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Chapter 655 The Troop Summoner And The Hundred Beasts

Out of all the people who emerged from the Valley of Elites, Wilbur was the one who Joshua was most impressed with.

He had a solid foundation, and he wasn't afraid to fight.

In order to speed up the eight respectable families' plan, Joshua had put all of his resources into training Wilbur to become the Military God of Yaleview Army.

However, he never expected Wilbur's cultivation level to ascend to God Realm.

Joshua could easily defeat someone who was only a Grandmaster Realm.

However, anyone who reached God Realm was on equal footing as Joshua, even without an army to back them up. He would have no way of controlling them, either. There were two things that Joshua had prepared. Firstly, he would wait for the secret realm to open up based on Herman's plan. Secondly, he would accumulate his power in Yaleview to pave the way for the future.

To his dismay, when he realized that Wilbur was no longer in his control, he had pretty much lost one of his greatest assets.

Regardless, Joshua never thought that Wilbur would instantly team up with the Salladay family and go against him.

It meant that the plan Joshua had been formulating for ten years was suddenly gone. The only thing he could rely on from that point was the secret realm, which was something the Whitley family had kept under wraps for generations.

Joshua guickly chewed on his spaghetti. In just a few bites, he finished the entire plate.

Just then, a small, dainty figure landed on the window frame despite the shattered glass.

It was a messenger pigeon.

Joshua got to his feet slowly. He lightly clutched the bird in his hand, and it was instantly crushed by his spiritual energy, turning into a pile of meat.

In the next moment, a huge figure leaped over the courtyard walls. It turned out to be an enormous leopard.

Eva was sitting on top of the leopard with her gorgeous figure and charming face.

"Joshua, being a cultivator who reached God Realm, don't you feel embarrassed to have run all the way to Marsingfill from Yaleview just because you don't have the guts to fight back?" she taunted.

Upon hearing Eva's words, the tattered door was pushed open from the inside, and Joshua walked out steadily with an exhausted look on his face.

"Embarrassing, you say? Well, it'd be equally as embarrassing for me to die at your hands in Yaleview," he retorted.

He could feel a headache coming on as he stared at Eva in front of him.

"If it were any other family coming after me, I would have gotten rid of them long ago. The Salladay family is the only family that can tame beasts. You guys are such a nuisance," he complained.

Eva had a subtle smile on her face when she heard that. "Well, since you know you can't run, why don't you just surrender, Joshua?"

"Is there any advantage for me to go willingly with you?" Joshua asked with a grin.

"Of course, there is." Eva jumped to the ground in a swift movement. "You're a thoughtful person who's incredibly skilled at planning. Even though you're a spy, you never had children or tried to enjoy life like the others. Considering the fact that you don't mind toying with the eight respectable families so openly, you've got remarkable courage."

She continued, "How about this? If you hand over three of the Whitley family's magical items, I'll convince the elders to let you marry into the family. When the time comes, you can live an enjoyable life. How does that sound?"

While speaking, Eva also jutted out her chest in an attempt to show off her assets.

Joshua, on the other hand, seemed to be scared out of his wits upon hearing that. He hurriedly shook his head.

"If what I've heard is true, you're already forty-five years old, aren't you, Eva? I won't be able to accept it," he replied.

"You!" Eva's face darkened at his response.

Eva's biggest insecurity was her age.

Even though she was forty-five, she looked to be around twenty-six or twenty-seven.

Someone had once said that if she spent a little less time on her face, she might have ascended to the advanced phase of God Realm already.

"You're really asking for it, Joshua." She swung her right hand outward, and a scroll materialized in it. "Let me ask you one more time. Are you going to hand over three of the Whitley family's magical items or not?"

Meanwhile, Joshua's spiritual sense was fervently spreading in all directions.

Thirty meters... Fifty meters... Eighty...

"Did you come here alone?" He looked at her in amusement. "Well, it makes sense. Wilbur's the one who forced me out, and he's got a lot of things to take care of in Yaleview. It's not like Yaleview Army can spare anyone to come with you, either."

Joshua seemed to be mumbling to himself. His left hand brushed past his ring. When he raised it again, he was holding a bamboo board.

"So, you do have the Troop Summoner!" Eva exclaimed excitedly. "In that case, let's see which is more superior between the Troop Summoner and The Hundred Beasts. Come on!"

Eva let out a loud roar, and the leopard beside her charged toward Joshua in rage.

Joshua stepped forward and collided with the leopard's fangs. He was sent flying backward violently.

In the meantime, Eva was making moves in his courtyard. The meter-long scroll was abruptly unrolled before becoming thirty meters long, fluttering around her.

"Hah!" Eva roared. Beams of light shot out from the illustration on the scroll.

All kinds of beasts came to life from the painting.

There was an ancient ape, a fierce tiger, a giant elephant, and a colubrid snake. Each one of them had a cultivation level of advanced phase of Grandmaster Realm, and there were ten of them. Even Joshua couldn't help but grimace.

"In my name, I summon you henceforth to punish the seas and the skies. I shall sacrifice my blood and exhaust my energy. Come forth, my soldiers!" he chanted.

In mid-air, the spiritual energy of the bamboo board in his hands burst forth. He made a gesture with his hand and slide his fingers across the board incessantly.

With one final stroke on the board, the thin layer of spiritual energy in the atmosphere suddenly began to intensify with Joshua as the center.

The bamboo board was siphoning spiritual energy from its surroundings.

Joshua could feel the spiritual energy in his body surging, and he guarded the field of energy in his elixir field.

Right then, all the spiritual energy within a ten miles radius had gathered beneath his feet.

Phantom-like streaks could be seen, and it was as if there was an invisible platform of spiritual energy underneath Joshua.

A wave of murderous energy was created in the midst of it all.

Eva, who was standing far away in the courtyard, had her eyes wide open, and so did Joshua.

When Joshua was just a child, Herman had chosen him to be a spy hiding in the Whitley family.

Then, the Whitley family ended up meeting their demise, and Joshua continued carrying out Herman's plan from before to get a ring from a designated place. The three magical items, which were the Troop Summoner, Formation Crusher, and Hailstorm Fan, happened to be there, too.

Even so, Joshua had left video evidence behind as a reminder to Herman.

Even though those three magical items were terrifyingly powerful, none of them could be used until one had reached the Divine Realm at the very least. Otherwise, it would attract the attention of others who wanted to have it for themselves. People's lives might even be taken because of it.

Because of that, even when he was escaping from Yaleview, Joshua never used the magical items when he didn't need to.

The spiritual energy below him formed a platform, and the Troop Summoner was hovering in front of him.

In an instant, Joshua felt as if the blood in his body had begun to boil.

"Kill her!" he roared, raising his hand to grab the Troop Summoner.

At the same time, silhouette after silhouette was taking shape beneath his feet. Even though their faces couldn't be seen, their armor and weaponry made them look like ancient soldiers.

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Chapter 656 The Place I Am From

With that command from Joshua, the mass of spiritual energy on the ground condensed into troops, who charged toward beasts summoned by Eva like a wave.

The soldiers that Joshua had summoned had a cultivation level that was not above that of Superior Realm. They were worlds apart compared to the well-trained creatures from The Hundred Beasts.

Logically speaking, Joshua didn't stand a chance.

Shockingly, however, the number of soldiers that had been summoned was overwhelming.

There were at most a few dozen beasts summoned by Eva.

On the other hand, there were at least a few hundred soldiers summoned by the Troop Summoner.

The golden leopard and all the other beasts who had dashed forward would have to take on dozens of soldiers each to even the playing field.

Eva could clearly see Joshua standing around twenty meters away, but she couldn't close the distance between them at all.

Joshua's eyes bulged as he sensed the spiritual energy surging through his body frantically.

At that moment, he was able to transfer his spiritual sense into the Troop Summoner and control the movements of each individual soldier.

Shutting his eyes, he suddenly appeared in front of the golden leopard. Just when it slashed at him with its enormous claws, Joshua transferred his consciousness into a soldier directly behind the leopard.

The soldier that was initially rushing forward on autopilot suddenly turned to face the leopard and jumped up, all while swinging the spear in its hand.

Roar!

The leopard let out a growl of pain. It turned and pounced at the soldier that housed Joshua's consciousness, ripping that soldier to shreds. Unfortunately, Joshua had already moved into another soldier's body.

Countless spears stabbed into the leopard's body. Finally, after a few hits, the beast collapsed to the ground and disintegrated into shards of glowing light that scattered into the sky.

The leopard's death opened up a huge path for Joshua.

Joshua's spiritual sense was flitting around the battlefield rapidly to restrain each of the beasts' movements.

It was only then that Eva noticed the problem.

Trying to fight against Joshua with a method like this had been a mistake.

The Hundred Beasts was an inherited magical item that required sacrifice. All of the beasts were created from the efforts of all the Salladay family's ancestors constantly pouring their spiritual energy into it.

The process of refining an item like that was known as spiritual concealment.

As the name suggested, it entailed conserving the spiritual energy that went unused in one's day-to-day life using a specialized method. Then, when it was time to battle, one could unleash that spiritual energy.

Because of that, the creatures formed by The Hundred Beasts would be wiped out forever once they were taken down.

Meanwhile, countless of Joshua's troops had been torn to pieces by The Hundred Beasts. Even so, more of them kept forming from below Joshua.

It could be said that he was directly communicating with the universe using his spiritual energy.

It was impossible to use mortal power to fight against that of a god.

However, that was also the reason why Eva wanted the Troop Summoner so badly.

"Retreat!" she hollered.

She moved her hands in a complicated gesture, and the dozens of Grandmaster Realm creatures transformed into spiritual energy. They returned back to The Hundred Beasts.

"That Troop Summoner of yours is really something else, Joshua. However, it looks a little different from what I've seen in the records," she commented.

While speaking, a thick wave of spiritual energy began to converge in the direction of the scroll that was flying around her.

"Ten years ago, Herman was in possession of the Troop Summoner. However, he only ever summoned three Divine Realm generals. How come you're only able to summon Superior Realm soldiers? It's not a knock-off, is it?" she asked.

"Does it matter if it's a knock-off?" Joshua slowly opened his eyes as he grabbed the Troop Summoner.

He had only used the Troop Summoner for a few minutes in battle, but most of the spiritual energy in his body was already depleted.

Nevertheless, compared to the amount of spiritual energy that the Troop Summoner had consumed, the spiritual energy that Joshua expended was nothing but a drop in the ocean.

The bamboo board sort of worked like a crowbar. The amount of spiritual energy that it could gather was proportional to how long Joshua could last, much like how the strength of a crowbar was proportional to the force exerted by the person using it.

If he were truly able to summon Divine Realm spirit generals like Eva had said, that would be truly horrifying.

The scroll continued to hover around Eva's head. Golden beams of light kept circulating around it.

It looked like something was trying to escape from the scroll.

"It doesn't really matter. Whether it's the real deal or not, you're not getting away today," Eva stated.

As she spoke, the spiritual energy within her began to swirl. Even Joshua, who was a Divine Realm cultivator as well, was startled by how powerful the waves of spiritual energy were.

Along with the bubbling spiritual energy, a pair of claws materialized on The Hundred Beasts.

Bang!

Following a loud noise, a nondescript beast that was around ten meters in length dropped to the ground.

It had the claws of an eagle, the body of a pig, and the head of a dog.

Moo!

With what sounded like a cow mooing, a perpetual aura of savagery flowed through the air.

"This is the strongest beast I can call forth—Hadrolodon!" Eva announced.

She looked at the beast before her. With exhaustion in her tone, she ordered, "Go. Kill him!"

Moo!

After that ferocious roar, the ground beneath Hadrolodon began to crack, forming weblike patterns.

Immediately, the spiritual energy underneath Joshua started to collapse.

Razor-sharp talons and pointed fangs came into view at the same time, and they went straight for Joshua's neck.

Boom!

There was a huge explosion. When Joshua landed on the ground, Hadrolodon had been sent flying dozens of meters backward.

"Don't let him get away!" Eva yelled.

Hadrolodon charged forward once again.

"Punish them!"

Joshua let out a furious cry. The paper fan in his hands was infused with spiritual energy, and he thrust it forward powerfully.

Gusts of intense wind began to blow. Lightning crashed down from the sky and landed right on Hadrolodon's head.

"A formation of thunder? It's the Hailstorm Fan!" Eva shrieked.

She gripped the scroll and rushed toward Joshua.

Joshua has already used two of the Whitley family's magical items. The last one, Formation Crusher, is probably in his hands as well.

Back in Yaleview, she had worked together with Wilbur to inflict heavy wounds on Joshua.

As such, she reckoned she had to take advantage of the moment to kill him. As long as she could obtain the Whitley family's three magical items, the Salladay family would never have to worry about getting threatened by the other seven families again.

They only had two choices—submission or death.

Right when Eva was charging ahead, she was suddenly thrown to the side. A plate-sized hole had formed in the ground behind her, and dirt flew out of it.

The hole was created by the bullet of a large-caliber sniper rifle.

Eva quickly reached out to turn The Hundred Beasts back into a scroll, using it to block the sniper's line of fire.

It was then that she heard a crackling sound from the sky. It had come from at least eight hundred meters above her.

Even from such a huge distance, it could predict her movements. It was obvious how big of a threat the sniper posed.

From far away, Joshua was panting as he held the Hailstorm Fan.

It wasn't just Eva who was stunned by the shot that just came out of nowhere. Even Joshua himself wasn't sure what was going on.

Nonetheless, he reckoned that the newcomer was on his side since they were targeting Eva.

But ever since my identity has been exposed, the eight respectable families have been gunning for my life. So, who would launch an open attack on the Salladay family?

"It seems that you've played the eight respectable families like a fiddle, Joshua. I only thought that you were Wilbur's pawn in Yaleview Army. I didn't know you have gotten yourself a pawn as well. How impressive," Eva remarked.

"I'm not his pawn," a hoarse voice sounded.

Following that, a figure, who was dressed like a cowboy with a mask on, landed on a neighboring house as he held a sniper rifle in hand.

Using her spiritual sense, Eva tried to analyze the area. However, she noticed that there was a chaotic force field preventing her from doing so.

"You're bold enough to challenge the Salladay family, but you don't have the guts to show your face? Speak. Which family are you from?" she demanded.

"I'm not from any family." The man chuckled as he clutched his rifle. "I'm from a place called Asura's Office."

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Chapter 657 Offer From The Zink Family "Asura's Office?"

Eva's expression turned grim as she looked at the masked man.

She had thought the masked man was the backup plan Joshua had come up with while staying hidden for the past ten years.

Little did she know that the masked man was working for Jonathan.

At the same time, however, a trace of doubt flashed across Eva's eyes.

Isn't Jonathan Goldstein the only God Realm cultivator in Asura's Office? Who is this mysterious man who appeared out of nowhere?

"Hey, you said you're from Asura's Office. Do you have any evidence?"

Eva had to bring back more information despite the fact that she had no way of verifying it.

Although all families had been wary of Asura's Office's military power since its establishment three years ago, they had never taken Asura's Office seriously due to the presence of high-ranking cultivators.

The feeling was similar to that of a hunter facing a wolf in the jungle with a gun.

Are wolves scary? Yes.

However, is it necessary to be afraid of them? Not really!

Following the appearance of the masked man, Eva eventually became a little confused.

Even if Jonathan's Asura's Office had used every resource available in the mortal world to train high-ranking cultivators, cultivating a God Realm cultivator in three years was simply impossible.

There were only two possibilities if the God Realm cultivator in front of her was truly from Asura's Office.

The first was that Asura's Office had actually discovered a way to cultivate a second Jonathan.

The second was that some forces had formed an alliance with Asura's Office, such as respectable families or ancient sects.

In either case, it was a big deal.

Eva had to gather as much information as she could.

With a straw in his mouth, the masked man sat on the roof and extended his hand to reload the sniper rifle.

"Whether you believe it or not doesn't matter. What makes you think that I'm obligated to show you proof?"

The masked man grinned as he pointed the sniper rifle at Eva.

"Eva Salladay, I'd really like to try to see if I can shoot your head from this distance."

Hearing that, Eva frowned and slowly moved backward.

Although she had summoned the ferocious beast, Hadrolodon, of The Hundred Beasts with God Realm cultivation, the God Realm cultivator in front of her was still a formidable foe.

His cultivation level, as well as the sniper rifle in his hand, posed a great threat to her.

With the addition of Joshua, who was holding the Hailstorm Fan, it would be difficult to predict who would win if the battle started.

"The Salladay family should, of course, show some respect now that Asura's Office has stepped in. Joshua Whitley is now yours. I'll leave right away."

Eva backed away slowly, putting The Hundred Beasts between herself and the masked man.

With a roar, Hadrolodon morphed into pure spiritual energy, entered The Hundred Beasts, and vanished into the distance with Eva.

It was not until Eva's figure completely disappeared that Joshua let out a sigh.

He pulled out a black pill and popped it into his mouth. Then the spiritual energy in his body surged instantly.

"That's a Spirit Rejuvenating Pill that can restore one's God Realm cultivation. As one might expect from the wealthy and powerful Whitley family," exclaimed the masked man when he noticed the changes in spiritual energy in Joshua's body.

The fan in Joshua's hand was half-opened. Streams of spiritual energy poured into it rapidly, and the ribs of the fan flickered continuously.

"Who are you?" Joshua inquired while giving the masked man a stern look. "I'm not sure if there are any other God Realm cultivators in Asura's Office besides Jonathan Goldstein, but I'm certain that no one from Asura's Office will come to my aid."

Hearing that, the masked man chuckled and put away the sniper rifle that was almost as tall as a person.

"As expected, a person who can reach the top in ten years is no slouch."

Having said that, the masked man reached out and slowly took off the mask.

Soon, the slightly pale face beneath the mask was revealed.

He was a very attractive young man who, at most, looked to be in his late twenties.

His appearance alone could rival those of well-known celebrities.

It was a stark contrast to his hoarse and husky voice earlier.

"Who are you?" Joshua asked again, raising the Hailstorm Fan in his hand.

Moments later, the young man leaped to the ground from the roof and stood in front of Joshua.

Opening his mouth, he spat out a button-sized voice changer and chuckled.

"Joshua Whitley, allow me to formally introduce myself. My name is Hayden Zink, and I'm from Pollerton."

The moment Joshua heard Hayden's words, he was a little surprised.

The Zink family from Pollerton was not a small family.

According to the mortal world's power hierarchy, respectable families were at the top, followed by prominent families, first-class families, and so on.

The cultivator world, on the other hand, had a much simpler power structure.

There were only two kinds. Except for the respectable families, the rest fell into the category of non-respectable families, and the Zink family of Pollerton was regarded as the most powerful among the non-respectable families.

Some people once said that the Zink family was one of the emerging families that had the best chance of becoming a respectable family.

However, people at Joshua's level knew that the Zink family could only ever be the Zink family.

It was because they were nothing more than the Osborne family's minions.

"In recent years, the Zink family has been mentioned on equal terms with the eight respectable families and is known as the family that can fill the void left by the Whitley family's fall," said Joshua as he looked at Hayden doubtfully. "Did the Osbornes ask you to save me?"

Hayden shook his head. "If the Osborne family had sent me here, I would have killed you instead of saving you."

After determining that Hayden had no intention of killing him, Joshua straightened up while holding the Hailstorm Fan.

"Not the Osbornes? The how did you find me?"

Hayden smiled and said nothing.

"Joshua, be it our families, ages, or cultivation levels, I have to regard you as my senior. Stop asking how I found you. I won't answer you. This time, I'm here to talk to you about collaboration."

"What collaboration?" Joshua scowled as he fixed his gaze on Hayden. "You should be aware that I'm no longer at the top. I'm not sure what else you can get out of me."

Joshua was well aware of his predicament.

In the past ten years, he had only done three things: hid himself, waited for the Secret Realm to open, and developed Yaleview forces.

In fact, he once considered setting up his forces outside of Yaleview, but there were simply too many spies from the eight respectable families.

Joshua could not be certain that the respectable families were no longer keeping an eye on him even if they had ultimately put their guard down against him.

Following his departure from Yaleview, his ten-year plan was shattered in an instant.

As long as he possessed the three secret treasures, the eight respectable families would continue to hunt him down.

He even considered escaping to the neighboring country of Merania to hide from the eight respectable families. That was why he found it a little puzzling when the Zink family suggested working together.

Hayden smiled and stated, "Joshua, if you work with me, I can help you avenge the Whitley family. You should think about it."