

the monarch Chapter 61 - Progress?[2]

Chapter 61: Progress?[2]

"Of course, we should just try again," Heimer looked at the old man, a tactical understanding was agreed upon between the two. Slowly, they approached Kayden with a friendly smile.

Han had a long lifespan and knew how to hide his intentions easily, but Heimer didn't have that ability. Kayden could feel his murderous vibes aimed at him.

He even tried to move away but found himself pinned to the ground. When his gaze was directed downwards, he saw a circle of runes rooting him in place. As soon as he turned his vision upwards, he saw a Heimer with a satisfied smile in front of him.

"It looks like you've lost respect for your big brother," Kayden started getting spanked.

Their screams could be heard from outside the house.

"Father, won't you help me? It was a small mistake," Kayden would never admit that he pranked them both. The old man looked to the side as if he hadn't seen Heimer's abuse.

"I think I'm going to have to paint the wall in a few months," his tone sounded like he was considering it at the moment.

After a few minutes of spanking, Heimer finally found himself satisfied. Han didn't care, he was happy to see Kayden letting go and making jokes, they were rare, very rare.

"Wow, I didn't even see you two here?" Han had a smile that made Kayden think it was worth electrocuting them both.

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But what does this have to do with Kayden watching lightning on a mountain peak? That little game showed the boy two things. One that shouldn't mess with Heimer and that different people make different lightning.

His question was: why? He could feel that Heimer's lightning was disorganized and Han's was clean and gave a feeling of purity. The boy couldn't say why that was, nor could he even distinguish very well the sensations that the magic gave him.

It was similar to human instinct. There was no way to explain certain sensations, you just felt them. Therefore, he had the idea of seeing natural rays, which came from Mother Nature herself.

Thus, he solved two problems with one stone. He would learn the reason for the difference and would also deepen his understanding of his element. The only problem was that lightning rarely struck in specific places.

So he looked for the highest mountain he could find. Fortunately, it wasn't too far from the orphanage, it was only 4 kilometers. The problem was that there was no train line to get there.

Again, Kayden had the idea of doing the route using acceleration. His focus was to further improve his execution and control of this spell. It may seem silly, but in 2 months, he reduced his mana expenditure by 20% while maintaining a 15% acceleration, all because he got used to using the spell without thinking.

But was that all he improved? No. In those two months, he reflected on the epiphany he had. It took him literally dozens of hours to discover something very simple. His epiphany was divided into two phases.

First, he utilized the outer mana that came from the guide; he circulated the mana countless times, probably numbering in the tens of thousands. But eventually, he broke the rank barrier and advanced.

At this time, the guide stopped supplying him with mana, because if Kayden continued cultivating without stabilizing his foundations, he could be permanently injured. This is where the main part comes in, Kayden didn't know what had happened.

He remembered to circulate his inner mana, but this should not affect his cultivation progress. At least that's what he believed. When I was in the second rank, I had already tested this. He spent a few days circulating mana through his veins.

But what is the difference between these two experiences? Kayden could only think of one thing, the first time he didn't circle enough. Your veins should be polished under an incessant flow of mana.

After getting so much rain these days, he made an association. How did rain open holes in paved roads? Time and constancy. That was the answer. It was hundreds of thousands of drops hitting the same spot for days for negligible progress, but within months that progress would accumulate into something unbelievable.

His veins were the same. His mana should pass through each possible point thousands of times. Since the epiphany had already polished his body, he had no way of testing this hypothesis, but he was sure this was the answer.

And what did he gain from it? His veins were able to withstand a greater amount of mana without bursting and, in addition, his speed was ridiculously superior. As he only polished it once, his body was performing the same as if he was at the peak of the 5th apprentice level.

If he had done this on every level, where would he be? At the peak of the 6th rank? That would be... unbelievable. But there was no point crying over spilled milk.

Of course, that wasn't his only gain during that time. Your spells and battle power have seen a huge increase in performance, more specifically not in the quantity of power, but in the quality.

Kayden understood how lightning formed scientifically. He studied every nuance he found in public archives. It might sound silly, but it made him feel closer to his element.

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His concentrated lightning was able to form much faster and reach a speed incomparable to that of old. Furthermore, most importantly, he no longer needed to use it on his body.

You see, it is very difficult for an apprentice mage to manipulate mana outside his body. Why? Very simply, Kayden blamed it on an ability that was only acquired in the next realm, spiritual sense.

It was like a sixth sense that encompassed everything around a mage, it was almost as if it were an extension of their own body. Was Kayden an unprecedented genius? In truth no.

What he did was leave pre-programmed spells. Unfortunately, his control over them was non-existent. The moment they were released, they would go to the last place he chose. This technique was based on forming a potential difference with a timer, which when it reached the highest point, resulted in lightning.

That was all Kayden could get out of 2 months of reflection, at least that was all he was ready to discuss with himself. What about the psychological outcome of your test?

Kayden subconsciously refused to think about it. He didn't want to face the reality, that he never cared about taking human lives or committing unethical acts.

But that's a conversation for another time.

Kayden stood up, his little seclusion finally coming to an end. He had finished digesting everything he could about his latest training. His focus now was on life and death struggles.

His heart raced at that simple thought. This time, he would face real fighters, not mere psychopaths who had never fought head-on in their lives. Fear? Yes, he had, but he knew it was necessary.

He started down the mountain.

the monarch Chapter 62 - Elite class

Chapter 62: Elite class

"Want a drink?" A groggy Shang offered Kayden a bottle of dubious content, which was promptly refused by the boy. The two were sitting in one of the club's floating bars, around them were dozens of other people chatting as they waited for the entertainment fights. Kayden decided to get straight to the point.

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"I'm ready to fight." With that sentence, Shang removed the drunkenness from his face and assumed a serious posture.

"No." His serious tone surprised Kayden. He didn't expect the blonde to refuse.

"Why?" He expressed his doubts with a frown. Just as the blonde was about to speak, Kayden met his patron's eyes. The eyes glowed a faint shade of red and... Desperation.

Endless, as if nothing could solve your problems. His life was a loop of anguish. Nothing would work. He was still far from his goals. It seemed like it would be impossible to achieve anything.

Shang looked like a god of death. Nothing could stop him. Kayden was going to die. He had no way to fight. His heart began to slow down, life lost its meaning. Why try if he was going to fail? It didn't make sense.

Kayden slapped himself in the face, and with the physical pain, the boy managed to snap out of his stupor. He came across a Shang drinking his drink from a cup that he was sure hadn't been there before.

"Three minutes, it took you that long to compose yourself." The blonde seemed to have returned to normal.

"What was this?" Kayden could still feel the frightening despair that assaulted him.

"Intent to kill." Shang seemed to be enjoying the suspense and just said that.

"I understand." Kayden didn't say anything else, the minutes started to pass and Shang started to get angry. After a while, he couldn't help it and opened his mouth.

"Come on, Kayden, don't you have anything to ask?" Shang seemed eager to demonstrate all of his knowledge to Kayden.

"Not really, Shang." Kayden knew the game he was playing and played dumb. Finally, the blonde couldn't take it anymore and spoke.

"You little shit, listen well because I'm going to pass on my magnanimous knowledge to a shallow mortal. When you fight many times in your life and kill different people, you gain a strange ability to force mana into your intentions."

Kayden was familiar with this. How many novels has he read? Countless. How many had the intention to kill? All. Absolutely all. He already expected there to be something like that in this world.

Kayden and Shang

"Is yours very strong or am I weak, Shang?" Kayden asked curiously.

"A middle ground", the blonde scratched his chin before responding. "I haven't killed many people in this life, so it's not strong. The problem is that you have never had contact with this before, it was like a shock to your mind."

"I see, and what does this have to do with the fact that I can't fight life-and-death battles?" It didn't make much sense to Kayden. His opponents would hardly have a sharp intention like Shang's. The boy didn't fall for the talk that he had killed a few people.

For a few seconds before entering the trance state, Kayden was able to feel as if Shang was dripping with blood. Almost like a living demon.

"Any opponent you catch must be able to use at least some killing intent. Even though it's weak, it should still be able to freeze your movements for a few milliseconds and it will feel like you've been fighting the entire match stuck in mud."

Kayden hadn't thought about that point. It may seem like little, but just a few milliseconds were capable of defining a winner in a fight.

"How do I not be influenced by this?" Kayden was sure Shang had a solution. He was a businessman, never one to present an unsolvable problem.

"Training. If you have a dose of my intention every day, you should be ready in a week. There's no point in doing too much in just one session, and you'll end up collapsing."

"Very well, let's begin." Kayden didn't want to waste a minute.

In an underground room, a woman was sitting at a table. She seemed to be just waiting for time to pass. Again she didn't hear Kayden come through the door. She was only noticing him when the boy was in front of her. With a scream, she headed towards Kayden.

"Kid, you shouldn't scare older people like that." Her heart was racing.

"I entered normally, this is the second time this has happened, Madam Secretary." Kayden apologized anyway and got straight to the point.

"I want to try out to join the elite team." It had been over 3 months since the last time. Kayden was sure that now he could easily face the ice girl or any other opponent.

"Very good, Kayden, isn't it? This time the punishment for losing is 6 months without being able to challenge. Are you okay with that?" The rules were made so that the challenges would not be incessant and harm the students.

"Yes and thank you for the invitation," Kayden remembered to say thank you. Without that card, it would take him much longer to have the same battle experience and even reach level 5.

"What invitation? I don't know what you're talking about. Just wait while I call some elite students." The woman acted like she didn't understand, she was probably very well trained by Shang.

A few minutes later the ground opened up. Again Kayden saw the girl curling up in a pile of clothes. When their eyes met, she expressed annoyance. It had barely been 3 months since they last fought. In such a short time, they could scarcely evolve.

"The rules are the same," the secretary announced. "As soon as you're ready, step into the circle, Kayden. In ten seconds your fight will begin." As soon as Kayden heard the command, he entered the circle.

Drawing his sword, he assumed an offensive stance. This time, he came prepared. The boy wouldn't let her take charge of the battle like last time. Ten seconds later, the woman clapped her hands and the fight began.

Kayden simulated a flashbang instantly. The girl reacted automatically based on her memories and turned her face away. Unfortunately for her, Kayden already expected this.

Using acceleration, he approached her. His chance was to catch her before her ice barrier was raised. When his opponent realized what was happening, he began to move away and throw small fragments of ice at Kayden.

It seemed like a game of cat and mouse. If Kayden let her put up the barrier, he would lose. And if she let him get close, she would lose. The boy started using flashbangs, which were quickly avoided by the girl.

"Do you want to play a game of attrition? Will not happen." With an audible snort, she released a large quantity of icicles at Kayden.

He was forced to retreat. In the meantime, the ice wall was erected between the two. The boy continued to move constantly. He didn't want to be caught by the same attack from his first fight.

"Give up, this game is over." After a few minutes of Kayden dodging and hitting the wall from all angles, his opponent expressed disdain. The most annoying thing is that the flashbangs kept coming out without stopping.

'I have 10% more mana, but there are still 30 seconds left.' His plan had to be coordinated perfectly. The girl couldn't feel that something was wrong.

"You talk a lot." The boy sneered, infuriating his opponent. The girl's anger was expressed as hundreds of icicles were released towards her. It was at least double the first time.

Kayden managed to deflect most of them, but dozens of cuts were still made on his body. His clothes turned to rags.

"See the difference between us? Give up, referee, end this match." Her tone did not accept refusals, but, unfortunately for her, nothing was heard from the secretariat. Her tough tone was fake.

Kayden didn't know exactly how much mana a conventional mage could use at this rank. But surely the girl was also at the limits of her strength.

"Transcendence." A light murmur was said by Kayden. At this moment, dozens of concentrated beams of lightning headed towards the girl's barrier.

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BOOM!

A gigantic boom was heard as the ice barrier was torn to pieces by dozens of spells hitting the same spot. A small wave of steam rose, obscuring the view.

As soon as the girl recovered from the shock, she raised another ice barrier with the remainder of her mana and instantly tried to recover the lost mana. As she looked for Kayden, she heard the sound of metal hitting metal behind his back.

His opponent was keeping the katana in its sheath. The girl looked at it irritated.

"Why waste so much time if you were going to give up? Pathetic." This fight lasted at least 30 endless minutes and the worst thing is that she didn't even learn anything from it.

Against all expectations, Kayden just looked at the secretary.

"Where should I go now?" His tone was neutral as if the girl's taunts fell on deaf ears.

"You can go down the stairs, Kayden, there will be someone there to help you." The secretary turned to the girl.

"Yasmim, you have lost your elite student rights, you can only challenge the last-placed student in 1 year." It took the girl a while to realize, she had lost, but how?

"I do not accept that!!! You are in a plot, the fight isn't even over!" Like a spoiled child when contradicted, she got angry and shouted at the secretary.

Kayden didn't even stay to see what was going on. It was none of his business. He began to descend the stairs with steady steps. It was a stunning black marble staircase, at least 50 centimeters long on each step.

"Perfect." As soon as the passage closed, Kayden collapsed on one of the steps. He was exhausted. Using his new spell exhausted him beyond what he imagined. His mana veins were completely overheated.

But what happened?

Kayden was constantly dodging and changing positions to place small pre-programmed rays to hit the same spot. It was a great effort on his part, as everyone needed to have the right amount of mana to cause a difference in the potential capability of releasing the lightning.

He set the timer for 20 minutes and waited. When he got close, he used his new spell. Transcendent. It was the improved version of acceleration. Normally, his acceleration could only increase his speed by 15%, but since he polished his veins, the boy discovered that it could cause him to slightly overheat.

His body was able to withstand a greater amount of mana without permanent damage. Transcendentia was capable of increasing his capabilities by 40%. This was ridiculous. Kayden estimated that it should have the same speed as a 7th rank.

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That was a jump of 2 ranks and one of them was still a transitional realm. The downside was that he was extremely exhausted afterward. To the point that even walking is difficult. This state only lasted 1 minute.

Returning to the fight

As soon as Kayden activated the spell, he ran unsustainably fast after the girl. As soon as he got close, he passed the sword inches away from her body. It was just a gesture, as previously she had shown him mercy.

Fortunately, the secretary was at least a mage, so she was able to visualize everything that was happening perfectly.

The boy took a big breath of air and stood up. He didn't expect much from this elite group, in fact, he only came here because he couldn't participate in life-and-death fights yet.

Shang asked him to reach at least the 6th rank before starting with this modality. Kayden was stubborn, but the blonde was firm in his decision. So his best choice was to join the elite class.

It would probably still take another year for him to reach the sixth rank, and since they were a little ahead of the middle of the year, Kayden could still participate in the city championship.

When he finished the staircase, Kayden was faced with a sight he would never have expected in his life. There were several lounge areas with sofas and minibars and even a heated pool down there.

At the end of the space were the training arenas, there were at least a dozen of them. Several people were fighting in the arenas or simply resting, the problem was that there were much more than just 50 people down there.

"Hello?" Kayden heard a voice beside him snap him out of his stupor. The person who called him was a woman... well... the best way to describe her was magnificent, her black hair fell to waist height, highlighting the prominent curves of her body.

"..."

With a delicate face that Kayden was sure could be on a magazine cover, the purple-eyed woman spoke again snapping her fingers close to Kayden.

"Kayden isn't it? The secretariat informed me of your arrival, I am Professor Nila ."
Kayden finally snapped out of his state of contemplation and greeted the woman normally. In his defense, he was still a man.

'That's right, everyone can fail once.' Kayden made this excuse for himself for acting like a hypnotized idiot.

"Come with me, I'll show you how things work around here." The woman began walking without waiting for Kayden's response. "These are the rest areas." The woman pointed to the several sofas. "Everything here is free and, if you want something different, just ask the waiters."

Kayden finally noticed that there were some people dressed in open suits and slacks, they were probably the waiters. The elite group had privileged treatment. It was a difference between heaven and earth.

"Why does the closed group have such refined treatment, teacher?" Kayden expressed his doubt.

"Fund, each elite student can give the equivalent of 1000 normal students, it all depends on the annual exams." These annual exams were something Kayden never participated in, as it was optional. He would probably now be forced to participate.

The two continued on their way. The room was colossal, being at least 600 meters wide. Kayden noticed that there were a lot more people here than there should have been. Again he expressed his doubts to the teacher.

"Teacher, why are there so many students here? Aren't there just 50 elites?" The teacher made a confused expression.

"Don't you know anything about how this works?" Kayden hadn't seen anything about the elite class, he just wanted to join, and... he did. The boy shook his head.

"What is the purpose of this class?" Kayden knew part of it was fighting in competitions, but it came down to that.

Kayden shook his head.

"What's our training like?"

Kayden shook his head again.

"Who are the best in our school?"

Head shake.

"Do you even know anything?"

Kayden shook his head in embarrassment. Finally, the teacher lost her patience.

"What the hell are you doing here, kid? Jesus!" The woman placed her hand on her forehead, it was the first time she had received such a lost student. "Let's go in parts, so, firstly, this closed group is a government incentive to produce elites."

That part was clear to Kayden. He just hadn't associated the facts.

"Our training is based on groups of 5 people, similar to competitions, each elite student can bring 2 friends to form a team. With only 50 students, we wouldn't have that many people here at one time."

It made sense, especially when a team had to cover different specializations. The teacher continued:

"We don't exactly have a specific composition for each team, but we ask for at least one melee fighter and a mage specializing in support, these two are the hardest to find."

That was true, Kayden saw plenty of hand-to-hand combatants, but few at school who could pose any danger in combat. And why? It was simple it was difficult for children to have enough combat experience to develop a good weapons fighting style.

Author's note: we probably won't have chapters some days this week, I have a test on Friday and there are an incredible 400 pages to read and memorize, my teacher is the famous student stunner lol

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Chapter 64: Elite class[3]

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Unlike conventional wizards, who just needed to cast spells until the opponent lost. And mages who followed common classes were even rarer, who wanted to specialize in something difficult and laborious when they could opt for easier paths?

"I have no friends, how can I form a team?" Kayden hadn't talked to anyone at his school until now.

"Don't worry, we have a catalog of all available students." The two finally arrived at the training area.

It was half the space of the room, there were several training spaces with protective bubbles, and occupying half of the training space was a gigantic bubble, in this space there were two groups of 5 people fighting.

For the first time, Kayden saw group fights, it was a chaos of spells, but it was a harmonious chaos, as if each member complemented the other's spells. In one of the teams there were 3 knights, a support and a conventional mage.

In the other there were 3 conventional mages, a support and a knight. A barrage of spells came from the other team non-stop, the other side wasn't even able to get closer.

"These are one of our teams, but they are the low-ranked ones. As you can see, the teams are unbalanced, it looks like the mages are winning, but the knights are just waiting for mana exhaustion."

What she said really happened, a few minutes later the knights attacked the magicians and knocked them down with heavy sword blows. Kayden saw something he hadn't seen at school until now.

Blood. The knights attacked without caring about anything, some wizards had deep wounds, but before they could even think they were taken out of the arena by a man dressed in a white robe.

"That's Mr. Lucas, he's a healer, thanks to him no students get hurt during training, he manages to get them out before they die." The woman said this as if the fact that they had serious injuries was irrelevant.

The fight continued for a few seconds, but the result was already defined.

"Your job now is to find members for your team, each elite student can have one with other elite students or with guests, very well, if you have any questions, call me." The teacher simply disappeared from Kayden's vision before he could say anything.

She barely explained things properly and just disappeared. The boy was still thinking when he was approached by a girl with purple hair and a black sleeveless dress.

"Hello, you're new , aren't you? My name is Alice, do you want to form a team with me?" A voice woke Kayden from his daze.

"No, team up with me, I'm a mage specializing in healing."

"I am a 6th rank knight, do it with me."

Countless people gathered around Kayden, there were so many that he didn't know what to do.

"Silence." With a command, the entire crowd fell silent, they gave way for a red-haired boy to enter the crowd. Kayden had never seen the boy, but knew he had some respect around here.

"Hello, my name is Yan von Kitten , I am responsible for guiding new students." The boy exuded confidence in his speech and composure, and his name reminded Kayden of the nobles.

"Hello, my name is Kayden, thank you for your teachings." Kayden gave the boy a nod.

"Come." The two left towards the rest areas, the boy took Kayden to a small group that was chatting around a small table with soft drinks. As soon as they noticed Yan's arrival, they greeted him.

There were two girls and a boy.

" Hey , Yan, are you a newbie?" One of the nearly 2 meter tall young men asked. In addition to his disproportionate height, he also had giant, completely tanned muscles.

"Yes, Kayden, I'll introduce you to the team." The boy pointed to one of the girls, she was very short with red hair reaching her height, her skin tone was light with small freckles on her face.

"This is my sister, Yasmin von Kitten , she is a mage specializing in support." Kayden noticed a certain similarity between the two, the girl just looked at him and didn't say anything. She had a certain snobbish air.

"..." Yan was speechless for a few seconds. "Ah, well, that's Samuel, our Goliath." It went without saying who he was talking about. "He is our tank, a 6 rank knight."

"Hello welcome." The big man greeted Kayden cheerfully, which was reciprocated by Kayden.

"This is Luiza, our girl and together with me our firepower, she and I are conventional magicians specialized in area damage spells, my element is fire and hers is earth, we are both in the 6th rank."

The girl he pointed out was wearing a pristine white robe that hid every detail of her body. Only her blonde hair was visible outside the outfit. She gave Kayden a mixed treatment with a wave.

"Very well, this is our team, in fact I am not a student responsible for helping others." Yan gave an awkward laugh. "But I just need one more fighter for my team and since you have a katana , I put two and two together."

Kayden was already expecting something like this, if there really was a student specialized for this, there wouldn't be so many people inviting him to a team.

"You are nobles, aren't you?" Kayden had to make things clear early on.

"Yes, my sister and I are the children of a baron, the other two are normal civilians who entered by invitation." Kayden had no idea what the division of nobles was like, and he didn't care.

"I have a Class 1 innate talent." Kayden dropped the bomb all at once, first causing surprise in everyone and then... contempt, the look was evident in everyone. No matter

how much Kayden proved himself, his innate talent would always give people this emotion.

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"...."

He already expected something like this from the two nobles, but from the other two it wasn't so strong, his emotions varied from surprise to disgust. The atmosphere in the room became strange between them.

After a few seconds of silence, Yan finally recovered from his shock and spoke. Like a snake, he demonstrated another form of treatment towards Kayden in his tone.

"Ah, I'm sorry Kayden, but I can't accept you knowing this, I hope to progress over time and you'll just be a burden over time, I don't even know how you were able to get in here, I'm sorry, but no We can welcome you more." His speech did not have any aggressive tone, but the contempt was notable.

Kayden expected emotions like anger or shame to surge within him, but there was nothing. He couldn't direct 1% of his concern towards other such insignificant people in his life. Maybe he is a mature person.

The boy simply turned around without saying anything and left the group, behind his back he was still able to hear Yasmin saying:

"Yan! What goes through your head to bring trash like him here?" This sentence made Kayden want to go back and choke the girl, maybe he's not that mature, but soon these emotions were suppressed by his apathy

the monarch Chapter 65 - Team

Chapter 65: Team

The boy started to walk around the place until he found an empty sofa. He threw himself onto the furniture, still exhausted from using Transcendentia. Grabbing a soda and an energy drink, the boy began sipping while replaying his last fight in his head.

This was the first time he used this spell in a real fight. The result was better than he expected, but it was clear that it was a finishing move, as he practically became useless after using it.

A few minutes later, Kayden was comfortable, lying on the couch and drinking his soda. He had already spent all of his previous fight in his head, but he still had his eyes closed, resting.

'I can get used to this.' The boy laughed to himself.

Unfortunately, his moment of pleasure was interrupted by a voice above his head.

"Mister Kayden?" When the boy opened his eyes, he was faced with a teenager with shaved hair and yellow eyes wearing a tunic. There were several other people around him, but only this one called him.

"Hello? I know you?" Kayden didn't remember seeing this teenager before at school.

"In truth no. But I know your fame and, therefore, I want to ask you to join your team, Mr. Kayden!" Fame? Since when did he have any? Only if it's your lower-class talent. And what was this respectful and formal treatment on the part of the boy?

When Kayden sat down, he noticed that a circle of people had formed around his couch. Irritating. He should put an end to this once and for all, otherwise, he would be harassed whenever he came to this place.

"Hello everyone, I know you want to ask to join my team, but know that I have an innate Class 1 talent." Again, the same reaction emerged from the public: first surprise, then contempt.

"Trash."

"Waste of vacancies."

"How did he do?"

Phrases like this were said from all sides. Kayden didn't care. This time, he was already prepared. Why should he care about sheep that needed to be in a flock for strength?

The boy was about to return to his position on the sofa and take a good nap, but, beyond his expectations, some people remained. Among them was the boy with yellow eyes. Before Kayden could say anything, the bald man spoke up:

"Don't worry about it, Mr. Kayden. I don't mind at all." His eyes conveyed all his sincerity. Some people around nodded their heads.

Kayden wasn't prepared to get to this point. He hadn't even thought about putting together a team, because, firstly, he didn't even know that fights were in teams. Letting out a sigh, he sat up straight and turned to the teen.

"What's your name and...?" Before he could continue, he was interrupted by the bald man.

"Carlos, sir!!" The boy seemed to be... excited, that was the best word to describe his personality.

"Ah, right, Carlos. I hope I can ask you a few questions before choosing to accept you into the team..."

"Of course sir." Again he was interrupted, and a small vein popped out on Kayden's forehead.

"First, stop interrupting me..."

"Sorry sir." Another vein popped out of his head.

"Why are you guys so desperate to join a team?" Kayden was curious about this point, hadn't they gotten in here for their friends?

"I noticed that you don't seem to know anything around here, sir, I'll explain it from the basics then." Carlos tried to appear helpful. "Many people here buy the elite student pass to become a guest, the problem is that it only lasts 6 months and you are unable to enter again for 1 year."

This cleared Kayden's doubts, only those that had at least one elite in their composition were considered official teams, which is why there were so many students desperate to join their team.

"I understand, introduce yourselves briefly, name, specialization, and rank." Kayden didn't want to get too close to people who wouldn't join his team, so he tried to make it as quick as possible.

"Carlos, close-range combat using fists, I'm in the 4th rank." As soon as the first one introduced himself, the others started too.

"Helena, mage specializing in offensive wind spells, I'm in the 5th rank."

"Marcus, mage specializing in support, I'm in the 5th rank."

At least 12 people were around Kayden and spoke out. As soon as they finished, the boy asked for a few minutes to think. He quickly concluded he didn't want those with higher cultivation or who were better.

Strength can be cultivated. The only thing that can't is personality. What was he looking for? Simple, determined, and focused. If he just asked, everyone would respond that they had this quality.

It was time to start testing.

"Those who want to be part of my team must first write 100 pages detailing their way of fighting and all their qualities. It must be at least 100 pages." It took a few seconds for the people around him to understand what he asked, in a matter of the blink of an eye, the 12 people became just 8.

But that was still 4 more than Kayden needed. Well, he already eliminated the lazy ones, now it was time to test the cowards.

"Does anyone have a notebook and pencil?" Again, people were surprised by the boy's actions, but someone quickly gave him what he asked for. "I'm going to do a test, there is no right answer, but bear in mind that I will choose the ones I think are best." The boy gave each person a piece of paper. "Imagine you are on a new continent..."

Finally, there were only 3 people left around Kayden. Surprisingly, one of them was Carlos, with his shiny bald head and golden eyes, his impeccable tunic, and infectious smile.

"What was the right answer?" A tall blue-haired girl asked Kayden. She wore a light dress with the appearance of someone who had never fought in her life. If Kayden wasn't mistaken, she was an offensive water element mage named Maria. Her element took Kayden by surprise. Typically, offensive magicians used elements capable of causing great mass destruction, such as fire. But who was he to criticize others, right?

The other person was a support mage named Jean. He didn't say much other than introducing himself. He wore a strange outfit by modern standards, wearing jeans with a red and black checkered shirt.

"Maria, isn't it?" The girl nodded. "There is no right answer, there are several possible scenarios, but I like one in particular that you three came very close to, burn the boats."

2

The three's response came close to that. It wasn't the same, but everyone tried to see it through to the end, regardless of the consequences. The other students, for the most part, chose to go back and ask for help from the government or related things.

Was it a wrong answer? No, it was not. But Kayden didn't like it, and well... that's it.

"I see," the girl replied and remained quiet. The three were waiting to see what it would be like from now on with Kayden as leader.

"I've never led any team, I've always been used to fighting alone, so I ask for your help if I make any mistakes," the boy said in a humble tone, which was well accepted by the members of his new team. "We need another mage for our team, but it's not necessary yet."

A team with 5 people would, without a doubt, be stronger than one with just 4 people. Unfortunately, none of them knew anyone capable of filling the vacancies.

"Carlos," Kayden had a question on his mind from the beginning of this interaction. "What fame were you talking about? And stop calling me sir, I'm younger than you."

Kayden was still 8 years old, but he was already an impressive 140 centimeters tall. It seemed small, but at his age, the average height was between 110 and 130 centimeters.

the monarch Chapter 66 - Team[2]

Chapter 66: Team[2]

"Yes sir." He received a death glare from Kayden. "I mean, Kayden, you have a reputation among normal people at school as the genius with no future. Not that I think so, sir... Kayden, I think you have a lot of potential." The boy said the last part quickly and nervously.

Kayden let out a small laugh to himself and gave a scary smile to the people around him.

'Without future? What a joke, I will overcome everything and everyone.' His mindset came ruthlessly into his thoughts.

"Kayden, stop smiling like that, you're scaring me." The one who called him was Maria, making the boy notice his devilish smile. Kayden coughed embarrassedly.

"Sorry, it was unintentional." It didn't seem like it at all. "Now let's talk about training." Once again a devilish smile appeared on Kayden's face, but this time it was quickly hidden by him. "I don't know what you do, but on my team, you will do what I specify or you are out."

It seemed like an outrageous and self-centered request, but well, it was. Kayden doubted that any of them knew how to fight properly, if they did they would have joined the elite team directly and not through invitations. Seeing that none of them opened their mouths, Kayden began:

"First, Maria, I want you to train your spells, whatever they are, to be cast incessantly and I want you to be able to recover quickly for another volley of spells. You can do it?"

"The first part I can, but when it comes to mana recovery, I don't have much beyond the basics." Now it was time for Kayden's little knowledge to come into play and start putting together the little pieces of his new plan.

"Go to the library and look for techniques swordsmen use at rest. We will protect you in combat, so you can use this kind of immersive technique." It wasn't a secret, it was just a simple technique to capture more mana in a resting state. It was of no use to mages and knights, as this fast mana was imbued with the will of the world, making it impossible to cultivate with it. The girl left as soon as she received Kayden's instructions. It was difficult to find a team around here and their time was running out.

"Carlos, I want you to learn techniques for explosions of speed and strength, I want a quick and decisive attack from you." The boy quickly agreed with Kayden, he didn't have a definitive fighting style.

Kayden turned to Jean, but before he could say anything the boy surprised him.

"You want me to learn strong defense spells that give stat bonuses aimed at explosive strikes, don't you?" It seems that Jean had discovered Kayden's plans.

"Yes, that's right." Once again, another member left after receiving his instructions. Kayden expected them to debate a little more, but apparently, he underestimated the guests' desperation to join a team. They certainly had pressure from their parents and society on their shoulders.

"What about me? What's your plan, Kayden?" Carlos asked.

"I need you to learn spells and explosive techniques too. However, I also want you to focus on having a hybrid style between defense and attack. And as for the plan, you don't need to worry about that for now."

Kayden quickly realized that the three of them were not used to fighting. Mainly because they easily give up their fighting style and go learn other types of spells.

The boy had neither the time nor the desire to teach them how to fight, so his strategy was simple. Make them specialize in carrying out a false attack with incessant attacks and a real one with full force.

In this attack, he would use his special spell and it would be all or nothing against the other team. Honestly, his 3 allies would prepare the ground so he could finish the match.

"Okay, Kayden, see you tomorrow then," Carlos said goodbye, leaving Kayden alone again.

The boy took a deep breath. It seemed like a new stage in his life was about to begin.

A week later

A four-member team could be seen fighting another five-person team. They were in a giant underground arena.

"Bastards, fight decently!" One of the mages on the larger team was irritated. A match that was only supposed to last 10 minutes was approaching 30.

Simply because the other team seemed to use guerrilla tactics. Its main magician used several volleys of spells incessantly and, when her mana ran out, the fighters bought time for her to recover.

His spells were mainly of the water element, most were condensed to the point that they looked like ice when they hit opponents, causing open wounds and bruises.

But the main problem was a katana-wielding boy able to hold off two attackers at the same time, and if they faltered, they still received injuries. The other team's support played the role of the last guard.

Many times they came close to dealing with the opposing mage, but a protective bubble and other abilities held him back long enough for the bald man and the swordsman to arrive.

Close to 30 minutes later, the offensive mage stopped her water spells again and walked away to recover. The five-member team positioned itself to attack again, this time ready to take advantage of any opening.

" Transcendentia," Kayden said so only his team could hear. That was the signal for the last clash. His support mage cast a wind spell, increasing his speed to frightening degrees for his rank.

The monk activated an earth element spell that covered his hands with a thin layer of sharp boulders and also received a speed buff from the support mage. Adding up all the spells, they were at their strongest since the start of the fight.

Kayden charged so quickly at one of the opposing knights that he didn't even have time to react before receiving a large horizontal cut across his chest. In a few seconds, the fight became 4 against 4.

Without wasting any time, the boy headed towards the second knight. This time, it wasn't so easy, as his opponent saw Kayden's superhuman speed and focused on defending himself.

What he didn't expect was that he would be attacked by the other side. The bald man dealt a decisive blow to his head with his fists, and the knight collapsed to the ground unconscious. All of this happened in just 3 seconds.

The three mages on the other side barely had time to react before 2 of their team's allies were eliminated. They couldn't even cast a spell. The three that remained were attack-oriented fire mages.

Unfortunately for them, Kayden wasn't planning on letting them attack. Putting all his strength into his legs, he ran towards the nearest mage. A wave of fire met him.

If the boy was normal, he would have gone around or waited for her to pass. But who said he was? Using a concentrated beam through the wall of fire, Kayden crashed head-on into it.

His skin suffered first-degree burns and his clothes were singed and black in places. But his intention was successful. The wizard was hit by his spell and was slightly paralyzed.

Taking advantage of the right moment, Kayden landed a horizontal blow on his opponent's arm, almost cutting him in two. But to his delight, he was taken out of the arena before Kayden could finish the hit. Kayden turned around.

The monk was going after one of the remaining mages, the support was casting distraction spells for the last opponent, and her water mage was recovering mana.

The boy decided to end this fight quickly and headed towards the same wizard as Carlos. Using concentrated lightning from a distance, he caught his opponent by surprise.

This allowed Carlos to hit his opponent's head with a decisive blow again. Finally, there was only one opponent left.

the monarch Chapter 67 - Team[3]

Chapter 67: Team[3]

"I give up", with both hands raised, he was taken out of the arena.

"Team Kayden wins," Lucas announced, his voice amplified by mana. It took a few seconds for the penny to sink in for Kayden's team.

"That's what I 'm fucking talking about!", Carlos shouted excitedly. Maria and Jean also celebrated, but not as loudly. Kayden kept his expression neutral.

That battle had been... ridiculously easy. His opponents barely could defend themselves, their spells were simple and predictable. Maybe it wasn't them who were weak, maybe it was a matter of experience.

Kayden had already fought dozens of times in real combat, while they had barely fought once or twice.

The boy sighed.

"Carlos, shut up, it's just the base rank", this match was his team's first fight against another official team, and this made them enter position 40, it was the lowest, but it was still a ranked position.

"Come on, Kayden, we're ranked, we're the best of the best", Carlos' smile was genuine, this was one of the best moments of his short life. A week ago he was just a guest, but now he was one of the top 200 in his school.

The team went out to rest under the shocked gaze of the spectators, the other team surpassed them in cultivation level by at least one rank, but they were still able to emerge victorious.

Kayden's gaze met Yan's. They expressed shock, but another emotion was also visible in their irises: regret. Anyone with a good knowledge of combat could tell you that Kayden practically won that fight single-handedly.

Kayden looked away, he didn't care, Yan's decision sealed any future friendship they could have had. A few moments later, everyone was sitting on a couch with snacks around them.

Before Carlos started making a fuss and gorging himself on candy and soda, Kayden caught their attention.

"Attention please," he looked like a father educating his children. "Before you do anything else, let's go over the fight..." Kayden was interrupted by a cheerful Carlos.

"Why? We won, that's what matters", Carlos said lightly, but without him expecting it, Kayden reciprocated in a not-so-light way.

"That fight was pathetic, did we win? I submitted two opponents alone and made the decisive move to finish off the other two, you made dozens of ridiculous mistakes and that's why we have to review the fight**", his harsh tone put an end to the group's festive atmosphere, but Kayden didn't mind. It mattered, it was necessary to give them a reality check as soon as possible to prevent them from becoming sloppy.

"Are you guys satisfied with a 40th ranking from a random school in a random city? So let's celebrate without worrying about anything, but I don't want that, my goal is to be the best in this school", the boy's eyes shone.

"Isn't that a little much, Kayden?", Maria opened her mouth and was quickly shot by Kayden.

"In your dreams are you just one of the crowd? I don't think so. In real life, I also don't want to be one of the crowd", his harsh tone made his allies think, but at the same time, it made them see something that they had been ignoring until now.

"I want to do the review, I will work hard to be the best", Jean was the first to say. "Please help me, Kayden", with a bow he finished his speech. Kayden was pleased.

Support was the one who said the least, but he was the first to recognize his mistakes and try to improve, this characteristic made him the perfect learner. Then the other two also spoke.

"Let's do the review," Maria had a new fire in her eyes that had previously been just dull emotions.

"That's right, let's be the best!" Carlos, who had his head down since the beginning of the sermon, stood up enthusiastically, shouting his words.

"Very well," Kayden took a contract out of his pocket, the three will climb 5 ranks per week from today, and we will also do intense team training. Here is a contract so that you can be tortured... trained by me", it was close.

But Kayden almost blurted out his intentions. He couldn't let his pawns, that is, allies, run away from his team because of intensive training. The three had seen contracts before but had never signed anything like this.

The requests were simple, they just had to come every day and be trained by Kayden, if they gave up they would never be able to join an elite team again, it seemed... fair. Seeing the three signs without thinking straight made the boy smile devilishly.

This was probably the biggest mistake of their lives.

"Save me!", someone on the ground was shouting to the people around, his voice seemed to express the pain of someone who had been tortured for decades on end.

"He's a demon! someone exorcise him please," a teenage girl could be seen running from the bubble. Scenes like this became common for passersby, there was a team that used colored bubbles to hide their training.

And every few minutes someone would come out like this, they didn't know what was going on inside, but one thing was certain, the demon's identity was well known to everyone.

Kayden left the bubble.

"I think you've had enough air," Kayden grabbed Maria and Carlos' collar and pulled them inside.

"HELP!!!", was Carlos' last word outside the bubble. Maria didn't even say anything when her collar was caught she knew there was no way to escape. The first time he tried, Kayden made sure to devote as much of his attention to his torture... training.

Inside the bubble, Jean could be seen using support and distraction spells on different dolls. Every few seconds, a device purchased by Kayden repeated a random sequence of positions and spells.

They had been training at this pace for a week. Kayden had to admit that they had made big improvements.

Carlos' training consisted of performing dozens of physical exercises, but the problem was that he had to keep his spells active.

Every time he ran out of mana, the demon would come to him for a beating session...sparing. The first time he saw Kayden using only his hands, he thought it would be an easy fight, what a sweet mistake.

With his combat experience alone, Kayden was able to deliver dozens of painful blows to the boy. Usually, it lasted until one of the other two was depleted of mana and underwent the same training.

There was no point in falling to the ground and pretending to be dead. The soulless demon would come and kick your body until you stood up. Crying or trying to run resulted in the same situation. Sometimes, Kayden went overboard and ended up hitting one of them too much.

The boy's voice was recorded in the minds of all three.

"Go to Mr. Lucas, if you don't come back in five minutes I will come after you." Fortunately, none of them had any stupid ideas to find out what happened when Kayden ran after them in this situation, but without a doubt, it wouldn't be good.

Maria's training consisted of attacking a wall, alternating between strikes in the area and at specific points. She should do this until her mana runs out, then have a small sparing session against Kayden.

She was sure this was just bullying, but the boy's voice haunted her mind.

"I'm preparing you for unexpected situations," with a smile that expressed concern for the team's well-being. The three also learned that Kayden could be the most shameless of beings while also appearing to be sincere.

It might not seem obvious to the three of them, but Kayden saw them improve their improvement spells that could be cast more times to your perception and space in combat.

The one who surprised him the most was Jean, the boy hardly complained and was always ready to train more. His spells were now cast practically instantly after they were pronounced, not only that but he was able to switch between different spells in milliseconds.

the monarch Chapter 68 - Unorthodox strategies

Chapter 68: Unorthodox strategies

Author's Note: Sorry for the giant blocks of text, the correction AI was messing with me today

"Jean, come here," Kayden gathered the three of them. "Tomorrow will be our second fight. I've been analyzing our opponents. Let's use strategy number 2. They are 4 combat mages and a knight. We shouldn't have too many problems."

Strategy number two was something that Kayden drove into the minds of all three like a hot iron. It was placed so that they could perform their tasks quickly and robotically. Without them knowing, Kayden was training them for this, like soldiers who obeyed orders without thinking. That's what he wanted; his commands were to be followed without hesitation.

"You can rest until tomorrow." With all the warnings given, Kayden decided to give his team a little break. He couldn't kill them, could he? At least not much. They still have to be able to fight the next day. Carlos celebrated as if it were the biggest victory of his life. He would continue screaming if it weren't for a slap to his head by Kayden.

"Stop being retarded." The group had already gotten used to the extremely cheerful and warm bald man. "I'll wait for you tomorrow," Kayden said goodbye to his new friends.

Again, Kayden's team was in the arena. This time, his team was a little more relaxed. Kayden's intense training gave them some confidence. And in the meantime, they realized that Kayden was strong. Very strong. Whenever any of them tried to escape or fight Kayden, the boy barely made an effort to capture the fugitive, almost as if they were children.

The other team was completely unbalanced. Again, Kayden felt a glaring lack of experience. This was becoming common in this place. The only ones who meant anything here were the elite students. These gained their place by fighting; their teams were mostly made up of sycophants and ass-kissers. Pathetic. But Kayden couldn't expect much from teenagers; In fact, I couldn't expect much from anyone. Humanity tended to be mediocre and repetitive, driven by carnal and superfluous desires.

The arrival of the other team snapped Kayden out of his stupor. They were all dressed in the same purple robe. Without a doubt, it made a good impression. Kayden made a mental note for him to arrange something similar.

"The rules are the same as always," Lucas' voice was heard across the arena. "Do your best." As soon as the judge started the round, Maria began to create water around her in an uncontrolled manner. Liters and liters were being generated in the air. The other team was cautious. They saw the attrition tactic used by Kayden's team. So they just waited; it was better than wasting his energy prematurely.

"Are you going to build a pool with all this water?" One of the opposing magicians made fun of the situation, causing contemptuous laughter around him. Kayden's team's popularity was not very high, their combat style was cowardly in the eyes of the other students.

"30 seconds, Kayden," Maria said, breathing heavily. The boy knew what he had to do and it was to buy time.

Turning to one of the mages from the other team, he spoke in a mocking tone. "We found the team clown." His tone caused the people around him to let out uncontrolled laughter. No one expected a response from the swordsman. Normally, low-ranked teams didn't have that much courage.

"I'll show you who the clown is here, trash!" With a standard third-rate cliché villain speech, the opposing wizard began to conjure a fireball. Jean frowned, didn't they have to buy time?

Before the fireball was fully fired, one of the opposing mages realized what was happening.

"Hey! Stop it, he's teasing you." Kayden smiled cynically; they fell like ducks into your trap. The next few seconds began to pass slowly. Animosity was beginning to build, and while Kayden's team was calm and relaxed, the other side was anxious. They didn't know what all that water was that was getting close to a hundred liters.

"I'm ready, Kayden," Maria gave the boy the signal. As soon as Kayden heard this, he raised his sword as high as possible. He did it slowly to attract attention, and when it was at its highest point, an absurdly concentrated Pop Flash erupted, blinding practically all opponents directly. Simultaneously, Jean and Maria began to turn all the water into steam.

Within seconds, the entire arena was filled with a kind of fog, obscuring everyone's vision. Nobody knew what was going on inside. Only a few flashes of fire magic were released sporadically.

"Transcendence," Kayden's voice gave the signal for his team to finish plan two, which was nothing more than taking the opponent's vision and attacking quickly and efficiently. As discussed earlier, their targets were combat mages first. Kayden started running to where he remembered one of them being. He hadn't thought about how uncomfortable it would be inside this fog; it was hot and sticky. Their quick footsteps were heard by the opponents, but unfortunately, they were not able to discern exactly where they were. His randomly thrown spells were just a signal for Kayden to find his location.

Carlos was right behind with his hands encrusted with rocks. The time Kayden spent training caused them to develop a certain silent synergy. Kayden released a concentrated beam in one direction which was soon followed by a scream of pain.

The boy didn't waste any time and headed towards another opponent. His vision was poor, but he was sure he only needed to get close to any wizard to end the dispute.

Carlos gained momentum and jumped at the paralyzed wizard, with a decisive blow his opponent fell unconscious to the ground. Once again the fog became silent, the opposing team's heart was out of control.

They tried to scream each other's name, but it seemed like their words were falling on deaf ears. It wasn't just a simple feeling but a spell from Jean that prevented certain sounds from being heard.

Unfortunately, this happened to everyone in the arena, but as Kayden's team had the advantage they didn't care.

The seconds began to pass.

Kayden started whistling.

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There was only silence in the arena and Kayden's whistle, slowly a simple whistle began to cause panic among the magicians. It was the only sound they could hear.

Finally, one of them couldn't take it anymore and released a burst of flames towards the sound that was matched by a concentrated beam from Kayden.

Poof!

The sound of an unconscious body collapsing could be heard, there were 3 opponents left. A wave of panic began to take over their hearts. Again the sound of whistling was heard by them.

They didn't know what to do, they were wet and sticky, totally uncomfortable, they could barely breathe properly, and any mistake and they would be attacked mercilessly.

Little by little, anxiety and fear took over every inch of their bodies. Once again one of them couldn't resist and cast a spell denouncing his position.

Poof!

Another body fell to the ground. This time by a lethal blow from Kayden's katana. The opponents lost track of time. The whistle, the damned whistle, was heard again. Everything seemed to be going well for Kayden's team.

But the boy was doing his best not to collapse, his spell was demanding on his body and he was getting dangerously close to the limit of its use, he had to finish this quickly.

"I give up"

"I give up"

the monarch Chapter 69 - Ambition

Chapter 69: Ambition

Almost simultaneously, both opponents gave up, surprising Kayden. He was ready to give it his all, but it wasn't even necessary. He had forgotten how low student motivation was.

The mist was pushed away by Lucas, and all the vapor gathered into a small ball above his hands. Kayden had to admit that the man looked impressive, like a wizard carrying a storm in his hands.

"Kayden's team wins." His voice confirmed victory for Kayden's team. Again, Carlos started screaming like a maniac. His entire team celebrated, and even Kayden gave a satisfied smile. The training was not useless. It was a shame that this strategy only worked against unbalanced teams.

The top-ranked teams had a very harmonious composition and members with battle experience. Not only that, most of its members were at the 5th or 6th apprentice rank. Yan's team, for example, was among the top 10. Until this classification, Kayden didn't think he would have much trouble moving up, even if he needed to carry his team on his back.

"Let's go to training, the day has just started." With an even bigger smile, Kayden called his team.

It had been a month since Kayden joined the elite team, in the meantime, he had advanced to position 20 without losing a single match. His team was trained to the bone and, even though they didn't have much experience, they were capable of putting up a

decent fight. But the main thing was still the strategy in each battle, they fought 6 times and won 5. The only one they lost was because they were overcome by brute force. Everyone on the other side had a level 6 member, and the leader was an impressive 7th rank.

Kayden was not idle during this time either. He finally managed to not be paralyzed by Shang's killing intent. It took a little over a week, but in the end, it worked. His swordsmanship and rank were continually refined. Unfortunately, he no longer had time to watch the storms and learn from them. Another surprise is that during this time, Carlos also moved up to the 5th rank.

At this moment, Kayden was sitting with his team in one of the best spots on the elite floor. He was just cultivating while his friends chatted. After spending time with them, Kayden discovered that the three of them were 13 years old. This seemed to be the average for someone at rank 5. At 14 years old, the majority reached rank 6, and a minority reached rank 7. At the school, there were only 9 people in the 7th rank, and incredibly, one of the students had reached the 8th rank.

The number 1 ranked team was this student. According to Carlos, he came from a merchant family and had all the necessary perks to advance to the next level that could be found in the market. When Kayden asked why he hadn't entered a private school, where he could have had more dedicated teaching, Carlos explained one of the rules he had never heard of.

Private schools were exclusive to nobles, and the name "private" was not because they were paid for. It was simply because they were closed to only one type of audience. To give you an idea, they were administered by the government in the same way as public ones. This world was... identical to the previous one. Power dominated everything. The weak were devoured by the strong. Perhaps this was a natural law of the human race, there never was compassion.

Han, as a former general, should have enough authority to put Heimer there, but the boy would probably be bullied a lot by the other kids. It was natural, he was the only commoner in the school.

"I want to reach the top 5 of this school in the next 2 months." There were 4 months left before classes ended, and the city championship was held in the penultimate month of the year so as not to interfere with college tests.

"That's impossible, Kayden," Jean argued, even getting to their current position felt surreal.

"Who said? Nothing is impossible, you just have to be willing to pay the price." At this point, Kayden used the stick-and-carrot tactic. "I'm willing to train two or three times harder for this."

"No, no way, Kayden, you freak." Carlos was the first to refuse, his training routine was already insane, imagine if it increased even more. Kayden's eyes lit up, it was time to show off his marketing power.

"Are you satisfied with just that, Carlos? With being just one more student in a school among thousands? I'm not, I want to go further, I want to reach the top and for that, I need to work harder than the others."

"But we're already trying hard, Kayden." This time it was Maria who spoke, but it was clear that she didn't have much strength in her voice.

Kayden laughed wryly. "Trying hard? You can be sure that there is someone out there training 18 hours a day, there is someone who has been sleeping 6 hours a day for months, and guess what? He will be the one who will reach the best positions."

The once cheerful atmosphere became solemn, no one knew what to say. Again, the first person to speak was Jean.

"I'm going to participate", and as if by magic, the other two also offered to participate.

"Now there is no point in thinking about elaborate strategies, as brute force will be enough to break any of our plans. Let's do some suicide training now." That devilish smile appeared on Kayden's face.

A shiver down their spines was felt by the three of them when they saw this.

"Our training will be limited to tactics in the morning and improving our synergy. And in the afternoon we will fight against other teams in the classification." Until that part everything was fine. "Every half hour." Kayden's smile reached its maximum length.

"Kayden's team wins the match!" Lucas' voice echoed in the arena, resulting in Kayden's team celebrating.

They had been in a crazy rhythm of non-stop battles for a month. They lost dozens of fights and won few. Currently, they were ranked 13th. Their overall battle strength had not increased much.

But the constant battles made it possible for them to develop experience and a synergy between them. Its main difficulty has been removed. Now, it was just a matter of time before they managed to climb to the top of the rankings.

Mainly because of Kayden. Most of the time, his combat experience was put into practice and he was able to eliminate one or two opponents quickly and safely.

Leaving the arena, Kayden's gaze met Yan's again. It seemed that the boy had created a rivalry with Kayden. He was always there to watch their matches.

The boy didn't worry. Before long, they would end up facing each other, as Yan's team was in position 5 and only the top five could go to the city championship.

What an irony of fate, his last battle would be against the people who despised him in the beginning. Lately, Kayden was enjoying his fights. In these higher positions, the opponents already had some experience.

When everyone was already sitting at one of the rest points, Kayden started the agenda.

"Let's reflect on the battle and then face..." Kayden was interrupted.

"Excuse me." The one who interrupted him was a boy with blue hair and eyes the same color. His height was average. There wasn't anything spectacular about it, well... if it weren't for one small detail.

He carried a spear that was at least twice his size. It was a strikingly golden color with a white metal shaft. It looked impressive.

the monarch Chapter 70 - A peculiar invitation

Chapter 70: A peculiar invitation

But that wasn't what caught Kayden's attention, it was the aura the boy exuded. His instincts screamed that he was dangerous. This feeling he had felt before, in fact, they were well known to him.

"Fight me," the blue-haired boy bit his lip as if he was seeing something delicious in front of him. His eyes seemed to want to devour Kayden. His question caught the quartet by surprise.

"No thanks," Kayden's response was immediate. He didn't have time for that, he had a goal and he needed to achieve it.

"Astolfo!?", Carlos recognized him with a shout that was ignored by a stunned Astolfo.

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"Do... do you know who I am, by any chance?", the boy asked with a confused expression, but not arrogance. It just seemed like he had never been in a situation like this.

"No," he seemed to be a nobleman with his built-in arrogance, but Kayden didn't know anything beyond that impression. His answer clarified Astolfo's doubts.

"I am Astolfo Kan Reich, an 8th-rank spearman and leader of our school's first-place team," the boy gave a proud smile. Kayden finally recognized him it was easy since there was only one person in the 8th rank in the school.

Kayden thought about the fight request he had received. He had fought against people at the 8th rank before, but he was never able to win. Most of the time, he was surpassed by almost twice in strength and speed.

But against 7th ranks, he managed to maintain an average of 50% victory and that was impressive.

"I'm only in the 5th rank, a battle between us wouldn't be of any help to me", Kayden decided to end this matter politely, but his sentence didn't lessen the way the spearman looked at him.

"No problem, I want a fight without mana, just with our techniques", his sentence caught Kayden by surprise. He had no idea why he was being harassed by his opponent.

"Why do you want to fight me specifically?" Kayden asked with a frown.

"Instinct," a gleam of madness flashed in his eyes. "My instincts tell me you're dangerous. This feeling... drives me crazy," the boy laughed like a lunatic, making them look at him strangely. "Sorry," his apology was followed by a dry cough.

That instinct... Kayden could understand what the boy was saying.

"Very well, I accept," Kayden started to get up but was stopped by Astolfo.

"Not here, come to this address", with his phrase, he handed a piece of paper to Kayden. "I'll wait for you there in the afternoon", with a small goodbye, he left.

The interaction between them didn't even last five minutes. It was so quick that it took a while for it to sink in for everyone.

"Kayden!? You're not thinking about facing that madman, are you? He's crippled every opponent he's fought so far, he's completely sadistic", Carlos was the first to speak up.

"I haven't thought about it yet, let's continue with what we're doing," Kayden quickly brought his team members back to their senses. But his sentence was a lie, he wouldn't miss the opportunity to train with someone stronger than him.

Kayden was standing in front of a red wooden gate. This was the location stated on the paper. The boy was taken aback by the design of the place. The location was outside the city, on one of the surrounding mountains.

Behind the gate was a classic oriental film dojo. The establishment had three floors and a square base that tapered until it reached a kind of tower at the top. Its finish was entirely done in wood and white paint.

The boy didn't know how he should get in, it seemed a bit wrong to just break into the house, even though it didn't have a fence or anything like that. To his delight, he was brought out of his stupor by Astolfo.

"Kayden! Hello, I didn't expect you to come so quickly," the sun was still bright in the sky, marking that little time had passed since noon. "Come on, come on, come in, make yourself at home."

Kayden greeted Astolfo and followed the boy inside. The very air of the environment represented peace and tranquility. As they got closer, Kayden could see a few more buildings in the same oriental style.

It was funny how some things managed to survive the passage of time intact.

"This is where my clan or family, as you like to call it, lives. We follow a tradition from a long-forgotten civilization," his phrase reminded the boy of how governments hid a lot of information from the past.

Virtually little survived the wars and disasters that occurred in the small fraction of time that humanity had access to mana. Probably only the great powers still have any information about the period before the awakening.

The two walked a little further until they reached the entrance of the first building that Kayden saw. Astolfo removed his shoes and bowed before entering. Kayden froze for a moment and then regained consciousness and imitated his host's movements.

"..." Astolfo was surprised by the boy's action and looked in astonishment.

"In Rome, do as the Romans do", even if some things have been lost in the river of time, others like this expression have survived.

The boy didn't understand why Astolfo was surprised. Wasn't it normal to respect the host's culture? In truth no. This world had no room for those who were different, most of the time Astolfo and his family received small gestures of mockery.

As soon as they entered, Kayden was faced with a simple training space, without any other furniture or details. There was just a staircase at one end that should lead to the next floor.

"This is my master's house, he should be here in a few minutes, he will seal our mana so we can fight", with that sentence the boy remained silent, he lost all his strange and excited attitude.

He seemed to be afraid of something inside. A few minutes later, an old man wearing a crisp white robe came down the stairs. His face was full of wrinkles and, in keeping with this sign of age, he had a long beard and white hair.

It was similar to an old hermit. Kayden gave him a feeling of knowledge and fulfillment, like someone who, despite being old, reached his peak with age. His mere presence in the room was able to make the once-heavy atmosphere calm and serene.

"I salute the master," Astolfo greeted respectfully with a slight bow and joining of hands.

"I salute the elder," Kayden followed the boy and struck the same pose, surprising them both. His pose was a mere copy, but referring to the elderly man as an elder was something they did not expect.

Why? Because this was something very specific in their culture and it would be difficult for anyone to know about it if they hadn't studied it beforehand. Logically, Kayden didn't have time to prepare for this, this knowledge came from his past life.

"Ah, what a polite child, so what do you bring here?", the old man's voice matched his calm posture. Upon hearing the question, Astolfo stiffened and began to speak.

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