

The Mans Decree - The Mans Decree Chapter 3301

Observing Hamish's departure, the crowd was now on edge, eager to flee.

"Old Mr. Giuvali, I'll stay behind to buy time for everyone. You should escape," Kai insisted to Misho.

"You?" Misho fixed his gaze on Kai. "With your abilities, you'd be consumed in the blink of an eye. Don't be reckless."

"Don't worry, Old Mr. Giuvali, I have a plan."

Kai's body surged with dragon breath as he gestured, causing it to detonate in the air. The dragon breath created a protective shield, serving as a barrier between them and the frenzied silver tigers.

Startled by the aura emanating from the dragon breath, the agitated silver tigers retreated in fear. Onlookers turned to Kai in amazement as the scene unfolded.

"Your aura is extraordinary, Kai. It can even intimidate the silver tigers!" Misho gazed at Kai in disbelief.

"I just pulled a little trick, Old Mr. Giuvali. I infused the dragon breath with a scent that demon beasts fear. That's why they backed off. But it won't last for long. You all should leave now. Once you're out of this poison veil, you'll be safe," Kai explained to Misho.

Misho nodded in understanding. "Everyone, let's leave the poison veil now," he called, leading the crowd in their escape.

"You two should go as well. I'll catch up soon."

Kai commanded Feenix and Cloud to escape alongside Misho. Although Cloud and Feenix appeared eager to communicate more, a stern look from Kai persuaded them to follow orders.

In that crucial moment, Kai found himself alone, confronting the onslaught of the silver tiger pack.

His insistence on others fleeing was rooted in his desire to conceal his true identity from the crowd. He had intentionally altered the dragon breath to avoid its recognition by others.

However, even in their frenzied state, the silver tigers, recognizing the dragon as the king of demon beasts, could still sense the imposing pressure of the dragon breath. This realization prompted their retreat.

Moreover, Kai detected something unusual about the poison veil. It felt artificial, a deliberate creation rather than a natural occurrence. He surmised that it had been purposefully placed by an unknown perpetrator.

As the dragon breath slowly faded away, the silver tigers resumed their fierce onslaught on the weakening shield.

Despite acknowledging that the barrier was on the brink of shattering under their relentless attacks, Kai maintained his composure.

Muttering under his breath, he began an incantation that filled the air, seeping into the silver tigers. Bit by bit, the frenzied state of the silver tigers subsided, and their red eyes reverted to their original color.

Kai persisted in his chanting, and the previously agitated demeanor of the silver tigers transitioned into a tranquil state.

“W-What’s happening?” Tiger King looked around, puzzled. The remaining silver tigers appeared disoriented, questioning their presence in such an unusual location.

“You were all affected by the poison veil, which drove you into a frenzy that led to the attack on our people,” Kai clarified.

“Attack you?” Tiger King was incredulous.

“We’ve always kept to ourselves in the woods, never attacking humans or cultivators. Why would we attack you?”

“As I mentioned before, the poison veil distorted your consciousness. Regrettably, I don’t know its origin,” Kai replied, seeking to illuminate the enigmatic situation.

"It must be those greedy folks. We've given them ample space since they arrived. Who would have thought they'd manipulate us with a poison veil, compelling us to attack humans and cultivators?" Tiger King voiced his anger as a realization dawned on him.

"Who were those people?" Kai asked in confusion.

"A group of Demonic Cultivators. They have been staying here in Mount Crimson for many years, but I left them alone since they never attacked us. After all, Mount Crimson is vast, so having a bunch of Demonic Cultivators here wouldn't really affect us. I didn't expect them to create poison veils to confuse us, though!" Tiger King exclaimed angrily.

"There are Demonic Cultivators here in this mountain? Those guys really are everywhere!" Kai said. It seems that one can encounter Demonic Cultivators in any place that is slightly remote and secluded!

"Thank you for helping us, young man! Otherwise, we would have made an enemy out of you human cultivators. I'll go teach those b*stards a lesson!" Tiger King said and got ready to leave with the other tigers.

"Wait! Since you've been living in Mount Crimson for so long, have you seen any spiritual stones or mystical herbs with celestial energy?" Kai called out to Tiger King.

Tiger King grew cautious the moment he heard Kai mention celestial energy. It shook its head and said, "No, and I would advise you not to believe rumors so easily. There is no celestial energy here in Mount Crimson."

Tiger King then led its subordinates away after that.

Kai couldn't help but feel as though the creature was keeping something from him. I bet it knows about celestial energy, and it just doesn't want to tell me about it!

After the silver tigers had left, Kai sensed Misho's location and ran after them.

If there are Demonic Cultivators here on this mountain, then the situation is a lot more dangerous than I expected! Demon beasts may be easy to deal with, but Demonic Cultivators are no pushovers! Misho and the others were shocked when they saw Kai catch up to them.

“Are you okay, young man?” Misho asked, his voice laced with a hint of concern.

“I’m fine!” Kai replied with a faint smile.

“What about those silver tigers?” Tamazi asked anxiously as he glanced behind them, only to realize that they weren’t following Kai.

“Don’t worry. Those silver tigers have left. They only attacked us because they were under the influence of the poison veil. Everything is fine now,” Kai replied.

The group breathed a sigh of relief when they heard that. Had those silver tigers continued to attack them, they could very well end up dead on Mount Crimson.

“Thank you so much for your help today, young man. Otherwise, we would all be dead meat!” Misho said gratefully. The other cultivators, too, stepped forward to thank Kai. None of them dared look down on him after that.

“We should help each other now that we’re in the same group, Old Mr. Giuvali,” Kai replied with a smile. He then glanced about as he continued, “Where’s Mr. Chevalier and Kiara?”

Misho shrugged. “I don’t know. They left first, and we couldn’t catch up to them. Maybe they went in a different direction.”

Kai’s brow furrowed when he heard that. He had a bad feeling when he recalled the presence of Demonic Cultivators in the mountain and how Rostom didn’t take the pills.

“Oh, no...” Kai mumbled with a frown.

“What’s wrong?” Misho asked in confusion.

“There are Demonic Cultivators in Mount Crimson. That poison veil we saw earlier wasn’t natural. It was man-made. They know our location as well. That’s why the poison veil drifted over to us,” Kai explained.

“What? You mean someone made that poison veil? But Mr. Chevalier had chosen the route we took based on his many years of experience! It’s the

safest and most secluded route possible. How could anyone else know about it?" Misho exclaimed in disbelief.

We followed Hamish to the southern region because he knew the place like the back of his hand! Everything has always been fine, so why would this happen now?

"I don't want to jump to conclusions too soon, but I believe someone in our group secretly exposed our location. You guys can get some rest here while I go look for Mr. Chevalier and Kiara," Kai conveyed before setting off in search of the father-and-daughter duo.

Meanwhile, Rostom held Hamish hostage as Kiara remained vigilant, constantly scanning the surroundings for any signs of approaching demon beasts. The three of them weaved through a thick jungle on the mountain.

"Where are you taking me, Tom?" Hamish asked in confusion.

"Just come with me, Mr. Chevalier. I know a very safe route," Rostom explained.

"You know a route? But you have never been to the southern region, right?" Hamish asked.

"I heard about it from a friend. Now that we're in the clear, we should be able to escape Mount Crimson soon," Rostom replied as he continued walking with Hamish in his grip.

Hamish said nothing further after that, but he continued to observe his surroundings with a somewhat displeased look on his face.

Kiara, too, was on guard as she cautiously followed behind them. Little did Hamish know, a group of people was waiting for them just up ahead. An elderly man in a black robe had a vicious look in his eyes.

"I didn't know you and the overlord were still alive and have been living in Demon Seal Alliance's headquarters, Elder Fabrizio. Ever since Soulless Hall got attacked by Demon Seal Alliance and many cultivators, I fled to Mount Crimson with dozens of our surviving members. I spent every day hoping to someday avenge Soulless Hall. Who would've thought you guys were still alive, eh?" said Hyrum Goeckner, a man with knife scars on his face as he stood next to that elderly man.

"The overlord and I are glad to hear that, Hyrum. After all, it has been so many years. We, too, thought we were going to die when we fell into Demon Seal Alliance's hands. However, they simply locked us up instead of killing us. There are many Demonic Cultivators who are being kept as pets to serve Demon Seal Alliance. I came here today because they sent me to kill someone named Kai. Had that not been the case, I would not have encountered you guys," Xanthus Fabrizio replied.

"Could you imagine that the Demon Seal Alliance, which harbors such intense animosity towards demons, is actually collaborating with them in secret? The irony is astounding!" Hyrum exclaimed.

"Do not tell anyone else about this," Xanthus ordered coldly.

"Don't worry, Elder Fabrizio. I won't tell anyone!" Hyrum promised.

"So, why did you bring me here? What are we waiting for?" Xanthus asked.

"You may not know this, Elder Fabrizio, but cultivators often go through Mount Crimson to get to the southern region. Now that all of Ethereal Realm knows about the celestial battleground in Demonica Mountain, the amount of cultivators passing through Mount Crimson has increased significantly," Hyrum elucidated.

Following a brief pause, he revealed, "We could ambush them for some resources. This time, we're waiting for someone who travels to the southern region all year round. He has a lot of information on the locations of treasures. I hear he has even hidden some of his treasures here in Mount Crimson."

"How do you know they'll pass us by?" Xanthus asked in confusion.

"I planted a mole in their group and used the poison veil to force them to flee. Once we capture Hamish, we can make him lead us to the treasure!" Hyrum replied proudly.

"I see. You certainly have grown a lot over the years. Once Soulless Hall is restored, I will tell the overlord about this and propose that you be promoted to an elder!" Xanthus said while patting Hyrum on the shoulder.

"Thank you very much, Elder Fabrizio!" Hyrum exclaimed excitedly.

That was when Rostom, along with the Chevaliers, approached them. Hamish's expression turned progressively solemn as he surveyed the surroundings.

"Let's rest for a bit, Tom..." Hamish said as he broke free of Rostom's grip and sat down on the side

"We're almost there, Mr. Chevalier. The exit is straight ahead! Moreover, it's not safe to rest in this spot. We can find a secure location to rest once we've reached our destination," Rostom advised.

He then tried to help Hamish up, but the older man waved his hands and refused to get up no matter what.

Consequently, Rostom turned toward Kiara and said, "Please tell Mr. Chevalier to get up, Kiara. It's too dangerous for us to rest here."

"How about we find a spot to rest up front, Dad?" Kiara suggested. Hamish shook his head. "I'm afraid we might not be able to rest if we head over there."

"Why not?" Kiara asked in confusion.

"I've traversed Mount Crimson countless times, and the path ahead does not lead us out of this mountain," Hamish responded. He then fixed Rostom with an icy-cold glare, pressing further, "Tom, why don't you enlighten me on why you brought us here?"

Rostom shuddered as he attempted to explain, "Are you serious, Mr. Chevalier? I heard about this path from a friend! Could it be that I picked the wrong route?"

He even tried glancing about frantically to help sell his act. Kiara was starting to panic. "Did we take a wrong turn, Dad? What should we do?"

"Calm down, you two. I'll go check the path up ahead and see if we're on the right track," Rostom said, stepping forward to investigate.

After Rostom had left, Hamish told Kiara, "Go follow him and find out what's going on, but be careful not to let him catch you!"

Kiara nodded and went off to tail the man. It wasn't long before she saw Rostom walk up to a group of people. She couldn't hear what they were

saying because she was too far away, but it was obvious that Rostom knew those people.

Kiara then hurried back and reported her findings to Hamish.

“Looks like he really is up to no good. Let’s go!”

Hamish then stood up and got ready to leave with Kiara, only to see Rostom coming back before he could even take a step.

Unaware that Kiara had been following him, Rostom fabricated, “I’ve discovered a suitable spot for us to rest, Mr. Chevalier. It’s just up ahead. Additionally, we’re on the correct path and are close to making our way out of this mountain.”

Hamish was all the more certain about his theory when he heard Rostom lying to them. Getting straight to the point, he demanded, “Stop lying to me, Tom. Who did you go see up ahead?”

“No one! I didn’t see anyone!” Rostom adamantly refused to admit the truth.

“You’re lying! I saw everything!” Kiara shouted, glaring angrily at Rostom.

Realizing that they had seen through his deception, Rostom began to retreat.

“Don’t even think about running!” Hamish yelled, reaching out to grab Rostom. In a panic, Rostom sprinted away as fast as his legs could carry him. Although Hamish missed his grasp, the sheer force of his movement shattered dozens of trees into dust.

Right as Hamish prepared to launch a second attack, he suddenly started coughing up blood. The abrupt movement he made earlier had aggravated his wound.

Feeling relieved when he saw Hamish in distress, Rostom stopped running and turned around.

“Since you’ve seen through my lies, I’ll tell you the truth. Mr. Goeckner is waiting for you just up ahead. We won’t hurt you if you work with us and disclose the location of the treasures,” he declared with a smug grin.

“Mr. Goeckner? Are you referring to the Demonic Cultivator that resides in this mountain?” Hamish inquired.

“That’s right. They may be Demonic Cultivators, but they will honor their promise. You will be fine as long as you cooperate,” Rostom said shamelessly.

“F*ck that! I will never work with Demonic Cultivators!” Hamish shouted angrily and tried to attack Rostom again. Despite being wounded, Hamish was still incredibly fast and powerful.

“Don’t think I can’t kill you simply because I’m injured, you piece of sh*t! I’ll do your family a favor by helping them clean their house!” Hamish roared, unleashing a potent burst of aura at Rostom. To evade Hamish’s attack, Rostom had to step back and roll on the ground three times.

“I’m going to die if you don’t help me out here, Mr. Goeckner!” Rostom screamed in terror. Hyrum then led his men into the open upon hearing that. Standing beside Hyrum was Xanthus.

Hamish instinctively retreated as he saw the group of people before him.

Meanwhile, Rostom regained his footing and approached Hyrum, stating, “Hamish is wounded, Mr. Goeckner. He poses no threat to you.”

“Rostom, you b*stard!” Kiara screamed furiously, her face flushed.

“Mr. Goeckner won’t hurt you two as long as you cooperate, Kiara,” the man added with a touch of smugness.

“F*ck you!” Kiara spat at the ground in disgust.

“We meet again, Mr. Chevalier,” Hyrum sneered at Hamish. Hamish eyed Hyrum cautiously as he retorted, “You Demonic Cultivators dare reveal yourselves? Aren’t you afraid someone will spot you and wipe you all out?”

“Hahaha! No one can wipe us out here in Mount Crimson. This place is my turf now. Don’t expect to stroll through without paying!” Hyrum motioned at two Demonic Cultivators on the side.

The two immediately charged at Hamish in response. Hamish’s aura continued to surge as it was challenging for him to control it while wounded.

“Mere Demonic Cultivators like you don’t stand a chance against me!” Hamish shouted through clenched teeth, grabbing at the air in front of him.

Suddenly, a red magic sword materialized in Hamish's hand. With a slash, a bright light illuminated the night sky like the sun. The two Demonic Cultivators were instantly slain with no means to resist. However, after the attack, Hamish's face turned pale, and he began coughing up blood once again.

"Dad!" Kiara called out to him, her tone tinged with worry.

"Get out of here, Kia! Whatever you do, don't stop running!" Hamish said. Kiara shook her head with tears in her eyes. "I'm not going anywhere, Dad!"

"Go now while I can still protect you!" Hamish shouted, giving his daughter a forceful shove.

"Ha! None of you are going anywhere!" Rostom said with a vicious leer.

"You b*stard! I'll kill you even if I die doing so!" Hamish erupted with anger, activating all of his aura. He funneled all of it into the red magic sword, causing it to glow brighter and emit a terrifying aura in all directions.

"Hamish truly is a living treasure! That magic sword of his is no ordinary magic item. Looks like I really do have a good eye for treasure!" Hyrum's eyes glinted with greed as he gently waved his arms, enveloping Hamish and Kiara in a mist.

"A poison veil?" Hamish was dumbfounded. Then, he turned to Hyrum with an expression of complete disbelief, his voice trembling as he spoke. "This poison veil is artificially created?"

"Hahaha! Just figuring that out, are you? There's no such thing as a poison veil in Mount Crimson. It was all my doing to instigate cultivators to turn on each other so that I could reap the benefits!" Hyrum chuckled.

"Mr. Goeckner, these two consumed detoxification pills, so I'm afraid the poison veil won't affect them." After stating this, Rostom produced the detoxification pill crafted by Kai and handed it to Hyrum.

Rostom had refrained from consuming the pill previously made by Kai because it wasn't necessary. Having taken the detoxification pill from Hyrum, he was immune to the poison veil. Thus, there was no need for him to take Kai's prepared detoxification pill.

Hyrum accepted the detoxification pill and scrutinized it closely. After a few moments, a hint of surprise flashed in his eyes. "Who concocted this pill? I didn't expect such a high-level alchemist to be part of this group."

Rostom replied, "It was crafted by someone named Kai. His alchemy skills are truly impressive."

"Kai?" Xanthus, standing on the side, was momentarily taken aback by the name. He promptly grabbed Rostom by the collar. "Is this Kai you mentioned in his twenties?"

Rostom didn't recognize Xanthus, and the latter's rude behavior displeased him. "Who are you? Let go of me! Why should I tell you anything?"

"Rostom, this is Elder Fabrizio of Soulless Hall. You must answer whatever questions he asks you," Hyrum instructed.

Learning Xanthus' identity as an elder, Rostom quickly changed his tone. "That's correct. This Kai appears to be in his twenties, and he's accompanied by a man and a woman. Furthermore, that woman is a celestial beast, a phoenix."

"That's him! Take me to him immediately!" Following an order from the Demon Seal Alliance, Xanthus had to eliminate Kai as soon as possible.

"They might be dead by now. When I came over, those people were surrounded by the silver tigers. I suspect they've likely been devoured by now," Rostom responded.

"I don't care if he's dead or alive. Even if he's dead, I need to see his corpse." In that case, Xanthus had to retrieve Kai's body to fulfill his mission.

"Fine. I'll lead you there to search for it." Rostom planned to guide Xanthus back to where he came from to look for Kai's remains.

However, as soon as he finished speaking, a gust of wind swept through, instantly dispelling the poison veil in the vicinity. Following the breeze, the figure of a man approached slowly.

"No need for that. I've come on my own!" Kai strolled over to Hamish's side.

"You're not dead?" Rostom was astounded.

Hamish and Kiara were similarly astonished.

“Kai, you’re all right? What about Misho and the others?” Hamish asked somewhat embarrassedly. After all, they were the first to escape, abandoning everyone else. Hamish felt a pang of shame for his cowardice.

“They’re okay. Everyone’s unharmed. I came looking for you guys because I knew this guy was trouble, and I was worried you might be in trouble,” Kai assured Hamish.

“It seems I had made a poor judgment.” Hamish sighed.

“Kid, you’re Kai?” Xanthus inquired.

“Yes, I’m Kai, but we don’t have any grudges.

So, why are you trying to kill me? Even though you’re Demonic Cultivators, I don’t recall having any conflicts with you,” Kai questioned Xanthus, perplexed by the latter’s desire to see him dead.

“There doesn’t need to be a conflict between us. You’ve crossed someone you shouldn’t have, and for that, you must die,” Xanthus declared coldly.

Understanding dawned on Kai upon hearing this. He gave a slight smile and remarked, “Ah, so you’re also doing Demon Seal Alliance’s biddings? It’s surprising to see demons willingly serving others...”

Kai’s words left Hamish utterly confused, unable to comprehend the connection between those Demonic Cultivators and Demon Seal Alliance.

Hamish wondered. Demon Seal Alliance has always been the most active organization in Ethereal Realm in eradicating Demonic Cultivators, so why would Kai say these Demonic Cultivators are doing Demon Seal Alliance’s bidding?

“Shut up! You’re courting death!” Xanthus furrowed his brows, his aura bursting forth instantaneously.

The revelation that the Demon Seal Alliance was sheltering Demonic Cultivators was a tightly guarded secret, one that absolutely couldn’t be exposed. If word got out, it would tarnish the reputation of the Demon Seal

Alliance, possibly leading to the drastic measure of exterminating all the Demonic Cultivators they held captive to conceal the truth.

“Elder Fabrizio, there’s no need for you to handle this kid personally. You’re granting him too much importance,” Hyrum intervened, halting Xanthus.

To Hyrum, a mere Eighth Level Body Fusion Realm cultivator like Kai couldn’t possibly pose any significant threat.

In the next moment, Hyrum extended his palms towards the encompassing forest, unleashing poison veils into the atmosphere. Swiftly, a cacophony of roars erupted.

Scores of demon beasts with crimson eyes converged, fixing intense gazes on Kai and his group. Clearly, these demon beasts were under Hyrum’s command.

Colors drained from Hamish’s face when he saw the dozens of demon beasts closing in. He said to Kai, “Kai, thank you for risking your life to save us, but you’re not their match. I only hope you can take Kia and escape. I’ll cover your retreat.”

Hamish had resolved to sacrifice himself. However, he didn’t want his daughter to perish alongside him. If he could save Kiara’s life by staking his own and putting up a desperate fight, he wouldn’t hesitate to do so.

“We’ll escape together, Mr. Chevalier.” Kai remained undaunted as he surveyed the dozens of menacing demon beasts.

He didn’t regard the numerous demon beasts as a significant threat. Given that they were under the influence of the poison veil, all he needed to do was detoxify them.

His main concern lay in confronting the Demonic Cultivators, a formidable challenge. With Hamish injured, Kai couldn’t handle them all alone.

After a moment of contemplation, Kai retrieved several pills and promptly crushed them, releasing clouds of powder that wafted toward the swarm of demon beasts.

After the powder dispersed, the once- aggressive aura of the demon beasts subsided, and their eyes reverted to a normal state.

"This guy is indeed formidable. He countered my poison veil so effortlessly!" Hyrum exclaimed in astonishment.

"Don't bother with your poison anymore. Attack!" With that command, Xanthus took the lead, leaping and dashing in Kai's direction.

Observing this, Hyrum had no alternative but to follow suit, leading his group in the charge. Kai knitted his brows at their approach. He swiftly grabbed Hamish and Kiara, turned on his heels, and fled. At that moment, escape was their sole option as they were clearly outmatched.

However, owing to Hamish's injury, he couldn't keep pace. Recognizing that the enemy was closing in due to his slower pace, Hamish declared, "Kai, take Kia and run. I'll stay and hold them off. Otherwise, none of us will escape."

With determination, he wrested himself free, determined to remain behind and confront their pursuers.

"No, you two go ahead. I'll buy you some time." Kai wasn't about to let Hamish face the danger alone.

If Hamish perished, their journey to the southern region would come to an abrupt end. Kai understood that it was nearly impossible for the group to navigate their way out of Mount Crimson alone.

After all, Hamish was their guide. Without him, their group would have to double back. After enduring so many hardships to reach where they were, Kai refused to give up just like that. Just as he was gearing up to remain behind, a sudden roar echoed through the air.

The next moment, Tiger King, a silver tiger measuring over ten meters in length, emerged, accompanied by numerous other formidable silver tigers.

"Go. I'll hold them off." Tiger King spoke in human language, directly addressing Kai.

The unexpected appearance of Tiger King left Hamish and Kiara stunned. Hearing Tiger King converse with Kai in human language, the two stared at Kai in astonishment.

Without exchanging many words, Kai swiftly pulled Hamish and Kiara along, continuing their escape. Simultaneously, Tiger King and the group of silver tigers lunged toward the Demonic Cultivators.

The sudden appearance of the silver tigers stunned Xanthus, who subsequently looked toward Hyrum.

“What’s going on? Aren’t these demon beasts under your control? Why are they attacking us?” Xanthus asked quizzically.

“Someone has neutralized the poison in the silver tigers,” Hyrum replied anxiously as he stared at the ferocious beasts lunging at them.

The silver tigers were powerful beasts. Tiger King, in particular, was more than ten meters tall and had become a Tribulator a long time ago, allowing him to morph between human and beast form.

In the beginning, both parties never interfered in one another’s affairs. However, Hyrum, wanting to profit from a conflict between them, used the poison veil to bewitch the silver tigers and used them to attack the human cultivators who traveled across Mount Crimson.

“How dare you Demonic Cultivators use poison veil to control our minds and get us to kill the human cultivators, causing them to hate us? I swear I’m going to rip all of you apart today!” Tiger King roared as he charged forward with his subordinates.

In response, Hyrum had no choice but to lead his men to meet Tiger King in battle. As for Xanthus, he rapidly retreated and ran in the direction of where Kai and his companions had fled. His goal was to kill Kai, so he couldn’t afford to let the latter escape.

Meanwhile, when Rostom saw Xanthus avoiding the silver tigers to pursue Kai, he, too, followed closely behind, leaving Hyrum and his men to engage the silver tigers in battle.

At that moment, Tiger King breathed out a fiery inferno that covered the skies and set the forest ablaze. Within the sea of flames, the Demonic Cultivators of Soulless Hall who failed to flee were burned alive.

“Argh!”

Screams of agony were heard from those who didn't manage to escape. As for the other silver tigers, they charged forward to rip apart the burning cultivators to vent the rage within them.

Responding to the situation, Hyrum brandished his sword, filling the air with lethal intent. Amidst a howl in the background, a mist quickly descended upon the surroundings.

When Tiger King saw Hyrum unleashing the poison again, he roared out loud and led his subordinates back. Having been poisoned before, they were not going to let history repeat itself.

Seizing upon the lull provided by the silver tiger's brief retreat, Hyrum scanned his surroundings and was stunned by Xanthus' disappearance.

If anything happened to the latter, he would be in deep trouble. In fact, he would probably not be able to return to Soulless Hall, let alone become an elder.

"Find Elder Fabrizio at once!"

Together with the surviving Demonic Cultivators, Hyrum began to pursue Xanthus. Meanwhile, Kai, with Hamish and Kiara by his side, was running desperately to where members of their party were camped.

Sensing the presence of pursuers, he didn't dare to let his guard down for a single moment. Soon, all three of them reached the campsite.

When everyone saw the three return, they frantically got up to their feet. Hamish was after all their guide. Without him, there was no way they could make it to the southern region.

"Are you all right, Mr. Chevalier? You don't seem to look too good."

Misho's face was glowing after getting enough rest.

"Rostom is in league with the Demonic Cultivators and led us into a trap. Fortunately, Mr. Chance appeared in the nick of time and saved us."

While Hamish was speaking, blood continued to flow down the corner of his mouth.

"What? Rostom is working with Demonic Cultivators?"

“That b*stard! The Beridze family is supposed to be a prestigious family. I can’t believe there’s a failure like Rostom in their midst.”

“I knew from the very beginning that he was up to no good.”

The crowd commented one by one upon learning of Rostom’s betrayal.

“Old Mr. Giuvali, how’s your recovery coming along?” Kai inquired with Misho.

“I’m back at eighty to ninety percent of my strength. I’m good to go,” Misho replied.

“We are being pursued by Demonic Cultivators, so some of us have to stay back to stop them. Now that Mr. Chevalier is injured and needs immediate medical attention, I plan to let Mr. Tamazi take him and lead the weaker members of the party to escape. The rest of us will stay and deal with the Demonic Cultivators. If it’s possible, we should aim to annihilate them. Otherwise, they will continue to harm unsuspecting travelers,” Kai laid out his plan to Misho.

“No problem. I’m keen to meet these Demonic Cultivators,” Misho said with a nod. Thereafter, Kai instructed Tamazi to take Hamish, Cloud, and the girls away for the time being. Given how weak they were, there wasn’t much they could do.

“Kai, you’re just a Body Fusion Realm cultivator. Why don’t you leave with them? I’ll take on the Demonic Cultivators with the others. Don’t worry. I’ll definitely not show them any mercy,” Misho suggested to Kai.

Even though Kai was skilled in medicine, he was still an Eighth Level Body Fusion Realm cultivator, someone who was too weak in the eyes of a Tribulator.

“There’s an alchemist within the Demonic Cultivators who’s skilled in creating poisons. You’ll be at a disadvantage against him, so I’ll deal with him instead,” Kai replied.

Agreeing with Kai, Misho didn’t have anything more to say. Soon, Xanthus finally arrived. He showed no fear, even though Kai, Misho, and the others were waiting for him.

“I’m here just to kill Kai. Those who’re not involved, step aside or I’ll show you no mercy!”

The moment Xanthus unleashed the aura of a Sixth Level Tribulator, its pressure began to suffocate everyone.

“Hmph, a lowly Demonic Cultivator like you sure know how to talk big.”

Misho let out a snort before his body shook abruptly. He, too, exploded with the aura of a Sixth Level Tribulator to counter Xanthus.

Xanthus’ eyes narrowed, for he had not expected anyone within the group to be as powerful as he was. Nonetheless, despite the scowl on his face, there was no sign of him panicking.

“I’m an elder of Soulless Hall. You had better think twice before taking me on. All of you are just travel companions of this young man. There’s no need for you to risk your lives for him.”

Xanthus mentioned Soulless Hall on purpose to intimidate the group.

Everyone was consequently stunned.

“Wasn’t Soulless Hall destroyed by Demon Seal Alliance a long time ago? Why do their remnants still exist?”

“It’s been a long time since we heard of Soulless Hall. I can’t believe it is still around!”

“They are infamous for their ruthlessness. Now that they have emerged, they will only bring suffering.”

Despite their discussions, no one showed any signs of backing down. Firstly, they were all on the same team. It was imperative that they helped each other if they wanted to reach the southern region alive.

The second reason was that Kai was a Supreme Alchemist. If it wasn’t for him, they would have lost their minds and killed each other while being under the influence of the poison veil. As long as he was with them, they didn’t have to worry about injuries or the poison veil again.

“Stop wasting time and get on with it. If you don’t have the guts to fight, then get lost,” Misho snapped, showing Xanthus no respect at all.

Their ferocity caused Xanthus to hesitate, for he was no match for the entire group combined. At that moment, Rostom was hiding behind a nearby tree. Watching how events were unfolding filled him with regret.

He had not expected that a party formed temporarily was willing to risk their lives to protect Kai. Moments later, a flurry of footsteps was heard, heralding the arrival of Hyrum and his men.

Seeing Hyrum's arrival, Xanthus instantly gained more confidence. "Attack! We must kill that Kai guy!"

With that command, Xanthus leaped in Kai's direction. Witnessing this, Misho swiftly unsheathed a long sword and entered the fray.

Others rushed forward, joining the chaotic melee. Hyrum turned to Kai and abruptly tossed a handful of powder at him. Aware that eliminating Kai would be a significant victory, Hyrum aimed to make a decisive contribution.

However, Kai wore a look of disdain as he swung the Dragonslayer Sword, dispersing the powder with a burst of light.

"Brat, I didn't expect someone your age to possess such remarkable alchemy skills. The detoxification pill you crafted is truly top-notch. Unfortunately, you've offended Soulless Hall, so death is the only fate awaiting you!" As Hyrum spoke, the long sword he wielded quivered slightly.

The next moment, wisps of black mist emanated from the blade. The black mist coalesced in the air, forming a venomous snake that flicked its red tongue and lunged at Kai.

Kai simply regarded Hyrum with a look of utter contempt. While Hyrum was a relatively potent alchemist, he paled in comparison to Kai's expertise.

Shifting his focus to the venomous snake, Kai swung his sword, releasing thousands of beams that cleaved through the snake, transforming it back into a dissipating cloud of black mist.

However, Hyrum remained unfazed after witnessing this display. Instead, he sneered. The black mist descended from above, enveloping Kai within its dark shroud.

“Hahaha! Flight might be restricted in Mount Crimson, but the mobility of poison mist knows no bounds. This mist can morph and launch attacks even in midair.” Hyrum laughed triumphantly.

Having spent numerous years within Mount Crimson, he had mastered its intricacies. Kai found himself engulfed by the poison mist, behaving like a sentient entity, relentlessly attempting to penetrate his skin.

“This poison mist of yours is quite impressive,” Kai remarked.

“It’s too late for you to comprehend the potency of my poison mist now. Your demise is inevitable within three seconds,” Hyrum declared confidently.

Instead of replying, Kai initiated his Focus Technique to refine the poison mist. The Focus Technique had the capability to refine anything, including a mere poison mist.

Hyrum looked at the looming cloud of poison mist with ecstasy. Once Kai perished, his mission would be accomplished.

Hyrum heard no sound from Kai for a prolonged moment. To his surprise, the dense poison mist began to thin, gradually revealing Kai’s figure.

Kai stood still, seemingly untouched by the poison. Hyrum curiously approached him, wanting to see if Kai had succumbed to his poison. However, as he drew near, a beam of light shot out from the mist.

Caught off guard, Hyrum was unable to react in time, and the light streaked past his shoulder, cleanly severing one of his arms.

“What? You’re not affected by the poison?” Hyrum exclaimed in shock, hastily leaping backward. He hadn’t expected Kai to be completely immune to the poison mist, even after being enveloped in it.

Covering his wound, Hyrum’s gaze held astonishment.

“This pathetic poison of yours is ineffective against me!” Kai declared, opening his mouth and inhaling the remaining poison mist right before Hyrum’s eyes.

“You!” Hyrum was dumbfounded.

Even if he’s an alchemist, I can’t comprehend how a Body Fusion Realm cultivator like him can be immune to all poisons! The poison mist I crafted is

highly toxic, yet he dares to absorb it directly into his body! This is utterly absurd!

The Mans Decree - The Mans Decree Chapter 3302

“Who were those people?” Kai asked in confusion.

“A group of Demonic Cultivators. They have been staying here in Mount Crimson for many years, but I left them alone since they never attacked us. After all, Mount Crimson is vast, so having a bunch of Demonic Cultivators here wouldn’t really affect us. I didn’t expect them to create poison veils to confuse us, though!” Tiger King exclaimed angrily.

“There are Demonic Cultivators here in this mountain? Those guys really are everywhere!” Kai said. It seems that one can encounter Demonic Cultivators in any place that is slightly remote and secluded!

“Thank you for helping us, young man! Otherwise, we would have made an enemy out of you human cultivators. I’ll go teach those b*stards a lesson!” Tiger King said and got ready to leave with the other tigers.

“Wait! Since you’ve been living in Mount Crimson for so long, have you seen any spiritual stones or mystical herbs with celestial energy?” Kai called out to Tiger King.

Tiger King grew cautious the moment he heard Kai mention celestial energy. It shook its head and said, “No, and I would advise you not to believe rumors so easily. There is no celestial energy here in Mount Crimson.”

Tiger King then led its subordinates away after that.

Kai couldn’t help but feel as though the creature was keeping something from him. I bet it knows about celestial energy, and it just doesn’t want to tell me about it!

After the silver tigers had left, Kai sensed Misho’s location and ran after them.

If there are Demonic Cultivators here on this mountain, then the situation is a lot more dangerous than I expected! Demon beasts may be easy to deal with, but Demonic Cultivators are no pushovers! Misho and the others were shocked when they saw Kai catch up to them.

“Are you okay, young man?” Misho asked, his voice laced with a hint of concern.

“I’m fine!” Kai replied with a faint smile.

“What about those silver tigers?” Tamazi asked anxiously as he glanced behind them, only to realize that they weren’t following Kai.

“Don’t worry. Those silver tigers have left. They only attacked us because they were under the influence of the poison veil. Everything is fine now,” Kai replied.

The group breathed a sigh of relief when they heard that. Had those silver tigers continued to attack them, they could very well end up dead on Mount Crimson.

“Thank you so much for your help today, young man. Otherwise, we would all be dead meat!” Misho said gratefully. The other cultivators, too, stepped forward to thank Kai. None of them dared look down on him after that.

“We should help each other now that we’re in the same group, Old Mr. Giuvali,” Kai replied with a smile. He then glanced about as he continued, “Where’s Mr. Chevalier and Kiara?”

Misho shrugged. “I don’t know. They left first, and we couldn’t catch up to them. Maybe they went in a different direction.”

Kai’s brow furrowed when he heard that. He had a bad feeling when he recalled the presence of Demonic Cultivators in the mountain and how Rostom didn’t take the pills.

“Oh, no...” Kai mumbled with a frown.

“What’s wrong?” Misho asked in confusion.

“There are Demonic Cultivators in Mount Crimson. That poison veil we saw earlier wasn’t natural. It was man-made. They know our location as well. That’s why the poison veil drifted over to us,” Kai explained.

“What? You mean someone made that poison veil? But Mr. Chevalier had chosen the route we took based on his many years of experience! It’s the

safest and most secluded route possible. How could anyone else know about it?" Misho exclaimed in disbelief.

We followed Hamish to the southern region because he knew the place like the back of his hand! Everything has always been fine, so why would this happen now?

"I don't want to jump to conclusions too soon, but I believe someone in our group secretly exposed our location. You guys can get some rest here while I go look for Mr. Chevalier and Kiara," Kai conveyed before setting off in search of the father-and-daughter duo.

Meanwhile, Rostom held Hamish hostage as Kiara remained vigilant, constantly scanning the surroundings for any signs of approaching demon beasts. The three of them weaved through a thick jungle on the mountain.

"Where are you taking me, Tom?" Hamish asked in confusion.

"Just come with me, Mr. Chevalier. I know a very safe route," Rostom explained.

"You know a route? But you have never been to the southern region, right?" Hamish asked.

"I heard about it from a friend. Now that we're in the clear, we should be able to escape Mount Crimson soon," Rostom replied as he continued walking with Hamish in his grip.

Hamish said nothing further after that, but he continued to observe his surroundings with a somewhat displeased look on his face.

Kiara, too, was on guard as she cautiously followed behind them. Little did Hamish know, a group of people was waiting for them just up ahead. An elderly man in a black robe had a vicious look in his eyes.

"I didn't know you and the overlord were still alive and have been living in Demon Seal Alliance's headquarters, Elder Fabrizio. Ever since Soulless Hall got attacked by Demon Seal Alliance and many cultivators, I fled to Mount Crimson with dozens of our surviving members. I spent every day hoping to someday avenge Soulless Hall. Who would've thought you guys were still alive, eh?" said Hyrum Goeckner, a man with knife scars on his face as he stood next to that elderly man.

"The overlord and I are glad to hear that, Hyrum. After all, it has been so many years. We, too, thought we were going to die when we fell into Demon Seal Alliance's hands. However, they simply locked us up instead of killing us. There are many Demonic Cultivators who are being kept as pets to serve Demon Seal Alliance. I came here today because they sent me to kill someone named Kai. Had that not been the case, I would not have encountered you guys," Xanthus Fabrizio replied.

"Could you imagine that the Demon Seal Alliance, which harbors such intense animosity towards demons, is actually collaborating with them in secret? The irony is astounding!" Hyrum exclaimed.

"Do not tell anyone else about this," Xanthus ordered coldly.

"Don't worry, Elder Fabrizio. I won't tell anyone!" Hyrum promised.

"So, why did you bring me here? What are we waiting for?" Xanthus asked.

"You may not know this, Elder Fabrizio, but cultivators often go through Mount Crimson to get to the southern region. Now that all of Ethereal Realm knows about the celestial battleground in Demonica Mountain, the amount of cultivators passing through Mount Crimson has increased significantly," Hyrum elucidated.

Following a brief pause, he revealed, "We could ambush them for some resources. This time, we're waiting for someone who travels to the southern region all year round. He has a lot of information on the locations of treasures. I hear he has even hidden some of his treasures here in Mount Crimson."

"How do you know they'll pass us by?" Xanthus asked in confusion.

"I planted a mole in their group and used the poison veil to force them to flee. Once we capture Hamish, we can make him lead us to the treasure!" Hyrum replied proudly.

"I see. You certainly have grown a lot over the years. Once Soulless Hall is restored, I will tell the overlord about this and propose that you be promoted to an elder!" Xanthus said while patting Hyrum on the shoulder.

"Thank you very much, Elder Fabrizio!" Hyrum exclaimed excitedly.

That was when Rostom, along with the Chevaliers, approached them. Hamish's expression turned progressively solemn as he surveyed the surroundings.

"Let's rest for a bit, Tom..." Hamish said as he broke free of Rostom's grip and sat down on the side

"We're almost there, Mr. Chevalier. The exit is straight ahead! Moreover, it's not safe to rest in this spot. We can find a secure location to rest once we've reached our destination," Rostom advised.

He then tried to help Hamish up, but the older man waved his hands and refused to get up no matter what.

Consequently, Rostom turned toward Kiara and said, "Please tell Mr. Chevalier to get up, Kiara. It's too dangerous for us to rest here."

"How about we find a spot to rest up front, Dad?" Kiara suggested. Hamish shook his head. "I'm afraid we might not be able to rest if we head over there."

"Why not?" Kiara asked in confusion.

"I've traversed Mount Crimson countless times, and the path ahead does not lead us out of this mountain," Hamish responded. He then fixed Rostom with an icy-cold glare, pressing further, "Tom, why don't you enlighten me on why you brought us here?"

Rostom shuddered as he attempted to explain, "Are you serious, Mr. Chevalier? I heard about this path from a friend! Could it be that I picked the wrong route?"

He even tried glancing about frantically to help sell his act. Kiara was starting to panic. "Did we take a wrong turn, Dad? What should we do?"

"Calm down, you two. I'll go check the path up ahead and see if we're on the right track," Rostom said, stepping forward to investigate.

After Rostom had left, Hamish told Kiara, "Go follow him and find out what's going on, but be careful not to let him catch you!"

Kiara nodded and went off to tail the man. It wasn't long before she saw Rostom walk up to a group of people. She couldn't hear what they were

saying because she was too far away, but it was obvious that Rostom knew those people.

Kiara then hurried back and reported her findings to Hamish.

“Looks like he really is up to no good. Let’s go!”

Hamish then stood up and got ready to leave with Kiara, only to see Rostom coming back before he could even take a step.

Unaware that Kiara had been following him, Rostom fabricated, “I’ve discovered a suitable spot for us to rest, Mr. Chevalier. It’s just up ahead. Additionally, we’re on the correct path and are close to making our way out of this mountain.”

Hamish was all the more certain about his theory when he heard Rostom lying to them. Getting straight to the point, he demanded, “Stop lying to me, Tom. Who did you go see up ahead?”

“No one! I didn’t see anyone!” Rostom adamantly refused to admit the truth.

“You’re lying! I saw everything!” Kiara shouted, glaring angrily at Rostom.

Realizing that they had seen through his deception, Rostom began to retreat.

“Don’t even think about running!” Hamish yelled, reaching out to grab Rostom. In a panic, Rostom sprinted away as fast as his legs could carry him. Although Hamish missed his grasp, the sheer force of his movement shattered dozens of trees into dust.

Right as Hamish prepared to launch a second attack, he suddenly started coughing up blood. The abrupt movement he made earlier had aggravated his wound.

Feeling relieved when he saw Hamish in distress, Rostom stopped running and turned around.

“Since you’ve seen through my lies, I’ll tell you the truth. Mr. Goeckner is waiting for you just up ahead. We won’t hurt you if you work with us and disclose the location of the treasures,” he declared with a smug grin.

“Mr. Goeckner? Are you referring to the Demonic Cultivator that resides in this mountain?” Hamish inquired.

“That’s right. They may be Demonic Cultivators, but they will honor their promise. You will be fine as long as you cooperate,” Rostom said shamelessly.

“F*ck that! I will never work with Demonic Cultivators!” Hamish shouted angrily and tried to attack Rostom again. Despite being wounded, Hamish was still incredibly fast and powerful.

“Don’t think I can’t kill you simply because I’m injured, you piece of sh*t! I’ll do your family a favor by helping them clean their house!” Hamish roared, unleashing a potent burst of aura at Rostom. To evade Hamish’s attack, Rostom had to step back and roll on the ground three times.

“I’m going to die if you don’t help me out here, Mr. Goeckner!” Rostom screamed in terror. Hyrum then led his men into the open upon hearing that. Standing beside Hyrum was Xanthus.

Hamish instinctively retreated as he saw the group of people before him.

Meanwhile, Rostom regained his footing and approached Hyrum, stating, “Hamish is wounded, Mr. Goeckner. He poses no threat to you.”

“Rostom, you b*stard!” Kiara screamed furiously, her face flushed.

“Mr. Goeckner won’t hurt you two as long as you cooperate, Kiara,” the man added with a touch of smugness.

“F*ck you!” Kiara spat at the ground in disgust.

“We meet again, Mr. Chevalier,” Hyrum sneered at Hamish. Hamish eyed Hyrum cautiously as he retorted, “You Demonic Cultivators dare reveal yourselves? Aren’t you afraid someone will spot you and wipe you all out?”

“Hahaha! No one can wipe us out here in Mount Crimson. This place is my turf now. Don’t expect to stroll through without paying!” Hyrum motioned at two Demonic Cultivators on the side.

The two immediately charged at Hamish in response. Hamish’s aura continued to surge as it was challenging for him to control it while wounded.

“Mere Demonic Cultivators like you don’t stand a chance against me!” Hamish shouted through clenched teeth, grabbing at the air in front of him.

Suddenly, a red magic sword materialized in Hamish's hand. With a slash, a bright light illuminated the night sky like the sun. The two Demonic Cultivators were instantly slain with no means to resist. However, after the attack, Hamish's face turned pale, and he began coughing up blood once again.

"Dad!" Kiara called out to him, her tone tinged with worry.

"Get out of here, Kia! Whatever you do, don't stop running!" Hamish said. Kiara shook her head with tears in her eyes. "I'm not going anywhere, Dad!"

"Go now while I can still protect you!" Hamish shouted, giving his daughter a forceful shove.

"Ha! None of you are going anywhere!" Rostom said with a vicious leer.

"You b*stard! I'll kill you even if I die doing so!" Hamish erupted with anger, activating all of his aura. He funneled all of it into the red magic sword, causing it to glow brighter and emit a terrifying aura in all directions.

"Hamish truly is a living treasure! That magic sword of his is no ordinary magic item. Looks like I really do have a good eye for treasure!" Hyrum's eyes glinted with greed as he gently waved his arms, enveloping Hamish and Kiara in a mist.

"A poison veil?" Hamish was dumbfounded. Then, he turned to Hyrum with an expression of complete disbelief, his voice trembling as he spoke. "This poison veil is artificially created?"

"Hahaha! Just figuring that out, are you? There's no such thing as a poison veil in Mount Crimson. It was all my doing to instigate cultivators to turn on each other so that I could reap the benefits!" Hyrum chuckled.

"Mr. Goeckner, these two consumed detoxification pills, so I'm afraid the poison veil won't affect them." After stating this, Rostom produced the detoxification pill crafted by Kai and handed it to Hyrum.

Rostom had refrained from consuming the pill previously made by Kai because it wasn't necessary. Having taken the detoxification pill from Hyrum, he was immune to the poison veil. Thus, there was no need for him to take Kai's prepared detoxification pill.

Hyrum accepted the detoxification pill and scrutinized it closely. After a few moments, a hint of surprise flashed in his eyes. "Who concocted this pill? I didn't expect such a high-level alchemist to be part of this group."

Rostom replied, "It was crafted by someone named Kai. His alchemy skills are truly impressive."

"Kai?" Xanthus, standing on the side, was momentarily taken aback by the name. He promptly grabbed Rostom by the collar. "Is this Kai you mentioned in his twenties?"

Rostom didn't recognize Xanthus, and the latter's rude behavior displeased him. "Who are you? Let go of me! Why should I tell you anything?"

"Rostom, this is Elder Fabrizio of Soulless Hall. You must answer whatever questions he asks you," Hyrum instructed.

Learning Xanthus' identity as an elder, Rostom quickly changed his tone. "That's correct. This Kai appears to be in his twenties, and he's accompanied by a man and a woman. Furthermore, that woman is a celestial beast, a phoenix."

"That's him! Take me to him immediately!" Following an order from the Demon Seal Alliance, Xanthus had to eliminate Kai as soon as possible.

"They might be dead by now. When I came over, those people were surrounded by the silver tigers. I suspect they've likely been devoured by now," Rostom responded.

"I don't care if he's dead or alive. Even if he's dead, I need to see his corpse." In that case, Xanthus had to retrieve Kai's body to fulfill his mission.

"Fine. I'll lead you there to search for it." Rostom planned to guide Xanthus back to where he came from to look for Kai's remains.

However, as soon as he finished speaking, a gust of wind swept through, instantly dispelling the poison veil in the vicinity. Following the breeze, the figure of a man approached slowly.

"No need for that. I've come on my own!" Kai strolled over to Hamish's side.

"You're not dead?" Rostom was astounded.

Hamish and Kiara were similarly astonished.

“Kai, you’re all right? What about Misho and the others?” Hamish asked somewhat embarrassedly. After all, they were the first to escape, abandoning everyone else. Hamish felt a pang of shame for his cowardice.

“They’re okay. Everyone’s unharmed. I came looking for you guys because I knew this guy was trouble, and I was worried you might be in trouble,” Kai assured Hamish.

“It seems I had made a poor judgment.” Hamish sighed.

“Kid, you’re Kai?” Xanthus inquired.

“Yes, I’m Kai, but we don’t have any grudges.

So, why are you trying to kill me? Even though you’re Demonic Cultivators, I don’t recall having any conflicts with you,” Kai questioned Xanthus, perplexed by the latter’s desire to see him dead.

“There doesn’t need to be a conflict between us. You’ve crossed someone you shouldn’t have, and for that, you must die,” Xanthus declared coldly.

Understanding dawned on Kai upon hearing this. He gave a slight smile and remarked, “Ah, so you’re also doing Demon Seal Alliance’s biddings? It’s surprising to see demons willingly serving others...”

Kai’s words left Hamish utterly confused, unable to comprehend the connection between those Demonic Cultivators and Demon Seal Alliance.

Hamish wondered. Demon Seal Alliance has always been the most active organization in Ethereal Realm in eradicating Demonic Cultivators, so why would Kai say these Demonic Cultivators are doing Demon Seal Alliance’s bidding?

“Shut up! You’re courting death!” Xanthus furrowed his brows, his aura bursting forth instantaneously.

The revelation that the Demon Seal Alliance was sheltering Demonic Cultivators was a tightly guarded secret, one that absolutely couldn’t be exposed. If word got out, it would tarnish the reputation of the Demon Seal

Alliance, possibly leading to the drastic measure of exterminating all the Demonic Cultivators they held captive to conceal the truth.

“Elder Fabrizio, there’s no need for you to handle this kid personally. You’re granting him too much importance,” Hyrum intervened, halting Xanthus.

To Hyrum, a mere Eighth Level Body Fusion Realm cultivator like Kai couldn’t possibly pose any significant threat.

In the next moment, Hyrum extended his palms towards the encompassing forest, unleashing poison veils into the atmosphere. Swiftly, a cacophony of roars erupted.

Scores of demon beasts with crimson eyes converged, fixing intense gazes on Kai and his group. Clearly, these demon beasts were under Hyrum’s command.

Colors drained from Hamish’s face when he saw the dozens of demon beasts closing in. He said to Kai, “Kai, thank you for risking your life to save us, but you’re not their match. I only hope you can take Kia and escape. I’ll cover your retreat.”

Hamish had resolved to sacrifice himself. However, he didn’t want his daughter to perish alongside him. If he could save Kiara’s life by staking his own and putting up a desperate fight, he wouldn’t hesitate to do so.

“We’ll escape together, Mr. Chevalier.” Kai remained undaunted as he surveyed the dozens of menacing demon beasts.

He didn’t regard the numerous demon beasts as a significant threat. Given that they were under the influence of the poison veil, all he needed to do was detoxify them.

His main concern lay in confronting the Demonic Cultivators, a formidable challenge. With Hamish injured, Kai couldn’t handle them all alone.

After a moment of contemplation, Kai retrieved several pills and promptly crushed them, releasing clouds of powder that wafted toward the swarm of demon beasts.

After the powder dispersed, the once- aggressive aura of the demon beasts subsided, and their eyes reverted to a normal state.

"This guy is indeed formidable. He countered my poison veil so effortlessly!" Hyrum exclaimed in astonishment.

"Don't bother with your poison anymore. Attack!" With that command, Xanthus took the lead, leaping and dashing in Kai's direction.

Observing this, Hyrum had no alternative but to follow suit, leading his group in the charge. Kai knitted his brows at their approach. He swiftly grabbed Hamish and Kiara, turned on his heels, and fled. At that moment, escape was their sole option as they were clearly outmatched.

However, owing to Hamish's injury, he couldn't keep pace. Recognizing that the enemy was closing in due to his slower pace, Hamish declared, "Kai, take Kia and run. I'll stay and hold them off. Otherwise, none of us will escape."

With determination, he wrested himself free, determined to remain behind and confront their pursuers.

"No, you two go ahead. I'll buy you some time." Kai wasn't about to let Hamish face the danger alone.

If Hamish perished, their journey to the southern region would come to an abrupt end. Kai understood that it was nearly impossible for the group to navigate their way out of Mount Crimson alone.

After all, Hamish was their guide. Without him, their group would have to double back. After enduring so many hardships to reach where they were, Kai refused to give up just like that. Just as he was gearing up to remain behind, a sudden roar echoed through the air.

The next moment, Tiger King, a silver tiger measuring over ten meters in length, emerged, accompanied by numerous other formidable silver tigers.

"Go. I'll hold them off." Tiger King spoke in human language, directly addressing Kai.

The unexpected appearance of Tiger King left Hamish and Kiara stunned. Hearing Tiger King converse with Kai in human language, the two stared at Kai in astonishment.

Without exchanging many words, Kai swiftly pulled Hamish and Kiara along, continuing their escape. Simultaneously, Tiger King and the group of silver tigers lunged toward the Demonic Cultivators.

The sudden appearance of the silver tigers stunned Xanthus, who subsequently looked toward Hyrum.

“What’s going on? Aren’t these demon beasts under your control? Why are they attacking us?” Xanthus asked quizzically.

“Someone has neutralized the poison in the silver tigers,” Hyrum replied anxiously as he stared at the ferocious beasts lunging at them.

The silver tigers were powerful beasts. Tiger King, in particular, was more than ten meters tall and had become a Tribulator a long time ago, allowing him to morph between human and beast form.

In the beginning, both parties never interfered in one another’s affairs. However, Hyrum, wanting to profit from a conflict between them, used the poison veil to bewitch the silver tigers and used them to attack the human cultivators who traveled across Mount Crimson.

“How dare you Demonic Cultivators use poison veil to control our minds and get us to kill the human cultivators, causing them to hate us? I swear I’m going to rip all of you apart today!” Tiger King roared as he charged forward with his subordinates.

In response, Hyrum had no choice but to lead his men to meet Tiger King in battle. As for Xanthus, he rapidly retreated and ran in the direction of where Kai and his companions had fled. His goal was to kill Kai, so he couldn’t afford to let the latter escape.

Meanwhile, when Rostom saw Xanthus avoiding the silver tigers to pursue Kai, he, too, followed closely behind, leaving Hyrum and his men to engage the silver tigers in battle.

At that moment, Tiger King breathed out a fiery inferno that covered the skies and set the forest ablaze. Within the sea of flames, the Demonic Cultivators of Soulless Hall who failed to flee were burned alive.

“Argh!”

Screams of agony were heard from those who didn't manage to escape. As for the other silver tigers, they charged forward to rip apart the burning cultivators to vent the rage within them.

Responding to the situation, Hyrum brandished his sword, filling the air with lethal intent. Amidst a howl in the background, a mist quickly descended upon the surroundings.

When Tiger King saw Hyrum unleashing the poison again, he roared out loud and led his subordinates back. Having been poisoned before, they were not going to let history repeat itself.

Seizing upon the lull provided by the silver tiger's brief retreat, Hyrum scanned his surroundings and was stunned by Xanthus' disappearance.

If anything happened to the latter, he would be in deep trouble. In fact, he would probably not be able to return to Soulless Hall, let alone become an elder.

"Find Elder Fabrizio at once!"

Together with the surviving Demonic Cultivators, Hyrum began to pursue Xanthus. Meanwhile, Kai, with Hamish and Kiara by his side, was running desperately to where members of their party were camped.

Sensing the presence of pursuers, he didn't dare to let his guard down for a single moment. Soon, all three of them reached the campsite.

When everyone saw the three return, they frantically got up to their feet. Hamish was after all their guide. Without him, there was no way they could make it to the southern region.

"Are you all right, Mr. Chevalier? You don't seem to look too good."

Misho's face was glowing after getting enough rest.

"Rostom is in league with the Demonic Cultivators and led us into a trap. Fortunately, Mr. Chance appeared in the nick of time and saved us."

While Hamish was speaking, blood continued to flow down the corner of his mouth.

"What? Rostom is working with Demonic Cultivators?"

“That b*stard! The Beridze family is supposed to be a prestigious family. I can’t believe there’s a failure like Rostom in their midst.”

“I knew from the very beginning that he was up to no good.”

The crowd commented one by one upon learning of Rostom’s betrayal.

“Old Mr. Giuvali, how’s your recovery coming along?” Kai inquired with Misho.

“I’m back at eighty to ninety percent of my strength. I’m good to go,” Misho replied.

“We are being pursued by Demonic Cultivators, so some of us have to stay back to stop them. Now that Mr. Chevalier is injured and needs immediate medical attention, I plan to let Mr. Tamazi take him and lead the weaker members of the party to escape. The rest of us will stay and deal with the Demonic Cultivators. If it’s possible, we should aim to annihilate them. Otherwise, they will continue to harm unsuspecting travelers,” Kai laid out his plan to Misho.

“No problem. I’m keen to meet these Demonic Cultivators,” Misho said with a nod. Thereafter, Kai instructed Tamazi to take Hamish, Cloud, and the girls away for the time being. Given how weak they were, there wasn’t much they could do.

“Kai, you’re just a Body Fusion Realm cultivator. Why don’t you leave with them? I’ll take on the Demonic Cultivators with the others. Don’t worry. I’ll definitely not show them any mercy,” Misho suggested to Kai.

Even though Kai was skilled in medicine, he was still an Eighth Level Body Fusion Realm cultivator, someone who was too weak in the eyes of a Tribulator.

“There’s an alchemist within the Demonic Cultivators who’s skilled in creating poisons. You’ll be at a disadvantage against him, so I’ll deal with him instead,” Kai replied.

Agreeing with Kai, Misho didn’t have anything more to say. Soon, Xanthus finally arrived. He showed no fear, even though Kai, Misho, and the others were waiting for him.

“I’m here just to kill Kai. Those who’re not involved, step aside or I’ll show you no mercy!”

The moment Xanthus unleashed the aura of a Sixth Level Tribulator, its pressure began to suffocate everyone.

“Hmph, a lowly Demonic Cultivator like you sure know how to talk big.”

Misho let out a snort before his body shook abruptly. He, too, exploded with the aura of a Sixth Level Tribulator to counter Xanthus.

Xanthus’ eyes narrowed, for he had not expected anyone within the group to be as powerful as he was. Nonetheless, despite the scowl on his face, there was no sign of him panicking.

“I’m an elder of Soulless Hall. You had better think twice before taking me on. All of you are just travel companions of this young man. There’s no need for you to risk your lives for him.”

Xanthus mentioned Soulless Hall on purpose to intimidate the group.

Everyone was consequently stunned.

“Wasn’t Soulless Hall destroyed by Demon Seal Alliance a long time ago? Why do their remnants still exist?”

“It’s been a long time since we heard of Soulless Hall. I can’t believe it is still around!”

“They are infamous for their ruthlessness. Now that they have emerged, they will only bring suffering.”

Despite their discussions, no one showed any signs of backing down. Firstly, they were all on the same team. It was imperative that they helped each other if they wanted to reach the southern region alive.

The second reason was that Kai was a Supreme Alchemist. If it wasn’t for him, they would have lost their minds and killed each other while being under the influence of the poison veil. As long as he was with them, they didn’t have to worry about injuries or the poison veil again.

“Stop wasting time and get on with it. If you don’t have the guts to fight, then get lost,” Misho snapped, showing Xanthus no respect at all.

Their ferocity caused Xanthus to hesitate, for he was no match for the entire group combined. At that moment, Rostom was hiding behind a nearby tree. Watching how events were unfolding filled him with regret.

He had not expected that a party formed temporarily was willing to risk their lives to protect Kai. Moments later, a flurry of footsteps was heard, heralding the arrival of Hyrum and his men.

Seeing Hyrum's arrival, Xanthus instantly gained more confidence. "Attack! We must kill that Kai guy!"

With that command, Xanthus leaped in Kai's direction. Witnessing this, Misho swiftly unsheathed a long sword and entered the fray.

Others rushed forward, joining the chaotic melee. Hyrum turned to Kai and abruptly tossed a handful of powder at him. Aware that eliminating Kai would be a significant victory, Hyrum aimed to make a decisive contribution.

However, Kai wore a look of disdain as he swung the Dragonslayer Sword, dispersing the powder with a burst of light.

"Brat, I didn't expect someone your age to possess such remarkable alchemy skills. The detoxification pill you crafted is truly top-notch. Unfortunately, you've offended Soulless Hall, so death is the only fate awaiting you!" As Hyrum spoke, the long sword he wielded quivered slightly.

The next moment, wisps of black mist emanated from the blade. The black mist coalesced in the air, forming a venomous snake that flicked its red tongue and lunged at Kai.

Kai simply regarded Hyrum with a look of utter contempt. While Hyrum was a relatively potent alchemist, he paled in comparison to Kai's expertise.

Shifting his focus to the venomous snake, Kai swung his sword, releasing thousands of beams that cleaved through the snake, transforming it back into a dissipating cloud of black mist.

However, Hyrum remained unfazed after witnessing this display. Instead, he sneered. The black mist descended from above, enveloping Kai within its dark shroud.

“Hahaha! Flight might be restricted in Mount Crimson, but the mobility of poison mist knows no bounds. This mist can morph and launch attacks even in midair.” Hyrum laughed triumphantly.

Having spent numerous years within Mount Crimson, he had mastered its intricacies. Kai found himself engulfed by the poison mist, behaving like a sentient entity, relentlessly attempting to penetrate his skin.

“This poison mist of yours is quite impressive,” Kai remarked.

“It’s too late for you to comprehend the potency of my poison mist now. Your demise is inevitable within three seconds,” Hyrum declared confidently.

Instead of replying, Kai initiated his Focus Technique to refine the poison mist. The Focus Technique had the capability to refine anything, including a mere poison mist.

Hyrum looked at the looming cloud of poison mist with ecstasy. Once Kai perished, his mission would be accomplished.

Hyrum heard no sound from Kai for a prolonged moment. To his surprise, the dense poison mist began to thin, gradually revealing Kai’s figure.

Kai stood still, seemingly untouched by the poison. Hyrum curiously approached him, wanting to see if Kai had succumbed to his poison. However, as he drew near, a beam of light shot out from the mist.

Caught off guard, Hyrum was unable to react in time, and the light streaked past his shoulder, cleanly severing one of his arms.

“What? You’re not affected by the poison?” Hyrum exclaimed in shock, hastily leaping backward. He hadn’t expected Kai to be completely immune to the poison mist, even after being enveloped in it.

Covering his wound, Hyrum’s gaze held astonishment.

“This pathetic poison of yours is ineffective against me!” Kai declared, opening his mouth and inhaling the remaining poison mist right before Hyrum’s eyes.

“You!” Hyrum was dumbfounded.

Even if he’s an alchemist, I can’t comprehend how a Body Fusion Realm cultivator like him can be immune to all poisons! The poison mist I crafted is

highly toxic, yet he dares to absorb it directly into his body! This is utterly absurd!

The Mans Decree - The Mans Decree Chapter 3303

Meanwhile, Rostom held Hamish hostage as Kiara remained vigilant, constantly scanning the surroundings for any signs of approaching demon beasts. The three of them weaved through a thick jungle on the mountain.

"Where are you taking me, Tom?" Hamish asked in confusion.

"Just come with me, Mr. Chevalier. I know a very safe route," Rostom explained.

"You know a route? But you have never been to the southern region, right?" Hamish asked.

"I heard about it from a friend. Now that we're in the clear, we should be able to escape Mount Crimson soon," Rostom replied as he continued walking with Hamish in his grip.

Hamish said nothing further after that, but he continued to observe his surroundings with a somewhat displeased look on his face.

Kiara, too, was on guard as she cautiously followed behind them. Little did Hamish know, a group of people was waiting for them just up ahead. An elderly man in a black robe had a vicious look in his eyes.

"I didn't know you and the overlord were still alive and have been living in Demon Seal Alliance's headquarters, Elder Fabrizio. Ever since Soulless Hall got attacked by Demon Seal Alliance and many cultivators, I fled to Mount Crimson with dozens of our surviving members. I spent every day hoping to someday avenge Soulless Hall. Who would've thought you guys were still alive, eh?" said Hyrum Goeckner, a man with knife scars on his face as he stood next to that elderly man.

"The overlord and I are glad to hear that, Hyrum. After all, it has been so many years. We, too, thought we were going to die when we fell into Demon Seal Alliance's hands. However, they simply locked us up instead of killing us. There are many Demonic Cultivators who are being kept as pets to serve Demon Seal Alliance. I came here today because they sent me to kill

someone named Kai. Had that not been the case, I would not have encountered you guys,” Xanthus Fabrizio replied.

“Could you imagine that the Demon Seal Alliance, which harbors such intense animosity towards demons, is actually collaborating with them in secret? The irony is astounding!” Hyrum exclaimed.

“Do not tell anyone else about this,” Xanthus ordered coldly.

“Don’t worry, Elder Fabrizio. I won’t tell anyone!” Hyrum promised.

“So, why did you bring me here? What are we waiting for?” Xanthus asked.

“You may not know this, Elder Fabrizio, but cultivators often go through Mount Crimson to get to the southern region. Now that all of Ethereal Realm knows about the celestial battleground in Demonia Mountain, the amount of cultivators passing through Mount Crimson has increased significantly,” Hyrum elucidated.

Following a brief pause, he revealed, “We could ambush them for some resources. This time, we’re waiting for someone who travels to the southern region all year round. He has a lot of information on the locations of treasures. I hear he has even hidden some of his treasures here in Mount Crimson.”

“How do you know they’ll pass us by?” Xanthus asked in confusion.

“I planted a mole in their group and used the poison veil to force them to flee. Once we capture Hamish, we can make him lead us to the treasure!” Hyrum replied proudly.

“I see. You certainly have grown a lot over the years. Once Soulless Hall is restored, I will tell the overlord about this and propose that you be promoted to an elder!” Xanthus said while patting Hyrum on the shoulder.

“Thank you very much, Elder Fabrizio!” Hyrum exclaimed excitedly.

That was when Rostom, along with the Chevaliers, approached them. Hamish’s expression turned progressively solemn as he surveyed the surroundings.

“Let’s rest for a bit, Tom...” Hamish said as he broke free of Rostom’s grip and sat down on the side

"We're almost there, Mr. Chevalier. The exit is straight ahead! Moreover, it's not safe to rest in this spot. We can find a secure location to rest once we've reached our destination," Rostom advised.

He then tried to help Hamish up, but the older man waved his hands and refused to get up no matter what.

Consequently, Rostom turned toward Kiara and said, "Please tell Mr. Chevalier to get up, Kiara. It's too dangerous for us to rest here."

"How about we find a spot to rest up front, Dad?" Kiara suggested. Hamish shook his head. "I'm afraid we might not be able to rest if we head over there."

"Why not?" Kiara asked in confusion.

"I've traversed Mount Crimson countless times, and the path ahead does not lead us out of this mountain," Hamish responded. He then fixed Rostom with an icy-cold glare, pressing further, "Tom, why don't you enlighten me on why you brought us here?"

Rostom shuddered as he attempted to explain, "Are you serious, Mr. Chevalier? I heard about this path from a friend! Could it be that I picked the wrong route?"

He even tried glancing about frantically to help sell his act. Kiara was starting to panic. "Did we take a wrong turn, Dad? What should we do?"

"Calm down, you two. I'll go check the path up ahead and see if we're on the right track," Rostom said, stepping forward to investigate.

After Rostom had left, Hamish told Kiara, "Go follow him and find out what's going on, but be careful not to let him catch you!"

Kiara nodded and went off to tail the man. It wasn't long before she saw Rostom walk up to a group of people. She couldn't hear what they were saying because she was too far away, but it was obvious that Rostom knew those people.

Kiara then hurried back and reported her findings to Hamish.

"Looks like he really is up to no good. Let's go!"

Hamish then stood up and got ready to leave with Kiara, only to see Rostom coming back before he could even take a step.

Unaware that Kiara had been following him, Rostom fabricated, "I've discovered a suitable spot for us to rest, Mr. Chevalier. It's just up ahead. Additionally, we're on the correct path and are close to making our way out of this mountain."

Hamish was all the more certain about his theory when he heard Rostom lying to them. Getting straight to the point, he demanded, "Stop lying to me, Tom. Who did you go see up ahead?"

"No one! I didn't see anyone!" Rostom adamantly refused to admit the truth.

"You're lying! I saw everything!" Kiara shouted, glaring angrily at Rostom.

Realizing that they had seen through his deception, Rostom began to retreat.

"Don't even think about running!" Hamish yelled, reaching out to grab Rostom. In a panic, Rostom sprinted away as fast as his legs could carry him. Although Hamish missed his grasp, the sheer force of his movement shattered dozens of trees into dust.

Right as Hamish prepared to launch a second attack, he suddenly started coughing up blood. The abrupt movement he made earlier had aggravated his wound.

Feeling relieved when he saw Hamish in distress, Rostom stopped running and turned around.

"Since you've seen through my lies, I'll tell you the truth. Mr. Goeckner is waiting for you just up ahead. We won't hurt you if you work with us and disclose the location of the treasures," he declared with a smug grin.

"Mr. Goeckner? Are you referring to the Demonic Cultivator that resides in this mountain?" Hamish inquired.

"That's right. They may be Demonic Cultivators, but they will honor their promise. You will be fine as long as you cooperate," Rostom said shamelessly.

"F*ck that! I will never work with Demonic Cultivators!" Hamish shouted angrily and tried to attack Rostom again. Despite being wounded, Hamish was still incredibly fast and powerful.

"Don't think I can't kill you simply because I'm injured, you piece of sh*t! I'll do your family a favor by helping them clean their house!" Hamish roared, unleashing a potent burst of aura at Rostom. To evade Hamish's attack, Rostom had to step back and roll on the ground three times.

"I'm going to die if you don't help me out here, Mr. Goeckner!" Rostom screamed in terror. Hyrum then led his men into the open upon hearing that. Standing beside Hyrum was Xanthus.

Hamish instinctively retreated as he saw the group of people before him.

Meanwhile, Rostom regained his footing and approached Hyrum, stating, "Hamish is wounded, Mr. Goeckner. He poses no threat to you."

"Rostom, you b*stard!" Kiara screamed furiously, her face flushed.

"Mr. Goeckner won't hurt you two as long as you cooperate, Kiara," the man added with a touch of smugness.

"F*ck you!" Kiara spat at the ground in disgust.

"We meet again, Mr. Chevalier," Hyrum sneered at Hamish. Hamish eyed Hyrum cautiously as he retorted, "You Demonic Cultivators dare reveal yourselves? Aren't you afraid someone will spot you and wipe you all out?"

"Hahaha! No one can wipe us out here in Mount Crimson. This place is my turf now. Don't expect to stroll through without paying!" Hyrum motioned at two Demonic Cultivators on the side.

The two immediately charged at Hamish in response. Hamish's aura continued to surge as it was challenging for him to control it while wounded.

"Mere Demonic Cultivators like you don't stand a chance against me!" Hamish shouted through clenched teeth, grabbing at the air in front of him.

Suddenly, a red magic sword materialized in Hamish's hand. With a slash, a bright light illuminated the night sky like the sun. The two Demonic Cultivators

were instantly slain with no means to resist. However, after the attack, Hamish's face turned pale, and he began coughing up blood once again.

"Dad!" Kiara called out to him, her tone tinged with worry.

"Get out of here, Kia! Whatever you do, don't stop running!" Hamish said. Kiara shook her head with tears in her eyes. "I'm not going anywhere, Dad!"

"Go now while I can still protect you!" Hamish shouted, giving his daughter a forceful shove.

"Ha! None of you are going anywhere!" Rostom said with a vicious leer.

"You b*stard! I'll kill you even if I die doing so!" Hamish erupted with anger, activating all of his aura. He funneled all of it into the red magic sword, causing it to glow brighter and emit a terrifying aura in all directions.

"Hamish truly is a living treasure! That magic sword of his is no ordinary magic item. Looks like I really do have a good eye for treasure!" Hyrum's eyes glinted with greed as he gently waved his arms, enveloping Hamish and Kiara in a mist.

"A poison veil?" Hamish was dumbfounded. Then, he turned to Hyrum with an expression of complete disbelief, his voice trembling as he spoke. "This poison veil is artificially created?"

"Hahaha! Just figuring that out, are you? There's no such thing as a poison veil in Mount Crimson. It was all my doing to instigate cultivators to turn on each other so that I could reap the benefits!" Hyrum chuckled.

"Mr. Goeckner, these two consumed detoxification pills, so I'm afraid the poison veil won't affect them." After stating this, Rostom produced the detoxification pill crafted by Kai and handed it to Hyrum.

Rostom had refrained from consuming the pill previously made by Kai because it wasn't necessary. Having taken the detoxification pill from Hyrum, he was immune to the poison veil. Thus, there was no need for him to take Kai's prepared detoxification pill.

Hyrum accepted the detoxification pill and scrutinized it closely. After a few moments, a hint of surprise flashed in his eyes. "Who concocted this pill? I didn't expect such a high-level alchemist to be part of this group."

Rostom replied, "It was crafted by someone named Kai. His alchemy skills are truly Impressive."

"Kai?" Xanthus, standing on the side, was momentarily taken aback by the name. He promptly grabbed Rostom by the collar. "Is this Kai you mentioned in his twenties?"

Rostom didn't recognize Xanthus, and the latter's rude behavior displeased him. "Who are you? Let go of me! Why should I tell you anything?"

"Rostom, this is Elder Fabrizio of Soulless Hall. You must answer whatever questions he asks you," Hyrum instructed.

Learning Xanthus' identity as an elder, Rostom quickly changed his tone. "That's correct. This Kai appears to be in his twenties, and he's accompanied by a man and a woman. Furthermore, that woman is a celestial beast, a phoenix."

"That's him! Take me to him immediately!" Following an order from the Demon Seal Alliance, Xanthus had to eliminate Kai as soon as possible.

"They might be dead by now. When I came over, those people were surrounded by the silver tigers. I suspect they've likely been devoured by now," Rostom responded.

"I don't care if he's dead or alive. Even if he's dead, I need to see his corpse." In that case, Xanthus had to retrieve Kai's body to fulfill his mission.

"Fine. I'll lead you there to search for it." Rostom planned to guide Xanthus back to where he came from to look for Kai's remains.

However, as soon as he finished speaking, a gust of wind swept through, instantly dispelling the poison veil in the vicinity. Following the breeze, the figure of a man approached slowly.

"No need for that. I've come on my own!" Kai strolled over to Hamish's side.

"You're not dead?" Rostom was astounded.

Hamish and Kiara were similarly astonished.

“Kai, you’re all right? What about Misho and the others?” Hamish asked somewhat embarrassedly. After all, they were the first to escape, abandoning everyone else. Hamish felt a pang of shame for his cowardice.

“They’re okay. Everyone’s unharmed. I came looking for you guys because I knew this guy was trouble, and I was worried you might be in trouble,” Kai assured Hamish.

“It seems I had made a poor judgment.” Hamish sighed.

“Kid, you’re Kai?” Xanthus inquired.

“Yes, I’m Kai, but we don’t have any grudges.

So, why are you trying to kill me? Even though you’re Demonic Cultivators, I don’t recall having any conflicts with you,” Kai questioned Xanthus, perplexed by the latter’s desire to see him dead.

“There doesn’t need to be a conflict between us. You’ve crossed someone you shouldn’t have, and for that, you must die,” Xanthus declared coldly.

Understanding dawned on Kai upon hearing this. He gave a slight smile and remarked, “Ah, so you’re also doing Demon Seal Alliance’s biddings? It’s surprising to see demons willingly serving others...”

Kai’s words left Hamish utterly confused, unable to comprehend the connection between those Demonic Cultivators and Demon Seal Alliance.

Hamish wondered. Demon Seal Alliance has always been the most active organization in Ethereal Realm in eradicating Demonic Cultivators, so why would Kai say these Demonic Cultivators are doing Demon Seal Alliance’s bidding?

“Shut up! You’re courting death!” Xanthus furrowed his brows, his aura bursting forth instantaneously.

The revelation that the Demon Seal Alliance was sheltering Demonic Cultivators was a tightly guarded secret, one that absolutely couldn’t be exposed. If word got out, it would tarnish the reputation of the Demon Seal Alliance, possibly leading to the drastic measure of exterminating all the Demonic Cultivators they held captive to conceal the truth.

“Elder Fabrizio, there’s no need for you to handle this kid personally. You’re granting him too much importance,” Hyrum intervened, halting Xanthus.

To Hyrum, a mere Eighth Level Body Fusion Realm cultivator like Kai couldn’t possibly pose any significant threat.

In the next moment, Hyrum extended his palms towards the encompassing forest, unleashing poison veils into the atmosphere. Swiftly, a cacophony of roars erupted.

Scores of demon beasts with crimson eyes converged, fixing intense gazes on Kai and his group. Clearly, these demon beasts were under Hyrum’s command.

Colors drained from Hamish’s face when he saw the dozens of demon beasts closing in. He said to Kai, “Kai, thank you for risking your life to save us, but you’re not their match. I only hope you can take Kia and escape. I’ll cover your retreat.”

Hamish had resolved to sacrifice himself. However, he didn’t want his daughter to perish alongside him. If he could save Kiara’s life by staking his own and putting up a desperate fight, he wouldn’t hesitate to do so.

“We’ll escape together, Mr. Chevalier.” Kai remained undaunted as he surveyed the dozens of menacing demon beasts.

He didn’t regard the numerous demon beasts as a significant threat. Given that they were under the influence of the poison veil, all he needed to do was detoxify them.

His main concern lay in confronting the Demonic Cultivators, a formidable challenge. With Hamish injured, Kai couldn’t handle them all alone.

After a moment of contemplation, Kai retrieved several pills and promptly crushed them, releasing clouds of powder that wafted toward the swarm of demon beasts.

After the powder dispersed, the once- aggressive aura of the demon beasts subsided, and their eyes reverted to a normal state.

“This guy is indeed formidable. He countered my poison veil so effortlessly!” Hyrum exclaimed in astonishment.

“Don’t bother with your poison anymore. Attack!” With that command, Xanthus took the lead, leaping and dashing in Kai’s direction.

Observing this, Hyrum had no alternative but to follow suit, leading his group in the charge. Kai knitted his brows at their approach. He swiftly grabbed Hamish and Kiara, turned on his heels, and fled. At that moment, escape was their sole option as they were clearly outmatched.

However, owing to Hamish’s injury, he couldn’t keep pace. Recognizing that the enemy was closing in due to his slower pace, Hamish declared, “Kai, take Kia and run. I’ll stay and hold them off. Otherwise, none of us will escape.”

With determination, he wrested himself free, determined to remain behind and confront their pursuers.

“No, you two go ahead. I’ll buy you some time.” Kai wasn’t about to let Hamish face the danger alone.

If Hamish perished, their journey to the southern region would come to an abrupt end. Kai understood that it was nearly impossible for the group to navigate their way out of Mount Crimson alone.

After all, Hamish was their guide. Without him, their group would have to double back. After enduring so many hardships to reach where they were, Kai refused to give up just like that. Just as he was gearing up to remain behind, a sudden roar echoed through the air.

The next moment, Tiger King, a silver tiger measuring over ten meters in length, emerged, accompanied by numerous other formidable silver tigers.

“Go. I’ll hold them off.” Tiger King spoke in human language, directly addressing Kai.

The unexpected appearance of Tiger King left Hamish and Kiara stunned. Hearing Tiger King converse with Kai in human language, the two stared at Kai in astonishment.

Without exchanging many words, Kai swiftly pulled Hamish and Kiara along, continuing their escape. Simultaneously, Tiger King and the group of silver tigers lunged toward the Demonic Cultivators.

The sudden appearance of the silver tigers stunned Xanthus, who subsequently looked toward Hyrum.

“What’s going on? Aren’t these demon beasts under your control? Why are they attacking us?” Xanthus asked quizzically.

“Someone has neutralized the poison in the silver tigers,” Hyrum replied anxiously as he stared at the ferocious beasts lunging at them.

The silver tigers were powerful beasts. Tiger King, in particular, was more than ten meters tall and had become a Tribulator a long time ago, allowing him to morph between human and beast form.

In the beginning, both parties never interfered in one another’s affairs. However, Hyrum, wanting to profit from a conflict between them, used the poison veil to bewitch the silver tigers and used them to attack the human cultivators who traveled across Mount Crimson.

“How dare you Demonic Cultivators use poison veil to control our minds and get us to kill the human cultivators, causing them to hate us? I swear I’m going to rip all of you apart today!” Tiger King roared as he charged forward with his subordinates.

In response, Hyrum had no choice but to lead his men to meet Tiger King in battle. As for Xanthus, he rapidly retreated and ran in the direction of where Kai and his companions had fled. His goal was to kill Kai, so he couldn’t afford to let the latter escape.

Meanwhile, when Rostom saw Xanthus avoiding the silver tigers to pursue Kai, he, too, followed closely behind, leaving Hyrum and his men to engage the silver tigers in battle.

At that moment, Tiger King breathed out a fiery inferno that covered the skies and set the forest ablaze. Within the sea of flames, the Demonic Cultivators of Soulless Hall who failed to flee were burned alive.

“Argh!”

Screams of agony were heard from those who didn’t manage to escape. As for the other silver tigers, they charged forward to rip apart the burning cultivators to vent the rage within them.

Responding to the situation, Hyrum brandished his sword, filling the air with lethal intent. Amidst a howl in the background, a mist quickly descended upon the surroundings.

When Tiger King saw Hyrum unleashing the poison again, he roared out loud and led his subordinates back. Having been poisoned before, they were not going to let history repeat itself.

Seizing upon the lull provided by the silver tiger's brief retreat, Hyrum scanned his surroundings and was stunned by Xanthus' disappearance.

If anything happened to the latter, he would be in deep trouble. In fact, he would probably not be able to return to Soulless Hall, let alone become an elder.

"Find Elder Fabrizio at once!"

Together with the surviving Demonic Cultivators, Hyrum began to pursue Xanthus. Meanwhile, Kai, with Hamish and Kiara by his side, was running desperately to where members of their party were camped.

Sensing the presence of pursuers, he didn't dare to let his guard down for a single moment. Soon, all three of them reached the campsite.

When everyone saw the three return, they frantically got up to their feet. Hamish was after all their guide. Without him, there was no way they could make it to the southern region.

"Are you all right, Mr. Chevalier? You don't seem to look too good."

Misho's face was glowing after getting enough rest.

"Rostom is in league with the Demonic Cultivators and led us into a trap. Fortunately, Mr. Chance appeared in the nick of time and saved us."

While Hamish was speaking, blood continued to flow down the corner of his mouth.

"What? Rostom is working with Demonic Cultivators?"

"That b*stard! The Beridze family is supposed to be a prestigious family. I can't believe there's a failure like Rostom in their midst."

“I knew from the very beginning that he was up to no good.”

The crowd commented one by one upon learning of Rostom’s betrayal.

“Old Mr. Giuvali, how’s your recovery coming along?” Kai inquired with Misho.

“I’m back at eighty to ninety percent of my strength. I’m good to go,” Misho replied.

“We are being pursued by Demonic Cultivators, so some of us have to stay back to stop them. Now that Mr. Chevalier is injured and needs immediate medical attention, I plan to let Mr. Tamazi take him and lead the weaker members of the party to escape. The rest of us will stay and deal with the Demonic Cultivators. If it’s possible, we should aim to annihilate them. Otherwise, they will continue to harm unsuspecting travelers,” Kai laid out his plan to Misho.

“No problem. I’m keen to meet these Demonic Cultivators,” Misho said with a nod. Thereafter, Kai instructed Tamazi to take Hamish, Cloud, and the girls away for the time being. Given how weak they were, there wasn’t much they could do.

“Kai, you’re just a Body Fusion Realm cultivator. Why don’t you leave with them? I’ll take on the Demonic Cultivators with the others. Don’t worry. I’ll definitely not show them any mercy,” Misho suggested to Kai.

Even though Kai was skilled in medicine, he was still an Eighth Level Body Fusion Realm cultivator, someone who was too weak in the eyes of a Tribulator.

“There’s an alchemist within the Demonic Cultivators who’s skilled in creating poisons. You’ll be at a disadvantage against him, so I’ll deal with him instead,” Kai replied.

Agreeing with Kai, Misho didn’t have anything more to say. Soon, Xanthus finally arrived. He showed no fear, even though Kai, Misho, and the others were waiting for him.

“I’m here just to kill Kai. Those who’re not involved, step aside or I’ll show you no mercy!”

The moment Xanthus unleashed the aura of a Sixth Level Tribulator, its pressure began to suffocate everyone.

“Hmph, a lowly Demonic Cultivator like you sure know how to talk big.”

Misho let out a snort before his body shook abruptly. He, too, exploded with the aura of a Sixth Level Tribulator to counter Xanthus.

Xanthus’ eyes narrowed, for he had not expected anyone within the group to be as powerful as he was. Nonetheless, despite the scowl on his face, there was no sign of him panicking.

“I’m an elder of Soulless Hall. You had better think twice before taking me on. All of you are just travel companions of this young man. There’s no need for you to risk your lives for him.”

Xanthus mentioned Soulless Hall on purpose to intimidate the group.

Everyone was consequently stunned.

“Wasn’t Soulless Hall destroyed by Demon Seal Alliance a long time ago? Why do their remnants still exist?”

“It’s been a long time since we heard of Soulless Hall. I can’t believe it is still around!”

“They are infamous for their ruthlessness. Now that they have emerged, they will only bring suffering.”

Despite their discussions, no one showed any signs of backing down. Firstly, they were all on the same team. It was imperative that they helped each other if they wanted to reach the southern region alive.

The second reason was that Kai was a Supreme Alchemist. If it wasn’t for him, they would have lost their minds and killed each other while being under the influence of the poison veil. As long as he was with them, they didn’t have to worry about injuries or the poison veil again.

“Stop wasting time and get on with it. If you don’t have the guts to fight, then get lost,” Misho snapped, showing Xanthus no respect at all.

Their ferocity caused Xanthus to hesitate, for he was no match for the entire group combined. At that moment, Rostom was hiding behind a nearby tree. Watching how events were unfolding filled him with regret.

He had not expected that a party formed temporarily was willing to risk their lives to protect Kai. Moments later, a flurry of footsteps was heard, heralding the arrival of Hyrum and his men.

Seeing Hyrum's arrival, Xanthus instantly gained more confidence. "Attack! We must kill that Kai guy!"

With that command, Xanthus leaped in Kai's direction. Witnessing this, Misho swiftly unsheathed a long sword and entered the fray.

Others rushed forward, joining the chaotic melee. Hyrum turned to Kai and abruptly tossed a handful of powder at him. Aware that eliminating Kai would be a significant victory, Hyrum aimed to make a decisive contribution.

However, Kai wore a look of disdain as he swung the Dragonslayer Sword, dispersing the powder with a burst of light.

"Brat, I didn't expect someone your age to possess such remarkable alchemy skills. The detoxification pill you crafted is truly top-notch. Unfortunately, you've offended Soulless Hall, so death is the only fate awaiting you!" As Hyrum spoke, the long sword he wielded quivered slightly.

The next moment, wisps of black mist emanated from the blade. The black mist coalesced in the air, forming a venomous snake that flicked its red tongue and lunged at Kai.

Kai simply regarded Hyrum with a look of utter contempt. While Hyrum was a relatively potent alchemist, he paled in comparison to Kai's expertise.

Shifting his focus to the venomous snake, Kai swung his sword, releasing thousands of beams that cleaved through the snake, transforming it back into a dissipating cloud of black mist.

However, Hyrum remained unfazed after witnessing this display. Instead, he sneered. The black mist descended from above, enveloping Kai within its dark shroud.

“Hahaha! Flight might be restricted in Mount Crimson, but the mobility of poison mist knows no bounds. This mist can morph and launch attacks even in midair.” Hyrum laughed triumphantly.

Having spent numerous years within Mount Crimson, he had mastered its intricacies. Kai found himself engulfed by the poison mist, behaving like a sentient entity, relentlessly attempting to penetrate his skin.

“This poison mist of yours is quite impressive,” Kai remarked.

“It’s too late for you to comprehend the potency of my poison mist now. Your demise is inevitable within three seconds,” Hyrum declared confidently.

Instead of replying, Kai initiated his Focus Technique to refine the poison mist. The Focus Technique had the capability to refine anything, including a mere poison mist.

Hyrum looked at the looming cloud of poison mist with ecstasy. Once Kai perished, his mission would be accomplished.

Hyrum heard no sound from Kai for a prolonged moment. To his surprise, the dense poison mist began to thin, gradually revealing Kai’s figure.

Kai stood still, seemingly untouched by the poison. Hyrum curiously approached him, wanting to see if Kai had succumbed to his poison. However, as he drew near, a beam of light shot out from the mist.

Caught off guard, Hyrum was unable to react in time, and the light streaked past his shoulder, cleanly severing one of his arms.

“What? You’re not affected by the poison?” Hyrum exclaimed in shock, hastily leaping backward. He hadn’t expected Kai to be completely immune to the poison mist, even after being enveloped in it.

Covering his wound, Hyrum’s gaze held astonishment.

“This pathetic poison of yours is ineffective against me!” Kai declared, opening his mouth and inhaling the remaining poison mist right before Hyrum’s eyes.

“You!” Hyrum was dumbfounded.

Even if he’s an alchemist, I can’t comprehend how a Body Fusion Realm cultivator like him can be immune to all poisons! The poison mist I crafted is

highly toxic, yet he dares to absorb it directly into his body! This is utterly absurd!

The Mans Decree - The Mans Decree Chapter 3303

Meanwhile, Rostom held Hamish hostage as Kiara remained vigilant, constantly scanning the surroundings for any signs of approaching demon beasts. The three of them weaved through a thick jungle on the mountain.

"Where are you taking me, Tom?" Hamish asked in confusion.

"Just come with me, Mr. Chevalier. I know a very safe route," Rostom explained.

"You know a route? But you have never been to the southern region, right?" Hamish asked.

"I heard about it from a friend. Now that we're in the clear, we should be able to escape Mount Crimson soon," Rostom replied as he continued walking with Hamish in his grip.

Hamish said nothing further after that, but he continued to observe his surroundings with a somewhat displeased look on his face.

Kiara, too, was on guard as she cautiously followed behind them. Little did Hamish know, a group of people was waiting for them just up ahead. An elderly man in a black robe had a vicious look in his eyes.

"I didn't know you and the overlord were still alive and have been living in Demon Seal Alliance's headquarters, Elder Fabrizio. Ever since Soulless Hall got attacked by Demon Seal Alliance and many cultivators, I fled to Mount Crimson with dozens of our surviving members. I spent every day hoping to someday avenge Soulless Hall. Who would've thought you guys were still alive, eh?" said Hyrum Goeckner, a man with knife scars on his face as he stood next to that elderly man.

"The overlord and I are glad to hear that, Hyrum. After all, it has been so many years. We, too, thought we were going to die when we fell into Demon Seal Alliance's hands. However, they simply locked us up instead of killing us. There are many Demonic Cultivators who are being kept as pets to serve Demon Seal Alliance. I came here today because they sent me to kill

someone named Kai. Had that not been the case, I would not have encountered you guys,” Xanthus Fabrizio replied.

“Could you imagine that the Demon Seal Alliance, which harbors such intense animosity towards demons, is actually collaborating with them in secret? The irony is astounding!” Hyrum exclaimed.

“Do not tell anyone else about this,” Xanthus ordered coldly.

“Don’t worry, Elder Fabrizio. I won’t tell anyone!” Hyrum promised.

“So, why did you bring me here? What are we waiting for?” Xanthus asked.

“You may not know this, Elder Fabrizio, but cultivators often go through Mount Crimson to get to the southern region. Now that all of Ethereal Realm knows about the celestial battleground in Demoniac Mountain, the amount of cultivators passing through Mount Crimson has increased significantly,” Hyrum elucidated.

Following a brief pause, he revealed, “We could ambush them for some resources. This time, we’re waiting for someone who travels to the southern region all year round. He has a lot of information on the locations of treasures. I hear he has even hidden some of his treasures here in Mount Crimson.”

“How do you know they’ll pass us by?” Xanthus asked in confusion.

“I planted a mole in their group and used the poison veil to force them to flee. Once we capture Hamish, we can make him lead us to the treasure!” Hyrum replied proudly.

“I see. You certainly have grown a lot over the years. Once Soulless Hall is restored, I will tell the overlord about this and propose that you be promoted to an elder!” Xanthus said while patting Hyrum on the shoulder.

“Thank you very much, Elder Fabrizio!” Hyrum exclaimed excitedly.

That was when Rostom, along with the Chevaliers, approached them. Hamish’s expression turned progressively solemn as he surveyed the surroundings.

“Let’s rest for a bit, Tom...” Hamish said as he broke free of Rostom’s grip and sat down on the side

"We're almost there, Mr. Chevalier. The exit is straight ahead! Moreover, it's not safe to rest in this spot. We can find a secure location to rest once we've reached our destination," Rostom advised.

He then tried to help Hamish up, but the older man waved his hands and refused to get up no matter what.

Consequently, Rostom turned toward Kiara and said, "Please tell Mr. Chevalier to get up, Kiara. It's too dangerous for us to rest here."

"How about we find a spot to rest up front, Dad?" Kiara suggested. Hamish shook his head. "I'm afraid we might not be able to rest if we head over there."

"Why not?" Kiara asked in confusion.

"I've traversed Mount Crimson countless times, and the path ahead does not lead us out of this mountain," Hamish responded. He then fixed Rostom with an icy-cold glare, pressing further, "Tom, why don't you enlighten me on why you brought us here?"

Rostom shuddered as he attempted to explain, "Are you serious, Mr. Chevalier? I heard about this path from a friend! Could it be that I picked the wrong route?"

He even tried glancing about frantically to help sell his act. Kiara was starting to panic. "Did we take a wrong turn, Dad? What should we do?"

"Calm down, you two. I'll go check the path up ahead and see if we're on the right track," Rostom said, stepping forward to investigate.

After Rostom had left, Hamish told Kiara, "Go follow him and find out what's going on, but be careful not to let him catch you!"

Kiara nodded and went off to tail the man. It wasn't long before she saw Rostom walk up to a group of people. She couldn't hear what they were saying because she was too far away, but it was obvious that Rostom knew those people.

Kiara then hurried back and reported her findings to Hamish.

"Looks like he really is up to no good. Let's go!"

Hamish then stood up and got ready to leave with Kiara, only to see Rostom coming back before he could even take a step.

Unaware that Kiara had been following him, Rostom fabricated, "I've discovered a suitable spot for us to rest, Mr. Chevalier. It's just up ahead. Additionally, we're on the correct path and are close to making our way out of this mountain."

Hamish was all the more certain about his theory when he heard Rostom lying to them. Getting straight to the point, he demanded, "Stop lying to me, Tom. Who did you go see up ahead?"

"No one! I didn't see anyone!" Rostom adamantly refused to admit the truth.

"You're lying! I saw everything!" Kiara shouted, glaring angrily at Rostom.

Realizing that they had seen through his deception, Rostom began to retreat.

"Don't even think about running!" Hamish yelled, reaching out to grab Rostom. In a panic, Rostom sprinted away as fast as his legs could carry him. Although Hamish missed his grasp, the sheer force of his movement shattered dozens of trees into dust.

Right as Hamish prepared to launch a second attack, he suddenly started coughing up blood. The abrupt movement he made earlier had aggravated his wound.

Feeling relieved when he saw Hamish in distress, Rostom stopped running and turned around.

"Since you've seen through my lies, I'll tell you the truth. Mr. Goeckner is waiting for you just up ahead. We won't hurt you if you work with us and disclose the location of the treasures," he declared with a smug grin.

"Mr. Goeckner? Are you referring to the Demonic Cultivator that resides in this mountain?" Hamish inquired.

"That's right. They may be Demonic Cultivators, but they will honor their promise. You will be fine as long as you cooperate," Rostom said shamelessly.

"F*ck that! I will never work with Demonic Cultivators!" Hamish shouted angrily and tried to attack Rostom again. Despite being wounded, Hamish was still incredibly fast and powerful.

"Don't think I can't kill you simply because I'm injured, you piece of sh*t! I'll do your family a favor by helping them clean their house!" Hamish roared, unleashing a potent burst of aura at Rostom. To evade Hamish's attack, Rostom had to step back and roll on the ground three times.

"I'm going to die if you don't help me out here, Mr. Goeckner!" Rostom screamed in terror. Hyrum then led his men into the open upon hearing that. Standing beside Hyrum was Xanthus.

Hamish instinctively retreated as he saw the group of people before him.

Meanwhile, Rostom regained his footing and approached Hyrum, stating, "Hamish is wounded, Mr. Goeckner. He poses no threat to you."

"Rostom, you b*stard!" Kiara screamed furiously, her face flushed.

"Mr. Goeckner won't hurt you two as long as you cooperate, Kiara," the man added with a touch of smugness.

"F*ck you!" Kiara spat at the ground in disgust.

"We meet again, Mr. Chevalier," Hyrum sneered at Hamish. Hamish eyed Hyrum cautiously as he retorted, "You Demonic Cultivators dare reveal yourselves? Aren't you afraid someone will spot you and wipe you all out?"

"Hahaha! No one can wipe us out here in Mount Crimson. This place is my turf now. Don't expect to stroll through without paying!" Hyrum motioned at two Demonic Cultivators on the side.

The two immediately charged at Hamish in response. Hamish's aura continued to surge as it was challenging for him to control it while wounded.

"Mere Demonic Cultivators like you don't stand a chance against me!" Hamish shouted through clenched teeth, grabbing at the air in front of him.

Suddenly, a red magic sword materialized in Hamish's hand. With a slash, a bright light illuminated the night sky like the sun. The two Demonic Cultivators

were instantly slain with no means to resist. However, after the attack, Hamish's face turned pale, and he began coughing up blood once again.

"Dad!" Kiara called out to him, her tone tinged with worry.

"Get out of here, Kia! Whatever you do, don't stop running!" Hamish said. Kiara shook her head with tears in her eyes. "I'm not going anywhere, Dad!"

"Go now while I can still protect you!" Hamish shouted, giving his daughter a forceful shove.

"Ha! None of you are going anywhere!" Rostom said with a vicious leer.

"You b*stard! I'll kill you even if I die doing so!" Hamish erupted with anger, activating all of his aura. He funneled all of it into the red magic sword, causing it to glow brighter and emit a terrifying aura in all directions.

"Hamish truly is a living treasure! That magic sword of his is no ordinary magic item. Looks like I really do have a good eye for treasure!" Hyrum's eyes glinted with greed as he gently waved his arms, enveloping Hamish and Kiara in a mist.

"A poison veil?" Hamish was dumbfounded. Then, he turned to Hyrum with an expression of complete disbelief, his voice trembling as he spoke. "This poison veil is artificially created?"

"Hahaha! Just figuring that out, are you? There's no such thing as a poison veil in Mount Crimson. It was all my doing to instigate cultivators to turn on each other so that I could reap the benefits!" Hyrum chuckled.

"Mr. Goeckner, these two consumed detoxification pills, so I'm afraid the poison veil won't affect them." After stating this, Rostom produced the detoxification pill crafted by Kai and handed it to Hyrum.

Rostom had refrained from consuming the pill previously made by Kai because it wasn't necessary. Having taken the detoxification pill from Hyrum, he was immune to the poison veil. Thus, there was no need for him to take Kai's prepared detoxification pill.

Hyrum accepted the detoxification pill and scrutinized it closely. After a few moments, a hint of surprise flashed in his eyes. "Who concocted this pill? I didn't expect such a high-level alchemist to be part of this group."

Rostom replied, "It was crafted by someone named Kai. His alchemy skills are truly Impressive."

"Kai?" Xanthus, standing on the side, was momentarily taken aback by the name. He promptly grabbed Rostom by the collar. "Is this Kai you mentioned in his twenties?"

Rostom didn't recognize Xanthus, and the latter's rude behavior displeased him. "Who are you? Let go of me! Why should I tell you anything?"

"Rostom, this is Elder Fabrizio of Soulless Hall. You must answer whatever questions he asks you," Hyrum instructed.

Learning Xanthus' identity as an elder, Rostom quickly changed his tone. "That's correct. This Kai appears to be in his twenties, and he's accompanied by a man and a woman. Furthermore, that woman is a celestial beast, a phoenix."

"That's him! Take me to him immediately!" Following an order from the Demon Seal Alliance, Xanthus had to eliminate Kai as soon as possible.

"They might be dead by now. When I came over, those people were surrounded by the silver tigers. I suspect they've likely been devoured by now," Rostom responded.

"I don't care if he's dead or alive. Even if he's dead, I need to see his corpse." In that case, Xanthus had to retrieve Kai's body to fulfill his mission.

"Fine. I'll lead you there to search for it." Rostom planned to guide Xanthus back to where he came from to look for Kai's remains.

However, as soon as he finished speaking, a gust of wind swept through, instantly dispelling the poison veil in the vicinity. Following the breeze, the figure of a man approached slowly.

"No need for that. I've come on my own!" Kai strolled over to Hamish's side.

"You're not dead?" Rostom was astounded.

Hamish and Kiara were similarly astonished.

“Kai, you’re all right? What about Misho and the others?” Hamish asked somewhat embarrassedly. After all, they were the first to escape, abandoning everyone else. Hamish felt a pang of shame for his cowardice.

“They’re okay. Everyone’s unharmed. I came looking for you guys because I knew this guy was trouble, and I was worried you might be in trouble,” Kai assured Hamish.

“It seems I had made a poor judgment.” Hamish sighed.

“Kid, you’re Kai?” Xanthus inquired.

“Yes, I’m Kai, but we don’t have any grudges.

So, why are you trying to kill me? Even though you’re Demonic Cultivators, I don’t recall having any conflicts with you,” Kai questioned Xanthus, perplexed by the latter’s desire to see him dead.

“There doesn’t need to be a conflict between us. You’ve crossed someone you shouldn’t have, and for that, you must die,” Xanthus declared coldly.

Understanding dawned on Kai upon hearing this. He gave a slight smile and remarked, “Ah, so you’re also doing Demon Seal Alliance’s biddings? It’s surprising to see demons willingly serving others...”

Kai’s words left Hamish utterly confused, unable to comprehend the connection between those Demonic Cultivators and Demon Seal Alliance.

Hamish wondered. Demon Seal Alliance has always been the most active organization in Ethereal Realm in eradicating Demonic Cultivators, so why would Kai say these Demonic Cultivators are doing Demon Seal Alliance’s bidding?

“Shut up! You’re courting death!” Xanthus furrowed his brows, his aura bursting forth instantaneously.

The revelation that the Demon Seal Alliance was sheltering Demonic Cultivators was a tightly guarded secret, one that absolutely couldn’t be exposed. If word got out, it would tarnish the reputation of the Demon Seal Alliance, possibly leading to the drastic measure of exterminating all the Demonic Cultivators they held captive to conceal the truth.

“Elder Fabrizio, there’s no need for you to handle this kid personally. You’re granting him too much importance,” Hyrum intervened, halting Xanthus.

To Hyrum, a mere Eighth Level Body Fusion Realm cultivator like Kai couldn’t possibly pose any significant threat.

In the next moment, Hyrum extended his palms towards the encompassing forest, unleashing poison veils into the atmosphere. Swiftly, a cacophony of roars erupted.

Scores of demon beasts with crimson eyes converged, fixing intense gazes on Kai and his group. Clearly, these demon beasts were under Hyrum’s command.

Colors drained from Hamish’s face when he saw the dozens of demon beasts closing in. He said to Kai, “Kai, thank you for risking your life to save us, but you’re not their match. I only hope you can take Kia and escape. I’ll cover your retreat.”

Hamish had resolved to sacrifice himself. However, he didn’t want his daughter to perish alongside him. If he could save Kiara’s life by staking his own and putting up a desperate fight, he wouldn’t hesitate to do so.

“We’ll escape together, Mr. Chevalier.” Kai remained undaunted as he surveyed the dozens of menacing demon beasts.

He didn’t regard the numerous demon beasts as a significant threat. Given that they were under the influence of the poison veil, all he needed to do was detoxify them.

His main concern lay in confronting the Demonic Cultivators, a formidable challenge. With Hamish injured, Kai couldn’t handle them all alone.

After a moment of contemplation, Kai retrieved several pills and promptly crushed them, releasing clouds of powder that wafted toward the swarm of demon beasts.

After the powder dispersed, the once- aggressive aura of the demon beasts subsided, and their eyes reverted to a normal state.

“This guy is indeed formidable. He countered my poison veil so effortlessly!” Hyrum exclaimed in astonishment.

“Don’t bother with your poison anymore. Attack!” With that command, Xanthus took the lead, leaping and dashing in Kai’s direction.

Observing this, Hyrum had no alternative but to follow suit, leading his group in the charge. Kai knitted his brows at their approach. He swiftly grabbed Hamish and Kiara, turned on his heels, and fled. At that moment, escape was their sole option as they were clearly outmatched.

However, owing to Hamish’s injury, he couldn’t keep pace. Recognizing that the enemy was closing in due to his slower pace, Hamish declared, “Kai, take Kia and run. I’ll stay and hold them off. Otherwise, none of us will escape.”

With determination, he wrested himself free, determined to remain behind and confront their pursuers.

“No, you two go ahead. I’ll buy you some time.” Kai wasn’t about to let Hamish face the danger alone.

If Hamish perished, their journey to the southern region would come to an abrupt end. Kai understood that it was nearly impossible for the group to navigate their way out of Mount Crimson alone.

After all, Hamish was their guide. Without him, their group would have to double back. After enduring so many hardships to reach where they were, Kai refused to give up just like that. Just as he was gearing up to remain behind, a sudden roar echoed through the air.

The next moment, Tiger King, a silver tiger measuring over ten meters in length, emerged, accompanied by numerous other formidable silver tigers.

“Go. I’ll hold them off.” Tiger King spoke in human language, directly addressing Kai.

The unexpected appearance of Tiger King left Hamish and Kiara stunned. Hearing Tiger King converse with Kai in human language, the two stared at Kai in astonishment.

Without exchanging many words, Kai swiftly pulled Hamish and Kiara along, continuing their escape. Simultaneously, Tiger King and the group of silver tigers lunged toward the Demonic Cultivators.

The sudden appearance of the silver tigers stunned Xanthus, who subsequently looked toward Hyrum.

“What’s going on? Aren’t these demon beasts under your control? Why are they attacking us?” Xanthus asked quizzically.

“Someone has neutralized the poison in the silver tigers,” Hyrum replied anxiously as he stared at the ferocious beasts lunging at them.

The silver tigers were powerful beasts. Tiger King, in particular, was more than ten meters tall and had become a Tribulator a long time ago, allowing him to morph between human and beast form.

In the beginning, both parties never interfered in one another’s affairs. However, Hyrum, wanting to profit from a conflict between them, used the poison veil to bewitch the silver tigers and used them to attack the human cultivators who traveled across Mount Crimson.

“How dare you Demonic Cultivators use poison veil to control our minds and get us to kill the human cultivators, causing them to hate us? I swear I’m going to rip all of you apart today!” Tiger King roared as he charged forward with his subordinates.

In response, Hyrum had no choice but to lead his men to meet Tiger King in battle. As for Xanthus, he rapidly retreated and ran in the direction of where Kai and his companions had fled. His goal was to kill Kai, so he couldn’t afford to let the latter escape.

Meanwhile, when Rostom saw Xanthus avoiding the silver tigers to pursue Kai, he, too, followed closely behind, leaving Hyrum and his men to engage the silver tigers in battle.

At that moment, Tiger King breathed out a fiery inferno that covered the skies and set the forest ablaze. Within the sea of flames, the Demonic Cultivators of Soulless Hall who failed to flee were burned alive.

“Argh!”

Screams of agony were heard from those who didn’t manage to escape. As for the other silver tigers, they charged forward to rip apart the burning cultivators to vent the rage within them.

Responding to the situation, Hyrum brandished his sword, filling the air with lethal intent. Amidst a howl in the background, a mist quickly descended upon the surroundings.

When Tiger King saw Hyrum unleashing the poison again, he roared out loud and led his subordinates back. Having been poisoned before, they were not going to let history repeat itself.

Seizing upon the lull provided by the silver tiger's brief retreat, Hyrum scanned his surroundings and was stunned by Xanthus' disappearance.

If anything happened to the latter, he would be in deep trouble. In fact, he would probably not be able to return to Soulless Hall, let alone become an elder.

"Find Elder Fabrizio at once!"

Together with the surviving Demonic Cultivators, Hyrum began to pursue Xanthus. Meanwhile, Kai, with Hamish and Kiara by his side, was running desperately to where members of their party were camped.

Sensing the presence of pursuers, he didn't dare to let his guard down for a single moment. Soon, all three of them reached the campsite.

When everyone saw the three return, they frantically got up to their feet. Hamish was after all their guide. Without him, there was no way they could make it to the southern region.

"Are you all right, Mr. Chevalier? You don't seem to look too good."

Misho's face was glowing after getting enough rest.

"Rostom is in league with the Demonic Cultivators and led us into a trap. Fortunately, Mr. Chance appeared in the nick of time and saved us."

While Hamish was speaking, blood continued to flow down the corner of his mouth.

"What? Rostom is working with Demonic Cultivators?"

"That b*stard! The Beridze family is supposed to be a prestigious family. I can't believe there's a failure like Rostom in their midst."

“I knew from the very beginning that he was up to no good.”

The crowd commented one by one upon learning of Rostom’s betrayal.

“Old Mr. Giuvali, how’s your recovery coming along?” Kai inquired with Misho.

“I’m back at eighty to ninety percent of my strength. I’m good to go,” Misho replied.

“We are being pursued by Demonic Cultivators, so some of us have to stay back to stop them. Now that Mr. Chevalier is injured and needs immediate medical attention, I plan to let Mr. Tamazi take him and lead the weaker members of the party to escape. The rest of us will stay and deal with the Demonic Cultivators. If it’s possible, we should aim to annihilate them. Otherwise, they will continue to harm unsuspecting travelers,” Kai laid out his plan to Misho.

“No problem. I’m keen to meet these Demonic Cultivators,” Misho said with a nod. Thereafter, Kai instructed Tamazi to take Hamish, Cloud, and the girls away for the time being. Given how weak they were, there wasn’t much they could do.

“Kai, you’re just a Body Fusion Realm cultivator. Why don’t you leave with them? I’ll take on the Demonic Cultivators with the others. Don’t worry. I’ll definitely not show them any mercy,” Misho suggested to Kai.

Even though Kai was skilled in medicine, he was still an Eighth Level Body Fusion Realm cultivator, someone who was too weak in the eyes of a Tribulator.

“There’s an alchemist within the Demonic Cultivators who’s skilled in creating poisons. You’ll be at a disadvantage against him, so I’ll deal with him instead,” Kai replied.

Agreeing with Kai, Misho didn’t have anything more to say. Soon, Xanthus finally arrived. He showed no fear, even though Kai, Misho, and the others were waiting for him.

“I’m here just to kill Kai. Those who’re not involved, step aside or I’ll show you no mercy!”

The moment Xanthus unleashed the aura of a Sixth Level Tribulator, its pressure began to suffocate everyone.

“Hmph, a lowly Demonic Cultivator like you sure know how to talk big.”

Misho let out a snort before his body shook abruptly. He, too, exploded with the aura of a Sixth Level Tribulator to counter Xanthus.

Xanthus’ eyes narrowed, for he had not expected anyone within the group to be as powerful as he was. Nonetheless, despite the scowl on his face, there was no sign of him panicking.

“I’m an elder of Soulless Hall. You had better think twice before taking me on. All of you are just travel companions of this young man. There’s no need for you to risk your lives for him.”

Xanthus mentioned Soulless Hall on purpose to intimidate the group.

Everyone was consequently stunned.

“Wasn’t Soulless Hall destroyed by Demon Seal Alliance a long time ago? Why do their remnants still exist?”

“It’s been a long time since we heard of Soulless Hall. I can’t believe it is still around!”

“They are infamous for their ruthlessness. Now that they have emerged, they will only bring suffering.”

Despite their discussions, no one showed any signs of backing down. Firstly, they were all on the same team. It was imperative that they helped each other if they wanted to reach the southern region alive.

The second reason was that Kai was a Supreme Alchemist. If it wasn’t for him, they would have lost their minds and killed each other while being under the influence of the poison veil. As long as he was with them, they didn’t have to worry about injuries or the poison veil again.

“Stop wasting time and get on with it. If you don’t have the guts to fight, then get lost,” Misho snapped, showing Xanthus no respect at all.

Their ferocity caused Xanthus to hesitate, for he was no match for the entire group combined. At that moment, Rostom was hiding behind a nearby tree. Watching how events were unfolding filled him with regret.

He had not expected that a party formed temporarily was willing to risk their lives to protect Kai. Moments later, a flurry of footsteps was heard, heralding the arrival of Hyrum and his men.

Seeing Hyrum's arrival, Xanthus instantly gained more confidence. "Attack! We must kill that Kai guy!"

With that command, Xanthus leaped in Kai's direction. Witnessing this, Misho swiftly unsheathed a long sword and entered the fray.

Others rushed forward, joining the chaotic melee. Hyrum turned to Kai and abruptly tossed a handful of powder at him. Aware that eliminating Kai would be a significant victory, Hyrum aimed to make a decisive contribution.

However, Kai wore a look of disdain as he swung the Dragonslayer Sword, dispersing the powder with a burst of light.

"Brat, I didn't expect someone your age to possess such remarkable alchemy skills. The detoxification pill you crafted is truly top-notch. Unfortunately, you've offended Soulless Hall, so death is the only fate awaiting you!" As Hyrum spoke, the long sword he wielded quivered slightly.

The next moment, wisps of black mist emanated from the blade. The black mist coalesced in the air, forming a venomous snake that flicked its red tongue and lunged at Kai.

Kai simply regarded Hyrum with a look of utter contempt. While Hyrum was a relatively potent alchemist, he paled in comparison to Kai's expertise.

Shifting his focus to the venomous snake, Kai swung his sword, releasing thousands of beams that cleaved through the snake, transforming it back into a dissipating cloud of black mist.

However, Hyrum remained unfazed after witnessing this display. Instead, he sneered. The black mist descended from above, enveloping Kai within its dark shroud.

“Hahaha! Flight might be restricted in Mount Crimson, but the mobility of poison mist knows no bounds. This mist can morph and launch attacks even in midair.” Hyrum laughed triumphantly.

Having spent numerous years within Mount Crimson, he had mastered its intricacies. Kai found himself engulfed by the poison mist, behaving like a sentient entity, relentlessly attempting to penetrate his skin.

“This poison mist of yours is quite impressive,” Kai remarked.

“It’s too late for you to comprehend the potency of my poison mist now. Your demise is inevitable within three seconds,” Hyrum declared confidently.

Instead of replying, Kai initiated his Focus Technique to refine the poison mist. The Focus Technique had the capability to refine anything, including a mere poison mist.

Hyrum looked at the looming cloud of poison mist with ecstasy. Once Kai perished, his mission would be accomplished.

Hyrum heard no sound from Kai for a prolonged moment. To his surprise, the dense poison mist began to thin, gradually revealing Kai’s figure.

Kai stood still, seemingly untouched by the poison. Hyrum curiously approached him, wanting to see if Kai had succumbed to his poison. However, as he drew near, a beam of light shot out from the mist.

Caught off guard, Hyrum was unable to react in time, and the light streaked past his shoulder, cleanly severing one of his arms.

“What? You’re not affected by the poison?” Hyrum exclaimed in shock, hastily leaping backward. He hadn’t expected Kai to be completely immune to the poison mist, even after being enveloped in it.

Covering his wound, Hyrum’s gaze held astonishment.

“This pathetic poison of yours is ineffective against me!” Kai declared, opening his mouth and inhaling the remaining poison mist right before Hyrum’s eyes.

“You!” Hyrum was dumbfounded.

Even if he’s an alchemist, I can’t comprehend how a Body Fusion Realm cultivator like him can be immune to all poisons! The poison mist I crafted is

highly toxic, yet he dares to absorb it directly into his body! This is utterly absurd!

The Mans Decree - The Mans Decree Chapter 3304

“Let’s rest for a bit, Tom...” Hamish said as he broke free of Rostom’s grip and sat down on the side

“We’re almost there, Mr. Chevalier. The exit is straight ahead! Moreover, it’s not safe to rest in this spot. We can find a secure location to rest once we’ve reached our destination,” Rostom advised.

He then tried to help Hamish up, but the older man waved his hands and refused to get up no matter what.

Consequently, Rostom turned toward Kiara and said, “Please tell Mr. Chevalier to get up, Kiara. It’s too dangerous for us to rest here.”

“How about we find a spot to rest up front, Dad?” Kiara suggested. Hamish shook his head. “I’m afraid we might not be able to rest if we head over there.”

“Why not?” Kiara asked in confusion.

“I’ve traversed Mount Crimson countless times, and the path ahead does not lead us out of this mountain,” Hamish responded. He then fixed Rostom with an icy-cold glare, pressing further, “Tom, why don’t you enlighten me on why you brought us here?”

Rostom shuddered as he attempted to explain, “Are you serious, Mr. Chevalier? I heard about this path from a friend! Could it be that I picked the wrong route?”

He even tried glancing about frantically to help sell his act. Kiara was starting to panic. “Did we take a wrong turn, Dad? What should we do?”

“Calm down, you two. I’ll go check the path up ahead and see if we’re on the right track,” Rostom said, stepping forward to investigate.

After Rostom had left, Hamish told Kiara, “Go follow him and find out what’s going on, but be careful not to let him catch you!”

Kiara nodded and went off to tail the man. It wasn't long before she saw Rostom walk up to a group of people. She couldn't hear what they were saying because she was too far away, but it was obvious that Rostom knew those people.

Kiara then hurried back and reported her findings to Hamish.

"Looks like he really is up to no good. Let's go!"

Hamish then stood up and got ready to leave with Kiara, only to see Rostom coming back before he could even take a step.

Unaware that Kiara had been following him, Rostom fabricated, "I've discovered a suitable spot for us to rest, Mr. Chevalier. It's just up ahead. Additionally, we're on the correct path and are close to making our way out of this mountain."

Hamish was all the more certain about his theory when he heard Rostom lying to them. Getting straight to the point, he demanded, "Stop lying to me, Tom. Who did you go see up ahead?"

"No one! I didn't see anyone!" Rostom adamantly refused to admit the truth.

"You're lying! I saw everything!" Kiara shouted, glaring angrily at Rostom.

Realizing that they had seen through his deception, Rostom began to retreat.

"Don't even think about running!" Hamish yelled, reaching out to grab Rostom. In a panic, Rostom sprinted away as fast as his legs could carry him. Although Hamish missed his grasp, the sheer force of his movement shattered dozens of trees into dust.

Right as Hamish prepared to launch a second attack, he suddenly started coughing up blood. The abrupt movement he made earlier had aggravated his wound.

Feeling relieved when he saw Hamish in distress, Rostom stopped running and turned around.

"Since you've seen through my lies, I'll tell you the truth. Mr. Goeckner is waiting for you just up ahead. We won't hurt you if you work with us and disclose the location of the treasures," he declared with a smug grin.

“Mr. Goeckner? Are you referring to the Demonic Cultivator that resides in this mountain?” Hamish inquired.

“That’s right. They may be Demonic Cultivators, but they will honor their promise. You will be fine as long as you cooperate,” Rostom said shamelessly.

“F*ck that! I will never work with Demonic Cultivators!” Hamish shouted angrily and tried to attack Rostom again. Despite being wounded, Hamish was still incredibly fast and powerful.

“Don’t think I can’t kill you simply because I’m injured, you piece of sh*t! I’ll do your family a favor by helping them clean their house!” Hamish roared, unleashing a potent burst of aura at Rostom. To evade Hamish’s attack, Rostom had to step back and roll on the ground three times.

“I’m going to die if you don’t help me out here, Mr. Goeckner!” Rostom screamed in terror. Hyrum then led his men into the open upon hearing that. Standing beside Hyrum was Xanthus.

Hamish instinctively retreated as he saw the group of people before him.

Meanwhile, Rostom regained his footing and approached Hyrum, stating, “Hamish is wounded, Mr. Goeckner. He poses no threat to you.”

“Rostom, you b*stard!” Kiara screamed furiously, her face flushed.

“Mr. Goeckner won’t hurt you two as long as you cooperate, Kiara,” the man added with a touch of smugness.

“F*ck you!” Kiara spat at the ground in disgust.

“We meet again, Mr. Chevalier,” Hyrum sneered at Hamish. Hamish eyed Hyrum cautiously as he retorted, “You Demonic Cultivators dare reveal yourselves? Aren’t you afraid someone will spot you and wipe you all out?”

“Hahaha! No one can wipe us out here in Mount Crimson. This place is my turf now. Don’t expect to stroll through without paying!” Hyrum motioned at two Demonic Cultivators on the side.

The two immediately charged at Hamish in response. Hamish’s aura continued to surge as it was challenging for him to control it while wounded.

“Mere Demonic Cultivators like you don’t stand a chance against me!” Hamish shouted through clenched teeth, grabbing at the air in front of him.

Suddenly, a red magic sword materialized in Hamish’s hand. With a slash, a bright light illuminated the night sky like the sun. The two Demonic Cultivators were instantly slain with no means to resist. However, after the attack, Hamish’s face turned pale, and he began coughing up blood once again.

“Dad!” Kiara called out to him, her tone tinged with worry.

“Get out of here, Kia! Whatever you do, don’t stop running!” Hamish said. Kiara shook her head with tears in her eyes. “I’m not going anywhere, Dad!”

“Go now while I can still protect you!” Hamish shouted, giving his daughter a forceful shove.

“Ha! None of you are going anywhere!” Rostom said with a vicious leer.

“You b*stard! I’ll kill you even if I die doing so!” Hamish erupted with anger, activating all of his aura. He funneled all of it into the red magic sword, causing it to glow brighter and emit a terrifying aura in all directions.

“Hamish truly is a living treasure! That magic sword of his is no ordinary magic item. Looks like I really do have a good eye for treasure!” Hyrum’s eyes glinted with greed as he gently waved his arms, enveloping Hamish and Kiara in a mist.

“A poison veil?” Hamish was dumbfounded. Then, he turned to Hyrum with an expression of complete disbelief, his voice trembling as he spoke. “This poison veil is artificially created?”

“Hahaha! Just figuring that out, are you? There’s no such thing as a poison veil in Mount Crimson. It was all my doing to instigate cultivators to turn on each other so that I could reap the benefits!” Hyrum chuckled.

“Mr. Goeckner, these two consumed detoxification pills, so I’m afraid the poison veil won’t affect them.” After stating this, Rostom produced the detoxification pill crafted by Kai and handed it to Hyrum.

Rostom had refrained from consuming the pill previously made by Kai because it wasn’t necessary. Having taken the detoxification pill from Hyrum,

he was immune to the poison veil. Thus, there was no need for him to take Kai's prepared detoxification pill.

Hyrum accepted the detoxification pill and scrutinized it closely. After a few moments, a hint of surprise flashed in his eyes. "Who concocted this pill? I didn't expect such a high-level alchemist to be part of this group."

Rostom replied, "It was crafted by someone named Kai. His alchemy skills are truly Impressive."

"Kai?" Xanthus, standing on the side, was momentarily taken aback by the name. He promptly grabbed Rostom by the collar. "Is this Kai you mentioned in his twenties?"

Rostom didn't recognize Xanthus, and the latter's rude behavior displeased him. "Who are you? Let go of me! Why should I tell you anything?"

"Rostom, this is Elder Fabrizio of Soulless Hall. You must answer whatever questions he asks you," Hyrum instructed.

Learning Xanthus' identity as an elder, Rostom quickly changed his tone. "That's correct. This Kai appears to be in his twenties, and he's accompanied by a man and a woman. Furthermore, that woman is a celestial beast, a phoenix."

"That's him! Take me to him immediately!" Following an order from the Demon Seal Alliance, Xanthus had to eliminate Kai as soon as possible.

"They might be dead by now. When I came over, those people were surrounded by the silver tigers. I suspect they've likely been devoured by now," Rostom responded.

"I don't care if he's dead or alive. Even if he's dead, I need to see his corpse." In that case, Xanthus had to retrieve Kai's body to fulfill his mission.

"Fine. I'll lead you there to search for it." Rostom planned to guide Xanthus back to where he came from to look for Kai's remains.

However, as soon as he finished speaking, a gust of wind swept through, instantly dispelling the poison veil in the vicinity. Following the breeze, the figure of a man approached slowly.

“No need for that. I’ve come on my own!” Kai strolled over to Hamish’s side.

“You’re not dead?” Rostom was astounded.

Hamish and Kiara were similarly astonished.

“Kai, you’re all right? What about Misho and the others?” Hamish asked somewhat embarrassedly. After all, they were the first to escape, abandoning everyone else. Hamish felt a pang of shame for his cowardice.

“They’re okay. Everyone’s unharmed. I came looking for you guys because I knew this guy was trouble, and I was worried you might be in trouble,” Kai assured Hamish.

“It seems I had made a poor judgment.” Hamish sighed.

“Kid, you’re Kai?” Xanthus inquired.

“Yes, I’m Kai, but we don’t have any grudges.

So, why are you trying to kill me? Even though you’re Demonic Cultivators, I don’t recall having any conflicts with you,” Kai questioned Xanthus, perplexed by the latter’s desire to see him dead.

“There doesn’t need to be a conflict between us. You’ve crossed someone you shouldn’t have, and for that, you must die,” Xanthus declared coldly.

Understanding dawned on Kai upon hearing this. He gave a slight smile and remarked, “Ah, so you’re also doing Demon Seal Alliance’s biddings? It’s surprising to see demons willingly serving others...”

Kai’s words left Hamish utterly confused, unable to comprehend the connection between those Demonic Cultivators and Demon Seal Alliance.

Hamish wondered. Demon Seal Alliance has always been the most active organization in Ethereal Realm in eradicating Demonic Cultivators, so why would Kai say these Demonic Cultivators are doing Demon Seal Alliance’s bidding?

“Shut up! You’re courting death!” Xanthus furrowed his brows, his aura bursting forth instantaneously.

The revelation that the Demon Seal Alliance was sheltering Demonic Cultivators was a tightly guarded secret, one that absolutely couldn't be exposed. If word got out, it would tarnish the reputation of the Demon Seal Alliance, possibly leading to the drastic measure of exterminating all the Demonic Cultivators they held captive to conceal the truth.

"Elder Fabrizio, there's no need for you to handle this kid personally. You're granting him too much importance," Hyrum intervened, halting Xanthus.

To Hyrum, a mere Eighth Level Body Fusion Realm cultivator like Kai couldn't possibly pose any significant threat.

In the next moment, Hyrum extended his palms towards the encompassing forest, unleashing poison veils into the atmosphere. Swiftly, a cacophony of roars erupted.

Scores of demon beasts with crimson eyes converged, fixing intense gazes on Kai and his group. Clearly, these demon beasts were under Hyrum's command.

Colors drained from Hamish's face when he saw the dozens of demon beasts closing in. He said to Kai, "Kai, thank you for risking your life to save us, but you're not their match. I only hope you can take Kia and escape. I'll cover your retreat."

Hamish had resolved to sacrifice himself. However, he didn't want his daughter to perish alongside him. If he could save Kiara's life by staking his own and putting up a desperate fight, he wouldn't hesitate to do so.

"We'll escape together, Mr. Chevalier." Kai remained undaunted as he surveyed the dozens of menacing demon beasts.

He didn't regard the numerous demon beasts as a significant threat. Given that they were under the influence of the poison veil, all he needed to do was detoxify them.

His main concern lay in confronting the Demonic Cultivators, a formidable challenge. With Hamish injured, Kai couldn't handle them all alone.

After a moment of contemplation, Kai retrieved several pills and promptly crushed them, releasing clouds of powder that wafted toward the swarm of demon beasts.

After the powder dispersed, the once- aggressive aura of the demon beasts subsided, and their eyes reverted to a normal state.

“This guy is indeed formidable. He countered my poison veil so effortlessly!” Hyrum exclaimed in astonishment.

“Don’t bother with your poison anymore. Attack!” With that command, Xanthus took the lead, leaping and dashing in Kai’s direction.

Observing this, Hyrum had no alternative but to follow suit, leading his group in the charge. Kai knitted his brows at their approach. He swiftly grabbed Hamish and Kiara, turned on his heels, and fled. At that moment, escape was their sole option as they were clearly outmatched.

However, owing to Hamish’s injury, he couldn’t keep pace. Recognizing that the enemy was closing in due to his slower pace, Hamish declared, “Kai, take Kia and run. I’ll stay and hold them off. Otherwise, none of us will escape.”

With determination, he wrested himself free, determined to remain behind and confront their pursuers.

“No, you two go ahead. I’ll buy you some time.” Kai wasn’t about to let Hamish face the danger alone.

If Hamish perished, their journey to the southern region would come to an abrupt end. Kai understood that it was nearly impossible for the group to navigate their way out of Mount Crimson alone.

After all, Hamish was their guide. Without him, their group would have to double back. After enduring so many hardships to reach where they were, Kai refused to give up just like that. Just as he was gearing up to remain behind, a sudden roar echoed through the air.

The next moment, Tiger King, a silver tiger measuring over ten meters in length, emerged, accompanied by numerous other formidable silver tigers.

“Go. I’ll hold them off.” Tiger King spoke in human language, directly addressing Kai.

The unexpected appearance of Tiger King left Hamish and Kiara stunned. Hearing Tiger King converse with Kai in human language, the two stared at Kai in astonishment.

Without exchanging many words, Kai swiftly pulled Hamish and Kiara along, continuing their escape. Simultaneously, Tiger King and the group of silver tigers lunged toward the Demonic Cultivators.

The sudden appearance of the silver tigers stunned Xanthus, who subsequently looked toward Hyrum.

“What’s going on? Aren’t these demon beasts under your control? Why are they attacking us?” Xanthus asked quizzically.

“Someone has neutralized the poison in the silver tigers,” Hyrum replied anxiously as he stared at the ferocious beasts lunging at them.

The silver tigers were powerful beasts. Tiger King, in particular, was more than ten meters tall and had become a Tribulator a long time ago, allowing him to morph between human and beast form.

In the beginning, both parties never interfered in one another’s affairs. However, Hyrum, wanting to profit from a conflict between them, used the poison veil to bewitch the silver tigers and used them to attack the human cultivators who traveled across Mount Crimson.

“How dare you Demonic Cultivators use poison veil to control our minds and get us to kill the human cultivators, causing them to hate us? I swear I’m going to rip all of you apart today!” Tiger King roared as he charged forward with his subordinates.

In response, Hyrum had no choice but to lead his men to meet Tiger King in battle. As for Xanthus, he rapidly retreated and ran in the direction of where Kai and his companions had fled. His goal was to kill Kai, so he couldn’t afford to let the latter escape.

Meanwhile, when Rostom saw Xanthus avoiding the silver tigers to pursue Kai, he, too, followed closely behind, leaving Hyrum and his men to engage the silver tigers in battle.

At that moment, Tiger King breathed out a fiery inferno that covered the skies and set the forest ablaze. Within the sea of flames, the Demonic Cultivators of Soulless Hall who failed to flee were burned alive.

“Argh!”

Screams of agony were heard from those who didn't manage to escape. As for the other silver tigers, they charged forward to rip apart the burning cultivators to vent the rage within them.

Responding to the situation, Hyrum brandished his sword, filling the air with lethal intent. Amidst a howl in the background, a mist quickly descended upon the surroundings.

When Tiger King saw Hyrum unleashing the poison again, he roared out loud and led his subordinates back. Having been poisoned before, they were not going to let history repeat itself.

Seizing upon the lull provided by the silver tiger's brief retreat, Hyrum scanned his surroundings and was stunned by Xanthus' disappearance.

If anything happened to the latter, he would be in deep trouble. In fact, he would probably not be able to return to Soulless Hall, let alone become an elder.

"Find Elder Fabrizio at once!"

Together with the surviving Demonic Cultivators, Hyrum began to pursue Xanthus. Meanwhile, Kai, with Hamish and Kiara by his side, was running desperately to where members of their party were camped.

Sensing the presence of pursuers, he didn't dare to let his guard down for a single moment. Soon, all three of them reached the campsite.

When everyone saw the three return, they frantically got up to their feet. Hamish was after all their guide. Without him, there was no way they could make it to the southern region.

"Are you all right, Mr. Chevalier? You don't seem to look too good."

Misho's face was glowing after getting enough rest.

"Rostom is in league with the Demonic Cultivators and led us into a trap. Fortunately, Mr. Chance appeared in the nick of time and saved us."

While Hamish was speaking, blood continued to flow down the corner of his mouth.

"What? Rostom is working with Demonic Cultivators?"

“That b*stard! The Beridze family is supposed to be a prestigious family. I can’t believe there’s a failure like Rostom in their midst.”

“I knew from the very beginning that he was up to no good.”

The crowd commented one by one upon learning of Rostom’s betrayal.

“Old Mr. Giuvali, how’s your recovery coming along?” Kai inquired with Misho.

“I’m back at eighty to ninety percent of my strength. I’m good to go,” Misho replied.

“We are being pursued by Demonic Cultivators, so some of us have to stay back to stop them. Now that Mr. Chevalier is injured and needs immediate medical attention, I plan to let Mr. Tamazi take him and lead the weaker members of the party to escape. The rest of us will stay and deal with the Demonic Cultivators. If it’s possible, we should aim to annihilate them. Otherwise, they will continue to harm unsuspecting travelers,” Kai laid out his plan to Misho.

“No problem. I’m keen to meet these Demonic Cultivators,” Misho said with a nod. Thereafter, Kai instructed Tamazi to take Hamish, Cloud, and the girls away for the time being. Given how weak they were, there wasn’t much they could do.

“Kai, you’re just a Body Fusion Realm cultivator. Why don’t you leave with them? I’ll take on the Demonic Cultivators with the others. Don’t worry. I’ll definitely not show them any mercy,” Misho suggested to Kai.

Even though Kai was skilled in medicine, he was still an Eighth Level Body Fusion Realm cultivator, someone who was too weak in the eyes of a Tribulator.

“There’s an alchemist within the Demonic Cultivators who’s skilled in creating poisons. You’ll be at a disadvantage against him, so I’ll deal with him instead,” Kai replied.

Agreeing with Kai, Misho didn’t have anything more to say. Soon, Xanthus finally arrived. He showed no fear, even though Kai, Misho, and the others were waiting for him.

“I’m here just to kill Kai. Those who’re not involved, step aside or I’ll show you no mercy!”

The moment Xanthus unleashed the aura of a Sixth Level Tribulator, its pressure began to suffocate everyone.

“Hmph, a lowly Demonic Cultivator like you sure know how to talk big.”

Misho let out a snort before his body shook abruptly. He, too, exploded with the aura of a Sixth Level Tribulator to counter Xanthus.

Xanthus’ eyes narrowed, for he had not expected anyone within the group to be as powerful as he was. Nonetheless, despite the scowl on his face, there was no sign of him panicking.

“I’m an elder of Soulless Hall. You had better think twice before taking me on. All of you are just travel companions of this young man. There’s no need for you to risk your lives for him.”

Xanthus mentioned Soulless Hall on purpose to intimidate the group.

Everyone was consequently stunned.

“Wasn’t Soulless Hall destroyed by Demon Seal Alliance a long time ago? Why do their remnants still exist?”

“It’s been a long time since we heard of Soulless Hall. I can’t believe it is still around!”

“They are infamous for their ruthlessness. Now that they have emerged, they will only bring suffering.”

Despite their discussions, no one showed any signs of backing down. Firstly, they were all on the same team. It was imperative that they helped each other if they wanted to reach the southern region alive.

The second reason was that Kai was a Supreme Alchemist. If it wasn’t for him, they would have lost their minds and killed each other while being under the influence of the poison veil. As long as he was with them, they didn’t have to worry about injuries or the poison veil again.

“Stop wasting time and get on with it. If you don’t have the guts to fight, then get lost,” Misho snapped, showing Xanthus no respect at all.

Their ferocity caused Xanthus to hesitate, for he was no match for the entire group combined. At that moment, Rostom was hiding behind a nearby tree. Watching how events were unfolding filled him with regret.

He had not expected that a party formed temporarily was willing to risk their lives to protect Kai. Moments later, a flurry of footsteps was heard, heralding the arrival of Hyrum and his men.

Seeing Hyrum's arrival, Xanthus instantly gained more confidence. "Attack! We must kill that Kai guy!"

With that command, Xanthus leaped in Kai's direction. Witnessing this, Misho swiftly unsheathed a long sword and entered the fray.

Others rushed forward, joining the chaotic melee. Hyrum turned to Kai and abruptly tossed a handful of powder at him. Aware that eliminating Kai would be a significant victory, Hyrum aimed to make a decisive contribution.

However, Kai wore a look of disdain as he swung the Dragonslayer Sword, dispersing the powder with a burst of light.

"Brat, I didn't expect someone your age to possess such remarkable alchemy skills. The detoxification pill you crafted is truly top-notch. Unfortunately, you've offended Soulless Hall, so death is the only fate awaiting you!" As Hyrum spoke, the long sword he wielded quivered slightly.

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Having spent numerous years within Mount Crimson, he had mastered its intricacies. Kai found himself engulfed by the poison mist, behaving like a sentient entity, relentlessly attempting to penetrate his skin.

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“It’s too late for you to comprehend the potency of my poison mist now. Your demise is inevitable within three seconds,” Hyrum declared confidently.

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The Mans Decree - The Mans Decree Chapter 3305

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"Dad!" Kiara called out to him, her tone tinged with worry.

"Get out of here, Kia! Whatever you do, don't stop running!" Hamish said. Kiara shook her head with tears in her eyes. "I'm not going anywhere, Dad!"

"Go now while I can still protect you!" Hamish shouted, giving his daughter a forceful shove.

"Ha! None of you are going anywhere!" Rostom said with a vicious leer.

"You b*stard! I'll kill you even if I die doing so!" Hamish erupted with anger, activating all of his aura. He funneled all of it into the red magic sword, causing it to glow brighter and emit a terrifying aura in all directions.

"Hamish truly is a living treasure! That magic sword of his is no ordinary magic item. Looks like I really do have a good eye for treasure!" Hyrum's eyes glinted with greed as he gently waved his arms, enveloping Hamish and Kiara in a mist.

"A poison veil?" Hamish was dumbfounded. Then, he turned to Hyrum with an expression of complete disbelief, his voice trembling as he spoke. "This poison veil is artificially created?"

"Hahaha! Just figuring that out, are you? There's no such thing as a poison veil in Mount Crimson. It was all my doing to instigate cultivators to turn on each other so that I could reap the benefits!" Hyrum chuckled.

"Mr. Goeckner, these two consumed detoxification pills, so I'm afraid the poison veil won't affect them." After stating this, Rostom produced the detoxification pill crafted by Kai and handed it to Hyrum.

Rostom had refrained from consuming the pill previously made by Kai because it wasn't necessary. Having taken the detoxification pill from Hyrum, he was immune to the poison veil. Thus, there was no need for him to take Kai's prepared detoxification pill.

Hyrum accepted the detoxification pill and scrutinized it closely. After a few moments, a hint of surprise flashed in his eyes. "Who concocted this pill? I didn't expect such a high-level alchemist to be part of this group."

Rostom replied, "It was crafted by someone named Kai. His alchemy skills are truly impressive."

"Kai?" Xanthus, standing on the side, was momentarily taken aback by the name. He promptly grabbed Rostom by the collar. "Is this Kai you mentioned in his twenties?"

Rostom didn't recognize Xanthus, and the latter's rude behavior displeased him. "Who are you? Let go of me! Why should I tell you anything?"

"Rostom, this is Elder Fabrizio of Soulless Hall. You must answer whatever questions he asks you," Hyrum instructed.

Learning Xanthus' identity as an elder, Rostom quickly changed his tone. "That's correct. This Kai appears to be in his twenties, and he's accompanied by a man and a woman. Furthermore, that woman is a celestial beast, a phoenix."

"That's him! Take me to him immediately!" Following an order from the Demon Seal Alliance, Xanthus had to eliminate Kai as soon as possible.

"They might be dead by now. When I came over, those people were surrounded by the silver tigers. I suspect they've likely been devoured by now," Rostom responded.

"I don't care if he's dead or alive. Even if he's dead, I need to see his corpse." In that case, Xanthus had to retrieve Kai's body to fulfill his mission.

"Fine. I'll lead you there to search for it." Rostom planned to guide Xanthus back to where he came from to look for Kai's remains.

However, as soon as he finished speaking, a gust of wind swept through, instantly dispelling the poison veil in the vicinity. Following the breeze, the figure of a man approached slowly.

"No need for that. I've come on my own!" Kai strolled over to Hamish's side.

"You're not dead?" Rostom was astounded.

Hamish and Kiara were similarly astonished.

"Kai, you're all right? What about Misho and the others?" Hamish asked somewhat embarrassedly. After all, they were the first to escape, abandoning everyone else. Hamish felt a pang of shame for his cowardice.

"They're okay. Everyone's unharmed. I came looking for you guys because I knew this guy was trouble, and I was worried you might be in trouble," Kai assured Hamish.

"It seems I had made a poor judgment." Hamish sighed.

"Kid, you're Kai?" Xanthus inquired.

"Yes, I'm Kai, but we don't have any grudges.

So, why are you trying to kill me? Even though you're Demonic Cultivators, I don't recall having any conflicts with you," Kai questioned Xanthus, perplexed by the latter's desire to see him dead.

"There doesn't need to be a conflict between us. You've crossed someone you shouldn't have, and for that, you must die," Xanthus declared coldly.

Understanding dawned on Kai upon hearing this. He gave a slight smile and remarked, "Ah, so you're also doing Demon Seal Alliance's biddings? It's surprising to see demons willingly serving others..."

Kai's words left Hamish utterly confused, unable to comprehend the connection between those Demonic Cultivators and Demon Seal Alliance.

