

Chapter 2501

Hawkeye toppled to the ground.

Even so, he seized the opportunity to punch Yoshua's eye.

In a flash, Yoshua's eye turned swollen, but he disregarded the pain and rushed forward without hesitation.

The brothers weren't Hawkeye's match at all. There was still a gap in their capabilities.

However, Yannick and Yoshua tapped into their grief and fury for strength, determined to fight Hawkeye to the death, and drew even with him.

In the end, both parties sustained grievous injuries.

Yannick and Yoshua lay paralyzed on the ground with blood smeared all over their faces. They couldn't even get to their feet.

Hawkeye, on the other hand, had an ear bitten off and a chunk of hair ripped off. He was in no better condition than them.

Livid, he turned to Megahead and sought his help. "Megahead, they broke the rules of Theos Sect. Aren't you going to do anything about it?"

Megahead merely snickered. "You were the one who brought them here, so they're your responsibility. You only have yourself to blame for lacking the capability to keep them in line. I can't help."

"How callous!"

Helplessness was written all over Hawkeye's face.

All he cares about is spiritual water. He has absolutely no concern for a fellow friend!

Hawkeye shot daggers at Zeke and the buns in the box resentfully before stalking off into the distance.

Minerva urged, "Rest for a bit first, Master. There'll be heavy fog in the evening. Some spiritual water will be condensed at that time. Of course, the amount can't compare to that in the early morning, but we may be able to harvest some."

"Okay." Zeke nodded in response.

Minerva hurriedly spread out some straw for the man. As he rested, she sat at the side, keeping guard quietly.

Seizing a moment of inattention by Zeke and the others, Hawkeye furtively slipped into Megahead's tree hollow.

Megahead glowered at him. "You know that no one is allowed to enter this tree hollow of mine as they please. Don't blame me for punishing you if it isn't something vastly important."

At that, Hawkeye hastily asserted, "It's naturally something of utmost importance, Megahead. In fact, it has to do with your safety."

"Okay, tell me what it is, then," Megahead replied.

Hawkeye started, "Haven't you realized that Zeke is winning people over to his side and expanding his influence, Megahead? That aside, he's even harvesting spiritual water in large quantities. He wants to replace you as Decanus."

"From the very moment he arrived, I could tell he was highly ambitious. Do you think he merely wants to be an insignificant Decanus? You're wrong. In my opinion, he wants to be a Centurion, Legatus, and even Camp Master!" Megahead announced.

"So, how could you tolerate his existence when he's a threat to you? If it were me, I'd finish him off, nipping the threat in the bud," Hawkeye incited.

A sinister grin bloomed on Megahead's face. "Even if he wants to replace me as Decanus, he needs true capability backing him up."

"This kid is no ordinary person, Megahead. He was part of the military in Eurasia and is exceedingly capable. Even you might not necessarily be his match. Yannick's and Yoshua's capabilities are comparable to mine, so they're also not to be underestimated. Murphy and Minerva have also pledged their allegiance to Zeke. You have few people loyal to you right now," Hawkeye persuaded.

Still, Megahead shook his head. "You've underestimated me, Hawkeye. Do you think my influence is limited to this Contubernium?"

Hawkeye queried, "What do you mean by that, Megahead? You've also accumulated forces elsewhere other than our Contubernium?"

"Have you heard of the Iustitia Alliance, Hawkeye?" Megahead drawled.

Iustitia Alliance?

Hawkeye shook his head. "No."

"Well, it's not surprising that you've never heard of it. Including me, only ten Decani know about this alliance. The Decani of nine other Contubernia and I have long since reached an agreement to form an alliance among our ten Contubernia. If any Contubernium were to encounter a threat, the other nine must lend a helping hand," Megahead explained.

Chapter 2502

"The very thing we're guarding against is the rebellion of those working under us. No matter how strong Zeke is, could he be the match of ten Contubernia? After all, ten Contubernia is close to Centuria."

Hawkeye wore an expression of sheer astonishment. "How impressive, Megahead! Your sagacity is far beyond my imagination."

Megahead warned. "This matter is strictly confidential, so never breathe a word about it. All right, you can leave now. Don't disrupt my rest."

"Sure, sure!"

Hawkeye left, but resentment lingered within him.

Inwardly, he prayed hard that Zeke would rebel. Once Megahead can't keep him in line, the other nine Contubernia will lend him a hand and eliminate Zeke! He sensed a threat from Zeke, so he was resolved to terminate the man.

Unknowingly, the sky gradually darkened.

A thick fog rolled out, reducing the visibility to less than three meters ahead.

"Let's go and search for spiritual water, Master. It has likely condensed by now," Minerva suggested.

"Let's go." Zeke climbed to his feet.

Yannick, Yoshua, and the old man who had just joined them, Murphy, followed closely behind him.

"Why don't we go to our usual place to harvest spiritual water? We'll definitely enjoy a bountiful harvest this time," Minerva proposed.

Zeke bobbed his head. "Sure."

He could sense three men tailing them at the back.

However, they were weak and couldn't pose any threat to him, so he didn't pay them any mind.

Soon enough, they arrived at their usual place. Yannick, Yoshua, Minerva, and Murphy started hunting everywhere.

Meanwhile, Zeke communicated with Ossa Dei. "Ossa Dei, detect spiritual water nearby."

"I can detect that the affinity is even stronger than it was this morning. In other words, there's more spiritual water now than in the early morning," Ossa Dei answered.

"Minerva previously said that only a small amount of spiritual water will be condensed at night. But it looks like that isn't the case. Instead, it's because the thick fog increases the difficulty of finding spiritual water. That's why they have that misconception," Zeke surmised.

"There are three drops of spiritual water at your four o'clock," Ossa Dei stated.

Wow! How rare that there are three drops of spiritual water condensed together!

Zeke walked over to the three drops of spiritual water. He was just about to harvest them when he abruptly changed his mind.

Whirling around, he cast his gaze at a shrouded spot behind him and declared, "All right, stop hiding. I've spotted you guys."

Minerva, Yannick, Yoshua, and Murphy were all shocked. They swiftly followed Zeke's gaze.

Three men walked out of the shadows. They were none other than the three team members under Megahead's command.

They all somewhat panicked. "We only found you guys here by a stroke of coincidence. We didn't tail you on—"

"That's enough. There's no need for explanations," Zeke cut them off. "Let me ask you this—do you want spiritual water?"

The trio looked at each other. What kind of dumb question is this? Even a fool wants spiritual water.

All three men nodded without an ounce of hesitation.

Zeke then proclaimed, "I can gift you three drops of spiritual water, but you need to do me a favor."

The trio was wholly stunned.

This fellow must be bluffing, right? Gift us three drops of spiritual water, he said? Does he have that much spiritual water? Or could he be making fun of us?

One of them replied, "As long as you gift each of us a drop of spiritual water, we're willing to do you even ten favors, let alone one."

"Okay, deal. Come over here," Zeke ordered.

The trio went over cautiously, their nerves stretched taut.

Once Zeke made a threatening move, they would resist unhesitatingly.

Fortunately, the man didn't do anything suspicious. He merely pointed to a plant ahead and noted, "There are three drops of spiritual water on this plant. They're yours now."

Is he serious?

Doubt was etched across the features of all three men.

It's unheard of that a plant would have three drops of spiritual water. And even if it's true, can he really bring himself to gift them to us? He must be playing a trick on us.

They all wore expressions of wariness.

By then, Zeke's expression had grown chagrined. "If you don't want them, buzz off right this instant."

Chapter 2503

Under the temptation of spiritual water, the trio decided to take the risk.

They exchanged a glance before the man in the middle walked toward the plant and scrutinized it carefully:

The other two men kept their eyes trained on Zeke lest he sneak up on them.

"Oh my God, there are really three drops of spiritual water! This is a veritable miracle!" the man examining the plant exclaimed, thrilled to the point that he was trembling all over.

What?

The other two men weren't the only ones shocked. Even Yannick, Yoshua, and the rest were in the same condition.

It was truly rare for a plant to have three drops of spiritual water.

Zeke had just arrived and hadn't even searched around, yet he had found three drops of spiritual water.

Such speed undoubtedly broke the record on Theos Island.

Disgruntlement flooded Minerva and the others. What on earth is he doing? That's three drops of spiritual water! It's equivalent to three lives. But he's gifting them to outsiders just like this?

However, Zeke had evidently made up his mind, so Minerva couldn't say anything to the contrary.

The trio harvested the three drops of spiritual water meticulously. Then they turned around to leave.

No sooner had they taken two steps away than one of the men suddenly stopped the other two from going further. They pivoted and bowed deeply to Zeke.

"Thank you for the kindness you've shown us, Mr. Williams. We'll always remember this debt of gratitude. Earlier, you said you needed us to do you a favor. We're willing to do anything at all."

"I'll notify you when I have need of you guys. You can leave for now," Zeke replied.

"Thank you!"

After thanking the man again, the trio left in a hurry, afraid that he would go back on his word.

Thereafter, Minerva and the others found seven drops of spiritual water under Zeke's guidance.

That had Minerva and Murphy so emotional that tears escaped their eyes.

Joining forces with him is the best decision we've made in our entire lives! We don't need to worry about survival anymore!

While they were on their way back, Minerva ventured, "Master, what are you planning to do with these seven drops of spiritual water?"

"What do you mean? Turn them over in exchange for food, of course," Zeke answered.

"Master, I think we don't necessarily have to exchange them all for food right now. We can totally keep a few drops of spiritual water first and use them to exchange for food when the harvest is bad. We can avoid starving if we fail to harvest any spiritual water one day," Minerva suggested.

"Yes, yes. It's good to have a backup plan," Murphy seconded enthusiastically.

Zeke shook his head. "That isn't necessary."

Minerva wanted to persuade him further, but she could only zip her mouth upon noticing the impatience on his face.

Zeke's true goal was to kill Theos, so he couldn't possibly worry about food.

Ordinary people would never understand the ambition of someone meant for great things.

"Mr. Williams, are you in a hurry to collect twenty drops of spiritual water because you want to become a Decanus?" Yannick inquired gingerly.

Zeke threw him a glance but said nothing. He merely quickened his pace.

When he had gone a distance away, Minerva cautiously approached Yannick. "Mr. Lewis, you're closer to Mr. Williams. I think you should take some time to talk to him. Aiming to become a Decanus... is reaching too far. Not having to worry about food and drink is already considered sheer bliss on Theos Island."

"Oh? Why don't you want Mr. Williams to be a Decanus? It'll only benefit us if he becomes a Decanus."

Minerva heaved a sigh. "I naturally hope that he becomes a Decanus. But I'm afraid that he hasn't the capability to do so. Megahead undoubtedly has great power backing him up. I'm worried that he'll utilize the power backing him up to attack Mr. Williams if Mr. Williams replaces him as Decanus. He's definitely not as simple as he seems."

A smile curved Yannick's lips. "Mr. Williams isn't as simple as he seems either."

"Oh? Do you mind elaborating?" Minerva pressed, her curiosity piqued.

Yannick shook his head. "Sorry, but I can't do that. It won't do you any good to know too much."

If I were to tell you he's the Great Marshal of Eurasia, he'd never let the two of us off the hook.

Chapter 2504

By the time Zeke arrived back at the base, all the other team members had returned.

Daley didn't even go out to search for spiritual water.

He had found two drops of spiritual water that morning, and the food he had gotten in exchange was sufficient to last him a day, so there was no need for him to go out and search for spiritual water again.

Everyone there was typically the type to live in the moment without worrying about tomorrow.

Daley eyed Zeke and the others with a smirk. "This morning, you were lucky and found a bit more spiritual water. But luck is finite. You've used up your luck in the morning, so you must have found nothing tonight, huh? Come and look for me later if you get hungry, Minerva. I'll give you half a bun if you keep me company for a night."

Minerva flashed him a smile. "Oh, really? Are you serious, Mr. Daley?"

At once, Daley grew excited beyond words, She has changed her address of me from "Daley" to "Mr. Daley"!

Besides, from her docile look and flirtatious gaze, it's clear that they don't have much harvest tonight. In fact, they might have gotten nothing at all. She's going to yield to me now!

At the thought of her alluring figure, he was all inflamed and started salivating.

Swallowing a lump in his throat, he declared, "Yes, of course I am!"

"All right, then. It's a deal. I'll go and look for you later, Mr. Daley. Do make the necessary preparations," Minerva murmured.

"Haha, sure!" Daley agreed in exhilaration.

Needless to say, such a huge ruckus disrupted Megahead.

Yawning relentlessly, the man climbed out of the tree hollow. "Stop making so much noise, Daley! You disrupted my sleep."

Daley, who was in a good mood, didn't argue with him. He merely grinned from ear to ear. "I'm going to enjoy the pleasures of the flesh tonight, Megahead. Aren't you going to congratulate me?"

"Congratulate you, my foot!"

Following that retort, Megahead groggily scanned his eyes over everyone present. "Okay, everyone is back. Now turn in your harvest."

The team members promptly fell into line and presented their spiritual water in exchange for food.

Because Zeke had gifted the three team members three drops of spiritual water that day, the total harvest of the team was considerably good. At the very least, none had to go hungry.

Surprise inundated Megahead. "Whoa, it's really strange today! The harvest at night turned out to be even better than the day. This is unprecedented. Not bad, not bad at all. Give it your all and keep up the good work. I'll put in a request for new sets of clothes tomorrow so that the lot of you don't dress like beggars all the time."

One of the team members implored cautiously, "Megahead, is it possible for us to trade the new clothes for food instead?"

After all, it was pointless to wear nice clothes when they didn't even have enough to eat.

Megahead shot the man a glare.

"Buzz off! I'm already being merciful to request clothes for the lot of you. Don't try taking a mile when you've been given an inch. I'm not even going to do that much if you yak further."

The team member went silent, not daring to utter a single word.

In the end, Megahead's gaze alighted on Zeke. "How about the few of you? Do you have any harvest today?"

Daley, who had been waiting for a long time, sniggered. "You actually think they managed to find spiritual water, Megahead? What a joke! They've used up their luck this morning, so it's already a miracle that they aren't hounded by ill luck at night. How could they possibly have found any spiritual water? Look, Minerva is about to yield to me soon!"

"That's not necessarily the case," Megahead retorted as he studied Zeke's calm and unruffled expression.

Zeke took out a small porcelain bottle and tossed it at the man. "Here's our harvest today."

Megahead shook the bottle and listened carefully.

In the next instant, utter shock deluged him. "Oh my God, there's so much! How did you all do it?"

Huh? What's going on here?

Daley was entirely baffled. "What are you saying, Megahead? What's this about there being so much?"

"I'm talking about the spiritual water, of course. There are at least seven drops, even more so than this morning," Megahead replied.

Crash!

Daley was so shocked that he fell off the tree trunk he was occupying. "What the... I didn't mishear you, did I? How many drops did you say, Megahead?"

He wasn't the only unbelieving one, for the other team members appeared skeptical as well.

Chapter 2505

Seven drops of spiritual water? That's the joke of the century! Six drops of spiritual water have already broken the record on Theos Island. Seven is a pipe dream. Megahead must be mistaken!

"Buzz off! If I can even get this wrong, it'll be pointless for me to live anymore!" Megahead lambasted. "I've underestimated you, kid. All this food is yours. I'll put in a request for a small reward for another day."

With the man confirming that there were indeed seven drops of spiritual water, everyone was stumped.

The trio who had been gifted three drops of spiritual water by Zeke, especially, was all the more worked up.

If he hadn't gifted us three drops of spiritual water, he'd be turning in ten drops of spiritual water right now! That's ten drops of spiritual water. It really boggles the mind.

Daley was floored.

Minerva and the others have sufficient food, so they don't need to go hungry at all. In fact, they can even have a full meal. Only a fool would submit to me at such a time. In other words...

Resentful to the core, he glowered at Minerva. "What's the meaning of this, Minerva?"

"What are you referring to, Mr. Daley?" Minerva queried.

"You said you'd keep me company for a night. But what's this now?" Daley snarled.

"Dream on. I've got food and drink, so my days are as blissful as ever. Why would I put myself through the wringer?" Minerva sneered.

Daley gritted his teeth hard. "F*ck you! You've fired me up, so you've got to take responsibility for it."

"It was deliberate on my part. So, how do you feel? Does it feel torturous? If so, that's great. I'm all the happier when you're in greater pain," Minerva proclaimed.

D*mn it!

Daley flew off the handle. "I'm going to kill you!"

"Sure, come at me. If you dare do so, Mr. Williams will definitely pummel you to death!" Minerva crowded.

Argh!

In a rage with no outlet to vent, Daley could only return to the tree branch in a fit of pique.

The tree branch shook, making it evident that the man must be beating off to release his pent-up desires.

Satisfied with her prank, Minerva cackled without restraint.

Zeke opened the box containing food to find only buns in there.

"Are buns the only thing available here?" he questioned.

Chuckling, Megahead clarified, "Precisely speaking, the outermost district only has buns available. There is meat in Centuria's district. Why, you want some meat? That isn't impossible, but you need to trade for it with spiritual water. Five drops of spiritual water will get you a pound of meat. Are you interested? I've got a way of getting it."

Zeke shook his head. "Never mind, then, We shall see some time later."

Subsequently, he instructed, "Yannick, Yoshua, take the buns away."

"Sure!"

Yannick and Yoshua quickly carried the box of food away.

When they had all gone back, Zeke asked Murphy and Minerva, "Have you both eaten meat before?"

Both Murphy and Minerva burst out laughing.

"It's already a miracle if we don't starve to death here. How could we possibly trade five drops of spiritual water for a pound of meat?"

Murphy chimed in, "But those few guys might have eaten meat before."

He surreptitiously pointed at the few burly men lying in a corner sleeping.

"Oh? Have they harvested a lot of spiritual water?" Zeke wondered.

Murphy shook his head. "Of course not. I mean, they might have eaten human meat before."

Human meat... It's no exaggeration to say that this place is hell.

As Hawkeye stared at the box of buns at Zeke's feet, a glimmer of malice and resentment flashed across his face.

Half of the food should have belonged to me. But now... he got it all.

Naturally, he wouldn't take it lying down.

Seizing a moment of inattention by Zeke and the others, he sneaked into Megahead's tree hollow.

Megahead was understandably chagrined. "Why did you trespass into my residence again, you b*stard?"

"Megahead, I've got something important to report to you. Your position as Decanus is at risk!" Hawkeye warned urgently.

"How so?" Megahead drawled.

"Guess what I just heard? Those few people were actually conspiring to overthrow you to take your position. This morning, they harvested six drops of spiritual water. Earlier, they harvested seven drops of spiritual water. In total, that's thirteen drops of spiritual water. By tomorrow, they can definitely round up twenty drops of spiritual water. Then, that kid will take your place. Megahead, I think you should make a preemptive move," Hawkeye urged.

Chapter 2506

Surprisingly, Megahead shook his head and murmured, "No, no."

Hawkeye was puzzled.. "Why? Don't tell me you don't mind letting that kid rule over our Contubernium?"

To that, Megahead explained, "He's pretty high and mighty now. If I don't assert my dominance over him, he certainly won't take me seriously. This is a golden opportunity. I'll let him rebel first, then bring some men over to teach him a lesson, pummeling him until he submits to me. Only then will I be able to control this cash cow henceforth."

In a single day, Zeke had brought him thirteen drops of spiritual water. Putting it bluntly, that was the sum of the performance of his entire Contubernium for a month.

He wanted to hold the reins of that cash COW.

"Yes, yes, you've absolutely got to teach him a lesson, lest he keep trying to overthrow you," Hawkeye echoed.

Early the next morning, the team members set out in search of spiritual water once again.

This time, Zeke didn't go far. Instead, he found a place nearby under the guidance of Ossa Dei to harvest spiritual water.

Ossa Dei could detect that the place had a stronger affinity. In other words, there was more spiritual water there.

In less than half an hour. Zeke managed to harvest seven drops of spiritual water.

Although there was still some time before the sun rose, he declared, "All right, let's go back. There isn't any need to continue harvesting since this will get enough food for us."

Thus, the few people followed him back.

On the way back, Murphy and Minerva were both troubled.

In the end, Minerva mustered her courage and cautiously asked Zeke. "Mr. Williams, please tell me the truth-are you planning to replace Megahead as Decanus?"

Zeke nodded honestly. "Yes. Why?"

"Mr. Williams, I'd advise you not to do that. Megahead seems to have an agreement with the Decani of other Contubernia. When one of them was in trouble, the others would help. If you take his position as Decanus, he'll definitely seek out other Contubernia to exact revenge on you. At that time, you'll face the possibility of death."

"It's okay. I know what I'm doing," Zeke answered nonchalantly.

That aside, he quickened his pace.

Minerva and Murphy looked at each other with helplessness written all over their faces.

It seems that the Master has already made up his mind, and we won't be able to dissuade him from his course of action. Well, God will decide whether we'll live or die this time.

Zeke was the first to return to the team's base.

Unexpectedly, Megahead wasn't resting in the tree hollow as usual this time. Instead, he was outside the tree hollow with his eyes closed in rest.

Perhaps he knew that it was the day Zeke would propose taking his place as Decanus.

When he heard the footsteps of Zeke and the others, he opened his eyes and flashed them a smile. "You're back so quickly? It seems that you've got quite a bountiful harvest. Well, turn it over. There's no need to wait for the others. Let me see your harvest."

Zeke handed him the porcelain bottle.

Megahead checked it over before he chuckled. "Not bad, not bad at all. Sure enough, you didn't disappoint me. You harvested a whole seven drops of spiritual water. Great job! This box of food is yours. Additionally, I put in a request for a reward for you all-a pound of wild boar meat. Take it and enjoy yourselves."

As soon as Minerva and Murphy heard the word wild boar meat, saliva almost trickled out of their mouths.

We're close to losing our minds with the desire to have meat! Are we finally getting to have wild boar meat today?

Alas, they never expected Zeke to decline the reward publicly. "I'm sorry, but I can't accept this reward."

Huh?

Everyone looked at Zeke in surprise.

The hearts of Minerva, Murphy, and the others promptly sank.

D*mn it, d*mn it, we're going to be doomed! Putting aside the fact that we won't get to eat wild boar meat, is he finally laying his cards on the table with Megahead? Ultimately, which of them will emerge victorious today?

The atmosphere turned exceedingly tense. Everyone toned their breathing down significantly, afraid that they would disrupt the two men.

Chapter 2507

By then, the other team members were returning in succession.

No sooner had they come back than they sensed that the present situation wasn't quite right. Hostility hung thick in the air.

They all started whispering among themselves.

In the end, Hawkeye, who had been there from the very beginning, narrated the entire turn of events to them.

After learning the truth, they were in no hurry to hand in their spiritual water. Instead, they watched and waited.

They were all looking forward to knowing whether Megahead would continue being Decanus that day or the newcomer would end up replacing him as Decanus.

Closing the box of food, Megahead queried placidly, "Why are you declining my reward?"

"I don't need it. If I want to have meat, I'll exchange it myself with spiritual water," Zeke replied.

"You don't have the right to trade for meat. Only a Decanus has the right to seek out the Chieftain and exchange for meat," Megahead countered.

"If my memory serves, the sum of spiritual water I turned in has hit twenty drops. According to the rules, shouldn't I be replacing you as Decanus?" Zeke asserted.

Verily, his words were shocking to the core.

The instant his statement rang out, the gunfire blazed even hotter.

Everyone's hearts lodged in their throats.

They wondered about the kind of battle that would break out between a tyrant who had ruled over the territory for years and a warrior who was new to the place.

Snickering, Megahead stared straight into Zeke's eyes. "Are you sure you want to be a Decanus?"

Zeke nodded. "Yes, I'm sure."

Following that, Megahead sighed. "I'm just afraid that you're not capable of occupying this position."

"Why?" Zeke questioned.

Megahead started, "Being a Decanus is not as incredible as you see on the surface. When it comes to the higher-ups, I need to maintain a good relationship with the Chieftain, lest he target my team members. Externally, I've got to balance the forces of other Contubernia, lest any one Contubernium is overly strong and hurts my team members. And internally, I must have every team member submit to me willingly. Can you do all this?"

"Of course."

Megahead guffawed. "Admittedly, you fulfill the last requirement since your relationship with the other team members is indeed chummy. You've only arrived a while ago, but you've won two people over. Let's talk about the second requirement. You don't even know where the Chieftain is. How can you maintain a good relationship with him? Then, there are the forces of other Contubernia. Are you aware of their true capabilities? And how are you going to balance things? In my opinion, you're only good on paper. Trust me when I say you're not suited to be a Decanus."

At the end of his patience, Zeke smacked the man on the back of the head. "How long-winded! Since I want to become a Decanus, I naturally have that capability. You've got no right to criticize me endlessly."

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Whoa! He's really domineering. Megahead was merely advising him, but he sent the man flying with a strike. How reckless, resolute, and... foolish!

All of a sudden, regret welled within Minerva and Murphy.

Master is even more impulsive and upfront than Megahead. Someone bad at communicating won't be able to live long on Theos Island. Was it the right choice to follow him?

Of course, Megahead was the most furious of them all.

Usually, he was high and mighty before his team members, enjoying a position as lofty as a king.

Right then, however, the venerable king was sent flying in front of his subordinates. That was a great humiliation.

Even if I were to kill him right here and now, my prestige before them would be diminished substantially. I worked hard to nurture my reputation over the years, yet it's now all ruined. He has gone too far!

He instantly went off the deep end.

"Just you wait, Zeke! Just wait and see! I'm never letting this go, never! If I don't take your life within seven days, I won't be called Megahead henceforth!"

Zeke shot him a murderous glare. At once, Megahead shuddered in fear.

As he met the man's gaze, he felt as though he was facing off a starving cheetah. Intense fear rose within him.

Chapter 2508

Terrified, Megahead sprinted off without any regard for his image.

Hawkeye, on the other hand, was over the moon.

If Zeke hadn't smacked Megahead, when the latter leads his men over and retakes his position as Decanus after teaching Zeke a lesson, he might allow the man to live and harvest spiritual water for him. But now that he had struck him recklessly, Megahead would definitely end him. Otherwise, how would he show his face in public. from now on? Zeke's death is precisely what I want to see!

He glowered at Zeke. "Haha, you're going to pay the price, Zeke. Just you wait. Megahead will never let you off the hook." Then, he asked, "Is any of you willing to continue working under Megahead? Leave with me right now."

A few people in the crowd started wavering.

Meanwhile, Zeke opened the box of food.

He stated, "Anyone who wants to leave is free to do so. I'm not going to stop you. Conversely, those who don't want to leave and are willing to trust me can come over and have some food. There's plenty of food here, and it shouldn't go to waste."

"What should we do with this piece of meat, Master?" Minerva inquired cautiously.

"Everyone should share when there's food. They should be divided among all," Zeke answered.

Whoa! That's incredible!

After he said that, many of the team members decided to take his side, including the trio who had received three drops of spiritual water from him yesterday.

Nonetheless, there were still some who left with Hawkeye to team up with Megahead.

One of them was Daley.

They all knew that Megahead wouldn't be so easily defeated and would certainly make a comeback by retaliating.

At that time, this would still be the man's territory, and he would still be the last person standing.

"You three, come with me for a while," Zeke said to the trio who owed him a debt of gratitude.

"Sure, sure!"

All three men hurriedly went with the man. They went to a secluded spot at the side. "Why did you ask for us, Mr. Williams?"

"I want you to go and pledge allegiance to Megahead now," Zeke declared.

Huh?

Thinking that they might have misheard him, the trio gaped at him. "W-What do you mean by that, Mr. Williams? You're kicking us out?"

"This is just temporary. You'll still come back. You promised to do me a favor. I'm cashing it in now," Zeke said, then told them his plan in detail.

After listening to the entire plan, the trio gave him a thumbs-up. "What a great strategy, Mr. Williams! We're wholly impressed. Okay, we'll do as you said."

Thus, they turned around and left to pledge allegiance to Megahead.

Unexpectedly, he saw that the few team members who stayed were sobbing. Some were even wailing at the top of their lungs,

Bewilderment swamped him. "Why are the lot of you crying? If you're unwilling to follow me, just leave. There's no need to cry here."

"You misunderstood, Mr. Williams! We're not crying because we're unwilling to follow you. It's just that the meat is simply too good. We can't even remember how long it has been since we last had meat. Now that we've finally gotten a taste of it, we suddenly recalled the past. Our days now are downright hellish in comparison," the team members hastily explained.

They were all emotional, but Zeke was utterly speechless.

They're so thrilled from just a meal with meat that they're all in tears. It's evidence of the harsh living conditions they had to endure previously.

"Don't worry. You'll all be able to live a normal life in the future, having meat every meal. This is my promise to you," Zeke reassured.

Everyone burst into laughter.

Live a normal life and have meat every meal... He must be joking. Even God himself can't promise that on Theos Island.

Ignoring him, they all continued wolfing down the food.

When Minerva had eaten and drunk her fill, she advised Zeke in a whisper, "Master, you've angered Megahead completely since you struck him. The two of you are now on opposing sides, so he'll undoubtedly gather his forces to deal with you. You've got to be extra careful."

Chapter 2509

Zeke flashed Minerva a smile. "Megahead should be the one worried instead."

Words eluded Minerva. She didn't know what else to say about the man.

I really have no idea where he gets the courage to make such a bold statement.

Meanwhile, Megahead fled all alone..

His speed was moderate, for he was sure some team members would leave with him.. He wanted to wait for them so they could all gather.

Shortly after, his subordinate, Hawkeye, trotted up to him. "Wait up, Megahead! Wait for me..."

Megahead glanced at him in slight disappointment. "You're the only one coming with me?"

Panting, Hawkeye replied, "There should be more, and they should be arriving soon."

Just after he said that, a few old team members arrived, one after another.

Among them was the trio who owed Zeke a debt of gratitude: Nash, Nico, and Nevan Nixon.

"Megahead, we... we're here to pledge allegiance to you. You ran too fast, Megahead. We only managed to catch up now after expending all our energy. Please forgive us for our tardiness, Megahead."

Megahead nodded in gratification.

Hawkeye studied the Nixons curiously. "Nash, Nico, Nevan, why are you three here as well?"

"Why wouldn't we be here? Megahead is our Decanus. Who else would we follow if not our Decanus?" Nash riposted.

"But when we took sides earlier, the three of you were the first ones to side with Zeke without any hesitation. Why have you defected now?" Hawkeye questioned in puzzlement.

"When have we defected? We were simply too hungry, so we went over to his side to eat. After eating, we immediately came after Megahead. Megahead was the one who supplied the food, so it's only right that we have a share, no?" Nash countered.

Hawkeye promptly flashed them a thumbsup. "Impressive! You're indeed shameless enough!"

"Congratulations, everyone. You've made the best decision of your life. To tell you the truth, I'm not the least bit afraid of an insignificant character like Zeke. In the face of the ace up my sleeve, he's as weak as an ant," Megahead gloated.

"The ace up your sleeve? What is it?" Nash and the others queried, intrigued.

"You'll know when the time comes. Let's go. I'll bring you all to take a look at it," Megahead announced.

And so, he led the team members into the forest.

As they went further into the forest, Nash felt that something wasn't quite right. "Hold up, Megahead! Wait a moment. We're going to trespass into Archfiends' territory soon. Are we still to continue forward? As far as I know, your relationship with the Decanus of Archfiends, Apollyon, isn't all that amicable. If we were at our peak, we might be able to hold our own against the Archfiends. But we're now down on our luck. If we were to trespass on the territory of the Archfiends, wouldn't that be rather... bluntly put, presumptuous of ourselves?"

"Don't worry. Everything is in the palm of my hands. The ace up my sleeve is hidden in Archfiends' base," Megahead revealed.

No sooner had they stepped foot into Archfiends' base than a group of people leaped out from an obscure corner and surrounded Megahead and the others.

Megahead recognized the man in the lead. It was Gailen Lagreid, the right-hand man of the Decanus of Archfiends, Apollyon.

His relationship with the man was rather hostile. If they were to bump into each other during normal circumstances, a battle to the death was sure to break out.

Gailen from Archfiends stared at Megahead in exhilaration. "Haha, isn't this the renowned Megahead? Why have you come to my territory? Well, this suits me just right. While I wanted to

take your life, I could never find you. Now that you've offered yourself up on a silver platter, I can't possibly let this opportunity slip through my fingers. Kill them all, boys!"

Right after he said that, his team members popped their knuckles, gearing up to attack Megahead and the others.

At once, the nerves of Hawkeye, Nash, and the rest stretched taut.

Not only do they outnumber us, but they're also more muscular than us. On top of that, they even have weapons. If we were to go head-to-head against them, we'd definitely be on the losing end. In fact, we might all end up dying here.

Chapter 2510

On the contrary, Megahead was calm and unruffled. Waving a hand, he ordered, "Stop right there. I've got something to say."

"Hurry up and spit it out. We haven't got the time to yak with you. I'll send you all to meet your maker when you've finished uttering your last words," Gailen retorted.

"We're here to meet your Decanus, Mr. Apollyon. We've got something exceedingly important to report to him," Megahead declared.

Gailen cursed. "F*ck you! You want to meet my Decanus? You haven't got the right to do so!"

"This matter is of great importance. It even has to do with the life and death of the Archfiends. If you don't allow me to see your Decanus, you'll have to bear the full brunt of the consequences. Of course, you can only offer your life as reparation if you can't bear the consequences," Megahead threatened.

"Nonsense! There's nothing in this world I can't bear the consequences of. Guys, get them! Show them no mercy!"

Gailen's subordinates rushed forward, their eyes bloodshot.

Megahead immediately instructed Hawkeye, Nash, and the others, "Protect me to get close to Gailen. To defeat a team, capture their leader first!"

"Understood!"

Hawkeye, Nash, and the others surrounded Megahead as they fought against the besieging enemies.

Protected in the middle, Megahead gradually drew close to Gailen.

When he was five meters away from the man, he abruptly leaped up. He stepped on Hawkeye's head and lunged forward. With that, he soared five meters and struck Gailen right on the head.

Gailen had never expected Megahead to have the capability of closing such a great distance. Caught off guard, he fell to the ground, seeing stars.

Before he could gather his wits about him, Megahead had already held the dagger in his hand to his neck. "Everyone, freeze, or I'll kill Gailen."

As soon as his words rang out, everyone present immediately stopped fighting and looked at Megahead with wariness on their faces.

"Duel with me openly if you dare, you b*stard, Megahead! What's so great about sneaking up on me?" Gailen hissed through gritted teeth.

"Cut the crap. Bring me to meet your Decanus, Apollyon, at once. Otherwise, I'll finish you off right here and now!" Megahead snapped.

Gailen clenched his jaw tightly. "You wouldn't dare. If you dare harm a single hair on my head, it's equivalent to going against the Archfiends. The Archfiends will go all out to attack your Contubernium. Everyone knows the Archfiends are the strongest among the dozens of Contubernia in the outer district. If the Archfiends were to target you, you'd all die without a doubt!"

Out of the blue, Megahead guffawed. "You said I wouldn't dare? In that case, I'll show you if I dare."

After saying that, he severed Gailen's ear.

"Ah!" Gailen's cry of agony pierced the air, traveling far into the distance.

He's simply a lunatic, not bothering to consider the consequences before acting!

Terrified, Gailen didn't dare object further. He hastily agreed. "Fine, fine. I'll bring you to meet Apollyon. I'll do whatever you say."

Megahead sniggered. "What a worthless creature! Lead the way."

The Archfiends were the strongest Contubernium in the outer district. Their territory was also the largest.

They all walked for an entire hour before they finally reached Archfiends' base.

Archfiends' base was far more luxurious than Megahead Team's base.

A circle of trees formed a courtyard, and a row of cabins stood within the courtyard.

The biggest cabin in the middle was the grandest. It was the residence of the Decanus, Apollyon. The houses on both sides, on the other hand, were occupied by his team members.

The time to harvest spiritual water had passed then, so most of them were resting in the cabins.

However, the silence there was broken when the person on watch duty caught sight of Gailen returning with Megahead, with blood all over his face.

"Someone! Someone, come, quick! There's an urgent situation!" Following his bellow, fifteen to sixteen burly men rushed out.

"What's wrong? What happened?"

"D*mn it! I'm going to rip you into pieces for disrupting my sleep!"

"Huh? What the h*ll happened to you, Gailen? Why is your face all bloodied? Who severed your ear?"

"Whoa! Isn't that Megahead? He's at odds with our Decanus, Apollyon. Apollyon can't wait to finish him off, and here he is offering himself up on a silver platter!"

"Quick! Hurry up and convey this good news to him!"

Chapter 2511

Whenever it was time to form teams in the outer district, it was usually standard practice to have just ten members.

The Archfiends were rich and powerful, so they had no problem attracting and recruiting more members.

In just the blink of an eye, twenty people had filed out of the cabin while more slowly followed behind.

If he included his attackers-Gailen and his subordinates-Megahead estimated the Archfiends had to have at least thirty members.

He couldn't help but sigh. D*mn it. The Archfiends are a lot stronger than I thought.

"Get your boss, Apollyon, to see me," Megahead ordered. "There's something I want to discuss with him."

Alas, that earned a disdainful snort from one of the members. "Ha! What right do you have to talk to our boss? Just tell us whatever it is that you want to say."

"No. Your boss has to settle this matter personally," Megahead replied with a shake of his head. "Come on out, Apollyon. I have something important to discuss with you."

At last, there were movements in the most luxurious cabin, and a booming voice rang out. "Who on earth is making all that racket? You must have a death wish to wake me up from my sleep!"

With that, a burly, bearded man promptly marched out of the house.

Not only was he built like a mountain, but he also moved like one, sending the ground shaking with every step he took.

His aura was so strong that his Contubernium members couldn't help but tense up in his presence.

"Apollyon, it's me!" Megahead shouted.

"Huh? Megahead? Have you got nothing better to do?" Apollyon said through narrowed eyes. "Why the hell are you in my territory?"

Megahead took a deep breath and explained, "I've run into some trouble and need to initiate the alliance agreement."

Apollyon's nonchalance instantly melted away, only to be replaced by a look of seriousness. "Are you sure about that? Is the trouble you're in bad enough to warrant such a move?"

"Of course."

"Very well, then. Come in and tell me more."

Other than Apollyon and Megahead, everyone else was in total bewilderment.

What on earth is this alliance agreement? Why have we never heard of it before? Does Megahead want to ally with Apollyon? Everyone knows the Archfiends are the strongest, and Megahead Team is also in the top five. If we were to combine powers, we'd reign supreme in the outer district!

Now that he had met Apollyon, Megahead no longer had any use for Gailen. He slit the latter's neck with his dagger, causing blood to gush out of the wound.

Gailen crumpled to the ground, his eyes wide open with fear and confusion.

What? What gives Megahead the courage to kill me in front of Apollyon? I'm Apollyon's right hand man, for goodness' sake. Isn't he worried that killing me might piss Apollyon off?

The rest of the members of Archfiends were also furious.

How dare Megahead kill one of our own in our territory! Is there anyone more arrogant than him? There's no way we can tolerate such impudence!

Before long, they had surrounded the man. "F*ck you, Megahead! You've gone too far!"

"I can't believe you killed one of ours in our territory! Have you no respect for the Archfiends?"

"Boss, he's clearly disrespecting us. We can't let him off easy!" "I'm clueless about the alliance agreement, but his actions alone have proven that we shouldn't work with him!"

When he turned and saw Gailen lying in a pool of blood, Apollyon instantly frowned. "Megahead, don't you think you've gone overboard?"

"This guy picked on me relentlessly and killed several members along the way. He even had the gall to be rude to me. I was kind enough to finish him off quickly."

"That's bullsh*t!" the members of Archfiends scolded. "Please give the order to take him down, Boss!"

To their surprise, Apollyon merely sighed. "Forget it. Come in with me, Megahead."

Upon hearing that, everyone stood frozen in wide-eyed shock.

Huh? Is this a joke? Apollyon just witnessed the brazen killing of his right-hand man by Megahead, yet he didn't hold the latter accountable! On top of that, he even proceeded to invite him inside to talk about the alliance! Why the hell is Apollyon giving Megahead a pass?

Chapter 2512

Ignoring the members of Archfiends glaring at him, Megahead strutted into Apollyon's luxurious cabin and surveyed the space.

"Not bad at all, Apollyon. You sure know how to enjoy yourself. A Centurion would probably get the same treatment as you, huh?"

"Enough. Let's get to the point," Apollyon replied. "Why do you want to initiate the alliance agreement? What trouble have you gotten yourself into?"

Megahead sighed. "Someone has robbed my position as Decanus."

Needless to say, Apollyon had his doubts. "That shouldn't be the case, though. The ones most capable of taking over your position are Hawkeye and Phagos, but they're also the most loyal to you. Who could've done something so audacious?"

"It's a new guy. He came to Theos Island only yesterday."

Not at all believing what he had just heard, Apollyon immediately burst into laughter. "Are you serious? A guy who just got onto Theos Island yesterday managed to steal your Decanus position? Come on. You're joking, aren't you? Abilities aside, how could he have collected twenty drops of spiritual water in just two days? That's impossible!"

"Do you think that's something I'd joke about?" Megahead replied gloomily. "He did collect twenty drops of spiritual water in two days, and he's also powerful. Even if my entire Contubernium went up against him, I doubt we'd have a high chance of winning. In short, this guy is terrifying. He's undeniably a threat to all Contubernia in the outer district, including the Archfiends. That's why I have no choice but to initiate the alliance agreement. After all, it's better to nip the problem in the bud, isn't it?"

Alas, even after hearing all that, Apollyon still had his doubts. "Twenty drops of spiritual water in two days? Are you absolutely sure it's spiritual water and not normal dew drops?"

"My goodness, Apollyon, why do you have so little faith in me? Do you think I'd mistake dew for spiritual water?"

After realizing that Megahead was most likely telling the truth, Apollyon got visibly excited.

"The new guy's a real gem! At the rate he's collecting spiritual water, I might have a chance at becoming a Legatus or even a Camp Master! Yes, I must have him! Our alliance officially starts now. I'll get the other Decani over immediately."

"Thank you for your help, Apollyon," Megahead exclaimed.

After nodding in response, Apollyon hurriedly left, only to return half an hour later with eight other people in tow.

Like Apollyon and Megahead, the eight individuals were Decani of their respective Contubernia.

As far as the outer district was concerned, the ten of them were the strongest Contubernia and had all signed the alliance agreement a while back.

At that moment, however, the eight Decani were both surprised and curious.

One thing was for sure-something big must have happened for the alliance agreement to take effect.

After all, it had been years since the agreement was in place, yet no one had needed to initiate it until now.

As soon as everyone entered Apollyon's residence, Megahead closed the doors and windows before turning to his audience with an enigmatic expression.

"I'm sure everyone must be wondering what has put our alliance agreement into effect."

With that, everyone started discussing among themselves. "Yes. What's so serious that we have to resort to this?"

"The outer district has been pretty peaceful recently. I don't think there's any commotion."

"Hurry up and tell us, will you? We shouldn't execute this agreement if it's not a serious matter."

Megahead once again sighed. "Someone has robbed my position as Decanus."

Not knowing whether to laugh or cry, the other Decani exchanged bewildered glances.

"Is that it? Are you initiating the alliance agreement so we can help get your position back?"

"Don't be daft. If the other party is strong enough to take over your position, they have every right to remain in power."

"If your only reason is for us to help you get reinstated as Decanus, you can forget about it. There's no way we'll agree to that."

Chapter 2513

"Of course not," Megahead replied. "There's no need to tap into the alliance agreement to get my Decanus position back. I just wanted to inform everyone that the person who brought me down is a newcomer."

Upon hearing that, the eight Decani once again exchanged glances. "So? What's the big deal? The new guy toppled you because he's strong. That's hardly surprising."

"What if I told you the new guy has only been on Theos Island for two days?"

As expected, everyone stared at Megahead in disbelief. Huh? What the heck?

"Are you f*cking kidding us, Megahead? How can someone rob you of your position in just two days? That's unheard of!"

"Exactly! The first prerequisite to becoming a Decanus is to collect twenty drops of spiritual water. How can a new guy achieve that in two short days? No one is capable of that!"

"Did he rob you of your position before collecting all twenty drops? If so, he has broken the rule, and you can bring it up to the chieftain. He'll stand up for you."

"You're all correct," Megahead muttered. "But it's also true that he collected twenty drops of spiritual water in two days. To be more exact, he did it in just a day and a half. Whenever he ventured out, he'd always be able to get at least six drops of water."

Everyone was even more stunned than when they first heard about Megahead losing his position.

What? How did the newcomer collect twenty drops of spiritual water in less than two days? He's a real gem!

With their hearts still racing, everyone turned their attention to Megahead. "Do you swear by your words, Megahead? Did the new guy really collect twenty drops of spiritual water in a day and a half?"

Megahead nodded. "Of course. I've never been one to lie, and all of you have the right to know about this."

The eight Decani were so excited at the news that they could no longer sit still.

"Oh, this is wonderful! Our collection of spiritual water is far too slow, and there's usually only enough to exchange for resources."

"That's right. Without the assistance of spiritual water, I can't make any progress in my cultivation."

"If we can speed up with the collection of spiritual water and spare some for our cultivation, my powers will definitely increase by leaps and bounds! By then, I can be a Centurion, Legatus, or even a Camp Master!"

"Haha. The newcomer is a gem! I must have him!"

"That's not right! We discovered him together, so how can you keep him to yourself? We need spiritual water too."

"We can take turns summoning him, can't we? Each Contubernium can use him for either a day or a week."

"Oh, right! That's a brilliant idea!"

Before long, everyone else had agreed to the arrangement.

"All right, let's cut the crap. We'll head out now and take down the newcomer together!"

Upon hearing that, Megahead quickly stopped them. "Hold on! We can't go over now."

"Huh? Why not?"

"That guy is a little creepy, and he's not as simple as he seems. Taking him on is anything but a piece of cake," Megahead hurriedly explained. "I think we should spend a few days preparing ourselves. We can strike once we're sure that everything is in place. Otherwise, our recklessness might alert the new guy and foil our plan of capturing him alive."

The other Decani fell into deep thought. and nodded. "Hmm... You do have a point."

"Very well, then. We'll get ourselves ready before launching the attack."

"Come on. Let's head back and prepare our troops. We have to take this newcomer down no matter what."

Meanwhile, life had been fun and peaceful for Zeke, and he enjoyed every moment thoroughly.

Not only had he collected between twenty to thirty drops of spiritual water every day, but he had also smashed various records.

He'd exchange the spiritual water for just enough resources to feed his Contubernium daily and made sure to store the excess.

Minerva, of course, was delighted. Master has finally learned how to be prudent!

Chapter 2514

It was always important to plan for the future, especially on Theos Island. Therefore, storing as much spiritual water as possible was the right path forward.

By the time the fifth day came around, Zeke had already accumulated a hundred drops of spiritual water.

"Minerva, do you know where I can go to exchange for meat?"

"Master, are you planning on using the spiritual water for that?"

"Of course," Zeke replied with a nod.

"Master, don't you think that's a little too extravagant? We've only just had meat a while ago. Should we be eating it again?"

"Don't worry about it," Zeke assured. "We have more than enough spiritual water to go around. All you have to do is tell me where I can make the exchange." Minerva listened intently and nodded. "That's true. We do have plenty of spiritual water, so there's no harm in exchanging some for meat. In that case, we'll have to go to the Chieftain's manor."

"Good, good. Say, why don't you come along with me?"

"No problem!" Minerva replied before leaving with Zeke in tow.

After walking for more than an hour, Minerva and Zeke finally found themselves nearing the Chieftain's manor.

Located at the junction of Contubernium's district and Centuria's district, the Chieftain's manor was a wooden house that was modest but clean.

There was even an old signage at the entrance that had the words "Manor of the Chieftain" engraved on it.

The sign was simple but imposing, and Zeke could tell that only a warrior of the Archduke Class could make something of such magnitude. Could the Chieftain be an Archduke Class warrior?

With that thought in mind, Zeke pushed the wooden door and strode into the house.

"Chieftain, are you at home?" Minerva hastily shouted.

Just then, a raspy voice rang out from inside. "Who's that?"

"We'd like to seek an audience with you, Chieftain," Minerva replied. "Mr. Williams is hoping to exchange some resources."

Creak!

As the weathered wooden door creaked open, an old man with white hair and ragged clothes walked out slowly.

Despite his age, there was no doubt he looked very healthy and energetic.

After glancing at Zeke, he promptly turned his attention back to Minerva.

"Well, hello there, Minerva." "Hello, Chieftain," Minerva greeted with a polite nod. "Mr. Williams would like to exchange for some resources."

Johan, the Chieftain, nodded and looked at Zeke. "You're the new Decanus of Megahead Team, aren't you? I can tell from your aura that you're no ordinary human. What's your name?"

"I'm Zeke Williams, and I'm just a nobody."

"Zeke Williams?" Johan pondered for a moment. "The name sounds familiar, but I don't remember the details. Anyway, what resources are you looking to get?"

"I'd like to exchange it for meat."

Johan broke into a smile. "Well done! You've only been here a few days, yet you've already collected enough spiritual water to exchange for meat. That's pretty impressive. How much meat would you like?"

Without skipping a beat, Zeke answered, "I'd like to exchange one hundred drops of spiritual water for twenty pounds of meat." "W-What?"

Johan stammered as his hands trembled slightly. "Are you serious? Do you really have a hundred drops of spiritual water?"

Zeke swiftly whipped out his porcelain bottle and showed it to Johan. "What do you think, Chieftain? Is this real or fake?"

"You do indeed have one hundred drops of spiritual water..." Johan mumbled as the corner of his lip twitched. "No one has ever achieved this feat. Besides, you've only been here for a few days. Tell me the truth, young man. How did you collect all these in such a short period?"

"I collected them one drop at a time."

Johan couldn't quite believe that. "Don't lie to me, young man. Most of the time, the amount of spiritual water each Contubernium collects can only get them enough resources to feed its members. Even if there's a surplus, it's unlikely to exceed four drops. Moreover, you're claiming that you already have an excess of one hundred drops after a few days. Who the hell will buy that? Did you kill the other Contubernia and rob them of their spiritual water?"

A smile crept across Zeke's face. "Chieftain, given your role on Theos Island, shouldn't you be keeping a close eye on everything that's happening in the district?"

Chapter 2515

Johan nodded in response. "Of course."

Zeke continued, "If I had killed others to steal this spiritual water, I would have killed almost a hundred people by now. Was there a matching number of deaths in the district? Plus, is it entirely possible that I alone was responsible for killing them all?"

The Chieftain shook his head and replied, "Now that you put it that way, it seems unlikely. If you have truly collected that spiritual water by the drop, do you have some special power to sense and uncover the location of spiritual water?"

Johan's eyes lit up with excitement as he voiced his suspicions to Zeke.

If I know how to sense the location of spiritual water, I'm going to make a fortune!

Zeke dashed his hopes and said, "There's no special way to it. I just look through every nook and cranny for a precious drop of spiritual water. Chieftain, if you don't have any more questions, may I exchange resources with you now?"

Johan appeared disappointed as he said, "All right. Let's exchange resources. Are you sure you want to exchange your spiritual water for twenty pounds of meat?"

Nodding firmly, Zeke replied, "Yes."

"You must be thinking of becoming a Centurion if you're in such a rush to use up your hundred drops of spiritual water."

Zeke nodded in acknowledgement.

However, that was not the only reason for his actions.

He had a more important reason for exchanging all one hundred drops of spiritual water for meat.

Johan added, "I'll be honest with you, young man. It's not that easy to become a Centurion. Using a hundred drops of spiritual water is the easy part. You also need to defeat a Centurion."

"Oh, I'm not too familiar with how powerful Centurions are," came Zeke's reply.

"Most of them are Archduke Class warriors. Some of them are even stronger. Based on my observations, you're just a better-than

my observations, you're just a better-than average fighter. You wouldn't stand a chance against any Archduke Class warrior."

The Chieftain had happened to observe Zeke fighting while performing his surveillance on the district outskirts.

He concluded that Zeke's abilities were that of a normal warrior While that was more than enough against normal people like Phagos and Daley, Zeke was nothing short of dead meat if he faced off against an Archduke Class Warrior

Zeke answered, "I enjoy a good challenge. That's what keeps things exciting Still, I appreciate your advice."

Johan nodded. "You're welcome. I'll get the meat for you now."

Soon enough, Johan exchanged twenty pounds of meat with Zeke.

Greed danced across the Chieftain's eyes as he watched Zeke leave,

He was certain that Zeke had some special method of finding spiritual water.

If I can pick up his method and collect enough spiritual water, I might actually stand a chance of fighting for the Camp Master position! I must use this opportunity to investigate our district's newcomer closely.

Meanwhile, Yannick, Yoshua, Murphy, and the others eagerly awaited Zeke's return to the base camp.

They knew he had set off to exchange meat for them, and every one of them had been dreaming of its delicious taste since the last time they had tasted meat.

They had never imagined their wish would come true so quickly.

Everyone patted themselves on the back for choosing Zeke.

Finally, Zeke returned to base camp.

His team was wide-eyed with shock upon seeing him striding toward them with a chunk of meat weighing at least twenty pounds.

Twenty pounds of meat was the stuff of dreams.

They had thought Zeke would only manage to come back with one or two pounds of meat.

Some people began crying in gratitude.

They could die happy after gorging themselves on a meaty feast.

Zeke threw the meat at Yannick's and Yoshua's feet before declaring, "Here. Clean this up and stew it. Portion out five pounds to share with everyone. Leave the rest of the meat to continue stewing."

Minerva wiped the saliva at the corner of her mouth and said, "Master, two pounds of meat is enough for all of us to share. Y-You should keep the rest for yourself."

Chapter 2516

In truth, Zeke had single-handedly collected all the spiritual water, and his Contubernium members felt ashamed to share the meat he had gotten as the fruits of his labor.

To Minerva's surprise, Zeke replied, "Just follow my instructions."

Then he disappeared into the tree hollow to rest.

His Contubernium members hurriedly got to work.

Everyone was teary-eyed with gratitude as they stared at the massive chunk of meat.

This must be a dream. We must be dreaming.

At the same time, ten menacing Contubernia had gathered some ten kilometers away.

They had signed alliance contracts with Apollyon and made ample preparations to strike later that night.

As their interim Chief Decanus, Apollyon declared, "Our target today is the new Decanus of Megahead Team. I cannot stress this enough, but it is imperative that we capture him alive. This doesn't apply to the other members."

"Understood!" came everyone's resounding reply.

Apollyon addressed Megahead and the other Decani, "Do you have anything else to add?"

Megahead piped up, "I have something to say. All of you are here today to help me, and I promise I'll make it up to everyone. Once we take down the new Decanus of Megahead Team, I'll reward everyone here with a bun."

"Roger that!"

His promised reward boosted everyone's morale.

At least half of the hundred or so members of the Contubernia had been starving for days. A small favor in exchange for a bun sounded like a decent deal.

A bun was as precious as life itself to them at that point.

Everyone set off for Megahead Team's base camp after several reminders from Megahead.

Just as they neared the base camp, they smelled a delicious aroma in the air.

"That smells so good. It smells like meat."

"D*mn. Do you think the members of Megahead Team are having meat now?"

"They must be stewing a massive amount of meat to produce such a delicious smell."

Megahead merely announced dismissively, "Listen up. Don't let your imaginations run wild. Someone from Megahead Team died two days ago. They're probably stewing his meat as we speak."

Nonetheless, not everyone lost their appetite at Megahead's explanation.

Some of them had not eaten meat in a long time, and the thought of human meat was a lot less repulsive than it should have been.

Everyone quickened their pace.

Meanwhile, Zeke was cooking meat for his Contubernium in the base camp.

The savory scent of the meat drove some of his Contubernium members into a trance.

Not even the most beautiful woman in the world could tear their attention away from the meat.

An average person would have a hard time imagining how irresistible a delicious pot of meat was to someone who had almost starved to death.

When the meat was fully cooked, Zeke suddenly roared, "Who's there? Show yourselves!"

It snapped Minerva, Yannick, and the others out of their trance. They hastily looked around for signs of danger.

Numerous figures emerged from the shadows, surrounding their base camp.

There were at least a hundred people.

Lo and behold, their former Decanus, Megahead, was standing at the head of the group.

He was accompanied by a familiar face, whom the Megahead Team hated with a vengeance.

Minerva yelled, "That's Apollyon! It's Archfiends' Apollyon!"

Yannick and Yoshua were new members of Megahead Team and had never heard of Apollyon. Curiously, they asked, "Who's that?"

"Apollyon is the Decanus of Archfiends. They're the strongest Contubernium in the outer district. I can't believe Megahead would rope them in for this," said Minerva.

Murphy gasped and added, "Look at the people behind them. They're the Decani of the top ten Contubernia in the outer district. I can't believe Megahead could summon the top ten Contubernia to help him."

Minerva scratched her head and sighed. "We're doomed. So doomed."

They glanced discreetly at Zeke, who was still stirring the meat calmly.

Chapter 2517

Minerva and the others were befuddled by Zeke's calm display. Does the Master already have a plan to neutralize our opponents? We can only hope so. But what sort of plan can suppress over a hundred opponents?

Zeke. Meanwhile, the Contubernia led by Megahead were losing their minds over the mouth-watering pot of meat in front of

Never mind that Megahead had called it human meat. The aroma was far too enticing.

The men gritted their teeth and tried to resist the temptation.

Alas, if only their minds were that simple to control.

Their thoughts were occupied with the scrumptious pot of meat.

Megahead was only human, after all. He had not eaten meat in a long time and was salivating over the food like his men.

However, he had stronger willpower than the rest. He declared coldly, "Hey, Zeke. When I left, I swore I would come back to take your life. I'm back now. Are you going to chop your own head off, or shall I do it for you?"

Zeke glanced dismissively at him and said, "I choose to chop your head off!"

Outraged, Megahead roared, "Charge!"

Before Megahead's men could react, Zeke suddenly stood up and boomed, "Wait! Are you all content to follow these men and eat moldy buns for the rest of your life? Are you happy to spend the rest of your lives rotting in this God-forsaken place? Your children have never tasted meat in their lives. Can you die happy knowing that fact?"

He knew many of the men before him had children.

Everyone fell silent.

Zeke's words had echoed their sentiments.

He added, "Come. Follow me, and this pot of meat belongs to all of you."

A furious Megahead replied, "Shut up, Zeke. You can't even feed yourself. I can't believe you're cooking your Contubernium member now. Anyone stupid enough to follow you will end up in a pot themselves. Let me guess which unfortunate victim you're cooking."

Megahead swept his gaze across the place and was surprised to notice that everyone was present.

Minerva scolded him fiercely, "Megahead, you're slandering Master. He's cooking wild boar meat."

Megahead burst into laughter and said, "Wild boar meat? Who'd believe that? There must be at least twenty pounds of meat in that pot. Where did he get such a huge amount of meat from?"

"He exchanged spiritual water for it, of course," replied Minerva. Now, the rest of Megahead's party erupted into laughter.

"You probably need a hundred drops of spiritual water to exchange this much meat."

"You wouldn't have that much spiritual water even if you combined the ten Decani's stash over the past few years."

"He's a newcomer. Who would believe his claims of collecting a hundred drops of spiritual water?"

Zeke did not bother to refute their scathing accusations. Instead, he flipped the pot over, sending pieces of meat across the ground.

Everyone stared at the spilled meat in shock.

That's a boar's head. That's the knuckles. Even the hind legs are there.

The meat on the ground was clearly wild boar meat. It was impossible to disguise human meat in such a form.

He's telling the truth! But... how did he find so much wild boar meat?

Everyone present had never seen so much meat in their lifetime. Their frenzied response was thus understandable.

Even the Decani were hypnotized by the sight of meat. Their stomachs grumbled. loudly in protest.

Suddenly, an impulsive thought cross their mind.

Is it truly that bad to surrender to Zeke if it means we can have a taste of that delicious meat?

Zeke continued building his case and coaxed, "As long as you follow me, you'll have more than just this meat. I guarantee you'll taste meat once a week from now on. And, if nothing out of the blue happens, I'll be able to lead all of you into Centuria's district. That district offers a standard of living at least a hundred times better than this place. This is the chance to change your fate. Will you step forward and grab the opportunity?"

Chapter 2518

Everyone's expression changed in an instant.

If he makes good on his promise, it will be indeed a life-changing opportunity. Problem is, are his promises trustworthy?

Nash spoke up then and voiced everyone's doubt. "Are you telling the truth? Can you guarantee weekly meat supplies for us?"

Zeke nodded. "Of course."

Nash continued, "Your words sound so farfetched that it's hard to believe you."

"Oh? Tell me, what part of my promise is difficult to believe?"

"You need a hundred drops of spiritual water to ensure a consistent weekly supply of meat. How can you gather so much spiritual water in a week?" asked Nash.

Zeke chuckled. "Nash, you used to be in the same Contubernium as me. You should know how long I've been here."

After counting off his fingers, Nash said, "Not more than seven days."

"That's right. In these seven days, other than the twenty drops of spiritual water offered to the former Decanus, Megahead, I also saved a hundred drops of spiritual water to exchange for the meat here. Still, I have plenty of spiritual water left over."

As he spoke, Zeke produced a small porcelain bottle and shook it gently.

The sound of spiritual water splashing against the insides of the bottle rang out in the air.

Everyone was thunderstruck.

Even if one were to assume there were thirty drops of spiritual water in Zeke's bottle, that meant Zeke had collected a hundred and fifty drops of spiritual water in the span of seven days.

How on earth did he accomplish that? One would be hard-pressed to repeat the same feat even if they scoured every nook and cranny in the outer district.

Megahead barked, "Calm down, everyone. Listen to me; don't believe his boasts. Only a fool would believe his claim of collecting a hundred and fifty drops of spiritual water in a week alone. He must've killed others and stolen their spiritual water.

Scoffing, Zeke retorted, "Only a fool would believe your lies. If I killed others and stole their spiritual water, at least a hundred and fifty people would've died. Did you observe so many deaths in the outer district? Plus, would the Chieftain let such outrageous actions go unpunished? On that note, there isn't enough spiritual water in the outer district to make up a hundred and fifty drops."

The crowd erupted into whispers.

"The newcomer has a point."

"My lord, a hundred and fifty drops over seven days still sounds rather fantastical to me."

"Maybe he has a trick for gathering more spiritual water."

"Hmm, I think so!"

Megahead flushed with embarrassment as he struggled to refute Zeke's argument.

Finally, he said through gritted teeth, "Fine, Zeke. I'll admit you have a glib tongue. Answer me this. How on earth did you collect a hundred and fifty drops of spiritual water? And don't say you painstakingly collected it drop by drop. No one would fall for that."

Zeke replied, "Sure. I'll tell you where the spiritual water is from. Actually, I have a special method that makes collecting spiritual water much easier. As long as you follow my method, your chances of coming across spiritual water will improve a hundred-fold! The outer district actually contains plenty of spiritual water, but you've all been using the wrong method to gather it. That's why your results are pitiful."

The crowd reacted passionately to his explanation.

"So he does have a special method for collecting spiritual water. I guessed right."

"If we can learn his method and improve our efficiency in gathering spiritual water, we may actually get to eat meat once a week."

"Since I arrived, I haven't even enjoyed a full meal on buns! I'm definitely taking up his offer!"

It was time to go in for the kill. Zeke declared, "All right, I don't have much time to continue chatting with you. Make up your mind. Those who'd like to follow me can come here and enjoy the meat. It won't taste good once it's cold."

Chapter 2519

"I'm willing to follow Mr. Williams!" Nash spoke first.

Zeke smiled. "Welcome."

"Mr. Williams, I wasn't the best follower last time, but now that I have chosen to follow you again, you wouldn't take it out on me, would you?" Nash asked tentatively.

Zeke answered, "Do you think you could leave the team unscathed if I were truly singling you out? Let bygones be bygones. Everyone who decides to follow me will be treated equally. All of you are now part of my Contubernium."

"Good! I'll join you!" Nash raced toward Zeke.

"Me, too!"

"Count me in as well!"

Nico and Nevan chimed in and went to Zeke's side.

Three of them grabbed a piece of meat off the ground and tore off a huge chunk, feasting happily.

Their actions were all part of Zeke's plan.

If everything went smoothly, the rest would soon be swayed.

As expected, with the three of them taking the lead and succumbing to the temptation of meat, many more soon sided with Zeke.

They had been worried that Zeke would give them a hard time if they followed him, given they had attacked him in the past.

Nash and Zeke hadn't been on good terms, but Zeke did not put him on the spot, let alone the rest of them.

They had no more qualms and expressed SO.

"I'll follow Mr. Williams."

"We're willing to do anything you ask for without hesitation, Mr. Williams."

"So do I. Please leave me some meat..."

"B*stard!" Megahead clenched his jaw.

He had underestimated Zeke and the power of persuasion his words held to coax so many members to join him.

He had to take measures or there would be no one left who hadn't yet surrendered.

Megahead glanced at Daley beside him. "Do me a favor, Daley."

Daley immediately leaned in closer. "Do tell, Megahead."

"Get in there, Daley, and pretend to pledge your loyalty to Zeke before approaching him and delivering a killing blow," answered. Megahead. "I want him dead!"

Daley nodded. "Understood."

Then, Megahead gave him a dagger.

He tucked it close to his chest and slipped into the crowd toward Zeke's camp.

He pretended to sit on his haunches to pick up a piece of meat before slowly approaching Zeke.

The savory scent of the meat that wafted to him was tempting.

He tried to ignore the sight of the meat and focused on killing Zeke.

However, the aroma was irresistible, his mouth watering and his stomach rumbling for a taste. His attention splintered.

Hmm, just a taste. A bite wouldn't thwart my assassination task.

He picked up a piece of meat and took a bite.

Delicious. This is too godd*mn delicious. The texture... God, is there anything more delicious in this world than meat? Wait, what was I supposed to do? Kill Zeke! Yes, I should be focusing on finishing the job, but this is too tasty. I'll have another piece. It will be my last one... Oh my God. I have never tasted something so flavorful! Aren't humans here to enjoy life? I followed Megahead my whole life and have never eaten a piece of meat, but now... Only an idiot would give up on meat and continue working for him.

Daley promptly brushed off his assassination task and continued devouring the food.

Megahead became irritated after waiting for a long time and seeing no action from Daley. What is taking him so long?

He searched for Daley in the crowd but couldn't find him.

Hawkeye said, "Megahead, I think Daley betrayed us."

What?

Megahead shuddered. "Be careful of what you say, Hawkeye. I know Daley. He's dependable and will never betray us."

Hawkeye sighed. "Megahead, Daley is enjoying the meat now and appears to have forgotten all about his task." He pointed a finger at the crowd.

Chapter 2520

Anger surged in Megahead as he scanned the crowd.

D*mn, this weasel! How dare he?

Greed was all over Daley's face as he scoffed down meat, and even the dagger in his hand was missing.

Megahead suddenly had the urge to rush. over to Daley and stab him.

Hawkeye volunteered, "Leave this to me, Megahead. Zeke is my sworn enemy, and the hatred in my heart will never be alleviated if I don't finish him myself."

Megahead shot him a wary look, worried that Hawkeye would end up betraying him like Daley.

Hawkeye read his mind and hastily added, "Don't you trust me, Megahead? Have you forgotten what we have been through?" Megahead didn't have a choice besides. Hawkeye. Eventually, he nodded. "Fine, I trust you. Go ahead. Take his life and don't disappoint me!"

"I got this." Hawkeye blended into the crowd and made his way toward Zeke.

Megahead's eyes never left him. He was afraid that the latter would be lured by the meat.

Fortunately, when Hawkeye entered Zeke's camp, he didn't even spare the meat a glance, only focusing on getting closer to Zeke.

Meanwhile, Zeke's attention was on the people lunging for the meat, and he wasn't aware of Hawkeye.

Megahead's heart lurched when Hawkeye finally approached Zeke.

This was their only chance.

Hawkeye raised the dagger and aimed for Zeke's head.

Megahead's heart soared. This is it for Zeke.

However, his delight was snuffed out half a second later.

Zeke had noticed Hawkeye and had shot his hand out to snatch the dagger.

The dagger and Hawkeye were suspended mid-air.

Megahead sucked in a breath.

Zeke had grabbed the dagger while Hawkeye was still clutching it.

Sh*t! Zeke is that strong!

Zeke tightened his fist, and the gold dagger turned into dust.

Indeed, a gold dagger had been squashed into dust and sifted through his fingers.

F*ck! Is Zeke performing a magic trick? How could a bare human hand grind a gold dagger into dust? This surpasses any human limits!

Little did Megahead know that Zeke was a Celestial Class warrior who had exceeded human limitations.

The scene caused an uproar in the crowd.

Is that dagger a fake? But Megahead and Zeke are foes, so there's no way Megahead would assassinate Zeke with a fake dagger. Zeke is not only good at collecting spiritual water, but he's also extremely powerful. Perhaps he might be on par with Apollyon. We've never seen Apollyon demonstrate his dagger-crushing ability after all.

The dagger crumbled to dust, and Hawkeye fell to the ground, staring at the dust in a daze.

Sh*t! I'm done for!

Zeke ignored Hawkeye and yelled to the crowd, "Everyone has witnessed my strength. I'm confident that I can take down a Centurion. I need a hundred members to travel to Centuria's district to be a Centurion, and I'm close to my goal. I'll stop recruiting once I hit the number. So, the choice is entirely yours."

What? Only a hundred members? The spots were rapidly filling up.

How can we pass up an opportunity like this?

Everyone knew the quality of life in Centuria's district surpassed what they had here. Rumor had it that men could marry and have kids.

They could never miss out on this opportunity.

Suddenly, the crowd surged toward Zeke.

Chapter 2521

Your Trust

"We'll join you, Mr. Williams!"

"Please take us to Centuria's district! We can't live without meat."

"We'll do anything you ask of us!"

Every single one of them swarmed Zeke in the blink of an eye.

The prospect of living in Centuria's district was more appealing than meat. No one could resist it, and that included the Decani.

The ten Decani were distraught.

What the hell? We went to great lengths to negotiate an alliance agreement and brought hundreds of members to crusade against Zeke, but they all switched sides before the fight started. He didn't even need to lift a finger. Is this even a war against him? No, we're just recruiting people for him!

It wasn't so dangerous as it was humiliating to them. It was utterly humiliating.

"To all the Decani except for Megahead, we're complete strangers, and I have no quarrel with any of you, right?" Zeke asked while they were still caught off guard.

Apollyon and a few Decani nodded.

Zeke continued, "Good. You didn't inflict bodily harm on me despite leading men in a fight against me. So I have nothing against you. You are always welcome to join me. Of course, if you do not wish to do so, you can keep your position as Decanus, and we'll coexist peacefully. I'll even help you out if you are ever in trouble in the future."

The Decani smiled bitterly.

Indeed, we didn't do you any harm, but you have caused us harm. Our men have decided to follow you, leaving us without an army. Keep our position as Decanus? What good is a Decanus position when we have no subordinates left?

They only had one option now, which was to follow Zeke.

Besides, according to Zeke, it wouldn't be the worst choice.

Their standard of living would improve, and meat would be part of their weekly diet. Not even Apollyon could indulge in a meat diet once a month.

Their lives would be changed for the better if they lived in Centuria's district.

Apollyon and the Decani shared a look, seemingly about to change their minds.

Megahead started to panic.

He had lost his army and would lose all hope if the Decani stood with Zeke.

If a few of them stayed with him, they might be able to rebuild their forces and crusade against Zeke.

Megahead begged, "Decani, don't believe Zeke's nonsense. He will never win against a Centurion and make it to Centuria's district. Besides, God was our witness when we signed the alliance agreement. Aren't you afraid of karma if you break your word?" "You're putting us in a bind, Megahead. We're doing this for your good. It is a fulfillment of the alliance agreement as well," said Apollyon.

Megahead was bewildered. "What? You're siding with my enemy. How is that for my good and fulfilling the alliance agreement?"

"You said that Zeke would lose to a Centurion, which means death. Don't worry. We will make sure Zeke's duel against a Centurion happens, and the Centurion will annihilate him. Isn't that granting your wish? We're helping you by indirectly getting rid of Zeke. That's helping you, no?" Apollyon answered.

I...D*mn, they are sharp-witted. I'm at a loss for words right now.

Apollyon ignored Megahead and went toward Zeke. "Mr. Williams, we're here to pledge our allegiance. We promise to protect you and will follow all your orders unconditionally."

"Okay." Zeke gave a slight nod. "I appreciate your trust."

Chapter 2522

Zeke noticed that almost all the meat had been consumed, leaving only scraps for people to fight over. He took out a porcelain bottle containing spiritual water and tossed it to Minerva.

"Go, Minerva, and exchange all the spiritual water for more meat to reward them."

"Sure!" Minerva replied quickly, her eyes already brimming with tears.

She was still in disbelief that her master, an unassuming newcomer, had become a Decanus of hundreds of subordinates now.

Even Apollyon had submitted to him, and he was on his way to becoming a Centurion!

I knew I wouldn't be mistaken! Way to go, Master!

The members overheard Zeke's instructions and, in their exhilaration, started to circle him in celebration.

Megahead observed the scene and was about to flee with his tail between his legs or Zeke might want him to pay with his life when Apollyon spotted him trying to slip away.

"Should I get rid of Megahead so you can vent your anger? He has to be taken down a notch," Apollyon asked Zeke to get on his good side.

A feeling of utter helplessness pervaded Megahead. He wasn't a match for Apollyon. Death was a certainty if Apollyon went after him.

Zeke shook his head, much to everyone's disbelief. "Let him go. He intended to harm me, but he failed in the end. There's no need to take his life. He kindly took me in when I first arrived, so I'll forget about what happened today."

The members gave him a thumbs-up. "That's amazing, Boss!"

"He's destined to be a Centurion with a personality like that!"

"No, he can aim for Legatus."

Megahead, who had given up hope; saw the light again. "Zeke, w-would you really let this go?"

"I'm sorry, but I don't have any spare energy to waste on you," Zeke replied.

"So, is it okay if I join you?" asked Megahead.

"As I've said, I welcome anyone to join me. You're qualified if you're a human."

Megahead was overjoyed. "Okay, okay. I'll join you. I'll join you right now!"

Everyone rejoiced at that.

Meanwhile, Minerva arrived at the Chieftain's manor.

Johan was basking in the sun with his eyes closed. There were dishes of meat laid out beside him.

As the Chieftain, he knew the ins and outs of Contubernium's district. It was as if he had an all-seeing eye.

He had witnessed the near-assassination of Zeke and knew Zeke had sent Minerva to exchange for more meat, so he had prepared ahead of time.

Minerva strode in a while later and greeted warmly. "How are you. Chieftain?"

Johan opened his eyes and flashed a smile. at her. "You should be here to exchange for meat, right? I've prepared them for you."

Minerva glanced at the meat and estimated it to be between fifteen and sixteen pounds.

"I can't accept that much, Chieftain. I only have thirty drops of spiritual water," she clarified hastily.

Johan waved her concerns away. "No need to exchange. You can have all the meat without charge."

What?

Minerva was shocked. "What do you mean, Chieftain?"

"They're a gift from me to you."

Minerva was still a little unconvinced.

Is this a joke? Sixteen pounds of meat is worth a lot in this place, even a few hundred lives. But the Chieftain is giving them to Zeke for nothing. A Chieftain isn't particularly wealthy. He still needs spiritual water to buy more meat. This meat would cost roughly a year's wage.

Minerva inquired, "Chieftain, do you need a favor from Mr. Williams?"

Instead of responding directly, he replied, "Go back and tell Mr. Williams to meet me. I have something important to discuss with him."

Chapter 2523

Minerva tensed up. "Chieftain, would what you asked of my Decanus to do be a threat to his life?"

Minerva had taken much effort to find a sturdy tree that could shelter her from the wind and the rain. She was not going to let him die so easily.

Now, Zeke's safety was even more important than her own.

The Chieftain looked at Minerva in relief. "Minerva, are you worried about your Decanus?"

Minerva nodded, not denying it.

Johan smiled. "Not bad. I'm surprised that you know how to worry about others. It's been a long time since I've seen anyone here have a shred of humanity."

Before Zeke's arrival, everyone on the island had been nothing but emotionless beasts. They had only been concerned about their own survival.

Zeke has softened Minerva's heart.

Perhaps he'll be able to change the situation here.

Johan then added, "Don't worry. Not only will it not be a threat to his life, but it'll even be beneficial for him. Take the meat away. I have not eaten meat for many years."

Nevertheless, Minerva did not wish to owe Johan anything.

She sliced six pounds of meat, left behind thirty drops of spiritual water, and fled.

I can't owe the Chieftain any favors. It'll be terrible if he wants Master to pay the favor with a life.

Hawkeye was playing dead on the floor.

The people around him were celebrating in a maniacal manner, and no one was paying attention to him.

He was devastated.

He had planned to take down Zeke before stealing his spiritual water for a good meal, yet things did not pan out the way he had imagined at all.

He was starting to think about joining Zeke's Contubernium, but he was afraid that Zeke might not want to take him in.

In fact, there were a few times he had tried but failed to muster up the courage to apologize to Zeke.

Zeke had forgiven Megahead because Megahead did not attack him outright. On the other hand, Hawkeye had nearly stabbed Zeke in the back of his head with his dagger. What he had almost committed was murder.

D*mn you, Megahead. You've f*cked me up. I can't believe you're destroying my one and only escape route. What do I do now? I should run. I'd rather be a wanderer than be tormented to death by Zeke.

With that thought in mind, Hawkeye began wriggling, intending to crawl into the bushes at the side. Just as he finally reached the bushes, two pairs of legs abruptly stopped him from going any further in.

Who is it?

A shudder wracked Hawkeye's body, and he quickly lifted his head.

It was the Lewis brothers.

The ferocious grins they had made Hawkeye's heart sink.

He had killed their parents, and they had come to take revenge on him.

Hawkeye could imagine what would happen to him next.

With a slight smile, Yannick said. "Mr. Hawk, where are you going?"

Then, Yoshua said, "Come on. Mr. Hawk. You told us you were going to bring us to see our parents. Please bring our parents over to us now."

At that, the two of them grabbed one of his arms each and towed him to a remote corner at the side.

Hawkeye's body spasmed in the face of death. In a weak voice, he pleaded, "Please let me go... Please! Please forgive me... I'll be your slave. I'll do anything you ask me to. Please spare my life!"

However, there was no way Yannick and Yoshua would show him mercy, for he was the murderer of their father.

Once they reached the quiet corner, Yannick took off his belt and tied Hawkeye to the tree. "Enjoy your time, Mr. Hawk."

Right then, the stench of urine wafted through the air. Hawkeye had peed his pants.

"P-Please let me go! I'll give you all of my savings! Please, just let me off!"

Smack!

Yoshua slapped Hawkeye. "Let you off? Why didn't you think of letting my parents off back then, huh?" Smack!

The brothers rained slaps on Hawkeye's face.

Of course, that was not all they did to punish him.

They continued to slice up his flesh and shove salt and chili into the wound. They even cut off his ears.

However, the things they did were not fatal, only immensely painful.

Hawkeye was certain he was a second away from getting tortured to death.

Chapter 2524

Right as all hope was about to leave him, a cold voice traveled into his ears. "Yannick, Yoshua, stop!"

It was Zeke.

Zeke had long arrived, but he had chosen to hide at the side and not reveal himself as the Lewis brothers tormented Hawkeye.

Only when the brothers' anger was partially alleviated did he step out to stop them.

Hawkeye could not die yet, for he was still useful alive.

The moment Zeke appeared, Yannick and Yoshua stopped.

Hawkeye begged, "Mr. Williams, please..... please give me a quick death."

The Lewis brothers turned to Zeke and asked, "Mr. Williams, why have you come?"

Zeke ignored their question and asked, "Feel better now?"

The brothers shared a look. "Not completely."

Zeke nodded. "Okay. Leave first. I have something to tell Hawkeye."

The brothers certainly would not disobey Zeke's order, so they turned and left.

Hawkeye was still pleading, "Mr. Williams, please make it quick for me."

"Hawkeye, do you wish to live or die?"

Huh?

Hawkeye snapped his eyes open as they lit. up. "Mr. Williams, w-what do you mean?"

Zeke repeated, "Do you wish to live or die?"

Hawkeye's voice trembled from the thrill he felt. "Mr. Williams, are you... telling me that I have a chance to live?"

"Frankly, I have a billion chances to end your life, but I didn't do that. Do you know why?"

Hawkeye asked curiously, "Why?"

"It's because you're still useful to me alive."

"Mr. Williams, as long as you spare my life, I'll do anything for you," Hawkeye quickly said.

"Let me ask you a question. Is it true that only certain people can enter and leave Theos Island freely?"

"Mr. Williams, only envoys like me have the right to enter and leave the island, and there are less than ten envoys like me on Theos Island. What we actually have isn't the freedom to enter and leave the island. We only have three chances to leave Theos Island every year, and we're only allowed to stay outside for three days maximum. There are communication stations in the outside world established by Theos Island, and we're allowed to seek help from those stations while working outside of the island. For example, the graduation certificates that I falsified for Yannick and Yoshua were done with the help of those stations."

A communication station?

"I want you to leave the island now and recruit a few disciples here. That shouldn't be a problem for you, right?" Zeke asked.

Hawkeye answered, "I have one last chance to leave the island this year, so bringing in a few disciples here won't be an issue."

Zeke inclined his head, "Good, I'll have to trouble you to bring a few people to Theos Island, then."

With that, Zeke gave information about Sole Wolf, Killer Wolf, and the others to Hawkeye.

After memorizing the details, Hawkeye burned the note right away.

"Mr. Williams, if it's possible, I hope these people can meet me at the communication station. That way, I'll be able to bring them back right after I leave. Otherwise, we'll be wasting more time."

"Sure. Tell me the address of the communication station."

Hawkeye quickly provided him with the address. Before Hawkeye left, Zeke warned, "Hawkeye, I hope you'll be smart enough not to pull any tricks with me, or else I'll make sure you die a horrendous death."

Hawkeye swore, "Don't worry, Mr. Williams. I'll definitely heed your words and never betray you."

"Go. Best to come back within five days' time. Come to me for the antidote after the fifth day."

Hawkeye was confused. "Antidote? What antidote?"

"I've infected you with a cursed parasitic worm, and it will only affect you five days later. If you don't get the antidote five days later, you'll explode and die. It'll look terrible. If you don't believe me, you can press the spot a little lower between your thumb and your index finger. The back of your head will feel as if it's expanding, and that's a sign of a cursed parasitic worm in you."

Hawkeye's heart lurched.

F*ck, I was planning to flee once I'm out. Only an idiot will listen to him.

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But it looks like I've underestimated this devil. He has already thought of everything I thought about and made a plan to counter it. Speaking of which, when did he find the time to infect me with the worm?

With a sincere look on his face, Hawkeye said, "I don't need any verification. You're a capable man, Mr. Williams. If you say that you've infected me with a cursed parasitic worm, then you must have done exactly that."

Zeke nodded. "Go. Be swift."

"Understood," Hawkeye replied before turning to leave.

Once he was a distance from Zeke, he came to a stop in his tracks and sneakily scanned his surroundings.

Upon making sure that he was alone, Hawkeye pinched the spot between his thumb and index finger.

Instantly, the pressure built up in the back of his head, and a buzzing sound echoed in his mind. He felt as if something was trying to make his head explode, and the pain was suffocating.

Only after Hawkeye released his hand from the spot did the pain finally subside.

Oh. Oh god.

Hawkeye's heart was still thumping wildly in his chest as he desperately sucked in deep breaths.

I'm screwed. It looks like I'll have to serve Zeke for the rest of my life.

Meanwhile, after Hawkeye left, Zeke gave Sole Wolf a call.

The call was picked up almost as soon as the line was established.

"Zeke, you've finally called. Where are you right now? How are things going on your side?"

"Get your men to track down my location right now. You have to hire the best specialist and do your best to track down the place I'm at."

"Got it!"

Sole Wolf could hear the urgency in Zeke's tone, so he hastily began to make the arrangements.

Merely three minutes after, Sole Wolf answered, "Zeke, I've hired the best specialist for tracking and have started tracking your signal. Please stay on the call."

"Okay."

As time ticked by, Zeke grew all the more anxious, hoping that they would be able to track down the location of Theos Island.

If they succeeded, then he would be able to mobilize the North Regiment and have a high likelihood of destroying Theos Island.

Unfortunately, the news that Sole Wolf soon brought him made him dismiss those plans.

"Zeke, I'm sorry, but the specialist said they couldn't locate where you are."

What?

Zeke furrowed his brows, "If the signal can be sent, why can't you track it down?"

Sole Wolf responded, "The specialist said that the signal is routing through a foreign satellite. They said they could only track the satellite and no further. We'll need to work with foreign specialists if we want to keep tracking. However, not only will your location be exposed, but all the communication details of the North Regiment may be intercepted by the other party too. Zeke, are you in danger right now? If you are, I'll work on contacting the providers of the foreign satellite to keep tracking the signal."

It doesn't matter even if the communication signal of the North Regiment is intercepted by an enemy country. At most, we'll just get a new set of communication devices. What will be disastrous is if the Great Marshal is in danger.

"You don't need to keep tracking. It isn't important. Sole Wolf, I'll send you an address now. Take Killer Wolf, Alfred, Nameless, Tyler, and Ares to that place. That is Theos Sect's site of contact in the outside world. I've sent someone to the communication station to pick you up and bring you to Theos Island. Also, arrange for a few men to keep an eye on the communication station. If they see anyone in the army interacting with the communication station, kill them. The soldiers who interact with the communication station must be moles that Theos Sect planted in the army of Eurasia. Their deaths will not matter."

"Understood!"

"Okay, that's all for now."

With that, Zeke hung up.

He looked toward the deeper parts of Theos Island and sighed.

Theos Sect was far more troublesome than he thought it would be. It would be extremely challenging for him to find out Lacey's location discreetly and rescue her all by himself.

He needed capable helpers, and that was why he had no choice but to ask Sole Wolf and the others to come to him.

After keeping his communication device, he went back to where he came from.

Midway back, he bumped into Yannick and Yoshua.