The Herb King

The Herb King #Chapter 251 Reveal - Read The Herb King Chapter 251 Reveal

Chapter 251 Reveal

Aethelwolf entered into seclusion after dealing with the important matters in the estate. The construction of the secret fortress was already underway and he had inscribed the construction site with runes so he wasn't worried about its safety. As for the matter related to the bank, with Hyacinth working together with the Urgel Household, he could rest assured that they would do a great job. The thing that he was most worried about was actually the hiring of the new soldiers. Ramiel had only recruited five thousand soldiers which weren't even a fourth of the total amount of men they needed.

'I'll focus on strengthening myself first.' Aethelwolf thought to himself. He was now a mid stage Level 4 Esper. His level was already high in the standards of the Leone Empire, but compared to the big empires in the Regalis Continent, he was only a slightly stronger expert.

According to the books he read, the strongest beings were at Level 5. They could cut mountains in half and cause massive destruction with their immense power.

The strongest magical beast to be ever recorded in history was an Infernal Dragon. It was a massive creature that was more than a thousand meters in length. It had a terrifying image and power that made the whole continent tremble in fear. According to the ancient historians, the Infernal Dragon was a peak stage Level 5 magical beast, but no one was certain about this since everyone who encountered this creature died miserable deaths.

Aethelwolf didn't know if the said creature truly existed or if it was just a myth created by the ancient historians to glorify their era.

At this moment, Aethelwolf took out some of the enhancing pills he refined. It was time for him to break through to Level 5!

The pills in his hands were specifically made for him. No one else would be able to consume them without their Hegel exploding. Only Aethelwolf could tame the volatile energy contained inside the pills because of his skill [World Essence Manipulation]. Even those high-level Engravers who are good at controlling their world essence would still die under the fearsome energy contained in the pills.

Aethelwolf consumed three pills at once without hesitation and the moment the pills entered his mouth, he could already feel the monstrous energy circulating inside his body. It made him feel uncomfortable, but Aethelwolf quickly guided the volatile energy toward his Hegel.

The process took much longer than he had expected. He knew that he had underestimated the efficiency of the pills he refined.

With a face full of sweat, Aethelwolf calmly guided the remaining energy in his system toward his Hegel.

Late stage Level 4 Esper

Peak stage Level 4 Esper

His level increased steadily and it showed no signs of stopping. When Aethelwolf reached the peak stage of Level 4, he felt as if a barrier was blocking his advancement. He gritted his teeth and went all out. He grabbed the remaining two pills in his hand and threw them into his mouth.

The overaccumulation of energy made a part of his blood vessels to rupture. His nose bled excessively, but he maintained a calm heart as he focused his attention on guiding the energy of the pills to his Hegel.

After what seemed to be a decade, Aethelwolf finally broke the barrier.

Early stage Level 5 Esper

Soon, all his other skills were also upgraded after his advancement.

Aethelwolf wiped off the blood on his face with a cloth. He then inspected the changes in his body. His skin was now milky white and his explosive muscles turned much leaner, but he felt enormous power in them. His internal organs were also more resilient now and there was a layer of thick armor that encapsulated his heart. Aethelwolf tested the toughness of his bones and he found out that it was as hard as a Unique-Rated weapon! Even without using his world essence, he could fight against Level 4 Espers by merely using his physical body!

When Aethelwolf checked his Hegel, he noticed that it had the most visible change. It was now five times tougher and the world essence contained inside was purer.

"So this is the strength of a Level 5 Esper..." He muttered with a smile. The overbearing increase in his power made him feel satisfied. He was no longer worried about the Zion Empire. Even if they attack, he was confident that he could protect the Leone Empire all by himself!

Aethelwolf stood up and went into the balcony. He slowly hovered in midair which shocked Aenwyn who was looking at him from beneath the mansion.

"Level 5 Esper! You are a Level 5 Esper?!" She exclaimed in surprise.

Olivia was also staring intently at him. "Papa is flying! Cool!" She clapped her hands excitedly.

The soldiers and servants who noticed the commotion were stunned when they saw him hovering in midair. He looked like a banished immortal who descended to the world.

"Sir Aethelwolf is actually a Level 5 Esper!"

"Only Level 5 Espers are capable of flight!"

Aethelwolf slowly descended when he noticed the commotion he caused. He only wanted to fly to check if there were any changes to the expenditure of world essence. He learned that he no longer needed a huge amount of world essence in order to fly.

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Everyone stared at his peerless figure in silence. Their easygoing boss was actually hiding his power!

Melissa and Anton also heard the commotion. They hurriedly went out of the mansion to see what was going on and they saw the scene of Aethelwolf descending from the sky.

"Is he planning to reveal his strength to the world now?" Anton muttered with a smile. He already knew that Aethelwolf was capable of flying since they had flown together a long while ago.

"That seems to be the case..." Melissa nodded her head.

They still didn't know that this man was actually their son and the little boy Leric was just his clone.

Chapter 252 Shocking the Upper Echelons of the Leone Empire

Since he was now a Level 5 Esper, Aethelwolf no longer planned to hide his power. He was only concealing himself back then because he felt that he was still too weak to show off to everyone.

Aethelwolf smiled at the stunned crowd. "What are you guys doing here?"

"Sir Aethelwolf, you're actually a Level 5 Esper?" Einar who was usually calm was now staring at him in shock.

Hearing this, Aethelwolf nodded his head and didn't deny it. "That's right."

"Papa, you look cool!" Olivia gave him a thumbs-up as she giggled happily.

Aethelwolf gently patted his daughter's head. He then turned his head to Anton and said. "Sir Anton, please send an invitation to all the elites of the Leone Empire. I want to celebrate my advancement with everyone. Make sure that someone from the Leone Imperial Family will come to visit us."

"Sure. When will this be held?" Anton nodded his head with a smile. Although he was formally the family head of the Lassiter Household, he knew that Aethelwolf was still the true leader of the family. However, he didn't mind this since Aethelwolf was his greatest benefactor.

Aethelwolf pondered deeply before he replied. "Tomorrow."

"Alright. I'll send our messengers to invite everyone and I'll personally invite the Imperial Family." Anton muttered. He then looked at his wife and said. "Honey, please let the servants prepare for this event."

Of course! I will let them prepare a huge banquet." Melissa smiled happily. The Lassiter Household had already become a Count Family since its members were of great help to the recent war. From an ordinary family, they were now one of the most respected members of the nobility! Even the oldest noble households were respectful towards them.

Soon, the upper echelons of the Leone Empire received a sudden invitation from the Lassiter Household. It was an invitation to a banquet that came rather unexpectedly and when they learned about the reason for the banquet, they immediately canceled all their appointments so that they can visit the Lassiter Household's estate.

In the mansion of the Reynolds Household, Julius Reynolds opened an invitation letter in his hands. It was delivered by a messenger of the Lassiter Household.

He read the contents of the letter and not long later, his face abruptly turned serious.

"Sir Aethelwolf broke through and became a Level 5 Esper?!" He exclaimed in shock.

"Father, what happened? Why are you screaming?" Harold's voice came from outside his room.

"Get inside and take a look at this letter yourself." Julius said as he sat on a chair. This matter was too shocking for his old heart.

Harold entered the room and grabbed the letter from his father's hands. "What is this all about?" He asked in confusion.

"Just read it." Julius replied as he leaned on his chair.

Harold stared intently at the letter and read it carefully. Soon, he became dumbfounded.

"This... Is this true?!"

In the Rayden Household's estate, Jericho Rayden was also reading the invitation letter.

"Huh?! What?!"

Aurus pushed the door when he heard the family head's screams. "Sir Jericho, what happened?!" He asked worriedly.

Jericho felt a wave of fear in his heart when he read the contents of the letter. "Sir Aethelwolf is now a Level 5 Esper. He is inviting us to come to the Lassiter Household's estate."

"What?!" Aurus jogged over to him and anxiously grabbed the letter in his hands.

"Luckily, we made peace with him and offered our family heirloom. Our Rayden Household would have been destroyed if we didn't apologize to him back then..." Jericho's spine tingled as he thought of it. He decided to not let his daughter come out of the estate for the time being. After all, she had a small altercation with Aethelwolf some time ago.

Meanwhile, the Urgel Household, the Singler Household, and many more were also invited. All of them were shocked when they read the invitation letter. Even Emperor Ragnar who received the invitation was also stunned by this.

The next day, the estate of the Lassiter Household was filled with visitors. For most people, it was their first time visiting the mansion, but no one dared to cause trouble and they were even extra respectful to the servants.

The person responsible for greeting the guests were Melissa and Janrose. One was the wife of the Lassiter Household's family head, while the latter was Aethelwolf's student.

The estate was also heavily guarded and there were thousands of guards patrolling the vicinity. With their presence, the guests felt as if they were sitting on pins and needles. Even the members of the top nobles were no exception.

Looking at the people who are flattering them endlessly, the members of the Lassiter Household felt proud in their hearts. Most of them came from ordinary families, but after they became part of the Lassiter Household, they could hold their heads high.

"His Majesty has arrived!"

"His Highness, Prince Renz has arrived!"

"His Highness, Prince Calvin has arrived!"

"His Highness, Prince Christopher has arrived!"

"His Highness, Prince Calvin has arrived!"

"His Highness, Prince Christopher has arrived!"

"The family head of the Reynolds Household, Sir Harold has arrived!"

The messenger who was responsible for announcing the arrival of the guest was already feeling tired after shouting for almost an hour, but he still wore a smile on his face.

"Miss Aenwyn and Young Miss Olivia are here!"

The arrival of the two immediately attracted the crowd's attention.

"Sir Aethelwolf's daughter is so pretty!"

"What a cute little girl!"

Soon, a tall and handsome figure appeared in everyone's line of sight. It was Aethelwolf who was dressed in modern clothing. He looked sharp and overbearing in his attire.

"It's Sir Aethelwolf!"

"Greetings, Sir Aethelwolf!"

The crowd stared at him in excitement.

Aethelwolf smiled as he looked at the people. "Hello, everyone! Thank you for coming to our estate despite such a late notice. To make it up to you guys, each guest will receive a small gift from me. I hope you'll enjoy the rest of the banquet."

Everyone clapped their hands when they heard his words.

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The servants handed a small box to each of the guests. Everyone stared at the small box in their hands eagerly and they all wanted to know what was inside. However, they didn't want other people to think that they are impatient so they decided to keep the small box inside their storage ring.

Seeing this, Aethelwolf merely smiled. Inside those boxes was a new pill he had created. It was a unique creation that wasn't available in the market. A pill that could increase one's lifespan! Because of the strict requirements of the pill, he only managed to make a few hundred of them, but it was more than enough for all the guests.

Some guests couldn't hold back their curiosity and they opened the gifts they received. When they saw that there was a single pill inside the box, they couldn't help but stare at Aethelwolf in confusion, wondering what kind of pill it was.

"Sir Aethelwolf, what kind of pill is this? I can actually sense a strong amount of life force contained inside." Julius Reynolds stared at the pill in surprise.

Aethelwolf turned his gaze at the old man and replied in a calm voice. "Recently, I received a flash of inspiration to create a pill that could increase one's vitality and nourish the body and soul. However, I never thought that its efficacy would actually exceed my expectations. The pill I gave you guys is capable of increasing your lifespan! Although it's not a major increase, it's still an increase of about ten years."

"What?!"

"A pill that can increase one's lifespan?! How is that possible?!"

"No way!"

Everyone stared at him in disbelief when they heard his words. They hurriedly grabbed the small box they kept in their storage ring and opened it.

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"Sir Aethelwolf, are you perhaps planning to sell this pill in the market?" One of the guests asked.

Aethelwolf nodded his head as he muttered. "That's the plan, but because of the rarity of the pill's ingredients, the production is very low so it couldn't be sold in bulk. It is also very expensive. After all, this pill is an entry-level 5th-Grade Pill."

"A 5th-Grade Pill! Does that mean that Sir Aethelwolf is also a Level 5 Alchemist?!"

The crowd stared at Aethelwolf in shock. They thought that he was only a Level 5 Esper. Who would have thought that he was also a Level 5 Alchemist?!

At this moment, their admiration towards him increased and it even exceeded that of the emperor!

Some beautiful young ladies had stars in their eyes as they looked at his peerless figure. He was the dream guy of every woman!

Who wouldn't want to be with him? He was a Level 5 Esper and a Level 5 Alchemist! Just any of those two was already enough to make him stand out in the Regalis Continent. It was a guaranteed life of riches if they become his woman!

"You guys should keep the pills first since their efficacy would decrease if you expose them in the open air for a long time. Our Lassiter Household will open a chain Alchemy Store and all of the pills we produce will be sold there, including the pill in your possession." Aethelwolf said to the crowd.

"Sir Aethelwolf, what's the name of this pill?" An old family head asked curiously.

Aethelwolf glanced at the old man and smiled. "Truthfully, this is a new product so I haven't come up with a name yet, but I will give it a fitting name once our Alchemy Stores are open. I assure you that."

Everyone carefully kept the pill in their storage ring after knowing how valuable and rare it was.

The banquet started soon after and the guests headed to the banquet hall.

Everyone chatted excitedly with their acquaintances. Today's revelations truly surprised them!

Meanwhile, Emperor Ragnar was seated in the most prominent seats together with Aethelwolf and a few other notable figures of the Leone Empire.

The emperor wasn't angered by this arrangement and he was even relieved after knowing that Aethelwolf was a Level 5 Esper. With his presence, the Zion Empire would have to think twice if they wanted to provoke the Leone Empire.

He finally knew why Aethelwolf was so confident that he could come to terms with the Zion Empire's envoys.

"Sir Aethelwolf, you've hidden yourself well." Emperor Ragnar smiled bitterly as he looked at Aethelwolf. The other people who were seated together with them also looked at him with polite smiles.

"Your Majesty, I didn't mean to hide it from you. I just have some difficulties." Aethelwolf muttered apologetically.

Emperor Ragnar smiled as he shook his head. "It's fine. You're an important member of the Leone Empire anyway and I trust that you will stand with us in these hard times."

"Of course!"

"Now that you have revealed your power, those big empires would have to think twice if they want to attack us. Other than that, your identity as a Level 5 Alchemist would also attract many Alchemists from all over the Regalis Continent to come to visit you." Emperor Ragnar sighed emotionally. In the last few days, he had been restless because of the Zion Empire's matter, but now, he felt extremely calm. The presence of a Level 5 Esper made him feel safe and secure.

"That would be troublesome. I already have my hands full with the businesses we have. I would have to ask for Sir Karman's help if those Alchemists come to visit us." Aethelwolf smiled helplessly as he stared at the old man beside the emperor. It was Karman Leone, the former Supreme Director of the Alchemy Tower.

Karman Leone laughed heartily when he heard this. "I may be old, but I can still do a lot of things. If you need this old man's help, just call me and I'll be there! Hahaha!"

The others laughed along with them and chatted about the various matters of the empire.

"Sir Aethelwolf, what are your plans for the future?" Julius Reynolds asked. As an ally of the Lassiter Household, he was lucky enough to have a seat together with the bigwigs of the Leone Empire.

Hearing this question, Aethelwolf pondered for a moment. "I haven't thought far ahead, but at this moment, I'm increasing the strength of the Lassiter Household's armed force."

When they heard this, they couldn't help but look at the emperor's reaction, but Emperor Ragnar showed no obvious change in his expression. He was still smiling happily.

"The Zion Empire and the other large empires aren't the only threat we are facing. I heard from Aenwyn that the Underworlders who have been silent for centuries are showing signs of aggression towards the forces of the Regalis Continent. I believe you guys have also heard about the rumors related to them."

Everyone's faces turned solemn when they heard his words. They knew that Aenwyn was the elven woman who was always with Aethelwolf.

"Sir Aethelwolf, are those rumors actually true? I thought that they were just stories spread by the merchants."

"I thought that the corpses found were from a new species of magical beasts. Who would have thought that those are actual corpses of the Underworlders?"

Aethelwolf nodded his head as he crossed his fingers. "Your Majesty, I hope that you would allow my Lassiter Household to develop our force. With the current strength of the Leone Empire, it wouldn't survive the attack of the Underworlders. If you give me this opportunity, I will make the Leone Empire one of the powerhouses of the Regalis Continent!"

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They could feel the confidence in his voice.

Emperor Ragnar stared at him silently for a long while before he eventually replied. "You're right, Sir Aethelwolf. The Leone Empire is indeed very weak compared to the large empires. In that case, I will give you full authority to strengthen your force, but with one condition."

Aethelwolf tapped his fingers on the armrest of his chair as he muttered. "Please tell me, Your Majesty. I'm all ears."

"I hope that you will never betray the Leone Empire." Emperor Ragnar muttered in a solemn tone. Everyone couldn't help but nervously stare between him and Aethelwolf.

"I will always be a citizen of the Leone Empire." Aethelwolf extended his hand toward the emperor and Emperor Ragnar immediately shook hands with him. "Great!"

Emperor Ragnar abruptly stood up from his seat and this immediately attracted everybody's attention. They all looked at him in confusion.

Facing their perplexed gazes, Emperor Ragnar smiled as he announced. "From this moment on, I hereby declare that Barden City and its surrounding lands will be renamed as Barden Territory and Sir Aethelwolf Lassiter will be crowned as the King of the Barden Territory! His status will be equal to mine! Everyone, please pay respects to the King of Barden Territory!"

Aethelwolf who was looking at the emperor almost spat his tea when he heard this.

'What nonsense?!'

He was already busy as the headmaster of the Mystic Arcana Institute of Magic and now the emperor was openly declaring him as the King of the new Barden Territory!

The guests were stunned when they heard the emperor's declaration, but after a moment of shock, they stood up from their seats and bowed politely at Aethelwolf.

"Greetings to the King of Barden Territory!"

"Greetings to the King of Barden Territory!"

Aethelwolf glanced helplessly at the emperor, but the latter merely chuckled at him. In the end, Aethelwolf could only accept his new identity so as to not embarrass the emperor.

"Thank you for your trust, Your Majesty. I promise that I will develop Barden Territory well." Aethelwolf said.

"Sir Aethelwolf, now that we have the same status, I prefer that you would call me by my name or Sir Ragnar will do too." Emperor Ragnar laughed heartily. He didn't even hesitate when he appointed Aethelwolf as the King of Barden Territory. He was a Level 5 Esper and this was the only way to make Aethelwolf stay in the Leone Empire. Now that he had accepted his new status, his interests were already tied to the empire!

"Alright, Sir Ragnar." Aethelwolf could only play along with the emperor.

"Good! Good!" Emperor Ragnar patted Aethelwolf's shoulder eagerly.

And just like that, Aethelwolf had become the King of Barden Territory.

He readily accepted the emperor's arrangement since it would hasten the progress of his recruitment of new soldiers. This also lessened the emotional burden in his heart since he no longer needed to lie to the emperor whom he treated as his friend.

"Sir Aethelwolf, I will send you the official documents soon. You just have to sign them. I will also send your new identity token. Just send us the design that you want and I'll have our Blacksmiths carve them for you." Emperor Ragnar said.

Hearing this, Aethelwolf shook his head. "I'll sign the relevant documents, but as for the token, I will make it myself. I haven't told you this, but I'm also a Blacksmith. Though I'm only a Level 4 Blacksmith." He didn't want to tell them that he was a Level 5 Blacksmith since it might scare them out of their wits.

"Eh?! You're also a Blacksmith?! And a high-level one at that!" Emperor Ragnar and the others were shocked by this. Only Johann wasn't surprised when heard this. He had already seen Aethelwolf making a bunch of tools a long time ago.

Aethelwolf nodded his head and smiled lightly. "I just craft random things during my free time. It's not worth mentioning."

Everyone ignored his words.

"Now that you mentioned this, I don't see anyone from the Maynard Household here. That old man, Lucas Maynard would certainly feel ashamed if he knows about this." Julius Reynolds chuckled.

Hearing this, Aethelwolf's eyes turned cold. "I didn't invite them."

Looking at his cold expression, they realized that there must be a conflict between him and the Maynard Household. However, everyone tacitly agreed not to ask anything about the matter.

In the Maynard Household, Count Lucas sat inside his room with a solemn look on his face. He has heard from his subordinates that the Lassiter Household was inviting the elites of the Leone Empire to their estate. He was also waiting for their invitation, but no one came to visit them. This made him feel that something was wrong. "Why is the Lassiter Household treating us coldly? I don't think I've done anything to provoke them." He muttered in a serious tone.

He recalled his previous interactions with the Lassiter Household, but he couldn't think of anything that made the relationship between them turn sour. Suddenly, he recalled the matter that happened in the academy some time ago. "I remember that Joseph and Sir Aethelwolf had some disagreements before. Does he still harbor anger towards us because of that event?"

Thinking about this, Lucas summoned Joseph.

"Father, is there anything you want me to do?" Joseph bowed his head lightly while staring at the old man.

Looking at his son, Lucas felt a sense of disappointment. He knew that Enrique's death was somehow related to Joseph, but he let the matter go since it might attract the attention of their enemies. "You know about the banquet in the Lassiter Household, right?" The old man asked in a cold voice.

Hearing his icy tone, Joseph carefully nodded his head.

"The Lassiter Household didn't send us an invitation. Do you know why?"

"What?! They actually dare to ignore us?!" Joseph unconsciously blurted in anger.

Bang!

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Lucas slammed the table, blasting it into smithereens. "You unfilial bastard! This is all your goddamn fault! If you didn't provoke Aethelwolf back then, he would have already sent us an invitation!" The old man roared angrily.

Joseph nervously took a step back when he saw how furious his father was. "F-Father, there is no need to think deeply about this. It's just a banquet hosted by a minor noble. Even if he is a Level 4 Alchemist-"

Pa!

Joseph held his face in surprise. His father actually slapped him?

"Just a banquet hosted by a minor noble? Are you really that foolish?! Don't you f*cking know that His Majesty himself visited the Lassiter Household?! All the upper echelons of the Leone Empire are now there! It would have been a great opportunity for us to strengthen our ties with those people! I'll f*cking beat you up!" Lucas roared furiously before beating up his son.

After a short while, he sat weakly on his chair. "I'm more worried about another thing. I heard of rumors that Sir Aethelwolf has become a Level 5 Esper. Now, do you understand why I'm furious?"

Joseph who was pretending to be unconscious abruptly stood up when he heard this.

"What?! No way! He's just a greenhorn! How could someone so young be a Level 5 Esper? It must be fake!" Joseph refuted with an ugly expression.

Lucas snorted when he heard this. "Investigate this matter quickly! You're not allowed to go back here if you can't bring back a piece of valuable information! F*ck off!"

"Yes, father!" Joseph hurriedly left the room.

After leaving the Maynard Household estate, Joseph applied a cold compress on his face. His father's hands were so heavy that he almost thought that he would die under his hands. "That damnable old bastard! How dare he beat me up?!" He muttered through gritted teeth.

"Stop spouting nonsense! Someone might hear you!" Dave Maynard who came with him warned in a grave tone.

Joseph crushed the ice pack in his hands. "Have you also heard about the rumors of Aethelwolf being a Level 5 Esper?" He asked in a cold voice.

Dave Maynard nodded his head solemnly. "I heard about this matter yesterday when the Lassiter Household was sending invitation letters to the elites of the Leone Empire. I thought we also received an invitation, but it seems like we didn't get one. Could it be

that Sir Aethelwolf is still angry because of that matter?" He was talking about their disagreements during the enrollment period at the academy. They had a conflict with Aethelwolf back then because they didn't follow his commands.

"Father also believes that it is the reason why the Lassiter Household is giving us the cold shoulder, but I think there's something more to this." Joseph muttered with a dark look.

"What are you planning to do now?" Dave Maynard stared at his brother nervously. This guy has some crazy tendencies and he didn't know what he might do given the situation they were in.

"We'll head to the Lassiter Household. I want to see if that bastard, Aethelwolf, would not let us enter their estate!" Consumed with rage, Joseph wanted nothing more than to punch Aethelwolf in the face.

"Are you insane?! The Lassiter Household didn't send us an invitation! If we force our way inside their estate, he might even lock us up! You must think about this carefully!" Dave warned in a stern voice.

"You don't have to say anything! If you're scared, then leave now! I don't believe that they will dare to lock up the future family head of the Maynard Household!" Joseph glared at him angrily.

Hearing this, Dave shook his head and sighed. "Don't blame me later. I don't think we can still work together, Joseph. You're on your own now."

"Stop the carriage. I'm heading out." Dave told the coachman.

When the carriage stopped, Dave exited calmly as he ignored Joseph's dark look.

"Dammit! I can't believe that I trusted that coward! I'll deal with him later!"

"Let's go to the Lassiter Household's estate!" Joseph told the coachmen.

Soon, the carriage arrived at their destination and they were stopped by the guards.

"I apologize, Sir Joseph, but you can't go to the banquet hall without an invitation letter. Please don't make this difficult for us." A Level 3 guard said in a polite tone.

Joseph furrowed his eyebrows when he heard this. He stepped out of the carriage and grabbed the guard with an agitated look. "How dare a mere guard like you block me from entering?!"

256 It's Him!

"What's going on here?!" Einar came to look at the situation. He glared at Joseph, making the latter shudder in fear.

Who in the Leone Empire didn't know about this old man's exploits? According to the soldiers, he was like a god of death on the battlefield! Joseph didn't dare to be disrespectful to him.

"Sir Einar!" Joseph bowed lightly at the old man.

"What brings you here, Sir Joseph?" Einar asked in a frigid tone. He was one of the experts sent to save Chris so he knew what kind of person Joseph was. Einar despised this type of person the most!

"S-Sir Einar, I just want to visit Sir Aethelwolf." Joseph nervously answered. He felt a chill in his heart when his eyes met with the old man's chilling gaze.

"Sir Einar, this guy doesn't have an invitation card. Sir Aethelwolf told us not to allow anyone without an invitation card to enter." The Level 3 guard snorted in disdain. He was angered by Joseph's arrogance and if not for the latter's impressive background, he would have beaten him up right there and then.

Einar raised his hand and the guard could only shut his mouth. "I'll call Sir Aethelwolf first." He grabbed his Communication Rune and called Aethelwolf.

"What is it?" Aethelwolf's voice could be heard over the rune.

"Sir Aethelwolf, Sir Joseph Maynard is here. He wants to see you." Einar muttered in a strange tone.

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The other side was silent for a moment.

"Let him enter and bring him to our seats." Aethelwolf muttered after a short pause.

"Alright." Einar dropped the call and turned his head to Joseph. "Follow me inside."

Joseph smugly looked at the Level 3 guard before striding behind Einar. "You're just a mere guard. I can make your life miserable if you go against me. I'll deal with you later!" He dropped these words before he left with Einar.

The Level 3 guard was so incensed that he almost unsheathed his sword. Luckily, his comrades stopped him in time or something bad would have happened.

Einar heard Joseph's words, but he just ignored them. He knew that this bastard would have a bad end for causing trouble.

Einar brought Joseph to the banquet hall. The latter had become nervous when he saw who the guests were. 'These guys are the family heads of the most prominent families in our Leone Empire!' No matter how arrogant he was, he didn't dare act pompously in their presence.

Not long later, Joseph finally saw Aethelwolf. He was chatting with the people around him and because of the angle, Joseph didn't see the emperor who was beside him.

"Sir Aethelwolf, I brought him here." Einar bowed lightly as reported.

"Greetings, Sir Aethelwolf!" Joseph hated this man, but he still had to greet him respectfully because there were a lot of bigwigs around them. Just then, he noticed the person sitting beside Aethelwolf and he only belatedly discovered his identity. "Ah! Your Majesty!"

"Tsk! Tsk! Tsk! Lucas didn't teach his son well." One of the guests murmured.

Joseph almost cursed when he heard this, but he held himself back.

"Joseph, I have to inform you that this gentleman is now the King of Barden Territory so you have to be careful in how you address him in the future." Jericho Rayden warned in a stern voice.

Joseph's eyes widened when he heard this. 'King of Barden City?! What the hell is going on!?'

Looking at his stunned face, Jericho snorted.

"You came here for me. Tell me. What do you want from me?" Aethelwolf stared calmly at Joseph, but he was actually using his skills [Intimidate] and [Suppression] on him.

Joseph felt incredibly weak under his indifferent gaze and his legs could even be seen trembling excessively. "I- I came here to apologize to you, Si- King Aethelwolf. I- I know that you are treating our family coldly because of what I've done. I hope you'll forgive me." He muttered stutteringly.

Aethelwolf adjusted his sitting posture as he stared at Joseph in amusement. "Did you really think that it's because of something as simple as that?"

Joseph could barely stand the invisible pressure. "W-What do you mean, King Aethelwolf?"

Aethelwolf moved his gaze to Einar and nodded to him as he said. "Bring him here and let Joseph take a look at him."

Einar's eyes flashed for a moment before he nodded his head.

Joseph was confused by this, but he could only anxiously wait.

Soon, Einar came back with a thin man walking behind him.

Joseph's eyes flashed with horror when he saw the person behind Einar. It was actually Chris Maynard! The person who escaped from their underground prison! That means the people responsible for burning their estate and killing their guards were actually the Lassiter Household! 'Does Aethelwolf know something?!'

"You! You! You actually saved this criminal! This man is a criminal held by our Maynard Household!" Joseph pointed at Chris. His hand was shaking in anxiety. He couldn't care less about his reputation now. If Chris started talking, he would be done for!

Einar stepped forward and slapped him across the face!

PA!

Joseph was flung away by the intense slap.

Everyone was already looking at the scene with interest. From the looks of it, the conflict between the Maynard Household and the Lassiter Household wasn't something so simple. They could sense the tension in the air.

Aethelwolf stared at Chris and asked him. "What do you want me to do with him?"

Chris glared hatefully at Joseph as he muttered in low voice. "I want him to suffer the same treatment I experienced!"

No one in the banquet hall knew who Chris was, but a young man gasped in surprise. "Eh? I think that person is the manager of the weapon shop in Vale City! How did he become so thin?"

Aethelwolf smiled coldly as he said. "Lock him up. No one is allowed to visit him without my consent."

Einar nodded his head after hearing his command. He then grabbed the unconscious Joseph out of the banquet hall.

Chapter 257 Inspection

No one said anything after Joseph was taken away. With Aethelwolf's current status and power, he could do whatever he wants. Only a fool would go against a Level 5 Esper.

"King Aethelwolf, if you need anything, just tell me. I'm ready to rally the entire Reynolds Household for you." Julius Reynolds said with a cold smile. Although he had some

dealings with the Maynard Household, it wasn't to the extent that they were good friends or allies. In fact, it was more of a contractual relationship.

"King Aethelwolf, our Rayden Household is also at your command! Just give me a word and I'll come running!" Jericho Rayden didn't want to be outdone.

Julie Irish smiled at Aethelwolf. She didn't say anything, but Aethelwolf understood the meaning of her gaze.

"Thank you, everyone. If I ever need help, I'll tell you guys right away. However, I'll handle the Maynard Household myself." Aethelwolf muttered with a light smile. He could sense the massive change in everyone's attitude. Now that he was now a Level 5 Esper and the King of Barden Territory, no one dared to treat him casually anymore.

The banquet continued after that short interlude.

All the guests here were important members of the Leone Empire and they didn't think much of Joseph. He might be the son of Lucas Maynard, but he was merely one of the heirs of the household. It wasn't even certain if he could inherit the position and now that he had provoked King Aethelwolf, his life was destined to be a miserable one.

After the banquet concluded, the guests left the Lassiter Household's estate with satisfied smiles.

When the last guest left, Aethelwolf brought Chris with him to the prison. Only Joseph Maynard was currently locked up in the cell.

At this moment, Joseph Maynard who was tied up in chains became hysterical when he saw Aethelwolf and Chris.

"Release me! It wasn't me! It was my brother, Dave Maynard, who planned of murdering Enrique!"

The chains made clanking noises as he tried to break free from his restraints, but his world essence seemed to be ineffective.

Aethelwolf opened the prison cell and entered with Chris. "I'll give you a spare key to this cell. You can do whatever you want to him. You don't have to worry even if he dies." He muttered calmly as he handed a key to Chris.

Hearing this, the corner of Chris' lips curved upwards, forming a cruel smile that looked incredibly hideous in the eyes of Joseph.

"No! No! No! He will kill me! Don't leave me alone with this lunatic!"

Aethelwolf ignored his pleas and left without turning back.

"Ahhh!!"

"Heeellpp!"

Joseph's agonized cries echoed behind him, but Aethelwolf merely flashed an indifferent smile.

Soon, the news about Aethelwolf becoming the King of Barden Territory reached the ears of every citizen of the Leone Empire. They also learned that Aethelwolf was now a Level 5 Esper!

Everyone was feeling jubilant when they heard the news because the presence of a Level 5 Esper would increase the prestige of the empire!

The people living in Barden City and its surrounding area were also happy when they heard that their land would be renamed Barden Territory. They believed that their territory would be prioritized in the development plans of the empire. This would give more job opportunities for the normal folks and even the merchants and nobilities living in the territory would also receive benefits.

Meanwhile, Aethelwolf was now inspecting the construction of his fortress. It was already half complete and because he no longer needed to be discreet in his actions, the progress of the construction was now much faster.

Aethelwolf had already lifted the Illusory Runes and the Conceal Runes since they consume a lot of energy and resources to maintain their activation.

"King Aethelwolf, this is the newest report of our progress. I've already compiled everything." Rendell handed him a folder.

Aethelwolf was still not used to the new address, but he didn't correct Rendell since he would have to live with his current status.

Aethelwolf checked the data and nodded his head in satisfaction. The workers became energized after learning of his new identity. They also felt more secure since they no longer have to worry about the Imperial Family's scrutiny. "Good job! How many days do you need to complete the construction?" He asked as he returned the folder to Rendell.

Rendell pondered deeply before answering. "With our current speed, we'll probably complete the fortress in three to four days. If we hire more men, we can finish it in two days."

"Not bad! Keep up the great work." Aethelwolf smiled as he patted Rendell's shoulder.

"I'll do my best!" Rendell answered joyfully. He was happy that Aethelwolf was pleased with his work.

"I'll leave the matters here in your hands. Just tell me if you need anything." Aethelwolf left after saying these words. He then headed to Barden City. Ramiel was currently recruiting soldiers there and a lot of people signed up when they heard that the new King was looking for soldiers.

When the carriage drawn by Gryphons landed in Barden City, everyone exclaimed in surprise.

"What magical beast is that?!"

"Those creatures look very intimidating! I'm scared!"

"Look at that crest! It's someone from the Lassiter Household! Could it be our King?"

The crowd chatted excitedly as they stared at the carriage and the Gryphons.

Suddenly, the door of the carriage sprang open and four figures alighted. It was Aethelwolf, Aenwyn, Olivia, and Einar.

Ramiel already knew that they were coming. He walked up to them along with his subordinates and they all bowed to Aethelwolf.

"Greetings, King Aethelwolf!"

"Greetings, King Aethelwolf!"

When the crowd saw this scene, they became even more excited. They kneeled and also paid their respects to their King.

"Greetings, King Aethelwolf!"

Aethelwolf smiled lightly at everyone. He felt warm in his heart when he sensed the sincerity on everyone's faces. At that moment, he decided that he would do his best to protect these people.

258 Zion Empire

"How's the recruitment going?" Aethelwolf asked Ramiel.

Ramiel smiled lightly as he replied. "King Aethelwolf, when His Majesty announced your status, many people are lining up to join us. If this speed is maintained, I believe that we will recruit fifty thousand soldiers in just two days!"

Aethelwolf smiled after hearing this. "Good. Once you gather fifty thousand soldiers, start with the training immediately and make sure to give them the best benefits. Our fortress is about to be completed. You can take them there for their training." He muttered.

Ramiel nodded his head. He was also excited at the thought of training the new recruits. He was no longer worried about anything because his boss now has a status that was equal to the emperor! "Yes, King Aethelwolf! My men are already prepared for the next part of our plan."

"Don't be lenient in training them. I want you to train elites! Just give them the Recovery Pellet if they are seriously injured. At the same time, you should give huge benefits to those who show exemplary results. This way, they will be motivated to work hard." Aethelwolf suggested.

Aethelwolf gave him more suggestions and Ramiel told his assistant to note them down.

In a faraway land, there was a huge empire called Zion Empire. It was one of the largest empires in the Regalis Continent and it has a lot of subordinate empires under its command. The Zion Empire also has two Level 5 Espers holding down the fort and because of this, it became a hegemon of the surrounding areas.

The capital of the Zion Empire was called Parshan City. Its four sides were enclosed with tall stone walls mounted with advanced magical cannons and ballistas.

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At this moment, the imperial palace of the Zion Empire was receiving an unexpected guest.

"Greetings, Your Majesty!" A man dressed in formal clothes kneeled at the man seated on the throne.

"I didn't expect that the Ford Empire would actually take the initiative to visit me." The emperor of the Zion Empire, Emperor Reagan Zion, muttered in a sarcastic voice. He once sent an envoy to the Ford Empire in hopes that they would join under his banner. However, the Ford Empire rejected his offer.

Lexter Ford who was kneeling before Emperor Reagan smiled in embarrassment.

"What did you come here for?" Emperor Reagan muttered in an unfriendly tone.

Lexter cleared his throat as he said. "Your Majesty, I came here to deliver a piece of important information to you. Recently, our Ford Empire joined hands with the Dustin Empire to attack the Leone Empire. We were about to win the war, but who would have thought that the Leone Empire is actually in possession of a Divine-Rated weapon that has developed a soul? They used this destructive weapon to force the Dustin Empire to retreat. Our Ford Empire also retreated to prevent more casualties on our side."

The eyes of Emperor Reagan flashed imperceptibly when he heard his words. 'A Divine-Rated weapon with a soul?'

Lexter slowly lifted his head to observe Emperor Reagan's expression. When he noticed that the emperor was silent, he added a few more words.

"Your Majesty, our Ford Empire is to give-"

Emperor Reagan cut him off and muttered domineeringly. "I want your Ford Empire to submit to my Zion Empire! In exchange, I'll send an army of four hundred thousand soldiers to help you in taking that Divine-Rated weapon! Furthermore, I will send a Level 5 Esper to lead this army!"

With the strength of a Level 5 Esper, he was confident that he could take the Divine-Rated weapon from the hands of the Leone Empire.

Although the Zion Empire had a few Divine-Rated weapons, none of them had developed a soul.

Lexter Ford furrowed his eyebrows when he heard the emperor's words. He initially wanted to get some benefits for this information, but who knew that Emperor Reagan was actually so domineering?

"What? Are you unsatisfied?" Emperor Reagan smiled lightly at Lexter.

"No! N-Not at all, Your Majesty!" Lexter forced out an ugly smile.

"In that case, you'll have to stay here and wait for my army." Emperor Reagan didn't even bother to conceal the mocking look on his face. He was an early stage Level 5 Esper and he treated those who are weaker than him with contempt. He despised the people of the Ford Empire the most since they had rejected his offer before.

"This... A-Alright. I'll follow your arrangements, Your Majesty." Lexter Ford sighed in his heart. It looks like they had miscalculated this time. If he knew that Emperor Reagan was so greedy, he wouldn't have told him this information. However, it was already too late.

'At least this way, I can avenge my dead comrades with their help...' He consoled himself.

Emperor Reagan dismissed Lexter and after the latter left, the emperor stared at an old man wearing a set of golden armor. "What do you think about this, Sir Gilbert?"

This old man was the captain of the imperial guards and also the strongest expert of the Zion Empire, General Gilbert Holt. He is a mid stage Level 5 Esper!

"Your Majesty, the Divine-Rated weapon in the hands of the Leone Empire is very important to us. If we gain control of it, our Zion Empire might be able to enter the Holy Ranking made by the Mystic Island. If that happens, we will receive an opportunity to visit the Frigid Snow Dimension." Gilbert muttered in a calm voice.

Hearing this, Emperor Reagan's eyes lit up.

The Holy Ranking is a list of the strongest empires in the Regalis Continent. To enter the rankings, an empire must have a strong army and a high economic standard. There were also other factors to consider, but the makers of this list, the mysterious Mystic Island, didn't tell the specifics.

Only the best of the best empires were able to enter the rankings and they are also given the opportunity to visit a secret land owned by the Mystic Island, the Frigid Snow Dimension.

It was a pocket world filled with countless riches!

"Sir Gilbert, we must take that weapon from them! I want it in my hands as soon as possible!" Emperor Reagan said with an excited look. He wasn't even worried about the Leone Empire for it was just a small empire in his eyes.

"As you wish, Your Majesty!" General Gilbert Holt saluted the emperor after getting his command.

"You can take four hundred thousand soldiers with you. That should be enough to destroy any resistance." Emperor Reagan muttered confidently.

However, General Gilbert shook his head and disagreed with his words. "There is no need to bring so many soldiers, Your Majesty. If I bring a force of that size, our enemies might take the chance to invade us. Furthermore, bringing four hundred thousand soldiers would require a lot of resources and this would be a detriment because the journey to the Leone Empire is quite long. I only need to bring fifty thousand soldiers and I guarantee that the Divine-Rated weapon will be in your hands."

Emperor Reagan laughed lightly when he heard Gilbert's confident words. He was indeed the strongest warrior of the Zion Empire! "In that case, I'll leave this matter in your hands."

"You can rest assured, Your Majesty! I will return with a piece of good news." Gilbert smiled lightly.

"Alright. You may leave now."

Gilbert saluted the emperor before he left the throne room. He had no connections with the Zion Imperial Family before, but because of his unparalleled power, he became the emperor's, right-hand man. Even the empires who are in the Holy Ranking tried to poach him, but he rejected all of them for he had already sworn his loyalty to Emperor Reagan.

Gilbert summoned fifty thousand elite soldiers to come with him. All of them were Espers and there were even more than twenty Level 4 Espers among them! The most shocking thing was that there were still more such experts in the Zion Empire!

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Lexter Ford stared at the fifty thousand soldiers in shock. Among the Level 4 Espers, three of them were at the peak stage and their power was not any weaker than him! They were also equipped with the best weapons and armor, making them more lethal on the battlefield. 'If the Ford Empire has such a strong army, we would have been able to retrieve the Two Lion Sword from the Leone Empire...' He thought to himself. He didn't even bother to ask why there were only fifty thousand soldiers. Heck! Just these guys alone could already fight an army of four hundred thousand ordinary soldiers! Furthermore, the man leading them was the General of the Imperial Guards, General Gilbert Holt!

Lexter had some information about this old man and from what he knew, he was a mid stage Level 5 Esper!

Even if the Leone Empire has the Two Lion Sword, they wouldn't be able to stand a blow against General Gilbert.

In the new Barden Territory, Aethelwolf's fortress finally entered its last stage of construction. Thousands of workers were mounting the weapons on top of the tall walls. Dozens of engineers were reinforcing the entrance gate of the fortress with magic metals, making it incredibly sturdy. If it's completed, even a Level 4 Esper would have a hard time destroying it.

Aethelwolf watched the final steps of the construction process with a calm look on his face.

Rendell walked up to him and reported. "King Aethelwolf, the weapons are in place and the reinforcement of the entrance gate will be completed in half an hour. Our Engravers are also preparing to activate the runes of the fortress."

Aethelwolf nodded his head. He was satisfied with the final result of the construction. "You did great Rendell." He praised with a smile.

"I only followed your commands, King Aethelwolf. I don't deserve your praise." Rendell replied with an embarrassed smile. Because of his efficiency, Aethelwolf gave him a lot of rewards. He was now a mid stage Level 3 Esper and he even have a set of Refined-Rated armor. His weapon was also a Refined-Rated sword. He had officially become one of the elite warriors of the Leone Empire!

"Bring Ramiel here." He commanded lightly.

Rendell bowed his head and left to find Ramiel.

Not long later, Rendell came back with Ramiel.

"King Aethelwolf!" Ramiel greeted respectfully.

"I believe that the recruits are now ready for training." Aethelwolf said.

Ramiel nodded silently at his words.

"Bring them to the fortress and start with their training as soon as possible. I want a detailed report on every soldier's progress every week. You must..." Aethelwolf gave a long instruction to Ramiel and the latter told his assistant to write down everything.

"Don't worry, King Aethelwolf! I'll make these new recruits turn into fierce warriors in a month! If you give me more time, I'll let them experience small-scale wars by letting them hunt the bandits and criminal organizations living in the periphery of the empire." Ramiel's eyes were filled with confidence. He had experienced the brutality of war and he knew how important it was for the soldiers to have sufficient experience on the battlefield. This way, they wouldn't feel nervous and afraid the moment they stepped into a war zone.

Aethelwolf pondered deeply for a moment before eventually nodding his head. "I'll give you another month to train them. That means you'll have two months to train those soldiers and turn them into fearless fighters! Every one of them must be at least a Level 2 Esper the moment they complete their training!"

Ramiel felt pressured when he heard this, but after thinking about the near-unlimited resources that Aethelwolf handed to him, his face eased up. He nodded his head as he muttered in a serious voice. "Yes, King Aethelwolf!"

"Good! You may leave now!" Aethelwolf dismissed him right away.

As soon as Ramiel left, he felt his Communication Rune vibrating. He answered the call and Hyacinth's solemn voice entered his ears. "King Aethelwolf, you need to return to the estate. There are some special guests here waiting for you. They said that they would only speak with you."

Hearing this, Aethelwolf furrowed his eyebrows. "Alright. I'll be there soon. Keep them company for now."

"Yes, King Aethelwolf."

Aethelwolf disconnected the call. He then gave his subordinates some instructions before he left all by himself. He decided to have Aenwyn oversee the matters in the fortress.

He flew into the skies and disappeared in a blink of an eye, leaving a huge group of people staring at the clouds with awe and respect.

With his speed, he arrived at the estate in less than thirty minutes. He immediately headed to the guest hall and saw Hyacinth pouring tea for two individuals. One of them was a woman whose age he couldn't determine. She was wearing a long white dress with light-blue highlights. Her face was covered by a transparent veil. The other person was a gentle-looking middle-aged man. He looked to be in his early forties, but Aethelwolf could tell that his age was more than that.

These two gave him intense pressure that was unlike any other people he had encountered. He observed them through his observation skills and was stunned by what he saw.

[Nocturna] Early stage Level 5 Esper

 The daughter of the Mystic Island's Chief. She possesses the bloodline of the Ancient Fairies...

[Eliazar] Late stage Level 5 Esper

One of the four Holy Generals of the Mystic Island.

Aethelwolf almost stumbled when he read the description of the two. They were both Level 5 Espers and they seemed to have a high position in the Mystic Island, a mysterious force that he had no information about. However, for them to nurture two strong experts, the Mystic Island must be the absolute hegemon of the Regalis Continent!

"Greetings, Miss Nocturna and Sir Eliazar." Aethelwolf greeted them with a calm smile. He wanted to see their reactions after having their identities exposed by him with just a glance.

Nocturna's eyes flashed with surprise when she heard Aethelwolf calling their names. Eliazar was also surprised by this, but his expression remained calm.

"Sir Aethelwolf is truly mysterious. You were even able to identify the both of us when it was the first time we met. I'm impressed." Nocturna's lovely and soothing voice drifted into his ears. It was so enchanting that he was almost captivated by just her voice alone.

An invisible energy slowly calmed Aethelwolf's heart, making his tense muscles slowly relax.

Meanwhile, Eliazar was secretly sizing up Aethelwolf. He couldn't discern the other party's strength. There seemed to be an invisible layer of armor shielding his detection. This discovery made him wary of Aethelwolf. After all, he could count the number of people who managed to escape his detection with just one hand.

Aethelwolf sat gracefully on the sofa opposite the two. He then smiled at them as he asked. "So what brings you two here?" He wanted to know why they visited him.

260 Firm Heart

"Sir Aethelwolf is truly direct." Nocturna chuckled lightly before she continued. "It's like this... Our Mystic Island is responsible for creating the Holy Ranking and the Heavenly Might Ranking. The first one is the ranking of the best empires in the Regalis Continent and the second one is the ranking of the experts in the continent... We received news that Sir Aethelwolf is a Level 5 Esper so we came here to inspect your power and see if you are qualified to enter the top 100 of the Heavenly Might Ranking."

After her explanation, Aethelwolf became silent as he pondered upon her words. With the current power of the Leone Empire, it was impossible for it to enter the Holy Rankings. As for the Heavenly Might Rankings, Aethelwolf was a bit curious about the experts in the Regalis Continent. "Can you tell me more about the Heavenly Might Rankings? If there are benefits, I don't mind exposing a bit of my power." He muttered jokingly.

Nocturna smiled at him. She then turned her gaze to Eliazar and said. "Sir Eliazar, please give me the book of the Heavenly Might Rankings and the book of the Holy Rankings."

Hearing this, Eliazar was a bit surprised, but he still took out the two books from his storage ring. He then handed them to Nocturna.

"Sir Aethelwolf, these books contain detailed information about the experts and empires in the two rankings. Normally, only the top 10 experts of the Heavenly Might Rankings have the privilege to get them, but I'll give you the same treatment. Is this enough, Sir Aethelwolf?" Nocturna waved the two books in front of him.

The books were quite thick, especially the Heavenly Might Rankings. The information inside must be detailed enough for it to be so thick. "Alright. You've made me interested, Miss Nocturna. How do you want to test my power?"

There was a light smile behind Nocturna's veil when she heard his words. She tossed the two books towards him as she said. "Sir Eliazar is a late stage Level 5 Esper. You just have to exchange some blows with him and we'll determine your power based on your performance."

Aethelwolf couldn't but look at Eliazar when he heard this. The latter also stared at him with a calm gaze. 'This guy is a Holy General of the Mystic Island so he should be one of the strongest experts in the Regalis Continent. He would be a nice training partner.' He thought to himself.

"Sure, but we should spar in the sky. I don't want my estate to be destroyed. I hope you don't mind." Aethelwolf said while looking at Eliazar.

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"Fine by me." Eliazar replied calmly.

"Gentlemen, please follow me." Nocturna stood up and flew out of the estate. Aethelwolf and Eliazar followed behind her.

Nocturna kept on staring at Aethelwolf. This man didn't even hesitate when she said that he had to fight Eliazar. After all, Eliazar was ranked seventh in the Heavenly Might Rankings.

"Are you both ready?" Nocturna gently asked the two.

Aethelwolf and Eliazar nodded their heads.

"Remember. This is only a spar so if one side admits defeat, the spar will automatically end. If there are no more questions, you guys can now begin!" Nocturna muttered before she distanced herself from them.

Aethelwolf and Eliazar glanced at each other. Neither of them showed signs of movement. The battle between experts is decided in just a few moves so a slight mistake would prove to be fatal for them.

Eliazar was the first one to move. He grabbed a halberd from out of nowhere and brandished it threateningly. Dense electric arcs covered the body of the halberd, looking like small serpents made of lightning.

When Aethelwolf saw this weapon, he could immediately tell that it was a Divine-Rated weapon with a mature soul. Its power was even greater than the Two Lion Sword in the Leone Imperial Family's hands!

Aethelwolf didn't have a Divine-Rated weapon of his own. Although he was already a Level 5 Blacksmith, he lacked the necessary materials to create one. He was also quite busy lately so he didn't have the time to gather the materials.

Aethelwolf grabbed his own weapon. It was only a Unique-Rated sword, but he wasn't the least bit worried. With his array of skills, he was confident that he could fight against Eliazar without being defeated.

"Sir Aethelwolf, do you not possess a Divine-Rated weapon?" Eliazar asked with a frowning look. The battle would be to his advantage because of the disparity in their weapons.

"It's just a material weapon. The strongest weapon that a warrior must have is a firm heart." Aethelwolf said in a dignified tone. It was one of the words quoted by a famous warlord in his old world.

Eliazar felt a wave of shame when he heard Aethelwolf's words. 'He's right! The strongest weapon that a warrior must have is a firm heart!' It was the first time he felt enlightened by a few words. His respect for Aethelwolf increased after this short interaction. He no longer looked down on him for not having a Divine-Rated weapon.

Soon, the two men exchanged blows.

Whenever their weapons collided, there would be violent explosions in the air!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Nocturna thought that the battle would end quickly because of the disparity in their weapons, but she was stunned when she noticed that Aethelwolf could still fight evenly against Eliazar. "He can actually fight evenly against Holy General Eliazar despite not having a Divine-Rated weapon... He also possesses some unique skills that are difficult to predict. Even his sword technique is refined and full of elegance... There's actually an expert like this hiding in this small empire!"

At this moment, she already determined that Aethelwolf's power was already in the top 10 of the Heavenly Might Rankings!

The Regalis Continent would soon be shocked by the sudden emergence of this person in the Heavenly Might Rankings. Just the thought of it made her extremely excited.



260 Firm Heart

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Whenever their weapons collided, there would be violent explosions in the air!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Nocturna thought that the battle would end quickly because of the disparity in their weapons, but she was stunned when she noticed that Aethelwolf could still fight evenly against Eliazar. "He can actually fight evenly against Holy General Eliazar despite not having a Divine-Rated weapon... He also possesses some unique skills that are difficult to predict. Even his sword technique is refined and full of elegance... There's actually an expert like this hiding in this small empire!"

At this moment, she already determined that Aethelwolf's power was already in the top 10 of the Heavenly Might Rankings!

The Regalis Continent would soon be shocked by the sudden emergence of this person in the Heavenly Might Rankings. Just the thought of it made her extremely excited.