

## Chapter 2526

The two of them were collecting spiritual water, but Zeke could figure out with one glance that was not their true aim.

The sun was high up in the sky, and there was definitely no spiritual water around.

Hence, Zeke worked out that the brothers must be waiting for him to ask about Hawkeye.

The moment Zeke cleared his throat, Yannick and Yoshua rose to their feet with a smile. "Mr. Williams, you're back."

"What are the two of you doing here?"

Yannick answered, "Well, we're collecting spiritual water. We didn't want you to be the only one working hard to collect spiritual water, so we tried to help out."

"The sun is bright now. You know there will be no spiritual water at this time."

An awkward smile grew on Yoshua's lips. "I... Who knows? Maybe there are spiritual water droplets around."

"That's enough. Stop with the riddles. You want to ask me how I dealt with Hawkeye, don't you?"

Immediately, the brothers widened their eyes, clearly nervous. However, they tried their best to look calm as they said, "Please don't misunderstand us, Mr. Williams. We're not trying to stop you from going anywhere... But since you've mentioned it, may we know how you're planning to deal with Hawkeye? Although Hawkeye is the murderer of our father, we won't make things difficult for you if you want to keep him around."

Zeke reassured them by saying, "Be at ease. He'll die after five days. Indeed, he's useful to me, but only for these five days. Five days. later, his usefulness will run out, and I won't keep him alive."

At that, the Lewis brothers let out a sigh of relief. "Thank you for that, Great Marshal."

"Come on. Let's go back."

The brothers then each took a spot beside Zeke, and the trio returned.

On their way back, exclamations and sounds of laughter could be heard.

Yoshua wondered out loud, "What's going on at the base? Why is it so lively all of a sudden?"

Yannick responded, "What else? Minerva must have come back after exchanging for meat."

"It's just a bit of meat, but these people are going mad at the sight of it. Life here is like hell."

"And I thought that believing in Theos Sect and coming to Theos Island meant living a life like a god. Who knew this place is worse than hell? I'd rather die than live an awful life like this."

Yoshua turned to Zeke nervously and asked, "Uh... Mr. Williams, you'll take us away from this place, right?" Zeke nodded in affirmation. "Theos Sect has committed an unforgivable sin. I'll destroy the entire sect."

His reassurance made the brothers sigh in relief. Both were sure that Zeke would succeed in his plan.

After all, the man was the Great Marshal. What could the Great Marshal possibly not do?

Not long after, they arrived at the base.

Everyone was snatching the meat like starving wolves.

It had been a while since Yannick and Yoshua had eaten any meat, so they, too, could not help but lunge forward to get some as well.

At that moment, Minerva was pacing outside the crowd, seemingly in search of someone.

Zeke called out to her, "Minerva, what are you doing?"

Minerva jogged over to him when she saw him. "Mr. Williams, I've finally found you."

"Oh, you were looking for me?"

"The Chieftain is looking for you. He told me to convey the message to you."

Hmm?

Zeke was surprised by that. "Why is the Chieftain looking for me?"

Minerva speculated, "I'm guessing that the Chieftain has a favor to ask of you because he tried to give me free meat. There's no such thing as a free lunch in this world. He must be up to no good."

Zeke hummed, contemplating. "All right, I'll go and meet him."

Even if Johan did not come to him, Zeke was going to look for him.

The moment Zeke laid eyes on the Chieftain, he had sensed something familiar about the man, and that sense of familiarity made him relax.

## Chapter 2527

His instincts told him that Johan was not an enemy.

"Mr. Williams, can you promise me something?" Minerva asked.

"What is it?"

"If what the Chieftain asks you to do endangers your life, you have to reject him, okay? W-We can't afford to lose you."

Zeke nodded. "Don't worry. Thus far, no one in this world poses any threat to my life."

With that, Zeke turned to leave.

Minerva caught up with him and added, "Mr. Williams, why don't I come with you? It'll be better if you have someone else by your side."

Zeke patted her shoulders. "Stay. I swear to you I'll be fine."

Zeke knew it was highly likely that the Chieftain had asked to meet him to discuss secrets. Therefore, no outsiders should be there.

"All right..." Minerva muttered in disappointment and concern.

However, when Zeke walked away from her, he felt something warm seep into his heart.

Minerva was worried about me just now! It looks like the people here aren't completely hopeless. There's a chance they can be human again if I save them from this place.

Shortly after, Zeke arrived at the Chieftain's manor.

When he arrived, Johan was watering the plants, seemingly having all the time in the world.

Zeke was the first to speak. "What a surprise that you can have a hobby in a place like this, Chieftain. I'm impressed."

Johan turned around and gave Zeke a small smile. "You must be joking, Mr. Williams. Come in and have a seat. I've prepared some good tea in preparation for your arrival."

"Let's go."

Johan then led Zeke into his house.

The house was simple but clean.

Johan poured a cup of tea for Zeke, but instead of trying it, Zeke said, "Chieftain, why were you looking for me?"

Johan, who was in the middle of pouring tea, froze for a while before he lowered his hands.

He then rose to his feet and went to close the door and the windows. After that, he came back to his seat and whispered, "Mr. Williams, have you gotten used to this place yet?"

Zeke cast a curious look at Johan. "Should I say I've gotten used to it, or should I not?"

Johan chuckled bitterly. "You can speak the truth, Mr. Williams." "Sort of, I guess."

"Oh, if you've gotten used to it... then never mind."

"What if I say I'm not used to it?"

Johan hesitated.

"It's fine. Just tell me. I swear I won't say a word about anything we talk about today."

Only then did Johan utter cautiously, "What I mean is that, if you're not used to this place, perhaps you can choose to leave."

Leave?

Zeke's expression turned solemn. "Chieftain, you have a way to get the people off this island?"

Instead of answering his question, Johan asked, "Mr. Williams, why did you come to Theos Island?"

"I came to look for someone. My wife... is probably on this island."

"Oh?" Johan raised a brow. "Have you found your wife yet?"

Zeke shook his head. "I haven't."

The Chieftain was silent for a while. "If I manage to find your wife, will you leave the island with your wife?"

Zeke nodded without hesitation. "Of course. Chieftain, do you have a way to get me off this d\*mn place?"

"I do, but you have to help me out a little before you leave."

"What is it?"

"Promise me you'll bring all those members in the outer district out."

Zeke fixed his burning gaze on Johan. "Why? Aren't you scared that Theos Sect will come for you once I bring them away?"

Johan sighed. "I'm but old bones now. It doesn't matter if I die. If I get to save a group of people before I die, I'll get to die in peace."

Zeke took a deep breath. "Why do you want to save them?"

Johan gave Zeke a small smile. "Young man, if my guess is right, you've spent time in the Military District in the North of Eurasia, am I right?"

## Chapter 2528

"How do you know?" Zeke asked.

"I can sense your aura. You carry the air of a soldier from the North. This is a quality that cannot be masqueraded. Besides, your aura is very intense, so I suppose you have stayed in the Military District in the North for a long time."

Zeke nodded. "That's right. If you can sense the air of a soldier from the North on me, I assume you must've served in the Military District in the North as a soldier too."

Johan flashed a bitter smile. "Mr. Williams, have you heard of Cygnus Room?"

Zeke bobbed his head. "Of course." Not only have I heard of Cygnus Room, but I'm also the one who established it.

"Strictly speaking, we are considered comrade-in-arms. Actually, I am from Cygnus Room, and Cygnus Room is a subsidiary body of the Military District in the North."

"Oh?" Zeke was surprised. "I did not expect you to be from the Cygnus Room. All the soldiers from the North are extremely loyal to the Great Marshall, so why did you betray Cygnus Room and join Theos Sect in the past?"

Johan was slightly infuriated. "Mr. Williams, you shouldn't go around spewing nonsense. How can you associate a soldier from the North like me with committing a betrayal?"

"Oh? In that case, I would like to ask why you have joined Theos Sect."

Johan let out a long sigh. "It's a long story. In fact, Cygnus Room noticed signs of Theos Sect's activity in Eurasia a few years ago. However, due to Theos' over-secretive nature, we failed to grasp much information about the sect. In order to get a better understanding of Theos Sect and eliminate them once and for all, Cygnus Room assigned me to sneak into the sect to carry out an investigation and obtain evidence. In the end, my investigation led me all the way to Theos Island. Then, I realized there was no way for me to leave this place, and I lost all means of communicating with Cygnus Room's headquarters. After that, I had no choice but to stay on Theos Island and spend the rest of my life pretending to be one of their followers."

"Unintentionally, I climbed the ranks and became a Chieftain of Theos Sect. All these years, I've never stopped investigating Theos. I've finally found a way to leave Theos Island recently, but the method is too harsh and cruel, not to mention it will inflict a heavy toll on my body. I'm already very old now, so I cannot withstand these torments anymore. I planned to give up, but your appearance reignited my hopes. I want you to lead the worshippers in the outer district to leave this hellhole."

Zeke regarded Johan with a faint smile. "Why do you trust me? Aren't you afraid that I will reveal your secret to Theos?"

Johan responded, "There's already no way out for me, so I can only risk it all and place all my hopes on you. Moreover, I can tell you're a man of honor and justice, so it is unlikely you will do anything detrimental to the North Regiment."

He paused briefly before continuing, "Alas, I'm also suffering from lung cancer, so I don't have much longer to live. If I don't hurry and find someone who can bring these believers and the information I collected out of here, I'm afraid there won't be a chance for me to do so in the future."

"Oh?" Zeke glanced at Johan. "Lung cancer?"

Johan nodded.

Zeke casually grabbed Johan's hand, wanting to take his pulse.

Taken aback, Johan attempted to retract his hand. "Stop that! What are you trying to do?"

"Stay still. I'm checking your pulse."

"You're adept at medicine too?" Johan asked curiously.

"Of course."

Johan was in disbelief. "If that's the case, you must be a military doctor in the North. As far as I'm concerned, military doctors never engage with enemies in frontline battles, nor do they need to learn to protect themselves. However, your combat prowess is exceptional... Did you hold an important position in the army? Only the higher-ups are proficient in both medical and combat skills."

Zeke chuckled inwardly. I'm the Great Marshal. I wonder if you will consider me one of the North's higher-ups.

Soon, Zeke was done checking Johan's pulse. "There is a disease spreading in your chest due to the accumulation of negative energy in your body. You are indeed suffering from lung cancer. However, there is still a way to cure your condition."

## Chapter 2529

Johan burst out laughing. "Young man, are you making fun of me? There's no way to cure cancer. Besides, I have late-stage lung cancer, so it is almost impossible for me to live for another one or two years, perhaps not even a few more months."

Zeke remained silent and merely took out his Ammo Needle. Then, he said to Johan, "Lie down."

Johan was stunned. "What do you mean?"

"Lie down. I'm going to treat your illness now."

Johan was rendered speechless. "That's enough, young man. Cygnus Room is the most advanced medical facility in Eurasia. I picked up some medical skills when I stayed in Cygnus

Room in the past under the influence of the healthcare-oriented environment there. I've already diagnosed my condition as late-stage lung cancer, and there is nothing you can do to save me. Your futile attempt will only worsen my disease."

Sensing Johan's reluctance to cooperate, Zeke straightaway pushed him down and poked him with the silver needles.

"What are you doing?" Johan roared furiously.

Still, Zeke's movements were too quick as he was done applying all the needles on Johan in the blink of an eye.

By the time Johan wanted to get up and put up a resistance, Zeke had already completed the treatment session using his Ammo Needle.

Johan widened his eyes and stared intently at Zeke. "W-What have you done to me? WWhere are you trying to harm me? It seems that I've misjudged you."

Zeke smiled. "How do you feel now?"

"I-"

Before Johan could finish the rest of his sentence, he felt a burning and tightening sensation in his chest as if a ball of gas was churning and ricocheting within him.

The next second, he opened his mouth and spat out mouthfuls of contaminated blood uncontrollably, expelling the negative energy in his chest cavity, too, in the process.

Subsequently, Johan felt his breathing improved significantly, and his terrible lung cancer symptoms had also reduced.

"T-This..."

Johan was too excited to utter any words. Is there really a cure for my condition? So, this young man was saving me instead of hurting me?

He took in deep breaths of fresh air and realized that not only was he feeling better physically, but he also felt more relieved emotionally.

Nevertheless, his facial expression swiftly turned somber again following the fleeting moment of joy.



Johan was very confident that he suffered from late-stage lung cancer. Under normal circumstances, there shouldn't be any cure for that condition. However, this young man was able to nurse me back to health using a few silver needles. How did he treat me using those silver needles, and why is this therapy so effective?

To the best of Johan's knowledge, the only acupuncture technique that could achieve such tremendous results was Ammo Needle, the acupuncture technique invented by the Great Marshal. What is this young man's relationship with the Great Marshal?

Johan bored his eyes into Zeke. "T-Tell me the truth. Did you use Ammo Needle on me just now? Tell me about your relationship with the Great Marshal. From what I know, aside from the Great Marshal, only a few of his trusted aids practice Ammo Needle, and even their knowledge on this subject is superficial."

Zeke took out a piece of jade from his pocket.

It was none other than the jade seal. When Johan saw the jade seal, tears streamed down his face instantaneously, and he fell to his knees before Zeke with a thud.

His voice shook due to the waves of emotions overwhelming him at that moment. "The jade seal! The Great Marshal's jade seal. You're the Great Marshal! It's an honor to meet you, Great Marshal!"

Zeke knitted his brows. He immediately released a stream of energy to form a small barrier around the Chieftain's manor to prevent others from hearing Johan addressing him as the Great Marshal.

If Zeke's identity were exposed, his effort thus far would be in vain, and that setback would affect his master plan.

He said, "Get up."

However, Johan did not get up. Instead, he uttered emotionally, "Great Marshal, I've been trapped on Theos Island for decades. I've been thinking of my home and comrades in the North all these years. I even dreamed about reuniting with my comrades in my sleep, but little did I anticipate the Great Marshal's advent... Haha! I can die without regret now!"

## Chapter 2530

Zeke said, "Get up. Your place isn't safe. If others find out my identity as the Great Marshal, you won't be able to bear the consequences."

It was only then Johan realized the seriousness of the situation. He quickly got up. "Great Marshal, please forgive me. I was too worked up."

Zeke replied, "All right. Do you know the geographical location of Theos Island?"

Johan shook his head in response. "I'm sorry, Great Marshal. I've been investigating it for several years, but I still can't find out where it is. Theos Island is... Ah, I'm afraid it's not in the same space or dimension as the world we came from. Otherwise, there's no way I shouldn't be able to determine its geographical location."

"But you just said that you have a way to send hundreds of people from the outer district out. Do you mind explaining that?" Zeke inquired.

"Although I don't know where this place is, I know that there's a space passage that leads directly to Eurasia, and a talisman of space is the key to the passage. Over the years, I've accumulated countless drops of spiritual water to nourish a talisman of space. Now, this talisman of space has become extremely powerful, so it's theoretically possible for it to transport hundreds of people at the same time."

Zeke fell into deep thought. "Then do you have a way to transport large quantities of people from the outside in?"

Johan shook his head. "This can't be done. for the time being because there are two types of talisman of space. One sends people from Theos Island to the outside while the other sends people from the outside to Eurasia, and the talisman of space I've nurtured for decades is the former type. It can only transport people to the outside, but it can't bring people from the outside here to Theos Island."

"If I now ask you to nourish a talisman of space that sends people from the outside to here, can you do it?" Zeke asked.

Johan replied, "Yes, it's possible, but it will take several years! No matter how much spiritual water I have, it's useless; it takes time to nourish talismans of space."

Zeke shook his head in disappointment. It seems like this way can't work. I can't wait for several years.

He then asked Johan, "Have you ever seen the so-called 'Theos'? Is there a way for me to find him?"

Johan shook his head. "No. Ever since I came to Theos Island, Theos has never shown himself. On the entire island, only two people have ever seen Theos. They are the Camp Masters from

the north and south. There's a ritual held every five years, and the two Camp Masters can communicate with Theos in person then."

"Great Marshal, if you wish to meet Theos, it's not impossible," Johan added meaningfully.

"Oh? Elaborate."

"The first option is to create chaos. By stirring immense trouble on Theos Island, you can interrupt the ritual offering of spiritual objects to Theos. With that, he will appear. Or you can compete for the position of Camp Master. Coincidentally, the ritual is next month. If you become a Camp Master, you can talk face-to-face with Theos."

Zeke responded, "We can't go with the first option."

"Why?" Johan asked.

With the Great Marshal's abilities, it's not a problem for him to kill everyone on Theos Island. Besides, after forcing Theos to appear, he's probably no match for the Great Marshal either.

In Johan's heart, the Great Marshal was the strongest martial artist in the world, whom no one could surpass. Thus, he had full confidence in Zeke.

Zeke explained, "My wife, Lacey, is in Theos' hands. If I make a huge public disturbance and alert the enemy, I'm afraid that Theos will use my wife to threaten me. That's why I can only conceal my identity to meet him and ambush him while he's caught off guard. Only then can I save my wife."

Johan hurriedly queried, "Was Mrs. Williams personally abducted by Theos?"

Zeke nodded in response.

Johan's curiosity was piqued. "That's odd. Ever since I came to Theos Island, I've never seen Theos make a move. This time, Theos actually came out in person to capture Mrs. Williams... Great Marshal, may I know if there's anything about Mrs. Williams that makes her different from others and worthy for Theos to act personally?"

Wearing a thoughtful expression, Zeke stated, "Lacey is an ultra female."

## Chapter 2531

Johan voiced, "An ultra female is indeed rare, but that shouldn't be enough to attract Theos' attention. There must be something else unusual about Mrs. Williams."

Zeke bobbed his head. "Yeah. In any case, no matter the cost, I must save my wife."

"Judging from the current situation, the most appropriate way would be for you to become a Camp Master and hide your identity to meet Theos. With your abilities, Great Marshal, becoming a Camp Master is as easy as pie. Leave this matter to me. I'll arrange for you to challenge a Centurion first, then a Legatus. As long as you win, you'll be able to become the Camp Master. A month later, you can meet Theos during the island's ritual."

"Sure. Success is the only option this time." Zeke nodded.

"Understood!"

"Theos is a blight on the country and the people. He even robbed Eurasia's Fortuna and abducted my wife. For committing such serious crimes, I will bring him to justice," Zeke remarked. "Relax and survive in this place. I will bring you out of here safely."

"Yes, sir!"

"Do you have any family in Eurasia?"

Johan nodded. "I have a wife, a daughter, and my eighty-year-old mother."

"All right. Eurasia will definitely not mistreat its heroes and their families. After you escape safely, you'll be rewarded handsomely!" Zeke promised.

Again, Johan was so worked up that he got down on his knees. "Thank you, Great Marshal!"

With that, Zeke left.

Long after he was gone, Johan still couldn't calm down.

What Johan had never dared to dream about in the past had actually happened.

He finally saw a ray of hope.

Without further ado, he stopped dwelling on it and headed to Centuria's district to select an opponent for the Great Marshal.

Only when the Great Marshal successfully challenges a Centurion can he enter Centuria's district and become a Centurion.

After much consideration, Johan finally decided to let the Great Marshal challenge the leader of Calixion, whose name was Calix.

Calix was the weakest among all Centurions, and Calixion was also the weakest group.

Having the Great Marshal challenge an insignificant Centurion would not attract much attention from others.

Before long, Johan arrived at Calixion's base.

Calixion's base was several times larger and stronger than the base of Apollyon's Archfiends.

Calixion had at least a few hundred members, and each of them was extremely skilled.

Otherwise, they wouldn't have made it into Centuria's district.

Just as Johan walked through the rock gate of Calixion, two burly men with weapons in their hands suddenly appeared on both of his sides, stopping him. "Stop. Who the f\*ck let you enter!"

Although Johan was prominent in Contubernium's district and was respected by people there, he was a target of bullying in the Centurion's district.

Even the guards of Calixion dared to disrespect him.

Despite that, Johan was not vexed as he was used to it. "Please inform your Centurion, Calix, that I wish to talk to him."

Oh? The guard looked at him and said, "Why? The Centurion is very busy. He has no time to see you."

Johan replied, "Is it because Calix has heard something? That's why he doesn't have the guts to meet me? Since Calix is scared, forget it then."

"B\*stard!"

A low roar came from a luxurious stone house, which sounded as though it was a roar from a beast.

Upon hearing that voice, the guards were terrified. They quickly bowed in the direction of the door. "Centurion, please calm down. We will chase this d\*mned guy out of this place!" As they spoke, they were about to kick Johan out. "Scram, \*sshole! Are you waiting for our leader to come out and kill you?"

"Hold on!" That baritone voice sounded again. "Since you're here, come and have a seat then."

With that, a burly man stepped out of the stone house.

The chest guard on his chest was bigger than the face of an adult, and murderous intent was written all over his face, causing other people to shudder.

That person was none other than Calixion's Centurion, Calix, who was called "Bloodthirsty Monster" simply because he liked to drink human blood.

## Chapter 2532

With a frosty countenance, Calix stared at Johan. "Old man, you said I was scared just now, and that was why I didn't dare to come out and meet you in person. What do you mean by that?"

Johan looked back at Calix somberly. "Calix, you really don't know?"

Calix became even more perplexed. "Know about what?"

"Oh, I thought you didn't dare to come out because you were scared of the provocation by an insignificant Decanus in the outer district."

Everyone burst out laughing.

"What the h\*ll? Did I hear him correctly? Did this old geezer just say Mr. Calix is afraid of a Decanus from the outer district?"

"So that old geezer is saying that Decanus wants to have a duel with Mr. Calix?" "How dare he do that? If he really challenges Mr. Calix to a duel, Mr. Calix will surely end his life with ease!"

"Mr. Calix, we haven't eaten human flesh for a while. Killing that Decanus can provide us a sumptuous meal."

Calix also scoffed, "Old man, tell me what's going on. In the past five years, no Decanus has dared to challenge the Centurions. Why would a Decanus provoke us all of a sudden? I basically know all those Decani. Tell me his name."

Johan responded, "The outer district is buzzing with the news, so I didn't expect you to not know about it! A newcomer just arrived a few days ago, yet he defeated Megahead and became a Decanus. After that, with his own ability, he gathered the other nine teams. These nine teams are all among the top ten, including Apollyon's Archfiends. That person is no longer satisfied

with being a small Decanus as he wants to challenge a Centurion to a duel and enter the Centurion's district."

Oh?

Everyone was shocked when they heard that.

They didn't expect someone so powerful to appear in the outer district. That warrior not only defeated Megahead but also conquered nine teams that were from the conquered nine teams that were from the top ten teams.

It looks like that guy is not bad.

Nevertheless, Calix still looked down on the other party.

"Haha! He's indeed something else, but in front of me, he can only bow to me. He wants to challenge my position as a Centurion? Sure, I'll grant his wish. Arrange an appointment with him. I'm available at any time. I can finish him off at any moment."

Johan nodded. "Okay. He wants it as soon as possible. I'll ask him when he is available. After he tells me, I'll inform you right away."

"Go ahead!"

Calix waved his hand arrogantly. After Johan was gone, Calix laughed out loud. "Guys, I've noticed that you all seem pretty bored recently. Well, this time, I will personally fight a duel to bring you some entertainment. What do you think?"

The crowd guffawed, responding to him enthusiastically.

"Yeah, it's been boring recently. Mr. Calix, it's an honor to see you fight."

"Mr. Calix, I still remember that you fought a duel about five or six years ago. It was also a Decanus who challenged you. In the end, he was hammered to death."

"Haha. I can still recall that fight vividly. Mr. Calix drank every drop of his blood!"

"Mr. Calix, keep it up! Suck the blood of the ignorant Decanus dry as well this time!"

The air was filled with laughter and cheers instantly as everyone was looking forward to the upcoming battle.

In their hearts, Calix would win for sure. Although there was no suspense at all, they couldn't help but look forward to it too.

Zeke gathered all ten of the Decani.

To make Theos Island fall, he had to understand the terrain of the island.

And who are the people who know the outer areas of Theos Island the most? Surely, it's these Decani.

Zeke planned to work with the ten decani in drawing a map of the outer district of Theos Island.

While they were drawing the map, a figure stopped at the door and blocked the light, causing the narrow room to become dimmer significantly.

What's happening?

## Chapter 2533

Who is it?

Several people glanced at the door. impatiently, only to find that it was Johan, so the expressions of the Decani turned solemn and courteous at once.

They stood up straight and greeted Johan.

"Chieftain, what brings you here?"

"Please have a seat!"

However, Johan ignored them, walking straight to Zeke.

When he reached Zeke, Johan wanted to kneel subconsciously and call Zeke "Great Marshal." However, before he could do that, Zeke cleared his throat, causing Johan to snap back to his senses.

The Great Marshal can't reveal his identity for now. If I spill the beans and ruin his plan, even my death can't make up for my wrongdoing.

Johan hurriedly changed the way he addressed Zeke. "Mr. Williams, I went to ask Calix, a Centurion. He expressed his intention to accept your challenge! Pick a time, and I shall inform Calix about it."



Zeke took a deep breath before replying, "It's going to happen sooner or later, so there's no need to drag things on. Let's get it over with tomorrow."

Johan nodded. "Sure. I'll inform him now."

"Okay, go ahead!"

Johan then wheeled around to leave, but Apollyon stopped him. "Excuse me, Chieftain. Please wait a second."

Johan looked at Apollyon in curiosity. "Yes, is there anything else?"

Apollyon stated. "Chieftain, regarding the challenge to the Centurion, I think we need to reevaluate the matter. Let me discuss this with my fellow Decani first. After that, I'll give you an answer."

Johan could surmise that Apollyon was worried that Zeke would be beaten to death by Calix, so Apollyon didn't want Zeke to challenge the Centurion.

However, his worry for Zeke was completely unnecessary.

Johan had a friendly relationship with Apollyon before. As Apollyon had forced Johan to stay, the latter didn't insist on leaving.

"All right. Go and discuss it then. I'll wait for your reply."

Apollyon glanced toward Zeke. "Mr. Williams, do you really want to challenge the Centurion?"

Zeke answered, "Of course."

"Mr. Williams, I think... it'd be better for you to give up on challenging him." Apollyon sounded concerned.

"Why?"

"Because I'm worried that you're no match for Calix! Since he can be a Centurion, he must have considerable strength and ability. Mr. Williams, do you know his true strength?"

Zeke inquired, "Oh, how strong is he?"

"He's at least an Archduke warrior. There was a Half-Archduke who challenged Calix in the past. And guess what? Calix only made one move and beat him to death."

Besides, Calix even sucked his blood dry like a barbarian. Only an Archduke warrior can take down a Half-Archduke in one move. Besides, after so many years of training, his strength must have improved. immensely. Unless you're an Archduke warrior, you won't survive the fight with him."

Other Decani also chimed in.

"I can confirm that what Apollyon says is true. If I've lied, I'll be struck by lightning!"

"Mr. Williams, you just came here recently, and your status here is not stable yet. Challenging a Centurion now is a reckless move."

"I agree to that. We should calm down and discuss it."

Zeke eyed Johan. "You should go. Tell him I'll fight him tomorrow."

"Okay."

Johan turned on his heel and left, causing the others to smile bitterly.

We might as well not have dissuaded him. The more we try to convince him not to do it, the more determined he becomes.

After Johan was gone, Zeke uttered in a cold tone, "Why are you guys begging for mercy on Calix's behalf and stopping me from fighting him? Do you all have a good relationship with him?"

I...

The Decani didn't know how to respond to that.

We begged you on Calix's behalf? Did that sound as though we did that for Calix? We are just worried that you might be hammered to death!

Apollyon was the first to answer Zeke. "Mr. Williams, we were just doing it for your own good! Frankly, I wish nothing more than for you to finish Calix off. He and I have a deadly feud between us."

## Chapter 2534

Huh?

Zeke asked curiously, "What grudges are there between both of you? Tell us."

When he mentioned that, fury raged in Apollyon's eyes. "Mr. Williams, I might seem like a joke to you, but Calix's current wife is actually mine! He snatched her away from my side forcefully back then. I yearn to take revenge, but since I'm no match for him, I have no choice but to endure this humiliation."

Sighing, he continued, "I can't even be considered a man."

Zeke nodded in agreement. "Indeed, you can't be considered a man."

Apollyon was at a loss for words.

That's too much, Mr. Williams. That's simply too much! Instead of taking pity on me or consoling me, you mock me. That's quite a hurtful blow to my pride, don't you think?

Zeke suddenly asked, "Apollyon, do you want to take revenge personally?"

Gritting his teeth, Apollyon replied, "Of course I want to! I even think about it in my dreams."

Zeke continued, "Very well. Take my place in fighting Calix then."

Apollyon asked, "What do you mean, Mr. Williams?"

"I'm giving you a chance to take revenge. Isn't it obvious?"

"Mr. Williams, you know very well that I'm not Calix's opponent. If I enter the battlefield, I'll be beaten to death by him."

Zeke assured him, "That doesn't matter. I'll advise you accordingly. If you still manage to be defeated by Calix, even with my help, it'll just prove that you're so useless to the point you're beyond hope."

Everyone did not know how to respond to that.

Isn't Mr. Williams over-exaggerating? He probably can't even defeat Calix. However, he's planning on guiding a subordinate to win Calix on his behalf... How much self-confidence does he have to even utter such words?

Minerva assumed that Zeke wanted his subordinate to fight on his behalf because he was too scared.

Giving Apollyon a chance to take revenge was merely a ruse.

That doesn't matter. I'd rather Apollyon die than let Zeke get injured.

Zeke ordered, "To the ten Decani, come to my room tonight. I'll guide you."

"But..."

The moment Apollyon spoke, Zeke interrupted him, "This is a command! Those who refuse to obey may leave immediately."

Apollyon had no choice but to hold his tongue.

After Zeke left, the ten Decani started discussing among themselves.

"Why do you think Mr. Williams is doing this?"

"Is he really thinking on behalf of Apollyon and giving him a chance to take revenge? I don't believe it!"

"I think that he's gathering us together to discuss a strategy."

"Yeah! I'd rather believe that explanation."

"Well, we'll naturally find out after meeting Mr. Williams tonight."

"If Zeke insists on sending Apollyon to his death, I'll be the first to object."

To be honest, although the ten Decani were subservient to Zeke, they were still quite unconvinced about him leading them.

They still treated Apollyon as their main leader and would approach him whenever something happened.

If Zeke forced Apollyon to die on his behalf, they would certainly oppose the decision.

Within the blink of an eye, night arrived.

The ten Decani walked toward Zeke's room nervously.

"What do you think Mr. Williams' going to do?"

"After pondering about it during the day, I think that Mr. Williams wants us to kill Calix secretly tonight."

"Even if we join forces, we might not be able to defeat Calix. After all, he's an Archduke!"

"Do you think it's possible Mr. Williams wants us to flee with him?"

"That doesn't make sense. We don't even know where we are, so it's impossible for us to escape."

Unknowingly, they had already arrived at Zeke's door.

Having shifted their base of operations to Apollyon's headquarters, Zeke was now living in the luxurious stone house where Apollyon used to live.

After entering, the men bowed slightly toward Zeke. "We're here, Mr. Williams."

## Chapter 2535

Zeke nodded. "Are you ready?"

Ready for what?

They were taken aback.

"Obviously, I'm asking if you're ready to accept my guidance. You might go through a torturous experience later, so you'd better prepare yourself mentally," warned Zeke.

Their hearts skipped a beat. "Mr. Williams, a-are you really going to guide us on making Apollyon fight on your behalf?"

Zeke asked, "What's wrong with that?"

A Decanus who was on good terms with Apollyon panicked. "Mr. Williams, please reconsider your decision! The gap between us and Calix is enormous. We can't possibly close the gap between us in a day... No, in a night! By forcing Apollyon to join the battle, you're sending him to his death!"

Zeke glanced at Apollyon. "Don't you want to take revenge for your wife?"

After thinking about it for a while, Apollyon clenched his jaw and declared, "Fine! I'll listen to you and take revenge for my wife! Even if I die in the fight, I'll be left with no regrets."

The other Decani quickly persuaded him against it. All in all, they did not wish for Apollyon to join the battle.

Zeke lamented, "Looks like you still don't believe me. Why don't we do this? I'll guide you for a bit. After that, you can join the battle if you're willing to. Otherwise, we'll just cast this matter aside. How's that?"

Now that they had a choice, everyone felt relieved. Naturally, they would choose not to join the battle.

After that, Zeke threw a set of punches in front of them and asked, "Do you remember all the moves?"

Everyone nodded.

"Follow my previous moves and see how it feels."

The Decani felt slightly disdainful, for Zeke's moves were so simple that they posed no threat at all.

Techniques like that were everywhere. Even if they were taught it for free, they could not be bothered to learn it.

After all, it was pointless even if they mastered the technique to its full potential.

Despite that, they still repeated Zeke's movements according to what he had shown them.

However, as they went through the moves, Megahead suddenly lost all strength in his legs and collapsed to the ground.

The other Decani stared at him in surprise. "What's wrong, Megahead?"

Megahead exclaimed, "I don't know what happened just now! Suddenly, my blood stopped flowing smoothly before my legs turned numb. It's like all the strength had left my body."

Apollyon teased, "You always ignore my advice to stop fooling around with women. You're finally facing the consequences now, huh?"

"Hahaha!"

Everyone thought that Megahead was just suffering from the outcomes of his sleeping around.

However, Zeke said, "It's not because he's weak. Let's ignore him for now, Continue!"

The other Decani resumed their training.

However, as the training continued, more Decani collapsed one after the other, with Apollyon being the last to fall.

Even so, he was still unable to finish the set of moves that Zeke had taught them.

Everyone was confused.

"Mr. Williams, w-what's wrong with us?"

"There's something strange about your technique! I've never experienced such fatigue before!"

"Yeah! What technique is this? It's simply too odd."

Zeke explained, "The reason's really simple. This technique can stimulate your blood flow and channel them toward your acupoints. However, since your acupoints are still shut, they're hindering the blood flow and causing an insufficient supply of blood. Naturally, you'd feel weak and dizzy."

Acupoints? What's that?

As it was their first time hearing the term "acupoint," the Decani felt even more confused.

Zeke explained patiently, "There are eight major acupoints in a human body that determine one's physical limits. Normal martial artists like you would usually only train your physical strength. If you don't actively try to stimulate your acupoints, your powers will be limited by these eight major acupoints. As a result, you won't be able to unleash your full powers and surpass the limits of your body. If you can unlock these acupoints-even if it's just then you can transcend the constraints of your physical self. In other words, you can reach the rank of an Archduke. Today, I'm going to help you stimulate your acupoints and become an Archduke."

The few Decani immediately became motivated.

Considering how Zeke's words were backed with evidence and sounded logical, it was highly possible that he was telling the truth.

## Chapter 2536

The Decani might actually become Archdukes that night and reach the peak of their glory.

Apollyon was the most excited out of them all.

Taking revenge was his greatest desire. Now that he could finally fulfill his dream, he was all fired up and clenched his fists tightly.

Megahead asked carefully, "Mr. Williams, how can you be so sure that we'll successfully unlock our acupoints and become Archdukes tonight?"

Zeke replied, "I've already checked your strengths. All of you are only a step away from the Archduke class. Logically speaking, you should've entered it a long time ago. However, no one taught you how to unlock your acupoints, so your powers are constantly stuck in the class of an average warrior."

"Mr. Williams, if what you said is true, those Centurions who are in the Archduke class actually know that we can't reach that class precisely because we didn't unlock our acupoints! Did they not tell us that on purpose?" asked Apollyon.

Zeke nodded. "Of course."

B\*stards!

Apollyon gritted his teeth and spat, "I gave them so much spiritual water every year and begged them to teach me. Never did I expect them to be so shameless! Hmph! After I reach the Archduke class, I'll definitely make them pay me back what I've given them."

Zeke said, "Work hard! All of you have very strong foundations. You've been stuck within your non-corporeal limits for far too long. Once you enter the Archduke class, your powers will slowly accumulate and surpass even that of an average Archduke!"

Apollyon immediately knelt in front of Zeke. "We will remember your teachings, Mr. Williams!"

The other Decani also knelt in front of Zeke, who merely waved his hand. "Continue training. Once you've managed to unlock the acupoints, tell me."

With that, he left the room, leaving Apollyon and the rest behind to train.

The moment Zeke exited his room, everyone outside immediately glanced at him.

They had witnessed the ten Decani walking into Zeke's room earlier.

Soon after, they heard the Decani's wails of agony before Zeke left the room.

Did something happen to the ten Decani? What did Mr. Williams do to them?



Ignoring everyone's curious gazes on him, Zeke sat underneath a huge tree, closed his eyes, and rested.

However, he was not genuinely resting. Instead, he was discussing with Ossa Dei the uses of spiritual water.

Zeke asked, "Ossa Dei, we've been here for a while already. Have you discovered the functions of spiritual water?"

Shaking his head and sighing, Ossa Dei replied, "I haven't found anything yet. I tried absorbing the spiritual water, but it didn't have much of an effect on me. It won't be of much help to you either."

"That's strange. Why is that so-called Theos spending so much effort collecting spiritual water then?" questioned Zeke.

Ossa Dei said, "Let's interrogate him after you capture him."

Zeke insulted Ossa Dei secretly, How useless and dumb! You can't even find out what's going on with the spiritual water, so what's the point of me having you?

Ossa Dei immediately revealed an unhappy look. "Are you scolding me? If you aren't useless or dumb, why don't you investigate it yourself?"

Zeke was stunned. "Huh? How do you know what I'm thinking?"

When Zeke had scolded Ossa Dei earlier, it had been just a passing thought in his mind.

He was not intending to communicate with Ossa Dei, so logically speaking, the latter was not supposed to have heard it.

Ossa Dei panicked. "Um... Nothing! Nothing! It's just a wild guess. There's no need to overthink."

Something's wrong!

There was no way Zeke would believe Ossa Dei's excuse. "Ossa Dei, let me ask you this. Don't you respect the Dragon Bloodline a lot? Why aren't you looking for the Dragon Bloodline then?"

Ossa Dei exclaimed, "Nonsense! Do you think it's so easy to absorb the Dragon Bloodline? I've been waiting for the right timing all along."

"That doesn't sound right. Waiting for the right timing? Nonsense! They are all excuses!" rebuked Zeke. "Ossa Dei, you can read my thoughts because our minds can communicate with

each other, right? Could it be that you've merged into my body and become one with me? Otherwise, you can't possibly explain why you can read my thoughts!"

## Chapter 2537

Ossa Dei immediately cursed, "Nonsense! As the mighty Ossa Dei, the remnants of an ancient God's bones, how can I possibly be absorbed by your mortal body? You aren't worthy enough!"

Zeke replied, "No. You must have been absorbed into my body! Otherwise, there's no way to explain this."

"Get lost! You don't deserve me," spat Ossa Dei.

Zeke rebuked, "Then, you should leave."

Ossa Dei was left speechless.

"Don't you understand what I'm saying? I'm tired and want to rest..."

Zeke said, "Don't rest in my body."

Ossa Dei fell silent.

Feeling exasperated, it decided to stop talking to Zeke.

It did not want to admit that it had actually been absorbed by Zeke, for it would be utterly humiliating to the ancient Gods.

In no time, night passed.

Just when the sky brightened, the base was so silent that it seemed eerie.

All of a sudden, a resounding yell penetrated the silence.

"Thank you, Mr. Williams, for enlightening us!"

The voice was so loud that it jolted everyone awake from their sleep.

They glanced toward the voice and witnessed the scene of the ten Decani kneeling in front of Zeke.

Everyone was stunned.

Although the ten Decani had already deferred to Zeke's authority, they normally acted like equals. There was no way they would kneel to Zeke, yet that was what just happened in reality.

What did Mr. Williams do to them?

Zeke opened his eyes slowly, casting his gaze across the ten Decani. "You've succeeded?"

Apollyon replied excitedly, "Thanks to your guidance, we've all leveled up!"

I see.

Zeke nodded. "Let's talk in the room."

"Okay!"

The group followed Zeke respectfully, their eyes filled with admiration.

The moment they successfully unlocked their acupoints and entered the Archduke class, Zeke had gained an almost divine position in their hearts.

Not only did they owe him a massive favor, but he was also extremely skilled. Just with some simple guidance, he managed to help the ten Decani rise up to the rank of Archduke. If that was the case, he was definitely above that class.

Zeke was a genuine warrior who was worthy of their respect.

Glancing at them, Zeke instructed, "Tell me how many acupoints you've unlocked."

Ten Decani immediately reported to him.

"Five for me."

"Four."

"I've unlocked six."

"I've only unlocked two, which is the least."

Apollyon was the last to speak. "I've unlocked seven acupoints!"

Nodding, Zeke explained, "The Archduke class is also divided into a few ranks-from the First Archduke, the Second Archduke, all the way to the Seventh Archduke. The more acupoints you unlock, the more powerful you become. Apollyon, you managed to unlock seven right from the

start. Well done! Megahead, although you've only unlocked two acupoints, you're still more powerful than the average Archduke!"

Apollyon asked curiously, "Mr. Zeke, didn't you say that we have eight major acupoints? Why isn't there an Eighth Archduke?"

"After you've unlocked all eight acupoints, you'll be upgraded to King Class," explained Zeke.

The Decani exclaimed, "Mr. Zeke, you must've already unlocked the eight acupoints and become a King Class warrior, right?"

Zeke smiled. "A King Class warrior is as insignificant as an ant to me. If I were to put it in your standards, they're only as powerful as babies."

What the f\*ck?

The ten Decani's eyes bulged in disbelief and surprise.

If Zeke had not revealed his true abilities previously, they would have dismissed his words as empty boasts.

If King Class warriors were as weak as babies to him, as Archdukes, they could not even compare to babies!

Those Archdukes, who were initially feeling proud of their achievements, were once again aware of their profound insignificance.

Zeke continued, "Apollyon, you probably have a seventy percent chance of defeating Calix now!"

Apollyon asked curiously, "Why are you so sure, Mr. Williams?"

## Chapter 2538

"Calix has only unlocked five acupoints. You, a Seventh Archduke, will be up against a Fifth Archduke. If you still lose, you should join the ranks of trash," said Zeke.

Frowning, Apollyon asked, "Have you met Calix, Mr. Williams?"

Zeke shook his head.

"How do you know that he's only a Fifth Archduke?" asked Apollyon.

Zeke scoffed disdainfully. "Is it difficult to find out someone's strength from a distance?"

By simply unleashing some energy, he had managed to discern Calix's powers without the latter noticing anything.

It was a piece of cake.

Apollyon and the others became even more in awe of Zeke. Look at him! He's a true warrior.

Something that was practically impossible to them was nothing but a simple gesture to Zeke.

It was impossible not to admire a person like him.

Zeke continued, "There's still some time till the actual battle. Continue training and strengthen your skills. We'll set off after dawn."

"Got it!"

The rest continued with their training till the sky completely brightened two hours later.

By then, their powers were already firmly grounded in the Archduke class.

Zeke nodded in satisfaction. "Not bad! Let's go."

However, Apollyon asked quickly, "Mr. Williams, can we ask our troops to come with us?"  
"Why?" asked Zeke in confusion.

"To be honest, we've got a very messy bunch in our troops. There are some people who aren't willing to accept your authority.. They think that you are an incapable man who only managed to unite the troops through petty schemes," explained Apollyon.

"If we bring them to watch the battle, they can witness how powerful we are. After that, we'll address you as our master and make them realize that you're the one who helped us cultivate our skills. No one would dare to question you again," he continued.

"Well, it's up to you," replied Zeke casually.

Zeke was not bothered about whether the troops obeyed him or were accepting of his leadership.

After all, it did not matter to him at all.

Glancing at the time, he instructed, "Let's go. It's almost time."

"Let's go!" After gathering the hundreds of men in the troop, the ten Decani marched off grandly with Zeke.

A noisy commotion had broken out among the group as everyone discussed the upcoming battle.

## Chapter 2538

"Do you think that the newbie can be a match for Calix?"

"That's gonna be tough. Look at how impressive Calix is! All of you know very well that even our boss, Apollyon, can't endure one blow from Calix."

"If that newbie loses to Calix, he'd definitely die."

"D\*mn it! After following him, our lives improved slightly. But he's sending himself to his death right now... Looks like our good days are coming to an end."

"I don't think so. Considering the newbie's vicious scheme to make Apollyon fight on his behalf, he's probably planning to sacrifice Apollyon to save his own hide."

"I'd rather sacrifice the newbie than Apollyon. Following Apollyon pays off much better!"

Now that Apollyon and the other Decani were Archdukes, they had surpassed their physical limits. Their hearing, sight, and other senses were multiple times better than the average person's.

Hence, they could hear others' conversations clearly.

When the ten Decani heard the rest looking down on Zeke like that, fury surged through them.

Upon glancing at Zeke, they discovered that he was still calm and collected, not betraying any reactions at all.

If the Archdukes could overhear the conversation, it was obvious that Zeke could hear what the soldiers were saying too.

Apollyon asked cautiously, "Mr. Williams, do you want me to teach those brats a lesson?"

Zeke shook his head. "It's fine."

"Mr. Williams, aren't you angry that these b\*stards are defaming you like that?" questioned Apollyon.

Zeke rebuked, "Let me ask you this. If an ant bites you, are you going to bite the ant back?"

His words left Decani speechless.

Mr. Williams' right! To him, the soldiers are nothing but mere ants. If he doesn't even care about them, why would he be bothered by their comments?

## Chapter 2539

It was they who had viewed the situation on a superficial level.

Zeke said, "Remember this. From now on, your enemies are Calix, those who hold the rank of Centurion and Legatus, and even the Camp Masters. Don't waste your time and energy on such trivial matters."

The others chorused, "Got it."

"Understood!"

On Theos Island, there was a dedicated field for when a Decanus wanted to challenge the Centurions.

It was located behind the Chieftain's manor, and the Chieftain was in charge of its maintenance.

However, it had been many years since a Decanus had challenged a Centurion. Hence, the field had gradually turned into a deserted area and was overgrown with weeds.

When Zeke and the others arrived, Calix was not there yet.

Johan was the only person there, pulling the weeds out and tidying up the field.

Seeing that Zeke had arrived, Johan quickly stopped what he was doing. He hurried over to the former and gave a slight bow. "Mr. Williams, you're here! Please have a seat."

The man had already prepared tables and benches. There was also tea for Zeke to partake of.

Zeke made no protest and sat down.

Filled with doubt, the members of the Contubernium began whispering among themselves.

"How do you think this Williams guy managed to befuddle the Chieftain to the point that the Chieftain treats him with so much respect?" one of them asked.

"Even a Centurion probably doesn't receive such treatment, never mind our former leader, Apollyon. Right?"

"Maybe he knows how to bewitch others and has the Chieftain under his spell," another suggested.

Meanwhile, the ten Decani were shocked.

Judging by how skilled Mr. Williams is and how the Chieftain treats him with so much respect, he must be no ordinary person.

In their hearts, Zeke was becoming a more mysterious and noble figure.

"Please wait here for a moment. I'll go and clean up the field for you," said Johan.

Zeke could not bear to see the elderly man breaking his back on such manual labor.

After all, he was part of the Cygnus Room and is a national hero of Eurasia.

Hence, he patted Johan on the shoulder. "Sit down and have a cup of tea with me. Let the subordinates take care of the cleaning."

Catching on, Apollyon turned to the soldiers and said, "Go and clean up the field."

The others rushed toward the field immediately and got to work.

Johan was surprised by the gesture. How could I dare to sit next to the Great Marshal as though I were his equal?

Nonetheless, Zeke shot Johan a look that indicated what the former just said was a command.

Not daring to disobey the order, Johan quickly sat down and poured Zeke some tea.

After taking a few sips of tea, he uttered, "Mr. Williams, Calix still isn't here yet. It's outrageous!



I'll go and hurry them up."

How could a nobody like Calix keep the Great Marshal waiting?

However, Zeke shook his head. "Forget it. I can't be bothered to pay any attention to him. The beautiful scenery makes this an excellent place to have a cup of tea. Quietly enjoying a cup of tea sounds like a good idea. I won't be disturbed by others."

Right. Of course!

The soldiers began discussing among themselves again.

"Hahaha! Even now, he's still trying to act all cool. Enjoy his tea quietly, he says. It's clear he doesn't have the guts to face Calix."

"I agree. He's probably thinking about how the later Calix is, the better. In fact, it'll be even better if Calix doesn't show up at all. That way, he'll live to see another day."

Someone sighed and added, "I just feel sorry for Apollyon. How unlucky can one get?"

After hearing those comments, the ten Decani were so furious that smoke was practically coming out of their ears. They could not help thinking what an injustice it was to Zeke.

However, upon looking toward Zeke, they saw he was indeed calmly sipping his tea with an expression of contentment.

An unbidden sense of admiration toward Zeke swelled within them. Someone like him must've weathered numerous storms. That's why he doesn't take such things to heart.

After waiting for a while, they suddenly heard a commotion in the distance.

"Mr. Calix, wouldn't it be akin to using a sledgehammer to crack a nut for you to deal with that newcomer personally?"

"He's right. Any one of your subordinates can take down a small fry like him. There's no need for you to do it yourself."

"Why don't we let Black Bear handle it? I believe Black Bear will be able to finish him off without breaking a sweat," another person called out.

Black Bear piped up, "I'd like to volunteer to fight on your behalf. Please grant my request, Mr. Calix."

In a tone dripping with disdain, Calix responded, "I never think much of people like that, so I

wasn't planning on taking action myself. I just thought that the other party might fall to his knees and beg for mercy when he sees me, in which case I'd spare his life."

After a pause, he continued, "However, since Black Bear has expressed interest in taking that man's life, I'll let him have that opportunity. Understood, Black Bear?"

## Chapter 2540

"Understood!" Black Bear answered.

"Kill the newcomer and drain him of his blood!" Calix commanded.

"Got it!"

Johan was irate when he heard their conversation and clenched his jaw.

What a bunch of fools! How dare they insult Eurasia's Great Marshal? They're just asking for trouble!

Johan wished he could fight them and obliterate them for Zeke, but the latter gave the former a look that signaled him not to do anything rash.

Hence, Johan had no choice but to sigh and give up on the idea.

I simply can't understand why the Great Marshal wants to take on a mere Centurion personally. After all, I think I can kill the other party even with my eyes shut. Oh well. The Great Marshal's thoughts and plans aren't something I can fathom.

Soon, Calix approached with his Centuria, accompanied by their noisy clamoring.

The Centuria's presence was a hundred times more intimidating than that of the team led by Zeke, which seemed to give off the impression of a motley crew versus a troop of seasoned soldiers.

As soon as the Centuria arrived, Zeke's motley crew felt a pressure weigh on them. Some dared not even meet the Centuria's eyes, and that caused the latter to become even more arrogant.

Calix swept his gaze over the crowd, then asked Johan, "Tell me, you old geezer. Who wants to challenge me to a fight?"

Johan glanced toward Zeke and replied, "It's Mr. Williams."

Calix looked Zeke up and down with a taunting gaze. Chuckling, he remarked, "Why, your skin looks as smooth as a baby's bottom. I'm sure your blood must taste like nectar. If you give me half of your blood and submit to me now, I'll spare your life!"

When Zeke opened his mouth to respond, what he said left everyone utterly astonished.

"You've no right to stand there and talk to me "

W-What? This new Decanus actually dares humiliate a Centurion and declare that the latter has no right to talk to him! How impudent! How... domineering!

Calix was so infuriated that he nearly exploded with rage on the spot. He had never suffered such humiliation since becoming a Centurion.

"You're dead meat! You're going to die today-"

Mid-sentence, he suddenly let out an agonized scream, then sank to his knees.

There were no two ways about it.

Calix's knees bent, and he was now kneeling in front of Zeke!

There was an uproar as everything descended into chaos. The voices of people debating what just happened, shrieks, and murmurs filled the air.

"What the heck? Something must be wrong with my eyes. I'm definitely seeing things," someone insisted.

"Mr. Calix is kneeling to another? What the f\*ck! What on earth is going on? We're definitely hallucinating!"

"Tell me. Hurry up and tell me this is an illusion! Why is he kneeling in front of that guy?"

"Is he already admitting defeat before even fighting? That's not the Mr. Calix I know."

"Get up, Mr. Calix!"

Meanwhile, Calix was also utterly bewildered.

He had felt his knees suddenly go numb just now. Then, in the blink of an eye, the strength left his legs, and he could not help but fall into a kneeling position.

However, he did not have the faintest idea why that had happened.

Was it something that guy did? But that's ridiculous! There's no way he's capable of doing that from such a distance. It must be a coincidence. That's what it is. It was my rheumatism acting up again.

In truth, it was all Zeke's doing.

He had used his energy to manifest Ammo Needle and aimed it straight at Calix's knees.

As for why nobody realized what he had done, that was because his energy had moved at supersonic speed. Hence, there was no way anyone would have noticed it.

The ten Decani glanced at Zeke with puzzled expressions, then looks of shock appeared in their eyes.

Although none of them saw the silver needle, their gut instincts told them Calix falling to his knees was no doubt Zeke's handiwork.

What exactly is the extent of his capabilities?

Calix did not hurry to get to his feet after kneeling. Instead, he proceeded to sit on the ground. "Why the hell are all of you looking at me like that?"

Black Bear asked cautiously, "Did you just... kneel to your opponent?"

Slap!

Calix struck Black Bear across the cheek without hesitation. "F\*ck you! When did you see me do such a thing? That's just the pose I do before meditating. I'm preparing to receive his worship and adoration. Only an idiot would think I'm bowing the knee to my opponent."

## Chapter 2541

"I misunderstood! It was my mistake! It's my fault!" Black Bear replied hurriedly.

However, judging from the crowd's expressions, it was evident not many believed Calix's explanation.

Quickly changing the subject, Calix said to Zeke, "Are you sure you're not going to kneel before me, brat? Very well, then. Since you prefer death, I'll grant your wish. However, I'll still drain you of all your blood. Hahaha!"

Zeke glanced at Apollyon before saying, "That's enough. Cut the cr\*p, and let's begin."

Apollyon stepped forth from among the crowd and gazed at Calix coldly. "Come on, then. Prepare to meet your end."

Wait a minute.

Calix frowned. "Aren't you Apollyon? What the f\*ck do you mean by this?"

"You're not worth my leader's time. Hence, I decided to deal with you myself and teach you a good lesson," Apollyon responded.

What the... F\*ck you!

Calix flew into a rage at once.

That greenhorn dared to say that I'm no match for him! How utterly insulting and humiliating! This b\*stard has gone too far. He has crossed the line and must die. He has to die!

Calix was so enraged that he started becoming a little unhinged. "Ah, Apollyon. The opponent I defeated back then with just one strike. I can still vividly recall how you got on your knees and begged me. That scene... Hahaha! I can't wait to witness it once again! However, you're no longer worthy as my opponent. Black Bear, kill him."

The burly Black Bear stepped forward and fixed Apollyon with a scornful gaze. "It has been a while since we last met. Do you know that all your wife talks about since Mr. Calix took her away? It's about time we got rid of you so she can give up all hope on you and be with Mr. Calix wholeheartedly."

At the mention of Calix stealing his wife away, Apollyon's eyes reddened, and his blood rushed to his face.

For him, that was a painful past that would haunt him forever.

Die! He must die! Go to hell, you b\*stard!

Apollyon charged toward Black Bear as though he were in a frenzy.

Not to be outdone, Black Bear also dashed toward Apollyon.

Black Bear's advantage lay in his well-built body and explosive strength.

He planned to kill Apollyon by ramming his body into the latter, so he did not have any other offensive moves.

However, what surprised everyone was that Apollyon would also decide to attack Black Bear head-on.

Apollyon was thin, so ramming into someone was not his strong suit.

Isn't pitting one's weakness against another's strength a recipe for disaster?

The two men finally collided into each other.

A dull thud rang out, reverberating in the crowd's ears.

Then, a second later, something truly unbelievable happened.

Black Bear, the person with the incredible explosive force, was sent flying backward through the air by the impact. His body got stuck on a tree branch where it swayed in mid-air.

His chest was sunken in, and the air pressure forced out from his chest drove his eyeballs to bulge and his tongue to protrude. It was a truly gruesome sight.

As for Apollyon, he remained where he had been standing, unscathed and with an ugly smile on his lips.

Everything turned quiet as a deathly silence fell over the entire place.

Everyone could not believe their eyes.

After all, Black Bear was one of Calix's strongest subordinates. In fact, his capabilities were only second to Calix's.

However, he didn't even survive one of Apollyon's attacks. Was Black Bear too weak or Apollyon too powerful? Even a fool can tell it was because Apollyon was too powerful. How could an ordinary person possibly knock Black Bear into the air and even cause his eyes and tongue to stick out?

Calix's eyes widened, and he finally turned to face Apollyon squarely.

It hasn't been that long since we last met, yet this b\*stard has gotten so much stronger.

Noticing that the Centuria appeared uneasy and shaken, Calix knew the only way to resolve the crisis was to take action himself. He stood up slowly and gazed at Apollyon with a malicious expression. Then, he said with a chuckle, "I underestimated you. Indeed, you're a little stronger than you were. Alas, that's about as much as you can do. You're still no match for me. You'll die today!"

## Chapter 2542

With that, Calix stretched his body and stared at his opponent menacingly. "Apollyon, prepare to meet your end!"

Apollyon responded, "Calix, do you know I've been dreaming of killing you even in my sleep all these years? I will end your life to avenge my wife and me! I've waited five years for this day to come. Today, I can finally fulfill my wish, and I'll make sure to treasure this opportunity!"

"Die!" Calix bellowed and launched himself at Apollyon.

Similarly, Apollyon sprang forward in Calix's direction too.

Boom!

They crashed in midair, causing a shockwave to ripple outward to the surroundings.

The force of the impact was comparable to that of a head-on car collision.

Everyone was shocked to their cores. How can the clash of two people produce an impact similar to a car crash? Is this supposed to be the power exhibited by a mortal's body? This is ridiculous. They've already exceeded the limits of human bodies!

Both Calix and Apollyon flew backward following the collision.

Apollyon staggered ten steps backward and almost fell to the ground, while Calix merely took five steps back before steadying himself in an upright position.

Calix stared at Apollyon in utter bewilderment. "D-Did you just display the strength of an Archduke? I-I can't believe you're already an Archduke! D\*mn it! How did you achieve this breakthrough? There's no way you could've accomplished this without any proper guidance."

Apollyon flashed him a malicious smile. "Do you think you're the only Archduke in this world and that there is no one else available to guide me?"

"Who is it?" Calix gazed at Apollyon in astonishment.

Apollyon merely grinned at him in silence.

Suddenly, Calix seemed to realize something and jerked his head around to look at Zeke. "It's you!"

Zeke ignored Calix and continued to sip on his tea calmly.

Calix gritted his teeth. "Ha! It seems like I've underestimated you all. You've indeed lived up to your position as a Decanus. However, that's already your limit. You can never defeat me to become a Centurion, not even in your wildest dream! Come on, brat! Let me show you just how powerful I am!"

Once again, Apollyon charged at Calix ferociously.

Calix unleashed his power and dashed forward like a bolt of lightning.

Boom!

Their collision stirred up another gust of strong wind that blew in all directions.

The gale hurt some of the weaker onlookers as they sustained internal and external injuries.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

Apollyon was swiftly thrown ten meters backward and nearly fell to the ground as he barely regained his balance.

In truth, his condition was worse than what the others saw on the surface. A metallic taste rose in the back of Apollyon's mouth, and he felt like coughing out blood. However, he managed to suppress the urge. I'm representing Mr. Williams now, so I must not embarrass him!

On the other hand, Calix merely fell four meters to the back before coming to a firm halt.

Despite his disdainful facial expression, he was actually slightly startled by the turn of events. I can't believe Apollyon is already a Seventh Archduke right after his breakthrough. He's considered a gifted fighter for achieving this feat. If I had realized this in the past, I would've kept Apollyon as my subordinate to serve me, but it seems like this is an unrealistic idea now. Apollyon will never betray that newcomer.

Calix sneered, "Apollyon, your feeble capabilities are insignificant to me. I advise you to end your own life if you seek a quick and painless death. Otherwise, you'll have to suffer greatly as I



beat you to death."

"B\*stard!" Apollyon was reluctant to admit defeat.

He stood up with difficulty and launched himself at Calix again.

"Fool!" Calix chided before rushing in Apollyon's direction.

Boom!

Both of them released their full power this time. The whirlwind evolved into a raging tornado, sending sand and rocks flying everywhere and reducing the crowd's visibility of the ongoing fight.

After a long while, when the dust and wind finally died down, everyone turned to look at the battlefield again.

This time, Apollyon was sent over twenty meters backward while Calix remained rooted to his spot.

Apollyon had also spewed out a pool of blood.

Blood trickled out from his eyes, nostrils, and even ears as he coughed violently due to his severe injuries.

## Chapter 2543

'D\*mn it! I absolutely refuse to accept this!' Apollyon screamed in his heart.

However, his mental shouts could not change the fact that there was simply a vast difference between his and Calix's abilities.

Apollyon could not fight anymore.

Nonetheless, everyone was deeply amazed by his performance and thought it was a miracle that he had lasted so long in the duel.

After all, they knew Apollyon had failed to endure even one hit from Calix five years ago.

Yet, at that moment, Apollyon had survived even after withstanding three attacks from Calix.

What could that be if not a miracle?

Zeke looked at Calix and smiled faintly. Interesting. Calix clearly exhibited the strength of a Seventh-and-a-half Archduke earlier, and he's merely one step away from achieving King Class. At his current level, he can already be considered a Half-King Class. Surprisingly, he's capable enough to escape my detection. I reckon he must have utilized a unique technique.

Zeke's interest was piqued by that special ability capable of escaping the probe of a Celestial Class warrior.

Zeke knew there was no way Apollyon could defeat Calix at his current level.

Just as Zeke was about to tell Apollyon to retreat, he saw the latter standing up again.

At that instant, Apollyon was mustering all the strength he had just to get back on his feet.

He approached Calix step by step and croaked, "Duel... to the... death!"

Calix laughed out loud. "All right! I shall entertain you!"

Zeke frowned and immediately yelled, "Apollyon, stand down. You are not his match!"

"But-" Reluctant to admit defeat, Apollyon gazed at Zeke.

Zeke uttered, "This is an order!"

Apollyon sighed. When he was about to retreat, however, Calix hurled a stone at him without warning. The rock smashed right against Apollyon's head.

Apollyon let out an agonized scream before falling to the ground on his back. He lay motionless afterward, seemingly having been knocked out cold.

"Hah! How dare you dream of backing out of this fight alive? You should've asked for my permission before you did that!"

D\*mn it! Zeke immediately released a stream of energy to check Apollyon's condition. Fortunately, the latter was still alive. How dare this jerk hurt the people under my protection? I'll make him pay the price today!

A split second before Zeke could make his move, someone suddenly burst forth from among the Centuria.

That person was a woman, and she was making a beeline toward Apollyon, who had fainted on

the floor.

"Apollyon, wake up! Hurry up and wake up! You cannot die. Please don't die. How do you expect me to live if something terrible happens to you? Hurry up and wake up, Apollyon. Open your eyes and look at me!"

Zeke furrowed his eyebrows at the woman.

Megahead, standing next to Zeke, hurriedly explained, "Mr. Williams, she's Floretta, the woman who used to be together with Apollyon. She was forcefully taken away from Apollyon by Calix. I did not anticipate her to be here too."

Clarity washed over Zeke upon listening to Megahead's elaboration.

When Calix saw Floretta, he commanded, "Halt her."

His subordinates immediately stopped her from moving forward.

Floretta wanted to plow ahead by sidestepping Calix's men, but one of them grabbed her and tossed her to the ground over his shoulder.

Even then, she continued calling out Apollyon's name.

"Apollyon, wake up! Open your eyes and look at me."

Hm?

Amidst his comatose state, Apollyon heard a familiar voice that instantaneously stimulated his nerves. This voice sounds so familiar. It's Floretta. This voice belongs to Floretta! Floretta is here! My wife, Floretta, is here to look for me!

Apollyon woke up the next second. He lifted his head with difficulty and glanced around.

Finally, he caught sight of Floretta.

She appeared as beautiful and captivating as ever, but her worried and sorrowful facial expression stirred a pang of pain within him.

"Floretta, this is great... I can finally meet you again..."

Floretta struggled mightily but to no avail as her attempt to break free from the few burly men's restraint was in vain.

She yelled hysterically, "Apollyon, don't mind me. You need to hurry up and leave!"

Apollyon gritted his teeth. "Floretta, wait for me. I'll save you. I'll definitely rescue you!"

Calix roared with laughter. "Haha! I'd like to see how you can save her today."

Floretta begged Calix, "Mr. Calix, please show him mercy! If you're willing to spare his life, I'll comply with your every wish in the future."

## Chapter 2544

Calix glared at Floretta. "F\*ck! How dare you plead mercy for him! Hmph! If you hadn't done this, I might've chosen to spare his life, but I can't believe you're begging me for his sake today when you've never yielded to me before. I'm jealous now, so he must die!"

"Ah!" Floretta shut her eyes in despair. "Calix, if you dare lay a finger on him, I'll die in front of you!"

"Haha!" Calix laughed like a maniac. "Die? Sure, you can go ahead and do that. I'm getting bored of you anyway. Don't worry. I'll make sure to maximize your contributions to our cause even after your death. Guys, weren't all of you yearning to get a taste of Floretta's body? I don't suppose you will get to fulfill your wish while she's alive, but I wouldn't mind rewarding you all with her corpse."

"Hahaha!"

Members of the Centuria laughed wildly.

"Thank you for your generosity, Mr. Calix."

"I think it's more enjoyable and exciting to vent my desires on a corpse than a living woman. Hey, b\*tch. Why don't you hurry up and die? I can't wait any longer!"

"You..."

Floretta was frightened by Calix's ruthlessness and the desperate gazes of those men from his Centuria.

In the end, she clenched her teeth and decided to take Calix down with her, "If I'm going to die, I'll drag him down to hell with me!"

Floretta suddenly brandished a dagger from her pocket and lunged at Calix.

However, she was an ordinary person, not to mention a weak and helpless woman, so there was no way she could win against a Half-King Class warrior.

Calix slapped Floretta, sending the latter flying backward.

After falling to the ground, she felt dizzy and disoriented. She struggled to get back to her feet but failed miserably.

Blood streamed down all her orifices, forming an unsightly scene. Still, even in that condition, she was worried about Apollyon. "Go... Hurry up and leave. Don't mind me..."

"Ahhh!"

Apollyon lost his mind and suffered from a total mental breakdown when he saw the love of his life getting humiliated and beaten before him.

Anger consumed every last bit of his rationale, and his only desire at that moment was to kill Calix.

He mustered the little strength he had left and launched himself at Calix.

Even if his action would cost him his life, he wanted to avenge his wife, Floretta.

Zeke hastily shouted, "Apollyon, stop!"

Apollyon was not Calix's match even in his peak condition, much less in his current pathetic state as multiple grave injuries weighed him down.

Although there was only a difference of half an acupoint between the two, the significance of unlocking one extra acupoint was immense. That gap in abilities could not be surpassed by mere determination.

Apollyon wailed, "D\*mn it! D\*mn it! I refuse to accept this! Mr. Williams, I beg you. Let me go all out. Otherwise, I'll regret this for the rest of my life!"

Zeke could not help but sympathize with Apollyon after taking in the latter's piteous appearance.

Zeke said coldly, "Are you sure you want to take revenge against him personally?"

Apollyon nodded firmly. "Of course."

"All right. Come here."

Although Apollyon could not fathom Zeke's intention, he strode forward obediently anyway.

Zeke patted Apollyon's shoulder and said, "Continue cultivating the fist technique I taught you yesterday and open up your final acupoint."

Seizing the opportunity when his palm made contact with Apollyon's shoulder, Zeke infused a stream of pure energy into Apollyon to help the latter unlock his final acupoint.

Only by activating his final acupoint, or at least another half acupoint, could Apollyon stand a chance to defeat Calix.

Nevertheless, Zeke's method merely provided Apollyon with the possibility of winning.

The final outcome was beyond Zeke and rested entirely upon Apollyon's shoulders.

"This..." Apollyon gazed at Zeke in bafflement.

When Zeke had touched his shoulder earlier, Apollyon clearly felt a unique energy pass through his arm and flow into his body.

That chilly energy comforted him and seemed to have healing properties as the pain in Apollyon's body instantaneously reduced.

Zeke uttered, "Seize this opportunity to unlock your final acupoint."

"Thank you, Mr. Williams!"

Even though Apollyon was unsure what the surge of energy Zeke had channeled into him was, he was confident the latter was assisting him.

Feeling beyond grateful toward Zeke, Apollyon immediately began practicing the fist technique.

Right then, something miraculous happened.

## Chapter 2545

Apollyon realized he was having an easier time breaking through the final acupoint than unlocking it yesterday, and that was because he received assistance from that surge of pure

energy.

The pure energy was simply too potent, carrying even more intensity than the portion of his own power he was using to break through the acupoint.

If Apollyon could successfully unlock his final acupoint, the sliver of pure energy channeled into him by Zeke would be the major contributor to the accomplishment.

Finally, after only five minutes, Apollyon distinctly sensed he had activated half of the final acupoint.

The process of unlocking an acupoint was similar to how a flood breached a dam. In that analogy, power and energy were equivalent to the flood.

The power and energy gushed out from the half-activated acupoint, rapidly coursing through his body and limbs, filling up his every nerve and bone.

Moreover, the overflowing energy quickly nullified his pain and injuries until they ultimately vanished without a trace.

At that instant, limitless energy surged within him, causing him to feel as if his body was going to explode from being over-inflated with power.

Apollyon sensed that he was now twice as powerful as before, perhaps even more.

He was subconsciously aware that his current abilities were comparable to Calix's, and the possible slight disadvantage he might have against Calix was the lack of combat experience.

This is the real capability of a warrior! Mr. Williams is indeed exceptionally mighty. He managed to train and produce a great warrior using just a single night's time.

Apollyon looked at Zeke gratefully. "Thank you for your guidance, Mr. Williams."

Zeke nodded slightly in response.

When his subordinates witnessed that scene, they suddenly realized something. Complex emotions churned within their chests as the word "guidance" surfaced in their minds.

Last night, when Zeke said he would provide Apollyon with some guidance to prepare the latter for his battle against Calix, the others were initially in disbelief and merely assumed Zeke was bluffing.

Unexpectedly, after one night, Apollyon's capabilities had improved drastically. He was now ten times-perhaps even a few hundred times-stronger than before.

At that moment, after receiving a piece of simple advice from Zeke, not only was Apollyon alleviated of his injuries, but the latter's temperament also underwent significant changes as his aura grew more intense.

Don't tell me Mr. Williams is truly capable of guiding someone to become a super-powerful warrior using just one night? If that's the case, are we able to become extraordinarily formidable too?

That thought prompted many of the team members to feel excited.

Most of them were even getting restless and impatient to become Zeke's apprentice.

They approached Zeke furtively and pleaded with him in an undertone, "Mr. Williams, may I know if you're still accepting disciples? On second thought, I'm willing to serve you as your slave in the future and do all your bidding as long as you provide me with some guidance."

"To be honest, Mr. Williams, I'm actually very talented in martial arts. Regrettably, I've yet to encounter my benefactor thus far. However, I have a very strong feeling now that you are my benefactor."

Zeke glanced at them and said, "We'll discuss this matter another time."

The others immediately shut their mouths and did not dare to utter another word. The look Zeke had given them was too terrifying, prompting all of them to yield in cowardice.

Zeke had no plan of accepting them as his disciples, and the reason was that they lacked the qualifications.

The ten Decani, including Apollyon, were able to attain drastic improvements under my guidance because their daily cultivation had honed their capabilities to a critical point. I merely taught them how to unlock their acupoints, resulting in the boost of their abilities. On the other hand, most of the team members here are not even considered martial artists, so it would be almost impossible for them to gain any significant improvement.

Of course, this is not entirely unachievable. If they were to consume large amounts of precious herbs or undergo modifications at Cygnus Room, they could still accomplish a similar outcome. However, these methods will incur a very expensive cost. Hence, no one would bother wasting time and resources on these people.

Apollyon took a deep breath and looked at Floretta affectionately. "Floretta, trust me. I will save you today, and I'll never leave your side ever again."



Floretta gazed at him while wearing a tear stricken face. Then, she nodded.

At that moment, she could sense a different aura enveloping Apollyon's body.

## Chapter 2546

She could sense a warrior's aura from him, one that was enough to give her a sense of security.

Can Apollyon turn the tide today?

Anticipation began to swell within her.

If he wins, we can live out our lives in peace. If he loses, it's no big deal. Failing to be together in life, we can still be a couple in death.

Apollyon approached Calix step by step.

With his face filled with disdain, Calix mocked, "Haha, your last-minute efforts are not going to save you. Today, your life will end one way or another. Now die!"

With no time to waste on Apollyon, Calix decided to end the battle quickly.

As he dashed toward Apollyon, the latter responded head-on with an equally ferocious charge. With that, both of them clashed in the most primordial manner.

Boom!

At the crack of a thunderous sound, Apollyon was thrown back by ten steps while Calix, too, backpedaled the same distance.

Gasp!

The sound of the crowd catching their breaths echoed in every direction.

Within the span of a few minutes, Apollyon was capable of holding his ground against Calix after the latter was given guidance by Zeke.

The turn of events filled everyone with disbelief. Even Calix couldn't help but give due respect.

"Good! Wonderful! Apollyon, you truly are a rare and talented martial artist. After just reaching

the level of an Archduke, you have managed to unlock seven and a half acupoints. I don't deny that it's an impressive feat, but you're still no match for me due to your inferior technique. Now, let's go again!"

Calix was already raring to launch another attack as he couldn't wait to eradicate Apollyon any longer.

Apollyon is more talented than me when it comes to martial arts. Note that his skill is fast approaching mine, it's a matter of time before he surpasses me. When that happens, there's no way he's going to let me live. Hence, I have to kill him before that day arrives.

As for Apollyon, he, too, had resolved to end Calix's life.

Over the last five years, nary a moment went by without him thinking of killing the latter. Therefore, now that the opportunity had presented itself, there was no way he would pass it up.

With that, both of them engaged in further battle.

But this time, instead of attacking his opponent head-on, Calix chose a more technical approach.

Since his physical advantage wasn't significant, he had to leverage his rich battle experience and knowledge of techniques.

A factor that influenced his decision was that Apollyon had just achieved the rank of an Archduke and hadn't had the opportunity to train in the corresponding techniques. Consequently, the latter would suffer when in a competition of fighting techniques.

Just as expected, Apollyon was put at a disadvantage the moment the battle began.

In spite of that, the intensity of the battle wasn't diminished at all.

As the brutal battle raged on, it stirred up so much sand and gravel that both men were engulfed in a cloud of dust, hiding them from the spectators' view.

Just when everyone marveled at how fierce the battle was, a figure was suddenly thrown out of the battleground.

When the anxious crowd took a closer look, they realized it was none other than Apollyon.

Upon crashing onto the ground, the pale looking Apollyon threw up a mouthful of blood, a sign that he was injured again.

The cloud of dust gradually dissipated.

Standing still at the center of the field, Calix exuded a domineering aura.

With an icy look in his eyes, he threw Apollyon a glance. "Ha! You're just too weak. Today will be the day you breathe your last!"

Just like an angry beast, the furious Apollyon roared, "I'm not dead yet, nor have I been defeated, Let's continue!"

Driven by a surge of energy that came out of nowhere, Apollyon leaped into the air to attack Calix:

However, Calix-with a disdainful scoff, unleashed a palm strike to send Apollyon flying.

Little did he expect Apollyon to have no intention of counterattacking. Instead, the latter allowed his palm to land heavily on the shoulder.

Seizing upon the opportunity, Apollyon grabbed Calix by the waist to anchor himself from being sent flying.

F\*ck!

With Apollyon clinging onto him, the infuriated Calix raised his hand to strike again.

Despite vomiting another mouthful of blood, Apollyon desperately endured the pain and used the opening to bite Calix.

"Argh!"

Calix cried out in agonized pain. "You f\*cking dog, let go of me!"

What was meant to be a battle between Archdukes had descended into a biting match, shocking the spectators.

## Chapter 2547

Nonetheless, Apollyon was focused on killing Calix and didn't care about how crude his method was.

He was willing to do anything to snuff out the life of his enemy.

Bang! Thud! Bam!

Despite the punches and kicks Calix rained down upon Apollyon, the latter refused to let go and tore through Calix with his teeth.

Due to his living conditions, Apollyon was forced to eat dried food often, which happened to be exceedingly tough. As a result, this had inadvertently given him strong jaws with devastating bite force, and it ended up as the most powerful part of his body.

Meanwhile, Calix-repeatedly bitten-was overwhelmed by the excruciating pain.

In an act of desperation, he smashed his fist into his opponent's shoulder.

Crack!

Apollyon's shoulder dislocated instantaneously from the impact.

Despite that, he refused to give up. Holding onto his dislocated arm, Apollyon maintained a tight hug on Calix.

Lunatic! He's a f\*cking lunatic!

While the hysterical Calix continued to rain blows upon Apollyon, the latter saw an opening and bit down on Calix's neck.

The next moment, blood spewed out from the latter's neck, just like water gushing out of a tap.

Calix's carotid artery had been torn apart by Apollyon's teeth.

"Argh!"

The unbearable pain threw Calix's brain into shock.

Pressing his advantage, Apollyon chomped down on Calix's ear next.

"Die!"

Utterly enraged, Calix struck Apollyon with all his might and finally sent the exhaust Apollyon flying with his ear still between the latter's teeth.

With his neck and ear spraying blood in every direction, Calix attempted to speak. Instead, blood rushed into his windpipe and caused him to puke mouthfuls of it.

Despite reaching out his hand to cover his wound, it didn't help matters at all. Now that his artery was severed, there was no doubt his death was imminent unless he was brought to the hospital.

"Save me... Save me...." Finally, Calix managed to painstakingly cry out.

As for the crowd, everyone was still gripped by shock.

This is too f\*cking terrifying. Just a moment ago, Apollyon transformed into the devil incarnate and bit off another man's flesh!

In fact, those with sharp eyes even noticed Apollyon chewing on the flesh after biting some off.

If Calix hadn't sent Apollyon flying, the latter looked as if he would even swallow the flesh.

This is just too f\*cking brutal. Just how much does Apollyon hate him to go to such extremes?

"Save me... Cough... Cough... Save me..." Calix's pleas continued.

It was only then that the Calixion men regained their senses and rushed forward to save Calix.

"Stop right there!" Megahead stepped forward and blocked their way. "This battle is between Calix and Apollyon. No one else is allowed to interfere! Whoever dares to do so will die by my hand!"

A scarred-face man sneered, "Hmph, those are some brazen words, Megahead. As someone who has been defeated by me before, who gave you the right to act with such impunity? Do you still remember our fight to determine who would take on the role of Decanus? I beat you to a pulp back then with just three moves. If not for the fact that I had no interest in the role, this position would never have been yours."

Megahead retorted, "My words are backed up by my fists."

The man burst into laughter. "Haha, in that case, I look forward to finding out who has the stronger fist between the two of us!"

No sooner had the scarred-face man spoken than he charged at Megahead.

Nevertheless, the calm Megahead maintained his stance.

It wasn't until his opponent launched a punch that Megahead languidly intercepted it with one of his own.

As the two fists smashed against each other, the sound of cracking bones filled the air, sending a chill down everyone's spine.

That's it. Megahead's arm is done for.

Everyone expected Megahead to be no match for the scarred-face man. Thus, he had to be the one to suffer the fractures.

Hence, it came as a shock when Megahead stood his ground and didn't show any signs of pain.

Instead, his opponent let out an agonized cry before rolling on the ground while holding his hand.

## Chapter 2548

What's going on? The scarred-face man's arm is broken instead of Megahead's! However, all Megahead did was casually wave his arm. Hence, did he cripple his opponent without going at full strength? Oh my God, Megahead's power has significantly increased too! It must be due to Mr. Williams' guidance. He really is amazing. Long live Mr. Williams!

One by one, the rest of the Decani came up to Megahead's side and formed a defensive perimeter. "Whoever dares to interfere in the battle between Apollyon and Calix will swiftly meet their end!"

Standing together, the nine Decani looked like an imposing and impregnable wall.

In that instant, the crowd could be forgiven to think that there was a ten-thousand strong army right in front of them instead of just nine men.

Soon, the soldiers began speculating amongst themselves.

"Did you notice that our nine Decani have grown significantly stronger than before?"

"I did. Since their aura has increased by tenfold, I'm sure their strength has made similarly explosive progress overnight."

"Mr. Williams' guidance last night must be the reason for their dramatic increase in power."

"Oh my God! I can't imagine how powerful he is to be able to help others improve so much within a single night!"

"Mr. Williams does live up to his reputation as Chief Decanus."

"Looks like we have chosen the right side."

With the nine Decani acting as a deterrent, the members of Calixion didn't dare cause any further trouble.

When one or two fearless members tried to break through the perimeter, they were slaughtered by the Decani with ease.

"Argh!"

Calix let out a deafening roar at the turn of events.

'I can't die just like that. I'll be utterly humiliated if I, a Centurion, was to be defeated by a lowly Decanus who had previously lost to me. I'll definitely become the laughingstock of Theos Island.'

However, with his carotid artery severed, he had lost the ability to save himself.

Consequently, his only choice was to drag Apollyon to the depths of hell together with him. Only then could he redeem what was left of his honor.

Despite him covering the wound on his neck with his hand, blood continued to ooze out through the gaps of his fingers.

After losing an excessive amount of blood, he was so weak that he could barely stand.

Gritting his teeth, he stumbled toward Apollyon. "You do not deserve to take my life! Even in death, I'll make sure you join me!"

Unfazed by the impending danger, Apollyon attempted to stand up to resist.

Unfortunately, his injuries were too debilitating for him to do so. With two broken ribs, he struggled to get back on his feet but failed.

By then, Calix had dashed up to him and unleashed a kick.

However, instead of dodging, Apollyon focused intently on the incoming kick.

Upon impact, he let out a harrowing howl from the pain but seized upon the opportunity to grab

his opponent's leg and tore into it with his teeth.

"Argh!"

Calix's anguished scream echoed out before he collapsed to the ground with blood spurting out of his leg.

Evidently, the artery in his leg had been severed by Apollyon's bite.

In the blink of an eye, Calix's body was drenched in blood, making for a pathetic sight.

Despite his attempts to get back on his feet, he failed miserably each time.

"Argh!"

In his defiance, he let out a deafening roar.

Meanwhile, Apollyon, staring at his enemy, curled his lips into a smile. The action revealed the blood staining his teeth.

After struggling for a few more minutes, Calix's body lay lifeless except for the occasional twitch.

Evidently, he was as dead as one could possibly be.

As a chilly breeze blew past, the crowd couldn't help but feel their hair stand on end.

They were filled with disbelief at the gripping yet gruesome scene before them.

Now that Calix was dead, the tension within Apollyon eased accordingly.

The moment he relaxed, he felt a wave of blood surging out of his chest, causing him to vomit another mouthful.

With his organs suffering from blunt trauma, it would be a miracle if he didn't throw up blood.

"Apollyon, Apollyon...." When she saw how beaten up he looked, the teary-eyed Floretta cried at the top of her lungs.

However, pinned down by Calix's men, she -despite struggling desperately-failed to free herself.

Megahead glared at them. "Why aren't you letting her go? Are you waiting for me to kill all of you?"

Shocked, the men released Floretta immediately.



Running up to Apollyon's side, Floretta dropped to her knees and held his hand tightly. "Apollyon," she sobbed, "wake up. Don't you die on me!"

## Chapter 2549

As the weak Apollyon opened his eyes, he painstakingly raised his hand to stroke Floretta's cheek. "Floretta, I-I finally got to see you."

She scolded him, "You fool, why did you have to risk your life like that? How am I going to continue living if you die? You're really selfish..."

She continued sobbing.

Apollyon simply responded with a smile. "As long as I can save you, I'm more than willing to sacrifice my life."

That was the power of love!

At that moment, Zeke came forward and took Apollyon's pulse. It was extremely faint, an indication that Apollyon was in a life-threatening condition.

Without any delay, Zeke whipped out his Ammo Needle and treated him with the Life Extension Needle, preserving Apollyon's life for the time being.

"Apollyon, rest now, for your injuries are debilitating. Don't worry. When I move to the Centuria's district, I'll definitely take you along."

The grateful Apollyon nodded. No sooner had he wanted to get up and bow in thanks than Zeke stopped him. "Just rest."

Instead, it was Floretta who stood up and without any hesitation-dropped to her knees in front of Zeke.

"Mr. Williams, please accept my bow as thanks since I don't know how else we can repay our debt of gratitude to you. Going forward, Apollyon and I will be your humble servants, fulfilling your every command without question."

Zeke replied, "All right, stay here and take care of Apollyon."

Meanwhile, Johan exclaimed, "The battle is now over, and Mr. Williams' faction has emerged

victorious! Congratulations, Mr. Williams, for attaining the rank of Centurion. Please move to the Centuria's district within three days and continue your service to the Theos Sect."

"Hurray!" his men cheered.

As for the Calixion men, they exchanged clueless glances with each other, not knowing what to do.

Zeke stared at them coldly. "Now that your leader, Calix, is dead, I have replaced him as the new Centurion. Therefore, I'll give all of you this one chance to join me. The choice is yours."

The crowd began to discuss among themselves.

"Now that our leader is dead, what are we going to do?"

"Shall we join them? Considering how strong Apollyon has become, this Chief Decanus must be even more powerful. Besides, on Theos Island, might is right."

"I don't think joining them is a good idea."

"Oh? Why? Tell us."

"Think about it. How is the relationship between Calix and the other Centurions in the Centuria's district?"

"It goes without saying that they're very close."

"That's right. Now that Calix is dead, don't you think the other Centurions will seek revenge on his behalf? When the time comes, they'll definitely target Mr. Williams. Therefore, if we follow him, wouldn't we be making enemies of the rest of the Centurions?"

"Exactly. That's why it's better to have this new Centurion as our enemy than the rest of them combined."

"Come on, let's join the other Centurions. I'm sure they'll take us in."

"Let's go!"

The defeated soldiers quickly fled back to the Centuria's district.

With that, Megahead turned toward Zeke and inquired, "Mr. Williams, should we...."

Zeke shook his head. "No, it's their decision whether they want to stay or leave. There's no need

for us to interfere. Come now, let's return to base and move whatever we need to the Centuria's district."

When Calix's panting men arrived at their base, they didn't stop to rest. Instead, they hurriedly packed up but didn't know where to go next.

Carrying worried expressions, they began to discuss among themselves. "With Calix dead, there's no way we can continue staying here. Hence, who should we join?"

"Now that all the Centurias are recruiting, we'll definitely be highly sought after given how big our group is."

"Why don't we join Ms. Phoenix?"

"Why? Phoenixion, led by Ms. Phoenix, isn't particularly strong."

"There are two reasons. Firstly, Ms. Phoenix has always been on good terms with Mr. Calix. Therefore, she would definitely welcome us with open arms. Secondly, she is inherently fair and treats her

subordinates well. To be honest, the benefits she provides her men are twice what Mr. Calix has given us."

"All right then. I agree that joining Ms. Phoenix is a wise choice."

"Come, let's all go there now."

## Chapter 2550

With that, the group set off enthusiastically to where Phoenixion was based.

Phoenixion was considered a small Centuria that lived in a small village.

Their village comprised two rows of bamboo buildings that were surrounded by a bamboo wall. Moreover, there were patrols keeping watch twenty-four hours a day.

No sooner had the guards seen the approaching troop than they blew a whistle as a form of precaution.

The sound of the whistle stirred up the village. Everyone surged out of their homes and ran toward the main entrance.

In fact, some didn't even have time to put on their pants.

The guards demanded, "Who are you? Why have you come to Phoenixion?"

One of the men from Calixion frantically explained, "Sir, this is a misunderstanding. We're from Calixion."

"That's right. Before Mr. Calix's death, he instructed us to join Ms. Phoenix. He told us that he is on good terms with the latter and that she would definitely take us in."

"We bear you no ill will, so there's nothing to worry about."

"Oh?"

The guard asked in surprise, "You're from Calixion? Did you just mention that Calix is dead?"

The sorrowful members of Calixion replied, "Yes, we did. Calix was challenged by a Decanus and killed."

"What?" the shocked guard exclaimed.

Many years had passed since a Decanus challenged a Centurion.

All this while, the outer district had always been peaceful. As for the few Decani there, they were weak and never stirred up any trouble.

Thus, they had not heard of any Decanus with the capability to challenge a Centurion.

The guard inquired further, "Who is the Decanus who challenged Calix?"

The Calixion men replied, "It was Apollyon!"

Apollyon!

The guard's shock intensified. "Wasn't he defeated by Calix before? Back then, Calix crippled him in a single move. Are you telling me now that Calix has died at the hands of Apollyon? How is that f\*cking possible?"

"Do we look like we would be joking about something like that? Anyway, please inform Ms. Phoenix about this and tell her to take us in."

As the gravity of the situation dawned upon the guard, he agreed immediately, "All right. Just wait there. I'll report this to Ms. Phoenix right away."

With that, the guard hurried off.

Meanwhile, members of Phoenixion had already blocked the entrance and were giving the visitors murderous glares.

However, some of the men from Phoenixion began to recognize those from Calixion.

"Hey, aren't those men from Calixion? Why have they come?"

"Calixion? F\*ck, they really are!"

"What are all of you blocking our main entrance for? Ms. Phoenix and Mr. Calix are close, so you had better not try and sow discord!"

"Back off at once. Otherwise, Ms. Phoenix will not let you off."

The Calixion men had no choice but to explain, "Please don't misunderstand. We're here to join you and have no hostile intentions." Join us?

The Phoenixion men were taken by surprise. "Join us? What about Mr. Calix?"

The Calixion men proceeded to relate what had happened.

Upon learning what had transpired, the Phoenixion men were left dumbfounded.

"Oh my God! A Centurion has been killed. This is something unheard of."

"Which Decanus is it, who possesses power?"

"Oh no, after decades of peace in the Centuria's district, it looks like chaos is brewing again."

"Nevertheless, we probably don't need to worry. If they join us, Phoenixion will grow even more powerful."

"Make way. Coming through."

Soon, a melodious yet authoritative female voice rang out from behind the crowd. At the sound of the voice, the Phoenixion members opened up a path at once.

Soon, a sexy lady in a tight leather outfit walked hurriedly to the front.

Despite living in such barren conditions, she stood out from the crowd with her fair skin and exquisite features.

The lady was none other than the Centurion of Phoenixion-Phoenix!

## Chapter 2551

Phoenix scanned her surroundings before her gaze landed on Scar Face.

Besides Calix, Scar Face was considered the most powerful in Calixion. He was known as the second-in-command.

Since Calix was not present, she could only converse with Scar Face.

Scar Face was in a miserable state, seeing that his hand was broken by Megahead.

With a stern expression, Phoenix asked, "Scar Face, tell me. Is Calix really dead?"

Scar Face was overcome with grief as he wept. "Ms. Phoenix, do you think we would use our Centurion's life as a joke? Mr. Calix's really dead. You have to avenge him for us." He continued sobbing.

Phoenix took a deep breath and scanned the surroundings once more. She replied uneasily, "Come in and explain the entirety of the situation to me."

"Of course!"

Phoenix brought Scar Face into a small office which was beside them.

She quickly located a medical kit to clean up Scar Face's wounds before asking, "Tell me how all of this happened."

Therefore, Scar Face told her about the situation in detail.

After hearing that, Phoenix was dazed for a long moment. "Apollyon from Archfiends? How did he reach Archduke without anyone helping him? Did a Centurion give him pointers? However, that's not possible. In order to prevent any Contubernia in the outer district from challenging our authority, we have agreed to keep the technique a secret from them."

Scar Face immediately replied, "Oh, right. Ms. Phoenix, Apollyon is no longer Decanus. Someone else has taken over him."

Oh?

Phoenix cast a curious glance at Scar Face. "Didn't you say that Apollyon was the strongest

Decanus in the outer district? How did someone replace him?"

Scar Face answered hastily, "Ms. Phoenix, a newcomer defeated Apollyon, so the latter willingly resigned from his position as Decanus for him. Oh, right. Apollyon must have been insinuating that it was the newcomer who had assisted him in improving his abilities. I suspect the newcomer must be a warrior!"

Phoenix was instantly intrigued by the newcomer. "A newcomer! What is he like? How long has he been here? Has he done anything special or shocking?"

Scar Face answered, "I'm not sure. I only found out about him just now, as I have never heard of him before."

Phoenix nodded. "All right. I understand. The key to this matter lies in this

newcomer. I'll send someone to look into this."

Scar Face sobbed and said miserably, "Ms. Phoenix, you must seek revenge for Mr. Calix. He died a horrible death."

Avenge?

Phoenix could not help but sneer inwardly.

Why would I offend a living person for a dead person? You must be insane. Don't try to claim the moral ground with me. I won't be affected.

However, she did not outrightly reject him. She asked gently, "Scar Face, let me ask you. Who is more powerful, Calix or me?"

Scar Face contemplated it for a while before answering, "I guess you guys have your own strengths."

Okay.

Phoenix nodded. "Then, you mentioned that the visitor assisted Apollyon in strengthening his skills. So, do you think the newcomer or Apollyon is stronger?"

Scar Face replied, "Logically speaking, the newcomer should be stronger."

"That's right. It's because Apollyon killed Calix. Do you think I can win against Apollyon and the newcomer, then?" Phoenix remarked.

This...

Scar Face hesitated.

Phoenix sighed and continued, "To be completely honest with you, Scar Face, I yearn to avenge Calix much more than you do. However, if I do it, I'll undoubtedly die or suffer grave injuries. This battle may potentially result in Phoenixion's demise. You won't even have a place to stay at that point. I can't stand by as my comrades perish pointlessly. Therefore, I can only restrain myself from exacting revenge on Calix for the sake of Phoenixion. Of course, I'll support you entirely in your efforts to exact revenge on Calix. However, there would be only the two of us. We won't drag Phoenixion into this. What do you think?"

## Chapter 2552

Although Scar Face was smiling, he was cursing inwardly.

Are you insane? Why would I avenge a dead person? Stop dreaming. Why would I do that when I can just pledge my allegiance to another?

Of course, he did not utter his thoughts out.

He pretended to think about it before sighing. "Even though I feel awful for Mr. Calix, what you said makes perfect sense. We shouldn't keep living for the dead. That's not loyalty. That's being reckless. I believe that's not what Mr. Calix wants for us, either. Also, if we go through with it, it might get our comrades in Phoenixion involved. That would be unfair to them. I'll do as you say."

Phoenix nodded in satisfaction. "Okay. I'm glad you understand my intentions. All right. I'll accept all your men. We can discuss how to get them to settle down here."

Scar Face said gratefully, "Thank you, Ms. Phoenix. We're in debt to you, so we're willing to do anything you ask for without hesitation."

With that, he turned and left.

Phoenix called for her four guards.

These four guards were her trusted aides and usually executed her extremely confidential tasks.

The leader of the guards was Declan Cook.

The four guards noticed Phoenix's worried expression and realized she must have encountered a bothersome matter.



Declan broke the silence first. "Ms. Phoenix, please feel free to share your worries with us."

Phoenix replied, "It's not a worry. It's just that I feel slightly uneasy."

Oh?

Declan asked curiously, "Ms. Phoenix, why do you feel uneasy?"

Phoenix sighed. "I don't think the newcomer is a simple character. I feel he might become a threat."

Declan replied, "Isn't that easy? We can just kill him."

The other three guards agreed with him and nodded in unison.

Phoenix laughed in resignation.

Her four guards were talented in everything, except they were not very intelligent. They always preferred using brute force to solve problems.

This meant that they would never be suited to become a leader. They could only be subordinates.

Phoenix stated, "Don't be reckless. Although I feel uneasy about the newcomer, my sixth sense is telling me he's not our enemy."

The four guards were confused.

Didn't she say she felt uneasy about the newcomer? Then, why isn't the newcomer our enemy? This sounds ridiculous!

Phoenix continued, "I have a mission for you guys."

As soon as the four guards heard that, their expressions immediately became solemn. "Ms. Phoenix, please give the order!"

Phoenix stated, "Investigate the newcomer. Check his background. Also, they will come into Centuria's district soon. When that happens, you guys will act as my representative and send my greetings to

Declan was slightly displeased upon hearing that and said, "Ms. Phoenix, isn't this ruining our reputation? They are the newcomers and should be the ones sending their greetings. However, it's the opposite now. You're the one sending your greetings first..."

Phoenix answered, "Just follow my instructions. Don't worry. I know what I'm doing!"

Hearing that, Declan did not have anything else to say. He nodded his head stiffly. "Okay!"

Three days passed quickly.

Zeke's Contubernium was ready to enter Centuria's district at any moment.

Apollyon's injuries had almost recovered.

The self-healing ability of an Archduke warrior, especially one who was already a Half-King Class warrior, was still very fast, almost a hundred times more than an average person.

Apollyon could already walk normally.

Once he could walk, he immediately brought Floretta to Zeke.

"Mr. Williams, I have almost fully recovered. When are we entering Centuria's district?"

## Chapter 2553

He was worried that Zeke would miss the time to enter Centuria's district because of him, so he hurriedly came over to look for the latter.

Gazing at Apollyon and his wife, Floretta, Zeke said, "Apollyon, are you two sure you want to follow me into Centuria's district? If you stay here, you'll be able to live a regular and peaceful life. However, once you enter Centuria's district, you'll always face perilous battles like this. If one of you dies, you won't be able to see one another again."

Apollyon replied firmly, "Mr. Williams, you saved my life, so I wouldn't mind risking my life for you. Besides, people should always strive for greatness. I can't allow my woman to suffer alongside me in this shabby place."

Zeke glanced at Floretta. "What about you?"

Her eyes shone with determination like his husband's. "I'm staying by Apollyon's side for the rest of my life, and I'll follow him wherever he goes."

Zeke nodded. A pang of emotion surged within him because the couple's unwavering love for each other made him miss Lacey suddenly.

Lacey had told him the same thing in the past, but now, he didn't even know where she was or how to rescue her.

Theos. D\*mn Theos. I won't let you off easy!

Zeke got up and said, "Let's go. We're entering Centuria's district!"

"Let's go!"

The party marched toward Centuria's district under Zeke's lead.

Soon, they arrived at the border.

Just when they were about to step into Centuria's district, Zeke stretched out his hand to halt the party. "Stop. Everybody stop!"

His subordinates immediately ceased their forward motion and waited for his instruction.

Zeke uttered, "We'll be entering Centuria's district after this. Since we've eliminated a Centurion, the other Centurions might treat us as their enemy, so there may be other Centuria waiting to ambush us on the way to our destination. Everyone needs to stay extra vigilant, and whoever senses something is off must notify me at once."

"Understood!"

"Got it!"

The party waited for Zeke to finish giving the orders before they continued to advance.

Zeke took the lead as usual while the other nine Decani positioned themselves on the left and right flanks as they guarded the wings.

Johan had already given the map to the location of Calix's base to Zeke, so Zeke guided his men as they rushed in the base's direction.

Fortunately, they weren't ambushed by other Centurias en route to the base or stumbled into any trouble. Their journey was too smooth to the extent of being a little unusual.

Calix's base had already been emptied, leaving only a vacated building behind.

Even so, that place was much more luxurious than Apollyon's.

Zeke ordered his ten Decani, "All of you can direct the troops to settle in. I'll scout around the

area."

"Yes, Mr. Williams!"

Zeke was worried that other Centurias might set up traps nearby the base, so he decided to look around to be safe.

Subsequently, everyone began working on their tasks in high spirits.

Suddenly, the four people assigned to guard the doors shouted, "Be careful! Someone is coming. Stay alert, everyone!"

Everyone fathomed outsiders who would visit the base at that time were most likely unfriendly, so they had their guards up.

The ten Decani took the lead as they stared warily ahead at the incoming party.

The approaching group was none other than the four bodyguards from Phoenixion, tasked to send Phoenixion's regards to Zeke's troops.

Apollyon bellowed, "Stop right there! Don't blame us for being unmerciful if you take another step forward."

The four guardians were momentarily dazed before they became infuriated. D\*mn you! We are here to send our regards, yet this is how you welcome us? Putting aside our prominent status on Theos Island, you all should've treated us with more respect simply because we arrived here earlier than you did, as we're considered your seniors.

Just as the four bodyguards were about to unleash their rage, they recalled Phoenix's reminder. Ultimately, they had no choice but to suppress their anger and come to a halt.

The leader of the bodyguards, Declan uttered coldly, " I suppose you're all the newcomers? "

Apollyon replied, " That's right. "

" Tell your boss to come out and meet with me. I have something to discuss with him. "

" Who are you? Why do you want to meet with our boss? "

" We are from Phoenixion, Ms. Phoenix's four bodyguards. Please inform your boss to show himself at once because I need to talk to him."

## Chapter 2554

Declan implied that Apollyon and the others were not qualified to speak with him.

Apollyon said, "I'm sorry. Our boss is not here at the moment."

Zeke had indeed just gone out, but Declan didn't believe that to be the case.

He was under the assumption that Apollyon was deliberately preventing them from meeting with Zeke.

If Phoenix had not repeatedly reminded them not to stir any trouble, the four bodyguards would've inflicted their wrath on Apollyon and the others.

In the end, Declan managed to contain his fury with much difficulty. "Fine. You can pass this message along to your boss then. Our Centurion, Ms. Phoenix, would like to welcome you to this district and hope you can get used to Centuria's lifestyle. Also, since we'll be neighbors in the future, please feel free to let us know if you need any assistance. Phoenixion will help out as long as it is within our abilities. Phoenixion intends to foster an amicable relationship with you instead of becoming your enemy."

Apollyon heaved a sigh of relief after knowing that they meant no harm. "Okay. I will relay this message to our Centurion."

"Let's go!" Declan left with the other three bodyguards after they fulfilled their duty.

Following their departure, the members at the base began discussing among themselves.

"Hmph! What's with their attitude? They were clearly looking down on us."

"I can't believe they even told us to feel free to ask for their help. Ha! We should consider ourselves lucky if they don't try to kick us when we're down."

"We should steer clear of people like them because they may just be the ones to target us in the future."

"That's right. Anyone who offers to help us for no reason is definitely up to no good!"

Meanwhile, Declan and the other bodyguards were also complaining among themselves.

"D\*mn those stupid people. Do you reckon they've suffered some form of brain damage on their way here?"

"How dare a group of newbies like them disrespect more experienced seniors like us. They must be clueless about our status on Theos Island."

"Hmph! They're just a bunch of ignorant fools. We shouldn't stoop to their level."

"Declan, their terrible attitude has illustrated many potential problems that may arise should we ally with them. Hence, we'll count on you to persuade Ms. Phoenix to reconsider this decision."

Declan didn't assent. Instead, he suddenly stretched out his hand to halt the other three bodyguards.

"What's the matter?"

They gazed at Declan in bafflement.

Declan replied, "Someone's coming."

Someone's here?

The quartet instantly tensed up. They swiftly positioned themselves with their backs touching and observed their surroundings.

Their lives were constantly in danger when they were in Centuria's district, especially when the traveling party consisted of merely three to four people, so they had to take that situation seriously.

Soon, a white figure dashed out from the nearby bamboo forest. "Declan, don't panic. It's me!"

When the four bodyguards realized the identity of the white figure, they let out a sigh of relief. "It's you, Platinum. Why are you here alone?"

That man, dressed in a white outfit, was the Centurion of Platinumion, Platinum. The bodyguards usually addressed him as Platinum.

It was a well-known fact that Platinum was interested in Phoenix. He had pursued her relentlessly, but she remained unfazed.

After that, he got under her skin, prompting her to commence a war between the two Centurias. Both parties suffered great losses in that battle. Following that, Platinum learned his lesson and toned down the intensity of his effort to win Phoenix's affection.

Of course, he hadn't given up on his goal all those years, so he would occasionally visit Phoenix to harass her.

Platinum uttered halfheartedly. "I'm in a bad mood, so I came out to take a walk."

After listening to his answer, the quartet was amused because they knew Platinum was obviously missing Phoenix, so he chose to loiter near Phoenixion's territory.

Platinum didn't dare to enter Phoenixion, fearing Phoenix might initiate another allout battle between the two groups.

"By the way, what are you guys doing?" Platinum asked curiously.

Declan uttered, "Ah, I don't want to talk about it. I'm not sure if you've heard the news, but a newly-promoted Centurion has replaced Calix."

"Yes. I got wind of that matter."

"We received an order from Ms. Phoenix to meet with that new Centurion. I can't fathom Ms. Phoenix's intention for wanting to form an alliance with him."

"Alas. How is a newbie like him qualified to gain Ms. Phoenix's favor? Ms. Phoenix is being reckless this time."

## Chapter 2555

Oh? How interesting.

Curiosity got the better of Platinum. "Is the new kid on the block really that impressive? Even Phoenix thought that highly of him, huh," he blurted out.

Truth be told, not many could gain favor with Phoenix, and she hadn't even clapped eyes on Platinum thus far.

A snort then escaped from Declan's lips. "Nonsense. Putting on an aloof, snobbish look is what he does best!"

Hearing that sarcastic remark, Platinum returned a rueful smile. "Ah... It seems that Phoenix still has much to learn before she can bring her observation to perfection. By the way, I'm here today because of that newcomer as well."

"Oh?" The group's interest was roused. "Platinum, what do you need him for?"

Platinum flashed them a mysterious grin on that note. "Come nearer. We need to be discreet. Walls have ears, you know."

The four of them were pumped up in an instant. Without a second thought, they sidled up to Platinum.

Then came the latter's utterance, "I have a plan, but I need your help.

"We're all ears, Platinum, and we'll assist you however we can. You've been good to us, so we naturally will reciprocate your kindness." was Declan's reply.

"Splendid. I need you guys to-

Just when Platinum was halfway through his sentence, he shook his arm to reveal a cleaver right under his sleeve.

With a swing of the cleaver, he accurately slashed the throats of all three guards except Declan's.

Swoosh!

As the cleaver danced through the air, their necks split in half on the spot. Blood began gushing out with nothing to hold it back.

The trio widened their eyes in shock, fixating their gazes on Platinum. Their mouths were agape with incredulity, but sadly, not a sound could be picked up from them.

Immediately afterward, they tumbled to the ground altogether.

Even at the brink of death, their eyes refused to shut.

The sole survivor was none other than Declan.

Still and all, Platinum had already readied his cleaver up at Declan's throat. The latter dared not budge an inch.

After wiping off the blood that had been splattered all over his face, Platinum finally went on, "I need you guys to meet your maker! Only your deaths would have offered me the help that I needed."

"Help! A murderer!" yelled Declan with all his might as he jolted himself out of terror and back to reality.

"Shut up!" Blood started seeping out from Declan's neck as Platinum cut the former's skin with



the cleaver still in his hand. "Scream again, and it'll be your last."

Having been threatened like that, Declan trembled in fear. All he could think of was hurriedly beg for mercy. "P-Please spare me, Platinum. I..... I can't die yet. My family needs me. If I'm gone, what will become of them?"

A sneer marred Platinum's face. "Do you really wish to live?"

Declan bobbed his head frantically at once. "Y-Yes, I do! Give me a chance, Platinum. I'll do anything you ask for without hesitation from now on."

Platinum nodded. "All right, then. I'll give you a chance right now. Let me ask you, who finished off these three mates of yours?"

Wearing a dubious mien, Declan gawked at Platinum and answered, "Y-You..."

What the f\*ck?

Platinum flew off the handle straightaway. "Since when did you see me lay a hand on them? You clearly saw the new guy did it to them, didn't you?"

Comprehension dawned on Declan then and there.

He reckoned that Platinum must be trying to fan the flames of conflict out of jealousy because Phoenix took a liking to the newcomer.

In a flash, Declan inclined his head. "Yes, yes. The newcomer is the killer, not you."

Platinum asked again. "So, why did he take their lives?"

Huh? What's he trying to pull?

His question stumped Declan. "Uh... CCould you enlighten me, if I may ask?"

What a load of cr\*p! How on earth would I know the reason behind this massacre?

Platinum parted his lips and shared what was on his mind. "Because he thinks that you, Phoenixions, are never worthy of them. The act of you people sending ambassadors to form an alliance with them was basically a humiliation through and through. And so, he went on a killing spree due to anger."

Declan nodded even more fervently. "TThat's it! You're right. The newcomer is so conceited, constantly looking down on us. He even spoke ill of Ms. Phoenix, saying how unbecoming of higher status she is."

It was then Platinum began to approve of Declan. "Good, good. Now that's more like it. Oh, I almost forgot. How's it so that your fellow companions died at his hands, but you managed to stay alive to tell the tale?"

## Chapter 2556

"I-I ran with lightning speed. He couldn't catch up, and that was how I survived," was Declan's response.

Platinum was bereft of speech the second he heard that kind of feedback.

This Declan must've damaged his brain somehow. Ugh! What a fool. I should've sent him to his grave and used the other guard to pass the message.

He couldn't help but be worried that Declan might slip up and botch his grand scheme.

"Answer me this-if Calix wants to take your life, do you think you can escape him?" Platinum threw yet another question out.

As Declan contemplated it, he eventually shook his head and said, "Most probably not."

"Should that be your findings, what makes you think that you can get away from that new guy? Since he was able to get rid of Calix, he's obviously much stronger than Calix."

"Uh..."

Alas, Declan couldn't provide a viable answer to that.

Ideas continued to be set forth by Platinum. "He let you off on purpose because he required you to relay his words to Phoenix. He even commanded Phoenix to submit to him within three days, or he'd spearhead an all-out attack to exterminate Phoenixion."

Declan swatted his own forehead and agreed, "Oh, right! That's an excellent way to put it! I'll say just that."

With a nod, Platinum prompted, "That's quite enough. You should go. If you dare to betray me, I'll make sure to send every single one of your family members to six feet under. I mean it."

Declan bobbed his head as though his life depended on it. "Rest assured, Platinum. I wouldn't dare to, not even in a million years."

Only then was Platinum satisfied with the outcome. He inclined his head and ordered, "Go now."

With that, Declan scurried off fearfully.

After walking quite some distance away, he, at long last, stopped to take a deep breath before collapsing to the ground and panting heavily.

At that juncture, he was already drenched in sweat.

What should I do... What in the world should I do?

It was as if nothing could ever help to calm his nerves down.

He was torn between going along with Platinum's plot and divulging the whole truth to avenge his teammates.

If he were to heed Platinum's terms, he'd be instigating a war between two groups of Centuria, and his companions' passing would've been for nothing.

However, should he choose to go against Platinum, the latter would surely come after his loved ones.

Even if they somehow managed to stay alive for the time being, their lives would never be peaceful again once they got a Centurion's eye on them.

After mulling over the circumstance, Declan gritted his teeth and muttered to himself, "Forgive me, my friends. Please bear with me for a while more. The day I rise to power will be the day I eliminate Platinum and avenge you all, so don't you worry."

After making up his mind, he quickened his pace as he made a beeline for Phoenixion's base.

Upon setting foot inside the base, he started to bellow, "Somebody! Come, quick! Bad news! Something... Something terrible. happened."

The members of Phoenixion all stepped out of their rooms, probing ever so curiously, "What's wrong? What happened, Declan? I've never seen you so terrified like this."

Panic-stricken, Declan revealed, "My... MMy members were killed."

What? Seriously?

The audience was astonished to the core. They couldn't believe their ears as they hurled a stare back at him. "What did you just say? All three of them are dead? Who murdered them?"

Deaths were pretty common in Centuria's district, yet those who had been gone with the wind were all ordinary folks.

Nevertheless, Declan and his gang weren't simply any average Joe. They were the symbolic representation of Phoenixion, boasting a stature that was second to none but Phoenix alone.

Claiming the life of any one of them would already automatically mean a war declaration with Phoenixion.

What made it worse was that three of them were cut down just like that, not one.

The onlookers lost their patience and pressed the matter further. "Tell us! Who's the killer?"

"Who else? Of course, it's that Centurion who has recently risen through the ranks." Declan had no choice but to lie.

"B\*stard!"

The entire crowd erupted into an uproar, discussing and reprimanding the newcomer.

"This is too much! He's really crossed the line!"

"What an arrogant bunch of newcomers! Some nerve they have to take us veterans so lightly. I'll tolerate them no more!"

"To think that we haven't even asserted our dominance yet, and here they're trying to strike fear into us first. D\*mn it! I won't let this matter slide."

"We must seek justice for our fallen comrades!"

"Ms. Phoenix, I demand that we crusade against them."

"Count us in!"

## Chapter 2557

Phoenix finally arrived.

She could briefly deduce what had happened from everyone's discussion.

Her expression was grim, and her face was contorted with rage. "Declan, come with me."

"Sure, sure!"

Declan immediately followed behind. Phoenix, and he entered her room.

Phoenix closed the door, and her smoldering gaze fell on him. "Tell me, Declan. Were those three guards really killed by the newcomer?"

Declan tried to appear calm even though his heart was racing. "Of course, it's true, Ms. Phoenix. How can I joke about this?"

Phoenix asked suspiciously, "Why would they do that? Isn't that digging their own grave?"

Declan answered, "Those people were extremely arrogant. What's stopping them from anything?"

Phoenix inquired, "Could it be that you guys provoked them recklessly?"

Phoenix was clear about the temper of Declan and the others. They had the ability to cause trouble even if there were none.

I shouldn't have let the four of them go on this mission.

Declan declared, "We're innocent, Ms. Phoenix! We spoke to them politely, but they felt we were beneath them and unworthy to talk to them. They insisted on speaking to you directly. I told them I would convey their message to you when I got back. But they insisted that we were looking down on them by sending the four of us, and they wanted to make us pay the price. They killed three of my comrades after that. Boohooohoo... Ms. Phoenix, you have to avenge them!"

Phoenix lifted her hand. "Don't worry. Our people will never die in vain!"

Declan added, "They also said they would spearhead an all-out attack to exterminate Phoenixion if we don't submit to him within three days. Ms. Phoenix, we don't have much time."

Phoenix nodded. "This is too much! I have misjudged this newcomer's ambition. Declan, you can leave and rest first. I will come up with a plan. I won't let this go easily!"

"Sure, sure!"

With that, Declan took his leave.

Doubt was etched across her face after Declan left.

It didn't seem likely that a newcomer would act so mercilessly. Declan shouldn't be deceiving me, much less using the lives of his comrades to lie to me.

Phoenix did not know what to do at that current moment.

After giving it some thought, Phoenix summoned Scar Face, who had just submitted to her.

When Scar Face entered, he bowed and said obsequiously, "Ms. Phoenix, how can I help you?"

Phoenix inquired, "Scar Face, how did that happen? newcomer unify the ten Contubernia? Did he use violent means?"

ScarFace responded sincerely, "According to what we know, Zeke Williams didn't resort to violent means."

Zeke Williams?

Phoenix asked doubtfully, "Is Zeke Williams the name of that newcomer?"

ScarFace nodded. "That's right."

Phoenix stated, "I don't know about this guy's character, but he has a good name that sounds righteous. Go on."

Scar Face continued, "After Zeke replaced Megahead as Decanus, Megahead conspired with the other nine Decani to take him down. However, Zeke had used a large amount of spiritual water to exchange for quite a number of meat. He used the food to tempt the Decani and their men to join hands with him. Ultimately, they all submitted to Zeke after failing to withstand the temptation. We miscalculated the opponent's strength because Zeke did not resort to violent means. This caused Mr. Calix to die in their hands."

Phoenix fell into deep thought and nodded. "With Zeke's capabilities, he could easily unite the teams through violence, but he chose to use a gentler approach. He shouldn't be an aggressive person, and he has no reason to kill our people. There's something fishy about this."

Scar Face was astonished. "Ms. Phoenix, you're suspecting Declan?"

Phoenix responded, "I'm not sure. It's just a suspicion for now. I'll conduct a thorough investigation into this matter! Scar Face, I have a task for you."

## Chapter 2558

ScarFace answered respectfully, "How can I be of help, Ms. Phoenix? I will expend my utmost effort to complete the task you have given me."

Phoenix uttered, "Get close to Declan and observe him secretly. Let me know right away if he meets with any suspicious people or does anything else unusual."

ScarFace nodded. "Okay, Ms. Phoenix! I will surely complete my task!"

He was in high spirits. I didn't expect to receive such an important task so soon after joining. I might get to replace Declan as Phoenix's trusted aide if I successfully complete this task.

Phoenix said, "Mhm. Go ahead. Don't disappoint me."

Scar Face left.

There was a reason why Phoenix selected Scar Face to carry out this mission.

Since Scar Face was an outsider and had no devotion to Phoenixion, Declan's defenses against him should be at the lowest.

Phoenix kept herself busy. She summoned two of her man to accompany her to Zeke's Centuria to find out the truth.

At the same time, the people in Zeke's base had almost cleaned up the abandoned base. They all found a spot to rest and sleep, leaving only over twenty people stationed for guarding.

In the southwestern direction, three of the guards yawned relentlessly.

A tall, thin guard stated, "I can take watch while you two get some rest. You guys can take over me later."

"All right!"

The other two guards did not turn down his offer, and they lay down and closed their eyes to get some rest.

A figure in white, however, came from above and landed in front of the two guards who just began resting on the ground.

The saber in his hand slashed a flurry of strikes before his feet touched the ground.

The two guards' necks were severed immediately. Blood was splattering profusely, and not a sound was made.

The figure in white struck the back of the head of the awake guard. The guard's vision turned dark, and he passed out.

In the blink of an eye, the figure in white disappeared into thin air while carrying the unconscious guard.

The movements of the figure in white were too quick. Everything had happened in a flash of lightning, and the awake guard did not even have time to react.

The figure in white was none other than Platinum.

Naturally, Platinum would sow discord. between both sides, and not just one.

The unconscious guard vaguely felt an icy cold sensation burning his face.

In shock, he opened his eyes to see a figure in white dumping cold water over his face from a basin.

He shouted out in terror, "Help! Help me!"

The figure in white chuckled coldly. "Shut your mouth. I will kill you now if you shout again."

The guard hastily zipped his mouth.

This man really dares to kill people, and he killed my two colleagues just now. He's not only ruthless but also quick and super-powerful. I'm not his match.

As the guard was unable to escape, he could only grovel on the ground and beg the man to let him go.

"Please, I beg you. Please spare me. My child can't lose me as he's still little. Please..."

Platinum snorted coldly. "Do you want to live?"

The guard nodded instantly. "Yes! I want to live."

Platinum responded, "You must follow my instructions if you want to live."

"Yes. Yes. Yes!"



The guard replied immediately. "I can do anything you want me to do as long as you spare my life."

Platinum asked. "Okay. Who killed your two comrades?"

The guard thought for a moment before replying, "T-They... ended their lives. themselves!"

Platinum stated, "You're wrong. They were killed by a lady clad in tight-fitting black leather attire."

A woman in a tight-fitting black suit?

The guard questioned, "Who's that?"

Platinum stated, "You don't have to know who it is. You just have to follow my instructions."

## Chapter 2559

The guard replied, "All right, I understand. A lady clad in a tight-fitting black leather attire cruelly killed them."

Platinum asked, "Why didn't you die?"

The guard stammered, "I- I ran fast enough, so she wasn't able to catch me..."

Platinum shook his head in disappointment. Yet another fool!

Platinum said, "You were in the toilet at that time. The murderer did not notice you, but you saw her killing everyone while you were in the toilet."

The guard nodded immediately. "I understand."

Platinum inclined his head. "Yes. Go on. You should follow my advice and say it as I have taught you. Otherwise, you'll definitely die!"

The guard said, "I understand. I'll obey you for sure."

Before the guard left, Platinum did not forget to let him see the bronze plate that he carried with him.

The word "Centurion" was written on it.

The guard was extremely shocked.

He did not expect that Platinum would be a Centurion.

If I betray a Centurion one day, will my children and I be able to continue surviving? Definitely not!

The Centurion could kill them in many ways.

I have no choice but to deceive Mr. Williams this time.

With a restless heart, the guard nervously returned to the crime scene.

Thankfully, no one realized that the two guards had died.

All of a sudden, he knelt on the ground and yelled, "Help! Something bad has happened! Someone got killed!"

What?

A commotion immediately broke out in the camp that had been quiet just a moment ago.

Everyone rushed toward him.

"What? What's going on?"

"Oh my goodness! The smell of blood is so strong!"

"Someone's dead!"

Apollyon was the first to rush over.

When he saw the two corpses on the ground, a myriad of expressions flashed across his face.

He raised his voice and shouted, "Get ready! Everyone, get ready! Be prepared to start fighting anytime! An enemy has attacked us. I repeat, an enemy has attacked us!"

The crowd jumped into action and formed a circular formation swiftly. They circled the crime scene and were on guard.

Apollyon looked at the lucky survivor and said, "Tell me what happened!"

The guard's heart pounded in trepidation. "Just now, I was in the toilet. My comrades were

guarding here. When I was halfway done, I heard a commotion, so I hurriedly looked toward the source of the sound. Then, I saw a woman wearing a tight-fitting black suit killing them! She is really powerful. The two men did not stand a chance against her. I had wanted to rush over, but... I knew that even if I rushed over, I would die. So... I could only wait for that woman to leave before calling for help!"

A woman in a tight-fitting black suit? Who's that? Everyone was perplexed.

No one suspected the guard. The guard's anxious heart finally grew at ease.

At that moment, a commotion broke out at the entrance of the camp. "Come over! Someone is approaching our camp! Their identity is unclear!"

"Sh\*t!" Apollyon cursed. "Before we can even settle this, another problem pops up again. Come! Let's go to the entrance."

The crowd immediately dashed to the entrance.

There were three people standing at the entrance of the camp.

A woman stood in the middle.

When everyone saw the woman, they inhaled sharply.

The woman was beautiful and had fair skin. She did not fit into the group of men and was like a swan standing amongst a flock of chickens.

The most important thing was that she was wearing a black body-hugging leather suit.

Few people could afford to wear a black leather suit in such a place.

Furthermore, she arrived at the camp around the time of the incident. She was very suspicious!

She just killed two of our men, yet she dares to come here boldly to challenge us! What an intolerable bully!

Apollyon and the rest had already decided that the woman was the murderer.

## Chapter 2560

Apollyon commanded, "Surround them!"

Apollyon and his men had confidence in numbers, and they were not afraid of the three people. They immediately surrounded Phoenix and the two other people.

Meanwhile, Phoenix and her subordinates were shocked.

They had just arrived, but the soldiers surrounded them without saying anything. It was a serious display of provocation.

Were the men there so violent and unreasonable? Phoenix felt that if that was the case, the possibility of three of her guards being killed by them was very high.

At that moment, Phoenix's view of Zeke's character worsened considerably.

Phoenix sighed. "It looks like I have overrated Zeke's character. From the looks of it, my subordinates have been killed by you."

Apollyon replied angrily, "Ha! We have not said anything yet, but you've accused us of doing what you have done."

"Accused you of doing what we have done? I don't know what you're trying to say."

Apollyon said, "We have a witness. Are you still not going to admit it?"

Phoenix was confused. "Admit what?"

Apollyon replied, "You really know how to put on an act. Come, see if she was the one who killed our comrades!"

The remaining survivor walked forward and scrutinized Phoenix.

He did not recognize Phoenix and did not know if the person that Platinum wanted to slander was the woman standing in front of him.

He said vaguely, "I didn't manage to catch a glimpse of her face, but her attire and figure

Apollyon chuckled coldly. "There shouldn't be another woman dressed like you on Theos Island. Are you still going to deny that you are the murderer?"

B\*llsh\*t!

Phoenix retorted through gritted teeth, "I have just arrived here! How can I kill anyone?"

Her subordinate hurriedly rushed over and asked, "When were your comrades killed?"

Apollyon replied, "Just ten minutes ago."

Phoenix's comrade replied, "Then you have wrongly accused Ms. Phoenix. We have been walking together for half an hour and have just arrived. We did not separate during that time."

Apollyon said, "You are her subordinate. Naturally, you'll speak up for her."

Ha! How interesting!

Phoenix's smile did not reach her eyes. "The perpetrator often accuses others first. Let's put this matter aside first. Do you have an explanation for killing my people?"

Apollyon replied, "Killed your people? Who are you? I don't recognize you. How can I kill your people?"

Phoenix replied, "I'm the Centurion of Phoenixion. My name is Phoenix!"

Apollyon's wife, Floretta, immediately whispered, "Phoenixion had a good relationship with Calixion in the past. She's probably here because of Calix's death."

Apollyon came to a sudden realization. "I see. I was wondering why you would create trouble for us for no reason. Phoenix, we had challenged Calix fairly. His abilities were too weak, and he died. He only has himself to blame. Furthermore, he held my wife captive for so many years. I have already shown him mercy by just taking his life."

Phoenix replied, "Don't put on an act. I'm not referring to Calix but my three subordinates."

"Your three subordinates? Are you referring to the four guards that had previously come over?" Apollyon asked.

"Of course," Phoenix said.

Apollyon replied, "What nonsense are you talking about? Although their attitude was bad, and I was a little displeased, they came over to 'greet' us. Even if we are dissatisfied with them, we have no reason to kill them. You are truly unreasonable!"

"Ha!" Phoenix laughed frostily.

"Unreasonable? What a bunch of troublemakers. Forget it. Since this is the case, let's stop wasting our breaths. From now on, we'll be on opposing ends. Let's go!"

Thereafter, Phoenix turned around and wanted to lead her subordinates away.

"Please hold on!" Suddenly, a mature and low voice called out to them.

