

# The Herb King

## The Herb King #Chapter 141 - 141 Skill Impartation - Read The Herb King Chapter 141 - 141 Skill Impartation

### 141 Skill Impartation

After Samira left his office, Janrose entered with a curious look on her face. She noticed that Samira was blushing the moment she went out. Janrose couldn't help but recall Aethelwolf's godly hands. Her body involuntarily shivered as she remembered that blissful moment.

"It's good that you're here. I want to ask you something." Aethelwolf said as he gestured for her to sit down beside him.

Janrose obediently took a seat. When she met her teacher's gaze, she unconsciously lowered her head. His skillful massage kept on appearing inside her head.

She remained silent as she waited for Aethelwolf to continue speaking.

"How certain are you in winning against Alec Ward?" Aethelwolf sipped his tea after asking that question.

Janrose noticed that his teacup was already empty so she immediately stood up and grabbed the teapot and poured more tea into his cup. She then answered in a soft voice. "Alec Ward is a peak stage Level 1 and he also has a Refined-Rated sword in his possession. I wouldn't say that I'm completely certain, but I have more than sixty percent chance of defeating him. He trains in the swordsmanship of the Ward Household, making his movements unpredictable and fast. I'm not as fortunate as him since I didn't have the opportunity to train such exquisite sword technique. I only use my experience as a hunter when I fight."

"Is that so?" Aethelwolf leaned on his chair. The final matches will be held tomorrow and they don't have the time to practice her sword technique. The process of learning a sword technique requires time and patience. One day wasn't sufficient to even learn the most basic techniques.

Suddenly, Aethelwolf's eyes lit up as he thought of something. 'I don't have the time to teach her sword techniques, but what if I have a skill that can directly impart the technique to her without a need for training?' When he thought about that, he turned his head at Janrose and asked. "Where is your sword?"

Janrose pointed at a table in the far corner. "I placed my sword here in your office. It's the safest place I know since no one dares to come inside. Only Miss Samira comes here to check some documents."

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"Grab your sword. I'll teach you something." Aethelwolf said to her before he put his focus on making the skill he had just thought of.

Janrose eagerly grabbed her sword when she heard this. She almost forgot that her teacher was also a strong Esper. Although he focused more on Alchemy, it wouldn't be surprising if he learned some sword techniques along the way, and based on Aethelwolf's comprehension, the sword techniques he mastered should be on the same level as the technique of the Ward Household.

Meanwhile, Aethelwolf saw a new skill added to his Status Screen. He immediately read its description.

Skill [Skill Impartation] Max Level

– You can impart Level 1 skills to anyone. Talent and skills exceeding Level 1 cannot be imparted.

– Consumes 95% of your world essence upon activation and you will enter a 'Weak State' for 3 days.

It was a fraudulent skill despite the limitations. He could even make a normal person learn a sword technique on the spot. However, the second description bothered him. Three days is a long time and he didn't know what would happen in that period. 'I can't use this skill recklessly or I might find myself in an unfavorable situation.' He muttered in his heart.

"Come here. I will teach you my sword technique." Aethelwolf's face turned serious as he spoke those words. He was planning to impart to her his skill [Swordsmanship]. It was one of the first skills he learned after getting the Status Screen.

Janrose walked in front of him and patiently waited for Aethelwolf's lessons. However, he suddenly tapped her forehead with his fingertip.

A wave of excruciating pain assaulted her the moment Aethelwolf touched her forehead. She felt as if a thousand needles were piercing her, making her scream in pain.

Aethelwolf's face suddenly turned pale after he activated the skill. He also felt that his Hegel was almost emptied, making him somewhat uncomfortable. The feeling of weakness was foreign to him and it seemed as if he went back to the old body he had in his past life.

He held back the urge to cough blood and helped Janrose who appeared to be suffering from the aftereffects of [Skill Impartation]. Her face was red and she looked like she was having a fever.

Aethelwolf immediately took out a Recovery Pellet and pushed it inside her mouth. He didn't if it can help her, but it was the only thing he could offer now. He still hasn't had the chance to make pills capable of healing the mind and the soul.

Luckily, Janrose showed signs of recovery. The pain brought by [Skill Impartation] was only temporary.

Janrose slowly opened her eyes. The pain in her head was gone and when she focused her mind, she realized that there was a piece of new information added to her arsenal. She felt as if she had been learning swordsmanship for many years. The sword technique in her mind was very profound that the technique owned by the Ward Household seemed nothing in comparison. 'Is this Sir Aethelwolf's sword technique?! How strong!' She thought excitedly in her heart. She didn't know how Aethelwolf managed to impart the sword technique by just tapping her forehead.

When Janrose raised her head, she noticed that Aethelwolf's face had turned pale. Although he looked calm, his face was covered in sweat. She then realized that it must be related to what happened earlier. "Sir Aethelwolf, are you alright? What's happening?" She worriedly supported him to his chair.

Aethelwolf patted her shoulder as he said. "No one must know about this. Your teacher is currently in a weakened state and I couldn't even summon ten percent of my power. Promise me that you won't tell anyone about what happened just now." He looked into her eyes with a serious look on his face.

Janrose nodded her head and she could not help but cry when she saw him suffering like this. She thought that it was a backlash from performing a profound power that can impart his experience. "I promise!" She answered as she wiped away her tears.

## **The Herb King #Chapter 142 - 142 Discussion With Johann - Read The Herb King Chapter 142 - 142 Discussion With Johann**

Samira went to Johann's residence in Dominion District. They were here since they planned to watch the finals of the battle event.

"Samira! You finally decided to visit me!" Anna pounced at her like a cat and embraced Samira in her arms. "You're so busy working in Sir Aethelwolf's clinic. How did you find time to visit us?" She was happy to see Samira again.

Samira smiled gently at her. She treated Anna like her real sister. "Aethelwolf sent me here to discuss something with Sir Johann. Is he here? I'd like to speak with him."

Anna nodded her head and replied. "Grandpa is in his room. He should be studying something, but I will tell him that you are here so that he will come out to meet you." She laughed cheekily. "Follow me upstairs."

Samira nodded her head as she followed Anna to the second floor.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Grandpa, you have a visitor here." Anna said as she knocked on the door.

"A visitor? Who is it?" An annoyed voice of an old man echoed inside the room.

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Anna apologetically glanced at Samira after hearing her grandpa's tone. "It's Samira. She wanted to discuss something with you." Anna immediately said to prevent her grandfather from saying something rude.

"Oh? Samira is here? Quick! Bring her inside!" The tone of the old man's voice instantly took a drastic change.

Anna grinned as she opened the door. "Let's go." She whispered.

When they entered Johann's room, they saw the old man sitting on his chair with a pile of books on his desk.

"Greetings, Sir Johann!" Samira greeted respectfully.

Johann immediately pushed the piles of books on his desk aside before gesturing for Samira to sit down. "Take a seat first. What brings you here?" He smiled kindly at her. He then glared at his granddaughter and said. "Bring us some tea."

Anna pouted with a disgruntled look on her face as she left the room.

Samira adjusted her sitting posture and put on a serious look as she said. "Aethelwolf sent me here to talk with you about something. He is thinking about passing his pill recipes to someone he can trust to ensure the constant flow of pills for the clinic. He said that he will be very busy in the coming days so he might not have the time to refine the pills himself. After all, he is the only one who knows our clinic's pill recipes."

Johann let out a smile as he said. "He wants me to work for him, right?" He was a bit surprised that Aethelwolf would actually come knocking on his door to hire him. He

wasn't offended by this since it displayed Aethelwolf's trust in him. Just that, the thought of working for someone didn't cross his mind.

Samira nodded her head and continued. "That's right. Aethelwolf said that other than the salary and incentives, he can also offer one more thing to Sir Johann if you are willing to accept his terms..." Samira deliberately paused for a moment to make the old man curious. "He said that he will help Sir Johann become a Level 4 Alchemist within a month if you are willing to work for him. Other than that, I will ask Aethelwolf if he is also willing to teach Anna Alchemy. I believe that it will be beneficial for her if she receives Aethelwolf's instructions."

Johann's eyes widened in shock and he became silent. Aethelwolf can help him become a Level 4 Alchemist in one month? It sounded impossible since it wasn't so easy to reach that level even if one was under the guidance of a Level 4 Alchemist. However, he felt that Aethelwolf was a different person. The guy managed to help him recover his peak state and removed the ailments in his body. It was something that he thought was incurable, but the man healed him like it was nothing significant.

Creak!

The door suddenly sprang open and Anna entered the room, holding a tray with three teacups and a teapot. She then silently poured tea into each cup and handed one to her grandfather and Samira.

Anna noticed that her grandfather's face had become solemn so she didn't dare say anything.

"Thank you." Samira whispered as she grabbed her tea and took a small sip.

After a minute of silence, Johann stared at Samira and asked. "Can he really help me become a Level 4 Alchemist?"

Samira smiled and nodded her head. "Although it sounds ridiculous, I believe that Aethelwolf can do it. Just recently, he helped his student become a Level 1 Alchemist in just one night. His student also reached the peak stage of Level 1 from the mid stage, and this happened in just one night. The decision is yours to make, Sir Johann." She smiled before taking another sip of her tea.

Anna who was listening on the sidelines suddenly jolted when she heard their conversation. 'Sir Aethelwolf can help grandpa become a Level 4 Alchemist?!

Johann rubbed his chin as he entered into deep thinking. He has been running his own business for many years and it could run perfectly even without his presence. The only thing he wants to achieve in his remaining years was to become a Level 4 Alchemist, but this seemed impossible to him even after his years of research.

Johann stared at Samira with a deep look. If he accepts the terms, he would have the chance to study under Aethelwolf, a Level 4 Alchemist with unlimited potential. He has some misgivings since the man was a lot younger than him, but he hurriedly removed these thoughts. He had to let go of his pride if he wants to move forward.

The old man suddenly extended his hand to Samira and said with a smile. "It looks like we will be working together from now on, Samira. You have to look after this old man."

Samira's face blossomed with a smile when she heard this. She shook hands with the old man and nodded her head eagerly. "Welcome on board, Sir Johann."

Aethelwolf stood up and faced Janrose. "Practice what you have learned just now and familiarize yourself with it. Take the carriage and go back to the mansion, but don't leave just yet. You are still covered in sweat and I don't want your mother to misunderstand us again." He cracked a joke to lighten the atmosphere. He then patted her shoulder before he left his office.

Janrose wanted to say something, but she ended up looking at his figure silently as he went out of the office. His back looked straight and tall as if there was nothing wrong with him. Only she knew that her teacher wasn't in a good situation. "I promise that I'll win the competition tomorrow!" She muttered as she wiped the last traces of tears on her face.

Aethelwolf jumped from the balcony. He didn't want his employees to see him right now.

"Sir Aethelwolf, are we returning to the mansion?" Albert asked as he furrowed his eyebrows in confusion. He noticed that Aethelwolf's face was pale and there were also visible traces of sweat on his face. Others might not be able to notice it, but he knew that something was wrong. However, he didn't dare ask anything.

Aethelwolf shook his head. "You will stay here with Rendell. Wait for Janrose and take her to the mansion with you guys. Also, let Rendell have a spar with her." He said in a calm voice. He then searched for Hyacinth and found her sleeping inside the carriage.

Aethelwolf didn't want to disturb her, but he needed someone to take care of him at this moment. He poked her cheeks and she immediately woke up from her slumber. "Eh? Sir Aethelwolf!"

"Follow me back to the mansion. We will return first. I want to rest." Aethelwolf activated his skill [Virtual Map] to check the surroundings and he heaved a sigh of relief after seeing that there were no red dots.

"Aethelwolf, you look weak. I can sense it. What happened to you?" Olivia tilted her head as she looked at Aethelwolf with a perplexed look. Her huge pair of eyes showed traces of confusion the more she stared at him.

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“I’m fine. Take us back to the mansion. We are leaving first.” Aethelwolf grabbed Hyacinth’s waist before he jumped onto the giant bird’s back.

Olivia became more curious, but she knew that it wasn’t the best time to ask. She flapped her wings and flew into the skies.

Albert stared at the disappearing figure of the large bird with a frown. “What happened to Sir Aethelwolf?” He muttered to himself.

In the skies, Aethelwolf suddenly said. “Use your world essence to protect us from the air pressure.”

Olivia did as she was told, but she could no longer resist asking. “What happened to you?”

“A backlash from performing a certain skill. That is all I can tell you. I will be fine after three days of rest. Be patient during the next three days and once I recover, I will think of a solution on how you can follow me anywhere with no restrictions.” Aethelwolf was talking in beast language so Hyacinth didn’t understand anything he said. It was at this moment that she knew that Aethelwolf could truly communicate with magical beasts!

“Is that even possible? How can I follow you around with no restrictions? You humans are so troublesome and there are a lot of rules that need to be followed. Even a simple walk to the city is a difficult thing to do...” She muttered with a tinge of anger as she recalled the damnable little bastards that threw stones at her.

“I know it sounds impossible, but what if I can help you turn into a human?” This was the only possible solution he could think of. He knew that Olivia, Kerren, and Alba would suffer a lot in the future if they remain cooped up in the mansion. Magical beasts didn’t like to be confined in one place and it was more so for wild magical beasts like them. It would be different if he could help them turn into a human, but that was impossible. However, he had read a children’s story in their old home in Barden City. It was about a Blacksmith who fell in love with a Spirit Fox. The Blacksmith created a unique necklace for the Spirit Fox and gifted it to her. The moment the necklace was tied to the Spirit Fox’s neck, the Spirit Fox transformed into a human and they ended up becoming a happy couple.

Aethelwolf didn’t take the story seriously back then, but he found out that it must have happened a long time ago. A simple necklace couldn’t turn a magical beast into a human, but Aethelwolf knew what kind of necklace the Blacksmith in the story made for the Spirit Fox. It was a Divine-Rated item that only Level 5 Blacksmiths could make! The only issue is that Aethelwolf is not a Level 5 Blacksmith yet. He was only at Level 4 at this moment and he was not confident that he could create a Divine-Rated item.

“Turn into a human...” Olivia muttered to herself. She didn’t hate the idea of turning into a human. She was sick of the chaos in the wilderness and perhaps being human might be a great change of pace for her. However, was that even possible?

“Can you do it?” She asked in a low voice.

Aethelwolf was silent for a moment. He couldn’t make a Divine-Rated item with his current talent in smithing. ‘What if I input a Level 4 Transformation Rune and a Spirit Concealing Rune in a Unique-Rated item? Wouldn’t that make the same necklace that the Blacksmith made for the Spirit Fox?’ He thought excitedly. It was possible. The only problem is that he couldn’t make an item with inexhaustible energy so the final product might have some limitations.

After a moment of silence, Aethelwolf answered confidently. “I can do it. I promise you that I can make it happen, but you have to be my little sister when that time comes.” He chuckled jokingly.

“If you can really make it happen, I don’t mind...” An almost undetectable voice entered his ears.

“What did you say?”

“Nothing.”

As soon as they arrived in the mansion, Aethelwolf told Hyacinth to make some herbal tea for him. The tea leaves they had were something left by the former owner of the mansion and they were of high quality. They might be of some use for his recuperation.

Olivia stared at Aethelwolf’s broad back with a hint of worry.

Aethelwolf went to his room and meditated. He tried to absorb some world essence and he found out that his absorption power has decreased significantly. He stood up and sighed. “I have underestimated the consequences of using [Skill Impartation]. I should not use it lightly in the future.” He muttered to himself as he grabbed a chair and sat down with a weary look.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

“Sir Aethelwolf, your herbal tea is ready.” Hyacinth’s voice could be heard outside the room.

“Come inside.” Aethelwolf said as he leaned on his chair. The feeling of weakness was terrible, but it should be fine since Leone Empire was at peace. However, he didn’t want to risk his safety so he decided to do some preparations.



Hyacinth stepped inside his room, holding a tray with a teapot and a teacup. She gently placed the tray on his table. She then lifted the teapot and filled his cup with tea. "Sir Aethelwolf, do you want me to massage your head?" She asked when she saw Aethelwolf rubbing his temples.

"Sure. That would be great." Aethelwolf answered as he closed his eyes. Making skills didn't require world essence. It only needs his imagination and creativity. However, there were some limitations to this ability. He couldn't create skills that exceed the balance of the world. For instance, he tried making a revival skill, but the Status Screen didn't acknowledge it. He also tried to create a skill that would make him immune to damage, but it failed.

Hyacinth gently massaged his head. She carefully controlled her strength to just be enough to make him feel good.

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Aethelwolf was now seated on his chair with his eyes shut tight and she was in front of him, massaging his temples. She was finally able to take a clearer look at his face. He looked stunning with his short black hair and thick sword-like eyebrows.

Hyacinth quickly withdraw her gaze from his face and focused her attention on massaging his head.

Skill [Intuition] Max Level

- You are more perceptive of your surroundings without the need for conscious reasoning.
- Your ability to sense danger is increased.

Skill [Indestructible Heart] Max Level

- Your heart is protected by a layer of armor.
- Armor's defense will depend on the total world essence stored.

Skill [Indestructible Hegel] Max Level

Skill [Soul Protection] Max Level

Aethelwolf opened his eyes and he noticed that Hyacinth had already fallen asleep on his bed. Her face looked peacefully calm so he didn't disturb her this time. She must have been so tired that she fell asleep in his room.

He stood up from his seat and noticed that the tea was still hot. He smiled at the sleeping Hyacinth. The girl must have reheated it earlier. He grabbed the teapot and his cup and went to the balcony. He realized that it was almost nighttime. He could hear the sounds of swords clashing so he turned his head to the direction of the noise and he saw three people in the open field.

Janrose was already practicing what she had learned from Aethelwolf. She was currently sparring with Rendell, while Albert was providing her with instructions.

Her sword movements were swift and precise. Rendell could barely block her strikes and if not for Janrose holding back some strength, Rendell might have already been injured.

Albert noticed the unique sword technique used by Janrose and he was surprised as he watched the spar. He was also a swordsman, but his sword technique was rubbish compared to what Janrose was executing.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Rendell was sweating profusely as the spar reached its final moments. He could already feel his arms going numb and his legs were shaking intensely. The force behind Janrose's sword strikes was heavy and it felt like a sledgehammer was hitting his sword. Initially, he thought that he would win against her, but the girl's sword technique was proving to be troublesome.

He couldn't accurately predict her attacks and during the whole spar, he was forced into a defensive position.

"Stop! Stop! I admit defeat!" Rendell hurriedly shouted. He then panted heavily as he propped himself up with his sword. His perception of Janrose drastically changed after that spar. It wasn't just him, Albert was also looking at her in a new light.

Janrose sheathed her sword and bowed lightly. She used the sword technique she learned from Aethelwolf and she realized that it was even stronger during combat!

"Miss Janrose, your sword technique is impeccable! Where did you learn that from?" Rendell asked while looking at her. He wanted to know where she got the sword technique, but a hand suddenly smacked the back of his head. It was Albert.

"How can you casually ask a personal matter like that?" Albert glared at him.

Rendell laughed foolishly while rubbing the smacked part of his head.

Janrose smiled and shook her head. "I'm sorry, but I can't disclose it for the time being." She answered. Aethelwolf told her not to tell anyone about it. The sword technique in itself was very strong, but the ability to share one's experience with another person was

more mind-blowing. She believed that only Aethelwolf was capable of doing that in the entire continent! Her thoughts about him being a Level 5 Esper increased after that moment.

When Aethelwolf saw the ending of the spar, he grinned. He then took out a cigar and lit it up. Tomorrow was the final day of the battle event and the champion would finally be decided. If nothing goes wrong, he was confident that Janrose would claim the top spot.

“I’ll watch the competition tomorrow...” He muttered before sucking on his cigar.

Phew.

145 Visitors

Samira arrived at the mansion before dinner and she came back with two guests. It was Anna and Johann who insisted on visiting Aethelwolf.

“Where is Aethelwolf?” Samira asked Rendell who was covered in sweat after sparring continuously with Janrose.

Rendell lightly bowed at her and answered. “Sir Aethelwolf is in his room.”

Samira nodded her head and said. “Bring our guests inside. I will go to Aethelwolf’s room.” She then smiled at Anna and Johann. “Sir Johann, Anna, please wait for me. I’ll tell Aethelwolf to come down and meet you guys.”

Johann and Anna nodded their heads.

Samira then entered the mansion and went straight to Aethelwolf’s room.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

“Aethelwolf, it’s me. I’ve brought Anna and Sir Johann. They want to meet you.”

Aethelwolf who was smoking on the balcony immediately threw his cigar when he heard Samira’s voice outside his room. “Come in- Wait for me. I’ll be there shortly.” He hurriedly changed his words. Samira might misunderstand if she sees Hyacinth on his bed. He has to prevent that from happening.

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“Alright.” Samira answered.

Aethelwolf adjusted his clothes and stared at the sleeping Hyacinth before he went out of his room. After stepping out, he saw Samira looking at him suspiciously. Her

womanly instincts were telling her that Aethelwolf was hiding something, but she couldn't tell what it was.

"Take me to them." Aethelwolf closed the door and gently pushed Samira's back.

Samira furrowed her eyebrows when she looked at his face. He seemed to be having a fever with his pale face and weary eyes. "Are you alright?" She asked in a worried tone. It was the first time she had seen Aethelwolf look this terrible.

Aethelwolf nodded his head and smiled at her. "Just a bit sick from the lack of sleep. I've been refining pills and making soaps every day that barely have the time to rest, but don't worry. I will be fine after a few days of rest. I'm a Doctor as well so you can rest assured."

Samira just looked at him in silence.

The two arrived in the guest hall and they immediately spotted Anna and Johann who were waiting for them.

"Sir Aethelwolf, it's good to see you again!" Johann smiled warmly as he stared at Aethelwolf.

"Good evening, Sir Aethelwolf." Anna greeted respectfully. Although she knew that Aethelwolf was of the same age as her, there was a great distance between their status.

Aethelwolf waved his hand as he chuckled. "It's great to see the two of you. We are about to have our dinner. How about you guys join us? We can talk as we eat."

Anna looked hesitant so she just stared at her grandfather.

Johann didn't reject the offer and nodded his head. "That would be great."

"Good! I taught our chefs some special dishes and I believe that you two will like them. Although their cooking hasn't reached my standards yet, the taste is still acceptable." Aethelwolf gave a signal to Samira and the girl immediately understood his intentions.

"I will bring you guys the dining hall." Samira said.

"Alright." Johann and Anna nodded their heads and followed her.

When they left, Aethelwolf beckoned to Rendell. "Go to my room and wake up Hyacinth. Tell her that she will be eating with us. Call Sir Anton, Madam Melissa, Leric, Janrose, Janeth, and Albert. You guys will be dining with us."

Rendell acknowledged the command with a nod of his head. "Yes, Sir Aethelwolf."

“Go!”

Aethelwolf then went to the dining hall and sat down beside Johann. He had a lot of things to talk with him so it was better to sit next to him. “Sir Johann, I believe that you have agreed to the proposal I sent.” He muttered as he stared at the old man.

Johann nodded his head. “Sir Aethelwolf, you knew that I’ve been stuck at the peak of Level 3 Alchemist. The thing you said is something that this old man can’t turn down.” He muttered while shaking his head with a smile.

“I don’t have a lot of friends and Sir Johann is one of the few people I trust. Believe me, I can help you become a Level 4 Alchemist in just one month.” Aethelwolf spoke sincerely and this made Johann smile.

“I don’t have any options left. I already tried all sorts of ways and researched for many years, but I still didn’t gain anything. I can only place my hopes in you.” Johann chuckled.

A series of footsteps echoed and a group of people entered the dining hall. It was Rendell and the others.

“Come here, everyone! Let me introduce our two guests. This gentleman here is Sir Johann. He is a Level 4 Esper and a Level 3 Alchemist. This young lady is Anna, his granddaughter.” Aethelwolf did the introductions. He then walked to his parents and the others and introduced them as well. “This man right here is Anton Lassiter, the family head of the Lassiter Household. This is his wife, Melissa Lassiter. This is...”

After introducing everyone, Aethelwolf told them to take their seats. He then gave a signal to the maids before he went back to his seat.

“The food will be ready in a minute.” He said.

The atmosphere was a bit awkward since they were still unfamiliar with each other.

Suddenly, someone broke the silence. “Miss Samira, it’s good to see you again. Do you still remember me?” It was his father, Anton Lassiter.

Samira turned her gaze at Anton and squinted her eyes. After a moment, she revealed a look of surprise. “Commander Anton?! Is it you?”

Anton grinned at her. It seems like she still remembered him. After all, they were once comrades under General Gavin and the Flame Tiger Army.

“I thought that you would forget this comrade of yours.” Anton muttered jokingly.

Samira shook her head right away. "How could I? Commander Anton is an exemplary soldier who dared to face off against the Level 3 bandit commander, Solas. I heard that you are now a Baron. Congratulations!" She said with a smile. She has a good impression of Anton for he was a great soldier.

Anton laughed heartily while scratching his head in embarrassment. "I just got lucky. Everything is thanks to Sir Aethelwolf's help back then."

Aethelwolf smiled when he saw how happy his father was.

Soon, everyone started chatting and the atmosphere became cordial the more they get to know each other.

Janeth was very nervous throughout the whole dinner since she was surrounded by people with high status. She knew that she could only dine together with them because her daughter was Aethelwolf's student.

"Mom, are you alright?" Janrose asked when she noticed that her mother was silent.

Janeth merely smiled at her and shook her head. "I'm just not used to this." She muttered.

Janrose held her hand tightly. "Mom, everything will be fine. Sir Aethelwolf treats us as his family. Even the other servants are treated well."

Janeth felt calm the moment she felt her daughter's warm hands. She smiled at Janrose and nodded her head.

"Hello! Your name is Janeth, right?" A gentle voice suddenly entered the ears of the mother and daughter pair. They both turned their heads and looked at the person who had just spoken. It was the wife of Baron Anton, Madam Melissa Lassiter. She looked younger now, like a woman in her mid-twenties. She looked beautiful with her long raven black hair and a pair of jet-black eyes.

"Yes, Madam!" Janeth unconsciously answered while lightly bowing her head. She was accustomed to treating nobles with great respect.

Melissa smiled kindly. "Just call me Melissa. I heard that your daughter is Aethelwolf's student. Our son is also his student." She then grabbed Leric who was in his father's lap. "Come here, little guy. Introduce yourself to your older sister."

The clone also had a personality of its own and it also shared thoughts with the original body through a connection in their soul. It was tasked by the original body to act like a three-year-old child so it was doing its best to play its part.

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Leric was a kind child so he didn't disobey his mother. He bowed his little head lightly and said in a cute voice. "Hi, everyone. My name is Leric. I'm three years old this year and I'm a student of Sir Aethelwolf."

Looking at the small child that was acting like an adult, Janeth and Melissa found him adorable.

"Eh? He is already a Level 1 Esper?!" Janrose immediately covered her mouth when she realized that she had spoken at a high volume. She could sense that the kid was enveloped in world essence, a clear indication that he was an Esper. His aura was weaker than her own, but it was still shocking since he was only three years old!

Everyone also turned their heads at Leric when they heard Janrose's words.

Johann, Anna, and the others were dumbfounded the moment they sensed Leric's aura. It was faint, but the child was already a Level 1 Esper!

"Oh, right! I forgot to tell you guys that my student, Leric, is already a Level 1 Alchemist as well. He already has the standard, but I haven't brought him to the Alchemy Tower for the verification test yet." Aethelwolf said with a light smile, but his words made everyone even more shocked.

"This child is already a Level 1 Alchemist?! The fact that he is already a Level 1 Esper is also surprising..." Johann stared at Leric in disbelief. The kid was smiling foolishly in his mother's embrace.

Johann then stared at Aethelwolf silently. He became even more confident about his choice. The man was even able to train a kid to become a Level 1 Esper so what was impossible for an old man like him?

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It was the final day of the battle event and Aethelwolf came to the arena with the others. His face was still pale and he looked like someone who was deprived of sleep. Well, it was also true since he still had to teach Alchemy to Janrose, Samira, Anna, and Leric. Janrose insisted on joining them after she had familiarized herself with Aethelwolf's swordsmanship.

Aethelwolf didn't include Johann in last night's training because he planned some special lessons for the old man. After all, he was already a Level 3 Alchemist so his standard was already beyond Janrose and the others.

"Sir Aethelwolf, please drink this herbal medicine. Miss Janrose made this herself." Hyacinth handed a bottle to him that was filled with light-green fluid.

Aethelwolf smiled as he took the bottle. It was made by his student so he didn't reject it. When he opened the cover, he could already tell what ingredients were used to make it. He then turned his head to Janrose. "Not bad. At least you already know how to make this. Once Samira and Anna reach the standard of a Level 1 Alchemist, I will bring the four of you including Leric to the Alchemy Tower for your verification test." He said before taking a small sip of the fluid. It was sweet with a lemon-like aftertaste.

Janrose nodded her head eagerly.

Samira and Anna also nodded their heads. Aethelwolf's systematic training was very beneficial to them and they were already close to summoning their Red Pill Fire.

"Let's talk about that later. We are here to support Janrose." Aethelwolf chuckled as he gently ruffled Janrose's hair.

The others laughed when they saw this.

The arena was already densely packed with people the moment they arrived. It was the final day of the battle event so there were more spectators than usual.

Aethelwolf's group headed straight to the VIP section.

"Sir Aethelwolf, I'll greet my grandpa and my parents first." Samira whispered.

Aethelwolf answered. "Alright. Send my regards to them."

Samira nodded her head and left.

"Take your seats, everyone." Aethelwolf sat beside Johann and Anton.

"I will go to the preparation area. The competition will start anytime soon. I will take my leave first." Janrose was a bit nervous since everyone will be watching her.

"Be careful." Janeth held her daughter's hand worriedly. It was Saturday and the clinic was closed during the weekends so she was able to watch the competition with the others.

"I will, mom. Don't worry." Janrose smiled at her mother before taking her leave.

Soon, the organizers announced the start of the final round.

147 Prince Christopher

There are ten remaining participants who would fight today and whatever the outcome was, all of them would be able to join the Leone Empire's army as high-ranking soldiers!



The rules of the final round go like this: First, the participants will fight two random opponents, and based on the results of their battles, they will be temporarily ranked from top 1 to top 10. The second part was that each participant has one chance to challenge anyone who has a higher rank than them and if they win, they will replace the defeated opponent's rank.

To ensure the fairness of the temporary rankings, five judges will decide this between themselves, and Prince Calvin, as the main organizer, will give the final decision.

"Grace Urgel and Janrose Yanez. Please step into the stage." An organizer announced.

The crowd was immediately enlivened when they heard the announcement. The two were the only women among the top ten and they will now be fighting against each other.

"Who do you guys think will win between the two?"

"Who else would it be? Of course, it's Miss Janrose! She is a peak stage Level 1 Esper! On the other hand, Miss Grace is only a mid stage Level 1 Esper. Just the difference in their levels alone is already a huge factor and Miss Janrose also showed combat prowess that is beyond her age group. I believe most people here share the same opinion as me."

Meanwhile, in the section where the imperial was seated, the emperor was looking at the stage with a thoughtful look on his face. He then stared at the young boy who was sitting beside him. He looked like an eight-year-old boy based on his appearance, but the young child showed a calm expression unbecoming for his age. "Christopher, do you see that older sister right there? She is a student of Sir Aethelwolf. I heard that he only taught her Alchemy for one day and she was already able to summon her Red Pill Fire. She was even faster than you." The emperor chuckled.

The young boy was genuinely surprised when he heard those words. He was praised by his teacher for being able to summon his Pill Fire after a few weeks of training and the young boy also thought that no one would be faster than him so this news made him very shocked. "Father, how old is that older sister?" The young boy asked.

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Emperor Ragnar grinned and answered. "I think she is nineteen this year."

Prince Christopher moved his gaze back to the arena as he snorted. "I'm only eight and I'm better than her."

Smack!

The young boy grabbed the back of his head while looking at his older brother in surprise. "What was that for, brother?"

"You think you are bigshot because you are more talented than her? Let me tell you this. You are very wrong. As the crown prince of our Leone Empire, you have an access to an unlimited amount of resources which made your progress much faster than the others. However, Janrose is only a commoner with no resources at her disposal. She had to earn everything herself and she reached her level with her own effort. Now that she has the support of someone like Sir Aethelwolf, it's only a matter of time before your position as the number one genius of the Leone Empire is taken by her. Do you understand now?!" Prince Calvin scolded his younger brother.

The young crown prince was scared when he saw that his older brother was angry and he also felt one more thing after hearing his older brother's words. Pressure. It was something that he didn't feel before since no one was able to match his talent, but Janrose's existence was giving him a formless pressure.

Prince Christopher showed a determined look as he muttered while facing Prince Calvin. "I will work harder from now on!"

Prince Calvin's face broke into a smile when he heard this. "Good!" He was pleased by the sudden change in his younger brother's attitude.

Emperor Ragnar didn't stop Calvin from doing this. It was also good to make Christopher know that there are some people who are as talented as him. It would give a huge boost to his diligence since his son was the kind of boy who doesn't want to lose.

"It's starting." Emperor Ragnar muttered as he looked at the two girls in the arena. One was holding a pair of daggers, while the other was calmly holding a sword.

Grace stared at her opponent with a serious look on her face. Her sister warned her to be careful when facing Janrose. This was a person who suddenly shot up in the battle event, shocking everyone with her explosive increase in power. Even she felt admiration towards this woman of average background. No. She was now someone who had a special status. A student of Aethelwolf.

"Begin!" The referee signaled the start of the fight and both participants immediately dashed forward.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Grace was showing her advantage in speed as she executed lightning-fast slashes. Her arms could be barely seen because of her speed, but Janrose was able to calmly deflect her strikes without a change in her expression.

Janrose was surprised by Grace's nimble movements and she found it a bit troublesome. It was a unique fighting method and it would be even more effective for an ambush. However, the battle was a straightforward match and there was no opportunity for an ambush. Grace wouldn't be able to fully exhibit the potential of her technique.

"What a pity." Janrose sighed as she thought about this.

Grace felt a bit irritated when she heard her words. Was she insulting her? She didn't know.

Janrose's figure blurred and she suddenly reappeared behind Grace like a phantom. She brought down her sword and stop when it was only inches away from her neck.

Grace didn't dare move when she saw the sword's blade hanging on her neck like a grim reaper. She was defeated and it was an overwhelming defeat...

148 Headmaster Aethelwolf

"Janrose wins!" The referee announced the result and the crowd immediately erupted into cheers.

Janrose retrieved her sword and put it back on its scabbard. She then went down the arena while smiling at the crowd.

Grace stared at her figure and sighed. She was convinced of her defeat.

"Are you alright?" Julie Irish Urgel asked her sister the moment she got down the arena.

Grace nodded but shook her head. "I didn't even have the chance to win against her. She's too strong, probably stronger than Alec." She muttered.

Julie rubbed her sister's head and smiled. "It's fine. Janrose is two small levels stronger than you so it is normal to be defeated. Besides, the sword technique she used is also powerful and mysterious. I haven't seen anything like that before. I believe many noble households will show interest in her swordsmanship." She was also thinking about why Janrose didn't use that sword technique before. Was there a reason?

"I'll go take some rest first. I still have a second battle and there might be some people who would challenge me." Grace said while clenching her fists.

Julie nodded her head. "Alright."

Meanwhile, Janrose returned to the VIP room where Aethelwolf and the others were seated. When she arrived, her mother immediately hugged her tightly.

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“Congratulations!” Everyone congratulated her on her victory.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

Aethelwolf turned his gaze to Rendell and told him to open the door.

Rendell did as he was told and stood up to reach for the door.

Click.

It was Prince Calvin and everyone immediately adjusted their sitting posture when they saw him. “Sir Aethelwolf, I hope I didn’t come at the wrong time. Oh, Sir Johann is also here?” He was surprised to see Johann sitting beside Aethelwolf. There was also another man that he couldn’t identify, but since he was sitting in the same position as Aethelwolf and Johann, the prince believed that it was someone with important status.

“Your Highness!” Everyone stood up and lightly bowed at the prince.

Only Aethelwolf, Johann, and Anton cupped their fists. Anton was already told that there wasn’t a need for him to bow his head to the Imperial Family since he was now the family head of the Lassiter Household.

“Your Highness, this man beside me is Sir Anton Lassiter, the family head of our Lassiter Household.” Aethelwolf enunciated that he was part of the Lassiter Household and the prince was taken aback by this. He thought that Aethelwolf was not unaffiliated with any noble household so this came as a surprise to him.

Prince Calvin reached out his hand and Anton grabbed it with a smile. “It’s an honor to see you in person, Your Highness.” Anton said.

Prince Calvin smiled back in response. “I now remember you, Sir Anton. General Gavin has mentioned you a lot. He said that you are one of the strongest warriors he fought alongside with.”

Anton smiled from ear to ear when he heard this. “General Gavin is merely putting me on a pedestal, but I’m just a normal commander.” He shook his head lightly.

“I don’t think so…” Prince Calvin muttered silently. Since he was a family of Aethelwolf, he was far from normal.

“Come. Sit with us, Your Highness.” Anton invited.

Prince Calvin shook his head faintly. “There is no need for that. I came here to invite Sir Aethelwolf to join the Imperial Family in spectating the remaining battles.” The prince then added as he looked at Johann. “Sir Johann and Sir Anton can join if you guys want.”

Aethelwolf stared at the prince and asked. "Is this His Majesty's invitation?"

The prince nodded his head.

"Alright." Aethelwolf nodded his head.

"I'll join you guys." Johann said.

The prince then stared at Anton and waited for his answer.

Anton glanced at the prince and then at his wife who nodded her head at him encouragingly. "Alright. I'll go as well." He replied to the prince.

Prince Calvin was happy that no one rejected him. "Follow me. His Majesty is waiting for us." He said to the three.

Aethelwolf smiled apologetically at Samira and the others before turning his head to his student. "I wish you good luck in your next battles." He said before leaving the room with the prince.

Prince Calvin brought them to the VIP room of the Imperial Family.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Your Majesty, I brought them here." The prince said before he opened the door.

There were some familiar faces sitting inside the room. Julius Reynolds, Jericho Rayden, Harold Reynolds, Hugo Ward, and Julie Irish Urgel. And there were many who he didn't recognize, but they all had something in common. They were all powerful Espers!

Hugo's eyes narrowed when he stared at Aethelwolf, but he hurriedly retracted his gaze. Aethelwolf was still in a weak state, but he noticed the man's sneaky stare.

"Your Majesty." Aethelwolf and the other two cupped their fists as they greeted the emperor.

Emperor Ragnar smiled and gestured for them to sit down. He didn't recognize who Anton was, but since he came with Aethelwolf, the emperor decided to just let him stay. "Take your seats first."

After everyone took their seats, Emperor Ragnar scanned the crowd as he put on a serious look. "I invited all of you here to announce that the academy building has already been made. The construction was expedited and the enrollment will begin in the next month. I've already sent you details about who will be headmaster of the academy and since everyone is gathered here, I'll introduce him again." He then turned his head

to Aethelwolf and smiled. "Aethelwolf, please do a simple introduction of yourself and some of your plans for the academy."

Aethelwolf felt everyone's gazes boring down on him. He didn't want to sense his weakness so he stood up with a calm look on his face. "Aethelwolf of the Lassiter Household. It's a pleasure to meet everyone in this room. During my travels, I have heard about the hostile movements of our two neighboring empires. They are showing signs of aggression and I believe that they would soon come to us with unfriendly intentions. Other than them, I also heard about the appearance of Underworld creatures who suddenly emerged to the surface. To make a summary of everything, our Leone Empire. No... The Regalis Continent is about to enter a period of upheaval."

Everyone's faces became solemn as they listened to his words. They already knew this information.

Aethelwolf continued. "I believe that His Majesty created the academy for the purpose of preparing for this upcoming danger and as the headmaster appointed by His Majesty, my goal is to train young elites regardless of status and background, to become pillars of our empire!"

#### 149 Alliance

At this moment, Aethelwolf was overflowing with charisma. He activated his skill [Charm] to make everyone inside the room have a good impression of him. Even Hugo Ward who was harboring ill intent earlier felt his anger receding the more he looked at Aethelwolf.

"I hope that everyone inside this room will also forget the past feuds and disputes. There is no time for us to fight amongst ourselves. Only the enemies will benefit if we harm each other. If we work together, the Leone Empire's name would soon shake the Regalis Continent!"

Aethelwolf muttered with a calm look and everyone could not help but picture the future he laid out for them.

Clap! Clap! Clap!

Julius Reynolds stood up and said with a serious face. "Well said, Sir Aethelwolf! In that case, I will be the first one to announce that our Reynolds Household will stop fighting the Rayden Household."

Harold looked at his father in surprise, but he didn't stop him. The last battle with the top executives of the Northern Viper Group made him feel a sense of urgency. He felt as if there was a hidden trap waiting for them to fall into and Aethelwolf's suggestion could prevent them from falling into that trap.

Jericho Rayden sighed as he looked at Julius. Since the old man was willing to forget their dispute, it would make him look petty if he didn't do the same. He stood up and said. "The Rayden Household will compensate the Reynolds Household for all the damages caused in the last few decades. Our Rayden Household will treat the Reynolds Household as our greatest ally!" His words immediately stirred the people inside the VIP room. They knew that Jericho has

despised the Reynolds Household for a long time and for him to say such things, meant that he was genuinely willing to let go of this hatred.

Emperor Ragnar who was watching from the sidelines revealed a look of interest when he saw the sudden turn of events. He couldn't believe that one speech from Aethelwolf actually made two old men who had been enemies for many years to become allies. It was something that he thought was impossible before.

The others were also shocked by the words of the two old men.

"The Hunter Association is also willing to forgive the Merchant Association." Ryk, the Vice Leader of the Hunter Association announced.

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"The Alchemy Tower..."

"Hudson Household..."

More and more people stood up and expressed the same sentiments. They also knew that they had to work together to prevent the destruction of the Leone Empire.

Prince Calvin clenched his fists in excitement as he watch the scene unfold. It was beyond his expectations that someone could make these stubborn leaders lower their heads. He turned his gaze at Aethelwolf and saw that the man was looking at the arena. He acted as if he wasn't the one responsible for these changes. He made the internal cohesiveness of the empire sturdier with just a simple speech!

Meanwhile, Julie Irish Urgel silently stared at Aethelwolf with growing interest. This man was truly unfathomable and mysterious. 'I heard that he is planning to expand his business. Should I work with him?' She thought to herself.

The spectators of the battle arena were unaware that a strong alliance was being formed inside a VIP room.

"Alec Ward wins!"

The final round continued and Janrose managed to win her second battle effortlessly. She had two victories and she was able to firmly establish a position in the spot. Other than her, Alec Ward also remained undefeated and he won against his two opponents. The two of them were listed as first and second respectively.

Grace Urgel won her second match and she was able to clinch fifth place. One participant who was in sixth place was dissatisfied with this and he issued a challenge to her.

Grace won against the challenger despite being one minor level weaker than him. No one challenged her again after that fight, but Grace wasn't satisfied with being in fifth place so she challenged the third place. It was a guy named Michael Singler, a nineteen-year-old late stage Level 1 Esper proficient in using the spear.

"I challenge you!" Grace stared at the graceful youth with long black hair. Her gaze was full of determination.

Michael gracefully tied his hair into a ponytail before he jumped into the stage in one swift motion.

Swoosh!

He landed perfectly on the stage.

Michael's cool movements and handsome visage brought a wave of cheering among the young female spectators.

Grace stared at him in disdain as she muttered. "What a foppish asshole..."

"Are you guys ready?" The referee asked while looking at the two.

Grace and Michael nodded at the same time.

"Begin!"

Grace abruptly dashed straight toward Michael while taking out her daggers.

Michael remained calm despite the flashy speed of his opponent. He grabbed his spear and did a swiping motion, creating a blade arc along its path.

Grace swiftly ducked, barely avoiding the blade of his spear. She then slid beneath him and tried to cut the major tendons on his legs, but Michael suddenly jumped and pushed his spear to make himself jump higher.

'Chance!' Grace roared in her heart as she looked at Michael who was still in midair. She executed a brilliant footwork as she did a rotating motion with her daggers.

Michael who had his back exposed earlier suddenly turned his head to Grace. His expression was calm as he twisted his waist and delivered a roundhouse kick that accurately struck the stomach of his opponent.

Grace revealed a look of shock as her body was thrown outside the battle stage.

The referee quickly caught her before she fell to the ground and announced Michael's victory.

"That's your punishment for insulting me..." Michael muttered while staring at the indignant Grace with a calm expression. He then walked down the stage and went to the resting area under the surprised gazes of the crowd. It was only when he left that they erupted into cheers.

## 150 Killing Intent

Michael's position in the third spot was cemented after that battle. No one dared to challenge him. Even Grace who was known for her explosive speed and unpredictable dagger strikes was defeated by him.

In truth, no one knew the extent of his powers. Earlier, Michael forfeited his second match against Alec. It was unknown why he was hiding his strength. People began to speculate the reason, but they could not come up with an answer.

Michael came from the Singler Household, a family known for its long history and their ancestor was even one of the forefathers of the Leone Empire. Their current family head, Jade Kristine Singler is one of the four Administrators of the Alchemy Tower. Her status was only beneath



that of the Alchemy Tower's Supreme Director, Karman Leone. She was a late stage Level 4 Esper as well as a peak Level 3 Alchemist!

Meanwhile, inside the VIP room of the Imperial Family. Jade Kristine Singler stared at the figure of Aethelwolf. It was said that this man was a Level 4 Alchemist and his talent in Alchemy was even praised by many people.

Despite being forty years old, Jade was able to maintain the image of a young woman and she appeared to be someone in her late twenties. With her bob-cut brown hair and slanted almond-shaped eyes, she looked beautiful and stern at the same time. She remained single all her life and even the heir of the Singler Household, Michael, is the child of her older brother. Many tried to ask for her hand in marriage, but all of them were rejected with no exceptions.

On the battle stage, Alec Ward pointed his sword at Janrose. "Come up here and fight me!" His voice was cold and his eyes revealed traces of ruthlessness. He received a secret message earlier to kill this woman regardless of the consequences.

He knew what this implied.

The Northern Viper Group has abandoned him and they chose to sacrifice his life in exchange for the death of Janrose!

Something must have happened that forced them to make drastic decisions. Alec felt indignant, but he knew that death was a certainty if he failed to do his mission and even if he won, the chances of him being able to escape this place were close to zero. His father was also nowhere in sight. At this moment, his face suddenly became serene. The impending doom made him strangely calm. 'I'll shoulder this responsibility. I will take all the blame to ensure the survival of our Ward Household.' He muttered in his heart.

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Janrose stepped onto the stage with a confident look. She had practiced the sword technique she learned from her teacher yesterday.

"I won't hold back so you have to use your full strength." Alec warned his opponent while taking out his sword. It was the gift he got from the Leader of the Northern Viper Group. He liked it before, but it no longer has the same appeal to him. He was furious. He thought that he would become an important member of the bandit group, but he was so wrong. Alec realized that he was merely a pawn and even his Ward Household was just treated as spare chess pieces by the Northern Viper Group.

Alec initiated the fight with a quick sword strike. His slash created a sharp sword wave that produced an unpleasant wailing sound.

Clang!

Janrose parried his slash by raising her sword, she then countered with a downward strike that swiftly cut through the air.

Alec was a bit surprised by the sheer ease of her movements. Her footwork and the movement of her sword were very synchronized that it looked like she was performing a sword dance.

Clang!

Clang! Clang! Clang!

The two young people appeared to be comparable in terms of power. They exchanged dozens of moves, causing violent sounds of swords clashing to echo in the entire arena.

No one seemed to have the upper hand and the stalemate continued for more than a minute.

The crowd held their breaths in anticipation as they watched the fierce battle. Whoever wins this fight would be crowned as the champion of the battle event.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Suddenly, Alec's eyes flashed with coldness, and a trace of killing intent suffused in his heart. He thrust his sword, aiming for Janrose's neck!

Inside the VIP room, Aethelwolf who was watching this scene immediately noticed the killing intent behind Alec's gaze. His eyes narrowed as he stood up from his seat. He would make a move if Janrose's life would be in danger. 'Why does Alec want to kill her? Is it just a simple jealousy?' Various thoughts appeared in his head as he prepared to make a move. He then activated his [Virtual Map] and he found out that there were two red dots inside the arena. One was Alec, while the other one was someone inside the room he was in. He connected the dots and realized that it was Hugo Ward, the father of Alec Ward. 'Dammit! I was careless! Because of this weakened state, I failed to notice that enemies are close by! Could the Ward Household be part of the Northern Viper Group?'

Thinking about this, Aethelwolf glared at Hugo and bellowed. "What is the meaning of this, Hugo?!"

Everyone inside the VIP room were top experts so they also noticed the killing intent behind Alec's gaze.

Hugo felt his back covered in cold sweat under Aethelwolf's intimidating eyes. It felt as if an ancient prehistoric beast had locked its sights on him, making him suffocated by the intense pressure. He also didn't know why his son had exhibited the desire to kill Janrose, but a thought suddenly surfaced in his mind. 'Did the Northern Viper Group tell him to do it?'

Hugo felt a wave of terror gripping his heart when he realized this. From the looks of it, the Northern Viper Group has already abandoned them. If the Leone Imperial Family finds out that they were spies, their Ward Household would certainly fall!