

GREED 161

Chapter 161 Spear Mastery.

There was another silence for 2 minutes.

"I will say now that I will not give you this certification unless I truly approve of you. I have a limited slot of such certification I can endorse. You can get more information about the rankings and the milestone fights from your seniors. You can also chose to change your teacher. The request can be done at anytime. Do you wish to change your teacher now so that I don't have to waste my time?" His teacher asked.

SQUARESKULL's eyes had been on him the entire time, through his talks and during his silence. His mild eyes were always locked onto Soverick. As if daring him to make a move. Now SQUARESKULL was asking him if he wanted a replacement. So yes, it is safe to say, without a doubt, that Karak is messing with him. He wanted Soverick gone.

Soverick smiled. "Thanks for your consideration but I'll wait. I have already experienced how well you prepare before you speak, I'll wait to see how well you teach something actually useful to me before I pass my judgment."

He would have loved to leave, but SQUARESKULL hadn't done enough to bother him. What matters at the end of the day is how well Karak can teach. He also wanted to spite Karak.

"Your choice. Next, I'll talk about the Spear and how to use it to pursue excellence in your martial pursuit."

Silence for 30 minutes.

Even Soverick was beginning to get frustrated. So much of his time is being wasted. He wanted to wait to find out if this will be a one-time thing or if it will occur every time SQUARESKULL teaches him.

"The pursuit of the spear is one that needs strength, agility, and technique. The strongest power available within the realm of high heaven is the power of Sovereigns. It is the power of perfect control over a concept of the world. A concept is an indefatigable and undeniable truth. The manifestation of

authority over world power. That's what it means to be sovereign. But how does the concept come about?"

Silence for 10 minutes.

"It is known that a concept is composed of laws and an image. A single image forms the mold of a concept while laws fill it up and makes it a truth. Without laws, an image will remain false. The image you envision of your concept is the path that you choose to advance with as a titan of law. An image is an opinion or a belief about how the world works. It could be a sentiment. It could be anything imaginable, but only when it is backed by laws does it become a fact. Without the reinforcement of laws, your image of the world will forever remain your opinion. That's how a concept is formed. Then the image and the laws it contains must be of one accord before you can become a sovereign."

Silence for 5 minutes.

"Your concept will evolve into an eternal truth when you become a sovereign. Then when you are able to merge with such an eternal truth, you will become eternal yourself, everlasting. That is what it means to be an Origin god. It maintains its potency even in the most diluted of bloodlines. As long as a royal bloodline awakens, the recipient of the bloodline will be remade into the image of such a truth. But a truth has to be unique, no two Origin gods can have the same truth. That's why you must forge your own truth to become a titan of law. Even the descendants of a world god are not exempted from it."

Silence for 30 minutes.

"Some do not start thinking about their path until they become transcendent. It is true that laws cannot be touched upon without being a transcendent. There are some Transcendents that haven't been able to touch laws yet. But images can be cultivated right from the moment you started your path of refinement. Images can be cultivated and refined over the course of your life. It can be based on anything. It can be based on your spear too."

A period of silence for 45 minutes.

"There are requirements to fulfill if your image is to be based on your spear. These requirements are the steps of spear mastery. The first step of spear mastery is achieving one with the spear. It is the requirement for you to become an adept in spear mastery. It may be the first step but it is very difficult

to achieve. I will not touch upon or speak about the other steps. We will put our entire focus on just the first step. You might consider it easy to achieve, but I'll tell you that it is not. It is the requirement to beat the 13th milestone fight and get better placement for your admission into the tertiary stage. Some don't even achieve it before they graduate."

Silence for 18 minutes.

"To achieve the first stage, we will focus on the fusion of two aspects. Technique and fighting instincts. The technique consists of conscious proficiency in the spear arts while fighting instincts is the subconscious proficiency. Only when both are fused, when your techniques become subconscious and when your instincts become conscious can you become one with the spear."

The debut release occurred at N-ov3l=B(j)n.

Another Silence for 12 minutes.

"In the first stage, the preparation stage, you prepared your body. In the second stage, the challenges and techniques stage, you got rid of bad habits and learned good ones. In this stage, we will mold your body and mind to be suitable for the spear, so that when you become a mana entity, you will be able to easily achieve the next steps of spear mastery. It is a plan that will continue when you reach the tertiary stage to ensure that you will not be found wanting at the moment when you try to become a titan of law."

Soverick was inwardly impressed with the curriculum of the battle academy. He could see the effects of their training regimen more clearly than others, including his teacher. When an individual becomes a mana entity, they gain power, but their potential will stagnate. It doesn't mean that they can't grow stronger, but their maximum future strength becomes capped at that point. Potential doesn't matter to a transcendent, only energy and laws matter. But if their potential is not enough to reach the transcendent stage then they will be stuck forever in the mana stage no matter what they do.

The training curriculum of the battle academy is geared toward improving the potential of its students. Soverick knows that mastery of any weapon is a very difficult thing that requires years of effort. It is usually mana entities that start to train in mastery but if they are able to master the first step of spear mastery before reaching that stage, then their potential for the spear will increase. Then spear mastery will become easy for them to achieve as mana entities.

The other thing is habits. While techniques are easier to learn as a mana entity because of the control of mana, they are very difficult to master if you have bad habits. Habits are one of the things that solidify as a mana entity, and they will inhibit the mastery of techniques. This will make for a mediocre mana entity.

"I am SQUARESKULL. A transcendent with the bloodline of the Impassable mountain barrier. I have focused on the monolithic spear style of the earth. I will be your teacher from now on, but I will not teach you my style. It has been determined that learning other people's styles before reaching the mana stage can lead to some bad habits and misconceptions."

"No one is perfect, so no one style is perfect. But each style is suited to the creator of it. Learning it now will affect the creation of your style in the future. You must become one with the spear and acquire the common sense needed not to be led astray before you can learn the style of others. As your teacher, I'll try my best to help you achieve your first step of spear mastery. Any questions?"

Maybe it was wise to wait to find out on his own, but Soverick couldn't spare that time just to determine if his time with SQUARESKULL will be a waste. The periods of silence between each speech were finally getting to him and he doubts he will be able to take more of it.

So he asked, "Do you always become silent for random periods of time when you speak? If yes, is it a long speech thing or do you do it every time?"

SQUARESKULL chuckled. "You can rest assured that it is a one-time thing. You seem to be a no-nonsense kind of guy and I wanted to see how far you will go to enforce your way of life. Would you be so bold as to disrespect me when I take breaks to speak? I do it for every one of my new students to test their resolve and their patience. Are you satisfied with that?"

Soverick sighed in relief. "Yes, I am."

"I assume you are ready for your training to start. So for your first training take this." SQUARESKULL brought out a black spear that looked like a thick rod with a blade stuck onto it. It was plain without any design. More like it was ugly, but Soverick didn't mind. He preferred function over looks.

The spear floated towards Soverick and he grabbed it out of the air. His face changed the moment he touched the spear. He had discovered something he minded very much.

Chapter 162 Mocking Tradition.

The debut release occurred at N-ov3l=B(j)n.

"No way." He thought as his hand sagged due to the weight of the spear. It was at least 50kg, almost half of his total body weight. It had only caught him by surprise, soon he was able to adjust to it but he couldn't deny that it is very heavy and most importantly it made him off-balance. So he glared at SQUARESKULL as if to say, 'How am I supposed to wield this?'

SQUARESKULL might still be messing with him and he wasn't about to take any more of it.

"This is the training spear that everyone uses for their first training regimen. You seem capable enough. Follow me then." SQUARESKULL said, then he finally stepped down from his lofty seat on his spear.

He went towards a door at the back of the room. Soverick's seniors followed SQUARESKULL with clear anticipation in their eyes. Soverick was beginning to understand why they came here even when he said that they didn't need to. Either they didn't have anything to do or they came here specifically to watch him fumble and fail.

Everyone left the main hall while carrying a spear of different sizes. Soverick was the last person to enter through the door and what he found within the room was a small mountain range. It is small when compared to the mountain ranges out there in the world but it is extremely large for an indoor mountain range. The peaks of the mountain range were made to form a circle, there was flat ground at the center of the room.

'This is not an illusion, it's all real.' Soverick thought to himself as he sensed the world. He didn't sense the external influence of an illusion array. The academy and crammed a mountain range into the building somehow. Or someone created it inside the building. It could be both, and both are impressive.

SQUARESKULL'S divine sense began to speak again. "What you will do is run while carrying your training spear. The spear must not be dropped nor must it touch the ground or you will start again. You can carry it however you want. This exercise aims to form a sense of affinity with the spear, to bond with it the spear. You will complete 10 trips around the peaks before we move on to the next exercise. Any questions?"

"One question. How will you know when I have bonded with the spear?" Soverick wanted to know what to truly aim for. Running around with a spear without a concrete goal isn't his style. If he had enough data and information, he can make accurate simulations. That's why he learns things quickly and he can find the solutions to the problems in the challenges. His mind is powerful enough to simulate world scenarios almost perfectly.

"The mysteries of the spear are infinite. There is only a beginning, there is no end. Spear affinity can always be increased. There's no limit to it and the more of it you have, the better your training will be. This exercise will continue until I see it fit to stop." SQUARESKULL answered.

Soverick coughed. "Well, that's good and all. But you still haven't answered my question. How will you know when I have bonded with the spear?"

SQUARESKULL turned to regard him. His eyes were narrowed. "Spear affinity is familiarity. I'll know when you become familiar with the spear and when it becomes easier to carry the spear. The exercise will strain your body, the different slopes will put your body through different forms, and your mind will try to make the exercise less painful, hence it will find the best way to ease the burden that is the spear you're carrying. As you run and tire, your body will become sluggish, yet your spear form will become better. Does that answer your question?"

"Thank you, teacher SQUARESKULL."

Soverick began to run up and down the mountain peaks.

It would have been easy as peach to perform if he were not so bogged down by the spear. As it was, his gait was awkward trying to run up and down the slopes. His balance was off and he realized that he couldn't perform his movement techniques as well as he should be able to. Each step he takes shifts his center of balance precariously, like a pendulum. The arms that should help him maintain his balance are preoccupied with carrying the heavy and getting heavier spear.

It is true that given enough time, his mind will figure out a way to carry the spear better and his body will adapt to the weight. His steps will become lighter and the weight of the spear won't throw off his center of balance as much. All these are possible with time. But that's for passive learners.

He is not a passive learner. He is an active learner, he actively pursued his objectives and adjusts to them. He realized from the answer that SQUARESKULL gave him, that spear familiarity is about the posture when holding the spear. Spear form is about shifting the weight of the spear so that it doesn't negatively impact the performance of the body. So he didn't maintain a single way of holding the spear. He tried out several postures for several situations and collected data on how they affected his body.

He was determined to make a catalog of the various scenarios. He wanted to collect data, make conjectures, confirm them, make adjustments and finally assimilate the essence. The essence of this exercise is the spear form.

All this isn't something that he could complete in just ten trips around the mountain range. That's why he ignored the pain and stress signals from his body and focused more on the sensation of carrying the spears. SQUARESKULL was right that he will see the most result when his body is at the edge of giving out. So he stayed at that edge and made sure all his efforts won't be wasted by concentrating on the essence.

It took 31 trips but he finally found a comfortable posture for almost every scenario. For when he was crouching so that the spear will not make noise. For when he is about to jump so that the spear will not affect his judgment of distance and how much effort was needed to make the leap. For when he is running, so that the spear will not make him trip easily. For when he is trying his trying to walk silently. For when he is off balance, so that the spear will shift and help him regain his balance. For when he is tripping, so that the spear will not make it difficult to regain his balance.

He combined different scenarios to create a sense of variability in his forms. For example, when he is running and also off balance. How to maintain his streamlined form to reduce wind drag. His hold on the spear will shift and the spear will be made to change positions relative to his body such that his center of gravity remained stable.

He stopped running when he was satisfied with what he had accomplished. SQUARESKULL only asked him to run 10 trips and he did more than that. Even if he did less than that, he would still have stopped if he considers the objective complete. There's no use wasting his time doing useless things.

Within the Plain at the center of the artificial mountain range. A few hours earlier when Soverick began to run.

"Do you think he will be able to complete it?" SYNCLAIR asked.

He wore the same battle academy uniform that the others wore just with a different color. He had green fur and he carried a standard spear that is much lighter than what Soverick was slugging about.

NARGOTHROND laughed at the question. He just laughed and rolled about on the ground.

It was NOBELLES that answered. He snickered and said. "I'll eat my non-existent shoes if he completes it."

Battle sage monkeys don't wear shoes because it inhibits their movement and the execution of foot techniques. Their disdain for foot protection becomes higher as they grow stronger. The odds of injuring their feet become the same as the odds of falling over and breaking their necks. Which is practically impossible.

"It will be fun to watch him try though. I so can't wait." NARGOTHROND finally said between his fits of laughter.

JUST_EVILNESS felt compelled to speak. "We should support our junior and not make fun of him. It is our duty to do so. We shouldn't make him feel bad."

SYNCLAIR glared at him and said, "Shut up. You are ruining our mood. We came here to mock and not to encourage. This event is traditional. And it will continue after we are gone. You should be glad that someone will take up your mantle of clumsiness. We won't have to laugh at you anymore."

The others laughed all except Teacher SQUARESKULL and the ever-brooding SLEEP DEPRIVED DEMON. SLEEP DEPRIVED DEMON hadn't spoken since the introduction. He or she kept to themselves. The other seniors didn't bother them, they were already used to the silent loner. So they focused on what they came here for.

They were here to watch Soverick fail to complete the 10 trips and they intend to enjoy every bit of it.

Chapter 163 What Is A Miracle?

The length of a single round trip is 100 km, but it isn't as simple as that. They all remembered their first experience through the ordeal. For most trainees, this is the first time that they have encountered such an environment.

There are a lot of things that made them fail the first run. First is the unusual terrain. The terrain was unfavorable to them, the ground was not safe to step on as they wished. Going up and down the peaks made things very difficult. Next are the cold winds. The mountain range may be artificial but the conditions are real.

The cold numbs the flesh and the mind, it will make stumbling very easy. The eyes cannot be used because of the snowy wind, so the divine sense has to be turned on throughout. It is a good thing too because only the divine sense can warn you of unreliable grounds not to step on. But the range of the divine sense is too short at this stage which makes getting lost very easy.

The most difficult of all is the air quality on the peaks. Their bloodlines might make them free of the requirement of food, but they still needed air very much. Only transcendents can survive without the need to breathe. The air quality at the simulated height of the peak isn't enough to fuel the stamina requirements necessary to make the trips. The cold will steal the heat of the body but the body won't be able to make more heat and also run because the air is thin.

Then there's the heavy spear. The trip is difficult enough as it is without the addition of the spear. The extra weight will drag you down as you try to go up a slope, then it will shift your balance as you try to descend from a slope. It makes mistakes easy to make when combined with the precarious environment. And if mistakes are made, then you go off track, which will result in you wasting time and energy in finding the right track. You need to go around the mountain range, not run in a circle around a single peak. Your wasted effort won't count towards the progress of the exercise.

These factors work against the trainees and make success impossible to achieve on the first try. It will take weeks of effort before you acquire good enough form with the spear to barely complete the 10 trips.

Thankfully, they have to do this every day until teacher SQUARESKULL deems the exercise completed. As it is, his seniors were waiting for Soverick to get lost, tire out and faint. They didn't think he would give up because determination is a must-have in order to complete the previous stage of challenges and obstacles. So they would swoop in and save this new junior of theirs. Then they will mock him until a new junior joins them.

That's what they expected. They didn't think that there was the possibility of anything apart from failure. Teacher SQUARESKULL was the only one that thought otherwise. He had seen the records of Soverick's exploits. He had seen enough videos that proved those exploits enough for him to expect the

extraordinary. He had also received numerous edicts from very strong people to take special care of Soverick. Everything he had seen or heard indicated one thing, that Soverick is a genius. Soverick would always break common sense by overcoming challenges and making it look easy.

It left one wondering if the challenge was as difficult as everyone said it is if Soverick can just steamroll it like that. He honestly didn't want to teach such a genius and was hoping Soverick would buckle down earlier and leave. He might be talented but he didn't think he was worthy enough to teach Soverick and the worst part is that Soverick thought so too.

"Transcendents have lost their value." SQUARESKULL muttered to himself.

The students respect them but they don't fear them. It is difficult to fear something that you can achieve in time. The number of transcendents in the family has skyrocketed due to royal bloodlines. So he tried to irk Soverick into disliking him. Apparently, his little tricks weren't enough to push Soverick away.

Now, he can admit to having been naive that Soverick would have asked for a change in teachers so that he can be rid of such a heavy responsibility. Soverick has changed his life more than he cares to admit. Just by being selected as his teacher, he came within the sights of numerous powerful people.

He watched intently while his students jested. Maybe their attitude would be different if Soverick had introduced himself during the introduction session. A single mention of his age or the amount of time he had spent in the secondary stage of the battle academy will have left them reeling in shock just as he had been.

But Soverick had watched the introduction impassively and unconcerned. The boy had said earlier that he didn't care for it, so he didn't partake in it either. SQUARESKULL chose not to push him. That's why his students are still clueless about the monstrosity that is their new junior.

While they were waiting for a fun sight, he was waiting for a miracle. Could Soverick pull an upset? How would he do it if he did create an upset? If Soverick did do something, he wanted to see everything up close. He didn't want to miss a single thing. That's why he could see Soverick waving his spear around at the start of the race. His spectating students also noticed the odd behavior.

"Is this junior stupid? Why is he moving his spear around like that? He will tire out very soon and might not be able to even complete the first trip." NARGOTHROND said and the rest began to laugh.

SYNCLAIR nodded sagely as she said, "Very smart. I should have thought of it. He isn't trying to complete it at all. He knows he can't, so he is trying to get tired as soon as possible so that teacher will have to excuse him. What a genius."

Even the JUST_EVILNESS that was of the opinion to encourage Soverick couldn't help himself. It was an hilarious performance on Soverick's part. Who could be so stupid as to move that heavy spear around like that, in such conditions? It was also the question that was on theirs and SQUARESKULL's minds.

It is because he was more open-minded that he thought of a very possible reason. Was Soverick trying to figure out spear form? If that is so, then Soverick would fail. The spear form is an instinctual thing. It is a lesson that the body learns due to impressions from the subconscious. It is a result of an epiphany.

The conscious mind cannot teach the body about the spear form because its influence on the body is abysmal. The conscious part of the mind can move the body around but most of the calculations and nerve instructions are performed behind the scenes. It is why a person that has just recovered from damage to their brain or nerves still cannot control some limbs, even though they are willing said limbs to move. The movement of limbs isn't as simple as wishing it to move, there are delicate nerve stimuli and precise muscle manipulation that occurs to make a limb move. There are some things that thinking about doesn't help to master. They are mastered with sudden moments of inspiration and enlightenment. The spear form is one such thing.

So He believed that Soverick was doomed. No matter the tests he makes with the weight, only the subconscious part of his mind actually does the calculation. Only transcendents can achieve perfect control of their body. One of the reasons for such an ability is the liberation of their mind and the change of their body from flesh to complete energy life form. Even children with awakened royal bloodlines can't possess such control and learning ability. It is an advantage of a change in the quality of life order.

Is there a way that Soverick could achieve spear form through such conscious efforts? Yes, there is. But he will need to have met the requirements for the second step of Spear mastery for that to occur. But that's also impossible. How could someone that is struggling with spear form be able to skip the one with the spear step of mastery and achieve seamless?

Even a mana entity will find it difficult to achieve the second step. In a normal world, the first step of spear mastery is meant for mana entities. That's why it is not a must to achieve the first step in order to graduate from the academy. The reality of the world is that some geniuses can achieve it at the level of

vitality core. To say a vitality core can achieve not only the first step but also the second is just a bad joke.

'Or is it?' SQUARESKULL asked himself.

If a miracle is to happen, this is the exact logic-defying thing that needs to happen for it to be considered a miracle. Achieving the first step of spear mastery at the vitality core stage is genius. Achieving the second step at this same stage is a miracle.

Chapter 164 The First Young Master.

His staunch belief began to waver as he saw Soverick improve visibly. Soverick's odd clumsy movements became more refined and sublime. The spear shifted around him like an old friend or an intimate lover. But what was more shocking is that Soverick had completed the 10 trips. He did not tire, he did not fail, and he was determined and unwavering. The small success wasn't even enough for him as he continued to refine his spear form.

"How?" NOBELLES senior asked.

"What is going on?" SYNCLAIR asked too.

"Impossible" JUST_EVILNESS exclaimed.

They were the only ones that could voice their inner shock. The other two were too stunned to talk. Their attention was also transfixed on Soverick.

SQUARESKULL shook his head in pity. He felt regret now. Maybe he shouldn't have called his students over. They wouldn't have witnessed Soverick's progress and have their worldview shattered. Hopefully, they will learn good things from this experience and be inspired to greatness.

The possibility of their life taking a downward spiral is very low due to their willpower. But they might spend some time in depression. It is the time that they will lose during this depression that will be the price they have to pay for what they saw today.

Time passed and hours went by until Soverick began to descend to the central plain. It was only then that his five students snapped out of their stupor.

"He is coming." SYNCLAIR whispered.

"That was more than 10 trips." NOBELLES senior also whispered.

"I counted and it was 31 trips." JUST EVILNESS added.

"He not only completed it but he did it three times." NARGOTHROND said still in shock. He wasn't laughing anymore.

They were whispering in the temporary mind network they had created. SLEEP DEPRIVED DEMON did not join them but was watching Soverick make his way to them.

SQUARESKULL shook his head again. He wondered why they were whispering. It is not like Soverick can hear them from such a far distance if they were to shout. They were also using their divine sense, so they should be safe no matter the volume of their communication in the mind network.

'This is how normal people behave. Not like Soverick, who shocked them into losing their common sense.' SQUARESKULL thought to himself.

Soverick descended to the plain and he accelerated towards their little group. He stopped in front of Karak.

"I've completed the exercise. I'm sure I performed satisfactorily. What's next?" He asked.

SQUARESKULL considered for a while before he replied. "Your performance was satisfactory. But you were not supposed to attempt so much in a go. You were supposed to get a feel for the spear form with repeated efforts. During that time, I'll give you more exercises that will enhance your affinity to the spear. Their combined influence will then ingrain the spear form into you."

Soverick shrugged. "That plan doesn't seem bad. But it is useless now. So we move on. What's next?"

"You do not understand. It is a carefully tailored and comprehensive training regimen endorsed by the authorities of the battle academy as the best approach to fusing technique and instincts. The aim of our training is to achieve one with the spear but that can only be acquired if you fuse technique and instincts. Our aim isn't just technique or instincts. You were not supposed to learn the spear form right now. What you have achieved has separated spear form as an instinct, away from the adjoining technique. It will make it very difficult to fuse them back in the future."

The seniors that were listening would have snickered at the thought that Soverick could achieve one with the spear if they hadn't witnessed what they saw today. The first step is required to beat the 13th milestone fight. Only the 12th milestone fight is required to graduate and it was what they were aiming for.

They have spent years in training and yet, they are all far away from that point. The best of them is SYNCLAIR and he is around the 200th position, still a far way from that. He had been preparing to face the ninth milestone fight at the 200th position instead of challenging someone close to him.

The milestone fight is the most important thing, not the individual ranking. The individual ranking is more of a thing of glory. It is an avenue for the trainees to release their pent-up stress. They can challenge and beat each other up. Battle sage monkeys can be very crazy about battles and the Ghastorix family can be extra crazy. So they need an opportunity to battle, plus the battle is also training.

It is sobering to realize that your junior is someone aiming for the 13th milestone and even worse is that he seems capable enough to achieve it.

Soverick tilted his head. "I see. What's done is done. What's next?"

SQUARESKULL was getting frustrated with Soverick's nonchalant attitude. Not for Soverick's sake but for his own sake. He didn't want to botch Soverick's training. "Do you think yourself infallible? Do you think you can just overcome everything that comes your way so easily? Yes, you have done something incredible but do not let it get to your head."

Soverick just chuckled. It was the first time his mouth made a sound since he met Karak. "I'm I infallible? No. Can I overcome everything that comes my way? Maybe. It depends. But things on this level of difficulty? Yes, and very easily too."

Then his eyes became frosty and his voice cold. "Don't lecture me about pride. I came here to learn about the spear. You are my teacher. You teach me what to do and how to do it, but I'll master it myself. That's your job. Now, I'll ask again and I hope for the last time. What's next?"

SQUARESKULL bristled. To be spoken to like this made him very angry. But he reined in his emotions. Partly because Soverick was right and mostly because he knew he was being watched. Someone else spoke before he could answer.

"How did you do it?" SLEEP DEPRIVED DEMON asked.

Soverick considered this person a little before answering. "Do what?"

"How did you acquire the spear form so easily?"

"Did you not sit here and watch me do it? That should have been enough for you or else you have just wasted your time."

SLEEP DEPRIVED DEMON rephrased the question. "I want to know what you were thinking as you were doing it."

"I am not under any obligation to tell you that. Since I am not, then I'll tell you it's none of your business."

Soverick turned to SQUARESKULL, content to let the conversation end there. He didn't mind the presence of these people. They can do whatever they want. But if their action is beginning to hinder him then he will lash back at them. And right now, this person, male or female, whatever and whoever they are, is hindering him from moving on with his training.

"I propose a trade, an equal exchange. You tell me what was going through your mind and I'll get you any mana weapon you want. Spear or whatever."

"I'll pass." Soverick rejected the offer.

He could get an Origin weapon if he wanted to. He didn't need to make a deal with this person for one, he certainly didn't want to make a deal for a mana weapon.

SLEEP DEPRIVED DEMON took his rejection seriously. "You cannot reject me. I am someone of considerable influence. Think about my offer again."

"I'll pass."

His second immediate rejection infuriated the second senior.

"Who do you think you are? Do you think you're a genius? Do you think your talent in the spear is better than mine?"

Soverick just ignored the questions. He looked at SQUARESKULL as if to say. "See what you've caused. This is all your fault. I didn't want them here."

The second senior then said. "I SLEEP DEPRIVED DEMON, daughter of Ulfir, the Origin god of eternal battle, declare that from today henceforth, we will be rivals."

'Oh, so she is a female. I wouldn't have guessed.' Soverick thought. Then he said. "You are beneath me. You are not worthy enough to be my rival."

SLEEP DEPRIVED DEMON fumed. "I wish I could impale you right now but you are obviously a spear novice. It will not be honorable to attack a weak opponent. I'll wait until you have acquired a decent skill with the spear."

Soverick pointed at her and an earthen bolt of mana, a fist-sized but very heavy rock, smacked into her face. She was knocked out and she slumped down to the ground.

Soverick examined her before nodding his head. "Better. Some people just need to be silent for them to become tolerable."

The people watching their little spat from the side widened their eyes in surprise. Their second strongest had been taken out with a single spell. The earthen bolt of mana is a very difficult spell to cast. It is because earth mana is very slow and difficult to shape. For Soverick to cast it at a moment's notice means he either was an expert with the spell enough to cast less than a second or he had mastered delayed casting. What was more impressive is that none of them noticed him casting it, except SQUARESKULL.

Chapter 165 Suspicion About Soverick.

Soverick's mental transmission rang out in the communication network. "Can we return to the matter of my training now?"

SQUARESKULL answered immediately. "Yes. But first, spectators must leave."

The seniors turned to leave the training room under SQUARESKULL'S glare. "Don't forget SLEEP DEPRIVED DEMON." He said.

JUST EVILNESS picked up the second senior that was still out cold on the ground and they left. Only when they had gone did SQUARESKULL continue.

"The spear form is a part of a warrior's instincts. We will move on to technique next."

Then he waved his hands and some structures began to rise from the ground. SQUARESKULL pointed to one of them.

"That is meant to train your aim and thrust. It will throw balls at you which you must strike with just the tip of the blade of your spear. In the first exercise with it, you will remain stationary while the balls come at you."

He started the machine and gave a demonstration. The machine will throw balls at a high speed toward SQUARESKULL while he executes spear skills at them.

"Watch my form and learn from it. Thrusting is a very simple and basic technique. It requires strength and agility. But what it needs the most is accuracy. The ability to track and aim truly is a very important

aspect of thrust. We are not supposed to start with moving targets but I don't want to waste your time. We can revert to stationary targets if you fail miserably at this."

SQUARESKULL was thrusting his spear as he spoke. It was a casual thing for him to do. He wasn't even looking at the balls as his spear went forward to knock them back. Soverick knew that he was using his divine sense to track the balls but it was still an impressive act.

"That's it. Easy, right? Any questions." He stopped showing off and asked Soverick.

"I think I got it. But do I have to use this heavy spear?"

"Yes, you do."

So Soverick took a stance with the heavy spear and began training his thrusting technique. He knew the act was more difficult than his teacher made it seem. The balls were very fast but not fast enough for him to find it difficult to track them. They were just fast enough that a single lag or delay will result in missing the ball entirely. He had to match his thrust with their speed and accurately predict their course.

This was different from the accuracy and precision training he did in the second stage. He wasn't using any form back then and he was using a blade. But now, he is using a spear with a spear form. A blade and a spear are very different things.

In reality, SQUARESKULL isn't aiming for the balls but where they will be at a certain point in time which is much more difficult than hitting stationary objects. So apart from the thrusting form, he is also predicting the future positions of the spear. Sometimes his movements were slow, sometimes fast as a blur but he would always hit the ball. His teacher was right about something though, hitting stationary objects would have been too easy for Soverick. What he was wrong about was that hitting moving objects will be difficult for him.

Soverick had watched him move several times. He accounted for the fact that the bodies of transcents don't work like normal physiques. For example, the center of gravity works differently with transcents. They can shift their center of gravity however they like by shifting their body mass.

So he focused on the shift in form as Karak moved and tried to mimic them. It was difficult at first to mimic a transcendent. The simple moves were not as simple as he had expected and the spear was very heavy to thrust with. But he began to make progress as he collected data and made adjustments.

He understood that he was missing something important in the fluid movements that SQUARESKULL displayed so he abandoned finesse and focused on functionality. And the functionality of the movement is to thrust the spear. His understanding of spear form helped him to thrust. When combined with his ability to make accurate predictions of the ball, hitting the balls became very easy.

SQUARESKULL watched as the blunt tip of the spear struck the balls out of the air. Soverick had been going at it for more than 4 hours now. Which was admirable in itself. He had expected soverick to drop in one hour tops for the simple reason that the spear was heavy. Thrusting with something that heavy will not only affect the accuracy but it will tire the arm out. No matter how diligent someone is, once their arm tires out, then they will stop training.

'He will get tired in the next few minutes or an hour at most.' Karak estimated how long it will take Soverick before he can't continue. Coupled with his expectation that Soverick won't be able to master the exercise in a day, means that he will fail and Karak plans to berate the boy then.

He was wrong about how long it would take Soverick to tire out. The boy's stamina was unnatural. He was also wrong about how long it would take soverick to master thrusting at moving objects. Soverick had taken more than 2 hours. He didn't even consider that the boy could master thrusting today.

'Something is going on here.' SQUARESKULL was beginning to suspect something about Soverick the more he watched him.

At first, the boy's movement had been jerky. He recognized what was wrong immediately. The boy was trying to copy him. It took all his willpower to hold himself back from laughing, but he snickered to himself. The display was like someone that couldn't walk trying to run. It was simply funny.

He had omitted the foundational technique for thrusting, which is hitting stationary objects. He knew Soverick was a genius and would be able to overcome this challenge after some time but he was hoping that the lack of the basics will stump him for a while and tone down his pride.

But the boy began to mimic his high-level movements. It was honestly strenuous to endure. He watched the boy stumble and fall over on his face all the while trying to keep from laughing. The boy couldn't even stand right talkless of hitting the balls.

Soverick wouldn't be able to master thrusting at this rate. The boy had made things unnecessarily difficult for himself. It seemed that he would get to swope in and berate him as he had expected. He could admire the boy's unrelenting effort. Even though his effort will burn through his stamina due to his very inefficient movements. Then the boy started to change after an hour of fumbling around. His movement lost the jerking and his feet became sure. He began hitting the balls soon after. But it didn't end there. SQUARESKULL noticed the application of spear form which almost made him curse. The boy was already fusing spear form with the thrusting technique.

'How did things move so fast?' he questioned himself.

He was supposed to start by thrusting at stationary objects. Next will come moving objects while the boy remains stationary. Then last will be both the object and the boy moving. It will culminate in the acquisition of necessary accuracy and judgment of spatial positioning using the spear. He realized that he wouldn't get to swope in anymore. Worse than that is that there is no more need for the third thrusting exercise because Soverick had acquired the necessary skills.

SQUARESKULL sighed. 'I hate my Job.'

Most times the students were poor and lacking. They do stupid things and refuse to improve. Those kind of students are stressful. Rarely does he encounter the perfect student. Obedient and quick to learn. Those are the kind of students that he looks forward to teaching. Then there are the praiseworthy geniuses, the ones that brighten up his day and make him proud to be called Teacher. They will soak in his words of wisdom and teachings like a sponge.

Of all kinds of students, extraordinary geniuses like Soverick are the worst. Their excellence and improvements are not because of you. They only need the beginning of a lesson for them to come up with the middle and the end themselves. You will be ashamed as a teacher if you dare attribute their success to your efforts. It is a secret mortification worse than the open shame you're allowed to feel for a dumb student.

The exercise had devolved into something of a game the more SQUARESKULL watched. Soverick's movement became fluid and efficient once more. He became capable of shifting his balance with the spear in tow. He tried and succeeded in hitting the balls while standing on only a single foot. He still hit

the ball when he turned his back in the direction of the ball. He could hit the balls with the butt of his spear without looking at them. It was enough for SQUARESKULL to know that he already mastered omnidirectional thrusting response. The ability to provide an accurate thrusting response towards an attack from any direction while being in any position.

'How did we get here so fast?' he asked himself again. This time he had a concrete suspicion and he couldn't wait to confirm it.

"That's enough," He shouted.

Soverick shrugged and stopped what he was doing. He could always resume his training later.

"That's good enough. Let's try something else."

He had to determine if what he suspected was right. So he switched the exercise from thrusting to sweeping, cutting, deflecting, and bashing. They skipped the basic stage and moved on to the advanced stage which required performing all these actions against a small but fast-moving object. He made sure to demonstrate them to Soverick and sat back to watch him train them.

The more he watched, the more his suspicion was confirmed.

'Mother High Heavens above. It is true.' He exclaimed inwardly.

He had his suspicion confirmed, but he wasn't too happy about it. The prospect of secret mortification just got worse.

Chapter 166 Intuitive Understanding.

'My Job just got worse.' SQUARESKULL complained to himself.

His worst fears came to pass and he didn't dare to show a negative reaction to them. He didn't dare to be jealous or be resentful. He schooled his expression as Soverick mastered the techniques with increasing ease. Soverick would watch him show the moves, then he will try it out, and soon he will get the hang of it. Then he will improve on it, assimilate it and then fuse it with what he already has. He witnessed this happen in real-time and he still couldn't believe it.

Soverick spent 4 hours mastering thrusting. 3 hours on sweeping. 2 hours on cutting. 1 hour on deflecting and 30 minutes on bashing. He was spending less and less time mastering the techniques. Soverick wasn't learning them, he was mastering them. That is, he was fusing them with his previous understanding. Yet, he was doing them in hours, not days or weeks.

SQUARESKULL had seen enough to confirm that Soverick had an intuitive aptitude and enhanced learning capabilities. To be specific he had a mind capable of dissecting and analyzing whatever he saw, then putting them back together in his mind, learning them along the way. This ability could either be for the spear, then Soverick will be a spear genius. Or it can be for everything he saw, which would make Soverick an impossible genius. Now he would like to see how far his ability could assist him.

"Let's move on." SQUARESKULL shut down the machine and beckoned to Soverick.

He began to explain their next exercise. "Now that you have mastered the basic spear techniques and you have apparently fused it into your spear form, we can move on to the next step. The next instinct to cultivate is the killing instinct. It is the ability of your body to sense killing intent and automatically react to it. You will be placed in a sensory deprivation chamber and beasts emitting a vague amount of killing intent will attack you. Any questions?"

"Isn't that intuition?" Soverick asked.

"It isn't intuition. Intuition is the advanced version of killing instincts. Killing instincts is a reaction of the body while intuition is a reaction of the soul. Killing instinct is subpar because it will not be able to sense those that don't emit killing intent, such as lifeless objects and people that have mastered the release of their aura. Intuition can sense any threat, seen or unseen, alive or otherwise that constitutes a threat to the person."

Soverick was confused. "Then why bother with killing instinct? Why not learn intuition instead since it is better?"

His teacher explained carefully, "Intuition is more difficult to acquire and much more difficult to teach. But it will become easier to learn if the killing instinct has already been mastered."

Soverick nodded in understanding before asking, "Do we have to work on killing instincts if I already have intuition?"

"You already have intuition? When did you acquire it?" SQUARESKULL asked with a calm voice.

He suspected as much. That Soverick possessed intuition did not come as a surprise to him. But he refuses to believe it is a low-level one. In truth, he wasn't supposed to jump to this stage yet. There were still some steps to show Soverick but he skipped them. He had been training Soverick for less than 5 days and yet, they've already covered weeks of struggles for other students.

Soverick is clearly not a normal student. So he won't waste time on normal things. He planned to cover them in the future by taking advantage of Soverick's prodigious ability to learn. He would show Soverick how spear-wielders fight and let him practice what he sees. But for now, he wants to determine the limit of such a learning ability. It might be unusual to teach a student what he is about to do but is anything about Soverick usual?

"I acquired it during the forest stage of the Obstacle course," Soverick answered.

Intuition isn't something he just acquired but he can't very well say that he acquired it in his past life when he went hunting in the demon realm. The constant brush with death and unrelenting pursuit by demons honed his senses enough to acquire intuition. No, he would rather say something mundane and plausible.

SQUARESKULL did not look like he believed Soverick. Soverick had already shown the ability to learn quickly before the obstacle course. He was able to adapt quickly and overcome other challenges but no one suspected him of having intuitive aptitude. If they did, then no one told him. What really clued him in is Soverick's ability to imitate skills as long as he has gotten a good look at them. SQUARESKULL suspects that the boy might have acquired intuition longer than the stated time but it doesn't make much difference considering Soverick's age. 2 years is still a very short time to have acquired it.

"Is that so? You won't mind if we test it out?" SQUARESKULL asked.

Soverick shrugged and answered. "Sure. Let's test it out."

"Then follow me."

SQUARESKULL formed a platform that Soverick stepped on and they sped out of the training world. Then they returned to the first hall where they performed the introduction session. They found someone waiting there. It was the second senior, SLEEP DEPRIVED DEMON, the arrogant young mistress.

She shouted immediately after she saw him. "You dishonorable and despicable person. You have defiled the honor of the royal bloodline of eternal battle. With my spear, I shall recover that honor and with my influence, I shall stomp on your progress. You are playing with forces beyond your capabilities."

SQUARESKULL and Soverick ignored her and went through another door in the hall. SLEEP DEPRIVED DEMON stomped her foot on the ground. She was very angry at the outcome of things. She was hoping that her behavior would make Soverick angry at her but he was bent on ignoring her. That had to change. She did not want an apathetic junior brother, what she wanted is a rival.

Chapter 167 The Bloodline Of Eternal Battle.

Her bloodline had been cold for a while now, there had been no battle, hence there was no need for the fire in her bloodline. But that changed when she saw what Soverick did while overcoming the ordeal that is the mountain range. She knew at that point that he must become her rival.

Her bloodline, the eternal battle royal bloodline like most bloodlines gave her two advantages in affinity. For the elemental advantage, she got the air element. So she had a god-level talent for the wind. Then there is the advantage of her divine ability. For her, it is the affinity of battle. God-level talent in wind is not anything special nowadays when every child with a pure awakened royal bloodline has one. What's special about her bloodline is the ability to grow more talented by defeating talented people. She grows stronger with every victory by stealing their talents.

There are some drawbacks and limitations to the ability. Her eyes has to identify the person but her eyes hadn't awakened yet, she is still in the vitality core stage. The second condition is that the person's talent must be greater than hers. Only then will she be able to designate that person as her rival. She will be able to steal that person's talent if she defeats the person until they have equal talents. The third drawback is that she mustn't lose to someone of lesser talents. It is a dangerous drawback but the momentum she builds up from her victories will make her more and more difficult to defeat.

Her plan was to stay relatively low-key and muddle her way until she becomes a mana entity. Only then will her eyes awaken and she will be able to discern talented individuals. Then she will be able to lock on to them as a rival. But that all changed as she sat there watching Soverick acquire his spear form.

Her blood boiled and thundered with the need to acquire his talent. It was something beyond her comprehension and she must acquire it. Too bad that her eyes weren't awakened yet so she couldn't forcefully designate him as her rival. She needs him to acknowledge her as a worthy rival. Only then can she share in the bounty that is his talent. And she intends to achieve it either by hook or crook.

"He will have to take the bait one way or the other. Then he will fall to me." She said as she left to make her wishes come through.

She didn't bother to think about how easy it had been for Soverick to knock her out. He simply caught her unawares. She is confident of a victory against a spear novice as long as she is prepared.

If all else fails then she will stop repressing her refinement and break through to the mana entity stage. She might have to drop out of school for that, but she will do anything to acquire Soverick's talent. She will be able to lock on to him and then fight him then. Her bloodline did not have any restriction for strength level, so she might be way stronger than him but she will still be able to steal his talent.

"He might be proud now but that will change when I defeat him. That hubris that his talents gave him might be justified but I'll rend it all down. He is nothing but my prey." She swore quietly and clenched her fist in anticipation.

She will have him no matter how it all plays out. She will tear a huge chunk of his genius and improve hers with it.

Meanwhile in the New Training World.

"I don't know what happened to her. She used to be the most reserved of my students. But something about you roused her fighting spirit. I have never seen such fervor in her even in training. She always had an aura of calmness about her but that has changed all of a sudden." SQUARESKULL said when the door closed behind them.

Soverick didn't say anything. He didn't have anything to say about SLEEP DEPRIVED DEMON apart from the fact that he felt a slight wariness toward her.

It had changed his evaluation of her from a nuisance into a nuisance that he must get rid of. He has resolved himself to get rid of her regardless of whose child she is, as soon as he sensed anything off about her. He had his guard up only slightly because she wasn't a threat. He just felt that there was

something iffy about her. But she ultimately wasn't a threat so he put her out of his mind and chose to focus on something else.

He looked around the training room. It resembled his former one in that it was like being inside a nondescript silver box.

SQUARESKULL waved his hand and some beasts appeared. They were herbivores with trademark horns that indicated them as brittle rams. The Rams aren't brittle but their horns make whatever they hit become brittle. Their horns are made up of a special material that transmits a vibrational force into things that they come into contact with. The vibrational force increases the higher the impact of a collision. The vibrational force is capable of bypassing most defenses and causing internal damage, hence their name, brittle rams.

"You will fight these beasts. Their attack pattern is pretty simple. They will try to ram you and you mustn't let their horns hit you. So you avoid them. But the array will deprive you of your sight, hearing, and divine sense. They also won't release the faintest battle lust or killing intent. So You will have to Intuit their attacks and evade them. Successful attacks on the brittle rams will reduce their capabilities until they are eliminated when they take too much damage. Any questions?" SQUARESKULL asked.

Soverick replied. "No questions."

It was a simple test and he didn't see any sort of complications about it. He is to kill the brittle rams while he is blind and deaf.

Occasionally missing content, please report errors in time.

Chapter 168 The Instinct Of Intuition.

"Are you sure you have intuition? Their attacks are particularly unpleasant. While it is easy to evade them because of their straightforward attacks. Failing to evade them will cause organ hemorrhage. I noticed that you have high vitality, so you will heal faster. But it is better to avoid the pain entirely. We can always move to less difficult things."

SQUARESKULL wanted to cover his base. It is true that he suggested the test, and it is true that someone at the vitality core stage should not be considering intuition. Intuition is something that mana entities labor to acquire. So it is true that he has digressed from the normal teaching plan. But let it not be said that he didn't warn Soverick about the dangers of failure.

Brittle rams are mostly harmless herbivores. They can be swatted away or easily evaded if you can see them and know that they are coming. If not, their horns do pretty nasty damage to internal organs. He wants to remove any responsibility from the consequences that will occur if Soverick fails.

Soverick answered impatiently, "Can we start this already? I said I have intuition."

He has had the sense of intuition for quite a while now. It was how he knew that he was being watched at the beginning of the forest choke point. It was how he could anticipate the attacks of the titan frogs, they were just too fast by the time he sensed them. It was how he knew that something bad would happen if he allowed the sky rats to crash to the ground. It was how he was able to escape the sea monsters during the eye of the sea challenge without seeing them. It was how he could anticipate the attacks of the hydra heads.

"Alright then. You may begin."

SQUARESKULL snapped his fingers and Soverick felt his senses become inundated with silence. His sense of touch and taste were still present. But his divine sense only reported statics and his eyes saw only darkness. He could break the force acting on him with some exertion but there was no use doing that for a simple test.

Even with his major senses deprived he could sense that he is currently being observed by 11 pairs of eyes. 10 pairs from the brittle rams and one from SQUARESKULL. A brittle ram began to trot towards him. It was not running towards him for pleasantries because it placed its horns forward for their impending meeting. Soverick didn't know that but he sensed an attack coming for him and so he waited. The sensation of impending danger continued to increase but he waited and only dodged at the last moment. His feet pivoted and he raised his spear. He didn't plan to just dodge the attack, he also brought down his heavy spear for a smashing attack.

The heavy spear landed on the back of the brittle ram and broke its spine. The beast shattered and disappeared into motes of light. He didn't see it but he could tell that he had one less observer. They didn't give him time to relax before their next attack. Two more rams were coming for him.

Their hooves struck the ground as they began to pick up speed. He used the momentum of his smash to swing the spear in a wide horizontal arc. The arc happened to be in the path of the incoming rams and

the spear knocked them away before they also disappeared. The spear was so heavy that a good hit with it deals a lot of damage to the fragile constructs.

Three more rams began their charge towards him. Their direction was such that he wouldn't be able to swing his spear to get them all. He also wouldn't be able to use his finer spear skills to fight them because he only knows their relative direction but he doesn't have the necessary judge of distance and depth to make precise strikes.

He moved to face one of the Rams while he ignored the other two. Then he dashed forward and brought down the spear for a smash in the direction of the ram. His dash moved him out of the way of the other two rams who collided because of his absence. They had been planning to pin him in but he could sense both direction and distance of threats with his intuition. He resolved the three attacks like that.

He noticed that while he was fighting, more brittle rams were replacing the ones he had eliminated. There are still 10 brittle rams surrounding him but only four are attacking him now. Their placement is such that he won't be able to make them collide. They attacked him in two pairs from directions that were at right angles to the other pair. One pair from his front and the other from his right.

He smirked and ran forward to meet a pair, creating some distance between him and the other pair. He executed the horizontal sweep attack on the pair he ran to. He smashed them with his spear then he turned towards the other pair. He used the short time before they got into his attack range to prepare for another smash. He plans to sweep them away just like he did for the first spear but then they separated. One of them even lowered its speed so that the other will reach him first. He will be caught off guard if he makes that wide horizontal attack again.

"Not making this easy are you?" He thought to himself as soon as he noticed a difference in the rising intensity of the threats.

He moved before they could create enough distance between them. He jumped towards them and swung his spear through their position. There weren't too far apart so the spear struck the two of them across their sides with the blade of the spear. It tore a huge chunk out of their virtual structures and destroyed them.

He landed with his spear ready and prepared for any more attacks. The number of brittle rams increased again as their number was topped up. He half suspected that all ten of them will attack him at the same time. Their increased number will push him to the current limit of his spear mastery but he was

confident in handling all of them. He just had to remain calm, evade when needed and retaliate when opportuned. Then his senses returned abruptly and the brittle rams disappeared.

SQUARESKULL was clapping. "Well done. You went above and beyond my expectations."

Soverick's face remained impassive. He adjusted himself and walked towards his clapping teacher.

SQUARESKULL nodded. "I am impressed. I was sure you would show off or at least swell due to my compliments but you seem unfazed. That face of yours remains frozen. In fact, the only time I have ever seen you change expression is when you are training or in battle. You hardly talk either. Why is that?"

Soverick answered. "Someone said that I have a cute face but I ruin it whenever I open my mouth."

SQUARESKULL laughed before coughing to try and cover it up. "That must be tough for you. I bet it's a family member that said that."

"Yes, my stupid father."

Ghoto had said that to him when he was fidgeting about the arrival of his father, Tandrak. He had told Soverick that to keep him quiet.

"I see. He is probably right."

Soverick shrugged but kept quiet, he was unwilling to engage in this conversation any longer. SQUARESKULL got the hint and chose to move on.

He began the evaluation of Soverick's performance.

"You were supposed to evade the rams but you actively attacked them. I am sure you possess intuition and your performance indicates that it is at a high level. What did you notice about the numbers of brittle rams?"

Soverick answered immediately. "You showed me 11 beasts but that number became 10 when I lost my senses. I was attacked by a brittle ram, then two, three, and then four. I eliminated all of them but their numbers were replenished and kept constant at 10. That's all.

SQUARESKULL clapped. "You are right. I wanted to test your range of detection and if you could determine all the enemies. Now I'm sure, so we can start the next step and I have something special planned for you."

Soverick turned his wandering eyes back on his teacher. SQUARESKULL was pleased that he got his attention.

"Since you have the intuition instinct mastered, what you will do next is master its accompanying technique. But, I am going to tweak it a lot to cater to your special needs. I hope you're up for it. Follow me."

The training regimen for spear mastery consisted of fusing Instincts and techniques together in perfect harmony. With Intuition mastered,, it was time to learn the complementary technique. Hopefully Soverick will be able to fuse them together or SQUARESKULL will be in big trouble.

Chapter 169 The Spear Dance Technique.

They left the sensory deprivation chamber and came to the main hall again before they entered another training room. SLEEP DEPRIVED DEMON had already left the main hall so they didn't see her there.

"It seems your second senior had decided to do something productive with her time. That is good of her. With that sudden motivation of hers, she can do almost anything. Hopefully, she is up to something good." SQUARESKULL observed.

"I doubt that," Soverick said.

His teacher shook his head at Soverick. "Don't be so negative."

Soverick shrugged. He very much doubted that his second senior will be up to something good but he didn't care enough about it to argue with SQUARESKULL.

SQUARESKULL changed the subject.

"You might be wondering why we have so many rooms. They are there to cater to different users and to accommodate my many students. Of your five seniors, only the first, second, and third have finished their practice sessions with me. I still train the other two seniors occasionally. We still have 3 more training exercises to go through for you. Only when you have mastered them will I allow you to join the ranking battles."

Soverick nodded and inspected the room they just entered. It seemed similar to the last one except that there were some circles drawn on the ground. Each circle is spaced with a distance of a meter between them.

"The technique I am about to give you is called the dance of the spear. It is a movement technique that trains body control. Body control is the ability to exert control over the body such that the full strength of the body can be fully capitalized. I know you already have body control but don't dismiss this technique because it is a requirement for something higher." SQUARESKULL began to explain the training exercise.

"This technique is something that everyone at the vitality core stage performs every time because body control is never permanent at this stage. It can easily relapse because body control is not natural for those at your stage."

"If something isn't natural, then it will be rectified by the body the same way that the body tries to prevent your vitality core from completing its conversation. This resistance is because the body considers mana unnatural."

"Only mana entities have a modicum of body control which will increase until they become transcents. You have the body control that is more than that of an ancient mana entity but less than the perfect control of a transcendent. This means that you don't need this technique but must master it for what I want to really teach you.

Soverick nodded.

"Watch and learn. I'll perform it slowly so make sure to get everything." SQUARESKULL said before he started a series of movements. His body contorted and stretched in strange ways. The spear dance

looked like an aerobic exercise. It didn't look like something you do with a spear and it didn't seem difficult.

"Did you get it?" He asked Soverick after performing the movements for 30 minutes. There were no repeated movements but Soverick had it all memorized.

"Yes." He answered.

"Then show me."

Soverick performed the spear dance. He stumbled a few times but he completed it. He was slower so it took one hour for him to complete. SQUARESKULL was impressed that he got the entire thing by seeing it once.

He shook his head and said. "You don't cease to amaze me. What you will do now is to continue practicing the movements until there is no pause in your actions. The transition from one stance to the other must be smooth and fluid. I expect nothing less than perfection from you."

Soverick nodded and began to perform the exercise. SQUARESKULL chose to sit on his spear and meditate.

Soverick had to admit that he was wrong. The movement exercise was not as easy as he thought. He has good control of his body but the strange dance required him to move his body in ways he did not think were possible. His body had never performed these movements so the unfamiliarity with them felt strange to him.

Imagine freezing your body while you're off balance. Then somehow regain your balance by pulling yourself up using the contracted muscles of your thigh, stomach, and back. It is just one of the strange movements meant to make usually unassociated muscle groups work together to achieve unusual goals.

It was not difficult per se, just unfamiliar and unnatural. It could not be compared with what he had to do to learn how to run on mud or water. For those techniques, the body could do it if he forced the body. But for these movements, the body isn't supposed to be able to do it. It is unnatural and difficult.

Just like SQUARESKULL said, he already has body control. He acquired it when he started the footwork technique. So he got the hang of the spear dance after 3 more tries. He spent 30 minutes on it the first time, which fell to 15 minutes for the second time and 6 minutes for the third time.

"I'm done." He said to SQUARESKULL.

"Do it again."

Soverick obliged and went through the spear dance. This time he spent just five minutes to complete it.

"How many stances are in the spear dance?" SQUARESKULL asked him.

Soverick thought about it and replied. "172 stances."

"Good. Now go and stand in that circle at the center of the room. The circles near you will light up occasionally. You must perform each stance in a different circle of light. Follow the pattern of the light."

The circle he was supposed to start in lighted up immediately. Soverick went to it and performed the first stance. He bent down and touched his toes with his hands then he lifted his right leg backward. He straightened the right leg and stayed in that form waiting for the next circle to light up. It took five seconds but the circle just behind him lit up. So he brought down his outstretched right leg into the lit-up circle. He folded his hand behind him and jumped backward using only his left leg to propel him. He must then balance himself without the assistance of his hands or his right leg. When he has balanced himself on a single foot, he must stretch his left leg forward and remain in this position until the next circle lit up.

The next one was is a circle to his immediate right. To get there he must jump with his single left leg towards it, cover the 2 meters needed to reach the center of the new circle, and not stumble. Then start the third stance.

Without the circles of light, he would have been able to complete the dance of the spear in less than 5 minutes. Yes, the stances require him to stand on a single leg sometimes, or his toes, or even a single hand. It was not difficult when he performed them in place. But to move from one circle to another in such a compromised state was gruesome. It was a gruesome 15 minutes that left his muscles quivering

and spasming after. He even sweated which made him admit that it was an aerobic exercise, not some silly made-up contortion.

"How was it?" Karak asked him when the last circle dimmed.

"I can see why it is a movement technique. It is not evident yet but I can tell that I can accelerate much quicker and change directions easily." Soverick answered.

He felt his body able to make vertical and horizontal shifts more easily. And the distance he could move with different amounts of effort became an instinct that his body could determine without his mind. Spear dance is a technique meant to make the movement of the body through reflex and instinct more efficient. While it is a good thing to be able to respond to killing intent, it is a better thing for the body to respond properly.

"Good. What you just completed is the easy phase. Just 5 seconds for each stance."

"That's easy?" Soverick frowned. If he was having problems with it then he doesn't think others will fare well. And the problem he is having is the physical capabilities of his body. Something felt out of sync.

Karak offered an explanation. "I know what you're thinking. This is not an exercise for those at the vitality core stage. It is meant for mana entities because they have the necessary range of motion to complete it. Even then they struggle with it, but completing it gives them permanent body control. Only the first exercise without the circle of light is performed by those at the vitality core stage. Do you understand?"

Soverick immediately understood where the problem is.

"I see. It is an inherent limitation of body composition. I have body control, that's why I was able to complete it even when I shouldn't."

He was doing an exercise meant for mana entities who have acquired the flexibility and adaptation of a higher life form. It was understandable that his body shouldn't be able to perform the spear dance and admirable that his mind was able to assist his body in achieving it. It showed how high the control of his body is.

Chapter 170 The Fusion Of The Coiling Dragon And Striking Viper Techniques.

"Yes. My other students will perform the first exercise before starting the race of the mountain range. The body control they acquire might be temporary but it will open up their mind and body to other ranges of motion for them to acquire spear form. They will then use their budding spear form to tackle problems of the acquisition of basic spear skills. This will form a favorable circle of influence that helps to hone their body. It is also the foundation of fighting proficiency."

SQUARESKULL eyed Soverick. "But you skipped the circle and went ahead of yourself. You're an anomaly that has body control without the body composition for it. You have eidetic memory something only seen in transcendents and intuitive knowledge that transcendents don't even have."

Soverick simply shrugged. If SQUARESKULL was trying to ask how come he has body control then he should come out and say it. Even if he asks outright, Soverick still won't answer him. He can't tell anyone that his mind far outclasses his body, so the body must do what he wants, no questions asked.

"I did not make you do all that to praise you. I did it so that you have the knowledge of the possible range of motion for your body, then you might be able to complete this technique. You need to know what your body is truly capable of before you can execute this technique." SQUARESKULL said and then waved his hand. A memory crystal appeared within it and he gave it to Soverick.

Soverick received it with mild curiosity. He was curious about what was so special for him to have to go through that straining exercise. But he doubts he will be impressed. He had been able to overcome everything that came his way so far and he doubted this will be any different. He absorbed the information within it and he quirked his eyebrows.

SQUARESKULL asked. "What do you think?"

Soverick answered mildly. "Impressive technique. It will be difficult to master."

SQUARESKULL rolled his eyes. "You don't sound or look impressed."

"What can I say? I am not a very reactive person."

SQUARESKULL sighed. "It is going to be difficult alright. It combines the coiling dragon and the striking viper technique into a new form called the coiling momentum technique. It is surely not for the vitality core stage of refinement. Some mana entities find it impossible to have any amount of success in it. Only genius mana entities like me and most people with a royal bloodline can achieve mild success. It is a technique meant for transcendents."

Soverick simply nodded. The technique was unique and something he had never seen before but the fact that it is meant for transcendents didn't put him off.

Seeing that he still didn't react, SQUARESKULL continued to talk about the difficulty of the technique as if to convince Soverick of it. "It requires intuition for sensing momentum and adequate body control. You are very talented. Beyond extraordinarily so. I can admit that. But it is going to be very difficult for you to even have mild success."

SQUARESKULL chuckled to himself when he saw Soverick cock an eyebrow.

"This will surely stump you." He said with finality.

Soverick tried to visually simulate the technique. The coiling dragon technique is a technique that amplifies the potential energy created by the contraction of muscle by sacrificing stamina. The striking technique absorbs external kinetic energy and redirects it by transferring the energy within the body for a short while and finally back again. Combining this technique involves using the striking viper technique to siphon the potential energy of the muscles created by the coiling dragon technique. This energy is then stored in something called a Gate. When the gate is strong enough then it can absorb external kinetic energy.

This gate is a clump of force that continues to increase in size as more potential energy is stored in it. The gate can be harvested to create a burst of kinetic energy that will lead to an explosive rise in acceleration and speed but for a short while. Or it can be nurtured to empower a mana body. The second use is why mana entities learn it. The gates can be more than one and they can amplify the physical capabilities of the body.

The more he visualized it the more intrigued he became. But he wasn't overly impressed because the technique will become obsolete with a body of law, i.e when he becomes a titan. That's a result of his high level of taste. But he was impressed because with this technique, battle sage monkeys can rival spell weavers of the same rank in martial prowess.

"The technique is meant for transcendents. Only they can perfectly control the gates and harvest them slowly. They can stop the activation midway and continue to nurture it. I operate it constantly and save power for when I need it in a fight. It's like a bank with a very high return on investment. Any resources become more valuable when you are in a fight. I am saving it for the tower of heaven. It is like a reusable trump card for me."

"Even if mana entities have small success in it, the gates they form can only be harvested at once. They can't stop the harvesting process until the gate disappears and they can't regulate its output to make it last longer. The more gate is harvested at once the higher the amplification effect. The reason I want you to create gates right now is so that they can solidify when you become a mana entity. It has been theorized that if a gate experiences the mana infusion that occurs during the process of breaking through to the mana stage, it will become an organ. Do you know what I mean?"

"It will become something like the vitality core?" Soverick answered.

"That's right. That means you will have higher control of it and will be able to regulate the harvesting process. It also won't disappear when it is used up and will be easy to replenish. There are three phases of the technique. The activation phase, the gate formation phase, and the empowerment phase. Why don't you give it a try?"

Soverick considered what SQUARESKULL said. If he was right, then he would have a massive advantage when he becomes a mana entity. But it is ultimately short-lived. The concept of organs will lose all its meaning at the transcendent stage. At that stage, there is no difference between flesh and soul, only energy and force matter.

That's why any race can procreate with each other starting from the transcendent stage. It is also the lowest stage for the creation of a true heritage, a bloodline. All this means is that the organ he creates won't even be useful for him that long. But he decided to try it anyways. It is something new and he might break new grounds. No vitality core stage has been able to do it. He wants to find out if the gates will really become a new organ when he becomes a mana entity.

He nodded his head and sat down to practice the coiling momentum technique. He envisioned it and began to contract the muscles of his body in sync. The coiling momentum is a force and momentum technique. The gate is essentially a converter and storage for the two of them in the form of potential energy. It requires an understanding of force and momentum which transcendents can provide easily but Mana entities will struggle with. He has the understanding in spades but his body is lacking. So he

compensates for that with the manipulation of life energy through the understanding of a sovereign of life.

He failed again and again. Then he realized that his current posture was hindering him. So he lay on the ground and relaxed his body. He tried again and this time he began to feel progress. The idea of the coiling momentum is to absorb momentum constantly, either through moving, breathing, or later on through collisions with external objects until he becomes unstoppable.

With it, you won't lose speed as you run against the wind. You will instead gain more speed. As you walk, as you talk and as you fight or practice, you become faster and faster and faster. It will put an immense strain on your body but you must shoulder through. Then you can harvest the gates for a sudden burst of energy that you can use to empower yourself. There is an inherent limitation to the amount of force you can accumulate until you become a transcendent.

Soverick continued to cycle energy and he felt he was making progress in it. He had to be careful of the location he is siphoning potential energy from and how much. If he tampers with the intercostal muscles and his diaphragm then he might die if something isn't done quickly. His immense vitality won't be able to help him without enough air.

He felt himself become bloated and his muscles became too difficult to contract. He had accumulated as much potential energy as his body and vitality could safely allow. That was the indication to create a gate, so he set about creating one.