

## **the monarch Chapter 11 - The magic classes**

### **Chapter 11: The magic classes**

They quickly reached the classroom, which had at least 40 children, their classroom was 1°C. Most of the levels were 3s, and only a few were level 2s. Kayden was eager to learn about everything, he didn't care much for making friends, and the age gap was too big for them to have anything in common.

Kayden found a seat right at the front and noticed that most of the children avoided sitting at the front, he didn't quite understand why. After waiting a few more minutes, the room filled up with all the students.

"Welcome everyone, my name is Ashe Harley and I will be your first-year teacher. Let's start with a little game of presenting the names..." That was Kayden's first day at school, he didn't learn anything, it was just an introduction to the school's places and a basic idea of how the school year would be.

After class, Kayden went to the cafeteria. Many his age were walking in small groups, but he remained alone. Today's lunch was some kind of fried fish, but it was strangely sweet.

At the end of the period, Kayden waited in front of the gate for the old man. Today he decided for himself, he would take the old man as his real father. The old man's reaction this morning made it clear to him that no one in this world cared more about him than the old man.

After waiting a while, Kayden saw the old man appear at the school's entrance. He went to Kayden and took off to fly home, on the way he asked Kayden how his day at school was.

"It was easy dad, we just learned about how the school works, nothing too complicated or difficult." The old man stopped listening after the word "father" and was momentarily speechless.

"I am not your father, brat."

"You raised me from birth and took care of all my needs, you are a father to me, can I call you that?" Kayden was already ready for the old man's refusal, but he also knew the old man was soft at heart.

"Do what you want", the old man said snorting as if he didn't care, but inside he was freaking out with happiness, he hadn't been called father for a long time... bad memories, he quickly locked those memories in the back of his mind.

The rest of the trip was uneventful, Kayden spending it all thinking about how he would progress on the path of magic now. He wondered what differentiated talent levels and the old man said the body could naturally absorb and manipulate mana.

Three months later

At that time, literacy was intensively taught at the school, which was almost the entire focus of the teachers, but at times they also taught how to manipulate mana around them, but they were very basic things that Kayden had already learned by himself.

Kayden was getting better every day at manipulating the mana around him, but he realized that his evolution was at the pace of a turtle. Everyone in his class had a similar level of progress to him. And that was ridiculous when you think that he had been training literally for years.

This made him think that he would have to take another measure. The standard way of magic would only slow your progress. The problem is that so far they still haven't taught how to get out of the first apprentice level. Kayden understood that they did this to have a linear progression of knowledge in the students.

Since he managed to get into school, the library books began to have other subjects. The book Kayden was reading now was about the history of magic and he finally understood what world he was in. It just seemed like a lot of coincidence in his head, because it was the same thing Nicolas had told you a long time ago. The only difference is that, in recorded history, Adam fought an hours-long battle against the invaders and struck enough fear that they never returned.

It seemed that the "winners" did what they always do, they wrote the story they wanted. According to the book, Kayden was in a country called the Solar Kingdom and there were 4 other kingdoms around it. By estimation, each kingdom was the size of the Asian continent of the past, that is, this world was ridiculously large.

Kayden didn't get much detail on the other countries or what was outside of them, but he did estimate that the magical animals and plants must have taken over the rest of the planet, as they reproduce much more quickly.

Today Kayden was finally going to have class on the ways of magic, he was itching to figure out what to do next. The old man only took him on the first day of school, the next he would take the train with the children from the orphanage and go to school, which was a few minutes' walk.

Arriving at school, he went to the auditorium. The teacher said that it would be a joint class with the other classes, as it would need a demonstration by specialists in each path to answer the children's specific questions.

After having his coffee alone again, Kayden headed towards the auditorium. It was underground and looked like a movie theater, able to comfortably accommodate about 500 people. The decor of the place was red, with the chairs being dark black. Kayden quickly went downstairs to take one of the seats at the front. After a few minutes, the auditorium was nearly full. On stage were 6 people: the principal Kayden had met before, a teacher from the last years, a conventional wizard, a magical swordsman, a knight, and a beast tamer.

"Hello everyone, let's begin our lecture on the ways of magic. I will introduce the speakers first, we have a conventional magician, a magic swordsman, a knight, and a beast tamer", said the teacher. They were all wearing the same dark robe, it was impossible to tell each of them apart. "For some reason, we will have to keep the identity of each of them hidden. We'll start with the conventional image."

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Then one of the figures was seen to get up from the chairs and move towards the front of the stage.

"Well, as everyone should know, a conventional mage utilizes the mana in his core to perform different types of magic, from offensive to healing magic. We evolve accumulating mana in our core, in the first 3 levels, the mana is in the gaseous form, in the next 3 it is in the liquid phase, and then in the solid phase. The advantage is that our class has the most human beings, so we have many different techniques and ways to progress."

After finishing speaking, the man sat down, and then another man who had the robe close to his body showing that every inch was sculpted with muscle stood up.

"Hi everyone, I am a magic swordsman. We focus on increasing our body stats, and for that, we use our own body as a core. In the first 3 phases, we change the muscles, in the 3 intermediate ones the organs are changed, and, in the last ones, we have to polish the work, we remove the imperfections until the body and mind are in sync and the advance happens smoothly. Magic is still used in a secondary way as a strengthening or utility in itself."

This class even interested Kayden, but he thought it would be even worse for him, how would using his level 1 body as a core work? It would be a total disaster. Then the knight path speaker stood up, he was ridiculously big, even wearing the biggest robe possible you could still see his gigantic muscles underneath.

"Good morning, I'm from the knight class. Similar to the swordsman, we also focus on the body, the only difference is that we utilize mana to upgrade it to 100%. We don't learn spells or anything like that, we're a class focused on strength and speed, it may seem strange, but even with my current size I'm still faster than a swordsman of similar rank to me."

Kayden liked that style, at one point, it was an all-win class, meaning she was going for all or nothing. The problem was the same as the swordsman, his body would not be able to progress beyond the basics. Then it was the turn of the beast-tamer class lecturer to stand up.

"Hello, I am a tamer, my class specializes in raising magical animals and strengthening them through spells. We make a blood and soul pact with the animals we choose and gain a share of their strength as a result. We don't have a difference in levels, just the animals move up in the rankings and we go together."

This class even interested Kayden, but he was tired of depending on others for his decisions, this class was denied for personal reasons, and Kayden didn't even have to think twice.

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He knew that he would have to follow something new, these classes could not help him at all. Kayden spent some more time listening to the doubts that the other students tried to remove, it helped a little, but nothing relevant.

## **the monarch Chapter 12 - Training**

### **Chapter 12: Training**

Kayden returned home, wondering what to do. Any path would result in stagnation little by little. Suddenly, an idea popped into his head: where did men's inspiration always come from? What is the origin of everything? Of course, it would be nature and animals. That thought brought doubts to Kayden.

How do magical animals dominate most of the planet if they are mindless? How does your evolution engine work? Kayden decided to clear his doubts with the old man; he should know something about it. Arriving home, he went straight to look for the old man.

"Dad, do you know how magical beasts rank up?" asked Kayden. The old man was taken aback by the tenor of Kayden's question and replied, "That's classified information, Kayden. I can't talk about it with you."

"Dad, I need this. I'm deciding which class to choose, and this information would be very important to me", insisted Kayden, determined.

"Is it that important?", the old man had his doubts, but since he saw Kayden's talent, he was more softhearted towards him. "You can see if you can find something in the library, near the 3rd shelf."

Kayden knew that was as much as he could get out of the old man; normally, he would even have refused to teach or lend books. Kayden never understood the old man's refusal to teach the children; it was clear that he was strong and very strong at that.

Going down to the library, Kayden searched the 3rd shelf for books on magical animals. He found one on the anatomy of beasts and decided to study it.

It took him a few days to read the entire book, but once he did, he got some clues about magical beasts. First of all, they don't have a core, but a heart of mana that pumps mana everywhere in the beast's body. It is similar to the mage core, only it works 24 hours a day; the beast practically depends on mana to live.

But on the other hand, their stats were far superior to mages of the same level. The advantage of mages was being able to think and cast different spells; if it were for that, probably the whole world would be dominated by beasts.

To level up was very simple, they just needed to eat other things with a lot of mana, and over time, they would pass rank. That's what Kayden learned in this book.

Right now, his focus was on continuing to learn how to manipulate mana and thinking about which path he should choose. Furthermore, there was the other "path" leading to the fourth rank, which he should also think about. That was at the top of his priority list, as his body couldn't harm him there.

After thinking for a few hours, Kayden had another idea as well. What was, in all novels, the classic wizard problem? Your weak body. In most of them, wizards only learned magic and that was it. In that sense, Kayden decided that he would try to start doing exercises aimed at gaining strength and endurance. He knew this would take time, but he had time. He was only 4 years old and a few months old.

He was going to start doing some push-ups and jogging before heading to class. Other than that, his priority was to find a class that, even with his low-level body, he could progress through the ranks. Her other priority was to find his "way", because even with his weak body, if he found his way, he would be able to stand out.

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In order of relevance, it was the path first, class second, and body last. Kayden knew it would be difficult, but he was determined to succeed in this life, whatever the cost.

The next day, Kayden woke up a little earlier than usual. He had a big cup of coffee, knowing that without a lot of nutrients, his body would never be able to progress. He left home determined to give 101% of himself to the exercises.

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As he didn't want to be disturbed and lose focus, he went to a clearing nearby. Usually, the kids played there, but it was too early so there wouldn't be any problems.

He started with some push-ups and... He barely completed 5. He knew he was weak, but he thought he could do at least 40. Saitama managed to do 100, why couldn't he? He waited a while and did another 5 again. And then another 5. Until he couldn't lift his arms anymore.

Then he tried to do some sit-ups and did it in the same style. From series to series until you can't take any more. Then he did the same with squats. All this time, he felt like throwing up, but he held it in, as he knew he couldn't afford to lose the nutrients.

When he finished his series, he went running around the property. It didn't take even 1 minute to run out of breath, and even holding it, he wasn't able to stop his body from throwing out everything he had eaten earlier.

He was lying near the path that led to the train, to recover he leaned against a random tree and breathed deeply repeatedly. As he rested, he heard the sound of running footsteps. It didn't take long and he saw a shirtless boy running too. The moment their gazes met, there was an awkward silence.

"Hello? I'm Kayden," said Kayden, vaguely remembering the boy but not knowing his name. The boy was at least 1.70 tall, his eyes were green and in a cliché way, he had golden hair, very magazine cover style.

Kayden wasn't very sociable with the children in the house, and in addition to the other residents' study and workload, he hardly ever saw many children. As he clapped one eye on the boy, he could tell he was going to follow the path of a knight. His big, tufted muscles made that clear.

"Hi, I'm Ryan. Want help there? You look like you need it," Ryan said with a strange look in his eyes. He kind of had an idea of what happened there, when he decided to follow the path of a knight, he also made that mistake.

"No need, I'm fine. I just threw up a little bit from running too much, I'm not used to that kind of activity," admitted Kayden sheepishly.

"You ate too much too, right? I did that when I decided to be a knight. This is a classic mistake in the life of every swordsman and knight," said Ryan in a friendly manner. "If you want, I can help you a little. How old are you?"

With that brief interaction, Kayden realized that Ryan was very friendly and that the frightening amount of muscles and his model good looks added up to a very snooty teenager, but his true self was the exact opposite of that.

"I don't plan on being a knight or a swordsman, so I don't think your tips would be very helpful to me," Kayden said after thinking for a few seconds.

"But then, why are you training so hard?", Ryan shook his head in confusion. "Wouldn't it be better to focus on learning magic or whatever wizards do?"

"I just want to get a little stronger. I feel that mages are very reliant on magic," Kayden explained his line of reasoning.

"Got it, it makes sense. I had never stopped to think about it", Ryan seemed to have discovered something new with this conversation. "But if you want, I can help you a little bit with some exercise and diet. Doing anything and eating wrong greatly diminished your results."

At that moment, Kayden realized something. He wasn't into an action story. This was real life. If he tried to copy something from the comics, he would probably just get hurt in the process. He felt like a complete idiot.

## **the monarch Chapter 13 - After basic school**

### **Chapter 13: After basic school**

"I would love your help," Kayden asked with a smile, "what time would you be available to teach me a few things?"

After debating a bit, Ryan said, "I have class in the morning and in the afternoon I go to a gym. I only get home around 6:00 pm, everything would be dark by now, but I can still give you a good theoretical basis for you to start your training."

"Okay, that's settled then," Kayden got up from the floor, "I'll be waiting for you in study hall."

"I hate that place," Ryan quickly cut Kayden off, "Let's go to my room, but before that, take a shower please, you stink of puke..."

After talking with Ryan some more, Kayden headed for a shower and scrubbed his body as if his life depended on it. After his shower, he had a normal day at school and waited for Ryan in the kitchen as agreed.

As soon as Ryan arrived, it was Kayden's turn to tell him to shower. He was reeking of sweat. Once everything was ready, Kayden found himself in a room full of posters of knights and men ripped to the extreme. There was only a 3 seater sofa in the room...

"Don't you have a bed by any chance?" Kayden was curious. He saw Ryan making an expression that had told these stories thousands of times before.



"When I was younger, I broke my bed practicing magic, as punishment the old man made me sleep on the couch for 1 month, the problem was that I got used to sleeping on it and I couldn't go back to a bed normally."

That was weird. But that's okay, everyone had their quirks, Kayden could accept that normally. They both sat down on the couch, and Kayden pulled a bottle of soda from his pocket.

"How do you have it? The old man would be crazy to see you drinking soda out of the weekend," Ryan was surprised, at the orphanage the food was regulated to be healthy.

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"I have been saving it for a while, now can we start with the theory class you were going to pass?" Kayden urged the boy on. He was curious to know what he could do to gain muscle and strength.

Ryan was silent for a moment, gathering his thoughts and distributing what was important to pass on to Kayden.

"Well, come on then, first, no soft drinks, that's not healthy..."

"You're drinking right now," Kayden pointed out his friend's hypocrisy, and his friend in turn played dumb.

"Yeah... moving on, you should prioritize protein-rich foods like eggs and meat, eat plenty 3 to 4 times a day, which should be enough. Regarding the exercises, I'll give you a spreadsheet that I received when I started exercising."

Then Ryan grabbed a book that was under the couch. This surprised Kayden, he didn't expect Ryan to pull a book out of thin air. He passed the book to Kayden, the name was "The Way of Bodybuilding". It looked ancient, almost like it was from the last century.

"This book has a step-by-step of free exercises to do, in the beginning, you can do them here at home, but with time you will need more specific exercises to increase your strength, it will not help to do thousands of times the same exercise, you will need it."

Ryan taught Kayden a few more basics, but there wasn't much he could talk about on the theoretical side. He offered to help Kayden in the morning every day but asked in return... soda. The same one he crucified a few minutes ago. Kayden liked the drink but knew that certain "sacrifices" were necessary.

The next day, they found themselves in the same clearing where Kayden started his exercises, and the first sentence Ryan said was, "Today is a beautiful day to train until you die, isn't it, Kayden?" With a devilish smile, their day began.



After 6 months...

Kayden had been training for 6 straight months without a day off. At first, it was painful. Every day he would wake up with pain in all parts of his body, even in places he had never thought could be painful.

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Now he could easily run a few kilometers without tiring too much. Doing push-ups no longer became impossible for him either. His body slowly got used to the exercise and the large amount of food he introduced into his diet.

His muscles weren't yet apparent, but there was a slight indication that Kayden was exercising. He noticed that when he finished practicing his exercises, it was a little easier for mana to circulate through his body. According to Ryan, the knights would do several sets of exercises and then circulate the mana in their bodies in a specific way to increase their rank.

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Kayden discovered that Ryan was on the cusp of the 4th realm and hoped to move into the 5th before he turned 14. It was interesting to see the knight class, with each passing day Ryan grew bigger, both in height and in muscles.

So far he hasn't found any classes that are capable of overcoming his body's limits, nor has he succeeded in finding his "path". As I was thinking about that, the teacher in front was explaining what would come after finishing elementary school.

"There are 3 levels of universities after basic education, they vary from the 1st to the 3rd grade and have great differences between them, for example, in the 1st-grade academy you finish at 18 and must already enter the labor market of society, it offers qualification only for basic jobs, without much remuneration or opportunities."

As she spoke, the teacher showed on the blackboard some jobs related to this level of education, they were store attendants, electricians, builders, and other jobs that did not require a high level of magical knowledge.

"Then there's tier 2, which most people aim for, where you can try jobs in the army, you can try your luck as a hunter or become an alchemist. The possibilities are limitless here, the difference is that here you end up in your 20s. The pay for most high school college jobs is good enough to easily support a family with a good lifestyle."

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Again he demonstrated professions on the blackboard that fit this university. This time, those classic novels like Alchemist, Hunter, and Warriors appeared. But there were also a few others like teachers and doctors.

"Lastly, we have Grade 3, this one is only for the elite of the elite in our realm, less than 1% manage to get into it. When you finish this university, you will be 25 years old. The jobs are the same as at high school, the difference is that you will always have priority in everything, you get a small government card called the Golden Card, with which you can use various government devices for free. Normally, people who leave it arrive at the job market already employed and receiving a very high salary."

The teacher demonstrated the same jobs, only this time she showed only famous and rich people. As if to emphasize the difference between the faculties.

"The requirements for the first and second are very simple, in the first you just need to be in rank 1 to 3 of the apprentice level, in the second you will normally be between 3 to 6, but here you must perform some additional tests depending on the place you are in. who chooses."

As he spoke, a chart appeared showing the percentage of people in each of the colleges. In the first, there were about 55% of the population, in the second 44.9%, and in the 3rd degree there was such a small number that it was not even shown in percentage, it was just <1%.

"At the last academy level is not a requirement, but only those above rank 6 can think of entering and even then there are some additional tests of ridiculously high difficulty. I do not recommend that you dream too high, choose a high-end level 2 college if you are confident or only do the basics of level 2. I believe that most have the potential to pass at least the worst of the worst of level 2."

As he said that, he glanced at Kayden. It was obvious that he would only be able to pass a level 1, his progress in almost 1 year was the same as all the children, but that was for now, the moment the other students started to struggle, they would leave Kayden dozens of kilometers back.

## **the monarch Chapter 14 - 2° rank**

### **Chapter 14: 2° rank**

The class continued with a demonstration of some good colleges in the region and ended with a show by the professor to entertain the students. Their show was intended to feature Academia do Sol. She was the most coveted grade 3 academy in the kingdom. It usually got hundreds of thousands of applicants every year, but only a few thousand were able to get into it. It was a long way from where Kayden lived, deep inside the capital.

Returning home, Kayden wondered which one of his friends would enter. Ryan seemed to only be able to apply for a rank 2 and maybe a high level, but already Heimer was at the impressive rank 6 of the apprentice level. The most surprising thing is that he was only 10 years old. With those 4 years to go, he could probably go further, maybe reach rank 7 or 8.

It looks like he grew a lot from level 1 to 6, but actually, the real difficulty was going up from level 6 onwards. Every 3rd level was a game-changer for magic practitioners. At the moment, I was deciding to go with the conventional mage style, as it was what I could most easily switch to other classes in the future.

Upon arriving home, he went to practice mana manipulation. Recently, Heimer has been helping him with this practice, but even so, the results have been very low. Kayden wanted to reach rank 2 soon. Only above level 1 could he truly do magic. He was at the peak of level 1, there was very little left for him to go up.

"I already told you that you should always mentalize your request to the mana, it has its own will and only when you put your own will in it can you get that 'residue'", Heimer was teaching Kayden in the clearing, while Kayden gave his life to train. He was reading a book comfortably.

At times, Heimer felt it was wrong to choose Kayden as a brother when considering the genius factor. But in all other respects, he had no regrets. And even if I could, I would make the same choice again. Kayden was, without a doubt, his best friend. He never minded that he was a genius and didn't even treat him differently for it.

"I'm trying, Heimer, but she doesn't listen to me. It's almost like she ignores me", Kayden couldn't even feel that "will" of mana that Heimer was talking about.

"Keep trying, let's try to circle it again. Make as many turns as possible with the same mana, try not to lose it."

They continued to practice for a while, but Kayden's progress was excruciatingly slow.

Six months later, Kayden was currently 5 years and a few months old. Within 6 months, his body gained more muscle and started to get a little frame. Kayden was satisfied. He knew that the process of gaining mass was time-consuming, even more so at his age.

What didn't make him happy were his other two goals. About his path, he had no idea yet, and his ability to manipulate mana was still bad. But today, he would finally break through to the second rank.

In the same clearing where it all began, Kayden was sitting in the lotus position. Heimer was with him, guiding him through the process. Kayden doubted he could do it alone. Heimer was maintaining a constant mana loop around Kayden.

At the moment, he was circulating mana through his core at an accelerated rate, trying to raise his rank. Heimer told him that when he got promoted, he would feel a small increase in all his stats and a slight euphoria.

After a few incessant minutes, Kayden felt his core begin to crack, but in a good way. He felt a slight burn and then his entire body had a small moment of bliss. It was like using very strong drugs, it was addictive.

For a moment, he lost track of space, it was as if he didn't even exist. After that ecstasy, Kayden fell to the dirt floor. He was haggard and deathly tired but with a sense of accomplishment. Finally, I could start to learn. It only took about 5 years. His classmates had already managed to reach the second rank in the first month of back to school.

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It was a small step forward, but a big moment for Kayden.

"Are you going to sit there forever? Let's go to the municipal library", Heimer had agreed to show Kayden the city library as soon as he reached rank 2, in order not to fill the library, the city maintained a rank restriction to be accessed.

Not just rank but status. Those who had already left school had to pay to use the services present there, while for students it was completely free. Kayden stood up and mentally composed himself.

"Come on, I'm excited to learn everything," he said cheerfully.

"First you're going to take a shower, that's all," Heimer complained. It was normal, in advance, for the body to expel certain components of itself. The purpose of this was to cleanse the body so that it could be improved.

Returning to the orphanage, Kayden was congratulated by the old man and some acquaintances. He took a quick shower and headed to the stop to catch the train with Heimer. The trip was smooth as usual.

On the way, Kayden tested how much progress he made and it was relatively big. He estimated that he was at least 25% better at manipulating mana and was now able to even faintly feel the will of mana.

Getting off the train, Heimer guided Kayden to a classical-looking building. Right at the entrance it was possible to see several giant pillars. Without a doubt, this structure was capable of imposing admiration on anyone who looked at it. It looked like one of the Roman temples on Earth.

"You will need to prove that you are a student and where you study, after that you will be released to read on the first floor", Heimer explained as he walked. "This building has about 4 floors. The first one you go to has only entertainment stories and about 10% on basic spells. But that's enough for you to learn a lot."

After climbing the steps to the entrance, Heimer produced his student ID and asked Kayden to do the same. The two were given a small metal plate with a number on it. Kayden's had 1 and Heimer's 2. Kayden noticed this detail and asked:

"Heimer, what's the difference between the numbers?"

"It's about level access to floors. I have access to 2 as I passed the library knowledge test, but don't think about it too much. The second floor won't be useful to you right now."

Upon entering the large door, Kayden saw an elevator on the left and right. There were at least 3 on each side. Entering, it was like a classic library, with several shelves filled with books. The impressive thing was that, even though the first floor was divided into two floors, there was a large central staircase to go up to the top of the first floor.

As they walked, Heimer introduced a little about each section and how to find books in the library by book code. They walked until they reached a bookcase that appeared to have little movement.

"Here we have the hidden gold. These books only serve for rank 2 to 3 and most people in that rank are at an age where they barely know how to read properly. Therefore, you will hardly find the book you are looking for", Heimer said, running a finger across the shelf. I could even see a small line of dust on some of the books. "I'll get a book to read while you explore the library. I'll be waiting in the chairs. If you want to take it home, just ask the librarian. You can keep it for 7 days."

After passing a few more hints to Kayden, Heimer left. Left alone, Kayden went from book to book on the shelf. Some caught your eye. For example, a book that talked about defensive spells every mage should know and the like. In the end, he got one called "How to be a good offensive mage".

## **the monarch Chapter 15 - The gym**

### **Chapter 15: The gym**

Then he went to sit with Heimer at the available tables. He started to read the book and soon discovered something that had not been talked about in school. In the book, it said that mages can learn spells from different elements, but normally people couldn't go beyond two elements.

There were no major elements or rarer elements. The rarity was determined by the difficulty in finding techniques to practice with a certain element. For example, it is easier to find fire techniques for sale than light techniques, as fire is easier to learn and has more practitioners. Normally, each element had its peculiarities, such as healing, defense, or attack.

After reading for a while, they heard a knock on the table. The sound echoed through the entire floor. Kayden looked up, startled, to see a smiling Ryan staring back at him. Before either of them could say anything, an old man magically appeared beside them, wearing a black robe and the library's logo. He said with an orderly tone:

"Out, the three! And Heimer, I expected more from you." After saying that, he withdrew as silently as he arrived. An awkward silence fell between them. Heimer interrupted him:

"Let's go out. If he repeats that, he'll send the three of us flying. I've seen that madman throw an elderly man off the fourth floor for making too much noise while eating," he said with a strange expression.

Three children were seen leaving and one of them was red with embarrassment. Arriving at the stairs, Heimer gave Ryan a mild scolding, but as soon as he remembered why he was there, Ryan lost his embarrassment and came back with his excited smile.

"Kayden, now that you're ranked second, I can take you to the academy. There you can learn to fight by practicing with others. The owner of the place was once a national champion in non-magic fighting." As he spoke, Ryan looked more and more excited. I could see his body vibrating with his words.

Kayden had already heard about Ryan's gym. He knew it was from a friend of the old man, so it was free for the children at the orphanage. He wanted to go from the beginning, but with the excitement of ranking up, he forgot.

"Come on, we still have some time before dark," you could tell he was just as excited to see the place.

As they headed there, Heimer came up with a rather weak excuse to get rid of the duo. Like a true wizard, he hated any intense physical exercise, so he had no interest in going to the gym with the two of them.

After walking for a few minutes, they arrived at a small, two-story building. It was a yellow building.

"Isn't it too small?" Kayden wondered.

"I know you must be thinking it's too small. I had the same impression when I first arrived here. The master lives upstairs, the dojo is in the basement." This answered Kayden's question, as the building was barely 5 meters by 5 meters.

Upon entering the door, they found themselves in a blank room with a trapdoor. Going down through it, there was a ladder. It took a few minutes to come down. It was pretty deep. As soon as they finished descending the stairs, Kayden was impressed for the second time that day. The place was huge, at least 200 meters from one end to the other.

At one end there were sofas and some food available. It also had a pool table. It reminded Kayden of Brazilian bars. There were several people practicing duels in small circles, with a barrier around that prevented the magic from escaping. It was impressive. At least 100 people were training there, from children to adults.

"Here there are mainly knights and some magic swordsmen. You are the first magician in this place, hahaha." Ryan guided Kayden over to a middle-aged man playing pool.

1

The man was athletic looking, he looked to be in his early thirties, but what caught the eye was his dark blue hair. It stood out among so many people.

"Master! Today I brought Kayden to the dojo. He just moved up to the second rank," Ryan introduced him to the man. In no time he took his eyes off the game and even replied without looking:

"Hello, Kayden. My name is Shawl. Congratulations on reaching the second rank. You are welcome to use my gym facilities." The fact that the man played and talked at the same time made Kayden feel strange. "Ryan, go introduce him to the coach."

As he pulled Kayden to one side, he commented:

"Don't care too much about the GM not even looking at you when talking. He probably bet again on the pool. That makes him focus 101% only on the game." This seemed to be a common event in this place.

"As the owner of the place, he must be good, right?", Kayden commented.

"He's the best swordsman in this place, but when it comes to his pool skills... he sucks. In almost 8 years here, I've never seen him win a bet," Ryan said quietly. "But never say that in front of him, or he'll make you a punching bag using some excuses like private practice."

Ryan winced as if remembering an unpleasant thought. This did not go unnoticed by Kayden. He made a mental note never to criticize Shawl about his pool skills. As they walked, Kayden observed several people using different weapons, from gigantic swords to short daggers.



He also saw some swordsmen with their weapons on fire or covered in lightning. This impressed him once more on the day. He felt admiration and, above all, a desire to reach that level as well. The walk was short and they came to a gigantic man. On the day of the class presentation, Kayden was away from the knight, so he didn't pay much attention. But now that he got close to one, he saw how big they were.

With his hair shaved and shiny, the man looked to be at least the size of three people comfortably. If he told Kayden it was over a ton, he wouldn't even doubt it. He was shirtless and wearing baggy blue pants.

"Look, Ryan, who is this?", the man greeted in a friendly way. His friendly, smiling manner was practically the same as Ryan's. Now Kayden knew where the boy's inspiration came from.

"Hello, coach. This is Kayden. He just got to the second rank, so I decided to bring him here for you to torture him... I mean, train him. That's right, train him", Ryan seemed to be hiding something. from Kayden, but Kayden didn't think much of it. I was still impressed by the size of the trainer.

"Nice to meet you Kayden. My name is Raul and I'm the trainer for this place. Do you have any specific goals in mind?" At the same time as a greeting, he extended his hand to the boy. As soon as the two hands met, the coach shook it vigorously.

"My pleasure. My goal is to learn to fight. In the future, I want to be a combat mage", Kayden said excitedly. The coach's energy was infectious. "If I can, I'd like to start combat training today."

Coach gave a satisfying laugh.

"You're still green, boy. You need to go through physical training first." Kayden tried to explain that he already had good conditioning, but Ryan gave him a nudge and a look that said "Don't do this, don't make that mistake". "Come on boy, I'll train you personally for now."

The moment the trainer said that Kayden saw Ryan sneaking out, intending not to be noticed. That was weird, it felt like Kayden had walked into a trap. Ryan was training somewhere nearby, he was using a big broadsword. It was the first time Kayden had seen Ryan use a weapon.

As they reached one of the circles, the trainer turned to Kayden and asked:

"How far does your will to win go?" It seemed to be a very serious sort of question from the man's tone. After some thought, Kayden decided to come up with an answer that he believed matched his actions to date:

"I don't know, I never made it to the end to find out."

"Hahaha, today you'll find out, kid."

## **the monarch Chapter 16 - Limits**

### **Chapter 16: Limits**

As soon as they started training, Kayden understood why Ryan quickly disappeared from them. The trainer was a wolf in sheep's clothing, no matter how many times Kayden felt he kept ordering him to continue the exercises and so far it was just push-ups and stuff like that.

After a few minutes, Kayden was no longer feeling any muscle in his body. Coach told him he would heal any injury he had, so it was up to Kayden to give 101% of himself. "The boy has already passed 10 minutes, I don't think he makes it to 15, want to bet?" Conversations like this started around Kayden; he was too busy to even pay attention.

Ryan knew Kayden from afar and knew the boy was determined. When it was his turn, he reached 25 minutes. Level doesn't matter much, the trainer has enough experience to exhaust all ranks to the same extent.

"I'll bet you 1 silver he goes past 30 minutes." That amount was all he had saved in the last 2 years, so it was a good thing Kayden lasted.

Thus began a wave of betting, the majority being against Kayden. Veterans knew that the average lasted less than 15 minutes the first time, but with time most managed to reach the value of 1 hour.

As the minutes ticked by, when it reached 20 minutes, Kayden's body wasn't able to stand on its own anymore, only his mind was doing the work. By that time, some had already lost money and Ryan looked anxious. He was biting all his fingernails.

By the time 25 minutes had passed, Kayden was doing squats. His arms were already unable to move. Every second was torture. He thought about giving up now, but the coach said a sentence that made his resolve burn like dry wood.

"Break your limits or break yourself, there are no alternatives boy." It seemed silly, but it made Kayden think.

"Am I giving it my all? Or all my body can handle?" With those thoughts, the minutes passed again.

1

For every 60 seconds, someone cast a curse. Few crazy people bet that the boy would go beyond 25 minutes and those who bet more than 15 only did so because they saw the boy with Ryan.

In the 30 minutes, even maintaining consciousness was proving difficult for Kayden. At one point, while doing a jumping jack, he simply passed out on his feet, but as if his mind refused to give up, his body continued to do the jumping jacks for a few more seconds before toppling forward.

Seeing Kayden lean forward, the trainer rushed to catch the boy. Once he confirmed that he was unconscious, the man muttered something and a ball of water appeared and trapped Kayden. It always shocked people. A man who was a knight was capable of using magic, let alone healing magic. Few know, but the trainer was a mage and only converted his way long after solidifying himself as a healer. It's like they say, the bones of the trade are hard to forget.

While some wondered how the boy trained so far to have such a good result, the coach was assessing his condition. Unlike other people, he knew that Kayden didn't have a high level of training, it was obvious from his physique.

"Three tendons torn, two ligaments torn, and almost every major muscle injured," he exclaimed in surprise. He hadn't expected the boy to go this far just for some random training.

1

When Ryan heard the coach's exclamation, he stopped counting the incredible money he had won and ran to see his friend. He wasn't a mage specializing in healing, so he had no way of telling Kayden's condition. He looked fine, but Ryan knew the damage was internal.

"Can you heal him smoothly? The old man will kill me if he finds out I crippled Kayden on his first day." At that moment, Ryan felt guilty for betting on his friend.

"Don't worry, I've seen worse," it seemed to be a compliment to itself, but healer mages were famous for being able to regrow even a lost arm.

1

They spent a few minutes talking until Kayden started showing signs that he would wake up. His body squirmed a little and then he opened his eyes. He was in mild momentary confusion after being knocked unconscious, but he quickly remembered where he was.

1

First of all, he began to check his body and noticed that there was no pain. He clearly remembered feeling pain that was not muscular. He looked brand new.

"What happened? How is my body okay again?" He quickly voiced his doubts to the man beside him. The coach laughed as if this situation had happened thousands of times before. Still laughing, he explained to Kayden:

"Even though I'm a knight, I have a strong command of healing magic, but you still need to eat after being healed. I just speed up the work your body would naturally do over time." As he said this, the man passed some cereal bars to Kayden.

Kayden was impressed yet again that day. It was a day full of surprises. He witnessed healing magic for the first time and it was firsthand. But that popped an idea into his mind. Doesn't training and healing endlessly mean endless progress? He expressed this doubt aloud.

"Not necessarily, there comes a point where your body reaches the limit of what can be achieved naturally without mana. From that point, onwards, this method has no value anymore." Shaking his head, the man thought about how amazing it would be to have no limits to improve and depend only on his will and physical effort. Sweet illusion.

After eating the bars, Kayden noticed an embarrassed Ryan beside him.

"Ryan?" Kayden didn't know what had caused this in his friend.

"It's nothing, Kayden. Let's say I owe you an ice cream, okay? Don't tell the old man anything about what happened here, please." Ryan was no fool, he knew that if the old man found out he would beat them both up. Kayden readily agreed, he was no fool either.

"Coach, can we go again? Until I reach that limit you said?" Kayden finally found something where effort alone could bring progress.

The man scratched his head not knowing what to do. Normally, after people go through this torture... I mean training, they tended to never try again. After some thought, he decided to see how far Kayden would take it.

"We can do this twice a day at the most. More than that, your body will take some wear and tear that I won't be able to heal. Meet me here after school every day starting today, okay?" That was the best solution he could find.

1

Cheerfully, Kayden said with twinkling eyes, "Count on you to help me through this journey, thank you." While expressing his gratitude, he bowed slightly to show respect and, with a goofy smile, asked, "Can we do it again today then?"

1

Thus, Kayden's first day is in the second rank.

One month later

It took about a month for Kayden to be able to perform his first spell. He decided to start with something basic. He attempted to light small flames at the tips of his fingers.

In the same clearing, as usual, Kayden could be seen with Heimer. While one was lying in what looked like a hammock slung between two trees, the other was working hard like a lunatic to light his fingers on fire. Depending on the point of view, it was lunatic stuff.

## **the monarch Chapter 17 - Weapons(1)**

### **Chapter 17: Weapons(1)**

In the past month, Kayden's body has progressed at an alarming rate. You could already see the muscles bulging around the shirt. However, unfortunately, due to his age and size, he appeared to be just a normal kid.

1

A month ago, spending 30 minutes in training was a feat; now he was able to get up to 35 without any problems. Well, that depends on whether you consider some injuries and fainting to be no problem. The advantage of the rigorous training was that Kayden was slowly getting used to the pain and managed to maintain greater rationality even though he was injured in several places.

Returning to the subject, Kayden was gathering mana and asking it to light up in his fingers. Very basic spells didn't need words or gestures, it was simply a matter of asking for mana.

After a few minutes passed, one of Kayden's fingers caught fire. It was so fast that he screamed and fell to the ground. As if by instinct, he tried to extinguish the fire with his hand, but it wasn't working. Quickly he panicked and started banging his hand on his shirt and the floor.

Meanwhile, Heimer was reading his book and, upon hearing Kayden's scream, he was faced with a moment that every mage goes through: discovering that he cannot be hurt by his mana. After a few minutes of thrashing and screaming, Kayden calmed down. Heimer approached him with a smile.

"It finally stopped," he chuckled. "Congratulations on making your first spell. Now ask the mana to stop burning, or you'll expend all of your body's mana without realizing it." I could see that Heimer was enjoying this moment.

Kayden followed his friend's advice and managed to stop the burning on the second try. Then he looked at his friend, who hadn't told him everything he needed to do. Heimer quickly made a fool of himself and explained why Kayden wasn't harmed. He also said a little more to divert Kayden's attention.

"Now it just lacks the basic magic of other elements. You were fast; it normally takes the entire second year to learn these things. Let's see how soon you finish." In some ways, Kayden had the upper hand, even with his underpowered body. His hard-working mentality set him apart from most kids his age.

**\*\*After 6 months...\*\***

Kayden was in the tenth month of his sophomore year. That was also how long it took him to master all the basic spells. He could fill a glass with water, set his fingers on fire, dig a hole in the earth, and blow a light breeze; there were some other spells as well, but there were too many to describe.

For all his progress, he was still only a month ahead of his peers. This still surprised his teachers. With his talent, it was even hard to imagine that he would reach the second rank, let alone that he would master all the basic magics before his peers.

In those six months, Kayden achieved a chiseled physique. Every inch of him was worked on. It wasn't fully proportionate, as its focus was on efficiency rather than aesthetics. His training time also went from 35 minutes to 60 minutes. This also surprised the coach; it usually takes a year to reach that result, but Kayden worked at least twice as hard as any other student the man ever had.

Even though it wasn't his main focus, his body was slowly taking on Greek proportions. his abdomen was marked by buds, his shoulders proportionate to his waist, which in turn was thin.

1

Kayden was excused from school and was no longer required to attend for that year. This allowed him to focus on something he had been neglecting lately: his class, or rather his custom class. Lately, he's been visiting the old man's library a lot and reading books about magical animals and plants. He has the thought that the real secret is in nature, as the progress and ability of the beasts were too great to be measured.

Lately, the old man had been letting Kayden lose more and more. Unbeknownst to Kayden, the old man was trying to help him with his desires, as he felt bad that Kayden's talent was so low. One of the biggest shocks was learning of Kayden's excellent performance in learning the basic spells. In his mind, it was clear: Kayden was a genius bound by his body, like a phoenix that could never fly because it had its wings clipped.

Today, Kayden was in the library at the orphanage, reading yet another book about magical beasts. But this one was a little different in that it was written by a scientist named David Nakir. The title was "Heart of Beasts and Heart of Mana".

He put forward a theory that beasts had a heart that pumped mana into their bodies 24 hours a day. However, with the current level of humanity, we weren't able to find it, and we often mistook it for cores. Along with it, there were many vessels separate from normal blood vessels.

That got Kayden's attention. If he could turn his core into an irrigation pump to cultivate his body every second of the day, that would be fantastic. Reading was quick; it was a book from 10 years ago and there wasn't much information.

Over the next few days, Kayden searched like crazy for any information about the mana hearts but found nothing. When he asked the old man, the old man laughed and said that this had been a joke for a long time in the scientific community and that few even believed it.

on this, for it has never been proved. No matter how hard humanity tried, it was labeled a prank.

But the book seemed to be real. Kayden decided to follow his instincts and asked Heimer to help him find the author. Heimer said he had his means, but it would take a few weeks at the very least.

That was something Kayden could handle. Wasn't he waiting for almost 6 years? After talking with Heimer, he headed to the gym along with Ryan. His friend was practically living in the gym, training for his college test.

He would try one in town anyway; he was practically one foot inside the top tier of rank 5, and that would be enough for him to get into a good college of his choice.

Arriving there, they went to greet the master, and as usual, he was losing at the pool. Then Ryan went to train alone and Kayden went to the trainer. The man was performing squats using a barbell loaded with weights. His every movement was of maximum amplitude and felt strange to watch. There were at least 500kg on each side, and the man was crouching down like a paper barbell with weights on it.

2

"Hello Coach, I'm ready for one more session," Kayden greeted happily. Without a doubt, this was one of the only activities that paid off, and it excited him deeply.

Hearing the boy's voice, the man elegantly lifted the weight from his shoulders and placed it on the ground. Kayden was sure that if the floor wasn't reinforced it would eventually give way and crack. The trainer put on his usual smile and greeted Kayden.



"Hello, Kayden. This time, we're not going to do our usual training. With you approaching the 60-minute mark, there's not much else to do. If you start trying to get past that, I won't be able to heal your body." The man looked embarrassed as he said he was incapable of doing anything. It didn't match his confident demeanor.

This phrase took the boy by surprise and quickly made him sad. He wouldn't go down the path of a knight or a swordsman, so he couldn't put mana into his body to progress physically. The man noticed the boy's sad look and came up with a ready-made solution.

"But I can teach you how to use melee weapons." As he spoke, the man gestured as if he were wielding a sword. "From small weapons to massive ones, I can teach you how to use any of them."

author's note: I'm going away this weekend, so we won't have chapters until Monday

## **the monarch Chapter 18 - Weapons(2)**

### **Chapter 18: Weapons(2)**

Kayden thought for a moment and decided to accept the man's proposal. Without school, he had time to do something for leisure like this activity. It wouldn't harm him at all and might make him have a fun time learning something else outside of magic.

"I would love to, but I don't have any weapons and I don't have the wherewithal to buy one", that was true, Kayden never had money or cared about it. The man seemed to expect that kind of response from the boy.

"Don't worry, we'll use the warehouse," as he spoke, he guided Kayden to one end. There was an almost camouflaged door, it had the same color as the wall. The trainer opened it, and as Kayden poked his head through the door, he found himself in another square room, only this time much smaller, about 10 meters wide, with several weapons hanging on the walls.

"You can choose anyone to train here, you just have to remember to return it at the end of training", from that sentence, the man began to explain the difference between each weapon in the warehouse.

After a few minutes of being presented with all the possibilities, Kayden chose one that was his love from another life. Since Nicolas started listening to the novels, he fell in love with the katana. There was always a character in some work using it.

"I want the katana ", as soon as Kayden said that, the coach promptly handed him one of the katanas. It had a standard style with a yellowed wooden handle and a silver blade. Its blade was approximately 70 centimeters and, with the handle, reached an incredible value of 90 centimeters.

1

"This is a good choice, but it is difficult to learn how to use it, its techniques are from another era, one already lost by humanity", the coach approved the boy's choice and presented the weapon to him. "The katana has an extremely sharp and curved blade, which allows for precise and effective cuts. The curvature of the blade helps to distribute the force of the blow along its surface, increasing the efficiency of the cut."

After taking it in his hands, he realized that the weapon weighed something around 1 kg. He tried to swing it and... almost fell over with the sword. The man took a slight leap to the side. It wasn't today that rookies messed up. If he wasn't careful, Kayden's weapon could have wound him.

"Sorry, I'm not used to it. She looks light, but when she's shaken, her weight becomes heavy," Kayden apologized quickly, embarrassed.

2

"Don't worry, for anyone who has never used a weapon it's normal. They tend to make these mistakes. Come on kid, I'll teach you the basics and give you some exercises," the trainer hustled Kayden out of the room and closed the door. They returned to their starting position.

The man took the sword and began to explain the details to Kayden.

"First, remove it by lifting the back slightly and then pointing to the ground, unsheath the blade", he showed the correct way to remove it.

"Second, grip the katana with both hands, leaving the thumb and forefinger of the left hand extended and the other fingers encircling the hilt. The right hand should encircle the hilt just below the left hand, with the thumb over the blade." As he spoke, he demonstrated the footprint.

"Now I'm going to teach you the art of sword known as Kenjutsu. We don't know who invented it, but it was in our world long before magic. Experts say it even predates several great constructions and empires." (All information is true (: Hope you enjoy a little knowledge).

The trainer passed the katana to Kayden and asked him to try the same moves he demonstrated. At first, Kayden was clumsy, and as the minutes passed... he was still clumsy.

"Don't be discouraged, the art of the sword takes years to be polished", the trainer encouraged the boy.

Unbeknownst to him, Kayden already knew this. In his past life, he had contact with a novel where humans fought against the gods in a tournament, and, in one of the moments, a swordsman carrying a katana was put to fight. When he appeared, he was old and wrinkled. The audience even booed and asked if there was a mistake. But he just replied:

1

"Why would I be young? I'm not at the peak of my age, but I'm at the peak of my ability."

Returning to the present, Kayden continued training only in removing the blade and wielding it. He never wanted to be a swordsman, but after a few hours, he felt something inside him change. He enjoyed wielding the weapon.

The problem is that it would be even more difficult for him to progress in this path than that of a conventional mage. This raised some doubts about what he should do, and again the magical animals came to his mind. There were numerous examples of animals with strong physical and magical strength.

After finishing practice, Kayden returned with Ryan. The whole way there, he was silent and thoughtful. He didn't know what to do, he seemed more and more confused. There was no path he could safely explore, all known alternatives lead to failure in the end.

"Is that it? Was I born a second life to be mediocre? Just one more in the crowd? I refuse to believe this, I'm going to make it through this life, whatever the cost." As soon as he got home, he immediately went to the library, he would read every book there in search of answers.

1 month later...

During that time, Kayden practically lived in the library. He halved his mana training and just carried on with the trainer as normal. He read every book about magical animals that existed in the place. There were 2 to 3 titles per day. Heimer taught him speed reading techniques to accomplish this feat. Every second he spent there, he was more certain that this was the answer to his problem.

He also slowly fell in love with the art of swordsmanship. His skills were still average at best. From the beginning, he only managed to learn one more move of the coach's technique. But that was all right with his conscience, he knew the progress was slow but palpable. Other than cultivating your core, it felt like the effort fell into an endless and meaningless abyss.

Kayden was at the library as usual, devouring a few more books. The book in particular demonstrated how theoretically the beasts could consume mana to improve their own body. Unfortunately, there was no proof and it was just a theory. At that moment, Heimer came through the door and addressed Kayden.

"Kayden..." Before Heimer could continue, Kayden let out a small cry of fright.

"Jesus, Heimer, please don't scare me like that." Kayden had his heart in his mouth for a moment. This drew a small smile from Heimer, who loved to get into these little pranks.

Sitting down in a chair lazily, Heimer leaned across the table. The boy was 11 years old and was getting closer every day to reaching rank 7. Seeing that Kayden had his attention on him, Heimer said:

"I found David Nakir. He lives in a town to the south, about 3 hours away by train. He has a small mansion outside the city." Heimer took a while to find the guy, it was like he didn't want to be found.

## **the monarch Chapter 19 - David Nakir (1)**

### **Chapter 19: David Nakir (1)**

Being a genius had its benefits, you didn't need to have money or power. Only the promise of favor could get most people to agree with his requests. Kayden felt surprised, he barely remembered it, but it came at just the right moment. He was almost done with the books he was interested in in the library, there weren't many books on the subject. There were few mages capable of studying magical animals and even fewer those with the curiosity and scientific spirit to do so.

"That's good, Heimer," Kayden was gleeful, but then he got a little jolt of reality. He was just a 5-year-old boy, how was he going to find the man on his own? "But how can I go there?"

Heimer was already prepared for that question as well.

"Ask the old man to take you. He'll deny it at first, but just tell him it's extremely important for your growth as a mage," it seemed that Heimer had done similar things before. "And if he still denies it, just cry. He's weak at heart."

1

Kayden hadn't thought about it, he was always doing everything himself, but his dad was someone he could rely on. You just had to be smart not to reveal too much about yourself to him.

"Just don't let the old man go with you there, he ends up scaring most people because of his magic level," Kayden always had a doubt and decided to take it away now. Closing the book and getting up to put it away, he asked: "Heimer, what is the rank after apprentice and what is the rank of old man?" Kayden was always focused on his goals

and it never crossed his mind. He had an idea that the next rank was a mage, but that was where his knowledge ended.

"The next rank is the mage, and as for the old man's rank, I don't know. But I've never seen anyone stronger than him until today, and I've talked to many powerful mages," Heimer said sincerely. This was also his question. The old man never said anything about his magic level or his life before the orphanage.

2

After exchanging a few more words with his friend, Kayden headed upstairs to look for the old man. The man was making lunch for the various children at the orphanage. Kayden enjoyed the old man's cooking, probably over time he got a great deal of cooking experience.

While frying some eggs in several floating pans, the man was also stirring something in a giant pan. Unlike his cold and tough air, he wore an apron with some flowers. He claimed it was a gift from a friend, but no one believed that.

"Hi Dad, how are you?" Kayden greeted cheerfully.

1

"Hi Kayden, I'm busy right now, kid." Even with the gruff tone, Kayden knew it was just a front. Also, the man seemed carefree when cooking. It could hardly be called busy, he didn't even make an effort to carry out the various activities at the same time.

"I need your help with something, it's really important to me, have a chance to help me with my rank," Kayden expressed his wishes in a determined way.

"What do you need?" Before even knowing what it was, the old man had already decided to help the boy. He knew that the child was a genius trapped by his low-rank body, and he still felt bad from the shock of the test years ago.

Seeing that his father was willing to help, Kayden quickly explained that he wanted to meet the author of the book "Heart of Beasts and Heart of Mana". The old man laughed and explained again to Kayden that this topic was a joke, but the boy refused to listen and insisted that he needed to meet David.

After some insistence, the old man agreed to take him the next day. It was a Sunday so it was perfect. He needed some time to find someone to look after the children at the orphanage. Finishing arranging the dishes, the old man called the children to lunch and said:

"Prepare yourself with notes and things you'll want to take. We're going by train. The trip should only take a few hours, but you never know what could happen. Always prepare

for the unexpected." After confirming the old man, Kayden thanked him and went back to the library. He would reread David's book to have something to talk about with the author.

The next day, Kayden woke up early and checked his backpack with some extra clothes and a notebook to take notes. He performed his mana training and went down to have coffee with his father.

After a few greetings, the old man asked Kayden to accompany him to the train and gave the boy some directions. It might not look like it, but the old man was nervous about it being Kayden's first long-distance trip.

"Don't talk to strangers and don't go to uncrowded places. Avoid being alone with anyone else anywhere without me. I'll drop you off at his place, just like you asked, and I won't interfere or let him see me," the old man kept giving information over and over, like a doting mother.

Before getting on the train, the old man gave Kayden a bracelet and said it was for protection. He didn't give more details or anything like that. This item was the first magic item Kayden had ever seen, and he couldn't see any difference from a normal bracelet. But he decided to trust the old man. The man would hardly lie to him without reason.

Kayden was already used to riding the train, but this time it was different. After leaving the part of town, the train entered a kind of transparent funnel and began to accelerate.

crazy air. For a moment, Kayden felt pressed into the seat, but he quickly stabilized. Seeing the boy's curiosity, the old man explained:

"This funnel is so that nothing gets in the way of the train. Right now we are moving at over 500 kilometers per hour. That kind of speed is only allowed in places outside of human circulation." The environment outside was changing rapidly. In a few moments, they were in a forest of gigantic trees and then below a river.

1

Kayden felt delighted. He saw deserts, rivers that looked like seas, and giant trees. At times, I was even able to see some giant animals around, but they were rare. Usually, they avoided this iron giant.

After exactly 3 hours, Kayden arrived at a city that was inside a gigantic jungle. The city was surrounded by trees in every way. And oddly enough, there were no walls. The houses were mostly small. It seemed to be something more cultural than a necessity.

After getting off the train, Kayden came across a standard train station. It seemed that they were the same everywhere, from the center of a city to the countryside. The old man brought Kayden to a quieter spot in the station and went over what he had said

earlier. Then he ordered a taxi for the two of them. This generated a little doubt in the boy.

"Why don't we go flying, Dad?" Kayden still remembered the excitement of his first day of school. Feeling the wind hitting your face and the ground passing your feet was an amazing feeling.

"Flying gets a lot of attention in cities. That's not something I want." Minutes later, the taxi arrived. The two went inside and the old man gave the address that Heimer had found.

## **the monarch Chapter 20 - David Nakir(2)**

### **Chapter 20: David Nakir(2)**

As he watched the street, Kayden noticed that there were many people with different animals. It was a very large amount, almost half of the people had at least one pet with them. Kayden voiced this to the driver.

"Our city is known as the home of tamers, we have the highest percentage in the entire kingdom, and since we have a gigantic jungle around, we always have a constant flow of magical beasts," the native explained happily. You could see the pride in his speech.

After a few minutes, the two were seen getting out of the taxi in a rural area of the city. It appeared to be abandoned, there was only one house on top of a hill. There was grass all around, growing wildly. It looked like it had no inhabitants for a long time.

"I'll be waiting for you somewhere nearby, when you leave I'll know. Take your time, okay?" As soon as he gave Kayden directions again, he withdrew to some shade and made a wooden bench to sit on.

After some thought about how to introduce himself to the man, Kayden walked up the hill. The house was large and oddly shaped. Its base was square, but its top was enclosed in a half circle of glass.

Arriving within 50 meters of the house, his vision darkened and he found himself staring at the ground. It was so fast that he couldn't react. He gave a startled scream and, when he turned to see what was happening, he saw the old man beside him and a giant dog floating in the air.

"I told you to be careful, kid", as he spoke, he kept holding the dog in the air. He knew he was too fast for Kayden's level to even be able to react. "I'll call the man for you."

Before he could realize what he said, they saw the door open and a man wearing a white coat came out. He appeared to be middle-aged, in his early 40s. His hair grew



carelessly, his beard like a rat's tuft. He appeared to be a mad scientist incarnate. As soon as he left, he was surprised to recognize the old man.

"Sir Han, it's an honor to meet you, but would you please let go of Cerberus? He just wanted attention, but he doesn't know how to regulate his strength very well." This was the first time anyone recognized the old man, and it was also the first time Kayden had heard his father's name.

Hearing the scientist's friendly tone, the old man released the dog. As soon as he hit the ground, he lunged at Kayden again and... gave him a stinking dog lick. Then he turned over on his stomach, asking for affection.

"Cerberus, come here. I already told you that you are supposed to be fierce, you mongrel, fierce." It looked like this wasn't the first time the big dog had been overly friendly. As soon as he was called, Cerberus quickly came to his owner's side.

Meanwhile, Kayden finally got up and looked right at David. There was no doubt about it, David was a mad scientist, just like in the stories of his past life. Cleaning up his clothes, he introduced herself to the man.

"Hello, Sir David. My name is Kayden. I came to meet you so we could have a chat about one of your books." Kayden didn't try to approach and waited for a signal from the scientist.

When the scientist was about to answer, the old man interrupted as he left:

"I'll wait for you downstairs, kid. Remember to wear the necklace if you need to, and don't say anything about me. That man is dead." The truth was, the old man didn't even need to be there, the necklace would probably defend Kayden from anything in this place. But the old man reacted automatically. Quickly, as it came, the little man left.

"Hello, would you like to come in? I'm David, David Nakir. It's nice to meet a friend of Mr. Han." The scientist seemed disappointed that his hero was gone but decided to show hospitality to his companion.

As he approached, Kayden noticed that the scientist was very respectful of his father, not enjoying being just a random acknowledgment.

"Did you know my father?" This phrase gave David a slight fright, and he decided to double down on education. He might be a little crazy, but he wasn't stupid.

"I'm sorry, but Mister Han asked me not to say anything, so I won't talk about it. But let's go in, come in." David called out to Kayden as he entered the house himself. The boy followed David inside.

As he walked through the door, he was directly faced with what looked like a laboratory. It suited the man's style well, but what didn't match was the level of organization of the place. Every tool was perfectly aligned and clean, not an ounce of dirt. On the ceiling was written "Nosce te ipsum". Kayden recognized the Latin translation, for in his past life he had studied many philosophers. The phrase said, "Know thyself".

3

There was a rectangular bench full of plants on one side and a cauldron on the other. At one end of the room, it was possible to see a spiral staircase that probably led to the second floor of the house.

While Kayden was looking around, the man appeared with two chairs and asked Kayden to accompany him to the second floor. Climbing upstairs, Kayden found himself in a room with only a double bed in the middle and a wine cellar. Unlike his expectation, the glass did not let the sun in and made the place unbearable.

Placing the two chairs in

On a kind of porch at the end of the room, David called Kayden to a seat. At the same time, he opened a bottle of wine and poured it for Kayden.

"I'm only 5 years old yet..."

"...." The man hadn't noticed that and quickly made up an excuse. "Both are for me." With that said, he filled both glasses and poured a third with water for Kayden. "So what do you want to ask me about?"

At this point, Kayden had already thought a lot about his path in magic and various ways to best combine all of his abilities. And you came here for one purpose only, to find more information and perhaps a helper.

"I want to create a heart of mana in myself." For a moment, the scientist was silent, as if he didn't understand what the boy said, and then he burst out:

"What the hell? What do you mean by creating a mana heart? We don't even know if animals still have it. Are you making fun of me, boy?" The man thought it was a joke and a very bad one at that.

Kayden was at first confused by David's outburst, who seemed so calm but understood that the man had probably already been screwed too much for his work.

"I'm serious, Sir David. I've come to seek your help for more information, but I'll do this with or without your help. It's a matter of necessity for me." Kayden tried to reassure the man that it wasn't a joke and it seemed to work.

"Why? Why would you risk your life for something you don't even know will work? And besides, you're just a kid. How did you come up with all of this?" As he spoke, he stirred his glass with interest.

"I was born with a body of Level 1 talent, I'm doomed to fail at everything mankind has known. I need to take a new path or I won't make it to the top of the wizarding world." This phrase came from Kayden's heart and expressed all his sincerity. He had been thinking about the heart of mana for a long time.