The Herb King

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121 The Rayden Household's Panic

On the same day, Verson brought over one thousand hunters into the Aethelwolf's mansion. This matter sparked a wave of discussions among the civilians and even the noble families and the imperial family heard about it. The Hunter Association tried to be secretive in transporting the hunters, but some people still noticed their movements. The news spread from one person to another and by nightfall, almost everyone in Lion City already knew about this.

Everyone was curious about the owner of the mansion and they want to know what his plans were for hiring a huge number of guards. They weren't even simple guards, but hunters with professional backgrounds. They could be considered elites among the guards!

Soon, the name 'Aethelwolf' became famous overnight. The people learned that this man was the owner of this mansion and he was a Level 4 Alchemist at the young age of twenty-nine. Some were still skeptical about the authenticity of the existence of such a talented individual, but many witnesses claimed that this guy truly exist and he even owns a clinic in Dominion District.

Meanwhile, the ten Doctors sent by Verson also came to Aethelwolf's clinic and signed up to become his employees. They were eager to work for their new boss who was said to be an individual who was on par with the legendary Lord Karman!

When this news entered the ears of the Rayden Household, their family head, Jericho Rayden, immediately summoned the upper echelons of his family to have a discussion. At first, he thought that his daughter was merely exaggerating things about Aethelwolf to incite his anger. Who would have thought that her words were actually true?

"I called everyone here to discuss about the emergence of Aethelwolf. I believe everyone has already heard about him." Rayden scanned the meeting room and saw that everyone was nodding their heads. Aethelwolf has become famous in just one night and even the top nobles took this matter very seriously. He is a Level 4 Alchemist at the age of twenty-nine and everyone believed that he still has a high chance of becoming a Level 5 Alchemist. What does that entail? The presence of a Level 4 Alchemist could ensure an empire's progress in the field of Alchemy, but a Level 5 Alchemist could already affect the balance in Regalis Continent.

There are only a few experts who are able to reach Level 5 and all of them are monstrous figures with unimaginable power and authority!

"A few days ago, that idiotic daughter of mine, Agnes, provoked this person." Rayden muttered in a heavy tone.

Everyone was surprised when they heard this.

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"Miss Agnes angered Sir Aethelwolf?! That is not good!"

"How about we let Miss Agnes bring some gifts to Sir Aethelwolf? We must not make an enemy with such an individual, Lord Jericho! The Reynolds Household is already difficult to handle and one more fearsome foe might cause our Rayden Household to collapse!"

Jericho furrowed his eyebrows when he heard their words. He already expected this to happen, but he couldn't blame them since he had been careless about this matter as well. He regretted not investigating about Aethelwolf. "I understand your concerns. As the family head of the Rayden Household, I won't tolerate the wrongdoings of Agnes even if she is my daughter!" He raised his head, showing everyone a pair of eyes that were filled with a chilling glow. "Tomorrow, I'll personally go to Dominion District and ask for Sir Aethelwolf's forgiveness! Agnes will be punished for her actions and she will be stripped of her position as the main manager of our business! She will also be on house arrest for one year to reflect on her mistakes!"

Everyone inside the meeting room was scared when they saw how angry the family head was. He didn't even hesitate to punish his daughter for the sake of maintaining the firm foundation of their Rayden Household! It was a cruel move as a father, but as the family head, it was the right thing to do.

"Prepare the Moonlight Frost Cauldron! I'll offer it as a gift to Sir Aethelwolf!" Jericho muttered with a dark look. His aged face contorted and he looked like he was about to kill someone.

No one dared to question him despite hearing that he was planning to give the Rayden Household's family heirloom. It was the only thing they had that might catch the eyes of a Level 4 Alchemist. After all, the Moonlight Frost Cauldron is a Unique-Rated cauldron!

"Yes, Lord Jericho!"

"Dismissed!" Everyone hurriedly left the meeting room.

When they left, Jericho slumped into his chair with a tired and weary expression, making him look as if he had aged even more. "To think that my Rayden Household"

actually has to bow our heads to someone. How the mighty have fallen..." He muttered weakly as he closed his eyes.

It was a huge blow to his pride to lower his head to someone, but he knew that it was the right thing to do.

Swoosh!

A figure suddenly appeared beside the old man. "My lord, do you want me to eliminate this person?" His voice was devoid of any emotion as if the act of killing someone was just a trifling chore.

It was a gray-haired old man with a thin frame. His eyes were murky, but they contained boundless killing intent. He is the strongest expert in the Rayden Household, Aurus Rayden, a late Level 4 Esper!

Jericho stared at the old man and shook his head.

"This is my fault for not treating things seriously. It will be difficult to kill a Level 4 Alchemist and I also don't want you to do that. He will be useful to our Leone Empire and his death would only make the neighboring empires happy. Don't mention this again." He knew that the Dustin Empire and the Ford Empire were still watching them closely. Killing a Level 4 Alchemist from their own empire would only benefit their enemies.

Aurus bowed his head lightly and disappeared.

122 Janrose Displays Her Power

(The Moonlight Frost Cauldron is a Unique-Rated cauldron.)

The next day, Jericho Rayden came to Dominion District with Aurus and a group of elite warriors. He didn't want to come here unprepared since this was the territory of his long-time enemy, Julius Reynolds. He would only feel safe with Aurus accompanying him.

The sudden arrival of the Rayden Household's family head shocked the people of Dominion District. Many of them knew about the feud between the Reynolds Household and the Rayden Household. They were wondering what Jericho Rayden's objective was for coming into his enemy's backyard.

Jericho's first stop was Aethelwolf's clinic, but when they arrived, they didn't see the man there.

Samira noticed them and frowned, but then she recalled Aethelwolf's teachings.

"Inside my clinic, whoever comes inside is our customer, so you guys must treat them with respect. However, if they cause trouble, you are free to kick them out."

Samira walked towards Jericho's group and smiled at them as she greeted. "Welcome! I wonder what the family head of the Rayden Household is looking for?" This man stole most of his grandfather's merits and she loathed his very presence.

Jericho turned his head at the young girl who bears a resemblance to Julius. He furrowed his eyebrows, but then he relaxed them when he thought about his intentions for coming here. "I'm looking for Sir Aethelwolf. Is he in the clinic? I have something important to discuss with him." He said as he forced out a smile. It has been a long time since he tried to speak in such a manner and the act of smiling felt so unnatural for him.

"Oh? Unfortunately, Aethelwolf isn't in the clinic. He left yesterday." Samira thought that it must be related to the conflict with the shop manager a few days ago. Perhaps the Rayden Household was planning to reconcile with Aethelwolf after they managed to ascertain his identity. Thinking about this, Samira laughed coldly in her heart.

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"He left? Do you know where he has gone to?" Jericho asked, lowering his voice a little bit. He noticed that the young girl was looking at him with disdain. It was at this moment that he realized who she was. Samira Reynolds, the granddaughter of Julius Reynolds, the heiress of the Reynolds Household!

Samira shook her head as she answered. "Aethelwolf didn't tell us where he was going. No one knows where he is." Even if she did know, she wouldn't tell it.

Jericho stared at her eyes for a long while before he let out a forced smile. "I see. That's too bad." He then left the clinic with his servants.

Samira stared at his figure with a mocking smile. "You must be regretting now. Aethelwolf looks gentle, but he is quite scary when he is angry..." She recalled the night when Aethelwolf burned the clothes of the clothing shop manager.

Meanwhile, Jericho clicked his tongue as soon as he got out of the clinic.

A figure suddenly appeared beside him. "How was it, my lord?" It was Aurus.

Jericho glanced back at the clinic and narrowed his eyes. "The little girl of the Reynolds Household is working for Aethelwolf. It seems like they have a close relationship. We must reconcile with Aethelwolf at all costs or our Rayden Household would be in a dire situation."

"I've visited his mansion, but the guards told me that he isn't there." Aurus muttered.

Jericho boarded his carriage and sighed. "Let's go to the battle arena and visit His Majesty for the time being. We can only wait until Aethelwolf returns to Dominion District. I don't think he would be gone for long."

Aurus nodded his head and the two of them remained silent throughout the journey.

"Janrose Yanez and Drake Hullman, please come to the stage!"

Drake Hullman is a nineteen-year-old warrior of the Hullman Household. He is a late stage Level 1 Esper and is one of the hottest contenders for the championship position. Coming from a military background, he already experienced his fair share of fighting and he even once joined an expedition to hunt down a large criminal organization.

Drake Hullman is a muscular young man who uses a shield and a sword as his weapon.

In the VIP section of the spectator's seat, the emperor shook his head in regret when he heard that Janrose would be fighting against Drake. Even Julius who was confident about the young lady also felt that her chance of winning was low.

"What a pity. She would have reached the top twenty-five or even the top ten if she didn't encounter Drake." Emperor Ragnar muttered regretfully.

"Drake is a talented young warrior who has a lot of battle experience under his belt. That young lady wouldn't be able to defeat him." A man dressed in a black uniform muttered as he observed the stage. This guy is Duke Baron, who came all the way from the borders of Lion City to Dominion District.

Under everyone's pitying glances, Janrose confidently walked to the stage. She has a sword strapped behind her back that gave off a sharp aura.

When the experts saw the sword, they realized that it was actually a peak Refined-Rated sword!

"That sword..." Julius furrowed his eyebrows as he fell into deep thought.

The referee of the match glanced at both the young fighters. "Are you guys ready?" After seeing them nod their heads, he announced. "Begin!"

Drake pointed his sword at Janrose and said. "I don't want to hurt a woman. Surrender."

Janrose chuckled as she unsheathed her sword. It was a gift given by her teacher before he left.

This sword was the best creation of Enrique Maynard, one of the three heirs of the Maynard Household! It was a sword that has almost touched the Unique-Rate and only fell short by a small margin.

"Big guy, I wouldn't have dared to fight you before, but a special person told me to aim for the top spot, so I have to apologize to you." Janrose grinned as she released her aura, displaying that she was a peak Level 1 Esper!

123 Golden Canistel

As soon as Janrose's aura was revealed to them, everyone was dumbfounded. She was only a mid stage Level 1 Esper two days ago so how did she suddenly level up twice in just one day? It was inconceivable!

A normal Esper would have to spend years of excruciating training to increase their strength by one minor level and even those supported by rich families would still need several months or even a few years!

Meanwhile, in the VIP section of the spectator's seat, Julius' eyes widened. 'Did Sir Aethelwolf also give her an Energy Augmentation Pellet? And that sword... I think I remember Sir Aethelwolf bringing the same thing when he first visited our mansion...'

"Oh? How did she increase her strength in just one day?" Emperor Ragnar was also surprised.

Duke Baron didn't say anything, but he was shocked as well.

On the stage, Drake furrowed his eyebrows as he looked at the smiling Janrose. "I have underestimated you..." He muttered as he raised his shield and lifted his sword. He couldn't be careless now that his opponent has revealed her true power. She was one minor stage stronger than him, but he was confident that he can fight someone at that level because of his experience.

The Hullman Household is a military family that has produced many great warriors and even generals. Their family head is also a general protecting the borders of the empire. With the bloodline of fierce warriors, Drake was so much stronger than people his age!

Janrose grinned as she executed a series of swift movemen who was toying with her enemy.	ts. She looked like a nimble
Clang!	
Clang!	

Drake managed to block her slashes with his shield, but he noticed that her strikes were getting faster and faster!

Clang!

Clang!

The normal people could barely see Janrose's movements since she was moving so fast! Only the Espers inside the arena were able to accurately discern what was happening. They found out to their amazement that this young lady also seemed to be experienced in fighting!

Janrose felt that the sword in her hands was perfect. It was light and easy to wield, making it easier for her to do complicated maneuvers. The increase in her strength also made her feel at ease and confident.

"I'll be more serious now, big guy! Be careful!" Janrose laughed gently as she spun in midair before delivering a slash that aimed for Drake's right leg.

Puchi!

The tearing sound of flesh echoed in the arena and everyone saw the young warrior of the Hullman Household suddenly losing his footing.

Drake wobbled under the intense pain, but he gritted his teeth as he used his shield to stand firmly. 'She's too fast! She is even faster than the little girl from the Urgel Household!'

"Shall we continue?" Janrose smiled at Drake when she saw his pale face. This was only a competition so she didn't attack his vital spot, but if this was on a battlefield, Drake's condition would have been worse!

The referee hesitated to stop the contest, but when he saw Drake's unwavering will, he decided to give the young man a chance. 'What a tough lad! Alright. I'll only interfere when he receives another serious wound...'

"Don't underestimate a warrior of the Hullman Household!" Drake roared as he slammed his shield, making the stage tremble! He then pounced at Janrose while completely ignoring the wound on his leg. When he neared her, he raised his sword and delivered a fierce chop.

Swoosh!

Janrose evaded the strike and counterattacked, but before her sword can reach her opponent, the referee intercepted her sword.

Clang!

Janrose smiled at the referee and sheathed her sword.

The referee took back his dagger and announced. "Janrose, victory!" He then supported the injured Drake, but the man waved him off and walked down the stage all by himself. He even refused the medical team who wanted to help him cure his wound. 'What a stubborn young man...' The referee muttered as he shook his head.

When the referee announced Janrose's victory, the crowd erupted into loud cheering. Most of them were from commoner backgrounds so they were hoping that someone with a normal status would reach the top positions. The commoners started treating her as their representative.

The remaining participants stared at Janrose's victorious figure with fierce glints. The strength she revealed was beyond their imagination and the only one who can suppress her was Alec Ward. They didn't want to admit it, but she had already proven herself to them with her power!

"Sister, how did that girl suddenly become so strong?" Grace pouted as she stared at Janrose with an envious look.

Julie was still wearing a veil to cover her face. She shook her head at her sister's words and replied. "I don't know. The last time I observed her, she is only a mid stage Level 1 Esper. No one can hide their power-" She coughed in embarrassment when she recalled a certain black-haired person. "Only one person managed to hide his power from me and I don't believe this girl is as special as him. Something must have happened yesterday for her to level up twice in a row." She was silent for a moment before she added in a serious tone. "I heard about a rare fruit, but no one has proven its existence yet. This fruit can increase one's power upon consumption!"

It was something she discovered in an ancient Alchemist's diary, but the Alchemist didn't note down detailed information about the fruit. Only its name was written clearly.

"A rare fruit? What fruit are you talking about?" Grace stared at her sister in shock. Was there really such a magical fruit in the world?

"Golden Canistel..." Julie answered vaguely and didn't offer an explanation. It was the only thing she knew about the fruit and she has yet to prove if it truly exists in Regalis Continent.

'What kind of magical treasure did that girl encounter? Could it be the Golden Canistel written in that old diary?' She thought to herself.

124 I'm Stupid

Alec Ward frowned as he looked at Janrose's figure. His position as the top contender in the competition has become uncertain because of that young lady. As a spy of the Northern Viper Group, he was tasked to perform well in the battle event. His pride wouldn't allow him to be satisfied with just getting into the top five. Besides, he had already promised his direct superior that he would get the championship. It would be embarrassing for him if he fails to obtain the top spot.

'Janrose... I won't allow you to win even if I have to use drastic measures!' He muttered coldly in his heart.

Janrose smiled at the spectators and waved her hands at them. She could feel the support of the crowd and this made her feel happy. However, she knew that this was only possible because of her teacher. 'Too bad you are not here to see me win...' She muttered.

Suddenly, a group of nobles blocked her path, preventing her from returning to the contestants' resting area.

"Hey, girl! How did your strength increase in just one day?"

"Did you eat a legendary fruit?"

"Where did you get that Refined-Rated sword?"

She frowned when she heard their interrogating tone. She truly despised these nobles who thought of themselves as above the common people. Did they really think that she would bow down to them just because of their high status? Just as she was about to offer a retort, she recalled Aethelwolf's words before he left.

"Just tell them that you are the student of the Level 4 Alchemist, Aethelwolf."

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Janrose let out a smile when she remembered those words. She then glanced at the rowdy nobles and replied with a cold look. "If you have questions about my increase in strength, you guys can ask my teacher. His name is Aethelwolf. I believe you guys have heard of him."

"Aethelwolf? Who cares who your teacher is!? Wait! Who did you say your teacher was? I think my ears have a problem."

"She said her teacher is Aethelwolf. Isn't that the Level 4 Alchemist who has been the talk of everyone in the city?"

When they heard that her teacher was Aethelwolf, the nobles' looked like they had swallowed a fly. They could only stare at Janrose as she walked away with her head held high.

'Damn! That felt good!' Janrose laughed in her heart as she returned to the resting area. She had been tolerant of those nobles during the past few years and she didn't even dare to talk back to them since she feared that they would hurt her mother, but it was different now. Her teacher is a powerful figure that even those high and mighty nobles feared and respected.

Hm?

Janrose paused her steps when she saw a familiar old knight walking in her direction. 'Eh? Isn't this the guard captain of the Reynolds Household?' She was taken aback when she saw Reed. She had seen this guy when Lord Julius visited the clinic last time.

"Miss Janrose." Reed politely nodded his head at the young girl.

"Is there anything you need, Sir Reed?" Janrose curiously stared at the old knight, wondering what his purpose was.

"His Majesty is looking for you. Please follow me to the VIP section upstairs." Reed said in a calm voice.

"His Majesty?" Janrose was shocked when she heard that, but she still nodded her head after regaining her composure. "Alright. Please lead the way, Sir Reed."

Reed brought her to the VIP section and when they arrived, Janrose saw three people seated together. One man was garbed in luxurious gold and white clothes. He has a golden crown above his head. 'That must be His Majesty.' Janrose thought. She then scanned the other two.

She was familiar with the old man, Lord Julius, so she moved her gaze to the remaining person. It was a tall and hulking man who was dressed in a black uniform. 'Who is that guy?'

"Greetings, Your Majesty! Greetings, Lord Julius! Greetings, er, Lord!" Janrose greeted the three people respectfully.

"Oh my. It seems like she doesn't know who you are, Baron."

Janrose heard the emperor's joking words and when she heard the name 'Baron', she finally knew who the last person was.

It was the Shield Duke, Duke Baron!

"It's not surprising that she doesn't know me, Your Majesty. I stay in the citadel most of the time and I rarely show myself in public." Baron chuckled as he shook his head.

"Come here, little girl. Sit beside us. You are Sir Aethelwolf's student so don't be courteous with us." Emperor Ragnar said with a laugh when he saw Janrose's nervous expression.

"Your Majesty, I think the little girl is intimidated by your aura. Just let her sit wherever she wants." Lord Julius said as he pointed at a seat near his spot.

Janrose saw this, but she ignored the old man's hint. She didn't want to provoke any of these three even if she was Aethelwolf's student. "I'll just seat behind you guys." She answered carefully.

She thought that they would also ask her about her suspicious level up, but the three of them only asked her about matters related to other things.

"So you're saying that you managed to summon your pill fire after being taught by Sir Aethelwolf?" Lord Julius asked probingly.

Janrose nodded her head lightly. She thought that Aethelwolf's teaching method was easy to follow so it wasn't difficult for her to learn how to summon her pill fire. "That's right. He spent an entire night teaching me how to summon my pill fire. I'm stupid so I only managed to summon my Pill Fire on my second try."

The three old people almost fell from their chairs when they heard her words. She is stupid because she only managed to summon her Pill Fire on her second try? Then what about those Alchemists who spent months or even years of training before they successfully summoned their Pill Fires?

"Can you show your Pill Fire to us?"

Janrose nodded her head and opened her palm. A small red flame appeared, flickering gently.

125 Jericho Arrives

When the Red Pill Fire appeared on top of her palm, the three Level 4 Espers stared at her in amazement. This girl already has the qualification to become a Level 1 Alchemist! The only thing left for her to do to be recognized as an Alchemist is by passing the Alchemy Examination. And with Aethelwolf supporting her, it was only a matter of time before she would get her license as an Alchemist.

"It seems like Sir Aethelwolf also has discerning eyes. He even spotted a rare talent like you. Actually, we've been keeping tabs on you, but we never knew that you have the talent to become an Alchemist." Julius smiled kindly at Janrose.

"Indeed. Other than His Highness Prince Christopher, you are the only one below the age of eighteen that has successfully summoned a Pill Fire." Duke Baron chuckled lightly.

Janrose also knew about Prince Christopher. He is an eight-year-old prodigy that shocked the whole empire! He is now a Level 1 Esper and a newly promoted Alchemist. He is still young and he has a lot of room for growth. With Lord Karman being his teacher, his journey as an Alchemist is destined to be smooth sailing.

"Lord Baron, how could I be compared to His Highness? I only managed to summon my Pill Fire because of Sir Aethelwolf's teachings." Janrose shook her head calmly.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

They all stopped talking and turned their heads curiously at the door.

"Come inside." Emperor Ragnar instructed.

The one who entered the VIP room is Jericho Rayden, the family head of the Rayden Household.

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"Greetings, Your Majesty!" Jericho smiled as he cupped his fists. As a Level 4 Esper, there was no need for him to bow or kneel to the emperor. It was a small privilege given only to the strongest warriors of the Leone Empire.

When Julius saw him, his eyes narrowed into slits. Jericho noticed his sharp gaze and chuckled softly. There seemed to be invisible sparks between their gazes.

Duke Baron remained silent as he watched the two old men enter into a staring contest. He quickly thought of a way to calm the tension and after a moment of thinking, his eyes lit up. 'Sigh. I wanted to keep this under wraps and only tell His Majesty about it, but I think I have to tell it now. These two old tigers might start fighting here if I don't do something...' He thought to himself bitterly.

"Take your seat first, Jericho." Emperor Ragnar muttered as he removed his gaze from them.

Jericho ignored Julius who was glaring at him and sat down beside the emperor. "Your Majesty, I hope you don't mind my unannounced visit. I came here to spectate the battle event and I heard that there are a lot of young talents."

Emperor Ragnar smiled and nodded his head. "You missed out on a lot of things, Jericho. You only arrived after Janrose's match. Too bad." The emperor stared at Janrose as he said this.

Hm?

Jericho finally noticed the young girl who was sitting nervously behind them. He was confused by the emperor's attitude towards her. "Your Majesty, this young lady is?"

"Janrose Yanez, a peak stage Level 1 Esper and a Level 1 Alchemist." Emperor Ragnar also didn't want Jericho to start a fight with Julius so he was trying to occupy the old man. Luckily, Aethelwolf's student was here and she was the perfect candidate to shift Jericho's focus.

Jericho looked at Janrose in surprise. "Eh? A Level 1 Alchemist? How rare!"

"I still don't know how to make 1st-Grade pills and I haven't gotten my license. I can only summon my Pill Fire." Janrose hurriedly explained when she noticed the attention shifting back to her.

Baron inwardly heaved a sigh of relief when he saw this. 'It looks like there is no need for me to interfere...'

"This young girl is Aethelwolf's student. I don't think she'll need a lot of time to get her license under Aethelwolf's tutelage." Emperor Ragnar was speaking the truth. In fact, he believed that Aethelwolf was more proficient in Alchemy than Karman.

'Aethelwolf's student?!' Jericho's eyes widened when he heard this and his casual attitude changed. This girl might know where Aethelwolf was since he is his student.

"Miss Janrose, are you really Sir Aethelwolf's student?" Jericho stared at her deeply.

Janrose nodded her head in reply.

"Then do you know where he is?" Jericho asked. He felt a bit ashamed since he was in the presence of his enemy. He didn't want to show weakness to anyone, but Aethelwolf's matter is urgent.

Before Janrose could reply, Julius suddenly spoke in a mocking tone. "Oh? I wonder why you are looking for Sir Aethelwolf, Jericho? Could it be that you somehow provoked him?"

Janrose's expression changed and she looked warily at Jericho. 'Is this Sir Aethelwolf's enemy?'

When Jericho saw the hostile look that Janrose was giving her, he turned his gaze at Julius and snorted at him. If the emperor wasn't here, he would have already beaten up this old man.

'This old bastard really gets on my nerves! Fuck!' Jericho cursed in his heart.

Duke Baron's eyes twitched. It looks like the two old men are about to fight. He sighed and immediately faked a cough. "Ehem! Your Majesty, I almost forgot. I actually visited here for an important matter. It is related to the safety of Lion City..."

Julius and Jericho who were about to square up immediately turned their gazes to Baron when they heard this.

Emperor Ragnar thought that Duke Baron was merely trying to prevent the two old men from fighting, so he chuckled lightly. "Speak freely, Baron."

Baron's expression suddenly turned solemn as he said. "We discovered an unknown individual flying away from Lion City. His destination is unclear and we have no other information about him. Your Majesty, only Level 5 Espers are capable of flight and this person seems to have taken off from the capital."

"What?!"

126 Shocking Possibility

Emperor Ragnar adjusted his posture and looked at Baron with agitation. "What did you say?!"

Baron took a deep breath as he answered in a low voice. "Your Majesty, I believe that guy is a Level 5 Esper and he was here in Lion City before he left."

Emperor Ragnar's expression turned grave as he ruminated Baron's words. The presence of a Level 5 Esper was very dangerous to the Leone Empire since they didn't have a warrior who can fight someone as strong as that. The person might also be an expert sent by another empire to observe the situation or he might be a passing hermit who has ulterior motives. There were many things to consider and the emperor thought of all various possibilities.

It wasn't just the emperor, the faces of Julius and Jericho also turned solemn. The two silently decided to forget about their feud for the time being since the matter at hand was alarming. Leone Empire didn't have the ability to go against a Level 5 Esper! Even if they send out all their Level 4 Espers, they would only die needlessly.

"Uhm, Lord Baron, when did you see this person?" A timid voice broke the silence and they all turned their heads to the little girl who immediately shrunk her neck when she sensed their gazes.

Baron replied. "Yesterday around noon."

"That's the same time Sir Aethelwolf left the clinic..." Janrose muttered carelessly in a silent voice, but the inclination in her words shocked everyone inside the room.

'I was discussing something with Sir Aethelwolf yesterday morning and I left before noon. Could it be...' Julius thought to himself with an incredulous look.

Janrose's words kept on replaying inside their heads and the more they thought about it, the more it sounded plausible. Aethelwolf left Dominion District at the same time the 'Level 5 Esper' was discovered flying. It was a simple coincidence, but the possibility of the two people being the same person was still there.

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Emperor Ragnar recalled Dimitri's words after they met Aethelwolf. "I can't sense his exact level..."

Janrose realized that everyone had become strangely silent so she didn't let out a sound. The people here were all important figures who could summon the winds and clouds of the Leone Empire.

The battle event continued, but no one inside the room was focusing on the matchups.

At the end of the battle event, Janrose excused herself and left the arena.

"Miss Janrose, can I have a moment of your time?" A respectful voice echoed behind her just as she was about to board a carriage. She turned her gaze and saw the family head of the Rayden Household, Jericho Rayden. Upon seeing the old man, Janrose furrowed her eyebrows.

According to Lord Julius, this person provoked his teacher. She didn't want to be associated with him to prevent Aethelwolf from misunderstanding her.

When Jericho saw her displeased look, he could only smile helplessly. "Miss Janrose, I came here in Dominion District to look for Sir Aethelwolf and apologize to him. It's true that someone from the Rayden Household angered him and it's also my daughter. I have already punished her for her actions. I just want to know if you have an idea where he has gone to so that I can apologize to him in person." Because of the matter earlier, Jericho no longer dared to secretly harbor malice towards Aethelwolf. Although the possibility of him being a Level 5 Esper was not yet proven, he believed that the man has the potential to become one.

Janrose's expression eased up when she heard the gentle tone of the old man. "Lord Jericho, to tell you the truth, my teacher didn't tell me where he would go, but I remember him saying that he will only be gone for a few days. If you really want to apologize to him, you can wait here in Dominion District and I'll send someone to notify you once he arrives."

"Sure! Let's do that! Thank you so much, Miss Janrose!" Jericho grabbed the girl's hands and shook them joyfully. He then released her hands awkwardly when he saw her fuming look.

"Just send me your address, Lord Jericho." Janrose glared at the old man.

"Please drop the honorifics with me, Miss Janrose. Sir Aethelwolf might blame this old man for treating you poorly. Just call me by my name or Sir Jericho is fine too." Jericho said with a smile.

It was imperative for commoners to refer to the nobility as 'Lord' or 'Madam', but now that she was Aethelwolf's student, her status took a drastic change and even exceeded that of the nobility.

She was hesitant, but she soon nodded her head. "Alright, Sir Jericho. If there's nothing else, I'll take my leave now."

"Wait! How about I send you back to your home? It's almost nighttime and the road might be dangerous. My guards can follow us along the way." After knowing more about Aethelwolf, the more fearful Jericho has become. He was hoping that Aethelwolf would let him off on account of ensuring his student's safety.

Janrose thought for a moment before eventually giving in. The old man seemed to be genuine in wanting to make amends with her teacher. "Fine. I can bring you inside the mansion to have some tea. We are currently living in my teacher's mansion and if you want, I'll have someone arrange a room for you to stay in."

"Really? Let's do that, Miss Janrose! I'll be more than happy!" Jericho smiled from ear to ear. He no longer had the resemblance of the fierce warrior that he was a few decades ago. He looked like a gentle neighborhood grandpa who was out on a vacation with her granddaughter.

Aurus who was riding on top of his mount sighed and shook his head when he saw this scene. He had already heard about the things they talked about earlier so he understood Jericho's situation. "We are getting old. I think it's also for the best to let go of our past hatred..." He muttered as he urged his mount to follow Jericho's carriage.

127 First Flight With Family

Aethelwolf managed to convince his parents to settle down in Lion City. They also chose to put their territory on sale, including his mom's clinic. They both looked sad as they signed the documents in the City Lord's office, but they became resolute when they saw Leric's innocent face. For their son's future, they were willing to leave their hometown.

"You guys can visit here any time you want. Traveling in a carriage from Lion City to Barden City will only take a few days. Some rare breeds of Equuses can even go faster than normal mounts." Aethelwolf consoled his parents gently. He also decided to find time to look for some rare mounts in the market. They would be useful for traveling around the empire's territory. After all, he couldn't just always borrow the Reynolds Household's carriages. They might be fine with it, but he felt embarrassed for using their carriages almost every day.

"The journey might be dangerous if it's just the four of us and we have to protect Leric as well. The outer borders of the cities are unprotected by the army and there might be bandits lurking in the shadows." Anton said in a solemn tone. He was a commander of Barden City's armed forces so he knew some important information. Other than the Northern Viper Group, there were also other bandit factions in the unprotected zones. They prey on passing merchants or travelers. Even the army found it difficult to thoroughly eliminate those people since they were very familiar with the terrain and environment.

Melissa's expression took a drastic change upon hearing her husband's words.

"Everything will be fine. Besides, we won't be traveling in a carriage. That would waste too much of our time." He promised Samira and the others that he would be back right away and he didn't want to go back on his words.

Anton and Melissa stared at Aethelwolf in confusion. If they won't be traveling in a carriage, how would they go to Lion City? "In that case, how are we going to reach Lion City?" They asked.

Aethelwolf smiled and pointed his finger to the sky. "We will fly."

His parents were dumbfounded by his words and he also let his clone speak. "That's right! Mom, dad, we flew from Lion City to Barden City. The teacher knows how to fly. Hehe."

Hearing the boy's innocent words, Anton became even more shocked, while Melissa tilted her head with a perplexed look.

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As an Esper, Anton knew what it means to be capable of flying. To his knowledge, only Level 5 Espers can do that! "Si- Aethelwolf, you- you are a Level 5 Esper?"

"Level 5 Esper?!" Melissa gasped and she could not help but cover her mouth with an incredulous expression on her face.

Aethelwolf merely smiled at their words. He didn't want to lie to them so it was best to not give them an answer. However, the couple took his silence as admission.

His parents' minds were in a mess and they could only stare silently at Aethelwolf. A Level 5 Esper is very rare in Regalis Continent and there is only a handful of them in existence. Perhaps there might be more in the distant lands, but those people are too far away from their reach and the place they live in isn't the kind that was habitable to normal people.

"We might be slower since I will be carrying all of you, but we should be able to arrive in Lion City within three hours." He smiled at them and extended both his arms. "Come and hold me. We are family now, so don't be shy around me." He smiled gently.

Anton and Melissa hesitatingly held his hands, while Leric climbed on his back like a koala.

"Alright. Hold tight." Aethelwolf wrapped them with world essence to prevent the air pressure from hurting them. His father would be fine, but his mother was only a normal human and she would be hurt by the fearsome air pressure above the sky.

He then activated his skill [Flight] and they soon started levitating.

At first, Anton and Melissa felt uncomfortable, but when they become accustomed to the act of levitating, their expressions eased up.

"Hehehe." His clone giggled happily as soon as they hovered in midair. The little boy's laughter also made his parents' nerves calm down.

"We are flying... You are indeed a Level 5 Esper..." Anton muttered under his breath as he looked at Aethelwolf's side profile. The guy looked so much younger than him, but his strength has already reached the height that he could only dream of.

"I hope you guys can keep this a secret for me. Everyone believes that I'm just a Level 4 Esper. I want to keep it that way for the time being..." Aethelwolf said.

"You can rest assured. As your family, we will not expose your secrets." Anton reassured him.

"I believe you guys." Aethelwolf smiled. He then increased their flight speed and they soon streak through the sky with extraordinary momentum, leaving behind a trail of white clouds in their wake.

The clone's laughter echoed above the clouds, resounding like a heavenly melody that brightened everyone's mood.

Meanwhile, Anton and Melissa watched the beautiful scenery with wide eyes. They would never forget this moment...

Aethelwolf detoured and changed routes. He didn't anyone to spot them so he flew in the direction with no settlements or cities.

After more than two hours of flying, they finally noticed the majestic walls that surrounded Lion City. It looked like an impenetrable steel fortress and the visible magic cannons and huge ballistas looked very imposing.

"Is that Lion City?" Anton has already been here a couple of times, but it was the first time he had seen the capital from an aerial perspective. It was beautiful and majestic!

"That's right. We will descend near the entrance. We don't want to cause a commotion in the city." Aethelwolf chuckled as he guided them to an area with no one in sight.

No one noticed them since they landed in an obscure corner of the city. They managed to bypass the guards on top of the walls and descended safely to the ground.

"We're here. Follow me. We need to board a carriage to reach Dominion District. My mansion is located there and it is large enough for us. If it becomes too crowded in the mansion, I'll ask a friend to reconstruct it." He muttered as he released his parents' hands.

Anton and Melissa nodded their heads as they trailed behind him. They were curiously looking around as they walked.

After finding a carriage driver, Aethelwolf told the coachman that their destination was Dominion District.

"It's quite far so it will be expensive." The old coachman said with a smile.

Aethelwolf looked at the coachman with calm eyes and nodded his head. "The price isn't a problem." He noticed that the coachman wasn't an ordinary civilian. He looked like someone in his forties, but his thick graying beard and mustache made him look so much older.

The coachman grinned when he heard Aethelwolf's words. "Alright. Hop in. I believe you guys don't want other people to board the carriage so I won't accept more customers." He was an astute individual and he noticed that Aethelwolf and Anton seemed to be experts. He was a former commander who had a high status in the army so he has a special way of determining other people's strength even though his Hegel is in a sealed state.

This coachman's name is Albert Nicholas, a retired commander of the Black Lion Army. He was a mid stage Level 3 Esper who had the potential to become a Level 4 Esper. However, a mishap happened during one of his missions, rendering him incapacitated for several months and even his Hegel was forced into a sealed state. After that incident, he could no longer summon his world essence and he returned to being a

normal human. Due to this, he was discharged from the Black Lion Army and was forced to work as a coachman. Because he was a commoner, no one helped him the moment he became a normal person. Even those people who were once close to him drifted away and treated him like strangers. The so-called friends that he treated like brothers ignored him and they didn't even offer the smallest help.

Inside the carriage, Anton leaned closer to Aethelwolf's ear and whispered. "That guy doesn't seem to be simple. Although he is a normal human, he has the aura of a warrior. I think he is a retired soldier. Perhaps he had gravely injured his Hegel."

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Aethelwolf nodded his head in agreement. His father also noticed the peculiarities of the coachman.

Perhaps having sensed their thoughts, the coachman's calm voice suddenly echoed. "You guys are high level Espers so I believe you've noticed that I'm different from normal civilians." He paused and chuckled. "Don't be nervous. I'm no longer a soldier and I'm not affiliated with any group or noble household. I'm just a simple coachman now..." He sounded calm, but Aethelwolf caught a trace of sorrow in his tone. This was a person with a story.

"Brother, how come you are still working as a coachman? I thought retired soldiers would be given an ample amount of monetary compensation. Have you not gotten yours?" Anton stared at the coachman's back. The front and the back portion of the carriage had no cover so they could see the coachman.

The coachman was silent as if he was ruminating whether to tell them his story.

They then heard the coachman's sigh. It was filled with complicated emotions.

"When I was still a soldier, I made enemies a lot of enemies. Perhaps this is retribution..." He laughed without looking back at them.

"Your Hegel is in a sealed state, but it can still be healed." Aethelwolf suddenly said.

His words made the coachman jolt in surprise. He had visited numerous Doctors and even Alchemists to look for a solution to his injury, but no one was able to help him. Everyone said that he no longer has any hope to recover.

Aethelwolf added calmly. "You must have received a blunt trauma in your head during one of your missions. This put a burden on your Hegel and later forced it into protective mode. Your Hegel was sealed, it is an involuntary response to protect itself. I bet the Doctors you visited told you that you can no longer recover."

This time, the coachman's shoulder quivered and he slowly turned his gaze to the young man. He looked to be in his late twenties, with a pair of obsidian eyes that shone like jewels. "W-Who are you?"

Aethelwolf smiled at the stuttering coachman. "Aethelwolf, an Alchemist." He replied.

When the coachman heard that he was an Alchemist, hope seemed to have returned to his soulless eyes. This guy was able to accurately tell what had happened to him. "Sir Aethelwolf, my name is Albert Nicholas, a retired army commander of the Black Lion Army." He hurriedly introduced himself.

Aethelwolf nodded his head. He then pointed at his parents and said. "This one here is Anton and Melissa. The kid is their son, Leric."

Anton cupped his fists at the coachman. He was surprised when he learned that this pitiful guy was actually an army commander of the Black Lion Army.

Melissa merely smiled and nodded her head as she stroked the head of the sleeping little boy in her arms.

"Nice to meet you guys." Albert politely nodded his head. He then turned his gaze to Aethelwolf and asked with a hopeful look. "Sir Aethelwolf, d-do you h-have a way to help me recover?"

Aethelwolf stared at Albert deeply. He already have two thousand guards, but there was no one who can lead them other than him. Perhaps his father can help him manage those guards, but he still had to process his transfer to another unit. After all, they would be settling in Lion City now so he has to enlist in a new unit.

"I can help you, but my help isn't for free. I can even guarantee that you will come out stronger the moment your recover. However, what can you give in return for my help?" Aethelwolf's eyes suddenly turned sharp as he gaze at Albert.

Anton and Melissa chose to remain silent. They knew that Aethelwolf was a top expert so they didn't doubt his words in the slightest. They just silently stared at Albert as they waited for his decision.

Albert urged the Equuses to halt. He then kneeled in front of Aethelwolf with a resolute look on his face. "If you can help me, I'll be willing to serve you." For some strange reason, Aethelwolf was giving off a mysterious feeling that made him want to trust the man unconditionally. It was hard to describe, but he knew that this was his only hope to rise up once again.

Chapter 129 Recover

Aethelwolf smiled at Albert. This was a smart man. He didn't have anything in his possession right now and the only thing he can offer to Aethelwolf was his loyalty.

"Eat these two pills." Aethelwolf tossed one Vigor Pellet and one Recovery Pellet to him. Albert's condition was quite special so Aethelwolf gave him the original version of Recovery Pellet. Its efficiency was greater than the ones he sell in his clinic.

Albert shakingly grabbed both pills and stared at them emotionally. If he could truly recover after eating them, he would serve Aethelwolf for the rest of his life. He didn't even hesitate and swallowed the two pills simultaneously. He felt a sharp prickling pain in his Hegel, but the pain soon vanished and was replaced with a cool sensation that slowly spread throughout his body.

At this moment, he felt a familiar energy entering his system, strengthening his bones and muscles. This was world essence! He could feel the world essence again!

Albert's eyes widened when he sensed his Hegel greedily sucking the world essence in the surroundings. He was like a starving camel who had not seen the oasis for a long, long time.

"This..." He almost cried out from happiness when he felt power coursing through his veins. To his amazement, the injured portion of his Hegel had already recovered and it was even reinforced! When he checked his power, he was left stunned.

Late stage Level 3 Esper! He had advanced by one minor level!

"How did this happen?" He muttered incredulously.

Aethelwolf laughed when he saw his disbelief. "Although your Hegel was in a sealed state, it was unconsciously absorbing world essence to nourish itself and slowly heal its damaged part. You just couldn't feel it since you lost control of your Hegel. The accumulated energy was enough to push you to the late stage Level 3. Didn't I tell you that I can increase your strength further?"

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Albert looked at the smiling young man. He didn't know what kind of pills he ate, but from how they could heal his injury and even reinforce his Hegel, those two pills were definitely valuable! 'This guy isn't a simple Alchemist!'

"My lord, Albert Nicholas will serve you from now on!" He bowed his head deeply. His quivering voice filled with intense emotions. He had finally recovered!

Aethelwolf nodded and didn't stop the man from offering his gratitude. "From now on, you will be part of the Lassiter Household and you will be the commander of our guards." He then pointed his hand to Anton, Melissa, and his clone. "This man right here

is our family head, Anton Lassiter, and this is his wife, Madam Melissa Lassiter. The child is the heir of the Lassiter Household, Leric Lassiter."

Albert greeted them one by one.

"Our Lassiter Household is only a Baron Household since Anton has just received the title, but we are by no means weak. You will understand all these things later on." Aethelwolf closed his eyes after saying these words.

Albert nodded his head and tactfully retreated. He then nodded at Anton and Melissa before going back to the coachman's seat.

After several hours, they arrived in Dominion District.

It was already nighttime, but there were still a lot of people on the streets.

Rendell eyed the surroundings with a sharp look. The arrival of the new guards made him feel worried. There were a lot of strong people among them and they were even veteran hunters in the Hunter Association! At this moment, the mansion already has two thousand guards on standby. Among them, more than half are normal people. With hundreds of Level 1 Espers and a few dozen level 2 Espers. There were even four Level 3 Espers! With this kind of lineup, a peak stage Level 1 Esper like him was only in the middle ranks. He could only hope that his new boss would not forget that he was the first guard in his mansion.

At this moment, he was guarding the gates of the mansion with nine Level 1 Espers and one Level 2 Esper who was acting as their team leader.

Suddenly, Rendell noticed the team leader turning his head in a certain direction. He followed the team leader's gaze and he soon heard the sounds of horses galloping and the sounds of carriage wheels.

The other also noticed this and instantly became alert. They held the hilts of their swords as they watched the incoming carriage.

Looking at the normal carriage, it seemed to be the kind used by travelers.

"The coachman is an expert! Stay sharp!" Everyone became serious when they heard their team leader's words.

Rendell gripped the handle of his sword tightly. He furrowed his eyebrows while trying to identify the other people inside the carriage.

"Halt! This is the mansion of Sir Aethelwolf! Identify yourself!" The team leader shouted when he noticed that the carriage was moving in the direction of the mansion gate.

The carriage stopped in front of the restless guards and they saw the coachman calmly jumping off from his seat. His movement looked steady and casual, but everyone's faces immediately changed when they saw this. 'A top expert!' The guards roared in their hearts.

To the guards' amazement, the expert walked in front of them and cupped his fists. "My name is Albert Nicholas, a servant of Lord Aethelwolf."

"Rendell, how have you been?" Rendell's eyes widened when he heard the familiar voice.

Everyone turned their gazes and they saw a handsome black-haired man looking at Rendell with a smile.

"Sir Aethelwolf!" Rendell shouted excitedly.

"Eh? That man is Sir Aethelwolf?" The guards were shocked by this revelation and the team leader also heaved a sigh of relief.

"Greetings, Sir Aethelwolf! We are the hunters sent by the Hunter Association. From now on, we will be serving under your command." The team leader bowed his head at Aethelwolf.

"Oh? Not bad! It looks like Verson and Ryk didn't go back on their words. I would have visited them personally if you guys weren't here yet. Anyway, let's save the chitchat later. Open the gates." Aethelwolf chuckled.

The team leader nodded his head and he ordered the guards to open the gates.

"Rendell, you will be coming with us inside." Aethelwolf said.

Rendell was elated when he heard this and he immediately followed behind Aethelwolf. "Thank you, Sir Aethelwolf!" He muttered.

When Aethelwolf arrived in the mansion, his employees immediately rushed out of their rooms and surrounded him. They were happy to see him again.

"Sir Aethelwolf!" A surprised cry echoed in the mansion. It was his student, Janrose. She came running at him like a little girl who had seen her father.

Aethelwolf smiled gently at her and patted her shoulders. "How have you been?" He asked.

Janrose grinned as she replied. "Your student reached the top ten! Hehe. The final placement will be decided in two days. I'll get the championship spot. Don't worry."

Aethelwolf chuckled at her words. He could feel that her world essence had already stabilized in her Hegel. The battles in the arena must have helped her a lot. "It's fine even if you don't get the championship. After all, you are my student so you will be practicing more about Alchemy in the future." He then turned his head to his family and said. "Everyone, I have an announcement to make. Follow me outside the mansion. Randall, go and call the highest-ranking guards."

Everyone acknowledged his commands and they all followed him outside the mansion, wondering what he was going to announce.

Not long later, the high-ranking guards and his employees assembled in front of him.

Aethelwolf pulled his family and introduced them to everyone. "This man right here will be the new Lord of the mansion, Anton Lassiter. You guys must call him Sir Anton in the future. This is his wife, Madam Melissa Lassiter. This is their son and also my student, Leric Lassiter."

When the guards looked at the sleeping little boy in Madam Melissa's arms, they jolted in surprise. He was a Level 1 Esper!

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He only looked to be around three or four years old, but he was already a Level 1 Esper!

"I will also be restructuring the positions of the guards, but we will talk about this tomorrow." Aethelwolf muttered while looking at the four Level 3 Espers sent by the Hunter Association.

"Do you have any questions?" He scanned everyone and his gaze stopped at an old man who emitted the pressure of a Level 4 Esper.

Jericho's heart skip a beat when he saw Aethelwolf looking at him. Those calm obsidian eyes seemed as if they could see through his secrets. Jericho tried to discern the young man's power, but he was left shocked when he found out that he couldn't even get a tiny bit of clue about his abilities. 'I can't sense anything?!'

Aethelwolf then moved his gaze to a nearby tree. No one can see a person there, but Aethelwolf could sense the presence of another Level 4 Esper hiding behind the tree.

"That old man is Jericho Rayden from the Rayden Household. He said that he came all the way here to reconcile with you. I felt his sincerity so I allowed him to stay in the mansion. Please forgive me for making decisions on my own." Janrose whispered to him. Aethelwolf rubbed her head gently. "It's fine." He then told the others to go back to their rooms.

"Take a rest first. We'll talk more tomorrow." He said to his parents. He knew that they were confused by his arrangements, but he couldn't tell them that he was his son so he has to explain things clearly to them the next day. "Janrose, help them choose their rooms."

"Okay." Janrose nodded her head.

When everyone left the scene, Aethelwolf stared at the old man. He then beckoned for the old fellow to follow him to a nearby stone bench.

Aethelwolf took his seat and invited the old man to sit beside him. "We have a lot to talk about, Sir Jericho Rayden." He smiled gently.

Jericho felt a chill in his heart when he saw Aethelwolf smiling at him. "Thank you for having me here, Sir Aethelwolf." He forced out an ugly smile.

"Tell me why you are here. I don't think we are close enough for you to visit me in my mansion." Aethelwolf's suddenly turned cold.

Jericho maintained an ugly smile on his face as he replied. "It's like this, Sir Aethelwolf. That stupid daughter of mine provoked you some time ago and when I heard about this, I immediately punished her and stripped her of her position as the manager of our business. I don't want to be enemies with you, Sir Aethelwolf and I'm here to sincerely apologize to you about the matter. I also brought something with me here in hopes that you would forgive our Rayden Household." He took out a cauldron from his storage ring. It was an icy-blue cauldron with black dragon patterns.

Aethelwolf stared at the cauldron with a hint of surprise. This was a Unique-Rated item!

Jericho reluctantly handed the cauldron to Aethelwolf. This was their family heirloom. A valuable artifact that has been passed down for generations. However, he could only give it to this guy in order to pacify his anger.

Aethelwolf unceremoniously took the cauldron and nodded his head. "Initially, I planned to thoroughly destroy your business, but because you are sincere, I'll let you off this time. However, I hope that there won't be a second time, Sir Jericho..."

Jericho hurriedly nodded his head. "Of course!"

"Good. You may leave now." Aethelwolf didn't give him the time to respond and stood up. He then left the old man without even looking back. As for the Moonlight Frost Cauldron, it was already lying inside Aethelwolf's storage space.

Jericho could only stare at his figure silently, but he felt relieved as if a monumental pressure has been lifted off his back. "So young and accomplished... It looks like the power structure of our Leone Empire is bound to change drastically once this guy shows his true power..."

Swoosh!

A thin figure emerged behind him.

"My Lord, this person is strong! He was able to pinpoint my location accurately even after I used a concealment technique to hide my presence. He is not just a simple Alchemist!" Aurus muttered with a solemn look on his aged face.

It was the first time Jericho heard the old man talk like this.

130 He Is Not Just A Simple Alchemist

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