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Vasily gave an awkward smile. "We aren't capable of digging it up. Even if we were to find it, the only ones who'd benefit from this are the Tall family... In all honesty, me and my clanspeople are hoping for the treasure to be found. That way, our techniques will be made public, and more people will want to become. Archaic Body cultivators. Only then can our group become bigger and stronger."

Jasper, without a doubt, was deeply moved by Vasily's words. Ah... From the looks of it, the Archaic Body cultivators are so determined to strengthen their group that they don't even mind having others uncover their treasure!

"If I can find the treasure, I promise I'll help you spread the word of Archaic Body Cultivation,"

he said as he patted Vasily on the shoulder. "Thank you, Mr. Chance! However, what's. difficult isn't finding the treasure but opening it. The emerald badge I gave you is incomplete. It needs to be combined with the other half before it can be used to unlock the treasure. Sadly, I don't know where the other half has gone to... Vasily replied.

In response, Kai smiled and fished out a complete emerald badge.

"Take a look at this. Is it complete?"

After seeing the whole emerald badge in Jasper's hand, Vasily froze in utter shock."

Mr. Chance, how did you get your hands on the other half? Where did you find it?"

"Oh, I chanced upon it. It looked very similar to the emerald badge you gave me, so I tried piecing them together. To my surprise, they were a perfect fit! That's also why I approached your brother to buy a treasure map," Jasper explained, though he wasn't entirely truthful.

After all, he had made a pact with the count, and the fewer people who knew about it, the better. "Fate! It's fate!" Vasily exclaimed. "Mr. Chance, try dripping a drop of your blood essence onto the emerald badge!"

This time around, it was Kai's turn to be shocked. "Why?" Isn't this emerald badge a key to unlocking the treasure? It's not a weapon, either, so why does it need my blood?

"You'll know once you try it!" Kai nodded and forced out a drop of blood essence from between his brows before letting it drip onto the emerald badge.

The next second, the emerald badge began to tremble, and clouds of black mist emerged, followed by a cacophony of ghoulish howls that sent chills down everyone's spines.

A strange occurrence immediately followed as dark clouds loomed over the area and cracks of thunder rang out. Before anyone could react, a black vortex had appeared mid-air and began spinning. Kai furrowed his brows. "What's happening?"

Vasily was silent as he looked on with wide- eyed disbelief. Not even he was expecting such a phenomenon, either!

Needless to say, everyone else was just as flabbergasted. After all, how could an innocent piece of emerald badge conjure such a strange and frightening spectacle after being given a drop of blood essence?

"Mr. Chance, hurry up and keep the emerald badge!" Vasily suddenly shouted. Kai quickly covered the badge and tossed it. into his Storage Ring. Sure enough, the phenomenon disappeared, and the skies were once again clear and sunny.

"That was a very intense demonic aura. Why is it inside the emerald badge?" Kai asked as he stared at Vasily. Vasily has to know something... Otherwise, he wouldn't have told me to drip my blood essence onto it!

Just as Vasily was about to explain, three black silhouettes suddenly flashed past and appeared before the group in the blink of an eye.

The three people scrutinized Kai and the rest before unceremoniously inspecting them with their spiritual sense.

Not only was such a move incredibly intrusive, but it was also easy to repulse others. Worst of all, it could cause a fight between parties at any time.

However, the three people showed no signs of fear. They stared intently at Kai and the others and continued to go over them with their spiritual sense.

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Feeling their formidable auras, Kai and the others didn't utter a word even though they were rude. Vasily and the Three Bandits lowered their heads, avoiding direct eye contact, clearly not daring to challenge them.

"Who are you? What happened here earlier?" one elderly man demanded. His penetrating gaze swept over them as he emanated a formidable aura.

It was clear that he was not someone to be taken lightly. With his volatile temper, he wouldn't hesitate to act swiftly. Kai furrowed his brows as he sensed his terrifying aura and his heart trembled.

Judging by the elderly man's aura, he was likely. at Eighth Level Body Fusion Realm, if not higher. Kai knew he was no match for the elderly man.

Furthermore, there were three of them, and each displayed significant strength. Kai and his companions couldn't even handle one of these adversaries, let alone all three.

"Sir, we didn't perceive anything unusual. What are you searching for? Is there anything we can do to help?" Kai asked in a composed manner.

"You didn't perceive anything?" The elderly man furrowed his brow and fixed his gaze on Kai. "The abnormal phenomenon was incredibly potent. How can you not feel a thing? You're a liar! If you confess everything truthfully, I'll let you off the hook for lying. However, if I discover that you're lying to me, you won't be able to endure the consequences."

Given the intensity of the abnormal phenomenon and its proximity to Kai and his group, the elderly man found it hard to believe that Kai was completely unaware of it.

"Sir, we're not lying. We just left Jipsdale and are entirely oblivious to any abnormal occurrence," Kai responded, pretending to be afraid. He looked pale, and his body was trembling slightly.

At that moment, a middle-aged man with a sword and an octagonal hat stepped forward. "Konce, just look at how terrified he is. I doubt he would dare

to deceive us. Furthermore, it's likely that the phenomenon was triggered by a magical item. They don't seem like they possess such an item."

"Lofton, you know nothing. The less conspicuous and lower-level individuals are, the more likely they are to possess magical items. The abnormal phenomenon occurred right here, yet they claimed they didn't witness it. It's evident that they're deceiving us. You're too trusting. I must conduct a search to determine if they have any magical items on them," Konce said.

With that, he turned to Kai and instructed, "Line up and take off your clothes so I can search you. Remember to take out all your Storage Rings, too."

Kai's expression darkened when he heard Konce's intention to search them and inspect their Storage Rings.

Kai possessed numerous magical items within his Storage Ring, and if Konce were to lay hands on it, there was no doubt he would appropriate those items for himself..

Tamping down his anger, he said politely, "Sir, this isn't right. We have a young lady among us."

"So what? I've encountered numerous women. If I inspect you and discover that you possess nothing, I'll release you unharmed. I won't harm her. She won't incur any losses even if I examine her body. Stop dilly-dallying and take off your clothes," Konce said impolitely.

Viola's cheeks turned pink as she glared at Konce. "You lecherous old thing!"

Konce's gaze turned icy. Without hesitation, he emanated a surge of aura and directed it toward Viola. Viola had no idea that her angry retort would invite doom for her. The old man was just too unreasonable.

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The aura of a cultivator at Eighth Level Body Fusion Realm surged toward Viola like an enormous boulder. If it struck Viola, she would have no chance of survival.

Kai flew into a rage when he saw Konce trying to kill Viola. Even though he knew he was no match for Konce, he refused to see her die a horrible death in front of him.

Kai approached Viola and activated his Golem Body. Countless golden scales covered his body as the Power of Dragons and the Power of Three erupted from within him.

Boom! The elderly man's formidable aura collided with Kai's body. Kai felt as though a high-speed train had struck his chest. His internal organs screamed in agony as he was propelled into the air.

After spewing out a mouthful of blood, Kai fell to the ground.

"Kai!"

"Mr. Chancel" Viola and the others rushed over to help him. up, "Kai, are you okay?" Viola asked in concern. "I'm fine. Don't worry." Kai flashed a smile as blood trickled down the corner of his lips.

The other three were surprised to see Kai getting to his feet as he was only at Second Level Body Fusion Realm. It seemed impossible that he could withstand an attack from a cultivator at Eighth Level Body Fusion Realm.

"Konce, did you show him mercy?" Lofton asked. Otherwise, there was no doubt that Kai wouldn't have survived his devastating assault.

Konce quickly explained, "I was only trying to scare them into submission. I wasn't planning on killing anyone."

Deep down, Konce was utterly shocked. He knew that he didn't hold back just now, yet Kai's sudden surge of power didn't correspond with someone at Second Level Body Fusion Realm.

At that moment, the other individual who had been silent the entire time finally spoke. "Konce, don't try to make excuses for yourself. You didn't hold back in your attack just now. This young man is quite extraordinary. He's a cultivator at Second Level Body Fusion Realm, yet he managed to unleash such formidable power. Moreover, the aura he released seemed distinct from ours. It's peculiar as there appears to be a blend of demon and beast auras within it. It's truly remarkable."

Lofton chimed in, "Sunny is correct. I sensed it as well. There was something unusual about this young man's aura. And the golden armor enveloping his form was unlike anything I've ever encountered."

Konce sneered, "He's just at Second Level Body Fusion Realm, yet he managed to withstand my assault. His aura was peculiar, and he had a golden suit of armor shielding him. It's evident that he possesses numerous magical items! Perhaps the strange phenomenon was caused by his magical item."

With that, Konce unleashed his aura once again and shot Kai a cold glare. "Young man, if you hand over your magical item, I'll spare your life. Don't think you can survive after enduring one of my attacks. I can end your life whenever I please. You'd better be wise..."

An icy glint appeared in Kai's eyes as he observed the greedy Konce.

"I said, we don't have any magical items. If you refuse to let us go, I'll have no choice but to go all out," Kai replied, sounding determined.

"Go all out?" Konce was taken aback by that response. He couldn't help but burst into laughter. "How do you intend to do that? With your power at Second Level Body Fusion Realm?"

Kai said, "Viola, you should step back."

He was telling the rest to stay away. Viola did not know what his plan was, but she obediently stepped back with the rest.

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After Viola and the others backed down, Kai's eye instantaneously reddened. A drop of blood essence subsequently oozed out of his forehead. It then morphed into a blood-colored mist that encapsulated Kai's body which began to swell within it.

Kai knew that unless he mustered all his strength, there was no way he could resist the enemy. Due to the gap in power, he and his companions would be done for if his Storage Ring was seized.

After all, the magical items within it were so valuable that anyone would go all out to get their hands on them. "Are you trying to blow yourself up, kid?" Konce asked with a frown when he saw Kai's stance.

"That's right. Since you're cornering us, I have no choice but to sacrifice my life to defeat you!" Kai answered with a nod.

"Hmph, you're too full of yourself kid. You're nothing but a cultivator at Second Level Body Fusion Realm. Even if you self-destruct, do you actually think you can harm the few of us?" Konce smirked, unfazed by Kai's threat.

"Why don't we find out?"

Once again, Kai unleashed his terrifying aura, enveloping the three men in a bloody mist. Konce's expression drastically changed when he realized Kai was being serious.

"Kid, calm down. The three of us aren't villains and bear no ill will at all. It's just that Konce has a short temper. We're actually just curious as to what caused the strange phenomenon. Since you have no idea what it is, let's just forget the matter," Sunny said frantically.

"That's right. We don't even know each other, and there's no bad blood between us. Blowing everyone up by self-destructing would only cause unnecessary harm to both sides." Lofton, too, came forward to defuse the situation.

"Good sirs, we are nobodies and not looking for any trouble. However, we have no choice but to retaliate with a suicide attack against anyone who attacks us."

Kai was cognizant of the opposing party's attempt at de-escalating the situation and decided to play along. After all, he didn't really want to blow himself up either.

"All right, then. Hurry up and retract your aura. We're not going to search you anymore. You can continue with your journey," Sunny reassured Kai, Konce was visibly dissatisfied as he maintained a deathly glare on Kai.

One of the reasons was that he felt humiliated. He was a powerful cultivator at Eighth Level Body Fusion Realm who ended up being afraid of a cultivator at Second Level Body Fusion Realm.

"Kid, I'm letting you off on the account of my two companions. However, no one other than you has ever dared threaten me, so you'd better watch out!" Konce said through his gritted teeth..

Kai's brows furrowed slightly. We will definitely suffer if this old man targets us along our journey. There's no way I can keep repeating my threat of a suicide attack, right?

"You really talk big, don't you?" No sooner had Konce spoken than a figure emerged behind them.

"Mr. Sparrow..." Kai's eyes lit up in delight when he saw who it was. The three men bowed at Hester at once. "Mr. Sparrow..."

Right then, Konce's arrogant expression was wiped off his face.

"Kai, what's going on?" Hester asked. Kai recounted everything that had happened to him. Hester frowned. "How dare the three of you commit robbery at the entrance of Jipsdale? Do you have no respect for the city's authorities? Who do you think you are to insist on a strip search? Even the Jipsdale authorities have never demanded anything of that sort. I can't believe you actually have the audacity to do that!"

While speaking, Hester walked up to Konce and gave him a forceful slap. The impact caused the latter's face to turn red and cowed him into silence.

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The other two frantically explained, "Mr. Sparrow, we didn't search the young man. You can ask him about it. Both of us didn't do anything at all!" Konce, with half his face swollen, lowered his head like a child who was being reprimanded.

The haughty air he had put on earlier was now nowhere to be seen. Kai was amused by that sight. In Ethereal Realm, it always came down to the survival of the fittest. Faced with absolute power, even the most arrogant of men would turn into cowards.

"If I ever find out that you're committing robbery around Jipsdale again, I'll destroy your divine souls. Now, get lost!" Hester barked.

"Yes, yes..."

With that, the three men fled without even looking back. "Thank you very much, Mr. Sparrow. Your timing was impeccable!" Kai came forward to express his gratitude..

"I was also drawn here by the strange phenomenon. I could feel the intense demonic aura contained within it. It couldn't be coming from whatever you're holding, could it?" Hester asked.

"It's the emerald badge. All I did was drop my blood to claim ownership and that phenomenon occurred," Kai answered honestly.

He wasn't afraid that Hester would seize his belongings. Given that they were on the same side, the latter would definitely not harm him.

"It seems the emerald badge is more than just a key to some hidden treasure. You'd better be more careful once you leave Jipsdale. I won't be able to keep an eye on you anymore," Hester reminded.

Kai nodded. "Thanks for the reminder, Mr. Sparrow. I'll keep that in mind."

Once Hester was gone, Kai and his companions quickly moved on. The phenomenon that had just occurred would definitely attract many more curious onlookers, bringing along unnecessary trouble.

"Vasily, what's with the emerald badge? Why does it contain such a strong demonic aura?" Kai asked Vasily.

"I'm just as clueless as you are, Mr. Chance. When the treasure was being built, I heard that many of the construction workers were demon spirits. At that time, they were already treated as undesirables. Many of them fled to the far north which was the territory of the Archaic Body cultivators. There, they were captured and forced into slave labor.

When the treasure was completed, the Demonic Cultivators were all killed in order to keep its location a secret. Anyone found giving refuge to Demonic Cultivators would be punished and hunted down. But all these are just rumors I heard. I'm actually not really clear about what exactly happened," Vasily said in detail to Kai.

Kai retrieved the emerald badge to examine it closely. If what Vasily says is true, many soul remnants of Demonic Cultivators must have been sealed within it when they were massacred.

"Since the far north belongs to Archaic Body cultivators, what has the Tall family got anything to do with it?" Kai asked.

Vasily sighed. "The Tall family settled there. after us and only has a history of a few hundred years. However, their powerful techniques allowed their strength to grow rapidly and them to gradually take over our territory. Thereafter, they began to slaughter our people and make us their slaves. Despite the fierce resistance we put up, my people were no match for them at all.

We were forced to hide in even colder places. Sadly, the Tall family continued to bear down on us. In order to get their hands on the treasure, they cut off our supplies so that we would be forced into submission. Otherwise, I wouldn't have needed to come all the way here to Jipsdale to fight in the arena just to obtain supplies."

Vasily spoke in a deep and grim tone, concerned about the fate of Archaic Body cultivators.

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Chapter 2860 Capture Them Right Now

Kai didn't ask any further questions and hit the road with Vasily. He was planning to visit the Archaic Body cultivators first and then search for the treasure. If the leader of the Archaic Body cultivators lent him a hand, perhaps it would be easier for him to locate the treasure.

The group didn't have the nerve to board the airships as they belonged to Stellaris Sect. If Kai and his group rode those, they'd be practically throwing themself into Stellaris Sect's net.

They could only head to their destination on foot for several days. However, since there wasn't any time limit to their treasure hunt, Kai wasn't in a hurry.

To prevent any obstacles from popping up during their journey, Kai asked the Three Bandits to explore a few miles ahead. If they encountered anyone, they would need to report it to Kai immediately. That way, Kai could pick another route to avoid trouble.

The Three Bandits acted as scouts. After walking for a whole day, Kai's group was starting to feel the temperature dropping, and the ground was turning white.

However, that bit of cold didn't bother cultivators like Kai. "Mr. Chance, it's getting late. Let's rest for the night. It's too dangerous for us to continue because wild beasts often appear around this area," Vasily suggested..

Kai nodded and settled down at the bottom of a large tree. Vasily started a campfire to dry their clothes and keep them warm.

Sitting cross-legged, Kai began cultivating. I need to increase: my cultivation speed. Otherwise, the path will become even more difficult to traverse.

Right then, Faiyar's voice rang inside Kai's mind. You can use the demonic aura kept inside the emerald badge to cultivate, Mr. Chance. Your technique can refine demonic aura, and you possess demon spirit, so it'll be fine if you use demonic aura to cultivate.

"That's a good idea. Why didn't I think of that?" As Kai spoke, he took out the emerald badge and absorbed the demonic aura inside.

At that moment, Kai only cared about cultivating. He didn't care about the soul remnants of Demonic Cultivators within the emerald badge. As for whether or not those Demonic Cultivators should die, he didn't have the time to make a decision on it.

While Kai's group was resting, Kaison and some of his family members were doing the same miles away.

"Mason asked me to join you in order to stop Vasily and capture him, Kaison. Yet, you sent me to Jipsdale alone for those three women, and I was beaten up as a result. Now, we have no idea where Vasily went. If we can't find him, how are we supposed to find the treasure of the Archaic Body Cultivation clan? If we return with nothing, Mason will no doubt admonish us," Jerison grumbled, displeased.

"Shut up, you piece of sh*t! How dare you blame me for your incompetence! I can't believe you have the gall to say that to my face when you were beaten by a mere cultivator at Second Level Body Fusion Realm! Once I return, I'll explain the situation to Mason. You don't need to open your mouth. At worst, I'll pay the Archaic Body cultivators a visit and capture their leader. If they refuse to cooperate again, we'll eliminate every single one of them!" Kaison snapped with a scowl.

Frightened by Kaison's scary look, Jerison zipped his mouth. At that moment, a member of the Tall family, covered in snow, entered the cave.

"How is it?" asked Kaison eagerly.

"The three women are hiding in a cave not far from us, Mr. Kaison. To avoid alerting them, I didn't follow them in," the subordinate reported.

Kaison laughed. "Excellent! This time, they will not escape me. To think we haven't caught them after chasing them for so many days. Everyone, follow me. We'll capture them right now. Once we do, we can finally return home. Then, everyone will be rewarded!"

With that, Kaison led his people to Josephine's hiding spot.