

# The Herb King

The Herb King #Chapter 51 – 60

Read The Herb King Chapter 51

51 Prince Calvin Leone

Skylar and Kathlyn stared at their young miss with jealousy. She was now having the special treatment of being massaged by the holy hands of Sir Aethelwolf. His fingers deftly moved all over her shoulders, making Samira close her eyes as she let out a deep moan.

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“Is there something wrong, Miss Samira?” Reed’s stern voice entered their ears.

Samira hurriedly covered her mouth with her hands and calmed herself before answering. “No! Everything is fine, Reed.”

Leric chuckled when he saw Samira’s embarrassed expression.

While Leric was happily chatting with the ladies, he saw something through the window of the carriage.

There was a bunch of workers building a huge platform. From how it looked, it seemed to be a battle stage.

Seeing this, Leric could not help but ask. “What are they doing?”

Samira and the two maids followed his line of sight.

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“I think they are building an arena. I heard from my mother that the Imperial Family and the top noble families are hosting a battle event in our Dominion District, but I don’t know much about it since we just came back from the battlefield. We can go ask father at dinner time.” Samira answered him. She had no idea about the purpose of the battle event, but since the Imperial Family was involved, there was definitely something more about it.

Leric immediately lost interest when he heard that it was a battle event. He had no interest in fighting so he didn’t show much enthusiasm about the event despite it involving the upper echelons of the Leone Empire.

Seeing Leric becoming silent, Samira could not help but ask. "Sir Aethelwolf, do you dislike such events?"

Skylar and Kathlyn also looked at him curiously. Most men his age would want to show off their abilities to a large crowd. However, Leric didn't display behavior similar to those guys.

Leric shook his head and replied. "I just don't like the idea of fighting. Although I grew up in the wilderness and experienced a harsh life, I prefer to live in peace."

The ladies looked at him with admiration after hearing his answer. He was truly a unique individual! Most people had wild ambitions and wanted to dominate the entire world, but Sir Aethelwolf merely wanted a tranquil life. How admirable!

"Just that, the continent hasn't been at peace recently. Perhaps the battle event this time is to look for skilled fighters. Our empire might be preparing to strengthen its army because of the unstable state of Regalis Continent." Samira sighed as she recalled what Anna had told her.

Suddenly, they felt that the carriage has stopped.

"What's going on, Reed?" Samira frowned.

Skylar and Kathlyn looked through the window and noticed that there was a group blocking their path.

"Miss Samira, they are the lackeys of the Rayden Household. Don't worry. These guys are nothing in my eyes. You can just sit back and watch how I beat up these thugs." Reed answered as he stared at the men who are looking at them with cold eyes.

The eyes of the three ladies flashed with a glint when they heard that the men are from the Rayden Household.

Looking at their icy expressions, Leric could already tell that there was a beef between the Rayden Household and the Reynolds Household.

'Can I not have a moment of peace?' Leric smiled wryly in his heart.

"The road is currently under the surveillance of our Rayden Household. No one is allowed to use a carriage while the construction of the battle arena is still underway. Please leave the carriage here and continue your journey on foot." One of the men shouted in a cold voice while staring at Reed. The rest of the men were a bit nervous, but they still wore smirks on their faces.

Reed was the top subordinate of the Reynolds Household. He was a top Level 3 Esper. He was famous in Lion City for being a ferocious fighter. No one dared to take him lightly.

Reed sneered at the man. The Dominion District was their territory, but these guys actually dare to tell them what the rules are. Who did they think they were?

“Hans, I haven’t heard about this rule from Lord Harold. Show me a written proof or document and I will believe you.” Reed muttered coldly as he stared at the leader of the opposing group.

Hans felt a bit nervous after looking at Reed’s cold eyes. Although he was also a Level 3 Esper, his strength was beneath the other guy. If a battle really breaks out, they might not be able to win despite having an advantage in numbers. However, he couldn’t sit idly when he saw the crest of their family’s greatest enemy and unconsciously ordered his subordinates to block the path. Who knew that the coachman of this carriage would actually be the famous Reed?

Hans didn’t want to embarrass himself in front of his subordinates, so he gritted his teeth and said. “Reed, are you planning to cause trouble in the construction site of the battle arena? Do you think you can handle the consequence?”

Reed laughed coldly in his heart. How could he not know that these guys were merely causing trouble for them? “Enough with your nonsense, Hans! Clear the path or I’ll force you guys with my fists!”

The world essence around Reed fluctuated intensely as he stared at Hans and his subordinates with cold flickering eyes.

Seeing that Reed didn’t even place him in his eyes, Hans was angered.

“Reed, do you think I’m afraid of you?! Come! Show me how strong you are!” Hans didn’t back down. He stepped forward and beckoned with his fingers, his eyes filled with a taunting look.

“Stop! What do you guys think you’re doing?!” A voice suddenly interrupted them.

When the crowd looked over, they saw a man dressed in refined clothes that were obviously made from top-grade fabric.

The man looked to be in his early twenties and has a long golden hair that was tied in a ponytail. A flashy golden sword was tied to his belt. Behind him was a group of guards dressed in black armor. They were looking at the scene with stern faces.

When Reed and Hans saw the man, their eyes flashed for a moment before they hurriedly bowed. “Greetings, Prince Calvin.”

Prince Calvin is the second son of Emperor Ragnar Leone. He was also the former crown prince before Prince Christopher was born.

At the young age of twenty-seven, Prince Calvin is now a Level 2 Esper. He also showed signs of breaking through to the next level. He would probably become a Level 3 Esper before the age of forty. He is a promising talent in the Imperial Family, but his position was still taken after the birth of his brother, the absolute genius, Christopher Leone.

## 52 Dinner

Prince Calvin was taken aback when he saw the two opposing sides. One was the renowned Reynolds Household and the other party was a relatively lowkey household with strong financial backing. None of them were easy to deal with and despite being a prince, he has to be careful in how he should handle the situation.

“I don’t know what happened here, but since none of you guys are harmed, give me some face, and don’t cause a commotion here! The battle event that would take place in a week is something that the Imperial Family and the upper echelons of the nobility are looking forward to. It’s best if nothing troublesome happens here.” Prince Calvin gave the two sides a leeway to back down. He was tasked by his father to oversee the entire event so he didn’t want anything to go wrong.

Reed remained silent and just lightly bowed his head at Calvin. Although Prince Calvin’s strength was below his level, his authority and power weren’t to be underestimated. It was said that there were still some noble households who are in favor of him becoming the crown prince.

Hans snorted at Reed before he bowed to the second prince. “I’ll follow your words, Prince Calvin.” He then glanced at his subordinates and commanded them. “Let’s go!”

Prince Calvin heaved an internal sigh of relief. When he turned his gaze to the carriage of the Reynolds Household, he saw three ladies coming out one by one. When he saw Samira, his eyes flashed for a moment before returning to normal.

“Greetings, Prince Calvin.” Samira and her two maids bowed in unison.

Prince Calvin smiled at them, and just as he was about to reply, he suddenly noticed a man stepping out of the Reynolds Household’s carriage.

Leric smiled at the stunned prince. “Greetings, Prince Calvin.”

“Hello, everyone! Miss Samira, this guy is?” Prince Calvin stared at Samira.

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“Your Highness, this is Sir Aethelwolf. He is a Level 4 Alchemist.” Samira didn’t want others to look down on Leric so he told the prince about Leric’s level in Alchemy.

Prince Calvin was shocked upon hearing that. ‘This guy is actually a Level 4 Alchemist?’

“So it’s Sir Aethelwolf. Nice to meet you!” The prince smiled as he glanced at Leric from head to foot. This guy was about the same age as him, but he was already a Level 4 Alchemist! His talent was even more monstrous than his younger brother, Christopher!

‘I have to befriend him!’ Prince Calvin thought in his heart. He also heard of a wandering Level 4 Alchemist who helped General Gavin defeat Solas and his bandit troops.

Leric smiled gently as he replied. “The pleasure is mine, Your Highness.”

Prince Calvin turned his gaze at Samira and said.

“I didn’t know that you have already returned to Lion City. I would have visited your home if I knew.”

“It’s fine, Your Highness. It’s only a few days since I came back from the battlefield. I also didn’t have the time to inform my friends about my return since I was busy with matters at home. I hope you’ll forgive me.” Samira apologetically said.

“No, it’s fine. I’ve also heard that Sir Julius has recovered.” While saying that, he looked at Leric who was staring at him with a calm expression. It must be the doing of this young Alchemist! What a talent!

“I have some free time tomorrow so I’ll go visit your mansion and offer my congratulations to Sir Julius for his recovery.” Prince Calvin was planning to befriend the Reynolds Household. Despite having his title taken from him, he still didn’t give up his pursuit of the crown. Since his talent was inferior to his younger brother, he had to gather the support of the top nobilities. This was the only way for him to have the chance to recover his position.

“Alright. I will inform grandfather about this so that we can prepare and grand banquet for you, Your Highness.” Samira replied.

Prince Calvin shook his head. “There is no need for a banquet, Samira.” He paused and said. “I have to return to my post. The battle arena has to be completed on time. I hope you guys will forgive me.”

“Of course! Important matters must be done first. Farewell, Your Highness.” Samira nodded her head.

“Let’s chat another time, Sir Aethelwolf.” The prince left after saying these words. There is no need to be hasty in building a connection between him and this young Alchemist.

Since he was a guest of the Reynolds Household, they could catch up tomorrow when he visits their mansion.

Leric narrowed his eyes as he looked at the prince's departing figure. In the books he read in his past life, the princes and princesses were usually arrogant and domineering, but the same could not be said for Prince Calvin. He was polite and reserved. He didn't use his high status to flaunt. However, Leric knew that there was definitely something more to this prince.

"Sir Aethelwolf, let's head back to the carriage. We still have time to visit more places." Samira's voice extricated him from his thoughts.

"Alright."

The group continued their tour around Dominion District. This time, no one caused trouble for them and the rest of the journey went on smoothly.

After a few hours, they returned to the mansion.

A maid walked towards them and said. "Miss Samira, Lord Harold, Lord Julius, and Madam Antonette have been waiting for you. They are now in the dining hall."

Samira nodded her head. "Alright."

The group went to the dining hall and saw that a sumptuous dinner has already been prepared. Leric believed that the food on the table was worth about a hundred gold coins.

"How's your tour?" Lord Harold smiled when he saw them entering the dining hall.

Samira pouted as she replied. "Everything would have been good, but the lackeys of the Rayden Household blocked our carriage, wasting so much of our time. Luckily, Prince Calvin was there to mediate the situation.

Lord Harold, Lord Julius, and Madam Antonette frowned upon hearing her words.

"Let's talk about that after dinner." Madam Antonette waved her hand. She didn't want their small celebratory dinner to be ruined.

Samira nodded her head and sat down.

"Thank you for having me." Leric sat beside Samira.

Initially, Samira planned to ask her father about the matters related to the underworlders and the possible war with two neighboring empires, but looking at the situation, she decided to ask about it later.

## 53 Fight for the Headmaster Position

“Dad, what’s this battle event all about? Do you know more about it?” Samira asked her father as she gracefully lowered her spoon and fork. Since the Dominion District was the venue of the event, her father should know a lot about the coming battle event.

Lord Harold glanced at her and replied in a calm voice. “You’ve been on the battlefield so you might not know about these things. The Imperial Family is planning to expand the army and recruit the best talents in Lion City. There would be many obscure young geniuses who would certainly join this event because the rewards this time are quite generous. There are even some noble families who are planning to send their young descendants to participate in the competition, but those noble families aren’t after the rewards...”

Samira furrowed her eyebrows as she curiously stared at her father. “In that case, what are those guys planning to achieve by joining the battle event?”

Leric who was quietly eating his food perked up his ears. The conversation was becoming interesting that he could not help but listen more attentively.

Lord Harold placed his spoon and fork down before he replied in a solemn voice. “His Majesty is building an academy that would nurture top talents. This academy would gather young geniuses all over the empire, making it a strong force to be reckoned with. The headmaster position of this academy is what those noble factions are making for!”

“The headmaster of this academy would have a very high authority.” Lord Julius added in a solemn voice.

In the Leone Empire, there are three strong factions that maintained the balance.

Imperial Family. Noble Families. Merchant Association.

Among the three factions, the strongest one is the Imperial Family, followed by the Noble Families, and lastly, the Merchant Association.

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Lord Harold nodded his head in agreement. “That’s right. It’s even possible for this academy to have the same level of power as the three strongest factions in our Leone Empire!”

“Those nobles want to get hold of the headmaster position, but His Majesty will not hand over this prestigious position so casually. This matter needs more deliberation since it might lead to a feud between the three top factions.” Lord Julius sighed while shaking his head. He just recovered from his injury, but there were already a lot of problems in the empire.

Leric who was silent suddenly said. "If we think about it carefully, the establishment of the academy is actually advantageous for the empire. I believe that His Majesty has also thought about this."

Samira glanced at her in confusion and asked. "What do you mean, Sir Aethelwolf?"

Lord Julius, Lord Harold, Madam Antonette, Skylar, and Kathlyn looked at him silently. They wondered what he was going to tell them.

"Problems would only arise if the headmaster position is taken by one of the three top factions since it would destroy the equilibrium between them. However, what if a new faction is added to the three?" Leric's words stunned them into silence.

That's right. What if a fourth faction is created? The former three factions would feel dissatisfied, but the balance would remain. In fact, Leone Empire would be strengthened in the process! Just that, who was the right candidate for the headmaster position? It could only be someone who is not part of the three top factions!

Thinking about it, all of them could not help but stare at Leric. This guy fits the criteria. With his identity as a Level 4 Alchemist and his wisdom that was clearly beyond the norms, wouldn't he be perfect to be the headmaster of the academy?

Leric felt their intense gazes and could not help but feel nervous in his heart. 'Wait. They're not thinking about nominating me, right? I hope not. I still want to live a carefree life in my clinic, away from the disturbance of chaos and war. Please leave me alone!'

He then cursed himself for being such a blabbermouth. He should have just stayed silent throughout the whole conversation. Now, it seemed like he shot himself in the foot.

After the sumptuous dinner, Leric hurriedly went back to his room. "Thank you for the meal!"

Samira and the rest stared at his back with various thoughts in their heads.

"I'll have to inform His Majesty about Sir Aethelwolf's idea. No! I have to tell him about Sir Aethelwolf as well! Other than him, no one else deserves to become the headmaster of the academy!" Lord Julius muttered.

Lord Harold and Madam Antonette nodded in agreement. Although they just met Aethelwolf and didn't know much about him, they could trust his integrity as a person. He was also their benefactor and a friend of their Reynolds Household. It would also be beneficial for them if becomes the headmaster.

Samira suddenly recalled something. "Grandpa, I just remembered that we met His Highness, Prince Calvin, earlier. He told me that he will visit us tomorrow."



“Prince Calvin?” Lord Julius’ eyes narrowed into slits. The second prince was an ambitious individual, but his character was still fine. He was only being held back by his inferior talent if compared to his younger brother.

“Father, it’s not a great idea to visit His Majesty during these days since he is very busy with the matters of the empire. How about we give a hint to the second prince and see his reaction? Perhaps, he might even be willing to tell His Majesty about it.” Lord Harold suggested in a serious tone.

Lord Julius thought for a moment before nodding his head. “Alright. Let’s see what the second prince will do after we tell him about Sir Aethelwolf’s idea. Hopefully, he will give us a good reply.” He then stared at Antonette and said. “Make sure that there will be a feast for His Highness tomorrow.”

“Yes, father.” Madam Antonette nodded her head gently.

Hearing this, Samira wanted to say something, but she ended up not saying anything.

“What’s wrong, Samira?” Lord Julius smiled at her.

Samira shook her head and replied. “Nothing, grandpa.”

“Alright. You guys go and do what you’re supposed to do. I still have to summon my subordinates back since I’ve now recovered.” Lord Julius said.

The others felt elated when they heard this. Lord Julius’ subordinates were top Espers! They would be a great addition to the strength of their Reynolds Household!

#### 54 Investigate Sir Aethelwolf

Prince Calvin was on his way to the mansion of the Reynolds Household. He didn’t use his carriage this time and was riding on his Equus. It was one of the rarest breeds with its golden mane that shone brilliantly under the sun’s light. It was a gift from his father after he reached the age of ten.

The second prince didn’t bring many of his subordinates and only brought the four strongest among them to ensure his safety.

This time, he had really come prepared. He even brought healing pills for the newly recovered Lord Julius and also a Refined rank cauldron for Sir Aethelwolf. He initially wanted to give him a Unique rank cauldron, but there was no such thing sold in the market. In the entire Leone Empire, perhaps Lord Karman was in possession of one!

Not long later, Prince Calvin’s group arrived in front of the mansion.

“Greetings, Your Highness! We’ve been waiting for your arrival!”

Prince Calvin noticed that Reed was among the guards who greeted him. He immediately smiled and said. "Good morning, Sir Reed. I hope I didn't come too early."

Reed shook his head and responded. "Lord Julius has been waiting for you, Your Highness. He is greatly looking forward to your arrival. Even Lord Harold and Madam Antonette are inside, waiting for you. Please follow me."

"Alright." Prince Calvin was a bit surprised. He didn't expect the three leaders of the Reynolds Household to be waiting for him.

Reed jumped on his Equus and brought Prince Calvin's group inside the mansion.

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"You guys can wait for me here." Prince Calvin ordered his subordinates.

"Yes, Your Highness!" The four men replied in unison.

Reed stared at the four men dressed in golden armor with a solemn gaze. All four of them were Level 3 Espers!

After calming his heart, Reed turned his head to the second prince. "Lord Julius and the others are waiting for you in the guest hall, Your Highness."

Reed took the second prince to the guest hall where he saw Lord Julius and the rest looking at him with serious gazes.

Seeing this, he instantly realized that something was going on, but he didn't show it to his face.

"Greetings, Your Highness!" Lord Julius and the others greeted the second prince.

Prince Calvin waved his hand and smiled radiantly. "There is no need for formalities. Good morning to all of you. I came here to congratulate Lord Julius on your successful recovery. Here's a small gift of mine to speed up your healing." He handed a small box to the old man.

Lord Julius took the box and put it aside. He then smiled at the second prince. "Thank you for having the time to visit this old man, Your Highness. I know that you're very busy since you're tasked with overseeing the matters regarding the battle event. I'm honored to have your presence here. Come, sit here beside me. We have a lot to talk about."

Prince Calvin grew even more suspicious when he saw how Lord Julius acted, but he still obediently sat beside him. They then chatted about the matters of the empire. Lord Harold and Madam Antonette also joined their conversation.

When their topic reached the situation regarding the academy, Lord Julius started telling the second prince about what Sir Aethelwolf had told them last night during dinner.

The more he heard about it, the more astonished the second prince was. This was a great idea and the things that troubled His Majesty would be gone if they followed the plan. Just that, who would they nominate for the headmaster position? Suddenly, the second prince thought about a certain Alchemist and his mind could not help but wonder. Could it be him?

“Sir Julius, are you guys telling me to nominate Sir Aethelwolf for the headmaster position?” Prince Calvin knew that this was the reason why the group was very enthusiastic when he came, but this was also good since he came here to befriend the young Alchemist. If he helps them, he would gain the favor of the Reynolds Household, remove the troubles of His Majesty, and also make friends with the talented Sir Aethelwolf! This was killing three birds with one stone! How could he waste this chance?

Lord Julius nodded his head. “I wanted to go visit His Majesty personally, but I just recovered from my injury. Besides, His Majesty is also a very busy person so it might be difficult to get an appointment to meet him, but if it’s Your Highness, you would surely be able to meet His Majesty much quicker than me. What do you think?”

Prince Calvin was excited in his heart, but he concealed it deeply. He put on a pondering look as he casually asked. “Does Sir Aethelwolf know about this?”

Lord Julius, Lord Harold, and Madam Antonette stared at each other.

“Your Highness, to tell you the truth, the one who came up with this idea is Sir Aethelwolf.” Lord Harold muttered.

Prince Calvin reclined on his chair and was internally surprised. ‘To think that Sir Aethelwolf is also a master in devising tactics! His knowledge about politics is also beyond the scope of normal scholars, but his background is still questionable so I have to investigate things first before I tell father about this.’

“I’ll inform His Majesty about this before the battle event begins.” Prince Calvin said in a serious tone. He then took out the cauldron that he had prepared for Sir Aethelwolf and handed it to Lord Julius.

“Sir Julius, this is my gift to Sir Aethelwolf, I hope you can bring it to him.”

Lord Julius and the other two were stunned when they realized that it was a Refined rank cauldron.

“Of course! I will bring it to him later.” Lord Julius smiled widely. Now that the second prince has shown them his support, he was very happy.

“Alright. In that case, I will make some preparations before I visit His Majesty. He must be informed of this matter as soon as possible.” Initially, Prince Calvin wanted to stay for a while and find Sir Aethelwolf, but since there was a more important matter, he had to schedule it at another time.

“You’re right, Your Highness.”

“In that case, I shall not stay for long. Please send my regards to Samira and Sir Aethelwolf.” Prince Calvin stood up and shook hands with them.

“Of course! No problem!”

After that, the second prince quickly left the mansion to make some investigations about Sir Aethelwolf. He wanted to see if there is anything questionable about his origins.

Meanwhile, Lord Julius, Lord Harold, and Madam Antonette were all smiling.

“The only thing left for us to do is to wait.” Lord Julius mumbled.

## 55 Introducing Soap to the Ladies

Three days later, Henry who was responsible for the construction of Leric’s clinic came to the Reynolds Household to tell them that they had already gathered the materials and his company was now prepared to start the construction.

Leric was elated upon hearing this news. He even shared some words with Henry before the latter went back to the construction site to oversee the situation.

According to the man, Leric’s clinic would be completed in just a week! This was beyond his expectations since he was used to the slow process of construction in his past life. Some buildings might even take a few months or even a year to be built, but Henry told him with great confidence that his clinic would be done in just one week!

Leric didn’t doubt his words at all. In his past life, people had to use machines and manual labor when constructing something. However, in this world, people could casually do things by simply controlling world essence, making life a lot easier and more comfortable. The only flaw of this world was its lacking power in technology. If the power of technology and the magic of this world are added together, how frightening would the world be?

“Sir Aethelwolf, we have new visitors! This time, you know who they are!” Lord Harold grinned as he came back to the mansion with a group of people.

There were four people standing behind Lord Harold and all of them were acquaintances whom he met in Vale City.

The owner of the herb shop, Johann, and his granddaughter, Anna. Other than them, the pot-bellied weapon shop manager, Chris, and the owner, Sir Enrique Maynard, were also there.

Looking at them, Leric smiled. "It's good to see you guys again!"

"Hello, Sir Aethelwolf!" The four respectfully greeted him. This man was a Level 4 Alchemist so they didn't dare to be rude.

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"How's your body, Sir Johann?" Leric asked the old man.

"I've now recovered my full strength thanks to Sir Aethelwolf." Johann grinned from ear to ear, showing the wrinkles on his face.

After hearing that, Leric nodded his head and turned his gaze to Enrique Maynard. "How about your, Sir Maynard?"

Enrique flexed his muscles as he chuckled. "I'm now back to my peak state, Sir Aethelwolf!"

"I'm happy that the two of you have recovered. Lord Harold, would you mind if I take them to the guest hall?"

"Not at all! I'll call father and let him join you guys later. He will surely be happy if he sees you guys." Lord Harold jogged to Lord Julius' room, eager to tell him about the arrival of the visitors.

Seeing the excited Lord Harold walking so hastily, Leric could not help but chuckle. He then brought the visitors to the guest hall.

The maids were already prepared and they immediately brought over some refreshments.

"Sir Aethelwolf, if I may be so blunt, what are you planning to do here in Dominion District?" Anna asked while looking at Leric's handsome face. The other three also stared at Leric curiously, waiting for his answer.

Leric smiled at her and replied. "I made a deal with the Reynolds Household and they are now building a clinic for me. It should be done in a week. I hope you guys will come and support my business. I plan to display some rare pills at the opening of the clinic. Perhaps you might fancy a pill or two." How could he forget to promote his clinic to these people? They were elites of the Leone Empire and their social network was nothing to scoff about.

Hearing this, they immediately nodded their heads.

“Of course! How could I miss the opening day of Sir Aethelwolf’s clinic?”

“This old man has some free time so I’ll be there, Sir Aethelwolf.”

“Sir Aethelwolf, are you also planning to display some beauty pills at the opening of your clinic?” Anna asked with a red face. As a young woman, there was nothing more important than maintaining a youthful face and radiant glowing skin.

Beauty pills were only 2nd-Grade pills, but the creation process was closely kept by Alchemists. In fact, only a few handfuls of Alchemists knew how to refine such pills, making the value of beauty pills skyrocket.

Leric stared at her with a contemplating look. This world didn’t have cosmetic products, making the sparse beauty pills in the market even rarer and more expensive. It might be a great idea to venture into this business since he knows how to create cosmetic products using herbs. Not to mention that the creation process wasn’t even that difficult. Leric could already smell the great opportunity in this business.

“Now that you mentioned it, I actually know how to make beauty products. To be specific, I have a special item called soap that could make one’s skin look more glowing and smooth. You will also have a fragrant scent after using it. Other than that, I also know a few more beauty products.” Leric casually said, but his words were like the chiming of bells in the ears of Anna.

“There’s actually such a thing!?” A shocked voice came from behind them and the group unconsciously stared at Samira who had apparently come with his parents and grandfather.

Samira immediately grabbed a chair and placed it beside Leric. She then sat down and looked at him with anticipation. “Sir Aethelwolf, do you really know how to make this ‘soap’, and is it really as magical as you said?”

The eyes of Anna and Madam Antonette shone with expectation as they looked at Leric.

Seeing them act like this, Leric smiled and nodded his head. “Of course! In fact, I can promise that there will be a lot of soap to be displayed on the opening day of my clinic.”

“Really? How much is it? One thousand gold coins? Ten thousand gold coins?”

Leric’s face twitched when he saw the three ladies looking at him like hungry wolves. He then thought for a moment before deciding to give them his answer.

The value of 2nd Grade Pills is roughly about a thousand gold coins. Meanwhile, the price of beauty pills of similar levels are sold at varying prices, but the most expensive ones can go for ten thousand gold coins!

The ingredients to make one soap isn't difficult to find. The creation process is also a lot easier with the help of world essence. After calculating in his mind, the ingredients in making one soap would only cost him about one silver coin!

"Since you guys are so eager to know. I will tell you more about this. There will be three kinds of soap that my clinic will be selling. The first is the ordinary kind of soap which would be sold at the price of ten silver coins. The second type of soap is slightly special and the ingredients are also rarer and more expensive, making its price soar to ten gold coins. As for the third type of soap, its value is comparable to 2nd-Grade pills so its price would be five thousand gold coins." Leric said after doing his calculations.

The eyes of the three ladies lit up upon hearing his words.

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Leric started describing more details about the soaps in his past life and the more everyone heard, the more their astonishment grew. It was the perfect item for women who were conscious of their skin.

"Sir Aethelwolf, wouldn't you suffer a loss by selling them at such a low price?" They could not help but ask.

Leric smiled and shook his head, feeling slightly amused in his heart. He could price the goods higher, but he knew that it wasn't a good idea to do this. "Not at all. To tell you the truth, the ingredients for making one soap aren't as expensive as you guys think."

The group continued chatting and their topic went to the battle event that would start in two days.

"The inns and hotels in our Lion City are already packed to the brim with people who are planning to join or spectate the competition." The pot-bellied manager, Chris Maynard muttered.

"His Majesty will arrive in Dominion District tomorrow so this place will be even more buzzing."

"That's right. It's good that I've already summoned my old subordinates. The territory should be fine with them overseeing the safety of everyone." Lord Julius said with a smile. He had already contacted his subordinates and they were now prepared for the incoming battle event.

“That’s good to hear, my old friend. I’ll summon a hundred guards and let them help in overseeing the Dominion District’s safety.” Johann said.

“We will send a hundred warriors to protect the Reynolds Household’s territory while the competition is ongoing.” Enrique Maynard also added.

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Lord Julius and Lord Harold smiled from ear to ear upon hearing this. With their help, the safety of the Dominion District during the competition was already guaranteed.

“Thank you so much!” Lord Julius laughed jovially as he gave his thanks to the two. He knew that they were merely doing this for the sake of Leric, but he was still happy to have their support.

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Meanwhile, inside the imperial palace, Emperor Ragnar was seated on his throne. Kneeling before him was his second son, the second prince, Prince Calvin Leone.

“Greetings, Your Majesty.” Prince Calvin greeted in a respectful tone.

Emperor Ragnar waved his hand and said in a calm voice. “Why did you come to visit me when the competition is about to start?”

“Your Majesty, during my stay in Dominion District, I’ve heard about Lord Julius’ recovery so I decided to visit him.” Of course, he wouldn’t tell his father that the reason he visited their mansion was to befriend Aethelwolf.

“When I arrived in their mansion, I came to know that the person who cured Lord Julius is a Level 4 Alchemist! What’s even more amazing is that this man actually came up with an ingenious idea on how to minimize the losses of our Imperial Family when the time to choose the headmaster of the academy comes.” He then told the emperor about what Lord Julius had told him.

The emperor’s eyes flashed with surprise when he heard his second son’s words, but after thinking about it carefully, he furrowed his eyebrows and asked. “Have you investigated this man?”

Prince Calvin nodded his head. “Yes, Your Majesty. Before I came to visit you, I was gathering more information about this person. I didn’t find anything suspicious about him. He should be one of those reclusive people who never showed themselves in the eyes of the public. Other than that, he also has a close relationship with the Reynolds Household and they even contacted Henry’s company to make a clinic for him in the Dominion District. I think he is perfect for the headmaster position.”



The emperor was silent for a moment as he pondered upon his son's words. The matter of the academy has become a headache for him and he couldn't find the perfect candidate for the headmaster position. Choosing someone from the Imperial Family would make the noble factions feel threatened and they might conspire with the Merchant Association to deal with them. He also didn't want to give the position to someone from the two factions since it wouldn't be good for the Imperial Family. Now, his second son has presented a great solution for his problem, but the only issue is that, can they trust Aethelwolf?

He is a Level 4 Alchemist who remained unknown for many years. They didn't know if he harbors ill intentions or if he has any ulterior motives.

"Is this man currently staying in Dominion District?" The emperor asked in a low voice. He couldn't give an answer just because of his son's words. He had to see Aethelwolf for himself and observe what ability the man has. If he truly has what it takes to become the headmaster, then he wouldn't mind giving the position to him.

Prince Calvin nodded his head. "Yes, Your Majesty. He is currently staying at the mansion of the Reynolds Household. I believe he would also spectate the battle event in two days."

Hearing this, the emperor tapped the armrest of his throne. "Alright. I'll think about this first. I want to see this man in person and see for myself if he is as talented as you speak. Prepare a carriage. We will go to Dominion District now!"

Prince Calvin was surprised. "Didn't Your Majesty say that you will go there tomorrow?"

Emperor Ragnar smiled as he replied in an indifferent tone. "It's better to see him when he least expects my presence."

Prince Calvin's eyes shone and he immediately bowed his head. "Your Majesty is wise. I will prepare the carriage immediately!"

Emperor Ragnar waved his hand and dismissed him. When Prince Calvin left, a shadow emerged behind the emperor.

"What do you think about Calvin's words, Dimitri?" Emperor Ragnar asked.

The shadow moved near the emperor, showing his figure more clearly. He was a man with lean stature and was dressed in black clothes. He gave off an obscure aura and if not for him deliberately showing himself, no one might be able to detect his presence!

This man is Dimitri, the strongest subordinate under the emperor's command. He is a peak Level 4 Esper who specializes in assassination.

“The idea that this Aethelwolf guy has presented is very good and it would be a great help that can alleviate Your Majesty’s burden.” Dimitri answered calmly.

“What if that guy harbors ill intentions?” Emperor Ragnar asked.

Dimitri’s black obsidian eyes narrowed into slits as he responded in a cold voice. “He will die!”

## 57 Meeting the Emperor

Emperor Ragnar smiled when heard Dimitri’s words. This man was one of his sources of confidence.

Dimitri had protected his life numerous times and he had already lost count of how many enemies he had killed for him.

“You will come with me in Dominion District, but this time, you will come with me as my aide. It would also be a nice change of pace for you.” Emperor Ragnar stood up from his throne and walked out of the palace. Dimitri has already changed into a new set of clothes. He now looked like a typical assistant.

Outside, they saw Prince Calvin checking a carriage.

As if noticing their presence, the second prince turned his head and immediately bowed his head at the emperor. “Your Majesty, the carriage has been prepared. I’ve also checked it already.”

“Alright. Let’s go!” Emperor Ragnar nodded his head and entered the carriage.

Dimitri jumped into the coachman’s seat, while the second prince also went inside. He was a bit nervous since he was alone with the emperor. Luckily, the emperor didn’t ask him a lot of questions along the way and they mostly talked about the incoming battle event.

“I heard that the Ward Household will be sending their young lord to join the competition. Alec Ward is only eighteen this year and he is already a peak Level 1 Esper. He is one of the strongest contenders to win the championship award.” The emperor suddenly said.

Prince Calvin nodded in agreement. “Indeed. Alec Ward is strong for someone his age and there are only a few participants who can fight against him. The one I’ve been looking into is Grace Urgel of the Urgel Household. She is only twelve, but is already a mid Level 1 Esper! Although she has a lower chance to win in the competition, she will certainly gain fame throughout the empire!”

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Note: (Urgel is read as Er-hel)

Emperor Ragnar has also heard of this young girl. The young miss of the Urgel Household. An obscure talent that the Urgel Household has kept for many years. It was said that her talent was only second to the crown prince, Prince Christopher Leone.

The Urgel Household was a family with diverse businesses. They were in the weapon industry and also in the Alchemy industry. Their current family head is the older sister of Grace, Julie Urgel. She was only twenty-four and her power was kept under wraps and no one knew how strong she was.

“It seems like they haven’t given up on the headmaster position. Unfortunately, I wouldn’t allow them to have it.” Emperor Ragnar muttered silently, but Prince Calvin heard his words clearly.

The Urgel Household is among the strongest in the noble faction. Their old family head, Marquis Raven Urgel, is a mid Level 4 Esper, but what made this old guy even more amazing was the beast companion that he owns. It is a Blazing Crimson Lion that has a late Level 4 Esper power!

Even the Imperial Family has to be careful about them.

The two remained silent during the rest of the journey and after an hour, they arrived in Dominion District. The carriage they were using was an ordinary one so no one was able to tell their identity.

Soon, they reached the mansion of the Reynolds Household.

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“Sir Aethelwolf, are you going to watch the first day of the battle event?” Anna asked as she looked at Leric. Her grandfather will bring her to the competition to observe the young talents of the empire. It would be nice if Leric and the others would come to join them.

“Of course! How could I miss such an event?” Leric answered, but in truth, he actually didn’t want to come. He only decided to go and see since Samira has been pestering him to come with them.

Anna’s eyes flashed with joy upon hearing that. “How about we go with you guys? Since the venue is your territory, the second prince should have given you some special treatment, a VIP room for instance.”

Johann flicked a finger on her granddaughter’s forehead. “How can you be so rude?”

“Ow!” Anna grabbed her forehead in pain, but she still looked at Leric and Samira with pleading eyes.

Samira could only stare at her father to ask for his opinion.

“Of course! You guys can come with us!” Lord Harold then stared at Chris and Enrique Maynard and said. “You two can come with us as well. The VIP room is wide anyway and it should be enough to accommodate us.”

“In that case, I won’t decline your offer!” Enrique Maynard smiled widely.

“Great! Thank you so much, Sir Harold!” Anna grinned.

Suddenly, a guard came rushing to the guest hall with beads of sweat on his forehead. He then bowed at them and said. “H-His Majesty the emperor is here! He came with His Highness, Prince Calvin!”

Everyone’s eyes widened upon hearing his words.

The emperor is here?

Lord Julius abruptly rose to his feet and he immediately pulled Lord Harold with him to the entrance. “Let’s go quickly! We shouldn’t let the emperor wait for us!”

“Yes! Yes! Let’s go!” The others followed after him, feeling a bit nervous and confused in their hearts. They wondered why the emperor has come to Dominion District earlier than what he told them.

Leric felt a sense of foreboding, but he kept it at the back of his mind.

Outside the mansion, the emperor stepped out of an ordinary carriage, carrying with him a regal grace befitting someone of high status. Following behind him were Prince Calvin and another person who looked to be an assistant.

“Greetings, Your Majesty!” Johann, Harold, and Julius bowed at the emperor. They were Level 4 Espers so there was no need for them to kneel.

The others kneeled as they solemnly greeted the emperor.

Meanwhile, Leric also bowed his head as he secretly observed the emperor.

Emperor Ragnar has a long wavy golden hair. He has thick sideburns that match well with his manly mustache. His profile was intimidating and full of power, like a ferocious lion!

'So this is the emperor...' Leric muttered in his heart. His vision then moved to the person who seemed to be an assistant and his heart suddenly skipped a beat.

Leric furrowed his eyebrows and his [Danger Perception] skill was sending him signals that this guy was dangerous!

### 58 Rejecting the Big Slice of Cake

This guy was actually exuding more danger than the emperor who was a late Level 4 Esper! If not for his [Danger Perception] skill, he wouldn't have noticed the peculiarity of this man.

'Could this guy be the secret protector of His Majesty?' Leric thought to himself as he scanned Dimitri from head to foot.

Meanwhile, Dimitri was also observing Leric through his peripheral vision. However, he was stunned when he realized that he couldn't see through him at all! It was as if he was looking at an ordinary person! There was only one time that he failed to assess someone's strength. The first one was when he tried to discern Julie Irish Urgel's power. Now, this Aethelwolf was the second person! It seems like this man was not someone to be trifled with.

Aethelwolf's image was elevated in Dimitri's heart and he no longer stared at the other party in disdain.

Emperor Ragnar had a dignified look. He smiled as he gestured for them to stay at ease. "Get up! I've come to your home without notice, Julius. I hope you don't mind my sudden intrusion."

Lord Julius immediately shook his head when he heard the emperor's words. "You're not intruding at all, Your Majesty. You are welcome to visit our mansion any time you want."

Emperor Ragnar chuckled when he heard that. "Alright. I won't beat around the bush. I came specifically here to get to know Aethelwolf." He turned his gaze towards Leric as he said those words.

The others also turned their attention to Leric.

Leric immediately felt that a headache was coming his way, but he didn't show an ounce of discomfort as he smiled at the emperor. "Your Majesty, I'm honored that you've come here for me. Why don't we chat inside the mansion? You must be tired from your journey."

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Emperor Ragnar nodded his head. He then sized up Leric from top to bottom. This man looked very young and was probably as old as his second son. If he was truly a Level 4 Alchemist, then his talent was definitely beyond the level of his most highly-prided heir, Christopher Leone.

The others tactfully gave the two of them some space and left. Since the emperor came for Leric, they didn't have the guts to go with them to the guest hall. They would only incur the emperor's displeasure if they do that.

Dimitri followed behind the emperor like a loyal servant. He didn't want to leave him alone with Aethelwolf since he believed that the man was as strong as him.

"Your Majesty, please take a seat." Leric sat opposite the emperor, while Dimitri remained standing in silence.

The atmosphere inside the guest hall suddenly changed when the two of them sat down. The smile on the emperor's face vanished and was replaced with a calm and different expression. On the other hand, Leric also showed extreme tranquility as if no one could cause a ripple in his emotion.

"Are you really a Level 4 Alchemist?" Emperor Ragnar broke the silence as he looked at Leric with a pair of cold piercing eyes.

Leric wasn't flustered by his aura and remained unruffled. Since the whole world already believed that he was a Level 4 Alchemist, he could only continue this charade. He just hoped that the emperor wouldn't use any underhanded tricks and suddenly attack him to test his power.

While maintaining his silence, Leric extended his right arm and opened his hand. A brilliantly glowing golden flame flickered at the top of his palm, giving off an intense wave of heat.

Seeing the flickering golden flames, the eyes of the emperor and Dimitri narrowed into slits.

"Good! I never thought that there was actually a young Level 4 Alchemist hiding in my Leone Empire! Aethelwolf, tell me the truth... Who are you?" Emperor Ragnar's eyes seemed to have the ability to see through all deceit, but he was met with Leric's pair of profoundly deep globes that never showed any undulations.

"It seems like Your Majesty is also curious about my background. I've also told the others about this. I'm simply a wandering Alchemist with no permanent home. Due to some twists of fate, I ended up befriending the Reynolds Household so I've decided to build a clinic in their territory to settle down." Leric answered in a calm voice.

Emperor Ragnar inwardly praised him for his calmness. He was also becoming more satisfied with Leric, but he still wanted to see more of what he can do so he didn't mention anything about the headmaster position or the academy. "I see."

Leric suddenly smiled as he looked at the emperor. "I believe Your Majesty didn't come here just to let me show you my Golden Pill Fire. If I may be so blunt, could it be related to the suggestion that I brought up about the academy?"

Emperor Ragnar could not help but laugh as he looked at Leric in appreciation. "You are truly a genius, Aethelwolf. That's right! Since you've already mentioned it, I won't hide it from you anymore. I came here because of that. What do you think about becoming the headmaster of the academy?"

Leric was dumbfounded by the emperor's boldness. He actually sent a huge slice of cake to Leric despite his background being almost suspicious. Even Dimitri was stunned by the sudden turn of events. However, he trusted the emperor's foresight so he remained silent and just listened to them with rapt attention.

Leric furrowed his eyebrows as he looked at the emperor with confusion. "Are you not afraid that I might be a spy from another empire?"

Hearing this, the emperor smiled widely, showing two rows of pearly white teeth. "Of course, I'm afraid! Just that my instinct is telling me that you are the perfect person for this position. You see, I trust my instinct since it has made me into the expert that I am today. Aethelwolf, you haven't answered my question yet..."

This time, Leric remained silent. Becoming a headmaster of the top academy in the empire was a great honor to anyone, but Leric thought that it also carried various downsides. He would face the constant scrutiny of the three top factions and many eyes would be monitoring him from the shadows. However, there was also a lot to be earned if he accepted the offer. He would receive the respect of the nobility and he would wield authority that was on par with the three top factions.

The only question is, is his appetite big enough to swallow this big slice of cake? Definitely not. He had no plans to be on a lookout all day long and he certainly didn't want to be burdened by politics.

After a moment of silence, Leric answered. "Unfortunately, I don't want to be the headmaster of the academy. To tell Your Majesty the truth, I only want to live an ignoble life, away from disputes and battles."

Emperor Ragnar's eyes flashed with a strange glow upon hearing his response. He actually rejected his offer?

'Live an ignoble life away from disputes and battles? Is he for real?' Emperor Ragnar looked at Leric as if he was looking at a rare creature. Now, he finally knew why this guy has remained unknown for many years.

However, how could the emperor allow this chance to slip away? It would be difficult to find a second person who can take the headmaster position.

"Aethelwolf, don't be in a hurry to reject me. If you accept the position as the headmaster, I will give you full reign in the matters of the academy. I won't interfere nor allow the other factions to meddle in how you handle things. That means you can do whatever you want whether it is to stay in your clinic or roam around the academy. In addition, I'll allow you to have an army to safeguard the academy's safety. As to how many people you can train, that will depend on your ability." Emperor Ragnar stated with a calm smile.

'Ho. It's finally becoming more interesting...' Leric thought.

According to the emperor's words, he had free control of the entire academy. The rules and regulations will be made by him and the emperor even promised that no one will meddle in his decisions. It was a very tempting offer. Although he was going to be very busy if becomes the headmaster, there will be a lot of benefits to get.

The emperor wasn't just giving the slice of cake to him. He was already spoon-feeding it!

Leric thought about it deeply. It would be a bit troublesome for him, but he could maintain his peaceful life if he would be careful.

After careful consideration, Leric turned his head at the emperor and showed a defeated look. "Alright, Your Majesty. Since you're so confident about my abilities, I will accept your offer."

Emperor Ragnar grinned when he saw the expression of Leric. It was fun to see this capable man's awful look every once in a while. "Good! I know you would accept my offer! I will send you the official contract and documents tonight. Calvin will send it to you in person."

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Leric nodded his head and reclined on his chair as he massaged his temples. He wondered what kind of life was waiting for him once he starts his duty as the headmaster of the academy.

The emperor stood up from his seat and grinned at Leric. "My goal here has been achieved so I won't stay for long. Aethelwolf, it's a pleasure to be working with you."



“The pleasure is mine, Your Majesty.” Leric forced out a smile as he uttered those words. His face kept on twitching for keeping up the facade.

The emperor flicked his sleeves and left the guest hall with Dimitri following behind him silently. Only Leric was left inside the guest hall, his expression was bleak and dark as if he had swallowed a fly.

‘Dammit... Why did I have to tell them about that suggestion? Sigh... Things have already happened. I’ll just let nature takes its course...’ Leric slumped on his chair as he wailed in his heart.

Meanwhile, when the emperor stepped out of the mansion, Lord Julius and the others immediately spotted him.

“Your Majesty, how was your discussion with Sir Aethelwolf?” Lord Julius could not help but ask. Everyone was curious about the things that they talked about.

Emperor Ragnar smiled widely as he responded. “Everything went well. You’ll be notified about it soon.”

Lord Julius and the others were nonplussed by his reply, but they didn’t dare ask him to clarify the matter. Only Prince Calvin’s eyes were flashing with an unknown glint. From his father’s expression, he could tell that Leric must have accepted the headmaster position.

Thinking about it, Prince Calvin felt excited in his heart. The emperor would definitely reward him and Sir Aethelwolf would also be thankful for his help.

“We will leave now, everyone. Let’s meet again in the battle event.” Emperor Ragnar strode towards his carriage after saying those words.

Prince Calvin smiled at everyone and waved them goodbye. “Farewell, everyone!”

Lord Julius and the others stared at their carriage as it left the premises of the mansion.

“Could His Majesty’s presence here be related to the matters of the academy and Sir Aethelwolf’s opinion?” Samira muttered to herself.

“Perhaps...” Lord Julius’ murky eyes glowed with profound light. It was unknown what he was thinking.

“Everyone, we will take our leave as well. See you guys in the battle event!” Enrique Maynard and Chris Maynard also left the mansion.

Lord Julius then stared at Johann and asked. “My friend, are you also leaving?”

Johann furrowed his eyebrows in displeasure. "Old man, are you chasing me away? Of course, I still stay in your mansion! It's so troublesome to get an accommodation in the city. I might as well stay here. Besides, we have a lot of things to chat about..." He then grabbed his granddaughter and strode back to the mansion.

"You..." Lord Julius stared at his friend's figure who was acting like the owner of the house. In the end, he could only shake his head while smiling bitterly. 'That old bastard is taking advantage of me.'

He knew that Johann didn't want to miss out on deepening his friendship with Leric. The guy was a Level 3 Alchemist and he was only a step away from the next level. If he was able to receive Leric's guidance, there was a high possibility that he would become a Level 4 Alchemist!

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Inside an obscure two-story building in Lion City, there was a group of men kneeling in front of a figure who was dressed in dark purple clothes.

"Boss Gustavo, the lookouts we sent to monitor the Reynolds Household have delivered an important news."

Gustavo, the big boss of the Northern Viper Group, nodded his head. "Bring them inside."

Serge, the leader of the bandit scout team bowed at Gustavo. "Greetings, Boss Gustavo."

Gustavo waved his hand impatiently. "Just tell me the information you have."

Serge nodded his head. "My subordinates spotted the second prince going inside the Reynolds Household's territory. Other than that, there are also a few notable figures who visited them. One is the Level 3 Blacksmith, Enrique Maynard, and the other person is the Level 3 Alchemist, Johann."

Gustavo frowned upon hearing this. "So the matter about Johann being cured is actually true. That means Julius has also been cured... This Aethelwolf guy is indeed capable..." He then turned his head to Serge and said. "Continue monitoring the Reynolds Household, but be sure that your subordinates would be discreet."

Serge bowed deeply as he solemnly replied. "Yes, boss!"

60 The True Identity of the Northern Viper Group

"Serge, make sure that you do things right this time. You've already failed once so make sure that you don't make a second mistake." Gustavo eyed Serge coldly.

Serge wiped the sweat on his forehead as he nodded his head. "Yes, Boss Gustavo! Don't worry!"

"Leave!" Gustavo dismissed him and when Serge left, he stared at the remaining people inside the room and said. "The battle event will begin soon. Make sure that the participants that we will be sending are briefed on what they should do. I believe that Ragnar would invite the best participants to join the Leone Empire's army. It would be great if we can place more spies in their midst."

A buff man with an eyepatch and arms full of scars said. "Boss, this time our best young fighter will be joining the competition. There should no trouble for him to reach the top five in the contest. As for the others, they should be able to enter the top fifty."

This man was the Vice Leader of the Northern Viper Group, the One-Eyed Viper, Vhincet. He is a skilled fighter and was proficient in using sabers. Other than that, he was also a mid Level 4 Esper!

Gustavo smiled as he nodded his head. They had been hiding in the dark for many years and no one knew the exact origins of the Northern Viper Group. In truth, they were elite warriors of the neighboring Ford Empire sent to cause chaos in Leone Empire. Their main task was to spearhead the collapse of the internal factions of the empire! As for his attraction to the young miss of the Reynolds Household, it was merely an act to have everyone think that he was a lovestruck fool.

"Brothers, we are already close to completing our mission. Once a crack will form in the internal state of the Leone Empire, our Ford Empire would begin its attack." Gustavo muttered with a wicked smile on his face. The others also revealed murderous expressions.

"Let's roll out of here. The security of Lion City has been increasing and it wouldn't be good if we are spotted." Gustavo stood up and left the building. There were already more than five merchant carriages prepared to take them out of the capital.

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It was nighttime and the next day was the start of the battle event. The young participants have already entered the accommodating area prepared for them. There were about a thousand participants this time and all of them were the most talented Espers all over the empire! They were the hopes of their families and friends.

These are the requirements to join the competition:

– Age must be not less than 11 and not above 20

- Only Level 1 Espers and above are allowed to join
- Only citizens of the empire can join

The main goal of the competition was to gather elite warriors for the army and the top eleven to fifty will automatically be promoted to sergeants! As for the top ten, they would be promoted as lieutenants! The top three will also get additional rewards from the Imperial Family!

At this moment, the atmosphere inside the accommodation area of the participants was already filled with intensity. There were even some minor disputes, but no one dared to start a brawl since they would immediately be disqualified from the competition.

In a dark alley outside the arena, four figures were standing respectfully in front of Serge. “You guys have received the guidance of Boss Gustavo and your main objective this time is to reach the top fifty. There must be no failure! The boss has placed great importance on this mission and he will surely reward you guys handsomely if you manage to accomplish it. You must not underestimate the other participants since all of them are elites of their respective cities and districts.”

“Yes, Boss Serge!” The four young figures responded with confidence.

Serge nodded his head, feeling satisfied with their answer. “Alright. Just remember what to do if they ask you guys some questions.”

The four nodded their heads obediently. They knew that they would be sent as spies, but they were eager to contribute to the bandit group. As students of Gustavo, they knew how powerful he was and they wanted to show him that they would be useful for his cause.

Serge then turned his gaze towards the leading figure of the four. “Alec, you must enter the top three no matter what it takes!” He commanded in a solemn voice.

That’s right! This young man was Alec Ward, the young genius of the Ward Family. It was a secret of their family that they were in cahoots with the Northern Viper Group! The bandit group was also the main reason for the sudden rise of their family’s power!

Alec’s eyes were filled with confidence. “I’m aiming for the championship! Don’t worry, Boss Serge.”

Serge chuckled when he heard the young man’s words. He then took out something and handed it to Alec. “This is a Refined rank sword prepared by Boss Gustavo for you. You better not disappoint him.”

The other three felt jealous in their hearts as they looked at the Refined rank sword in Alec's hands. However, they knew that their chances of getting into the top three were low so they could only remain silent at the special treatment given to their companion.

Alec smiled joyfully as he carefully observed the sword. It was not heavy and it fits perfectly in his hands. He then bowed at Serge and muttered. "I won't disappoint the bosses!"

"Good! You guys go back to the accommodation area. The organizers might feel suspicious if you're gone for a long time." Serge warned them before he left.

The four young people also returned to the accommodation area.

The dark alley became silent when the group left the scene.

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Meanwhile, Prince Calvin came to the Reynolds Household's mansion to deliver the contract and documents to Leric.

"Thank you, Your Highness." Leric smiled at the second prince.

Prince Calvin grinned as he waved his hand. "No problem! You can give me the signed contract tomorrow."

Leric nodded his head. "Alright."

"Since I've delivered the documents, I'll take my leave now, Sir Aethelwolf. See you tomorrow." Prince Calvin left after bidding farewell.

Leric glanced at his departing figure and then at the documents in his hands. The papers felt heavy for some reason.