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“Everyone, be careful. This fog has been created by an arcane array.” In that instant, Flaxseed’s smiling face was replaced by a solemn look.

As for the girls, they adopted a vigilant state of mind as they carefully proceeded forward. “Mr. Thompson, can you still remember the place you mentioned?” Kai asked Dale.

He was worried that the fog would cause Dale to be lost. “Mr. Chance, don’t worry. I can find it with my eyes closed.”

Although he had only been there twice, Dale was confident of finding it due to his strong sense of direction. Nodding in acknowledgment, Kai invited Dale: to lead the way.

After walking for more than an hour, they noticed that the fog began to thin, revealing the snowy mountain before them. If one were to look down from the sky, one could see that the mountain was surrounded by a ring of thick fog.

The fog had confused many adventurers, causing them to lose their way.

“Mr. Chance, the eastern foot of the mountain is where many mysteriously disappeared,” Luca remarked while pointing to the east.

“All right, let’s head over.” After nodding in acknowledgment, Kai turned toward Lizbeth and the girls. “All of you should stay here, as the journey ahead is a perilous one. We’ll leave the tent and supplies with you, so just stay put and wait.”

With that, Kai retrieved the supplies from his Storage Ring and quickly set up the tent.

Initially, Astrid and Lyanna were reluctant to stay. However, Cecilia and Lizbeth, who were cognizant that they would only serve as a distraction to Kai, agreed to remain.

With Dale leading the way, Kai, together with Flaxseed, Gilbert, Anne, and Andrew, headed to the location where the Grandmasters were reported to have gone missing.

“Kai, let me come with you. In the event of danger, I’ll be able to help.”

Evangeline expressed her intention to join them. Since she was a Greater Martial Arts Marquis, she was more than capable of taking care of herself.

Moreover, her broad knowledge would likely be of use if they were to encounter any ancient artifacts. Kai subsequently nodded after taking those factors into consideration. “All right, come along, then.”

Once he had settled on the groups, Kai instructed, "Colin, keep a close eye on them. Just stay here and don't venture anywhere else."

"Don't worry, Kai, I won't allow them to wander around unnecessarily," Colin promised.

After Kai and his group continued on their journey, he could feel a significant change in the spiritual energy within their surroundings..

Evangeline, who sensed the same, furrowed her brows in response. Upon arriving at their destination, they were greeted by the sight of a few large signs.

They read: Danger! Do not enter! Surprised, Kai wondered who it was that erected the signs. "Mr. Thompson, who put all these up?" Kai inquired.

Equally stunned, Dale shook his head. "I have no idea. I didn't see them the last two times I was here."

"Someone must have come here. The signs are probably used to scare others away," Flaxseed commented. "Ignore them. We're heading in, Kai ordered as he took a step forward.

No sooner had he done so than a ferocious roar of a beast was heard. It was so terrifying that it sent a chill down everyone's spine. "Is there a demon beast here?"

Surprise gripped Kai. Given the extreme cold, it was difficult for any beasts to survive on the mountain. Meanwhile, Dale's expression drastically changed upon hearing the repeated roars.

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"M-Mr. Chance, I think we shouldn't continue walking forward..." Dale said while trembling. Seeing Dale's demeanor, Kai asked in puzzlement, "What's wrong? Are you intimidated by just a few roars?"

"It looks like you don't know about this, Mr. Chance. It is rumored that a tiger demon lived here once. It was extremely gigantic, and it could devour a human in one bite! However, nobody had encountered the tiger demon for many years. Thus, it was slowly forgotten by the people and became a legend," Dale explained.

Dale continued, "But now, it's possible that the roar came from that tiger demon. Besides, the people who disappeared here were likely to be devoured by the tiger demon. I think we shouldn't continue walking forward. It's too dangerous..."

Although Dale knew Kai was a Greater Martial Arts Grandmaster, they would most likely become the legendary tiger demon's meal if they encountered it.

"Is there really such a thing as a tiger demon here?" Kai looked shocked.

"If there is a tiger demon here, then there must be the King of Herbs as well. Whenever there is a stalk of King of Herbs in an area, there will definitely be a spirit beast protecting it.

Maybe the tiger demon is there to protect the King of Herbs." Anne looked excited. At least, the tiger demon's existence proved that the King of Herbs would certainly exist around the area.

Seeing that Kai and the others didn't seem to fear the tiger demon at all and wanted to keep continuing their journey, Dale said with a perplexed expression, "Mr. Chance, my strength is low. I don't dare to walk further at all. Besides, I'd never been to this snowy mountain before. I guess I can't lead the way for you anymore."

The meaning behind Dale's remarks was clear. He wanted to quit the group and return home, as he was afraid.

"Mr. Thompson, thank you for bringing us here. Please be careful when you go home." Kai didn't blame Dale. After all, Dale was merely a Martial Arts Grandmaster. If he were to encounter any danger, he wouldn't even be able to escape.

"Then I shall wait in town to celebrate your return..." Dale said.

After Dale had left, Kai and the others continued forward. Yet, the path was getting more and more difficult to cross. Not only that, but it was also leading toward the snowy mountain.

Fortunately, they were all experts. If they were ordinary people, they wouldn't have been able to walk this far. "Mr. Flaxseed, can you probe where the ancient ruins are?" Kai asked Flaxseed.

"Obviously. Have you forgotten what I do for a living?" With that, Flaxseed took out a metal rod that was only a few tens of centimeters long. It was thin and bright.

Casually, Flaxseed glanced around before finding a place to stick the metal rod into the snow.

Then, he stood in front of the metal rod and started chanting a spell. "A geomancer's spells are never widespread, and the mountain where fortune lies should be identified through the mountain's shape. There might be highs and lows, and one might circle the same area repeatedly."

Flaxseed continued, "The mountains will rise and fall like a dragon or a snake. One should bring enough supplies while walking through the mountains, and one should protect their trails while crossing the canyons. There is no end to taking from the mountains and giving something back. One's entanglement with the mountains is always mysterious."

He added, "Venus, Jupiter, Mercury, Mars, and Saturn are the five planets that will lead us to the mountains. Jupiter and Mars will create

civilization and bring knowledge. Saturn will create minerals and bring wealth. Venus and Mercury will bring prosperity from the mountains."

Following Flaxseed's chanting of the spell, a golden glow emitted from the tip of the metal rod. The golden glow was spreading continuously, and the area it covered became wider and wider.

Buzz! Suddenly, the metal rod began to vibrate, and a humming noise echoed throughout the area. The metal rod's vibration increased gradually. It began to heat up while vibrating, causing the surrounding snow to melt.

Seeing that, Flaxseed waved his hand immediately as his expression changed slightly. "Stop!"

Instantaneously, the metal rod stopped vibrating, and the glow vanished. Then, the rod flew back to Flaxseed's hand directly.

Kai and the others gaped at Flaxseed's actions. It could be said that Flaxseed was truly an expert.

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Kai walked over and asked, "How is it, Mr. Flaxseed?" "This ancient ruin is quite huge. However, the entrance is probably destroyed by someone..." Flaxseed responded.

"What do you mean?" Kai frowned. "Are you saying that someone had already entered the ancient ruins before?"

Flaxseed nodded in response. "If someone else had been in there, doesn't it mean our trip here is wasted?" Gilbert said after letting out a sigh.

"That's hard to say. Even if these people can enter the ancient ruins, it's not guaranteed that they can get the items inside. It's similar to the ancient ruins of Skywrath Sect we visited that day. Although we had entered the ancient ruins many times, we almost got nothing from them. Exploring ancient ruins is not the same as exploring ancient tombs.

When an ancient tomb is opened, it'll technically be destroyed. completely. However, ancient ruins are protected by an arcane array. The items inside ancient ruins can't be touched by anyone just as they wish," Flaxseed explained.

"Mr. Flaxseed, can't you just tell us where the ancient ruins' entrance is? We'll find out once we get in, won't we?" Kai asked anxiously.

Yet, Flaxseed shook his head. "I can't find the entrance. Someone wiped the traces to the entrance and reformed a new arcane array. Now, we have to search for it slowly."

"Could it be that those people who broke into the ancient ruins are still inside?" Anne asked. "It's possible..." Flaxseed nodded in agreement.

"Then, could they be the ones who are spreading the rumors about the tiger demon and causing people to disappear? Maybe they're doing these on purpose to scare off the people who are searching for the ancient ruins," Evangeline said after contemplating for a while.

"Yes, that's possible as well. But no matter what exactly the situation is right now, we still have to find the entrance first..." Kai was eager to find the ancient ruins as soon as possible.

Just when Kai was about to lead the others and continue their journey toward the snowy mountain, they sensed a sudden wave of auras coming from behind them.

Moreover, those auras weren't weak at all. The weakest aura was one that had a cultivation level of a Greater Martial Arts Grandmaster. Not only that, but there were also several auras coming from a few Martial Arts Marquises.

Needless to say, those people were here because of the ancient ruins. "What do we do now, Mr. Chance?" Gilbert asked as he felt those people's aura, too.

Kai frowned slightly and spoke after pondering for a while. "Everyone, hide your auras and don't let them figure out our background. We can let them go first while we follow behind them."

Kai was planning to let those people walk in front so they could risk themselves first if there were any dangers ahead. After all, nobody knew what kind of danger was in front. Kai thought that instead of risking his own life, it was better to let those people pass through first.

Flaxseed glanced at Kai. "You're such an evil fellow..."

Kai chuckled. "As the saying goes, a soldier should achieve victory by hook or by crook."

Kai and the others toned down their auras and went to the side to rest, displaying an extremely exhausted look on their faces.

Soon, over ten people rushed toward Kai and the others. Among those people, a tall man with blond hair and blue eyes was obviously the leader.

Meanwhile, a skinny elderly followed beside that tall man. The elderly seemed to be blind, as he was holding a walking stick in his hand.

As soon as the group saw Kai and the others, they stopped. The blond man sized Kai and the others up and said nothing. Then, the blond man turned to the elderly and asked, "Joel, you said that someone was using Tomb Seeking Skill to search for the ancient ruins. Did it come from this area?"

The elderly named Joel said nothing. He merely took out a bronze handbell and shook it gently. Then, clear sounds emitted from the bronze handbell and quickly began to spread across the area.

The sound waves seemed to be magical as they continuously blasted Kai and the others' minds. In an instant, a golden beam flashed across Kai's mind, and it directly forced the sound waves away.

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Meanwhile, the others kept their minds under control and were not affected by the sound wave. Anne, however, was too weak. The sound wave took control over her, and her eyes slowly lost focus.

Seeing that, Kai grabbed her hand and transferred a wave of spiritual energy into her body, which woke her up instantly.

When Anne saw him holding her hand, she smiled and cast him a teasing gaze. Noting that, Kai wanted to let go of her, but she tightened her grip on him and refused to let him go.

Kai was utterly at a loss for words. Never did he expect Anne to misunderstand his intent.

He explained softly, "Don't get the wrong idea. I'm just saving you- "I'm not. Isn't it great that we're holding hands like this? Why bother letting go? Is my hand not fair enough? Is my skin not soft enough?"

Anne's voice was filled with mischief. Flaxseed, on the other hand, was extremely envious when he saw the scene before him. "Young lady, Kai is a dense man. Why don't I hold your hand instead?"

Anne rolled her eyes and ignored him. Nonetheless, Flaxseed did not mind it at all. After all, a man had to be thick-skinned if he wanted to pick up girls.

Just as Kai and the others were speaking softly and not paying any attention to the other party, Joel spoke. "Danny, is there anyone on our left?"

"Yes, Mr. Joel. There are six people-four men and two women. They're probably tourists," said the blond-haired man. "Tourists? Have tourists ever come here before?"

Joel sounded a little angry.

Danny hurriedly explained, "They're not here on a trip, Mr. Joel. The most powerful person in this group is only a Greater Martial Arts Grandmaster, while the others are Martial Arts Grandmasters. Could they be here to explore the ancient ruins with such capabilities?"

"So, there's a Greater Martial Arts Grandmaster as well. Looks like I've miscalculated the situation."

With that, Joel shook the bell again. This time, however, the rings carried spiritual energy into the ears of Kai and the others. After that, the energy began to attack the spiritual sense in their minds.

The attack this time was clearly more powerful than the first. Just as Kai was trying to drive the energy away, he froze.

If we drive the energy away now and prevent ourselves from getting controlled, then the other party will suspect our true capabilities.

Thus, Kai shot them a look. Understanding what he was implying, the others hurriedly pretended to fall into a daze as if they were controlled by the energy.

However, Anne's mind was truly controlled by the spiritual energy, and her eyes dimmed. Joel curled his lips into a smug smile and said, "Come here, all of you..."

At that, Kai and the others rose to their feet and approached Joel obediently..

"What are you guys doing here?" asked Joel. "Traveling, as well as trying our luck to see if we can find the legendary ancient ruins," Kai answered.

Joel scoffed, "Looks like you're really tourists. I can't believe you all wanted to try your luck. How could you take this so lightly? Have you people lost your minds? Do you

really think you'd have struck gold if you found the ancient ruins? You have no idea how dangerous the place is. With your current strength, you'd surely die if you set foot in it."

With that, Joel shook his bell to wake them up. "W-What's going on? Who are you people?" asked Kai and the others, feigning anxiousness.

"Don't be afraid. We're from Flaming Sect. This is our leader. It's extremely dangerous here.. With your current capabilities, we'd advise you to return lest you die in vain," informed Danny.

Suddenly, Anne shrieked excitedly, "Flaming Sect? You guys are the ones who are extremely powerful in divination, right? You're the ones who can predict the future and fates!"

Nodding, Danny admitted, "Indeed. I'm surprised you know about us."