

The Herb King

The Herb King #Chapter 261 - 261 Shocking the Entire Regalis Continent - Read The Herb King Chapter 261 - 261 Shocking the Entire Regalis Continent

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Eliazar also noticed the large amounts of world essence gathering in Aethelwolf's sword. He hurriedly executed a fierce swipe that summoned a lightning dragon that rushed towards Aethelwolf in a threatening manner.

ROAR!

Aethelwolf pointed his sword forward and released a burst of frightening sword intent that clashed with the lightning dragon.

BOOOOMM!

An ear-splitting explosion echoed as soon as the two attacks collided!

"What?!" Eliazar was stunned when he saw that his lightning dragon was slowly disappearing. He also noticed that a residual force of Aethelwolf's attack was aiming at him.

He hurriedly raised his halberd to block the residual force.

Bang!

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Eliazar was thrown twenty meters away before he managed to stabilize in midair.

Meanwhile, Aethelwolf's face was already covered in sweat because of the huge consumption of world essence. He only had a small amount of energy left and he no longer had the power to put up any form of resistance. 'This guy is too strong! I've already used my strongest move, but he could actually block it. So this is the strength of the Mystic Island's Holy General...' He thought helplessly in his heart. He finally had a rough understanding of the ultimate experts of the Regalis Continent.

Looking at Eliazar who was still in stable condition, Aethelwolf raised his hand as he muttered. "I surrender." He then kept the Unique-Rated Sword that was already broken.

Eliazar was stunned when he heard this. Aethelwolf was obviously winning the battle and in that last exchange, his defense was almost penetrated. If not for the Divine-Rated weapon in his hands, he would have been seriously injured. 'Did he surrender to preserve my dignity?' He thought to himself.

Nocturna who was watching the battle intently was also surprised by the sudden turn of events. Aethelwolf was overwhelming the battle, but he actually surrendered.

Eliazar kept his halberd. He then cupped his hands towards Aethelwolf and muttered bitterly. "Sir Aethelwolf, your power is outstanding even without a Divine-Rated weapon! I'm ashamed to claim this victory..."

Hearing this, Aethelwolf smiled and shook his head. "That last attack used up most of my world essence. If we continued the battle, I would only humiliate myself. Besides, this is only a spar. There is no need to dwell on it deeply."

Eliazar admired his temperament and grace. In his eyes, Aethelwolf didn't look like he had expended a lot of world essence. He still looked calm and composed. His energy was stable and showed no signs of irregularities. He believed that Aethelwolf merely said those words to console him. "You've earned my respect, Sir Aethelwolf! I'll vouch for you to be ranked in the top five of the Heavenly Might Rankings!" He then turned his head to Nocturna and said. "Young Miss, you've also witnessed Sir Aethelwolf's power. I believe that it is only right for him to be ranked fifth in the Heavenly Might Rankings."

Nocturna was shocked when she heard this, but when she recalled Aethelwolf's stunning display, she couldn't refute his words. "I'll discuss this with my father." She answered hesitantly.

The top five experts in the Heavenly Might Rankings were the absolute monsters in the Regalis Continent. Their power was equivalent to an entire army and even the empires in the Holy Rankings are afraid of them. The top five in the Heavenly Might Rankings have been stable for a few decades now and Nocturna didn't have the authority to rank them. She still had to discuss with her father if there are any changes to be made in the top five of the rankings.

Eliazar nodded in understanding upon hearing her reply. He knew that the young miss didn't have the authority for this so he didn't make things difficult for her. "Sir Aethelwolf, I admire your strength and I want to be friends with you. You don't have to address me respectfully. Just call me by my name." He smiled at Aethelwolf.

Aethelwolf wanted to explain himself when he noticed that they had misunderstood his act of surrendering. 'Hey, buddy! I've really used up my power!' He wanted to say these words, but it was stuck in his throat.

In the end, he could only nod his head at Eliazar. Besides, it wasn't bad to befriend such a strong expert. "In that case, please call me by my name as well, Eliazar." He replied with a light smile.

"Hahah! Good! I like your directness, Aethelwolf!" Eliazar laughed heartily as he patted Aethelwolf's shoulder.

'Man, this guy's hands are so heavy!' Aethelwolf forced out a smile as he shook off Eliazar. "You guys came a long way to find me. You should stay for a while and rest here. There are still a lot of vacant rooms in my estate."

Before Nocturna could reply, Eliazar nodded his head and said. "Sure! I also want to know more about the Leone Empire!"

Nocturna stared helplessly at the dignified Holy General who had suddenly become a talkative person. "Alright." She sighed.

And just like that, Aethelwolf managed to befriend one of Mystic Island's Holy Generals, Eliazar, the expert who was ranked seventh in the Heavenly Might Rankings.

Aethelwolf hosted a banquet for his guests and he even invited a few important figures of the Leone Empire to celebrate with them.

Eliazar and Nocturna stayed in the estate for a couple of days before they left.

Soon, the updated list of the Heavenly Might Rankings was announced and a new name was added to the rankings.

5th – Aethelwolf Lassiter (Origin: Leone Empire)

When everyone saw this name, they were shocked. After all, there hasn't been a change in the top five of the rankings for a few decades!

262 Complicated Relationship

In the Zion Empire, Emperor Reagan received an urgent report from General Gilbert.

"Your Majesty, this is an updated version of the Heavenly Might Rankings. Please check the names of the top five experts." General Gilbert handed the emperor a copy of the Heavenly Might Rankings. It wasn't similar to the detailed list that Aethelwolf got from Nocturna. It only contained the names of the experts in the rankings and some basic information about them.

Emperor Reagan furrowed his eyebrows as he looked at the document in his hand. When his eyes moved to the fifth rank, he saw an unfamiliar name.

5th – Aethelwolf Lassiter (Origin: Leone Empire)

“Someone from the Leone Empire is actually on the list?!” How is this possible?!” Emperor Reagan exclaimed in surprise.

The strength of the experts in the top ten was so ferocious that no one dared to provoke them. Most of them were seasoned veterans who had experienced countless battles and bloodshed!

Emperor Reagan was also in the Heavenly Might Rankings, but he was only ranked 88th on the list. As for General Gilbert, he was stronger than him, but he was only ranked 39th on the list.

“I received this updated list recently from a close friend of mine. The Heavenly Might Ranking is an accurate list that determines the power and strength of an individual. It was said that the person who tested this Aethelwolf guy was Holy General Eliazar himself. According to the rumors, Holy General Eliazar admitted that he was inferior to Aethelwolf...”

General Gilbert revealed a trace of fear as he added in a solemn tone. “Your Majesty, I think that we should just forget about the Two Lion Sword. It is not worth it to provoke an expert at the top five of the rankings for that weapon. If such a person is angered, our Zion Empire might be in danger.”

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Hearing this, Emperor Reagan furrowed his eyebrows and shook his head. “Such a pity! Who would have thought that an expert at that level was actually hiding in the Leone Empire? Luckily, we haven’t sent an envoy yet or it would have been more troublesome.” He inwardly heaved a sigh of relief. They had almost provoked a terrifying individual for the sake of a Divine-Rated weapon.

“What about the people from the Ford Empire?” General Gilbert asked in a low voice.

Hearing this, Emperor Reagan’s face turned cold as he muttered. “Throw them out! Kill them if they resist! Also, send an envoy to the Leone Empire and try your best to establish an alliance with them. No! It’s better if you go there yourself.”

General Gilbert nodded his head in agreement. “Yes, Your Majesty!” He also felt that it would be rude to send a low-ranking officer. After all, the Leone Empire has a powerful figure protecting them. He had to go there in person to express their sincerity.

Soon, Lexter and the other members of the Ford Empire were taken away by the imperial guards.

“What are you guys planning to do?! We are important guests of the Zion Empire!” Lexter shouted angrily when he saw his men being treated roughly.

The imperial guards sneered at his words. “Important guests? You think too highly of yourselves. Throw them out and don’t let them step foot in our empire again!”

Lexter was confused by the sudden change in the attitudes of the imperial guards. They were still chatting amicably before so what was going on?

Suddenly, he saw General Gilbert walking with a few military officials. “General Gilbert! General Gilbert!” Lexter called out anxiously.

General Gilbert frowned and stopped in his tracks. He turned his gaze at Lexter who was tied up by the imperial guards and raised his eyebrows. “Why are these people still here?! Quickly throw them out of our territory!” The old general spat out coldly.

Hearing this, Lexter became even more confused. “General Gilbert, what’s going on? Didn’t we plan to head to the Leone Empire together? Why are you doing this?!”

“Beat them up and lock them inside the cages! We’ll bring them with us to the Leone Empire!” General Gilbert commanded in an icy tone. They were already merciful enough to let them leave, but since these people are making things difficult for them, he didn’t have to show them mercy anymore.

“Wait! You can’t do this! General Gilbert! We’ve already had an agreement!” Lexter struggled to escape from the grasp of the imperial guards as he frantically shouted at the old general.

Suddenly, General Gilbert’s eyes flashed with killing intent. He grabbed the hilt of his sword and pulled it out of its sheath in one swift motion. He then slashed his sword with a calm look.

Puchi!

Lexter’s decapitated head flew into the air and rapidly fell to the ground.

Thud! Thud!

The bloody head rolled a few times on the ground before it stopped moving.

As for Lexter’s headless corpse, it was taken away by the imperial guards.

When they witnessed the death of their General, the members of the Ford Empire no longer dared to put up a resistance.

Lexter Ford, a peak expert of the Ford Empire fell in just one slash of General Gilbert's sword...

A few months later, the Barden Territory was now fortified with tall stone walls and there were even advanced magical cannons and ballistas attached to the top of the walls. This project was collectively funded by the Lassiter Household and a few of its allies. Even the Leone Imperial Family donated a large sum of money to help them build these walls.

Meanwhile, in the fortress of the Lassiter Household, thousands of soldiers were undergoing strict training. These people had just recently returned after eradicating large groups of criminals and bandits.

At this moment, Ramiel was standing in front of the troops with a stern look on his face. He was satisfied by the growth of his men. They were no longer the pitiful civilians they once were. All of them have been baptized with the blood of their enemies. The constant battles turned them into fearsome warriors who are unafraid of death!

Ramiel turned his head at the man who was seated on a chair. This person was holding a sleeping little girl in his arms. "King Aethelwolf, what do you think of these guys?"

Aethelwolf adjusted his sitting posture and smiled as he replied. "Not bad. After their training is done, incorporate them into our army. There will be a major reshuffle in our force soon. You'll be responsible for promoting and demoting the soldiers. Just give me a report and I'll give you my approval."

Ramiel nodded his head at his words. "Yes, King Aethelwolf!"

"Why is it so noisy?" Olivia slowly opened her eyes as she looked at her surroundings. Her eyebrows wrinkled as she stared at the noisy soldiers.

"You're awake? Let's go back to the mansion and take our lunch." Aethelwolf combed her hair with his hands as he smiled at the little girl.

Hearing this, Olivia nodded her head with sleepy eyes. "Okay."

Aethelwolf stood up and said. "Ramiel, we'll go back first. I'll leave this place to you. Let the soldiers rest for today. Their training will resume after they are incorporated into our army."

"Alright, King Aethelwolf." Ramiel nodded his head and saluted.

Aethelwolf carried Olivia and flew into the sky.

They arrived at the Lassiter Household's estate in less than thirty minutes.

As soon as they descended at the mansion, Aethelwolf saw Samira who was chatting with his mother.

"Samira." He called out softly. The two of them were so close back then, but because of the sudden change in his status, they had become more distant from each other. Although Aethelwolf still treated her as his friend, he could feel that Samira was purposely distancing herself from him.

"Greetings, King Aethelwolf." Samira politely bowed at him. This made Aethelwolf sigh in his heart.

"Let's talk after lunch." Aethelwolf muttered softly and entered the mansion while holding Olivia's hand.

"Alright." Samira nodded her head and followed behind them.

Melissa stared at Aethelwolf and then at Samira, her eyes flashed with a thoughtful look. She could sense that there was a complex connection between the two of them, but she didn't want to intervene in their affairs.

After eating lunch, Aethelwolf brought Samira to his study.

"Can you tell me what's going on?" Aethelwolf asked while looking at Samira. This girl rarely visited him after he had become the King of Barden Territory. She wouldn't visit him without a reason.

Samira stared at his handsome face with a complicated look. She knew at this moment that she had fallen for this guy, but the difference in their status was too great that she didn't have the courage to confess her feelings.

She calmed her heart and forced out a smile as she said. "I came here to tell you that I'm already engaged to someone."

Aethelwolf who was signing a document unconsciously used too much force and broke the pen he was holding. He raised his head and stared at her in disbelief. "What did you say?!"

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"You're awake? Let's go back to the mansion and take our lunch." Aethelwolf combed her hair with his hands as he smiled at the little girl.

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“Greetings, King Aethelwolf.” Samira politely bowed at him. This made Aethelwolf sigh in his heart.

“Let’s talk after lunch.” Aethelwolf muttered softly and entered the mansion while holding Olivia’s hand.

“Alright.” Samira nodded her head and followed behind them.

Melissa stared at Aethelwolf and then at Samira, her eyes flashed with a thoughtful look. She could sense that there was a complex connection between the two of them, but she didn’t want to intervene in their affairs.

After eating lunch, Aethelwolf brought Samira to his study.

“Can you tell me what’s going on?” Aethelwolf asked while looking at Samira. This girl rarely visited him after he had become the King of Barden Territory. She wouldn’t visit him without a reason.

Samira stared at his handsome face with a complicated look. She knew at this moment that she had fallen for this guy, but the difference in their status was too great that she didn’t have the courage to confess her feelings.

She calmed her heart and forced out a smile as she said. “I came here to tell you that I’m already engaged to someone.”

Aethelwolf who was signing a document unconsciously used too much force and broke the pen he was holding. He raised his head and stared at her in disbelief. “What did you say?!”

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Samira didn’t dare to look at him in the eyes. She evaded his gaze and looked to the side as she answered. “After the alliance with the Dustin Empire was finalized, they sent an envoy to observe our empire. Among them is the crown prince of the Dustin Empire, Prince Jonas Dustin. Our Reynolds Household was responsible for guiding them so it was inevitable for us to meet. We only spent a short amount of time together and I didn’t know that Prince Jonas was actually discussing marriage with my grandfather at that time. Our Reynolds Household isn’t strong enough to deal with the Dustin Imperial Family so my grandfather couldn’t decline the prince...”

Aethelwolf could feel the sadness in her eyes and it made his heart feel a pang of pain. “Has the time of the marriage been set already?” He asked in a low voice.

Hearing this, Samira shook her head. "Not yet. My family used all sorts of ways to delay the marriage, but it is only a matter of time. Aethelwolf, I don't want to marry him!" She was about to break down after saying those words.

'I only have you in my heart!' These were the words that she wanted to tell him, but she didn't have the courage to utter those words.

Aethelwolf hurriedly came to her side and embraced her tightly in his arms. "Don't worry. I'll take care of this." He whispered reassuringly.

"Mn..." Samira sobbed quietly when she felt Aethelwolf's warm hands stroking her back. All her worries disappeared after she heard his words.

After more than ten minutes, Samira gently pushed Aethelwolf's chest. She then forced out a smile as she muttered. "Thank you, Aethelwolf."

Aethelwolf felt guilty when he saw her sad smile. "You should take a rest first." He muttered gently. He then brought her out of his study and took her to a vacant guest room.

Aethelwolf sighed as he went out of the mansion. He was so occupied lately that he didn't have the time to check on the people around him. He couldn't describe his feelings towards Samira. Other than her, there were also a few women who left a deep impression on his heart. The enigmatic and capable Julie Irish, the mature and responsible Jade Kristine, and also the silent and cold Aenwyn.

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Suddenly, an absurd thought appeared in his mind. 'Why am I still hesitating? This isn't my old world anymore! I want them all!'

With this thought in mind, Aethelwolf flew in the direction of the Reynolds Household's estate.

"Greetings, King Aethelwolf!" The guards of the Reynolds Household were stunned when they saw him descending from the skies. The other members of the household were also alarmed by his sudden arrival.

Julius Reynolds, Harold Reynolds, and Madam Antonette hurriedly went out of the mansion to greet him.

"King Aethelwolf, we didn't know that you are coming here today. Please pardon our poor hospitality." Julius Reynolds smiled apologetically as he brought Aethelwolf inside the mansion.

Harold and Antonette also told the servants to prepare a banquet for him.

“You don’t have to be so formal with me, Sir Julius. It is my fault for visiting you without notice.” Aethelwolf smiled at the old man.

“Don’t say that, King Aethelwolf. You’re welcome in our mansion anytime!” Julius laughed heartily.

Aethelwolf chatted with the three of them about all sorts of matters. After some idle talks, he put down his teacup and said with a calm look. “I heard that Samira is now engaged to Jonas.”

Julius, Harold, and Antonette sighed upon hearing this.

“King Aethelwolf, we also wanted to decline the prince, but His Highness is known for his overbearing attitude. Our Reynolds Household doesn’t have the power to against his family.” Julius shook his head in remorse. He felt guilty about this matter. If only he was strong enough, his granddaughter wouldn’t have been forced to marry the prince of the Dustin Empire.

“Where is Jonas right now?” Aethelwolf asked in a cold voice.

“He left more than a week ago with the rest of the envoys. They should be in the Dustin Empire now.” Julius replied.

Hearing this, Aethelwolf stood up and muttered. “I still have some matters to take care of, everyone. You can visit me any time if you need help or you can send someone to the Lassiter Household’s estate. I’ll take my leave first.”

No one stopped him when they sensed the urgency in his tone. They didn’t know what he was up to, but the astute Julius stared at his disappearing figure with a thoughtful look.

Skill [Wings of Heaven] Level: Max

– You can now summon a pair of wings using your world essence. It can block the attack of a Level 5 Esper and increase your flight speed by five times.

A pair of angelic wings sprouted on his back. He flapped his majestic wings and soared through the skies in the direction of the Dustin Empire.

The Dustin Empire’s territory was huge and it was in control of a vast land meant for farming, making it one of the main producers of farm crops like rice and corn.

With the help of the skill [Wings of Heaven], Aethelwolf took less time to travel to the Dustin Empire.

He didn't even bother to stop at the checkpoint of the empire and headed straight to the imperial palace.

Because of his high-profile arrival, the soldiers of the Dustin Empire alerted and they stared at him with wary gazes.

General George Dustin solemnly stared at Aethelwolf who was flying majestically in midair. He looked like a peerless immortal who had gone down to the mortal world.

Aethelwolf slowly descended under the sharp gazes of the soldiers. "I'm Aethelwolf Lassiter, King of the Barden Territory. I want to speak with your emperor." Aethelwolf muttered calmly as he stared at George Dustin.

"All of you, stand down!" George Dustin hurriedly commanded his soldiers after hearing Aethelwolf's identity. He already knew that the emperor of the Leone Empire granted someone the position of King and even gave him a huge territory. He also heard rumors that this person was a Level 5 Esper! He didn't believe these rumors, but upon seeing Aethelwolf flying with a pair of wings, he realized that everything was true.

"I apologize for the rough greetings of my subordinates, King Aethelwolf. Follow me. I'll take you to see His Majesty." George Dustin didn't dare to neglect him after knowing his identity. A Level 5 Esper could destroy an empire on his own and there was no one in the Dustin Empire who could protect them against Aethelwolf.

Soon, Aethelwolf was brought to the throne room of the imperial palace. Emperor Erwin already heard about Aethelwolf and he didn't even dare to sit on his throne. He commanded a few servants to set up a meeting table in the middle of the throne room.

"King Aethelwolf, I wonder what brings you here." Emperor Erwin smiled lightly at him. If anyone else came flying into their imperial palace without notice, they would have already been shot down by their soldiers, but this person was different. He didn't dare to offend him.

"Since Your Majesty is direct, I won't beat around the bush. Your son, Prince Jonas, proposed a marriage to Samira Reynolds of the Reynolds Household. I want you to cancel the marriage proposal." Aethelwolf calmly said before taking a sip of tea.

Hearing this, Emperor Erwin furrowed his eyebrows. He also heard that his son asked for someone's hand in marriage and it was a noble young lady from the Leone Empire. He wasn't opposed to this before since he also wanted to establish ties with the Leone Empire. Who would have thought that this matter would actually make Aethelwolf visit him in person?

Emperor Erwin didn't reveal any expression as he asked. "King Aethelwolf, may I ask what is your relationship with Miss Samira?"

Aethelwolf turned his gaze at the emperor and muttered. "She is mine."

Hearing this, Emperor Erwin nodded his head. "Alright. I'll cancel the engagement and I will also ask my son to apologize to you and the Reynolds Household. I just hope that you won't pursue this matter anymore, King Aethelwolf." He was afraid of Aethelwolf's power. He might be an emperor, but in front of a true powerhouse, his authority means nothing.

Aethelwolf's expression eased up upon hearing this. "As long as you deal with this immediately, I won't make things difficult for you. As for your son, don't let him come back to the Leone Empire."

"I promise." Emperor Erwin forced out a smile. He didn't have the guts to negotiate with Aethelwolf.

"I will wait for your good news, Your Majesty." Aethelwolf stood up and left without even saying goodbye.

After Aethelwolf left, Emperor Erwin slammed the table as he shouted. "Summon Jonas in front of me right now! If he isn't here within ten minutes, tell him that I'll break his bones!"

264 Gilbert's Arrival

Another few days passed by after Aethelwolf visited the Dustin Empire.

The Grand General of the Dustin Empire, George Dustin, personally came to visit the Reynolds Household to cancel the engagement between Prince Jonas and Samira. This surprised the Reynolds Household, but they eagerly helped the envoys of the Dustin Imperial Family in dealing with this. They were against the marriage in the first place and were only forced due to the deterrent force of the Dustin Empire.

Soon, the envoys left and the members of the Reynolds Household felt as if a heavy boulder was lifted off their chests.

In the Lassiter Household's estate, Samira was listening to Aethelwolf as he gently sang a song that was foreign to her. The mellow music coupled with Aethelwolf's refined guitar skills, a beautiful melody was created.

Samira stared at him with an infatuated look on her face. She already heard from her family about the cancellation of the engagement and she knew that it was definitely Aethelwolf's doing. He was the only person who has the power to change the mind of the Dustin Imperial Family.

Meanwhile, Aenwyn and Olivia were also silently enjoying the song. The elven princess had her eyes shut tight while listening to Aethelwolf's singing. As for the little girl, Olivia,

she moved her head from side to side and eagerly swayed her legs along with the rhythm of the music.

After Aethelwolf sang the last line of the song, he looked at the three ladies with a smile. "What do you think of the song?"

"I like it! It's beautiful!" Olivia clapped her hands with a big smile on her face.

Samira also nodded her head in agreement. "It's indeed beautiful and soothing to the ears." She muttered.

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Aenwyn remained silent and just stared at him with a calm look.

Aethelwolf chuckled upon hearing their words. He then kept the guitar inside his storage space and said. "Let's go outside and get some fresh air."

The four of them went out of the mansion and walked around the garden as they chatted about random things, but soon, a guard came and reported in an urgent tone. "King Aethelwolf, someone is here to visit you and they told us that they are from the Zion Empire. They are now in the guest hall and Madam Melissa received them personally."

Hearing this, Aethelwolf frowned with a serious look. "They finally came? I'll be there. You return to your post." He muttered to the guard.

"Yes, King Aethelwolf!" The guard saluted before he left.

"Aethelwolf, is it really the people of the Zion Empire?" Samira heard their conversation and she anxiously looked at him. In her eyes, the Zion Empire was one of the strongest empires in the Regalis Continent. Even if Aethelwolf was now a Level 5 Esper, the Zion Empire has 2 Level 5 Espers. She believed that it would be dangerous to confront them since they only had Aethelwolf as their sole Level 5 Esper.

No one in the Leone Empire knew about the Holy Rankings and the Heavenly Might Rankings because they were unqualified to receive information from the Mystic Island. Only the big empires and some empires with connections knew about the two rankings.

Aethelwolf shook his head as he replied. "We don't know yet. I'll go and talk with them."

He went to the guest hall and the three ladies followed him silently. When they arrived, they saw Melissa chatting with an old man with sleek gray hair. He was wearing a set of formal clothes and the air of nobility and grace could be felt in his presence.

'A mid stage Level 5 Esper? Is he the strongest expert of the Zion Empire?' Aethelwolf frowned as he stared at the old man.

Melissa and the old man also noticed their arrival.

"Aethelwolf, you're finally here. This gentleman is Gilbert Holt. He is a general of the Zion Empire. General Gilbert, this man right here is Aethelwolf Lassiter, the King of Barden Territory." Melissa introduced the two of them.

Hearing this, Gilbert was a bit surprised when he saw how young Aethelwolf was. He took the initiative to shake hands with Aethelwolf. "Greetings, Sir Aethelwolf. I apologize for coming here without notice." The old man said as he smiled gently, showing two rows of healthy white teeth.

Aethelwolf also smiled in response as he grabbed the old man's hand. "You're welcome to visit our estate, Sir Gilbert." He noticed that the old man was intentionally putting some strength in his grip, and Aethelwolf did the same.

Both men, young and old, stared at each other with friendly smiles, but they were actually holding a secret competition of strength.

Unaware of what was happening, Melissa and the others sat down and looked at them with relieved smiles. The only person who noticed that something was going on was the elven princess, Aenwyn.

'He's strong!' General Gilbert retracted his hand and hurriedly put it behind his back to hide that it was shaking. He felt his bones cracking after that short competition of strength and because of this, he discovered that Aethelwolf's power was the real deal!

Aethelwolf deactivated his skill [Strength Multiplier]. It was a skill that multiplies his strength by five times for a short period of time. Because of its large consumption of world essence, Aethelwolf rarely uses it. He never would have thought that he would actually use this skill in such a situation.

"Please take a seat first, Sir Gilbert. I'll also tell my subordinates to bring your people to the dining area for a small feast." Aethelwolf said. He then sent a glance to a servant and told them to prepare a feast for their guest. He also told Aenwyn to pour tea for him and General Gilbert.

"Is she an elf?" General Gilbert was surprised when he saw Aenwyn's facial features. He hasn't seen an elf for a long time and from his experience, the elven woman who was serving tea for them wasn't just an ordinary elf.

Aethelwolf nodded his head and chuckled. "That's right. Her name is Aenwyn. I taught her our language so she can understand what we are speaking. Though she's not fond of speaking with strangers. Even to us, she rarely speaks."

“Is that so?” General Gilbert’s eyes flashed when he suddenly recalled something about the elves. From what he could remember, normal elves had golden hair and only those with superior bloodlines have silver or white hair. He concluded that Aenwyn was a High Elf or even an elf with a royal bloodline.

“This tea is called Morning Jasper Tea. Its tea leaves are taken from the Carnivorous Jasper Tree, a Level 4 magical plant. Normally, the leaves of the Carnivorous Jasper Tree are toxic and deadly, but I developed a way to eliminate the toxins on the leaves. What do you think of this tea, Sir Gilbert?” Aethelwolf changed the topic to prevent Gilbert from asking more about Aenwyn. He didn’t want others to know about her background to prevent trouble.

Gilbert was a smart person and when he realized that Aethelwolf didn’t want to talk about Aenwyn, he immediately discarded the questions in his mind. He smiled as he answered. “This is a good tea. I’ve never had something like this in the Zion Empire.” The old man wasn’t stingy with his praise.

“Since Sir Gilbert likes my tea, I’ll give you a small sack of the tea leaves.” Aethelwolf immediately told a servant to prepare the tea leaves for Gilbert.

“Thank you for the gift, Sir Aethelwolf.” The old man laughed heartily.

“I wonder what brings you here, Sir Gilbert?” Aethelwolf’s expression turned solemn as he cast a glance at the old man.

Melissa knew that they were about to discuss something important so she dragged the ladies and the servants out of the guest hall.

After everyone left, General Gilbert stared calmly at Aethelwolf as he said. “First, I’m here to congratulate Sir Aethelwolf for ranking fifth in the Heavenly Might Rankings! The second matter is about the Ford Empire. They brought some people and instigated us to attack the Leone Empire. I already captured those people and I will hand them to you later. As for the third and final matter, I came here to propose an Alliance with the Leone Empire. We want to be friends with you, Sir Aethelwolf.”

Hearing this, Aethelwolf’s lips curved upwards. “On behalf of the Leone Empire, I accept your alliance proposal. Just send someone to the Leone Imperial Family to deal with the formalities.” Because he was now fifth in the Heavenly Might Rankings, the Leone Empire no longer had to worry about the Zion Empire.

Aethelwolf had to thank Eliazar and Nocturna this time. Because of them, he no longer has to trouble himself with another war.

General Gilbert heaved a sigh of relief upon hearing his words. “Good!”

Both men chatted about other matters. They only stopped after the small feast was prepared for the guests from the Zion Empire.

265 Victory

After the feast, General Gilbert asked while looking at Aethelwolf. "Do you want to see the prisoners from the Ford Empire?" He knew that the Ford Empire was an enemy of the Leone Empire so he wanted to offer the prisoners as a gift to their ally.

Aethelwolf narrowed his eyes when he heard this, but he shook his head. "There's no need for that. I'll let my subordinates handle the prisoners." If it weren't for him becoming a Level 5 Esper and entering the Heavenly Might Rankings, he believed that the Zion Empire wouldn't be so friendly to them now. Perhaps they might have even attacked them to gain possession of the Two Lion Sword.

"Alright. We'll stay here for the time being and observe Lion City. I hope you don't mind, Sir Aethelwolf." General Gilbert wanted to learn more about the Leone Empire before going back home.

Hearing this, Aethelwolf nodded his head and said. "Not at all. You are welcome to stay here any time, Sir Gilbert. I'll have my people arrange your accommodations. For now, please stay in the estate for the time being and take a rest."

"Thanks for having us." The old general and the other envoys were taken by the servants to their temporary rooms.

Meanwhile, Aethelwolf went back to his study and summoned Albert and Ramiel.

At this moment, the intelligence force under Aethelwolf's command was already numbering in ten thousand and he has about seventy thousand soldiers including the new recruits!

Albert and Ramiel sat calmly in front of Aethelwolf. The former was already a late stage Level 4 Esper, while Ramiel was a mid stage Level 4 Esper. Both men's power increased substantially after consuming the pills they got from Aethelwolf.

"The Grand General of the Ford Empire is now in our prison. Without his presence, the army of the Ford Empire will be in chaos. It's a good chance to get rid of the Ford Empire. They attacked us before so they should be ready for our retaliation!" Aethelwolf muttered coldly.

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Hearing this, the faces of Albert and Ramiel turned serious.

“I want you guys to cooperate with the Imperial Family in dealing with the Ford Empire. The members of the Ford Imperial Family must be killed! If they surrender, capture them and take them back here!” Aethelwolf said. The new soldiers they recruited had already turned into true warriors, but they were yet to experience a large-scale war. It was time to test their skills!

“Yes, King Aethelwolf!” Ramiel and Albert acknowledged his command. Everything they had now was given to them by this man and the only thing they could do to repay him was to serve him loyally.

“You two may leave and start making preparations right away. I give you the authority to mobilize our army. You can also bring our advanced weapons.” Aethelwolf dismissed them.

Recently, he gave a blueprint to their Blacksmiths to create an advanced weapon that was similar to the artillery in his old world. It was a very destructive weapon on the battlefield and if it is used well, it would be a deadly weapon that would be comparable to Divine-Rated artifacts!

In fact, Aethelwolf could also give the blueprints for making battle tanks and rifles, but those weapons needed a lot of time to be created because of the lack of technology in this world so he prioritized the production of artillery.

One week later, Aethelwolf’s armed force and the Leone Empire’s army were mobilized in the direction of the Ford Empire.

Many noble households were eager to participate in the battle since they knew that victory was already guaranteed because of the presence of Aethelwolf’s soldiers. When they saw the huge army of Espers, they were shocked. The army in Aethelwolf’s hands was already stronger than the army of the empire!

The Ford Empire was in a state of anxiety after their scouts reported that an army of three hundred thousand soldiers was marching toward them. Their Grand General had gone missing and their soldiers were restless without him. Lexter Ford was the strongest expert in the empire. Without him, they were like a headless tigers.

Emperor Ludwig Ford was forced to command the army in person to restore the morale of their troops. He was also a peak stage Level 4 Esper, but he was already old and he wasn’t as strong as he was in his younger years.

Even with the emperor’s presence, the soldiers were still nervous because of a shocking rumor.

A Level 5 Esper emerged in the Leone Empire!

This rumor was intentionally spread by the spies that Albert sent to the Ford Empire.

Soon, the two armies met on the battlefield. The morale of the Leone Empire's army was sky high and they rushed towards the enemy soldiers ferociously!

The fearsome generals of the Leone Empire led their troops to carve a path of blood, decimating the formation of the Ford Empire's army.

It was a one-sided massacre and no one could stop the fearless warriors of the Leone Empire. The Ford Empire was forced to send their strongest troops, but they were only murdered by the battalion led by Einar.

Looking at the massacre, Emperor Ludwig's heart turned cold. He never would have thought that the Leone Empire whom he treated lightly before could actually summon a fearsome army.

He turned his gaze at the shivering soldiers beside him and then toward the sky. "It looks like I'm destined to die today." He muttered in a calm voice.

Emperor Ludwig gripped the reins of his mount tightly. He took a deep breath and pulled out his sword as he bellowed. "Soldiers of my Ford Empire, show these fools your valiance! Behind us are our families and friends! If we die here today, the people we left behind will be in danger! Charge with me and kill the enemies!"

Emperor Ludwig's earth-shaking roar echoed in all directions, igniting the morale of his soldiers.

"Follow His Majesty! Charge! Kill the enemies!"

The Ford Empire's army erupted with power and they fearlessly fought with the soldiers of the Leone Empire.

The sounds of weapons clashing and the valiant cries of men echoed on the battlefield. From time to time, many brave soldiers would fall, but they were soon replaced by more soldiers.

When Emperor Ludwig joined the battle, the pressure on the frontline soldiers of the Ford Empire was reduced.

The battle entered a short period of stalemate, but it was soon destroyed when Ramiel and Prince Renz entered the fray.

Both men led their troops to mercilessly kill their enemies!

The tired Emperor Ludwig immediately led his remaining elite warriors to stop the two experts when he saw the dire situation. However, he had already expended a lot of world essence and he didn't last a few moves against Ramiel.

Ramiel chopped off Emperor Ludwig's head and raised it into the sky as he roared. "Your emperor is dead! Surrender or you will be killed!"

"Surrender or you will be killed!"

The soldiers of the Ford Empire stared at the decapitated head of their emperor in disbelief.

"His Majesty is dead!"

"Avenge His Majesty!" A few loyal supporters of the Ford Imperial Family bravely charge toward Ramiel only to be decimated by the troops under him.

With the death of their leader, many soldiers of the Ford Empire threw down their weapons and surrendered. A few chose to die along with the emperor.

The battle concluded after half a day of intense fighting.

Ramiel commanded his soldiers to tie up the enemies who surrendered, while Prince Renz led his troops to capture the Ford Empire's capital city.

It only took them a day to force the Ford Empire to surrender. The members of the Ford Imperial Family were killed and those who surrendered were taken by Ramiel's soldiers.

"Victory! Ahhh!"

The soldiers of the Leone Empire roared mightily, expressing their joy over their victory. They had killed the enemy emperor and even captured the empire! They were bound to receive a lot of benefits following this victory.

Aethelwolf received a report about the victory of their army. He had already expected this so he looked extremely calm.

Emperor Ragnar also received the news and he immediately summoned his trusted aides to deal with the aftermath of the battle.

Now that the Ford Empire was leaderless, Emperor Ragnar had to think of a way to stabilize the situation since the Ford Empire would become their vassal empire. After absorbing the Ford Empire, the Leone Empire's might would increase, but they had to suppress the anxious civilians first.

Emperor Ragnar didn't want to disturb Aethelwolf for this matter since their victory was largely attributed to the Lassiter Household's army. "With Aethelwolf's presence in our

Leone Empire, we have a high chance of becoming a huge empire!" The emperor laughed joyfully.

Emperor Ragnar scanned his subordinates and said. "I'll personally go to the Ford Empire to appease the citizens. Immediately arrange for a flying carriage for me!"

266 Snowy Pond

News about the defeat of the Ford Empire spread like wildfire and it caused many of its neighboring empires to feel afraid of the Leone Empire's might. Some of them even took the initiative to get close to the Leone Empire and offered them various gifts.

The members of the Leone Imperial Family happily took the gifts on behalf of the emperor who couldn't attend to the visitors because he was still busy in dealing with the aftermath of the battle.

Meanwhile, in the Reynolds Household, everyone was in a celebratory mood because King Aethelwolf asked for Samira's hand in marriage!

"Is this really happening?" Samira muttered to herself as she looked at her reflection in the mirror. Yesterday, Aethelwolf came to visit their estate and proposed to her. He even brought a lot of gifts, each being more valuable than the other.

She stared at the engagement ring on her finger with a look of bliss. It was a Unique-Rated item with a Defensive Rune inscribed on it. Upon activation, she could even block the attack of a Level 5 Esper once!

Standing behind her was her mother, Antonette Crossfield. She smiled gently at Samira as she combed her daughter's hair. "Are you happy?" She asked. She knew that her daughter had a secret crush on Aethelwolf. Although Samira didn't tell her about it, she could sense that the way she looked at him was different.

Samira smiled bashfully as she nodded her head. "I've been dreaming about this. I never thought that he would take the initiative to propose to me."

"Aethelwolf came here after knowing that you were engaged to Prince Jonas. I believed that the cancellation of the engagement between you two is also his doing. Maybe he already liked you a long time ago." Antonette chuckled.

Samira shook her head, but when she recalled her interactions with Aethelwolf, she realized that it might be possible. This thought made her cheeks turn red.

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"After we are done here, we'll visit Miss Hyacinth's clothing shop and choose a perfect wedding gown for you." Antonette muttered with a smile.

“Alright.” Samira nodded her head eagerly. She was also excited about this.

News about their engagement soon reached the ears of the nobility and many came to congratulate the Reynolds Household.

Later that night in the estate of the Urgel Household, Julie Irish sat on the balcony with a lost expression on her face. She also heard about the engagement of Samira and Aethelwolf. For some reason, she felt an explicable sadness enveloping her heart. “Why am I feeling like this?” She muttered to herself as she stared at the starry night sky.

At this moment, she realized that she might have taken a liking to Aethelwolf.

“Is it really like that? Do I actually like him?” Julie Irish muttered before downing a glass of wine.

Because her mind was so occupied by all sorts of thoughts, she didn’t even notice that her sister, Grace, was already standing behind her.

“Sister, you only noticed now? I knew a long time ago that you like King Aethelwolf.” Grace sighed as she walked closer to her sister.

Julie Irish was a bit startled when she heard Grace’s words. She turned her gaze and stared at Grace in silence.

“I will join you.” Grace grabbed the wine bottle from her hands and took out an empty glass. She then poured wine for herself and then for her sister.

Julie Irish took off her veil, revealing the face of a peerless beauty with long crimson hair. She was like a goddess, untainted by the mortal world. “If only I had shown him my true face...”

“Actually, it’s not yet too late for you, sister. Who says he can only marry one woman? He is the King of Barden Territory! A peak expert with the strength of a Level 5 Esper! It’s completely normal for a person as strong as him to have multiple women at his side, but are you prepared for that?” Grace muttered while looking at her sister. She was young and open-minded and she didn’t have traditional thinking.

Hearing this, Julie’s eyes flashed. “You’re right. He is so outstanding and Samira wouldn’t be able to hold him alone.” Her lips curved upwards.

Meanwhile, the man in question was now in midair with his eyes shut tight, appearing to be in deep meditation.

Aethelwolf could sense that something was summoning him from afar. He opened his eyes and looked in a certain direction with a confused look on his face. “What is summoning me?” He muttered to himself.

He first noticed this feeling when he became a Level 5 Esper and it was becoming more frequent as time passed by.

After a moment of hesitation, Aethelwolf decided to take a look at what was calling him. He flew into the sky with his wings unfurled.

Aethelwolf flew for more than a few hours and he passed by many empires along the way. There wasn't a Level 5 Esper in any of those empires so he managed to pass through without alerting anyone.

Soon, he arrived on an island that had countless runes of all kinds scattered all over the place. The defense in this place was unlike anywhere he had been to. One single mistake and he would be a goner! That was how heavily fortified the island was.

"Where is this place?" He muttered in surprise. Suddenly, he noticed an aura sweeping in his direction. He immediately used a Concealment skill to hide his aura, preventing the other party from locating him.

He could sense that there were a lot of Level 5 Espers in the area and from his initial estimates, there were around five of them on the island!

"This aura... Eliazar? Could this be the territory of Mystic Island?" Aethelwolf was pleasantly surprised when he sensed Eliazar's aura. The guy was one of the Mystic Island's Holy Generals so Aethelwolf concluded that the island in front of him must be their headquarters.

Aethelwolf avoided the detection of the experts while finding a blindspot to bypass the Defensive Runes. It took him about an hour to finally reach a small pond. He could feel that the summoning was getting more intense.

He observed the area around the pond and he heaved a sigh of relief after seeing that there was no rune inscribed. He stared at the pond with a hesitant look and after a minute of struggle, he jumped into the pond.

Splash!

Aethelwolf was shocked when he discovered that the pond was actually so deep. He swam into the deepest part of the water and saw a rift that seemed to be leading to a different dimension. The calling also intensified and he discovered that it actually came from behind the rift.

Aethelwolf tried to escape from the captivating voice that was whispering in his mind. However, he had underestimated the enchanting power and it dragged him inside the rift.

He felt his consciousness slowly drifting and after a long time of struggle, his eyes slowly closed.

Cough! Cough! Cough!

Aethelwolf's eyes sprang open and he shivered from the coldness in the air. When his eyes regained focus, he discovered that he was lying in a snowy field and his body was covered in snow. It was so cold that even with the body of a Level 5 Esper, his body was still shivering from the coldness.

He summoned a fearsome flame that immediately made him feel warm. He also covered his body with a small layer of world essence before he surveyed the surroundings. There were no signs of life and he seemed to have traveled to another world. "Where am I?"

He felt a bit anxious after realizing that he might have traveled to a distant land.

The experts of the Mystic Island were soon alerted.

"Young Miss, something is happening to the Snowy Pond!" Eliazar reported to Nocturna with a solemn look on his face.

"What?! Take me there!" Nocturna furrowed her eyebrows as she followed Eliazar to the Snowy Pond. The headquarters of the Mystic Island is heavily protected by many peak experts and there were even hundreds of high-level Defensive Runes scattered all over the place. For this reason, they didn't bother to put any defense in the Snowy Pond.

When they arrived, Nocturna saw that the Snowy Pond was emitting a brilliant glow as if it was shining. "What's happening?!" She muttered in surprise. It was the first time she had seen the Snowy Pond emitting such brilliance.

Eliazar shook his head and answered. "I have no idea. I've already alerted the others and they told me that no one's been here. This Snowy Pond leads to the Frigid Snow Dimension. Perhaps something is happening in there."

"The portal leading to the Frigid Snow Dimension only opens once a year so we can't verify your conjecture. Sir Eliazar, please guard this area. We can only wait until my father returns." Nocturna muttered solemnly.

Aethelwolf looked for an exit, but he found out that everything around him was only a field of snow. He combed through the area and located some giant trees.

[Mutant Snow Mahogany] Level 4

– A Snow Mahogany that has mutated after being exposed to frigid temperatures for a long period. Its sap is sweet and has multiple nourishment qualities effects.

Aethelwolf was a bit surprised that the random tree that he found was actually a Level 4 magical plant. He grabbed an empty glass bottle from his storage space and extracted the sap of the nearby Mutant Snow Mahogany Trees. He believed that everything in this dimension was rare so he didn't let this opportunity slip by.

After filling more than ten glass bottles, Aethelwolf left the area in satisfaction. He used his [Virtual Map] to find traces of creatures in the dimension, but after navigating for over an hour, he still didn't find anything. However, he did find a huge number of precious medicinal herbs and magical plants.

Soon, Aethelwolf once again felt the summoning sensation leading him somewhere. He frowned and decided to follow the summons, but he was prepared to activate escape skills in case something unexpected happens.

After thirty minutes of flying, Aethelwolf saw a frozen castle in the distance. It looked ancient and from the carving on the wall, he believed that it was from the era thousands of years ago. "This is the language of the Ancient Fairies." He muttered after identifying the origin of the carvings.

The Ancient Fairies are said to be extinct, but Aethelwolf didn't believe this since Nocturna possessed the Ancient Fairy Bloodline. This discovery made him think that this frozen castle might have something to do with Nocturna's ancestors.

Aethelwolf pushed open the gates of the frozen castle and entered. The castle was dark and the lightings inside were no longer working so he summoned a small wisp of white flame to give himself some light. He also checked the [Virtual Map] from time to time.

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He checked the entire castle and found many ancient artifacts. Although most of them were damaged and could no longer be used, there were a few items that managed to survive the long passage of time.

"This is a broken Divine-Rated artifact..." He muttered in surprise as he grabbed a faded golden shield with ancient carvings. It had some runes inscribed on the surface, but a huge portion of the runes was no longer working.

Aethelwolf unceremoniously kept the shield in his storage space. He could repair the shield since he was already a Level 5 Blacksmith. Furthermore, there were some smithing materials in the frozen castle that could still be of use.

After searching the entire first floor of the frozen castle, Aethelwolf found three pieces of broken Divine-Rated artifacts. One was the golden shield, and the other two were a red

spear and a short sword. The rest of the weapons that he found could no longer be repaired, but he still placed them inside his storage ring because he could use them as smithing materials.

The frozen castle has three floors and Aethelwolf was now checking the second floor. The living quarters here were larger and from his initial investigations, he believed that the people who lived here were the higher-ranking officials of the Ancient Fairies.

Aethelwolf found some chests containing a huge number of precious treasures. There were also a large number of 5th-Grade Pills, but they had turned into dust the moment he touched them.

“What a pity...” He sighed as he looked at the specks of dust that disappeared into the air.

When Aethelwolf reached the third floor, he noticed a living being in the [Virtual Map]. It wasn't labeled as an enemy, but it wasn't labeled as an ally either. Furthermore, he could also feel a terrifying pressure from where it was. This made him hesitate to near the creature, but the summoning sensation he felt intensified as he moved closer to where the creature was.

Soon, he was led to a room with countless Sealing Runes inscribed all over the place. The Runes were also active and they were consuming the remaining energy in the frozen castle.

“Why are there so many Sealing Runes here? What could be sealed in this place?” Aethelwolf was shocked when he saw the Level 5 Sealing Runes scattered in the room. Most of the Runes were glued to a coffin in the middle of the room. The coffin was also tied by Divine-Rated chains, making it impossible for whatever was inside to escape.

Aethelwolf felt nervous the more he walked closer to the coffin.

Suddenly, there was a violent tremor, causing the frozen castle to shake intensely.

“Leric...” A gentle voice of a woman called out to him, but this made his body turn cold. No one has called him by that name after living 'Aethelwolf's' persona. It was his name in his past life and also the name was given to him by his current parents.

“Leric...” This time, the voice was clearer and he knew that it came from the creature sealed inside the coffin.

“Don't be afraid... I was the one who summoned you into this world...” The gentle voice drifted into his ears, almost making him fall into a daze.

A mysterious energy forcefully calmed his heart. He gritted his teeth as he muttered. “Who are you?! Why did you summon me here?!” The being inside the coffin was so

strong that it could actually summon him despite being in a sealed state. He couldn't imagine how strong the being would be if it was released. Just thinking about it made his scalp tingle in dread.

"Leric... You were recognized as the Herb King in your past life because of your advanced knowledge of herbs. I summoned you into this world because you are the only person who can help me and my Ancient Fairy Clan with protecting the Regalis Continent. I even used that thing to increase your growth potential. I just couldn't believe that your strength would actually increase to this degree in just a few years..." The voice was filled with lamentation and hope, but Aethelwolf was still skeptical of its words. He even thought that he was under a powerful illusion and that he was currently trapped in it.

The thing that it was talking about must be the Status Screen. It was his most closely guarded secret and no one else knew about it other than himself. "If you have such a powerful item, why didn't you give it to your descendants?" He muttered questioningly.

Sigh...

The voice sighed and replied. "If I could only do that, I would have done that a long time ago. Unfortunately, no one in our Ancient Fairy Clan is able to use it. Even the top experts of the Regalis Continent failed to make it recognize them. Only someone like you who comes from a different world is able to use its power. Leric, I only want you to help my Ancient Fairy Clan survive the incoming disaster. The Underworlders would once again surface to the world and wreak havoc. The person who sealed me is also the Ancient Lord of the Underworlders, but that guy is heavily injured and he shouldn't be coming out for now. Leric, the Holy Treasure of our Ancient Fairy Clan is here. Give it to my descendants and you might have some hope in surviving the catastrophe. Take it and leave this place..."

Hearing this, Aethelwolf heaved a sigh of relief. The being inside the coffin didn't seem to have any ill intentions toward him, but he still didn't put down his vigilance. "Where can I find this Holy Treasure?" He asked while looking around the room. There was nothing inside other than the coffin.

"The Necklace of Heaven is buried underneath this castle. There should be some Runes protecting it, but I believe that the current you is capable of handling them. You just have to be careful of the Samsara Rune. It is the strongest Rune that is protecting Holy Treasure. It will trap you in an endless illusion and if you're unable to extricate yourself from the illusions, you might be trapped for eternity." The gentle voice warned him.

Aethelwolf furrowed his eyebrows upon hearing this. He didn't want to be trapped in an illusion because his wedding day was close by. However, the Holy Treasure was something that he must obtain so that the Regalis Continent would have a chance to defend itself against the fearsome might of the Underworlders.

After a moment of hesitation, Aethelwolf muttered. "Just tell me the exact location and I'll try to get it."

"Thank you, Leric." The gentle voice was filled with gratitude. "I'll use my power and it will guide you to the Holy Treasure. I hope you will take it to my descendants..."

Following her voice, a brilliant light flashed inside the room, forcing Aethelwolf to blink his eyes. When he lifted his eyelids, he noticed a small wisp of light floating above its head. It was stationary for a few seconds before it started moving.

Aethelwolf gave one last look at the coffin before he gave chase to the wisp of light.

After he left, an incorporeal figure of a woman appeared above the coffin. Her face was covered by a brilliant light, making it impossible for anyone to see what she looked like. "He might not be able to escape the illusion of the Samsara Rune..."

Aethelwolf moved down the castle and the wisp of light led him to a secret room. He was a bit surprised since he didn't find this room earlier.

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The wisp of light hovered in a certain area inside the secret room and it seemed to be twinkling as if it was trying to tell him something.

"So it's here." Aethelwolf muttered and started digging. He didn't have a shovel in his storage space so he used the blade of a short spear to dig the ground.

Soon, he noticed a few Level 5 Defensive Runes, but he quickly disarmed them without making them activate. After becoming a Level 5 Esper, his other Talents and Skills also leveled up. He was now a Level 5 Engraver and these Level 5 Defensive Runes didn't stump him. However, there was one Rune that stood out among the Runes inscribed on the ground. Its inscriptions were difficult to analyze and he couldn't decipher them right away.

Aethelwolf tried all sorts of ways to deactivate the Rune, but the inscriptions suddenly lit up and the view in front of him started to change.

"Is this the illusion of the Samsara Rune?" He muttered as he observed the changes happening around him.

He was no longer inside the secret room of the castle. He found himself standing in the middle of a busy street filled with cars, tall skyscrapers, and people of all ages.

"This is my old world..." Aethelwolf muttered in surprise.

The familiar sight made him recall his past life.

He stood in the middle of the large crowd, listening to the honking of the cars and the chattering of the people.

Suddenly, he felt someone bumping into him.

“Sorry, dude.”

Aethelwolf stared at the young person who bumped into him and unconsciously replied. “It’s fine.”

Aethelwolf looked lost as he started walking along with the crowd. He followed the familiar route and soon arrived at his old home. It was a big house with an underground laboratory. He was an herbalist so he constructed his own laboratory to make things easier for his research.

“I’m back...” He muttered with a smile as he entered the big house. He went into his room and found himself looking in the mirror. The face he saw was a handsome man in his twenties, but it soon transformed into a decrepit old man wearing a lab coat.

He grabbed the nametag on his left chest and stared at it.

Dr. Leric Harrison

A stream of memories flooded his mind as soon as he saw the name.

He clutched his head with a pained look on his face. After the pain subsided, he lifted his head and revealed a look of confusion. “I think I’m forgetting something...” He muttered to himself as he strode out of the room. He went inside the laboratory and inspected his research materials.

At this moment, the old man seemed to have forgotten everything about the Regalis Continent. He could recall a few scenes, but he thought that they were merely part of a dream.

Days passed by and the old man continued his daily routine. He woke up early in the morning and took a hot shower. He ate a small breakfast before going to the laboratory to resume his research.

Soon, months passed and the months turned into years...

Meanwhile, in the secret room of the frozen castle, the wisp of light hovered in front of Aethelwolf who was standing with his eyes closed. It looked as if it could penetrate the void as it released a bright ray of light that illuminated the entire secret room.

“The power of the Samsara Rune is truly unfathomable. Leric, I will help you for the last time.” A sigh could be heard as the wisp of light activated the power of time.

Only a few days have passed outside the Frigid Snow Dimension, but years upon years passed inside the secret room.

“I hope you can escape the illusion soon, Leric...”

Inside the illusion of the Samsara Rune, the old man, Leric, was inside his laboratory. He seemed to be immersed in his research and he didn't even notice that more than a few decades had passed by.

Suddenly, he saw a wisp of light floating in his laboratory. Seeing this, he raised his eyebrows in surprise. His laboratory was sealed and there shouldn't be any insects capable of entering inside.

“How did you come here, little guy?” The old man muttered as he reached out his hands towards the wisp of light. He was thinking that it was just a stray firefly, but when his fingertips touched the floating wisp of light, his body shuddered.

“Leric... Leric Lassiter... Aethelwolf Lassiter... King of the Barden Territory. Who am I?” The old man clutched his head as a huge stream of memories appeared in his mind.

He staggered and lost his footing, making him fall to the ground.

The old man was still in pain and he kept on writhing on the floor.

“Ahhh!”

A mysterious force abruptly calmed down his heart and a familiar yet unfamiliar power started gathering in his body, easing the pain he was feeling.

After an unknown period of time, the old man grabbed the table at the side and used it to prop himself up. He then walked towards the chair and leaned in exhaustion. “These memories...” He muttered with a blank look.

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Everything he saw felt so vivid to him as if it was real.

While he was deep in his thoughts, the slumbering power in his Hegel started coursing through his body and slowly strengthened his muscles and joints. He was still unaware of the changes happening in his body.

Ring! Ring! Ring!

The old man retracted his thoughts as soon as he heard the ringing of the alarm clock. He checked the time and said. “It's time for lunch...”

He got up from his seat and stepped out of the laboratory. He walked through the long corridor and saw a reflection of himself on the clear glass wall. What he saw was no longer a decrepit old man, but a young man with sharp eyebrows and a prominent jawline. His facial features were filled with charm and he could be a top star if the standards of this world were used.

“This is... me?” He muttered in disbelief as he went closer to the glass wall.

It was the most handsome face he had ever seen!

After recovering from his shock, he retreated a few steps back. “Samsara Rune... I remember now! This is the illusion of the Samsara Rune! How powerful! It actually trapped me for a few decades!” He exclaimed in horror.

He suddenly recalled the wisp of light that entered his laboratory and he knew that it was the power of the being sealed inside the coffin. “I’m heavily indebted to her now. Without her help, I might have been trapped here for eternity...” Just the thought of it made his skin crawl.

He quickly stabilized his thoughts and started gathering the world essence in his body. He was now a Level 5 Esper and his power was already among the top in the Regalis Continent. Thick streams of energy covered his arms as he summoned a powerful sword wave that cleaved the illusion of the Samsara Rune.

Swoosh!

His field of vision distorted for a brief moment and when his eyes regained focus, he noticed that he was back in the secret chamber of the frozen castle.

He surveyed the surroundings and he heaved a sigh of relief after seeing that there was no abnormality. “I’m finally back!” He muttered in a hoarse voice.

“This must be the Necklace of Heaven...” He muttered as he stared at the necklace buried in the ground. It was emitting a brilliant golden light and he even felt his body slowly recovering under the baptism of this golden light. “It has the power of healing?” He grabbed the necklace in surprise and observed it carefully.

The Necklace of Heaven was shaped like a diamond and it has all sorts of unidentifiable gems with levels that he couldn’t determine.

After admiring the necklace for almost ten minutes, he placed it inside his storage space.

“Leric, I’m relieved that you were able to escape the illusion of the Samsara Rune.” A gentle voice suddenly drifted into his ears.

“Leric? Please call me Aethelwolf.”

He heard a soft chuckle when he muttered those words.

Aethelwolf ignored the giggles of the Ancient Fairy and continued. “Miss Ancient Fairy, if it wasn’t for your help, I wouldn’t be able to escape the illusion. You have my gratitude. I promise that I will bring the Necklace of Heaven to your descendants and I will also aid them when the catastrophe arrives.”

“I feel at ease with your words. Leave this place now. The portal of the Frigid Snow Dimension will soon appear. I have overused my power so I will be in deep slumber. I won’t be able to help you again. Good luck, Aethelwolf...” The gentle voice soon faded.

Aethelwolf stared in the direction of the coffin before he exited the frozen castle. “Once I gain sufficient power, I will go back here and help you escape.” He promised in a solemn voice.

Om!

Aethelwolf turned his head and stared at the portal that suddenly appeared behind him. Without hesitation, he jumped inside the portal.

The headquarters of the Mystic Island was shaking intensely.

At this moment, five hundred elite warriors were staring intently at the portal that suddenly appeared above the Snowy Pond.

Eliazar and three more Level 5 Espers stared at the portal with wary gazes. The four of them were the Holy Generals of the Mystic Island and they all came here as soon as they heard the commotion in the Snowy Pond.

Nocturna was also standing behind the four Holy Generals with a serious look on her face. She was a bit nervous since it was the first time that the portal was opened ahead of time.

Under everyone’s solemn gazes, a figure emerged behind the portal.

“Aethelwolf?” Eliazar and Nocturna cried out in surprise when they saw the face of the person who emerged from the portal.

Aethelwolf stared at the two and then at the soldiers who were emitting heavy pressure. Even his skill [Demon Heart] could barely make him calm in this situation. After all, these people were the elites of Mystic Island and the pressure they exuded could even make one turn weak.

“Eliazar, Miss Nocturna.” Aethelwolf called out with an embarrassed smile. He had infiltrated the Mystic Island and even entered the Frigid Snow Dimension without their consent, making him feel apologetic.

“Sir Aethelwolf, you were inside the Frigid Snow Dimension?” Nocturna looked at him with an expression filled with shock and disbelief. The Snowy Pond was protected by layers upon layers of traps and even Level 5 Espers would be killed if they accidentally triggered the traps. For Aethelwolf to bypass the Snowy Pond and enter the Frigid Snow Dimension, it could only mean that the traps they set up were nothing to him.

Aethelwolf chuckled awkwardly as he nodded his head. “It’s quite a long story. Let’s head somewhere else to chat. I’ll tell you everything that happened.” He muttered.

Nocturna glanced at him suspiciously before nodding her head. “Alright. Follow me to my study.” She then stared at the guards and barked out coldly. “Fortify the defenses of the island!”

“Yes, Young Miss!” The guards answered solemnly.

“Let’s go.” Nocturna led Aethelwolf to a spacious room with numerous bookshelves filled with all sorts of books. Holy General Eliazar and a thin old man wearing spectacles stood behind them silently. The old man was also a Level 5 Esper, Holy General Victor. This old man might look frail, but he was actually stronger than Eliazar! He was even ranked 3rd in the Heavenly Might Rankings!

“Please take your seat, Sir Aethelwolf.” Nocturna muttered before taking her seat.

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“Thank you.” Aethelwolf muttered as he sat down.

“Sir Aethelwolf, I don’t know how you entered the Mystic Island without triggering the alarms. I think I need to hear your explanation.” Nocturna felt a bit angry so she put on a serious look.

Even though her face was covered by a veil, Aethelwolf could see the anger in her eyes. “I’m truly sorry about that, Miss Nocturna. Before I entered the island, a strange power summoned me and led me here.”

Aethelwolf started a lengthy explanation and he told them everything he heard from the ancestor of the Ancient Fairies.

When Nocturna and the two experts heard this, they frowned. They also knew that the founder of the Mystic Island was sealed in the Frigid Snow Dimension, but after centuries of entering the pocket world, they still couldn’t find any clue about her whereabouts.

“Is she still alive?” Nocturna asked after a moment of silence.

Aethelwolf thought for a moment before he nodded his head. “She should be. Your ancestor’s power is beyond my understanding and even in her sealed state, she still managed to summon a wisp of her power to lead me there. With her help, I managed to retrieve the Holy Treasure, the Necklace of Heaven. She also asked me to deliver this to you.” He took out a beautiful necklace that was emitting a brilliant light and handed it to Nocturna.

“This is...” Nocturna’s hands trembled as she took the Necklace of Heaven from Aethelwolf.

“That is the Necklace of Heaven!” Eliazar was agitated when he saw the Holy Treasure. It was something that was lost during the war against the Underworlders a long time ago. They all thought that they would never find it again. Who would have thought that Aethelwolf would actually find it for them?

Holy General Victor walked closer to Nocturna and inspected the necklace. After checking it carefully, his eyes lit up as he muttered. “That is indeed the Necklace of Heaven...”

Nocturna kept the necklace and grabbed Aethelwolf’s arms. “Sir Aethelwolf, where is the Ancestor? How can we find her?”

Aethelwolf released a heavy sigh as he shook his head. “Your Ancestor is still sealed inside a coffin. It was filled with Level 5 runes and there were even runes that I couldn’t identify. She also used up a huge portion of her power to help me retrieve the Necklace of Heaven, forcing her to go into slumber.”

Nocturna’s face fell upon hearing this.

“Miss Nocturna, before she went into slumber, she told me about an incoming catastrophe. I wonder if you guys know something about this...” Aethelwolf glanced at her calmly. He wasn’t arrogant enough to believe that he could handle the incoming disaster all by himself.

Hearing this, Nocturna turned her gaze to Eliazar and Victor before shifting her gaze back to Aethelwolf. “Yes, we know about the catastrophe. There are records of the Underworlders’ emergence in our ancient books. Our Mystic Island has been preparing for this.”

Aethelwolf nodded his head solemnly. “I want to form an Alliance with the Mystic Island.” He muttered.

Nocturna raised her eyebrows in surprise when she heard his words. She hesitated for a moment. "Sir Aethelwolf, I'll discuss this with my father first. I'll let you know about our decision soon."

"Alright. I'll wait for your good news. By the way, how many years have passed by since my absence?" Aethelwolf felt a bit nervous as he asked this. He was trapped for a few decades in the Samsara Rune and he didn't know how many years has passed in the real world.

Nocturna stared at him in confusion. "Absence? The portal of the Frigid Snow Dimension appeared a few minutes ago. The flow of time inside the pocket world is also different from the real world. The time you spent there should be less than a day."

Hearing this, Aethelwolf heaved a sigh of relief. "I'm glad to hear that. Alright. I'll take my leave first. Just send someone to inform me about your answer."

Nocturna nodded her head. "I'll send you out." Aethelwolf retrieved their Holy Treasure and it was more than enough reason to make him a valuable guest of their Mystic Island. There was no need to detain him for infiltrating their headquarters.

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