after that day. Even though Alex told her to rest, she kept training.

Only when she found Alex was quite angry, she finally stopped that stubborn attitude and returned to normal.

Nonetheless, they managed to improve their strength remarkably. When the new month came, another visitor appeared, bringing many things, from Spirit Crystals to weapons.

This person addressed Aria with praises, wanting to mend the relationship between her and the Grata Family.

However, Alex and Aria knew that they only wanted to prevent llevis from joining this fight. If she interfered again, there was nothing but defeat.

Alex then ordered Aria to know about what happened to the Grayfig Family.

Joyful news came right after when they heard the Grayfig Family was destroyed. According to Aria's father, there were two Rank 10 Gods decimating this family along with a few elites that kept anyone from leaving.

Even though he found that their treasury was empty, the Cypress didn't care anymore since their arch enemy had disappeared.

Of course, this action caused a disturbance, especially on a certain someone inside the sect. Yeah, it was none other than Gasha Grayfig.

He always thought that he could control the Cypress Family, but when Alex came, everything changed. Every single of his plans was a failure and even his family now had gone.

Silvia immediately reported that Gasha seemed to have a far bigger hatred for the Grata Family instead of the Cypress Family.

Aria was happy to the point she hugged Alex until they fell down, only to find it a bit embarrassing after that.

Adrian also learned the information and realized the fact that his sister might probably be in the best hand.

Without Alex, Aria wouldn't be here with this kind of achievement. No one could refute that.

However, Alex didn't have any interest in this matter and continued his everyday business.

It became a calm period again, so Alex and Aria kept increasing their strength. To his surprise, Aria managed to reach 5-Star Martial Saint after three months even though he predicted it required her another month.

It seemed she had no more thought about her family since they had solved it anymore. Without that unnecessary thought, Aria kept going without a break.

When the good news came, he also got another piece of news from the system with a blue notification appearing right before his eyes.

[I have a few good news. The first will be about our current investigation progress. You won't need to worry about Fire Worlds again because we have found enough for you and Sherry. This led to the second news. Sherry has managed to become the princess of that beast world.]

"Really? That's good." Alex smiled and nodded. "What is her situation over there?"

[She is fine and the Beast God has fulfilled his agreement to protect her. With this, there is a chance of alliance between the Beast World and our Eulja. This way, we will be more assured in fighting a large-scale war.]

"I see." Alex paused for a moment. "I never saw that world as my pawn for war, though."

[I know you treat them as a world that helps Sherry, but we are in this situation right now, so it's best to keep gathering pieces. For now, I will give the information about two Fire Worlds to Sherry, so she can complete the Fire Authority.]

"Please."

[As for your Fire World, I will give you the compass when you are about to leave. Is that fine?]

"I don't mind. I can keep my focus this way."

[Alicia and Firia don't have much difference in their missions. According to Firia, she managed to get a silver medal from the Alchemy Tower. Her strength is top-notch.]

"Silver medal?"

[It's a special medal from a world known as Alchemist paradise. If you want to be recognized as an alchemist, you should go to that world. As for the medal, it's a God Rank Expert medal that is only for those who have reached God Rank.]

[There are three medals for that. Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Each shows the status of a God Rank Alchemist. In other words, having a Silver Medal was a kind of seeing someone who mastered most of what you should know about Alchemy, with Gold being the master of Alchemy. There were not many people that acquired that rank.]

"I see. That's good then. I have no plan in acquiring the title for the time being."

[I understand that. And finally, it's about your parents-in-law. They have been asking me, Anna, and Anya, when you are going to visit them. It seems they have something to talk about.]

"I understand. I will visit them first before meeting with my teacher. Please apologize to them on my behalf."

[Don't worry. They understand your problem. Besides, they are a bit special as a couple...You will know more after you meet them.]

"Alright then. Is there anything else?"

[One more thing. After talking about Heilo to Alicia, she completely gave up because of her current situation and Letizia. Due to this, Letizia will become his master with a life and death contract. So, she won't talk to you and Heilo first.]

"How?"

[She is with me right now. Maybe, it's better to talk to you first. Heilo can wait until you return.]

"I see. Sure." Alex nodded. "How are Evelyn and Rose then?"

[They are both good. Evelyn is about to become a God Rank Expert, while Rose might need one more year or two...probably.]

"Alright then. I don't need to worry about them anymore. Just tell Evelyn to wait for me in Eulja."

[Do you want them to train in that world as well?]

"Absolutely, but not now. Maybe after I reach Rank 5 God, I will have a diplomatic talk with them since I should have enough strength to protect myself. And the others will think twice before trying to do something to me."

[That is probably a better solution rather than sneaking inside there. After all, you need to be there for a long time. As for teaching them, I don't know if you have time to do that.]

"Yeah. That's my concern. It's best to let them learn from the source." Alex nodded with a solemn expression.

[Okay. I have finished my part. Do you want to add something before I change with Letizia?]

"One more thing. How are you, Anna, and Anya? Are you doing fine?"

[I am great. Anna and Anya got spanked from time to time. And yeah, it was their mother.]

"Pfft." Alex tried to hold his laughter before taking a deep breath to calm himself down. "Alright then."

[I will switch with her right now.]

Alex didn't say anything and waited until another notification appeared.

[Master, this is Letizia.]

"Ya. How are you?"

[I am fine. The Ice Phoenix Tribe treats me well and I will be sticking around them for the time being. I saw that Master also wants me to learn in that world...]

"Yeah. Do you have a problem? I mean, you focus not only on your element but also your sword, right? As long as you can get stronger, I am glad. For now, I have Deep Frozen Crystals for you. That's right. I will leave six Deep Frozen Crystals in the Inventory, so you and Alicia can split. Three-three, you hear me?"

Alex didn't forget to say to split it evenly because he believed Letizia would look down on herself and only take one while giving the rest to Alicia.

[Yes.]

"Well, I want to give you more, but I should give the other four to Heilo. After all, you two will have the Ultimate Freezing Pill from this Eternal Ice Flower I have got."

[Thank you, Master. I am just afraid that I am not qualified to get something like that. And you even want me to make a contract with the ruler of Ice, the Yachi.]

"It's fine. You should stop looking down on yourself. You are a Pure Ice Element user. Even though you have sworn to the Universe to become my slave, I never saw you that way, you know."

[I apologize.]

Alex paused for a moment and smiled. "Say...How about going together with me to a world to enjoy your life? Hmm...I have a long schedule for now, maybe after I have finished all my business?"

[Can I?]

"Like I said, you shouldn't ask that question. The answer is yes or no. Take it or leave it."

[Yes?]

Alex scratched the back of his head and let out a long sigh. "Well, that's good enough for now. We can talk about this when I meet you again."

Lin Xingzhi could only shake her head but decided to take back that disappointment when she saw her blushing while playing with her fingers as if she didn't know what to do.

She almost laughed at that time and started teasing her.

"Oya, oya. What do we have here?" Lin Xingzhi smirked.

Letizia's body shook and turned to Lin Xingzhi. "I..."

"I smell love in the air. Hmm...Maybe you have the most complicated love story among us. I mean, from an opposition to a slave to a subordinate to this."

"I...What should I do?" Letizia glanced left and right as she couldn't stare straight at Lin Xingzhi's eyes.

"Just do whatever you want. I don't have much problem with you here and I think I am a bit relieved. I mean there are ten rooms...Rather than having someone with an unknown goal, it's better to have someone like you."

"Can I?" She blushed. "I mean, I have always convinced myself that I am just a slave...Including that kind of slave...So, I have prepared myself to be pushed down by Master when he wants me...I think that is more suitable for me..."

Looking at her sheepish actions, Lin Xingzhi couldn't help but smile and hugged her. "So cute. I wonder if I should make you read my "ultimate" book?"

Chapter 967 - Aria Vs Alex

After ending his conversation with Letizia, Alex had a good grasp of what he needed to do in this world. If possible, he needed to reach Rank 8 God before the next mission. However, it led to another question to Lin Xingzhi.

"By the way, how about the two Divine Herbs that I left in your hand?" Alex asked with a serious expression.

[They are good. Maybe they will be ripe enough when you reach Rank 7 God. That way, you wouldn't need too long to reach Rank 6 God. And you will also have another reserve in your body.]

"I see. Thanks." Alex let out a long sigh.

"Nyx. Can I ask something?" Aria shouted at him while training.

"What is it?"

"I wonder what are you going to do with the Eternal Ice Flower?"

"Why? Do you want it?" Alex asked in confusion. Silvia didn't come today, so there were only him and Aria in this field. And it turned out that Aria was more inclined not to talk when Silvia was here. Maybe, she was still uncomfortable with her or probably shy.

"I mean, I have heard from my father that medicinal herbs are usually used as Pill Ingredients. However, there are some that can be taken individually. Do you know anything about it? Or should I ask about it to Mya?"

Alex furrowed his eyebrows and decided to explain. "It's just general knowledge. You should know that there is a quality difference between every single medicinal herb, right?"

"Yes."

"Just like cultivation, it will become even more apparent for Divine Herbs. I mean, there is a big difference between a Rank 10 God and a Rank 9 God. Even if you can fight a 10-Star Martial Saint while being a 7-Star, it doesn't mean you could challenge a Rank 9 God while being a Rank 10 God. Do you know what I mean?"

"I've got a grasp of it."

"Now, we should bring this example to the Divine Herbs. Just like a Rank 1 God or God King, the peak Divine Herbs have a very powerful efficacy. If we use this kind of herb, there will be two possibilities. First, the herb will become too strong for our body to handle. Or second, the herb will overpower the rest of the ingredients and turn them into junk. "The first one can still be used to increase one's prestige while the second one is very pricey. Either way, all of them need a huge cost. And people started finding a way to get good efficacy but at a lower cost, thus the birth of alchemy.

"They are combining multiple lower-level herbs to replicate the effect of a peak Divine Herbs. That's why most Divine Pills stem from low-level Divine Herbs, while stronger Divine Herbs are to be consumed raw."

Aria fell silent for a moment and finally nodded her head. "So, that's the reason. Is that also related to why many Rank 8 herbs are still used as ingredients?"

"Yes. Because there is a higher limit which is the God Rank, no need to hold back in using them, hoping that one of them can actually become a Divine Pill." Alex nodded. "The cost will surely be lower than normal Divine Pills."

"In that case, doesn't it mean there is a big difference between Alchemist and Forging Master or Array Master?"

"Not really. You should know that your sword actually has a consciousness, right?"

"Yes. You told me that a few months ago. However, most weapons have a very weak consciousness, so it doesn't mean anything to the users." She nodded.

"It will be different for those with high-level weapons. There is a chance that the sword that they build will have a strong consciousness. If a God King can control such a sword, that is good, but what if there is a Sword that is capable of killing a God King itself? The one that has broken the limit of this universe?"

"Ah?!" Aria instantly understood what he meant. If such a sword were born in this world, there would be a chance that the Sword would rule this world. When that time came, they would be at its mercy. "I didn't think it through."

"That's why it has become taboo for the most part. If one actually conducts such research, the planets around it will try to kill that person because he/she has threatened their existence."

"I agree. I will probably kill him before his creation kills me."

"As for Array Master, this one is similar to that of Alchemy. They simply have a limit. Rank 8 Array can only be created with Martial Saint Stage monster blood. Divine Array or Rank 9 Array can only be drawn with God Rank Expert blood. If there is one that is surpassing that, then you need blood that is higher than God King."

"Do they exist?"

"They exist." Alex smiled mysteriously. From what he understood, the beast should be the perfect example. Although his previous life managed to fight it toe-to-toe, he still didn't have any confidence in killing the beast. Thus, he wanted the current him to reach the same stage as him to kill that beast.

Knowing that the universe would expel him and forbid him from meeting his family, he sent the only power that could help him negating that effect even if it meant that Alex would choose to stay as a God King instead of a higher stage.

That was the reason why Lin Xingzhi could actually find the Gacha System that the Dungeon God possessed. Everything had been arranged deliberately without her knowledge.

Meanwhile, Alex perfectly understood this, but the memory stayed only in his mind due to the "cheat code" that the previous him gave him. As long as it was related to the source of the Gacha System, Lin Xingzhi wouldn't be able to know it.

"I see. Thank you for answering that question even though it doesn't mean anything to me for the time being." Aria didn't forget to thank her.

"By the way, why did you ask that question?" Alex asked, feeling something odd.

"You were very eager when you knew about the Eternal Ice Flower, so it piqued my curiosity. And because my father didn't really have much knowledge about the universe or anything above Martial Saint, I couldn't ask anyone."

Alex could understand that as well. He might become as curious as her if he didn't have the knowledge crammed inside his brain.

"Still, you are a Fire Element user while Mya has a Light Element. You two are not related to the Eternal Ice Flower. Unlike the two herbs that I bought for you, I couldn't help but think, the herbs...Are they for your wives? It means your wives have Ice Element, no?"

"You do know that I have several wives, right?"

"Well, at least I know a bit of one of your wives." She shrugged while smirking as if she managed to get another good piece of information from him.

"Do you want a spanking?" Alex twitched his eyebrows before appearing in the field. "How about we have a round here? You have been dying to test your strength, right? I won't use my Divine Energy and hold back my strength. Don't worry. I will fight you with 1-Star Martial Saint strength. The question is...Do you dare?"

"..." Aria fell silent and halted her steps. She opened her palm as a sword appeared before it. Pointing her sword toward Alex, she said, "Any bet?"

"Hmm...What do you want?"

"How about your real appearance or your real age? I want to see it."

"Really? You do remember that you still owe me a favor, right?"

"I don't mind owing you a favor. How about if you win, I will owe you another favor? Besides, you are going to be my boss eventually. There is nothing to lose."

"Heh?!" Alex smirked. "I don't really mind since you won't be able to defeat me."

"That's something we can only find after we fight."

"I like that answer, but you haven't forgotten the fact that I was the one advising you of your Sword Style, right?"

"Even so, there is no telling that you actually have the strength to block it." She pointed her sword and released her lightning. "Are we going to fight?"

"It's on then." Alex nodded while closing his eyes before raising his sword to the right.

Without even waiting for Alex, Aria already made a move, trying to catch him off guard. "Tch."

"I was the one teaching this shamelessness to you."

"Right. There is nothing fair. In a life and death battle, only the winner can say whether the fight is fair or not." She smiled and looked left and right, trying to find something that could help her defeat him.

Alex watched her movement closely with his Spirit Eyes before an array plate.

Aria didn't know what he took out, so she opened her eyes. "Are you going to use that? You are cheating."

"Don't you say that only the winner can say whether the fight is fair or not?" Alex smugly used her words to defeat her argument.

Aria was speechless to see the one who taught her was even more shameless than her. No, she should say it was to be expected.

However, Alex threw it to the ground and activated the Array.

An invisible barrier was soon erected, separating this place from the outside world. No matter how hard they fought, the people from the outside wouldn't know they were here fighting.

"This..."

"This is just a normal barrier coupled with an illusion array. The people outside can only see an empty field, so you can go all out."

"Doesn't it the other way around? You are the one that has been holding back this whole time." Aria shook her head helplessly.

"Whatever, let's start." Alex shrugged and waved his hand a few times, taunting her.

Aria smiled and coated her sword with the Sword Qi and her Lightning. With her eyes, she should be able to fight Alex, let alone him with that 1-Star Martial Saint.

With the confidence overwhelming her heart, she leaped forward.

"Fifth Dance, Lightning Step." She appeared next to Alex while drawing her sword. "Fourth Dance, Lightning Draw."

Alex glanced to the right and swung his sword, trying to block this.

Having predicted this move from Alex, Aria smiled and used her Sword Eye to create a barrier to stop Alex's sword while completing her move.

However, this was when Alex showed his superiority.

Another two swords appeared as if it was going through the motion. One stopped Aria's sword while the other one headed straight to her body.

Not wanting to get hit, she instinctively launched herself to the side, albeit Alex already appeared in front of her and kicked her.

Luckily, Aria was fast enough to raise both hands to stop that kick, albeit still rolling on the ground for a long distance.

Alex would surely take advantage of this, so Aria ignored all the pain and rose from the ground while scanning the surroundings, trying to find him that turned out to be standing still.

"What?!"

Alex only waved his hands as if he just beat her prediction again.

If Aria could handle all kinds of conversation to make her go to the top, Alex's battle tricks were something that she couldn't handle. After all, fighting was different than talking. If they thought too much, they would be swallowed by one that purely acted with instinct because they never needed a split second to think what they needed to do.

Alex just showed her that. He didn't have any plan, but he was still aiming to defeat her. That was enough.

"Are you done?" Alex smiled before sticking out his tongue. "Should we stop the match then? Of course, I win."

"No. This time I will win." She shook her head and charged at him again, trying to find a solution to his defense.

"First Dance, Z Slash."

"Spirit Step, First Step." Alex waved his sword vertically, striking Aria's sword from far away. "One Inch Spear."

Even when he held back, Alex's Spirit Step was enough to create a stronger force than what Aria currently had.

The latter was shocked beyond her imagination and exclaimed. "What?!"

Chapter 968 - Win?

"What?!" She felt as if there was a huge monster stomping her sword. She even fell on her butt before storing the sword into the Space Ring to free herself.

Alex let her retreat and took out her sword again while smiling. "Is that all?"

"You must use your Divine Body!" Aria couldn't help but comment.

"I am not. I still have another technique that can enhance my strength." Alex shrugged. "Besides, my sword is stronger than you."

"..." She gritted her teeth and raised her Sword again, knowing that if she fought him in close-quarter combat, Alex would surely defeat her.

Sheathing her sword, she looked left and right, trying to find an opening.

'Eve, let me do this alone.' Alex sent a thought transmission to his Sword Spirit.

'Alright. It will be a bit boring, but I guess that's fine.' Eve pouted and reluctantly agreed.

'There will be a time where we need to fight strong opponents. Unfortunately, that's not today.' Alex tried to comfort her.

'I am not talking about that. It's just using my power is so satisfying. You know that I have never used it once for around ten thousand years, right?'

'Ah. I apologize.'

'It's fine. There will always be fights in the future.'

Alex sighed inwardly before regaining his focus on the match. He summoned his dragon. "Swallowing Heaven."

Seeing that the dragon flew out of the sword, heading to the left and waiting for Alex's next instruction, Aria saw this as a chance.

Due to the dragon, Alex shouldn't have time to react if she attacked him from behind the dragon.

"Purgatory Sword."

Alex glanced to the right and strengthened his dragon with the Pure Sword Qi and his elements, making it rock solid.

When the Sword Wave hit it, only a shallow could be found. It wasn't like when the Sword God used it.

Even so, Alex felt this was already a good attack. "Nice one. Keep it up."

"What is nice? It only leaves a graze." Aria clicked her tongue before changing her strategy. Since Alex would prolong this match, she didn't mind going all out and a bit reckless just to put a wound on him. "Fifth Dance, Lightning Step."

Alex found Aria on his back and waited for her to make a move while moving his dragon to his back.

To his surprise, Aria ran forward while waving her sword up and down, creating a vertical zig-zag movement.

This was the technique that could destroy a powerful Sword Wave, and she planned to use it to destroy his dragon.

The sword struck the same wound that she left previously, trying to deepen it.

Alex didn't say anything and waited until she managed to do whatever she wanted to do before sending the dragon's head toward her.

"That is still not enough?" Aria widened her eyes. Her Sword Eye told her the danger behind the dragon as if asking her to retreat.

It was futile to strike the dragon because Alex could summon another one, so she blocked the incoming dragon head with her sword, albeit blowing her away to the air.

Knowing that she wasn't capable of bringing the dragon down, she chose another strategy and leaped to the dragon's body while slashing the air toward Alex. "Purgatory Sword."

Although the dragon looked so slick, it shouldn't be able to move its body fast enough to block it.

And as she expected, the dragon turned around, so she leaped to the air, watching how Alex would block that Sword Wave.

Alex only smiled and controlled the dragon's head to chase the Sword Wave instead.

"Are you kidding me?!" She saw the dragon's head move faster than the Sword Wave and bit her attack, shattering it into pieces. "That's illegal."

"Are you done? If you don't like it, it's better to stop. Don't forget. I am limiting my strength to 1-Star Martial Saint together with my strength." Alex glanced at her.

"But you still have your Divine Techniques and Divine Sword Qi."

"I didn't use my Divine Sword Qi this whole time." Alex shook his head, denying her claim.

"Then—!!!" Words stuck in her throat as she realized something wrong with his reply. "You...Do you happen to have a special Sword Qi? What is that?"

"Hehe...Do you think I will tell you? That's right. How about if you beat me, I will teach you this technique?" Alex calmly taunted her again. "If you don't have confidence in beating me, you are free to continue your training."

"Hmph. We will see whether you can maintain that calm face of yours." She snorted and thought for a moment. 'What should I do? Even though I said all of that, I didn't have the confidence to penetrate the dragon's defense, let alone him.

'When his excellency Sword God taught me, he told me that both techniques were very useful to fight against opponents stronger than me...But why was it ineffective? But he also met with him, so is the more powerful Sword Qi that makes the difference?' She fell into deep thought before sheathing her sword once again.

Little did she know Alex was actually smiling when he saw her stance.

What she was about to do was the latent ability of her Sword Eye.

Instead of creating a barrier made of Sword Qi, she poured every single Sword Qi into her Sword. It was hard, but she got the hang of it after several tries.

"Your enemy won't wait this long, you know." Alex provoked her again, trying to break her concentration.

"You are not my enemy. Besides, are you scared of what I am going to do?" She didn't feel like losing in the last argument, so she asked with a provoking smile.

"Ho?! You can talk big now. Why don't you attack me then?" Alex smiled.

"Fine by me." She raised her sword after channeling the Sword Qi into her Sword instead, tripling the amount she usually poured to the sword. "Take this."

"Purgatory Sword." She slashed the air, sending another Sword Wave.

However, Alex already felt the difference in that attack even without looking. The dragon soared to the sky and bit the Sword Wave, albeit failed to do so.

The Sword Wave cut through the Dragon. Unfortunately, it was already weakened to a certain extent.

Alex only raised his right foot a few inches above the ground before stomping the ground. "Spirit Step, Second Step."

The pressure point formed above the Sword Wave, pushing it down as if the gravity in that area increased rapidly. As a result, the Sword Wave actually struck the ground near him instead.

"It seems you have managed to learn the second ability." Alex smiled.

"Thanks to you for making me realize. Fighting is really a great way to improve." She controlled the Sword Qi again, infusing it to the sword.

"Since you talk big, let's make it even harder." Alex smiled and summoned another one, albeit not a dragon.

What Aria saw was a giant translucent red fox, looking at her with that sharp gaze that was ready to burn her.

Not only that, it created a ball with its mouth. Aria instantly felt the impact of that ball. Scorching heat reduced her ability and made it hard to concentrate.

"What is this?"

"Your Sword Eye can last for half an hour before you completely get exhausted. It has been five minutes since we started, so I am going to speed it up a bit more. Under this influence, you are to defeat me." Alex smiled before his sword released another Dragon. "Oops. You won't be able to destroy both the fireball and the wolf too, with the help of this dragon."

'Shameless.' Aria screamed. What she saw was Alex's Fire Authority and Sun Descent. If only she knew that Alex's Fire Authority had another level which became his armor, she would become even more stressed. After all, the moment Alex added his Phoenix Aura into that armor, Aria wouldn't be able to penetrate it unless she used her all in one strike.

"Come on. Just give up." Alex smiled.

"You bet. I am going to show you that I am not a weak girl." She snorted and channeled everything to her sword. Instead of using the Purgatory Sword, she prepared to fight Alex. Even if she couldn't handle his power, it was still enough to avoid it and land a strike on his body.

"Sixth Dance, Lightning Rabbit." She jumped forward like a rabbit while maintaining her focus on the dragon.

As she expected, the dragon charged at her while using the rest of its body to protect the fox and the fireball that restricted her movement.

Looking at the incoming dragon, she finally took another leap and landed on the dragon's back. After that, she kept leaping unpredictably while slashing the dragon's body that seemed to be easier to cut after pouring most of her Sword Qi into it.

"Interesting." Alex watched how she utilized her technique just to beat his dragon first.

Unfortunately, he just did something she wouldn't expect.

The fox suddenly raised its paw and waved it downwards, trying to flatten her.

When she saw this, she halted her movements once and changed to another step. "Fifth Dance, Lightning Step."

She used speed to run away from the paw, albeit she wasn't fast enough. Her head touched the paw, and she spun in the air. Luckily, she still managed to escape even though she was in that sorry state.

Alex became even more intrigued when he saw Aria use that force to make another move.

"Third Dance, Spinning Star."

It went up as if there was a bike inside a track. It completely followed the path, but the blade cut the dragon continuously, leaving it in a sorry state.

Alex understood that the Sword Dance she learned from his advice was powerful. It contained six important dances which had important aspects.

The Z Slash was when she needed to strike down a stronger move. The Flash Strike allowed her to make the most powerful move. The Spinning Star could be used when she was in an unstable position, while the Lightning Draw was useful to improve her overall stance. The Lightning Step emphasized speed, while the Lightning Rabbit allowed her to move unpredictably.

Using all of this would surely create an opportunity like this time. The moment she reached the head, she stopped spinning and used the head as a stepping ground to launch herself toward Alex.

"This is it!" Aria shouted and slashed downward. "Second Dance, Flash Strike."

Alex still maintained his calm and struck her sword. "Triple Draws."

Like the previous attack, Alex's two other strikes appeared before her eyes, but Aria had prepared for this. She used Alex's strength to be her support to spin mid-air. "Third Dance, Spinning Star."

Instead of attacking both strikes at the same time, Aria chose to attack it one at a time and utilized that high-speed rotation to destroy both strikes before they reached her body.

'So daring...' Alex smiled and widened his eyes when he realized it wasn't over.

The rotation had yet to die down, but he realized that her attack was different.

As soon as he focused his Spirit Eyes on her sword, he realized that Aria was sheathing her sword at this kind of speed. When she drew that sword again, it would have another boost from the spin, allowing her to get a more powerful attack.

"!!!" Surprised by her action, Alex changed his grip and used his other hand to help him block this attack.

"Fourth Dance, Lightning Draw."

Clank.

The clash created a powerful shockwave before Aria fell to the ground—head first.

"Kya!" She pouted because she needed to kiss the ground and felt that she didn't have any energy left to attack him.

"You lose." Alex recovered in an instant and pointed his sword toward her.

"Whatever...I have completed my objective." Aria laughed happily while pointing her finger at Alex as if she just beat him.

"Why are you laughing even though you lose to me?" Alex furrowed his eyebrows. "Look at you, you don't have energy left."

"Even so, I have finally made you move from your position." She smiled while lowering her hand and pointing at the mark on the ground, showing him that she managed to push him back a little bit.

"..."

Chapter 969 - Propose? Or Not!

Alex found it weird to hear those words, but Eve made a comment. 'Master, I do think it's something big, you know.'

'What do you mean?'

'Even though you are limiting your power to 1-Star Martial Saint...Even if you don't have your Divine Techniques, you still have the same ability as her, capable of rivaling people three stars above you. And there is this experience, Divine Techniques, and so on, increasing that limit even further.

'That's why you are too strong even for her. She may have 4-Star Martial Saint strength, but it's not enough to defeat those that have accumulated in you.' Eve let out a long sigh. 'That's why she is so happy just to push you back.'

'But...' The words stuck on his throat, realizing that his words should be directed to Aria instead of Eve. In that case, he chose to say it out loud, so both could hear him. "But you need to know that this was only a spar. If it were a real fight, your head would have rolled on the ground."

"Of course, I know. If this were a real battle, I wouldn't fight you anymore. I would seriously run away from you." She shook her head. "Still, I take pride in pushing you back."

Alex sighed. Since fighting while trying not to kill was harder than fighting for survival, he wanted to rebuke her again, but he chose not to do that because both of them were trying to do that.

"Anyway, I win." Alex sheathed his sword and walked to Aria, stretching his hand.

She smiled and took his hand, standing back up. "By the way, is there any reward for accomplishing something like that?"

Alex thought for a moment and smiled. "Close your eyes first. Besides, you don't need to use your Sword Eye any more, don't you?"

Listening to Alex, she closed her eyes and waited with great interest. Before Alex took out anything, she remembered that her mother told her a story of her father proposing to her. She asked her to close her eyes, and bam, he did it.

Looking closely at that scene, she smirked and teased him again. "Is this a proposal or something? You don't happen to have a ring with you, no?"

Alex smiled and raised her left hand gently before stroking her middle finger.

Her heart beat rapidly when he did this as she thought, 'Eh, seriously? I meant it as a joke, but I have never thought he is going for real. Even though it's on my middle finger instead of my ring finger, it's still...'

Alex didn't pay attention to her and put the ring on her finger.

'What should I do? He...He is going to...Wait, he will be my boss in the future, right? Does he actually want me...' Her face flushed and thought of it seriously. 'Well, he is better than all men that only want my family influence or my body, so I guess it's fine.'

She prepared herself to say "I do" or "Yes" when he later said anything.

However, Alex didn't say anything for the time being, gently raised her other hand, specifically her middle finger, and put on another finger.

'This...What is the meaning of this? I don't know anything about two rings.' She started panicking.

Finally, Alex broke his silence and asked. "Are you happy now?"

"I do!"

"Good. You can open your eyes for one or two minutes." Alex smiled.

When she opened her eyes and saw the beautiful rings, she was mesmerized before looking at him awkwardly. "Nyx..."

Alex smiled at her as if he wanted to say something nice, albeit everything turned upside down when Alex said, "Activate."

"What—" Before she managed to say anything, the rings suddenly released overbearing pressure. It was like having ten 10-Star Martial Saint releasing their pressure on her, trying to suppress her power.

She fell on her knees and looked up to see Alex's face that still had the same smile.

To her surprise, Alex suddenly showed her his fingers. On the left hand, he had a ring on his ring finger that seemed to be the proof of marriage. However, he had one more ring on the middle finger on his

right hand. "This is a Pressure Ring that my wife made. I never mentioned this to anyone since my wife could only make that recently. The ring will give you a certain amount of pressure for a period of time...This will be perfect for training your body.

"You said you are happy with the present, right? Seeing you are still able to tease me in the process, you must have enough energy to do one more training menu, right? I am just helping you, so no need to thank me for this. Now, do your practice." Alex smirked like a devil.

Aria's body shook as her face turned pale.

"You devil bastard! Give me my sweet feelings back." Despite saying that, she still managed to get back up and started running, completely enduring the pressure. "You are not a human, you are a devil! I swear I won't have that feeling again!"

Meanwhile, Alex only muttered in a low voice. "You are confusing your own feelings. Besides, I am searching for power, not women from this world...*Sigh*."

The day passed just like that as Aria collapsed again.

...

The next day, Alex and Aria met again, but Aria made a sour face in front of him.

"How are your rest?"

"Not great. Thanks to a certain someone." She pouted.

"So, you have been harboring that kind of thought to the point you are hoping to have one moment like that?" Alex smirked, teasing her. "Such a naughty girl."

"No!" She stomped the ground and looked away. She truly meant it. What she had for Alex was not love, it was simply interest, admiration, and other things. She knew that as well, so no word could escape her mouth.

"Anyway, are you ready for another session of training?"

She paused for a few minutes before letting out a long sigh. "Can I get an explanation about the ring first?"

"Oh, alright. My wife is an Array Master. She recently mastered a certain array that she found in an accident called Pressure Array. If a normal person could strengthen his body with gravity, it would be more effective for cultivators. After all, their body was far stronger than that of a normal person.

"I have been wearing this ring myself since a few months ago, so it's only recently. Since I am training you, my wife makes two more that can contain the pressure from five 5-Star Martial Saints. So, two rings give you ten 5-Star Martial Saint. Meanwhile, the one I have contains two Rank 7 Gods.

"You must have noticed that I started becoming easier to get tired, right?" Alex asked.

"Yes. I indeed felt that way...If I am not wrong, it started four months ago."

"That's when my wife gave me this ring. Well, it becomes easier to surpass my limit with this...I probably need another one or change to a more powerful ring since I have improved a lot." Alex nodded.

"Don't tell me you used this ring when you fought me?" Aria gasped, suddenly feeling pressured by that fact.

"Yes. In fact, I would lose if you maintained the course for another five minutes. I mean, I used seventy percent of my Spiritual Energy yesterday." Alex smiled as if he just fooled her. "Of course, it didn't mean the ring was holding me back. Instead, I used the pressure of the ring to give me a bit more power in my swing, albeit it cost me too much Spiritual Energy."

"Then...Does that mean if I maintain my pace, I would have won?" She almost fell down before scratching the back of her head, knowing that it was her perfect chance to know something about Alex.

"The problem was...You didn't know, right? You did not know my current ability and strength, so you could only risk it. Remember this well, if you have enough knowledge, you can turn any probability to one hundred percent."

Alex knew that he himself had Spirit Eyes with him to discover something like this. However, he was too special, so he taught her to be knowledgeable about her enemy, so she knew how to react to anything the opponent did. The N Squad helped him with this, but Aria had no one to rely on. This was the only thing he could teach her, even if it made him look a bit like a bastard.

"Anyway, you should keep practicing with this—" Alex stopped before glancing to the left, noticing that Silvia just came out of the house.

As observant as her, she obviously noticed the ring on Aria's fingers before asking with a smile. "What's this? I just went back for a day, and now you are husband and wife, leaving me out?"

"Me? His wife?" Aria rolled her eyes. "No way."

"You are still feeling sour about it? You do know my principle and your own feelings, right?" Alex shrugged.

Aria snorted and looked away.

"Well, well, you shouldn't speak like that too...You are going to be single for the rest of your life." Silvia tried to stop this but to no avail.

Alex shrugged before tossing another ring to her. "Wear this. It's a Pressure Ring. It will give you the pressure from two Rank 3 God, allowing you to train efficiently."

"Oh, there is something like that? And you are giving me this precious ring?" She smiled from ear to ear, never expecting that Alex would give it to her.

"My wife wanted me to give you that, considering you helped me. I contemplated for a few days before giving you this." Alex sighed.

"I see. Since this is your wife we are talking about, then I will gladly accept this present. This is different from you giving the present after all." She stuck her tongue out. She channeled her Divine Energy, and

the ring immediately released the pressure on her body. Stumbling, Silvia smiled before deactivating again to wear it on her finger. "This is a treasure. Training will become even more effective."

Alex nodded. "Anyway, I have given it to you, so I hope you don't misunderstand the intention..."

When Alex said that, he found Silvia almost put it on her ring finger before she playfully canceled that plan. "Oops...Wrong finger."

Alex twitched his eyebrows before letting out a sigh, looking at Silvia putting the ring on her middle finger instead.

"I was just playing with you. I mean, since this is from your wife, I will honor her for recognizing me, so I won't steal the march with something like this." She stuck her tongue. "Besides, I don't want you to hate me with something this small for now."

Alex didn't deny it either.

A few days ago, Alicia told him to give the rings to Aria and Silvia. Aria had helped him understand the Sword Qi, so she should have something like this as a repayment. As for Silvia, this was a direct challenge and warning from Alicia.

This was a kind of telling Silvia that she had recognized her, but if she wanted to be one of them, she needed to prove her sincerity and efforts.

Alex needed a few days to ponder because of this reason. He wasn't sure about her yet, but he decided to face her without drawing a line like how he planned to treat Evelyn and Letizia in the future.

"I accept," Silvia muttered in a low voice while looking at the ring as if she knew what the meaning of this ring was.

"Anyway, I have given both of you the rings, so my job is done." Alex stretched his body before continuing his training. "If you are done too, you should start your training."

Aria shook her head helplessly and followed him. "This man can only think about training. I feel like his wives are secondary to him."

"Nope. You couldn't be more off the mark there." Silvia denied it completely with a smile, knowing the Spirit God's reputation. However, it wouldn't be good for the current Aria to know that, so she stopped there.

Chapter 970 - Compete To Lose?

The peaceful time lasted slightly longer than they predicted. Alex also had no problem regarding that, but he knew that sooner or later, the peak master would visit them to check their progress and assigned them a mission.

However, it took her another three months to come again. Alex almost reached Rank 8 God at this point. Although it was a bit late from his schedule, he was really close to it.

When the peak master llevis came, Alex immediately put on his mask and asked Silvia to hide herself before he came to greet her with Aria.

"Welcome, Peak Master. How can we help you?" Aria smiled.

"How are you doing? I can feel that both of you are stronger now, and I don't need to worry about you anymore." Ilevis checked their cultivation and nodded satisfied.

"We are great. Thanks to you."

"That's good. As much as I want to keep chatting with you, let's cut to the chase, shall we?"

"Sure." Aria stretched her hand, pointing at the chair. "Please enter first. We can discuss it inside."

Ilevis nodded and sat before immediately explaining the situation. "In another month, there is a huge competition that every single Inner Disciple and Core Disciple needs to participate in. This is a special competition for the seat of the sect master."

Alex and Aria opened their mouths in surprise as they never saw this coming. Still, what llevis said next completely baffled them.

"And in this competition, I want you to lose."

"Eh?! Can you repeat it again, Peak Master?" Aria exclaimed in surprise. "You...Did you just say we need to participate but only to lose?"

The peak master remained calm and nodded her head. "Yes. You didn't hear it wrong."

"Why?! There is no point then."

"No. This is something important to me." She shook her head before explaining the whole situation. "I will tell you about the true reason for this competition."

"Is that related to this condition?"

"Yes. This competition's real purpose is to search for the Sect Master candidate. Due to the sect master's age, we can't delay this any longer. That's why the Inner Disciples and the Core Disciples will have a full brawl to see which disciple has the quality to become the sect master.

"Of course, the competition is fair. Inner Disciple will only fight Inner Disciple. The same applies to the Core Disciple. No matter their cultivation, we will choose them if they have the quality and nurture them.

"However, it means no sect can approach this person because he/she will maintain their neutrality until becoming the sect master. This is my own selfishness, but I wish if you don't become a sect master and continue becoming a disciple in my peak."

This might be the first time the peak master actually bowed her head. She must be feeling frustrated about this because only she could understand the talent that Aria and Alex had.

Rather than having one of these two becoming the sect master, it was better to tie them to the sect with this arrangement. After all, the sect master had to act just, not thinking about their former peak.

If either Alex or Aria became a sect master, their relationship would crumble. Eventually, one of them would leave the sect or, in the worst case, both of them, leaving the sect master seat open. When that time came, another turbulence would happen in this sect, resulting in a big loss of the sect.

Hence, it would be better to maintain the status quo. Not only would they stay in this sect willingly, but they would also support the sect master as long as it wasn't ridiculous. The sect master could still be taught and understood this matter, so it shouldn't be much of a problem.

Little did she know Alex and Aria already had their answer even though it came from a different reason. For Alex, becoming a sect master was a no-go. He didn't want to be known in this world, much less becoming the leader of this sect. It would only affect his reputation.

As for Aria, her reason was similar to Alex's. She had no ability to lead the sect and had no right to do it. After all, she had sworn herself to serve Alex in the future. It wasn't for the family, but she believed it would be the best course to grow even stronger.

Alex was always an enigma in her eyes. He would always be someone who was more talented and stronger that even she had all this lifetime, she wouldn't be able to surpass him. So, she thought chasing him would be more enjoyable than becoming a sect master who needed to act impartially.

There was no way she would enjoy it. She didn't even want to lead her family, let alone this big sect.

Alex and Aria exchanged looks and nodded at each other.

'I don't want something like this, but we still should ask for compensation, no?' Alex added his little trick.

'Indeed. It is a request after all. And I heard a request from an elder has a big reward every time their request appears on the marketplace.' She agreed with him as both of them looked at Ilevis. She said, "We understand. Since we are forbidden to not participate, we agree to this. It's not like I would like to part from him."

"Fair enough. I don't like the spotlight anyway. Even if one of us aims for that seat, it will be her, albeit it seems the better course will be this. We shall enter the tournament and deliberately lose." Alex nodded.

Their answer sounded very sweet on her ears as she smiled from ear to ear. "As expected, I can count on you guys."

"Before that, may I know the reason why you don't want us to be the sect leader? You said it's your own selfishness, right?" Aria asked with a serious expression.

"Yes." She nodded. "I don't have something that I like about this sect master position. Although I personally enjoy such a person leading the sect since I know him, it's a different case for both of you. I have no doubt that your talent is enough to become the sect master in this sect...

"After all, one of you has reached 6-Star Martial Saint under fifty years while the other one has the Sword God's original skill. This is enough for the qualification. In fact, they might not hold this competition anymore and just choose either of you to become the successor.

"However, if the situation turns that way, you two will part. For example, if Aria becomes the sect master and Nyx does something wrong, Aria needs to punish him according to the sect rule even if it

means killing him. That's why in this sect, the sect master is not allowed to have a family. If he/she comes from an outside family, they are to separate themselves.

"If you, the sect master, can't maintain your neutrality, all the elders will need to remove you from the picture...As far as I know, it's including killing you. That's why I don't wish for you to entangle yourself in this type of situation.

"I am sure that both of you have the same thought of me, right?" She smiled, trying to get their sympathy.

Alex and Aria had their eyes intertwined, thinking the same thing. They had predicted something like this as the reason, but it still felt weird to see that the sect master needed to do something like that.

For Alex, the sect master looked like a robot, not having the feeling to act like how a human should be. Of course, they might still allow him to get any women or men they want but are forbidden to have a child. However, Alex couldn't condone such a thing as it was even crueler than having no love at all.

'Hey. Did the Sword God become the sect master in the past?' Alex asked with a thought transmission.

'Yes. He could get all the resources to practice and had nothing to lose at that moment. If I am not wrong, the Sword God once had a family but destroyed by another family. To avenge them, he decided to become the sect master.

'It was at that time the Sword God lost his motivation to have a family or any other things, thus allowing him to pursue the sword to the highest degree. Although that rule couldn't be applied to him when he became a God King, he didn't break the rule at all.

'I didn't know whether he wished for a family or not, but I believed he didn't. Anyway, I don't feel great about this sect master thing. Your influence has more freedom than this, right?' She asked back after the explanation.

'Of course. I don't like the concept as well. In fact, I believe you should fall in love with someone first before building a family. It's true that one of my wives stemmed from a family that took advantage of my weakness, but I decided it would be the last time. And I learned how uncomfortable it was when I had strength.' Alex let out a long sigh.

'Hmm...This is the first time I heard you talking about your wife, but I guess it means I have gotten closer to my boss?' She giggled inwardly. 'Anyway, there is no reason to win and fight for the sect master position, right?'

'Yes. You can reject it.'

Aria nodded and opened her mouth. "We understand. Thank you for the explanation and your care. However, won't we become targeted if we become too strong to the point that the sect master can't stop us himself?"

"You don't need to mind. We can work our way out with that."

Alex felt a bit suspicious about her meaning, but he decided to stay quiet. If what he thought became a reality, he could simply kidnap her from this world. With that scenario, the sect wouldn't do something

to her family because it was beyond her control. It wasn't like she betrayed this planet, so yeah, it was the best solution.

"Can you give us information on what we will get along with the competition?"

Ilevis agreed and started explaining. "The first stage of the competition is on another planet called Musha. The people there are nomadic, so you needed to work your way to have control over the situation, whether it was in their economy or politics. The economic system in that place is trading, so you can hunt animals and trade with them, your choice. As for their power level, most of them are Martial Emperor to Martial Saint, so I believe you shouldn't fight them openly.

"As for what you can get, I have a map that will lead you to a cave. In that cave, there is a mouse called Gold Digger Mouse. This mouse has the ability to smell treasure and lead you to it if you manage to tame it. However, you will need to tame it yourself because I don't know how to do it as well. If you have one, you can bring it around and find Divine Herbs, Metals, or even treasures."

Alex twitched his eyebrows when he heard about the term "Gold Digger" and commented inwardly. 'Can you give it a better name? I mean, even I can like Five Color Treasure Mouse or whatever...Instead, you choose the name Gold Digger? I give up. There is always a sky above the sky.'

"Anyway, that mouse is something that can't be measured. This is what I want to give you." Ilevis smiled with confidence. This big help would surely make Alex and Aria feel grateful to her and the sect, decreasing the chance of them defecting from the sect in the future.

What she didn't know was Alex's Spirit Eyes. That technique could replace the mouse easily, so it didn't pique his interest. However, what he heard regarding the treasures in that world incited his heart.

'I don't care about the mouse, but I guess Aria can use it. And if it only becomes her bind, we can simply throw it away. I only want the Divine Herbs and other things...So, I guess we fail, but it doesn't mean we can't go for a treasure hunt. A nice proposal indeed.' Alex smiled inwardly, already having a plan for this.

Aria confirmed to her again that both of them were interested in it, so she slammed the table with a serious expression. "Now, let's discuss the details."