

L. Wyatt 1621

Chapter 1621 Visitors from King Archer's Manor

Because Winnie Romero was in seclusion, Wyatt Barnes didn't get to see her this time.

"Wyatt, aren't you going to stay here with me?"

Taoi Romero, who was invited to stay by the Sect Leader Amelia Tyler of the Floating Flame Sect, couldn't help but ask upon hearing that Wyatt Barnes intended to leave.

"Uncle Romero, you haven't seen Winnie for many years. Stay at the Floating Flame Sect and you'll be able to see her once she completes her seclusion... As for me, there's something I need to do, so I'm afraid I can't accompany you."

Wyatt Barnes said apologetically.

Seeing that Wyatt Barnes was determined to go, Taoi Romero didn't insist. "Take care on your journey."

"Don't worry."

Wyatt Barnes nodded, bid farewell to Amelia Tyler, and then left, heading back from the Floating Flame Sect.

As soon as he left the Floating Flame Sect, a myriad of solidified sword lights appeared in the air around Wyatt Barnes.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

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The sword lights howled, then gathered together to form a Flying Sword. It hovered beneath Wyatt Barnes' feet, carrying him towards Fletcher Kingdom at an incredibly terrifying speed.

Swoosh!

Wyatt Barnes' figure flashed by like a ghost, astonishingly fast.

For a while, those semi-Saint Realm martial artists sent by Micah Swayer, the head of the Swayer Family, were left far behind by Wyatt Barnes.

"This..."

After a few people appeared, they looked at each other in shock.

"Is he really just a semi-Saint Realm like us?"

"This speed, though not quite reaching the level of a Saint Realm, is far superior to us semi-Saint Realm... It's almost comparable to a Saint Realm in speed."

"Our family's Honorary Minister, Mr. Barnes, is quite the extraordinary figure... Not to mention anything else, just his speed alone far surpasses the person ranked first on the Heavenly List."

"In martial arts, speed reigns supreme... Even against the top person on the Heavenly List, Mr. Barnes might not be at a disadvantage."

...

After a while of low-voiced discussions, they finally headed back towards the Capital City of Fletcher Kingdom.

However, throughout their journey, they completely lost sight of Wyatt Barnes.

Wyatt Barnes was eager to return to the Capital City of Fletcher Kingdom, to the Swayer Family, for a reason.

Because he knew that the matters concerning the Netherworld Sect would surely reach the Capital City of Fletcher Kingdom in a few days.

By then, when the faction of Hunter Swayer gets wind that the Netherworld Sect is effectively wiped out, they might be infuriated.

In such a scenario, he's likely to take desperate actions.

What Wyatt needed to do was return to help Micah and his son.

Although he couldn't contend with Saint Realm-level demon cultivators, he feared no one below the Saint Realm, and could annihilate however many came his way.

This is his confidence, his assurance!

Sure enough, as Wyatt Barnes predicted, only a few days after he returned to the Swayer Family, news about the Netherworld Sect reached the Capital City of Fletcher Kingdom and the Swayer Family.

"One of the two Great Saint Realm powerhouses of the Netherworld Sect, the Supreme Elder, has been killed... The Sect Leader of the Netherworld Sect has disappeared."

"The Netherworld Sect's residence is deserted; the sect exists in name only."

"The Netherworld Sect is likely to completely vanish from the history of Fletcher Kingdom this time around."

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Similar remarks spread throughout the Capital City of Fletcher Kingdom.

As this news spread, the Swayer Family remained tranquil.

However, Wyatt Barnes knew that this calmness was merely the peace before a storm.

"Mr. Barnes, thank you."

The family head, Micah Swayer, paid another visit to Wyatt Barnes, his words filled with gratitude.

Although he had heard the news that the Netherworld Sect was effectively wiped out when Wyatt Barnes last returned, and he trusted Wyatt Barnes... This time, however, the news hugely diminished the arrogance of Hunter Swayer's faction, deepening his gratitude towards Wyatt Barnes even further.

"No need for formalities, Family Head Swayer. On certain matters, we are all in the same boat."

Wyatt Barnes replied with a faint smile.

Being the head of the Swayer Family, Micah Swayer understood what Wyatt Barnes meant.

Indeed, ever since Wyatt Barnes removed the 'Demonic Mark' from his son, Wyatt Barnes stood on their side, opposing Hunter Swayer's faction.

In contrast to the high spirits of Micah Swayer's faction, Hunter Swayer's faction fell into complete dismay.

In the courtyard where Hunter Swayer resided, a 'crack' was heard as he smashed a teacup onto the ground, shattering it into pieces. "Can someone tell me what on earth is going on? When Micah and Jordan clearly didn't leave the Swayer Family, how did the Netherworld Sect suffer such calamity?"

"Father, could this also be related to that Wyatt Barnes?"

Myles Swayer, standing by the side, said through gritted teeth, with a cold gleam in his eyes.

It was Wyatt Barnes who had ruined his plans previously and saved Beau Swayer.

Otherwise, he would have already replaced Beau Swayer as the first heir of the Swayer Family.

"Wyatt Barnes?"

Upon hearing Myles Swayer's words, Hunter Swayer furrowed his eyebrows, "That he could kill Samuel Campbell has already shocked me... Two Saint Realm powerhouses from the Netherworld Sect; one dead, one missing, do you think he could have managed this?"

"Father, maybe it wasn't his own doing?"

Myles Swayer persisted, "His relationship with Miss Romero from the Floating Flame Sect is unusual... Maybe, he got the Sect Leader to help kill the Grand Elder of the Netherworld Sect through her? And the Sect Leader wouldn't even need to act personally, just sending one of their experts would do the job."

"Impossible!"

Hunter Swayer shook his head and, under Myles Swayer's puzzled gaze, explained, "One of the Vice Sect Leaders of the Floating Flame Sect is my friend, and holds a significant position there. Even the Sect Leader holds him in high regard. If the Sect Leader made a move, or sent someone, he would certainly know."

"And as soon as he knew, he would have informed me immediately. So, this possibility does not exist."

Hunter Swayer stated with utmost certainty.

He and that Vice Sect Leader of the Floating Flame Sect share a life-or-death friendship.

"If it wasn't the Sect Leader of the Floating Flame Sect, then there are only two possibilities... One is that Wyatt Barnes is a Saint Realm powerhouse! The second is that the Netherworld Sect provoked some strong enemy and brought about their own destruction."

The Grand Elder 'Austin Swayer', who stood with Hunter Swayer in the Swayer Family, spoke up timely.

"Perhaps, our initial thought process was wrong... The incident at the Netherworld Sect's base in the Capital City was actually a signal. We all thought it was Wyatt Barnes who acted, but aside from the fact that he wasn't with the Swayer Family at the time, there is no evidence proving it was his hand."

Hunter Swayer took a deep breath, and his thoughts gradually became clearer, "Perhaps, that incident had nothing to do with Wyatt Barnes!"

"As for saying Wyatt Barnes is a Saint Realm powerhouse, that's impossible... Because when he left with Miss Romero's father from the Floating Flame Sect last time, I observed him from afar with Divine Sense, and didn't detect any aura that a Saint Realm powerhouse should have. Although I didn't disturb him, I'm sure he's definitely not a Saint Realm powerhouse!"

Hunter Swayer asserted confidently.

"So, neither the incident at the Netherworld Sect's base in the Capital City nor the recent incident has anything to do with Wyatt Barnes?"

Myles Swayer frowned, clearly a bit displeased.

He very much hoped these matters were related to Wyatt Barnes, so that his father would be furious and go to any lengths to eliminate Wyatt Barnes.

"It seems so."

Hunter Swayer nodded, with a flash of fierceness in his eyes, "That Netherworld Sect certainly brings more failure than success! Especially that Hemingway Wood, I've told him many times to keep his disciples in check and not cause trouble everywhere, but he just wouldn't listen! And now, even he is missing, and we don't know if he's dead or alive."

"Second Master!"

Just when Hunter Swayer thought the Netherworld Sect had met such a fate because of causing trouble and provoking a strong enemy, a voice came from outside the courtyard.

"Come in."

Hunter Swayer raised an eyebrow and spoke lightly toward the outside.

Soon, Hunter Swayer saw one of the Swayer Family elders under his command bringing in a middle-aged man.

"Second Master."

The Swayer Family elder bowed to Hunter Swayer in salute.

"Greetings, Second Master Hunter."

The unremarkable middle-aged man, upon entering, promptly looked towards Hunter Swayer and greeted him calmly, his brows slightly rebellious, seeming reluctant to bow before Hunter Swayer.

Seeing this, Hunter Swayer's expression darkened.

"Who are you? How dare you not bow when seeing my father!"

Myles Swayer's eyes flashed coldly, and he barked in a deep voice.

Whoosh!

As the middle-aged man raised his hand, a golden token appeared in his hand, showing its front to Myles Swayer, causing Myles Swayer's expression to change.

Because he saw the three large characters on the front of the gold token.

King Archer's Manor!

This person, is from King Archer's Manor?

At this thought, Myles Swayer's face turned pale.

Heavens!

Just now, he was shouting at someone from King Archer's Manor?

To be able to produce the gold token from King Archer's Manor, he knew its implications well, meaning the person is working for King Archer.

Upon seeing the gold token from King Archer's Manor, both Hunter Swayer and Austin Swayer couldn't help but frown.

"So it's an official from King Archer's Manor."

Hunter Swayer nodded to the middle-aged man, "I wonder what brings you here?"

Though the middle-aged man in front of him wasn't a Saint Realm powerhouse, he was from King Archer's Manor and thus not someone Hunter Swayer could easily provoke, especially with him carrying the gold token, clearly sent by King Archer himself.

"Second Master Hunter, I'm here by the order of His Highness the Fourth Prince, inviting you to meet at King Archer's Manor."

The middle-aged man stated bluntly.

As soon as he spoke, not only did Hunter Swayer's face change, but so did Austin Swayer, Myles Swayer, and the Swayer Family elder, all showing changes in expression.

Being members of the Swayer Family, they naturally knew that the prince they supported stood in opposition to the Fourth Prince, 'King Archer'.

Chapter 1622: King Honorston

And now, the Fourth Prince 'King Archer' has actually sent someone to invite Hunter Swayer to Archer Manor.

Should Hunter Swayer go, if word gets out, it won't be a good thing for him.

The Swayer Family supports the Second Prince, a decision made by the Elder Ancestor of the Swayer Family. If anyone dares to defy the Elder Ancestor's orders, the only outcome is being expelled from the Swayer Family!

"Please convey to King Archer that I appreciate his kindness."

Hunter Swayer said to the middle-aged man from Archer Manor.

"The Fourth Prince had already anticipated that Second Master Hunter would refuse... Aside from inviting you, the Fourth Prince also instructed me to tell you that Hemingway Wood is waiting for you at Archer Manor."

The middle-aged man said.

Hemingway Wood!

Upon hearing the middle-aged man's words, Hunter Swayer's pupils suddenly constricted.

Even Myles Swayer, Austin Swayer, and the elder of the Swayer Family had a slight change in their expressions.

'Hemingway Wood'—this name, of course, was not unfamiliar to them.

Hemingway Wood, the Sect Leader of the Netherworld Sect.

And today, they had just received news that the Grand Elder of the Netherworld Sect had been killed, the Sect Leader Hemingway Wood was missing, and the Netherworld Sect was virtually extinct.

Now, people from Archer Manor come and say Hemingway Wood is at Archer Manor?

"Could it be that the Netherworld Sect offended Archer Manor?"

Thinking of this, Hunter Swayer's heart beat faster, looking in panic at the middle-aged man, "Sir, please convey to King Archer that while I have certain connections with the Netherworld Sect, the actions of the Netherworld Sect have absolutely nothing to do with me!"

At this moment, Hunter Swayer's thoughts were of distancing himself.

"Second Master Hunter, if you want to explain, you must do it yourself; I cannot do it for you."

The middle-aged man said indifferently, "Furthermore, the Fourth Prince asked me to tell you, if you are unwilling to come with me to Archer Manor... you'll face the consequences!"

Face the consequences!

With those words, the faces of Hunter Swayer and those present turned extremely grim.

Hunter Swayer looked towards Austin Swayer.

"Go ahead."

Austin Swayer nodded at Hunter Swayer, conveying with a transmitted sound, "At this point, you have no choice... that King Archer is not someone merciful."

Hunter Swayer took a deep breath in secret.

He knew well that he had no choice now; if he offended King Archer, he would surely suffer.

While the prince they support isn't inferior to King Archer in any way, they may not go to great lengths to protect him, risking discord with King Archer.

"Sir, I will accompany you."

In the end, Hunter Swayer submitted.

"Let's go."

The middle-aged man said indifferently. Although he was only half a step into the Saint Realm, because he was working for King Archer, even when facing a Saint Realm expert like Hunter Swayer, he showed no fear, full of confidence.

Like a fox exploiting the tiger's might, a dog relying on its master's power, there's no comparison.

Hunter Swayer followed the middle-aged man out of the Swayer Family residence, heading directly to Fletcher Kingdom's palace, and entered Archer Manor.

And as Hunter Swayer stepped into Archer Manor, a shadow concealed outside Archer Manor retreated, heading to another spacious residence in Fletcher Kingdom's palace, that of the Second Prince 'King Honorston' of Fletcher Kingdom.

"Hunter Swayer of the Swayer Family went to Old Four's place?"

King Honorston was a middle-aged man of medium build, dressed as a scholar, and upon hearing the report from his informant stationed near Archer Manor, he could not help but furrow his brow.

"Are you sure you didn't see incorrectly?"

A young man in black attire behind King Honorston looked at the informer and asked calmly.

The young man had an ordinary appearance, but his eyes were extraordinarily sharp. When he looked at the informer, it felt as if two fierce rays shot out, making the informer tremble in fear, unable to meet his gaze.

"I'm absolutely sure I didn't see incorrectly."

The informer took a deep breath and boldly said.

"You, go to the Swayer Family... ask Micah Swayer what's going on! Tell him the Swayer Family must give a satisfactory explanation to King Honorston within three days."

The young man added.

"Yes."

The informer responded and left for the Swayer Family.

When the Family Head Swayer 'Micah Swayer' learned of this matter, his face changed drastically, "Hunter Swayer, brazenly went to Archer Manor? What exactly is he trying to do?"

"Family Head Swayer, I've conveyed the message to you... regarding this matter, please ensure the Swayer Family gives the Second Prince a satisfactory explanation within three days!"

The person from King Honorston's manor, who was extremely humble there, acted very assertively in the Swayer Family.

In King Honorston Manor, he was merely a minor functionary.

But in the Swayer Family, he was an envoy from King Honorston Manor.

After the person from King Honorston Manor left, Micah Swayer's face remained extremely grim, his brows furrowed tightly.

Meanwhile, in Archer Manor, Hunter Swayer met the Fourth Prince of Fletcher Kingdom's Imperial Family, 'King Archer', "Hunter Swayer, at your service King Archer!"

Hunter Swayer bowed to greet King Archer.

"Second Master Hunter, no need for formalities, please have a seat."

King Archer smiled gently, inviting Hunter Swayer to sit.

Yet, Hunter Swayer dared not sit.

"What's wrong? Second Master Hunter not giving me face?"

King Archer's smile slightly withdrew as he sternly asked.

"No! No!"

Hunter Swayer was startled, quickly sitting down, but feeling like he was sitting on pins and needles, utterly uncomfortable.

"Second Master Hunter, I heard you're unhappy in the Swayer Family?"

King Archer looked at Hunter Swayer and chuckled.

"King Archer, you jest. As the Second Master of the Swayer Family, how could I be unhappy there?"

Hunter Swayer forced a smile.

Even if he was truly unhappy in the Swayer Family, he wouldn't say it, especially not in front of this King Archer.

Because, to some extent, the Swayer Family and King Archer stood on opposing sides.

"Seems Second Master Hunter is still holding back from me..."

King Archer shook his head, then raised his hands and clapped.

Immediately, someone stepped in from outside the main hall, someone Hunter Swayer was extremely familiar with.

Upon seeing the person, Hunter Swayer stood up straight away, a cold gleam in his eyes, directly transmitting, "Hemingway Wood, why are you here? Don't you know that the Swayer Family and Archer Manor are on opposing sides?"

"Second Master, of course I know the Swayer Family and Archer Manor are on opposing sides."

Hemingway Wood did not transmit his voice, but spoke directly.

Instantly, Hunter Swayer's face changed drastically, and he again transmitted angrily, "Hemingway Wood, what exactly do you want to do?"

"Second Master, I don't want to do anything but make you aware of the current situation... The Swayer Family can no longer accommodate you! What you need to do now is to take your people and leave the Swayer Family, and pledge allegiance to the Fourth Prince!"

Hemingway Wood continued to speak directly, his words resonating forcefully.

Chapter 1623: Betrayal

Before coming here, Hunter Swayer considered many possibilities.

He even thought that perhaps someone from King Archer's residence had eliminated the Netherworld Sect and captured their Sect Leader, Hemingway Wood.

But now, it seems that's not the case.

He hadn't imagined that not only did Hemingway Wood betray him, but he also became King Archer's mouthpiece, persuading him to lead his people in betraying the Swayer Family and joining King Archer.

"Your Highness King Archer, if you called me here solely for this matter, I cannot stay any longer."

Taking a deep breath, Hunter Swayer shot Hemingway Wood a dagger-like glare, then looked at King Archer and spoke bluntly.

What a joke!

His whole life has been dedicated to becoming the person in charge of the Swayer Family.

Though he lost to Micah Swayer, he hasn't given up. He wants his son to replace Micah Swayer's son as the next head of the Swayer Family, and he himself will become the 'Supreme Emperor' of the Swayer Family in the future.

Betraying the Swayer Family would mean becoming a traitor, and it'd be impossible to become the person in charge.

Choosing betrayal would overturn all his past efforts!

He naturally did not wish to make such a choice.

After speaking, Hunter Swayer turned to leave.

But just as he turned around, two elders stepped forward from behind King Archer to block him.

"Your Highness King Archer, what is the meaning of this?"

Hunter Swayer's expression changed, his gaze towards King Archer charged with a chilling anger.

"Second Master Hunter, if you want to leave, at least let Hemingway Wood finish his words... If after he's done, you still insist on staying with the Swayer Family, I will certainly not stop you."

King Archer said.

Hearing this, Hunter Swayer glanced indifferently at Hemingway Wood, "If you have something to say, say it plainly. You think you can make me betray the Swayer Family? And you think you're worthy?"

"Second Master Hunter, don't be so quick to dismiss my words."

In the face of Hunter Swayer's disdain, Hemingway Wood did not get angry and spoke calmly, "Actually, the reason I'm asking you to join King Archer is to save your life... If you truly remain stubborn, there's nothing I can do."

"Save my life? What do you mean by that?"

Hunter Swayer's face darkened.

"Second Master Hunter, do you know why I'm at King Archer's residence?"

Hemingway Wood inquired.

Seeing Hunter Swayer remain silent, just watching him, Hemingway continued, "The reason I'm at King Archer's residence is that I don't want to die! Do you understand how difficult it was for me to escape the Netherworld Sect... The power behind Wyatt Barnes is terrifyingly strong! Even our Elder Ancestor of the Netherworld Sect died because of him."

"And I left the Netherworld Sect because I was afraid of him."

Hemingway Wood continued.

Seeing Hunter Swayer's disbelief, Hemingway Wood resolutely swore an oath under the Thunder Punishment, "If the Elder Ancestor of the Netherworld Sect didn't die because of Wyatt Barnes, and if I didn't leave due to fear of Wyatt Barnes, let the Ninefold Thunder Tribulation descend and striket me dead!"

As Hemingway Wood's drop of blood rose to the sky, nine thunderclaps echoed from the heavens, testifying to Hemingway's oath.

And after making the Thunder Punishment oath, Hemingway Wood remained unscathed and unharmed, not struck dead by the thunder.

This was enough to prove he wasn't lying.

The moment Hemingway Wood swore the oath, Hunter Swayer could no longer maintain his composure; his face transformed drastically, "That force behind Wyatt Barnes is that powerful? Is it the Floating Flame Sect?"

"It's unrelated to the Floating Flame Sect."

Hemingway Wood said, "I don't know where that power comes from, but its strength is definitely no less than that of the Swayer Family."

"Not the Floating Flame Sect."

Hearing that the power behind Wyatt Barnes wasn't the Floating Flame Sect, Hunter Swayer wasn't surprised, but his heart became even more terrified.

The unknown is the truly frightening thing!

The mysterious power behind Wyatt Barnes could move against him without warning.

"To be able to kill the Elder Ancestor of the Netherworld Sect and force Hemingway Wood to abandon the entire sect and flee... the power behind Wyatt Barnes is something neither I nor Austin Swayer can contend with."

Hunter Swayer's expression shifted drastically, his eyes filled with unwillingness.

"What right does Micah Swayer have to align with such a powerhouse like Wyatt Barnes... Am I destined to lose to him? Is my son destined to lose to his son? No! I refuse to accept it! I refuse to accept it!!"

Hunter Swayer's heart roared continuously, frantically.

Yet, he also knew, his resistance was futile because things had already been decided.

Just as Hemingway Wood stated, if he stayed with the Swayer Family, he might be killed at any moment... Once the power behind Wyatt Barnes joins with Micah Swayer's line, they'd have no chance to retaliate!

"Your Highness King Archer, Hunter Swayer is willing to serve you."

Soon, Hunter Swayer made his decision, bowing slightly to King Archer.

At this point, he had no other choice.

"Second Master Hunter, to serve King Archer loyally, you'll need to show some sincerity."

Hemingway Wood smiled.

"What sincerity?"

Hunter Swayer's face darkened.

In the past, how would Hemingway Wood dare to be so presumptuous before him?

"Naturally, it's making a Thunder Punishment oath."

Hemingway Wood continued.

"You..."

Hunter Swayer's expression changed, but when he saw King Archer looking at him, waiting for his stance, he could only make a Thunder Punishment oath, swearing allegiance to King Archer. If he betrayed, he would be struck down by the Thunder Punishment.

"Your Highness King Archer, I suggest that my men and I continue to hide within the Swayer Family... Perhaps, in the future, I can take control of the Swayer Family and become its true master."

Hunter Swayer suggested.

Even at this moment, he didn't forget the Swayer Family, actively suggesting to King Archer that he remain within the Swayer Family.

Of course, he suggested this with personal motives.

He didn't want to bear the name of traitor to the Swayer Family, because once he betrayed, it meant he had no further ties to the Swayer Family... furthermore, his subordinates might not all be willing to follow him.

Those people might support him when he was in the Swayer Family, but once he chose to betray, they might not continue to follow him.

"There's no need for that!"

However, King Archer flatly refused Hunter Swayer's proposal, "With Wyatt Barnes there, you can't possibly compete with Micah Swayer!"

Hunter Swayer was rendered speechless by these words.

He wanted to say, "Isn't it enough to have you as a backer?" But ultimately, he didn't say it.

He could see that King Archer seemed intent on having him directly betray the Swayer Family.

And King Archer's intentions, he could guess a bit, were nothing more than to disgust his strongest competitor on the path to power, the Second Prince 'King Honorston'.

"I'll give you a day to take your people and leave the Swayer Family, and come to my King Archer's residence."

King Archer spoke while looking at two elderly men blocking Hunter Swayer's path, "You two, go along with Second Master Hunter on this trip... If it's only him, he might not be able to get out of the Swayer Family!"

After Hunter Swayer and the two elderly men left, only King Archer and Hemingway Wood remained in the main hall.

"You're very clever not to expose the matter of the 'Demon Sealing Monument'."

King Archer looked at Hemingway Wood with admiration, satisfied with his 'ingenuity' earlier.

"The fewer people who know about the Demon Sealing Monument, the better."

Hemingway Wood squinted his eyes and smiled.

The Swayer Family was in upheaval within the day.

All of this was due to the departure, precisely the betrayal, of Second Master Hunter Swayer.

Second Master Hunter Swayer took his son, the Swayer Family's Supreme Elder 'Austin Swayer', and a few Swayer Family elders, and grandly left the Swayer Family with two of King Archer's powerful figures, heading to King Archer's residence.

This matter caused the previously peaceful Swayer Family to be thrown into turmoil.

In the main hall of the Swayer Family's mansion, several elders who used to side with Hunter Swayer were now kneeling before the head of the Swayer Family, Micah Swayer.

"Family Head, in the past, I was blind and did not realize Hunter Swayer would betray the Swayer Family... I am willing to make a Thunder Punishment oath to be loyal to you and your lineage for the rest of my life."

One Swayer Family elder first lowered his head.

As soon as he spoke, he made the Thunder Punishment oath, and nine thunderous sounds echoed in the sky.

The remaining Swayer Family elders followed suit.

If so many elders who were originally on the opposing side switched allegiance to him, Micah Swayer would have been pleased in the past.

But now, his face was extremely troubled, unchanged since he learned of Hunter and Austin Swayer's betrayal of the Swayer Family.

"Elders, not leaving with Hunter Swayer is enough to show your loyalty to the family... I won't pursue past matters and hope you'll serve the family well in the future."

Micah Swayer said to the Swayer Family elders before him.

"Thank you, Family Head."

The Swayer Family elders quickly thanked him.

"Hunter Swayer betrayed the Swayer Family?"

Wyatt Barnes learned of this news from the Swayer Family's young master Beau Swayer, and was quite surprised, "After betraying the Swayer Family, where did he go?"

"King Archer's residence!"

Beau Swayer's expression was difficult, "I once thought Hunter Swayer was merely contending with my father for family leadership, but I never imagined he would betray the family... His departure cost our Swayer Family two Saint Realm powerhouses at once!"

"Has your family's Elder Ancestor been informed of this?"

Wyatt Barnes asked.

"My father should have already gone to inform the Elder Ancestor... The Elder Ancestor is bound to be furious upon learning this! However, with Hunter Swayer having taken people to pledge allegiance to King Archer's residence, even if the Elder Ancestor is angry, there's nothing he can do."

Speaking further, Beau Swayer felt helpless.

Wyatt Barnes wasn't new to the Capital City of Fletcher Kingdom and naturally understood what 'King Archer's residence' entailed.

"Mr. Barnes, someone left a message at the front gate earlier, asking me to deliver it to you."

At this moment, a respectful voice came from outside the courtyard.

Chapter 1624: The Order from Shadow Mountain Black Market Headquarters

As Wyatt Barnes responded, someone walked inside from outside.

It was a member of the Swayer Family's household guard on duty at the main entrance today.

"What did he say?"

Wyatt asked.

"He said a person named 'Hemingway Wood' invited you to visit King Archer's Mansion whenever you're free to catch up."

The Swayer Family guard said.

"Hemingway Wood?"

Upon hearing the guard's words, Beau Swayer furrowed his brow, "Could it possibly be that Netherworld Sect Leader? I recall that the Netherworld Sect Leader is indeed called Hemingway Wood!"

Meanwhile, Wyatt's expression changed dramatically.

Hemingway Wood!

He's finally shown up!

And he's at King Archer's Mansion.

"That Hemingway Wood used to be the Netherworld Sect Leader, closely allied with Hunter Swayer's faction... Yet the Swayer Family supports the Second Prince, 'King Honorston,' whereas the Fourth Prince, 'King Archer,' is the strongest rival on King Honorston's path to seize the throne."

Wyatt's heart sank.

"That Hemingway Wood, staying at King Archer's Mansion, must have paid some price... What he might have paid could likely be the information that I possess the 'Demon Sealing Monument'!"

At this thought, murderous intent surged in Wyatt's eyes.

If possible, he wished to eliminate Hemingway Wood and everyone who learned of his possession of the Demon Sealing Monument from him.

Simply because this news could bring a deadly calamity upon him!

"King Archer's Mansion, King Archer... King Archer must already know that I have the Demon Sealing Monument."

Wyatt furrowed his brow.

Such a mere King Archer, he does not fear.

However, King Archer, as a prince of the Fletcher Kingdom's Imperial Family, has numerous Saint Realm experts guarding him, most of whom are not Demon Cultivators.

Wanting to kill King Archer won't be easy.

"But even if King Archer knows I have the Demon Sealing Monument, he surely wouldn't spread the word... Everyone is greedy; he must want to keep the Demon Sealing Monument for himself!"

On this point, Wyatt is certain.

To be honest, the last time at the Netherworld Sect's base, when Hemingway Wood escaped right under his nose, he considered leaving the Fletcher Kingdom to lay low.

Because once the news of him having the 'Demon Sealing Monument' spread, he'd be in grave danger.

However, before doing that, he needs to settle Trevor Baillie and others first.

Now, having learned that Hemingway Wood is at King Archer's Mansion, he's not in a hurry to leave, "If it's just King Archer... I might not necessarily need to leave the Fletcher Kingdom. Once I break through to the Saint Realm, even those Saint Realm experts around King Archer won't intimidate me!"

In this regard, Wyatt is very confident.

Not to mention his strong "foundation," when he breaks through to the Saint Realm, he can transform his True Energy into 'Solar True Origin.'

According to Elder Fire, the benefits he gave Wyatt with his advice last time will fully manifest only after he breaks through to the Saint Realm.

Elder Fire claims that with Solar True Origin alone, defeating enemies across a major realm is no problem!

Coupled with his powerful body, the formidable 'Myriad Sword Domain,' and the Supreme Heart Sword left to him by Sword Saint Breezy Wind... He believes that after breaking through to the Saint Realm, there won't be many in the Fletcher Kingdom who can overpower him.

Once that time comes, things like King Archer and his mansion won't concern him at all.

"When the time comes, I can eliminate them completely!"

Thinking of this, Wyatt bid farewell to Beau Swayer and hurried back to his room.

After returning to his room, he entered the third layer of the Jewel Tower to practice diligently, striving to break through to the 'Saint Realm' as soon as possible.

Of course, before breaking through to the 'Saint Realm,' Wyatt's cultivation must first reach the 'Peak of Entering the Saint Realm,' and 'Half-Step Saint Realm.'

However, judging by the current progress, Wyatt is confident to reach the 'Peak of Entering the Saint Realm' within half a month.

Of course, the half-month refers to outside time.

"Hemingway Wood is at King Archer's Mansion... It seems Hunter Swayer's faction's betrayal is closely linked to Hemingway Wood too."

After returning to his room, Wyatt also realized this point.

However, neither Hemingway Wood nor Wyatt himself has yet realized that a significant crisis is brewing rapidly and is poised to engulf Wyatt Barnes at any moment.

The Demon Sealing Monument already deserves for many to go to any lengths!

And as undercurrents stir within the Capital City of the Fletcher Kingdom, elsewhere far away, the highest order from the Shadow Mountain Black Market leader is also being swiftly relayed.

A picture, a young man, a name.

"The leader has ordered to spare no effort in finding the youth in the picture... This young man is named 'Wyatt Barnes'!"

This order was conveyed by a messenger from the Shadow Mountain Black Market headquarters to subordinate branches.

The lower branches of the Shadow Mountain Black Market headquarters are distributed in areas of some usual fourth-rate forces, and beneath them, there are even lower branches in fifth-rate forces areas.

The branch stationed at Anderson Manor in Ridge South is one such lower branch.

And this branch also received the order transmitted from the upper-level branch.

Accompanying the order was an extremely clear portrait, depicting a handsome young man with sword-like eyebrows and starry eyes, named 'Wyatt Barnes.'

"Pass this order down to all local branches."

Under the branch stationed at Anderson Manor in Ridge South, there are even lower branches.

These branches also include the branch stationed at the Fletcher Kingdom for the Shadow Mountain Black Market.

Several months later, the Shadow Mountain Black Market branch stationed at the Fletcher Kingdom also received orders from the higher branch, which is the Anderson Manor branch in Ridge South, and along with it, a portrait sent down from above, and the name of the young man in the portrait.

"Wyatt Barnes? This name seems somewhat familiar."

The leader of the Shadow Mountain Black Market branch stationed at the Fletcher Kingdom, a white-haired elder wearing gray clothes, stood in the mountainside pavilion on a dangerous peak, murmuring as he looked at the portrait he held.

"Leader, I've heard of this name."

As the gray-clothed elder murmured, a voice came from behind, a middle-aged man standing outside the pavilion promptly responded.

"Oh?"

The gray-clothed elder's eyes lit up, immediately turning around to face his most capable subordinate.

"Leader, you should have heard this name too, but you might not have paid it much mind when you heard it."

The middle-aged man said, "A few months ago, it was widely spread throughout the Fletcher Kingdom about a young man who defeated Miss Romero from the Floating Flame Sect, the Honorary Minister of the Swayer Family in the Capital City, 'Mr. Barnes,' whose full name is 'Wyatt Barnes.' Currently, he is recognized as the number one among the young generation in the Fletcher Kingdom!"

"Now that you mention it, I do remember."

The gray-clothed elder nodded, simultaneously looking at the portrait in his hand, "I wonder if he shares the same name as the man in the portrait, or if they're the same person. If they're the same person..."

At this point, the gray-haired elder's breathing became somewhat rapid.

Chapter 1625: The First on the Heavenly Ranking

The gray-clothed elder, the leader of the Fletcher Kingdom branch of the Shadow Mountain Black Market, knew very well what the 'heavy' painting in his hand meant.

This painting was directly conveyed from the headquarters of their Shadow Mountain Black Market.

Any branch, as long as they could find the person in the painting, could receive a significant reward.

If they could bring the person in the painting back to the headquarters, the leader of that branch would have the opportunity to follow the highest leader of the Shadow Mountain Black Market for ten years and receive his guidance.

This latter temptation was enough to drive anyone crazy!

The highest leader of the Shadow Mountain Black Market was the most esteemed leader within the organization and was also a top expert in the Lower Domain of the Martial Dao Sacred Land.

To be able to follow such a formidable person for ten years and receive his guidance was undoubtedly a dream come true.

For this reason, when the elder heard the news reminding him of a young man who had stirred up the Fletcher Kingdom months ago named 'Wyatt Barnes', he couldn't help but feel a surge of excitement.

"Jing Yuan, take a trip to the capital city of the Fletcher Kingdom and meet with that Swayer Family honorary minister there to see if he is the person in the portrait."

The leader of the Shadow Mountain Black Market's Fletcher Kingdom branch, 'Hayden', handed the painting to the middle-aged man with a wave of his hand, "Once you've copied this painting, set off."

"Yes, Leader."

Jing Yuan nodded solemnly, taking the portrait and leaving.

If Wyatt Barnes were here and saw the painting in Hayden's hand, he would be astonished to find out that the person in the portrait was indeed him, portrayed vividly and with extreme likeness.

The capital city of Fletcher Kingdom, at King Archer's mansion.

"King Archer, if that Wyatt Barnes continues to hide within ten days, I'll have no choice but to return to Anderson Manor in Ridge South... I can only suppress my cultivation for at most another month."

In the main hall of King Archer's mansion, a young man in a white robe lightly glanced at the Fourth Prince, King Archer, and said.

His words came out without any consideration, as if he did not regard the other party as a prince at all.

A trace of anger flickered in the depths of King Archer's eyes, but he suppressed it, forcing a smile, "Mr. Lynch, rest assured, within ten days, even if Wyatt Barnes doesn't want to come out, he will! To be challenged by the number one on the Heavenly List from the distant Anderson Manor in Ridge South is his fortune. His avoidance is really ignorant!"

"There's no need to flatter me. I'm here only for the reward you promised... If he doesn't show up within ten days, I'll leave. As for the deposit, it won't be refunded!"

The white-robed young man, Kash Lynch, said indifferently, appearing quite unsympathetic.

"Of course, of course."

Despite Kash Lynch's lack of understanding, King Archer did not dare to show any anger.

The young man in front of him was not only the number one person on the Heavenly List in the region of Anderson Manor in Ridge South but also a member of a powerful six-tier family within the Anderson Manor. That family was not inferior to the Imperial Family of Fletcher Kingdom in strength.

The white-robed young man was also a direct descendant of that family.

Two months ago, he had invited this number one person on the Heavenly List from the Lin Family of Anderson Manor to the Fletcher Kingdom specifically to kill Wyatt Barnes and seize the Storage Ring from Wyatt Barnes.

To be precise, it was to seize the 'Demon Sealing Monument' in Wyatt Barnes' Storage Ring!

Of course, regarding the matter of the Demon Sealing Monument, he did not disclose it to the white-robed youth 'Kash Lynch', only mentioning that he wanted some things inside Wyatt's Storage Ring that were extremely important to him.

The deal between him and Kash Lynch was that once Kash Lynch killed Wyatt Barnes and seized Wyatt's Storage Ring, he would hand it over to him.

In return, he would offer an additional reward.

To convince Kash Lynch, he had made a considerable sacrifice, but the thought of obtaining the 'Demon Sealing Monument' made him feel it was all worth it.

"Hmph! Farewell."

With a cold snort, the white-robed youth 'Kash Lynch' turned and left with an arrogant demeanor that showed he did not regard King Archer in the slightest.

King Archer watched Lynch's back with a sullen expression.

"Fourth Prince, this Kash Lynch is too arrogant! You are the Fourth Prince of our Imperial Family, destined to inherit the throne, yet he dares to treat you like this."

Hemingway Wood, who had stood silently by the side, took the opportunity to flatter.

"Hmph! Others might fear me as the Fourth Prince of the Imperial Family, but Kash Lynch and his Lin Family are in no need of such apprehension... His Lin Family is not weaker than our Imperial Family."

King Archer snorted, momentarily putting Hemingway Wood in an awkward position.

"Hemingway, how is it that two months have passed, and yet there is no movement from the Swayer Family?"

Soon, King Archer's cold eyes turned towards Hemingway Wood.

"Fourth Prince, over these past two months, I've truly tried everything... Yet, outside, the news has been spreading that the Swayer Family honorary minister 'Wyatt Barnes' has been afraid to face Kass Lynch, the first on the Heavenly List from Anderson Manor, which means his reputation is already in tatters. But he still will not show himself, and I am helpless."

Hemingway Wood said with a bitter smile.

"Since you are helpless, you need not bother with this matter anymore."

King Archer said indifferently.

Hearing this, Hemingway Wood breathed a sigh of relief, truth be told, he had long been reluctant to take care of this errand.

That Swayer Family honorary minister, Wyatt Barnes, clearly did not dare to accept the challenge.

Had it been otherwise, he would have appeared by now.

The people in the capital city of Fletcher Kingdom soon discovered that the talk in the streets had shifted.

For the past two months, the streets had been abuzz with the matter of Kash Lynch, the top of the Heavenly List from Anderson Manor, coming to Fletcher Kingdom to challenge the Swayer Family honorary minister, 'Wyatt Barnes', and how Wyatt Barnes had stayed behind closed doors refusing the challenge.

Of course, the news from the Swayer Family claimed that Wyatt Barnes was in seclusion.

However, most people didn't believe this, and more believed that Wyatt Barnes was afraid of Kash Lynch and thus dared not fight.

In recent days, although the discussions still revolved around Wyatt Barnes and Kash Lynch, more people began mentioning that Kash Lynch was a guest of honor at 'King Archer's mansion'.

King Archer's Manor!

If these three words aren't associated with the Swayer Family, there's nothing to it.

But now, connected to the Swayer Family, it stirs the imagination of many.

After all, the Swayer Family is closely aligned with 'King Honorston's Manor', which is well-known.

Facing the challenge from a distinguished guest of King Archer's Manor, an Honorary Minister of the Swayer Family under King Honorston's command chose to avoid the fight... to some extent, doesn't this imply that King Honorston's Manor is inferior to King Archer's Manor?

Soon, similar comments spread widely with the encouragement of interested parties.

For a time, King Honorston's Manor couldn't sit still and began to exert pressure on the Swayer Family.

In the Swayer Family, Micah Swayer had just sent off people from King Honorston's Manor with a frown, and he finally went to the courtyard where his son 'Beau Swayer' resided.

"Beau, is there still no sign of Mr. Barnes coming out of seclusion?"

Micah Swayer asked Beau Swayer.

"What's going on, father? Are you still worried about the rumors outside? You really shouldn't care; Mr. Barnes doesn't concern himself with such vain reputations."

Beau Swayer said with a smile.

"The situation is different now."

Micah Swayer smiled bitterly, then informed Beau Swayer of the recent visit from King Honorston's Manor and the rumors spreading in the Capital City over the past few days, where people claim 'King Honorston's Manor' is not as good as 'King Archer's Manor'.

Although, so far, Wyatt Barnes has had no direct contact with King Honorston's Manor.

Since he is an Honorary Minister of the Swayer Family, and the Swayer Family is a power closely aligned with King Honorston's Manor, they are somewhat connected and externally labeled as associated with King Honorston's Manor.

As for Kash Lynch, as a distinguished guest of King Archer's Manor, he is also labeled as associated with King Archer's Manor.

"What does the King Archer's Manor want to do?"

Beau Swayer's expression turned extremely unsightly.

"I've always felt something is amiss... Initially, I just thought Kash Lynch had heard of Mr. Barnes's reputation, so he wanted to challenge Mr. Barnes. But now it seems the matter isn't that simple, there seems to be King Archer's Manor's involvement, providing fuel to the fire."

Micah Swayer said piercingly.

"You're saying... that Kash Lynch was likely brought in by King Archer's Manor to strike against King Honorston's Manor?"

Beau Swayer's pupils narrowed.

"It's very possible."

Micah Swayer nodded, "It's just a pity Mr. Barnes hasn't come out of seclusion yet... since Mr. Barnes went into secluded cultivation last time, seems like it has been over three months now, right?"

"Yes. Over three months."

Beau Swayer nodded.

"Now, King Honorston's Manor can't sit still... The people sent by King Honorston, ordered by King Honorston, gave me two choices."

Micah Swayer sighed.

"What choices?"

Beau Swayer frowned.

"King Honorston said, if Mr. Barnes is really in seclusion, then make sure to find a way to get him to come out and ask whether he has confidence against Kash Lynch... If confident, fight! If not, then retreat."

Micah Swayer said.

"How to retreat?"

Beau Swayer frowned even more.

"Have Mr. Barnes publicly announce his separation from our Swayer Family, henceforth having no association with us."

Micah Swayer sighed.

"How can this be!"

Beau Swayer's face changed dramatically, "Mr. Barnes is my lifesaver, how can we let him do this! Father, I don't agree."

"No! There's also a second choice... Father, what is the second option King Honorston gave you?"

Upon saying this, Beau Swayer seemed to have caught a life-saving straw.

"The second option is based on Mr. Barnes not being in seclusion... this option is simply to retreat!"

Micah Swayer sighed deeply.

"So what did the Family Head Swayer choose?"

At that moment, accompanied by the sound of a door opening, a purple figure emerged from one of the rooms in the courtyard, basking in the sunlight.

The purple figure turned out to be a young man in purple clothes, with sword-like brows and starry eyes, handsome and extraordinary.

"Mr. Barnes!"

Seeing the young man in purple, Beau Swayer's eyes lit up as he immediately stepped forward to greet him.

"Mr. Barnes."

Micah Swayer smiled bitterly, knowing that Mr. Barnes had heard everything he had just said, feeling somewhat awkward.

The young man in purple who stepped out the door was none other than Wyatt Barnes, who had been in seclusion for a full three months.

Chapter 1626: The Swayer Family Gets Caught in the Crossfire

Of course, when we say three months here, we mean three months outside.

Inside the Jewel Tower, however, a full fifteen months have passed, which is one year and three months.

"Family Head Swayer, immediately announce to the public... From today, I, Wyatt Barnes, officially depart from the Swayer Family, and am no longer an Honorary Minister of the Swayer Family."

Wyatt Barnes said to Micah Swayer.

"Mr. Barnes, you don't have to do this!"

Beau Swayer's expression changed dramatically, not expecting Wyatt Barnes to make such a direct choice.

"Mr. Barnes, perhaps from the perspective of the Family Head, I might wish for you to leave the Swayer Family... However, as a father, I cannot fathom the words to let you depart from the Swayer Family! After all, you saved my son's life."

Micah Swayer looked at Wyatt Barnes, speaking gravely.

Beau Swayer is his only son!

"Mr. Barnes, there's no rush to make a decision... let's think of another way. Perhaps there's a better solution, one that doesn't require you to leave the Swayer Family."

In the end, Micah Swayer also pleaded for Wyatt to stay.

Upon hearing Myles Swayer's words, a typically calm Wyatt Barnes unexpectedly smiled.

"Mr. Barnes, you..."

Seeing the smile on Wyatt Barnes' face, both Micah Swayer and Beau Swayer were bewildered, unsure why Wyatt was smiling.

"Family Head Swayer, it's already commendable that you can say such words."

Wyatt Barnes said, "As for my decision, it will not change... Of course, my decision has nothing to do with you or Young Master Beau. I never planned to stay long in the Fletcher Kingdom, and leaving was only a matter of time."

"Indeed, although I am leaving the Swayer Family and no longer serve as an Honorary Minister, I will remain with the Swayer Family for a while longer. In some time, I will officially leave the Swayer Family and the Fletcher Kingdom."

Wyatt Barnes continued.

Currently in the Fletcher Kingdom, with Taoi Romero and others settled, there is nothing left that concerns him.

What he needs to do is quickly identify the force behind Julia and look for his fiancée, 'Jovie Lee.'

His time in the capital of the Fletcher Kingdom hasn't been short, and he has gathered a lot of useful information, initially identifying the force behind Karina Hanson as the one known as 'Azure Wave Hanson Manor.'

Next, he plans to head to 'Azure Wave Hanson Manor'!

Hearing Wyatt Barnes' words, both Micah Swayer and Beau Swayer were silent, as they had long known Wyatt would leave someday, but didn't expect it to be so soon.

"Mr. Barnes, even if you're leaving, there's no need to cut ties with our Swayer Family."

Beau Swayer insisted.

"Young Master Beau, my mind is made up, no need to persuade me."

Wyatt Barnes smiled, speaking as if he had seen through the mundane world.

"However, when announcing my departure from the Swayer Family as an Honorary Minister, I also ask Family Head Swayer to issue another statement on my behalf... I, Wyatt Barnes, in my personal capacity, accept the challenge of the top-ranked champion from Anderson Manor in Ridge South's Heavenly List! As for the date, he can decide."

Wyatt Barnes looked at Micah Swayer and said something that left both Micah Swayer and Beau Swayer dumbfounded.

Mr. Barnes actually wants to accept a challenge from the strongman of Anderson Manor in Ridge South?

This made it impossible for them not to be stunned.

Previously, when they heard Wyatt Barnes' decision to leave the Swayer Family, they naturally assumed it was because Wyatt Barnes couldn't dare to accept the challenge from that strongman.

But now, it seems that's not the case.

"Mr. Barnes, are you... confident?"

Micah Swayer asked in a daze.

"Would I accept the challenge if I wasn't confident?"

Wyatt Barnes smiled faintly, thinking of the top-ranked champion of the Heavenly List. Even before his recent closure, he didn't fear, let alone now.

"Mr. Barnes, if you're so confident, then there's even less need for you to leave our Swayer Family."

Micah Swayer added.

"Family Head Swayer, please first help me relay the news."

Wyatt Barnes changed the topic, clearly not wanting to change his decision.

Seeing Wyatt Barnes resolute in his decision, Micah Swayer sighed inwardly but didn't persist, realizing his efforts would be futile.

This Mr. Barnes isn't someone who changes his mind easily.

The capital city of the Fletcher Kingdom was buzzing with a new hot topic, and immediately another bombshell news came, causing the entire capital to stir.

The Swayer Family announced:

Honorary Minister Mr. Barnes announced his departure from the Swayer Family and henceforth will no longer be part of it.

"Mr. Barnes actually announced his departure from the Swayer Family?"

"Seems he truly hasn't retreated into seclusion."

"Hmph! Is he scared of the top-ranked champion from Anderson Manor in Ridge South?"

"Isn't it obvious? If he wasn't scared, why would he make such a decision... Knowing that lately, because of him, many have been saying 'King Honorston's Palace is not as good as King Archer's Palace?'"

"Once Wyatt Barnes leaves the Swayer Family, he'll have no ties with King Honorston's Palace, and naturally, no one will compare them to King Archer's Palace."

"Looks like over the past two months, Wyatt Barnes really was hiding because he feared the strongman from Anderson Manor... Hah! I even once idolized him, thinking he was truly in deep seclusion."

"You were too naive."

...

Throughout the Capital City of Fletcher Kingdom, similar discussions filled the air.

All of this stemmed from the announcement that Wyatt Barnes was separating from the Swayer Family, leading nearly everyone to believe that Wyatt made this decision because he was afraid to confront the formidable figure from Anderson Manor in Ridge South.

This belief was shared even within King Archer's residence.

"He actually announced his separation from the Swayer Family?"

Upon hearing this news, King Archer was taken aback and turned to look at the middle-aged man standing below, who was drenched in cold sweat. "Hunter Swayer, is this your strategy?"

The middle-aged man was none other than Hunter Swayer, the Swayer Family's Second Master from the past.

A few days ago, King Archer instructed Hemingway Wood not to meddle in this matter and subsequently sought Hunter Swayer's counsel. He asked Hunter if there was a way to provoke Wyatt Barnes into action, and Hunter confidently pledged to achieve this.

The shift in public sentiment within the Capital City of Fletcher Kingdom over these days was actually orchestrated by him behind the scenes.

He had one goal: to put pressure on King Honorston's residence.

King Honorston's residence, concerned with its reputation, would naturally follow suit and press the Swayer Family... In his view, at that point, Wyatt Barnes would find it difficult not to act.

However, to his great surprise, after several days, the news came that Wyatt Barnes wanted to break away from the Swayer Family.

This was completely unlike what he had envisioned!

In his impression, Wyatt Barnes was a proud and resolute young man, and under such circumstances, it seemed impossible for him to avoid the battle.

But now, it seems he was mistaken.

Hemingway Wood stood on the other side, looking at Hunter Swayer with a somewhat mocking gaze.

As the public opinion in the Capital City shifted over these days, he guessed Hunter Swayer's intentions, which greatly displeased him.

His displeasure stemmed from his initial belief that Hunter Swayer's method might be effective... But now that it turned out otherwise, he couldn't help but feel a smug satisfaction, thinking, "This is what you get for trying to take all the credit; now you know strategies can't be carelessly offered, right?"

"Hunter Swayer, are you speechless now?"

Seeing Hunter Swayer standing there, dumbfounded and silent, King Archer's expression grew even more sullen.

"Your Highness, I didn't expect things to..."

Hunter Swayer took a deep breath and said with a bitter smile, but before he could finish, he was interrupted by a voice from outside, "Your Highness the Fourth Prince, good news! Good news!"

A middle-aged man, without permission, barged in directly.

"Don't you know the rules?"

King Archer's already gloomy face turned even darker.

"Forgive me, Your Highness the Fourth Prince! But this news is indeed urgent... Your Highness the Fourth Prince, the Swayer Family released another message stating that after Wyatt Barnes announced his separation from the Swayer Family, he will challenge Mr. Lin in his own name!"

The middle-aged man hurriedly said.

"What?!"

Upon hearing this, King Archer was stunned, his gloomy expression vanished, eyes shining like the brilliant stars in the night sky.

"He's challenging him?"

The once cold-sweating Hunter Swayer also shone with excitement and joy upon hearing the middle-aged intruder's words.

This news came at a very timely moment!

At that time, both King Archer and Hunter Swayer were overjoyed.

If there was anyone present who wasn't pleased, it could only be Hemingway Wood.

"Damn it! Wyatt Barnes actually accepted the challenge... Why didn't he do it earlier?"

Hemingway Wood's face was extremely displeased, but at this moment, no one paid attention to him.

"Quick! Go invite Mr. Lin immediately,"

King Archer urgently instructed the middle-aged man.

"Yes."

The middle-aged man responded and left.

At the same time, this news spread throughout the Capital City of Fletcher Kingdom.

In an instant, this even more astonishing news completely overshadowed the previous "shocking news."

"Mr. Barnes has announced his departure from the Swayer Family and will challenge the top expert from Anderson Manor's 'Heavenly List' in his own name?"

Many people's eyes lit up, faces full of anticipation.

"I knew it, my idol would never retreat without fighting!"

"How come I remember you were still disparaging Mr. Barnes this morning? How did you suddenly change your tune?"

"Pfft! Don't wrongfully accuse me, I never said that."

"I'm sure you did! Dare to take a Thunder Punishment oath?"

"..."

Similar discussions played out throughout the Capital City of Fletcher Kingdom.

In an instant, Wyatt Barnes's reputation, which had plummeted, suddenly soared from Hell to heaven, and he was praised everywhere in the Capital City.

Meanwhile, it was the Swayer Family that ended up being criticized.

"Hmph! It must be that the Swayer Family forced Mr. Barnes to leave... I really want to see what expression the Swayer Family will have if Mr. Barnes wins this battle."

"Swayer Family? Pfft! Ungrateful wretches! Have they forgotten how Mr. Barnes once pulled their eldest young master back from Hell Gate?"

...

Chapter 1627: Life and Death Battle

The capital city of Fletcher Kingdom was in complete uproar because Wyatt Barnes accepted Kash Lynch's challenge.

Originally scattered topics now focused on one point.

This battle, from the moment it was announced, was destined to receive immense attention.

Although Kash Lynch was not from Fletcher Kingdom, people there had long heard of his name. They knew that he was the top-ranked individual in the Heavenly Ranking within the Anderson Manor in Ridge South and also a descendant of a powerful family within the manor.

Kash Lynch was also known as the top figure beneath the Saint Realm in Anderson Manor!

This honor had made Kash Lynch the acknowledged 'number one in entering the Saint Realm' within Anderson Manor!

Wyatt Barnes, although only gaining fame in Fletcher Kingdom a few months ago, had his strength acknowledged by the people there.

Because he had once defeated Floating Flame Sect's 'Miss Romero'!

Miss Romero was recognized as the number one young powerhouse in Fletcher Kingdom before Wyatt Barnes appeared. When she was defeated by Wyatt Barnes, people of Fletcher Kingdom already concluded that Miss Romero had the strength to break into the top ten of the Heavenly Ranking.

And Wyatt Barnes managed to defeat her.

In the eyes of Fletcher Kingdom's people, if Wyatt Barnes intended to break into the top ten of the Heavenly Ranking, there was almost no suspense.

Especially upon hearing that Kash Lynch, the top power on the Heavenly Ranking, had come to their kingdom and declared his challenge against Wyatt Barnes, they were further aware of Wyatt Barnes' extraordinary nature.

Who was Kash Lynch?

He was the top individual on the Heavenly Ranking!

Wyatt Barnes might have the strength to break into the top ten on the list, but his current ranking on the Heavenly Ranking was only twenty-third.

The top individual on the Heavenly Ranking challenging the person ranked twenty-third.

This kind of event was unprecedented in the history of Anderson Manor.

"Mr. Barnes and that strong player from Ridge South, no idea when their battle will happen... It's really something to look forward to."

"Hope they conduct the battle publicly, so I can attend and watch."

"Exactly! If they do it inside the palace, we won't be able to enter."

...

Quickly, many people throughout the capital city of Fletcher Kingdom began to worry about the location of Wyatt Barnes and Kash Lynch's battle, as it directly related to whether they could attend and watch.

Inside the main hall of King Archer's estate.

"Mr. Lynch, Wyatt Barnes is very arrogant, saying you can decide the time and place... Do you wish to hold it inside the palace or outside? Holding it in the palace would mean fewer spectators, whereas holding it outside would attract not only people from the capital city but also from surrounding areas."

King Archer asked Kash Lynch.

"Naturally, it should be outside."

Kash Lynch snorted coldly, "He dares to accept the challenge, so I'll make him lose face in front of everyone!"

"Mr. Lynch, our agreement is to kill him."

King Archer frowned.

"Rest assured, after humiliating him and making him lose face, I'll naturally kill him and hand over his Storage Ring to you."

Kash Lynch said indifferently.

Upon hearing this, King Archer eased his mind and asked, "Mr. Lynch, when will it be?"

"Just set it for tomorrow. After this matter is settled, I need to return to Anderson Manor in Ridge South."

Kash Lynch replied.

"Alright."

King Archer responded and then smiled at Hunter Swayer, who stood at the lower position, "Second Master Hunter, you will arrange the location for this battle, give me a response by afternoon."

"Yes, Your Highness."

Hunter Swayer quickly nodded, feeling elated.

Though he had switched allegiance to King Archer, his talents had not been greatly utilized, leaving him feeling unappreciated.

However, because he came up with the plan to make Wyatt Barnes accept Kash Lynch's challenge, King Archer began to value him, bringing him genuine joy and sense of a promising start.

As for Hemingway Wood, who stood on the other side, his face appeared extremely grim.

But when he noticed King Archer looking his way, Hemingway Wood quickly changed his expression to one of humility.

"Hemingway Wood, spread the word that Mr. Lynch will battle Wyatt Barnes tomorrow... Concerning the location, wait for Second Master Hunter to arrange it this afternoon and then announce it. However, when spreading the message now, you can declare that the battle tomorrow will happen outside the capital city, allowing all to watch."

King Archer instructed Hemingway Wood.

"Yes, Your Highness."

Despite his inner displeasure, as this errand could be done by anyone, King Archer assigned it to him.

As for the important task, it was arranged for Hunter Swayer.

In that instant, Hemingway Wood realized his standing with King Archer was already inferior to Hunter Swayer, "I cannot continue like this... I need to find a way to change my image in King Archer's eyes. Damn it! If it weren't for King Archer forcing me to swear an oath under Thunder Punishment, not to spread the news of the Demon Sealing Monument, I wouldn't have stayed here suffering."

Hemingway Wood felt a bit regretful for revealing the Demon Sealing Monument's information to King Archer.

"Had I known, I should have taken this news to Anderson Manor in Ridge South... Anderson Manor could eliminate Wyatt Barnes effortlessly without such a big complicated plan! Moreover, King Archer had promised me to kill Wyatt Barnes personally, yet now because of the Demon Sealing Monument, he has reneged."

This last point irritated Hemingway Wood the most.

Wyatt Barnes killed his sect's Eldest Elder using the Demon Sealing Monument and forced him to flee, making the Netherworld Sect merely exist in name, which was an enormous disgrace.

Unable to personally kill Wyatt Barnes meant the feud remained for him.

However, looking at the current situation, he felt he had lost his say, which made him regret bringing the Demon Sealing Monument news to King Archer's estate.

But now that things had come to this, Hemingway Wood knew his regrets were useless; there were no such things as regret medicine in the world.

Once Hemingway Wood diligently spread the news, the capital city of Fletcher Kingdom was thrown into a frenzy, "Outside the capital city? Tomorrow? Everyone can watch?"

"Haha... Great! Great! I was worried the battle might take place inside the palace; now it seems I was overthinking."

"Mr. Barnes and that top individual on the Heavenly Ranking will certainly have a spectacular duel! It's just a pity; the location won't be announced till afternoon; otherwise, I'd go occupy a spot now."

...

As Fletcher Kingdom's capital city buzzed, another explosive news emerged from King Archer's estate.

"Here's an addition... Kash Lynch and Wyatt Barnes' battle will be a 'Life and Death Battle'! Unless a death verdict is made, it won't be considered concluded."

This news plunged Fletcher Kingdom's capital city into silence.

Life and Death Battle?

Everyone was stunned by these three words.

They couldn't believe that the formidable individual from Ridge South's Anderson Manor would engage in a Life and Death Battle with Wyatt Barnes.

Chapter 1628: So Coincidental

Life and Death Battle means fighting to the bitter end!

"Oh my gosh! What kind of grudge exists between the top person on the 'Heavenly List' from the Anderson Manor in Ridge South, 'Kash Lynch', and Mr. Barnes that they're having a life and death battle?"

"The last time he challenged Mr. Barnes, he didn't mention it was going to be a life and death battle... Announcing it now, if Mr. Barnes isn't confident, he might likely back out."

"It's so ruthless! To engage in a life and death battle."

...

When the people throughout the Capital City of Fletcher Kingdom snapped back to reality, they were abuzz with discussions.

Many began to worry whether Wyatt Barnes would still participate, upon learning that tomorrow's battle was a 'Life and Death Battle'.

A Life and Death Battle — deciding life and death!

It's not something to joke about.

A person's life, you only live once, and once it ends, it means death and the end of one's path.

If there wasn't some deep grudge or hatred, generally, one wouldn't engage in a battle to the death.

Soon, public opinion in the Capital City of Fletcher Kingdom began to shift again.

"Life and Death Battle... After Mr. Barnes finds out that this battle is a life and death one, I don't know if he'll still participate in tomorrow's fight against Kash Lynch."

"If I were Mr. Barnes, I definitely wouldn't participate. Since the other side dares to issue a life and death battle, it's obvious that they're full of confidence and come with ill intentions. Agreeing to it would be like jumping into a pit dug in advance by the opponent."

"Although Mr. Barnes is quite strong, compared to Kash Lynch, he might still fall short... After all, Kash Lynch is the strongest on the 'Heavenly List', reputedly the number one person below the Saint Realm within Anderson Manor in Ridge South! In Ridge South's Anderson Manor, no one under the Saint Realm might be his match."

...

More and more people believed that Wyatt Barnes, upon learning the battle was one of life and death set by his opponent, would back down or even flee the battlefield.

"Life and Death Battle?"

The first person in the Swayer Family to receive this news was Micah Swayer.

"Why on earth does Kash Lynch harbor such animosity towards Mr. Barnes that he would challenge him to a life and death battle... it's clearly a plot to kill Mr. Barnes!"

Micah Swayer's face turned somewhat sour.

Originally, Wyatt Barnes voluntarily leaving the Swayer Family had filled him with guilt.

Now, hearing that Kash Lynch wants a life and death battle with Wyatt Barnes, his initial reaction was to worry about Wyatt Barnes' safety.

After all, a 'Life and Death Battle' is no joking matter!

With his eyes flashing, Micah Swayer went to the courtyard where his son Beau Swayer resided.

Though Wyatt Barnes had announced his departure from the Swayer Family, no longer an Honorary Minister, he had not yet planned to leave the Swayer Family estate before leaving Fletcher Kingdom.

"Mr. Barnes, do you know that 'Kash Lynch' from the Anderson Manor in Ridge South?"

Micah Swayer came to find Wyatt Barnes and asked straightforwardly upon seeing him.

"No, I don't know him."

Wyatt Barnes shook his head, "I only heard of his reputation after arriving at Fletcher Kingdom. I know he's the number one on the 'Heavenly List', a direct descendant of the Lynch family in Anderson Manor, and recognized by most as the number one person below the Saint Realm in Anderson Manor."

"Family Head Swayer, why do you ask this?"

Wyatt Barnes looked puzzled.

"This... doesn't make sense."

Hearing Wyatt Barnes and seeing the puzzlement on his face, Micah Swayer felt even more confused.

"Father, what's going on?"

Beau Swayer asked.

"News from King Archer's mansion states that tomorrow Kash Lynch will fight Mr. Barnes... and it's a 'Life and Death Battle'!"

Micah Swayer looked at Wyatt Barnes and said.

Life and Death Battle!

Beau Swayer's face changed dramatically, "That Kash Lynch wants to take Mr. Barnes' life?!"

Life and Death Battle, fighting to the bitter end!

Without deciding life and death, it won't end.

"Life and Death Battle?"

Hearing Micah Swayer's words, Wyatt Barnes narrowed his eyes, a cold, sharp gleam flashing by.

This news was equally unexpected for him.

"Since Mr. Barnes doesn't know Kash Lynch, there's only one possibility... someone from King Archer's mansion wants your life, Mr. Barnes! It might even be King Archer himself!"

As head of the Swayer Family, Micah Swayer quickly connected the dots after a bit of thought.

"But why would King Archer want you dead, Mr. Barnes?"

To this, Micah Swayer was utterly baffled.

Beau Swayer also looked equally perplexed.

Only Wyatt Barnes remained calm, as if he wasn't the least bit puzzled by this matter.

He didn't have to guess King Archer's motives, it surely revolved around the 'Demon Sealing Monument' in his possession, "Going all the way to Ridge South's Anderson Manor to engage the number one on the 'Heavenly List' to deal with me, just for the Demon Sealing Monument... that King Archer is truly persistent!"

"I know."

Just then, a familiar voice came from outside, and into the courtyard stepped 'Jordan Swayer', the venerable elder of the Swayer Family.

"Grandpa Jordan, do you know why King Archer wants Mr. Barnes dead?"

Beau Swayer's eyes lit up.

In an instant, both Micah Swayer and Wyatt Barnes looked towards Jordan Swayer.

Micah Swayer showed a look of curiosity.

Wyatt Barnes furrowed his brows, secretly alarmed, "Could it be that the news about the 'Demon Sealing Monument' in my possession has already spread? Even the grand elder of the Swayer Family knows?"

However, with Jordan Swayer's explanations, he soon realized he was overthinking.

Yet, it was something he hadn't expected, such a coincidence in the world.

According to Jordan Swayer, the reason King Archer wanted him dead was to repay a life-saving debt owed to a servant from years ago.

That servant left King Archer's household years earlier and established a notorious gang near the southern border of Fletcher Kingdom, living quite freely as its head.

However, about half a year ago, his third brother was killed by a mysterious expert.

He brought this mysterious expert's portrait with him, traveling far to the Capital City of Fletcher Kingdom, just for a promise King Archer gave him back in the day, willing to perform a service within his power.

His request was for King Archer to kill the mysterious expert in the portrait.

The mysterious expert was Wyatt Barnes.

"It's him."

As Jordan Swayer spoke, Wyatt Barnes recalled the events from when he first arrived at Fletcher Kingdom.

During that time, a lieutenant from a bandit group attempted to rob him after extorting a village, and was instead killed by him.

Back then, he hadn't destroyed the body.

He figured a bandit group, akin to an eight-tier power, even if they all came out, posed no threat to him.

"Who would have thought, the leader of a bandit group akin to an eight-tier power could have ties to the Fourth Prince 'King Archer' of the Fletcher Kingdom's Imperial Family."

For a moment, Wyatt Barnes couldn't help but sigh, "It seems, next time, I really can't underestimate anyone."

"So that's how it is."

Both Micah Swayer and Beau Swayer came to a realization after hearing Jordan Swayer's words.

Chapter 1629: Battle of North Mansfield Mountain

Actually, Wyatt Barnes' thoughts are purely the thoughts of a normal person.

After all, a mere bandit group comparable to an eighth-level force shouldn't logically pose a threat to him... With a hundred such bandit groups, perhaps not even one could threaten Wyatt Barnes.

Yet Wyatt Barnes unexpectedly encountered a bandit group connected to King Archer.

This left him somewhat speechless.

However, despite being speechless, he didn't regret it.

After all, King Archer targeted him not just because of that matter, but more likely for the 'Demon Sealing Monument' in his possession.

"Want my Demon Sealing Monument? You must have the strength, your recruits must have the strength."

A trace of disdain flickered deep in Wyatt Barnes' eyes.

Of course, neither Jordan Swayer nor Micah Swayer and his son noticed this trace of disdain.

"Mr. Barnes, it seems King Archer is intent on taking your life... Why don't you leave the Capital City, leave Fletcher Kingdom now?"

Beau Swayer looked at Wyatt Barnes, speaking gravely.

Wyatt Barnes is his lifesaver, he naturally doesn't want any harm to come to Wyatt Barnes. Even though Wyatt Barnes exhibited some confidence for the fight against Kash Lynch, he still doesn't quite believe Wyatt Barnes could be a match for Kash Lynch.

After all, Kash Lynch is the number one on the Heavenly List within the Anderson Manor's domain in Ridge South!

The Heavenly List, through Anderson Manor's countless years of history, is undeniably of high reputation.

"Indeed, Mr. Barnes."

Micah Swayer also advised, "King Archer's side clearly comes with ill intentions, at this time, you'd better not confront them. That Kash Lynch, I heard half a year ago he's just a step away from the Saint Realm... although he might not be Saint Realm now, he's definitely not far from it."

"Mr. Barnes, leave."

Jordan Swayer followed up with persuasion.

"No need for the three of you to persuade me anymore."

Facing the persuasion of the three men, Wyatt Barnes was moved, but still shook his head, declining their advice, "Since they want a life or death battle, then so be it! If I retreat from this battle, it will leave an indelible scar on my path of Martial Dao, affecting my future journey deeply."

"Therefore, I won't avoid this battle! If he wants to fight, then let there be a fight! If he wants to decide life and death, then life and death will be decided!"

At this moment, Wyatt Barnes revealed a strong battle spirit throughout his entire body.

The battle intent soared, nothing could destroy it!

Seeing this, Micah Swayer and his son along with Jordan Swayer exchanged a glance, all smiling bitterly.

Though unwilling to see Wyatt Barnes risk his life, Wyatt Barnes' determined attitude now made them realize changing his decision would be difficult.

At this time, they only hoped that Wyatt Barnes could remain safe in tomorrow's battle.

Time passed.

By afternoon, news from King Archer's Mansion confirmed the location and exact time for the life and death battle between Kash Lynch and Wyatt Barnes, "Tomorrow at noon, 'North Mansfield Mountain', north of the Capital City!"

"North Mansfield Mountain!"

Quickly, everyone in Fletcher Kingdom's Capital City received the news.

Suddenly, numerous martial artists started rushing out of the Capital City, heading straight for North Mansfield Mountain.

"Quick! Hurry up to secure a good spot, tomorrow at noon's battle cannot be missed."

"I've decided, I'll stay overnight at North Mansfield Mountain tonight, otherwise I might not even squeeze in at noon tomorrow."

...

A massive crowd moved towards North Mansfield Mountain.

This night, many were destined to spend the night over at North Mansfield Mountain.

King Archer's Mansion.

"Found him?"

Moody Nicholson, once a servant under King Archer, now the leader of the bandit group at Fletcher Kingdom's border, upon learning King Archer had identified the mysterious expert who killed his third brother, his eyes immediately brightened.

"Wyatt Barnes? The former Honorary Minister of the Swayer Family, slated for a life or death duel with Mr. Kash Lynch?"

Upon discovering who the mysterious expert was, his pupils involuntarily shrank.

During his time at King Archer's Mansion, he naturally wasn't entirely ignorant.

Wyatt Barnes, the young expert who rose in Fletcher Kingdom several months ago, became famous after defeating 'Miss Romero' from Floating Flame Sect and taking her place on the Heavenly List ranking.

Lately, he also heard that Kash Lynch, the number one power on the Heavenly List from Anderson Manor in Ridge South, wanted to challenge Wyatt Barnes.

He also plans to join the festivity tomorrow.

Unexpectedly, at this moment, he received news that the mysterious strongman who killed his third brother on the southern border of Fletcher Kingdom was none other than 'Wyatt Barnes'!

"Luckily, I came to seek the Fourth Prince's help... If it were just me, there's no way I could be a match for that Wyatt Barnes."

With this thought, Moody Nicholson felt somewhat relieved.

Even though Wyatt Barnes has announced his departure from the Swayer Family, no longer serving as their Honorary Minister, just based on Wyatt's personal prowess, he could completely crush him; he simply wasn't a match.

"I was originally wondering why Mr. Kash Lynch, the number one on the Heavenly List, would challenge Wyatt Barnes, ranked twenty-third on the Heavenly List, all the way from Anderson Manor in Ridge South to Fletcher Kingdom... Now it seems it must be the Fourth Prince who invited him. Wyatt Barnes was the Swayer Family's Honorary Minister and even saved the life of the Swayer Family's eldest Young Master, making it difficult for the Fourth Prince to target him."

Moody Nicholson thought, imagining to himself: "Thus, under such circumstances, the Fourth Prince invited Mr. Kash Lynch over, so he could have a legitimate reason to kill Wyatt Barnes!"

He also heard about the life and death duel between Wyatt Barnes and Kash Lynch set for tomorrow.

"I didn't expect it; despite leaving for many years, the Fourth Prince still cares so much for me... In order to repay the favor of saving my life back then, he went all the way to Anderson Manor in Ridge South to invite such a powerful person as Mr. Kash Lynch. Inviting a powerhouse like Mr. Kash Lynch must have come at a significant price."

Moody Nicholson's heart was full of emotion.

Of course, this was because Moody Nicholson was unaware of the truth.

If he knew the truth, he probably wouldn't think this way.

King Archer went to great lengths to invite 'Kash Lynch,' the top person on the Heavenly List, merely for the Demon Sealing Monument that Wyatt Barnes possessed. As for his matter, King Archer genuinely did not care much.

However, since everything lined up as such and Wyatt Barnes was precisely the person Moody Nicholson wished to kill, King Archer decided to go with the flow and repay this favor.

Although King Archer was indifferent to repaying favors from people like Moody Nicholson, to show everyone below that he was a person who knew how to repay kindness, he still notified Moody Nicholson, asking him to go to North Mansfield Mountain tomorrow to see how Wyatt Barnes would be slain by Kash Lynch.

"Third Brother, the person who killed you will be killed tomorrow... I am useless, unable to avenge you personally. Nonetheless, having the Fourth Prince avenge you is the same."

As Moody Nicholson murmured dually, his brows were filled with excitement.

The main hall of King Honorston's manor.

"Who exactly is this Wyatt Barnes? Initially, when he announced leaving the Swayer Family, no longer serving as their Honorary Minister, I thought he was pressured by the Swayer Family... But his acceptance to challenge Kash Lynch also indicates he does not plan to avoid Kash Lynch's challenge."

King Honorston, dressed as a middle-aged scholar, furrowed his brows tightly.

Though he had never met Wyatt Barnes, the Honorary Minister of the Swayer Family, he had heard of him.

However, now he realized Wyatt Barnes was truly an enigma to him.

"Second Prince, now that King Archer says Kash Lynch's challenge is a life and death duel... Whether Wyatt Barnes will show up tomorrow is still uncertain. Maybe he might have gone ahead blindly if he hadn't known this was a life and death duel, but now, with the duel being life and death, he might not show up."

An elderly man standing behind King Honorston said.

"That's true. Even if he has high talent and decent strength, compared to Kash Lynch, he's still considerably weaker... I really don't understand why the Fourth Prince went so far as to invite Kash Lynch from Anderson Manor in Ridge South just for Wyatt Barnes; is it necessary?"

King Honorston shook his head, feeling that King Archer overvalued Wyatt Barnes.

"Second Prince, apart from Wyatt Barnes' exceptional talent and strength, he also has a connection to the Floating Flame Sect... The young lady from Floating Flame Sect, Miss Romero, reportedly has her heart set on him. Maybe King Archer is wary of Miss Romero from Floating Flame Sect, hence not daring to make a direct move."

The elderly man said, "Moreover, before this, Wyatt Barnes was part of the Swayer Family, which aligns itself with our King Honorston's manor... King Archer is somewhat concerned."

"That's true."

King Honorston nodded, "Though that Fourth Prince's brain isn't very sharp, he isn't lacking capable people around him. Humph! To think those of the Hunter Swayer's lineage from the Swayer Family are being forcibly drawn into King Archer's manor; it really is a loud slap in my face!"

Saying so, King Honorston's expression turned grim.

"Second Prince, concerning tomorrow's battle at North Mansfield Mountain, King Archer will probably be there in person... Will you go, Your Highness?"

The elderly man looked at King Honorston and asked.

"Certainly."

King Honorston nodded, "Whether Wyatt Barnes dares to show up or not, I have to go see the excitement... During this period, that Fourth Prince hasn't missed a chance to belittle me! If I'm absent tomorrow, he might just have his people spread a message claiming I was afraid and thus didn't go to view the battle at North Mansfield Mountain."

"I truly hope that Wyatt Barnes shows up at North Mansfield Mountain tomorrow; I have yet to see this young genius who has long since become famous in Fletcher Kingdom."

The elderly man said.

"I also hope he appears. However, if he does, there's a good chance he'll die at Kash Lynch's hands. Fortunately, he's now departed from the Swayer Family; otherwise, were he to be killed, our King Honorston's manor's reputation would also suffer."

King Honorston stated.

Swayer Family.

Upon learning that Wyatt Barnes is to have a life and death duel with the number one powerhouse from Anderson Manor in Ridge South, 'Kash Lynch' tomorrow, Trevor Baillie and the others couldn't sit still and came immediately to persuade Wyatt Barnes.

They have been in Fletcher Kingdom for quite some time, naturally understanding what the Heavenly List is and knowing what the number one powerhouse on the Heavenly List signifies.

The number one powerhouse on the Heavenly List is unanimously recognized in the Ridge South Anderson Manor area as the first person below the Saint Realm!

Chapter 1630: Black Clouds Over the Mountain

"Junior Brother, since you've already announced your departure from the Swayer Family, there's no need for you to fight tomorrow."

In Trevor Baillie's eyes, Wyatt Barnes was no longer an outsider, so he bluntly said, "That Kash Lynch, as the strongest on the 'Heavenly Ranking', has strength that is recognized by the entire Anderson Manor in Ridge South... Moreover, knowing roughly your full capabilities, he still dares to fight you, clearly he's prepared!"

"If you face him in a life-and-death duel, you'll be at a disadvantage."

Trevor Baillie said with a serious expression.

"Indeed, Wyatt, while reputation is important, it pales in comparison to life and death... Besides, you can wait until you break through to the Saint Realm, then challenge Kash Lynch again and defeat him to redeem yourself. Even if some say you fear Kash Lynch now, once you defeat him later, everyone will naturally see you as stronger than him."

Handmi Holland chimed in.

"Young Master, although I don't know how that Kash Lynch's strength compares to yours, I also think you should not go tomorrow."

Fill Bear added.

Soon, Enzo Hawkins, Kamari Gold, and the Nangle brothers all joined in, echoing the sentiments of Trevor Baillie and the others, advising Wyatt Barnes against it.

"Don't worry. If I wasn't confident, I wouldn't have accepted Kash Lynch's challenge! Below the Saint Realm, I've never feared anyone."

Facing their counsel, Wyatt Barnes simply smiled confidently.

Seeing their persistent concern, Wyatt Barnes continued, "You've all watched me come this far... Do you really think I'm the kind of person who would court death? If I were, would I still be alive and standing here?"

As he spoke, Wyatt Barnes shook his head.

The words left Trevor Baillie and the others silent.

Reflecting carefully, it seemed Wyatt Barnes never recklessly courted death along his journey.

Perhaps many times they had doubts about Wyatt Barnes.

But every time, Wyatt Barnes would surprise everyone, leaving them in awe.

Thinking of this, and sensing the strong confidence emanating from Wyatt Barnes, they all collectively let go of their worries.

"Then tomorrow we'll watch you defeat Kash Lynch."

Demetrius Nangle laughed.

"Indeed! We want to see how the top of the 'Heavenly Ranking' falls at your hands."

Handmi Holland added.

With Wyatt Barnes' reminder, their mindsets underwent a complete transformation in an instant, all filled with confidence in Wyatt Barnes.

"Mhm."

Wyatt Barnes nodded with a smile, though he said nothing, the confident smile on his face said it all.

Without further disturbing Wyatt Barnes, Trevor Baillie and the others bid farewell and left, returning to their respective residences.

Wyatt Barnes also returned to his room.

However, he did not enter the Jewel Tower to cultivate, but instead sat cross-legged on the bed in his room.

"How should I progress to the second realm of the 'Supreme Heart Sword'?"

Wyatt Barnes murmured to himself, a hint of confusion between his brows.

Although he had fully grasped the content of the 'Supreme Heart Sword' and had long entered its first realm, he felt a considerable distance from the second realm.

He knew roughly what the second realm entailed, but entering it was exceedingly difficult.

During the year he spent in the third layer of the Jewel Tower, he often pondered over it, ultimately concluding that a cutting point was needed to enter the second realm of the 'Supreme Heart Sword'.

As long as he found the cutting point, he could step into the second realm of the 'Supreme Heart Sword' at any time.

Yet even after contemplating for half the night, he couldn't come to a conclusion as night fell and quickly passed.

Only when dawn broke the next day did Wyatt Barnes stretch and come to his senses, smiling wryly, "Still no solution... It seems I'll need an opportunity to find that cutting point. I really hope it comes soon, as that would elevate my strength to another level."

Considering his progress over the past three months, Wyatt Barnes felt quite satisfied.

"The top of the 'Heavenly Ranking'? Even before I secluded myself for cultivation, I didn't fear you... let alone now! If you seek death, I'll oblige, and you won't have to return to Anderson Manor in Ridge South."

Recalling the life-and-death duel at noon today, Wyatt Barnes squinted, a cold light flashing in his eyes.

"That Kash Lynch, it seems he's a direct descendent of a sixth-rate family from Anderson Manor in Ridge South... I'm curious, once he's killed in Fletcher Kingdom, how will King Archer face that family's wrath? Although the sixth-rate families of Anderson Manor may not match the Fletcher Kingdom's Imperial Family, they're not far behind either."

At some point, a cold smile played at the corner of Wyatt Barnes' mouth.

Since King Archer wanted him dead, he'd let King Archer taste the bitter fruits of his own making!

In the early morning, Wyatt Barnes stepped out of his room and found Beau Swayer dining in the courtyard.

"Mr. Barnes, you're up so early? Aren't you cultivating?"

Beau Swayer was somewhat surprised to see Wyatt Barnes, as he thought that in anticipation of today's life-and-death duel, Mr. Barnes would remain in his room cultivating right until the duel was about to begin.

But Wyatt Barnes' appearance, and his calm demeanor, made him realize he'd misjudged.

Facing the top expert 'Kash Lynch' from Anderson Manor in Ridge South, Mr. Barnes appeared extremely composed. His calmness made some think that Mr. Barnes might be confident enough to defeat or even kill that expert 'Kash Lynch' from Anderson Manor.

However, after a moment's thought, he dismissed that notion.

Kash Lynch, the top expert of Anderson Manor and the number one on the Heavenly List from Ridge South, wasn't someone easy to deal with. Since he dared to have a life and death duel with Wyatt Barnes, he must be confident as well.

Otherwise, who would seek death without reason?

Seeing Wyatt Barnes sit down, Beau Swayer quickly instructed the maid to prepare another breakfast.

Watching Wyatt Barnes eat breakfast with an indifferent expression, Beau Swayer couldn't help but smile wryly, "Mr. Barnes, you're going to have a life and death duel with that Kash Lynch at noon today... Aren't you worried at all?"

"Worried about what?"

Wyatt Barnes asked in return.

Wyatt's words left Beau Swayer at a loss for how to respond.

Wyatt's confidence made it hard for him to find words.

Honestly, he hoped that Mr. Barnes would survive today's life and death duel and become the final victor... But when he thought of Kash Lynch, his hopes seemed to turn to desperation.

In his view, Wyatt's confidence was probably because he hadn't realized how formidable Kash Lynch was.

"Oh well... At most, if Mr. Barnes is in danger, I'll have Lord Crawford intervene. As long as Mr. Barnes is unharmed, I'll bear the criticism alone."

Beau Swayer murmured in his heart.

He had a plan, a crazy plan.

As long as Kash Lynch tries to kill Wyatt Barnes at noon today, he would have Jordan Swayer intervene to save Wyatt.

Of course, doing so would certainly bring about criticism.

And he had already planned to claim it was his request for Jordan Swayer to intervene, claiming the whole affair had nothing to do with the Swayer Family.

However, Beau Swayer seemed to have completely forgotten that while he could have Jordan Swayer intervene, surely there would be Saint Realm experts from King Archer's side prepared as well?

As the saying goes, 'Care leads to confusion,' and Beau Swayer was clearly in such a state now.

Time quietly passed, and midday soon arrived.

Led by Micah Swayer, a group from the Swayer Family left their mansion and the Capital City, departing through the North Gate heading north.

After leaving the Capital City, the group rose into the air, traveling by air.

Among the Swayer Family group, Trevor Baillie and others were notably present.

Now, Trevor Baillie was an Honorary Minister of the Swayer Family, and as a 'three-star Saint Markings Master,' he had gained recognition from everyone in the Swayer Family.

Therefore, even if Wyatt Barnes was not present with the Swayer Family, with Trevor Baillie there, Enzo Hawkins and others could live comfortably.

Actually, even without Trevor Baillie's status as a three-star Saint Markings Master, they could live freely in the Swayer Family, because Taoi Romero, the father of Miss Romero from the Floating Flame Sect, was someone the Swayer Family absolutely had to consider.

"Where is Wyatt Barnes?"

Handmi Holland looked left and right but did not see Wyatt Barnes anywhere.

"I didn't see him since morning; not sure where he went."

Demetrius Nangle also looked around, shaking his head.

"Mr. Barnes had breakfast with me this morning, and then left first... According to him, since he is no longer our Swayer Family's Honorary Minister, it's better for him to go to North Mansfield Mountain alone."

Beau Swayer came forward with a wry smile.

"So, he should already be at North Mansfield Mountain by now."

Handmi Holland and Demetrius Nangle seemed to realize.

North Mansfield Mountain is located tens of thousands of miles north of Fletcher Kingdom's Capital City.

Tens of thousands of miles, for ordinary people, is a colossal distance.

But for the Swayer Family group, even for Handmi Holland and others with the weakest cultivation, this distance is not far.

Even when considering the weakest among them, the group quickly arrived at North Mansfield Mountain.

"So many people!"

However, upon arriving at North Mansfield Mountain, they were all startled by the dense crowd of people in the sky above.

The sky over North Mansfield Mountain was filled with people, resembling dense clusters of black clouds pressing down on the mountain.

"People from the Capital City started heading to North Mansfield Mountain yesterday, all wanting to find a good place to watch the battle."

Beau Swayer explained, "Besides people from the Capital City, even those from nearby areas who got the news rushed to North Mansfield Mountain overnight... But now they're crowding the entire sky above the mountain, how will Mr. Barnes and Kash Lynch fight? Haven't they thought of this issue?"

Looking at the crowded sky above North Mansfield Mountain, Beau Swayer shook his head.