

## **the monarch Chapter 81 - Betrayal**

### **Chapter 81: Betrayal**

His first fight had already been really difficult, the boy wasn't sure how far they could go. Win this tournament? That was a bit of an impossible dream. Well, that didn't matter for now, Kayden decided to review his fight.

A few minutes later, all teams returned. Only three of them, including Kayden, managed to win their first confrontation. Even with the victory, the atmosphere in the room felt like a wake. No one said anything as they gathered strength for the next fight.

Everyone's body was restored to normal state, but the problem was the pain and strong emotions they went through. It took a little longer for their minds to fully calm down.

A few minutes later, Kayden's team was called first again.

"Let's do our best," Kayden stood up and said to his team. The boy was too focused to notice a certain abnormal nervousness in Carlos, Maria and José.

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"Kayden's team wins!" This time, only Astolfo was left, who managed to win a two-on-one fight using his spear art. Kayden had to admit that it was really impressive to see the boy fighting.

It seemed that the more opponents he had and the more blows he received, the stronger his counterattack was. The opposing team this time was well balanced, with two offensive mages, 2 melee fighters and a support.

But in the end, it didn't matter, they won. This was his third battle and it had been equally difficult as the first two. In most of them, it was decided by luck, with only one member remaining.

In the second fight, for example, only Jean was left against a melee attacker and the boy, incredibly, managed to win by applying several debuffs and attacks that eroded his opponent's resistance until he managed to apply an offensive spell capable of ending the match.

Again, the officer arrived to take them to the room dedicated to their school. This time, Kayden really was happy. The next match would decide whether they would enter the top 60 or not. Even if they didn't get in, it was still impressive. They were more or less in the top 125.

The next fight would cut the number in half, leaving just over 60. Therefore, some unlucky people had to fight again to get the keys right. Kayden was hoping it wasn't them.

"Hey, are you three okay?" Even the smiling Carlos had a frown on his face. It was obvious that the three of them were nervous. This time, even Kayden noticed.

"Yes...yes", Maria responded quickly while the other two remained quiet. Kayden decided to ignore it. It was probably just stress from coming so far.

Now the real fun would begin. Now it was just the best of the best. From his school, only Kayden and the top 2 team were left. The rankings didn't really mean much, since if they took on one of the strong teams from the private schools, they would lose.

Kayden was wondering if he should use his last asset in the next match, or if they could go further.

'Ah, let the wind take you'

Kayden leaned back in his chair and closed his eyes, deciding to simply rest for the next few minutes. This time, the rest was for an hour and gave Kayden enough time to take a short nap.

He was woken up by the shaking of the stadium when the mayor began to give the final speech of the event. Kayden simply went back to sleep and didn't pay much attention to what he was saying, if it was important he would find out later, right?

"Hey Kayden, wake up, hey!" Astolfo pushed Kayden, making the boy come out of his pleasant sleep. What stopped him from cursing the lancer was the officer's face above the VIP area. Well... in that case he would really have to stop sleeping.

The boy stood up and joined his team alongside the officer. Again, the three of them were unnaturally nervous. Kayden didn't know why, but he decided to just ignore it.

Once they entered the bubble, they had to wait a few minutes for the other team. This was strange considering both teams were called at the same time. His opponents this time were two knights and three mages.

The difference is that they were clearly noble. His clothes were impeccable tunics and cloaks, but that was not the main thing. The true fact that highlighted his lineage was his family crest.

But, unlike Yan from his school, this was a noble from the main house and not from any branch. Almost instantly, when he entered the bubble, the three who were already nervous simply began to tremble.

Kayden was in front and didn't notice it. When everyone positioned themselves, the judge started the fight.

"I give up."

"I give up."

"I give up."

Without even a second of fighting, the three on Kayden's team simply gave up for no reason at all.

"What the fuck?" Kayden didn't even have time to understand what was happening before they were taken out of the arena. In a second, only he and Astolfo were left.

"Fear of the nobles," Astolfo said calmly, as if he had already expected something like this. "Most civilians never have the courage to face a noble for fear of retaliation. It's a deep fear that has been in our society for decades."

Kayden had never noticed that. He already knew that this world was extremely elitist, but he had never seen it to this extent.

"Don't be mad at them. If we won this here and the noble on the other side ordered their family killed, nothing would happen to him. The government would just turn a blind eye."

Kayden looked at the judge, who was pretending he hadn't heard anything they were talking about.

"Are you guys finished yet? I don't mind waiting for the Mudbloods to talk some more."

1

Bad blood? That expression reminded Kayden of a book from his first world and it wasn't really something pleasant.

"Let's give up too. You're just inferior commoners."

His tone... was not arrogance, nor even contempt. It just seemed like this was a reality and he was just stating the facts. Kayden sighed. He couldn't blame the boy.

Just like the Guide said in his training at the assassins guild, if you raised a baby to think he was a dog, he will grow up thinking he is a dog and will defend it tooth and nail.

"Are you going to give up?" Kayden asked Astolfo and received a nod from the lanceur . "Today is a good day to do the impossible, isn't it?" A smile spread across Kayden's face.

"Whoever knocks down the most wins the right to be captain of the team next year." This was one of the wishes that Astolfo's endless vanity had asked of him for a long time.

"Combined." Even with the optimistic interaction between them, the atmosphere was bad. They knew that the chance of winning this here was low, at least if they used the same techniques they had been using since the first fight.

"Why do you insist on fighting? It's a practically lost battle." The noble boy grumbled, seeing that they were still going to continue, but even so he stopped his team from making the first attack, it seemed to be beneath him.

"Astolfo, I'm going to use a different spell, but it should last 30 seconds at most and after that I practically won't be able to fight anymore. Do you have something up your sleeve?" Kayden was trying to come up with something so they would have a chance to win.

1

"I will use my family's secret technique. You can leave the magicians with me, I can last a maximum of 1 minute with her, but it should be enough for us to get closer."

Kayden had no idea how they would be able to get closer under the rain of spells, but he decided to trust Astolfo. Before the fight actually started, he looked at the three standing near the judge.

"Fear condemns them to mediocrity." His hard gaze swept over his three teammates, but none of them could meet Kayden's gaze. It was clear they were not proud of what they had done.

## **the monarch Chapter 82 - A lost fight**

### **Chapter 82: A lost fight**

Astolfo closed his eyes for a few seconds to concentrate on his technique.

"I'm going to attack, you're taking too long," the noble said with a fake yawn, now his actions were dripping with arrogance.

It didn't take long for Astolfo to open his eyes and shake his head at Kayden.

"La transcendência Absolute", that was the name of the second and final version of transcendence that Kayden invented, he had not used it in combat before because of the price he had to pay.

2

His mana veins began to swell to an abnormal level, gaining almost double in volume, even his muscles had a reddish appearance, his veins began to bulge all over his body.

1

His own breath was exuding mana. When the judge saw Kayden's condition, he thought about pulling the boy, as it looked like he was about to break due to too much mana, he just didn't do it because he heard the previous conversation between the two.

"Let's go", Astolfo started running at high speed and as soon as his opponents saw this they started to launch spells at him, of the opponents two were offensive mages who launched lightning and sharp pieces of metal at them.

Kayden saw something he would probably never forget in his entire life, every spell that came towards Astolfo was simply guided by his spear back to the wizard, but everything was done smoothly.

As if a simple touch could change the entire trajectory of the attack, even the rays were deflected or thrown back, it seemed like nothing could hit him, untouchable, that was the feeling Kayden had.

"What the fuck?", the judge looked fascinated at the scene, he knew that the boy was manipulating the mana of each thing he touched in a specific area under his control, but even knowing he was sure he couldn't reproduce that .

It went without saying about the opposing team who couldn't even believe their eyes, they had never seen this even once in their lives. It didn't even take 5 seconds for the two to be facing their opponents.

Kayden wasted no time and went towards the melee attackers, one of them was the nobleman and the boy decided to start with him. His opponent was using a heavy axe.

His speed at this point was on the threshold between an eighth and ninth rank, it was simply a jump of four ranks, his katana arrived at high speed to the side of the axe.

Even with the difference in size, the ax was slightly pushed, then the boy delivered another high-speed blow to the ax again, his strength was simply at a bizarre level at this moment.

Each blow with the ax prevented him from balancing and giving Kayden a decent blow, the boy also couldn't get any distance, it seemed like Kayden was simply a shadow.

The other melee fighter was some kind of assassin and used two daggers, he quickly sneaked behind Kayden and tried to stab him in the ribs, unfortunately for him Kayden's senses were at a superhuman level.

The boy dodged and at the same time threw a concentrated beam at each one, it was so close that none of them managed to do anything other than be paralyzed for a few milliseconds, Kayden took this opportunity to pop a Pop flash at them and buy even more time.

Swish !!

His katana came down tearing the air at the dagger user's head, he couldn't even see, who would have thought to dodge, he was removed from the arena in less than 10 seconds of combat, unfortunately this gave the nobleman time to retreat.

" Pebleau ", the nobleman had a certain look of disgust that was ignored by Kayden, the boy saw the ax become covered with a kind of film of fire, he had never seen that before, but it didn't seem like a good sign.

The ax came towards him with a quick sideways blow, Kayden just moved away, he didn't have confidence in parrying the blow with that film, as soon as he moved away he saw another blow coming from his left this time.

Only now it was a sharp piece of metal, Kayden simply batted it away with his katana and looked at Astolfo facing the three mages, he didn't look in a good state as he was bleeding from a wound on his leg.

But... there were only two offensive mages left, somehow the support mage was simply eliminated in that short period of time , Kayden had to turn his attention back to his battle when the ax simply descended horizontally on his head.

The boy released a concentrated ray at the same time as he moved away, this time the ray hit the ax and simply had no effect, causing another strong blow to come towards him.

He didn't have room to move without coming into the axe's radius, but it wasn't the first time he'd faced weapons of this type. In between his opponent's next swing, he landed a quick swing on the axe.

It felt like he had hit a mountain, but it was enough to stop the ax from rising in a new blow against him, Kayden knew he had to take advantage of this opportunity and continued to maintain quick and short blows against his opponent.

Kayden's fighting style was extremely aggressive, there were blows and lightning at all times, the nobleman felt like he was facing a predator, if he made a mistake, his opponent would kill him.

'I only have 15 seconds' Kayden was out of time and he knew it, it was now or never.

His eyes turned a certain shade of white mixed with blue, it looked like little rays were dancing in them, but that was only for a very short moment of time and then they returned to normal.

At this moment, dozens of lightning bolts that were pre-programmed fell towards his opponent. Even though most of them missed their target or were deflected by the noble, some still hit his body.

" Ugh !" the nobleman let out a groan of pain due to the number of small pins that seemed to hit his body, for a moment he simply couldn't clear his thoughts.

This was more than enough for Kayden to land a direct blow with his katana on the hand that was holding the axe. As soon as his opponent loosened his grip, the boy threw a kick at his chest that sent him rolling backwards.

Wasting no time or mercy, Kayden ran against his opponent who quickly got up and once again the fire film was used, only this time in his hands. Kayden didn't even think twice before bringing his katana down on his opponent's head.

The metal hit his opponent's two hands, which seemed to be made of pure rock, the impact threw the noble back, but it was not enough to cause any significant damage.

Kayden used a concentrated beam that was deflected by his opponent and then made a clean blow to his waist, the nobleman was not fast enough and was left with a large tear in his side.

Pop flash!

Concentrated lightning!

Kayden was giving it his all, the noble was for the first time in his life being pushed to his maximum by a commoner. He couldn't understand, he was at the impressive 8th rank, so that should be enough for his strength to be far superior to Kayden's.

## **the monarch Chapter 83 - Impossible**

### **Chapter 83: Impossible**

The nobleman lost his head and attacked with a hook using his right hand. Unfortunately for him, Kayden was as calm as a river in winter and easily capitalized on this slip with a feint in the opposite direction and a well-aimed blow to the nobleman's neck.

One mistake was enough for the fight between the two to end.

"5 seconds", Kayden didn't even think before running to help Astolfo who had a bleeding leg and was limping, several cuts could be seen on his body caused by the metal darts.

The boy started with a concentrated beam directly at the metal wizard and high speed arrived behind him, his interruption caught the three by surprise, but Astolfo was the first to recover and engaged in an attack on the metal user.

It was fast and deadly, hitting his neck, this was only possible because of the surprise factor of the spell and Kayden hitting his opponent squarely. The other wizard found himself surrounded by two opponents as his ally was pulled away by the judge.

Quickly, Kayden tried to go after him but was stopped by a wave of lightning, even though he dodged, some were too many for him to be able to approach cleanly.

"2 seconds", he didn't have much time. Using all the remaining mana, he threw a concentrated beam at the opponent, which was considerably stronger than the ones coming towards him.

Like a hungry beast, his spell opened space between the opponent's attacks until it reached the wizard, it was so fast that he couldn't even dodge it, along with that lightning came more from Astolfo.

"Stupid", the boy thought when he remembered that he was avoiding using spells that could be used against himself and now his body was being attacked by dozens of his spells.

His mind simply shut down from the amount of lightning that was falling at him, before his body could fall to the ground, he was caught by the judge.

"Victory for Kayden's team", the judge's voice resounded, putting an end to the fastest fight in the championship, it was only 30 seconds and, on top of that, it was two against five, that was more than impressive, it was unbelievable.

Kayden's body fell to the ground, he couldn't even lift a muscle, this spell simply destroyed his muscles and mana veins. The principle was the same as transcendence, but the difference was that, while transcendence worked by overloading your mana veins, this new spell was overloading the veins and letting some of it escape into your body.

The mana loose in him gave an insane boost to all his abilities, but it came at a crushing price. If Kayden went beyond thirty seconds, which was the time he defined as safe, his entire body would be poisoned.

Mana poisoning was very common and caused a type of tissue necrosis. Therefore, this spell was only used in the last cases, both because of the risk and the consequences.



Even after being healed by the judge, Kayden couldn't move properly, it felt like he had been fighting for weeks on end, and his tiredness was simply abnormal.

"Want a hand there?" Astolfo asked as he pulled Kayden to lean on his shoulder.

"Thanks, my technique is a little too much for me at the moment," Kayden gave a smile of happiness, they had done it.

As soon as the officer arrived, the five were gathered together again, the three avoided the two's eyes throughout the journey, Kayden also didn't bother talking, no matter what happened, he already knew that this team was doomed to collapse now.

"Kayden!" Carlos called in a voice full of emotions, "I'm sorry, but fear paralyzed me, I'm sorry!!!" Carlos bowed in apology.

"Sorry!" Maria bowed too.

"Sorry!" Jean did the same as both of them.

Kayden was a little surprised but accepted the apology without any problems.

"Don't worry, I don't hold any grudges," that was true, "but... I'm not going to be with this team anymore, I'm sorry about that," Kayden chose to be honest with his intentions.

"I made a mistake, Kayden, but you can be sure I won't do that next time", Jean, the person who spoke and discussed the least, spoke first, but from his tone what he said was not very reliable.

"I'm sorry, but I can't trust you again, what if it was the final? I would miss a decisive moment in my life and I wouldn't be able to do anything, I can't fight tomorrow, if you want you can go."

With that, the three remained silent, they had no way to retort and they didn't even think about fighting alone the next day. In the end, their fear caused them to miss one of the best opportunities of their lives, they knew they couldn't get here alone.

"Kayden!!! Astolfo!!!" the school principal shouted as soon as they landed in the VIP area. "What a majestic fight, I have never seen such beautiful technique in my life! Astolfo and Kayden, what phenomenal tenacity! That was an 8th-rank knight, splendid boys, splendid!" The director's voice was full of joy and he was full of praise for both of them.

Even the other students in the school were congratulating them, their team was the only one that made it to the second phase. Normally, one team entered the second phase and only one.

This year, he didn't expect it to be Kayden's, since Astolfo left the first-ranked team, he didn't have much hope of excelling this year.

"Do you already know how you're going to fight tomorrow?" the director asked anxiously.

"Unfortunately we won't be able to, director, Kayden and I are unable to fight due to the rebound of our spells." With his sentence, the director's face fell, he went from heaven to hell in a second.

"Oh, what a shame, what a shame." The man repeated this phrase at least a few more times without believing the answer he got from Astolfo. "At least you can use the championship reward."

"Reward?" Kayden wasn't aware of this and decided to ask Astolfo later.

A few minutes later, the mayor appeared in the center of the arena again.

"Hello again, I hope everyone enjoyed our event, we came to an end today, but tomorrow we will have the most exciting part with the grand finals, I hope everyone is here again!" With that sentence, the first day of competition ended definitively.

They followed the same path to leave the arena, this time it was in the opposite order, with Kayden's team leaving first. Everything seemed normal until they reached the large wooden doors.

The atmosphere between Kayden's team was tense, Kayden and Astolfo were on one side and the other three on the other, it seemed that that small betrayal decreed the end of the friendship they had.

Now it was possible to feel the ground shaking before even leaving the stadium. As soon as the door opened, Kayden was met with at least triple the number of people waiting for them.

"Look at me, Kayden, what technique did you use?" one of the reporters caught the boy's attention.

"Astolfo, was that your family's spear art?" another reporter asked as he tried to exit the limited public area.

Kayden didn't know what to do for a few moments, there was such a mess of people getting his attention that he couldn't pay attention to any of them.

"Astolfo, you little shit !!!" a voice stood out from all the others, as soon as Kayden followed the direction of the voice he saw something he didn't expect in his wildest dreams. Astolfo's master was floating with a bloodthirsty look in the air.

## **the monarch Chapter 84 - Consequences and rewards**

### **Chapter 84: Consequences and rewards**

The officers and people responsible for the event didn't dare to do anything and just had to accept the man's actions. Truly, the power of freedom for those who have it allows them to do whatever they want.

Astolfo began to levitate towards his master and Kayden found himself going along with him. The spearman seemed to be trying to get out of the man's control and run, but nothing he did was enough to free himself from the old man's magic.

"Kayden greets the elder", the boy tried to bow, but due to the lack of control in his body, he almost ended up lying in the air.

"Hi Kayden, how are you?" The old man greeted Kayden with a friendly smile, even more so seeing the boy's politeness in bowing even though he had no control over his body.

He didn't even look at Astolfo as he propelled himself into the air. After traveling a few kilometers and the stadium was no longer in sight, the old man stopped.

"Astolfo," the old man called in a friendly manner.

"Yes, master!", which was automatically answered by the boy.

"What's the rule about using family art in public?" A shiver ran down the spearman's spine.

"Only in cases of emergency, master," each word that left his mouth seemed to dig deeper into the hole he was digging himself into.

"In your fight just now, were you in any danger to your life?" The same calm tone came out of the elder's mouth.

"No, master", that's it, Astolfo was sure it was over.

"Wait a minute please Kayden, I'm going to have a private chat with Astolfo." As soon as the elder said this, a bubble blocking Kayden's vision appeared around the two.

The boy didn't worry too much and used this time to mentally review his last fight. This was the first time he used the second version of transcendence and he had to admit that the price he paid was beyond what he expected.

He was practically unable to sense mana, even his heart was beating at an excruciatingly slow speed, almost as if it was about to fall apart.

The boy sighed and put it aside. His next goal was to reach the sixth apprentice rank. There wasn't much left due to the epiphany he had. After that, he would go to the life and death fights in the arena.

With all his assets, he was sure he could stand out from most opponents. His main goal here was to raise money, lots of money. Astolfo's techniques were not something he could buy monetarily, but there were still others.

They may not be similar, but over time, and with a large repertoire of techniques, Kayden could begin to formulate his sword art. This path would just take a little longer.

A few minutes later, the bubble disappeared, revealing a smiling old man and a completely depressed Astolfo. It looked like he had just taken the biggest beating of his life.

"Kayden, I will extend my offer to next year," as soon as the elder left the bubble, he addressed Kayden with a friendly tone.

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"Thank you, elder," Kayden thanked him for the unexpected offer. Even with plans to develop your art, it wouldn't hurt to learn one more.

"Elder, if it's no trouble, could you take me home?" Kayden asked politely, his body practically unable to move.

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The next day, Kayden was prepared to just stay home and rest. Firstly because he hadn't even managed to get to his bed alone the day before. Right now, the one who was bringing food and helping with their basic needs was Han.

The man became ridiculously angry when he saw Kayden's condition and if he didn't know Astolfo's master, he would probably attack him. Only after Kayden explained that this was done by himself did the old man calm down.

He didn't express any reaction when he found out that Kayden was among the best in the championship, but the boy knew that the old man was happy, since he made pizza for dinner and it was Kayden's favorite flavor.

That was how Kayden stayed in his bed for a week without being able to move or use mana. During that time, he slept and took the opportunity to read some books about mana to increase his knowledge.

"The mayor summons Kayden to receive the championship reward," a booming voice resounded from outside, waking Kayden from his afternoon sleep. He couldn't do anything, so what better way to pass the time than sleep?

"Who dares to scream in my orphanage?" Another booming voice filled with mana came from inside the house, making the officer shake with fear. He was relatively new to the government, so he hadn't been around long enough to know about the monster that was hiding outside the city.

"Sorry, elder," the officer quickly bowed and showed respect. He didn't say anything else and waited for Han's words.

Kayden found himself floating from his bed out of the house.

"Kayden, go with him, the reward is worth it", Han's voice was heard only by Kayden, reminding him that the championship had a prize. The boy just didn't know what it was.

The officer caught Kayden with a wind hand and bowed in apology to the house again and quickly left the scene for fear of the elder changing his mind and wanting more than just a simple apology.

"Hello, Kayden, in case of your weakened condition, I will be your helper throughout receiving the reward," the officer was extremely respectful towards Kayden after meeting Han.

"Thank you, sir officer," Kayden showed respect at the same level. The trip was peaceful, the only difference was where they were going, as the direction taken by the officer was opposite the city.

It wasn't long before Kayden saw what looked like a festive event fair. There were several food and entertainment stalls arranged in a large area around a rectangle.

In this rectangle, there was nothing but green grass and some seats like benches and chairs. It looked similar to a garden, just on a slightly larger scale than normal.

The reward was still unclear to Kayden, was it a happy day at the park? The officer took him to one of the tents, and when he entered it he saw the members of his team resting on a sofa. He was the only one missing.

"I'll be back in 30 minutes to help you with the start of the event", the officer left and left Kayden next to Astolfo, who greeted him cheerfully.

"Hi, Kayden", it didn't even sound like the same person who came away completely defeated from the conversation with Sasaki. "How was your week?"

"Good and yours?" Kayden and Astolfo continued talking while waiting for the event time. At no point did the three of them approach each other or say anything, mainly out of embarrassment.

"Astolfo, what is the reward?" Kayden finally had the opportunity to ask the boy.

"I forgot that you are disconnected from the world, the reward is being able to stay inside that rectangle for 6 hours. It has several matrices that increase your mana concentration by at least 10 times and, in addition, other spells for concentration and mental clarity. My advancement to eighth place was last year in it."

This... was too good to be true, especially as a mere championship prize.

"All this just for a mere championship?" Kayden asked Astolfo doubtfully.

## **the monarch Chapter 85 - Rewards**

### **Chapter 85: Rewards**

"Yes, but it is funded by the government. They have a dogma of nurturing talent as much as they can. You may have already noticed this from the student and elite accommodations, and we are not even from the best schools."

The government had strong youth nurturing. Practically everything was aimed at creating elites, even private schools were nothing more than a means of nurturing these talents. Even if you were a commoner, you could enter them as long as you demonstrated a certain degree of talent.

30 minutes later, the officer entered the room as agreed. He easily caught Kayden with a giant hand created by wind magic and led them out in silence. Astolfo accompanied his friend to a spot with two chairs and an umbrella inside the rectangle of grass.

"I'll be here if you need anything," the officer seemed helpful as he retreated to a distance that wouldn't disturb the two.

Within seconds, the mayor appeared above the rectangle wearing the same attire from the municipal competition. Looking as excited as before, he caught everyone's attention with a round of applause.

"Hello everybody. First, I would like to congratulate them for being among the best in the region. I believe the prize has already been explained to you, so I won't beat around the bush too much. Do your best for the next six hours. Good luck to everyone."

His speech was short again, but it served its purpose. As soon as he finished, Kayden felt a plethora of mana surge around him. It was simply absurd concentration. He could

fill all of his mana vessels in less than 20 seconds. This was simply surreal. His biggest limitation was himself in this case, which mana he had in abundance.

For a few seconds, the boy focused his mind. he was calm and focused. Simple things like mathematical calculations could be done almost instantly in your thoughts. This level of clarity was something he had never experienced before.

The boy started absorbing mana like crazy. This was an opportunity for him to advance. With this clarity and constant amount of mana, he could fix all the problems his base had.

First, he emptied all the mana in his body and began to absorb that from the surroundings. He should first solidify his foundation and fix all the mistakes he could. This time, he simply didn't care about losing mana.

In case of a mistake, he would just release all his mana and redo the move, without worrying about anything other than improving his cultivation and mana paths. Fix imperfections here, fix imperfections there.

"Five hours left," a voice announced to everyone. She couldn't even wake Kayden from his stupor. The boy had never been so focused before, apart from his epiphany, but this time it was more of an absolute trance.

'What is this kid doing?', the officer couldn't understand what Kayden was doing. The boy simply absorbed a ridiculous amount of mana for his rank and then released 99.9% of what he absorbed.

Oblivious to these thoughts, Kayden continued fixing every imperfection he found on his body. Every mana vein was being looked at and turned over from top to bottom to find small errors in its wall.

His heart was being forced to beat in different tunes so that he would find imperfections. Everything was being tested and observed.

"Four hours left," the same voice from before announced. Kayden was barely in the middle of his deep analysis and didn't even notice that time had passed. He didn't even hear the voice.

His entire focus was on progressing his base little by little. He had been in this state for two hours, and instead of starting to lose his concentration, he was entering a sort of trance.

To search for.

Meet.



To assess.

To repair.

"Two hours left," the voice rang out as Kayden was on the last steps of his improvement. The boy made a month's progress in just a few hours. Without a doubt, this prize had already been worth it for him.

The boy still hadn't lost focus. There was very little left for him to finish his stabilization to a perfect base, at least perfect within his capabilities. Kayden wasn't arrogant enough to say he knew all the details he needed.

The boy opened his eyes for the first time since he began to concentrate. He was ready to try and break through to the sixth rank. Looking around, he saw Astolfo focused with his eyes closed and the officer not far away.

"One hour left," for the first time, Kayden heard the voice announcing the time.

"Has it already been five hours?" Kayden hadn't even noticed the passage of time. It felt like only a few minutes since he closed his eyes for the first time.

It was now or never. Kayden closed his eyes again and began to mentally prepare himself to break through to the next rank. Again, he began to draw mana into him.

This time, Kayden looked like a black hole absorbing mana. The first meter around him simply felt like a zone with no mana at all.

"What the fuck?" This time, not only was the officer strange, but even the mayor who had his spiritual radar covering the entire area was confused. The boy was simply using an amount that for his rank shouldn't even be possible.

He was only at the fifth rank, but the mana around him was pulled as if it was a breakthrough to the eighth or ninth rank. It felt like a bottomless hole, and the worst part was that it didn't seem like it was going to stop anytime soon.

Twenty minutes later, Kayden was sweating like he was in a sauna. The amount of mana he absorbed in this period was simply colossal compared to his rank.

It was enough for the mayor to ask for Kayden's file, but he quickly lost interest after seeing that he only had an innate talent of level 1. Most likely, the rampant mana usage was just to even out his poor base.

He didn't even understand how Kayden got to this award, but that wasn't his problem.

Another twenty minutes later, Kayden began to stink so much that the officer had to create a bubble around him so as not to disturb the others. This was common around



here, considering that people who cultivated their bodies released impurities in their advances.

The problem was that Kayden kept releasing a lot of impurities. It felt like his entire body was going to fall apart.

"Circle," his mind was calm as he continued to force forward. His body was simply boiling. It felt like he was being cooked alive and all of this was because of the insane mana circulation he was having in every vein in his body.

All the mana that the officer saw Kayden absorb was being circulated in his body and then thrown into his muscles and bones. The very capillaries that were naturally made in his body were correctly irrigating each part.

Fifteen minutes later, Kayden reached the apex of his advance. He wasn't even aware of how much time he had left. None of that mattered now. It was just the incessant circulation.

Little by little, his body began to bleed from the holes. This was a sign that his breakthrough was not to happen yet. But this had nothing to do with its base.

It was a problem he had noticed since his first advances. His body dyad was limiting how far he could go. Probably no other wizard in the world has had this problem. But...

The beasts certainly went through this all the time. It was because of this reason that a strong magical beast that was only a few months old was not seen, regardless of its diet.

## **the monarch Chapter 86 - Advances and surprises**

### **Chapter 86: Advances and surprises**

The problem was, that Kayden didn't care. If this was nature's problem putting shackles on his progress, he would simply step over it. His base this time was already ready since he returned from the epiphany.

But he wanted more. He spent all his time up until now just fixing small, insignificant errors and strengthening his overall structure. Now was simply the moment of truth.

"Circle." He had been through this before, but still, the pain was unbearable. His entire body, every inch, every piece of skin felt like it was on fire. Gritting his teeth, the boy continued.

He didn't know how much time had passed. He couldn't even remember any sensation other than pain. For a few seconds, the boy just thought about giving up.

But his memories of his first life came flooding back to him.

He just continued.

Crack!

A shattering sound came from his heart when the boy finally stepped forward. Sighing, he simply let nature finish its progress. Your heart has simply been reshaped.

Your veins have increased strength and length. The boy simply marveled as he saw his strength increasing, even though the pain was now almost doubled.

The heart was simply being remodeled and expanded several times. Kayden didn't know what exactly caused this change, but he had a strong feeling it was the second part of his epiphany.

All the mana in his body completely dried up. This represented the end of their advance. When the boy opened his eyes, he found himself with the dark sky above him and alone in the vast field of grass. Even the tents had already been emptied.

"Finally." A bitter voice caught Kayden's attention. "That was the longest advance I've ever seen, kid. I've been waiting here for three hours."

Three hours? Kayden was surprised again.

Your resistance to pain has increased a lot. It was two hours in that hellish state that, not even two years ago, would have made him give up his advance and consider another path.

With a hand of wind, Kayden didn't even have time to respond to the officer as he was hoisted at high speed into the sky. Because of his annoyance, the officer used his speed to the maximum.

The ground seemed a blur to Kayden. It didn't take long for the officer to slow down, and with that, Kayden was able to see the orphanage jutting into the horizon. Almost as if scared, the officer kept his distance.

"I brought the child back safely, elder," the man remained hunched over as he waited for Han's response. Which was nothing more than silence as he pulled Kayden to his side.

The disrespect from before really wouldn't be forgotten anytime soon by the stingy old man. And when the officer saw this, he just ran. Kayden found himself levitating into the living room where the old man was eating dinner.

"Rank six, well done, Kayden." One of the rare compliments came out of the old man's mouth, as this time he was truly surprised. Kayden was four months ahead of Heimer at his age and still had low-level talent.

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Before Kayden could respond, his stomach growled loudly, cutting off any response he could give.

The last month, Kayden has spent just fighting at the club and training alone. His latest breakthrough was much better than he expected. Now, his strength and ability to utilize mana were more or less at the level of a seventh-rank intermediate apprentice.

And when he used transcendence, he arrived at the beginning of the eighth rank. Considering that his strength was already in the middle of the seventh rank, he was sure that the transcendence force only pushed him about his ability to retain mana, which was equivalent to his rank.

With the time he spent fighting in the club and his increasing victories, Kayden managed to accumulate around 5 gold coins. It wasn't a big fortune, but it was certainly a lot of money for his age.

With that amount, the boy bought himself a cell phone and still had enough money left for many things. With some more savings, Kayden could even buy an apartment in a relatively isolated neighborhood.

But those were plans for a very distant future. At the moment, his focus was completely different.

"Kayden, did you get everything you need?" Han asked the boy for the tenth time. The boy was going to watch Heimer's test at Academia Sol, his friend was going to try at just 13 years old.

But he was already at the peak of the ninth rank and there was no reason to wait. If you lost, it was just a matter of trying again next year.

"Very good." Seeing Kayden's nod, Han took the two of them and headed towards the city. As the distance was long, they would go by train, it would take about 12 hours at the locomotive's maximum speed.

A few hours later, Kayden was inside the train looking at the landscape passing around him at high speed. This was the first time he would go to the capital in his life and he was looking forward to seeing the famous city of the sun.

"Dad, what's the capital like?" The boy asked curiously. Han, who was reading a book, paused for a few seconds as he thought about the answer.

"It is colossal, everything can be found inside. Each district is larger than a large city and has a duke as sovereign. The imperial palace stands above everyone, floating on a piece of land. There's no way to describe it."

After that, the old man didn't say much and told Kayden to simply wait and he would see for himself. The boy really couldn't imagine a city that big.

A few hours later, the walls of the capital could be seen through the train window. Kayden let his jaw drop in shock. The walls easily reached a height of 500 meters.

It was surreal. The entire wall was made with a kind of black stone that shone in the sun. The train entered through tunnels at the top of the wall, but it also had an open white gate. Its height was about 3 thirds of the wall, with a length easily reaching 200 meters.

An endless line of cars and trucks were stopped to enter the gate. Each of them was checked by a drone that scanned the entire vehicle and pulled everyone's ID.

Another visible thing was the buildings projecting above the wall, monstrous skyscrapers, or rather, cloudscrapers, as some didn't even have their tops visible.

The closer Kayden got, the more impressive the city became in its size. When the train entered it, he saw thousands of people moving through streets specifically for pedestrians, something that in his previous life was unimaginable.

Huge airships were flying past in different directions, carrying different goods or people. Trains passed hourly in the air and hourly underground, but the confusion of tracks left the city with a futuristic air, as they floated in the air.

"Why are there only a few people flying Dad?" Kayden saw a few mages flying and considering it didn't even need to be a big deal to do that he was confused.

"Only nobles above viscount or high levels of government are allowed to fly" This was probably to avoid messes with too many people flying overhead.

The three remained silent as the train passed through different districts, Kayden saw the architecture of the cities change drastically, almost as if they were not glued together.

Author's note: we're getting close to the real beginning of the novel, but don't get excited, there's still a bit to go, from now on I'll post an extra chapter every 10 pebbles XD

## **the monarch Chapter 87 - Capital**

## Chapter 87: Capital

Author's note: at the beginning because I can, you readers are heartless, right? Just add an extra chapter and you can sell it to your mother if necessary, it was simply 8 stones 2 hours after yesterday's note. The next chapters will just be a taste of the main track, don't get too used to it.

In one district, everything was in medieval Chinese characteristics, with details very specific to their culture, such as curved tile roofs, carved columns, tree-lined internal courtyards, and symmetrical layouts. It was truly impressive to see.

In another, there were just square buildings without any details, nothing more than a large black rectangle or any other color. It looked like something from an apocalyptic world controlled only by robots.

After a few minutes of traveling within the capital, they stopped in an area that looked like a normal city. There weren't any different details, it was just a big, well-built city.

After getting off the train, Han led them to a large mansion in the upscale area of the city. This area had its walls and made a clear separation between nobles and commoners.

The houses here had immense gardens and boasted wealth in every inch of construction. Kayden had no idea why they were heading in this direction, but it became clear when, within moments, they stopped at one of the houses.

It looked similar to all the others in the area, with gardens and trees scattered throughout and a 3-story mansion in the center of the property. As soon as Han rang the doorbell, he was answered promptly.

"Mister Han! Thank you for coming, I was eagerly waiting for you, sir." Pretending to be casual from the surreal speed with which he appeared, a relatively young man appeared.

His stature was tall, approaching 1.90 meters, with bright red hair, that appeared to be dyed because the color was so strong. His eyes matched his hair and were bright red too.

And with his fair skin, everything was highlighted a notch higher. With a dazzling white smile, he beckoned them in.

"Come in, come in, I have prepared a banquet in your honor." Kayden didn't know what to say. The man didn't even look at them while he was fixated on Han. As they entered, the man continued talking and talking, while receiving short answers from Han.

The house was very well looked after. When they entered the front door, they found themselves in a large lounge with sofas and a fireplace. It seemed to be more of a living room for the family than for receiving visitors.

The man guided them to a typical movie dining room, with a table that spanned the room with dozens of chairs on each side. The room was extensively decorated with gold and torches, symbolizing wealth.

The table was filled with different types of food and drinks. With a huge roast pig with an apple in its mouth in the center, the feast could easily feed 40 people and still have leftovers for the next meal.

"Lucian, what did I say about wasting things?" As soon as Han's voice came out, Lucian lost his cheerful attitude for a moment. But quickly a wide-open smile returned to his face.

"I will give it to the household staff for their good service the year after." His excuse seemed similar to that of a child who was caught doing something wrong. As everyone was sitting down and starting to eat, Kayden was thinking.

'Lucian?' Where had he heard that name before? It seemed like a long time ago. After a few minutes of eating in silence, Kayden managed to remember. It was in a call he heard from Han when he was not even 1 year old.

"And your path?" Han asked Lucian, snapping Kayden out of his flashback. This was a subject that interested him since he also had to find his way. Lucian opened his spiritual sense to Han.

"Very well, I see you have made it to the next kingdom well."

'Next kingdom?' Kayden's mind went blank for a few seconds. This meant he was facing a wizard in the fourth realm. If even the guide was in the third realm and could rule an entire guild, what could someone from the fourth realm do?

Was he a marquis? No, that seemed too low. A duke? But he didn't even have family in the house. It didn't even look like he was noble, maybe he was a merchant or something.

"So what brings you to town, Han?" Lucian asked curiously as he looked at the two boys. It seemed to be the first time he had laid eyes on them and ended up noticing their presence.

"Heimer is going to take the Sol Academy test," the old man said calmly as he nodded toward Heimer. When he heard this, Lucian checked the boy with his spiritual sense.

"Not bad, peak ninth rank at 14 years old," Lucian wasn't impressed considering everything he'd seen in the capital, but he had to admit that it wasn't a talent to throw away.

"I'm 13 years old, Mr. Lucian", Heimer's speech made him freeze a little as he processed the information. It may seem small, but this one-year difference was simply monstrous.

"13 years... congratulations, kid, you have what it takes to go to Sol Academy." Everyone knew that it wasn't just the rank that would determine one's ability to pass the prestigious best college in the kingdom, but since he came with Han, the boy must be truly talented.

After this brief interaction between the two, Lucian no longer spoke to them. Kayden didn't like the host very much, it seemed like he didn't even consider the two of them as people. Maybe this was a problem among the powerful.

A few minutes after they had a hearty lunch, Han simply took two gold coins out of his pocket and gave one to each of the children and, with a smile, told the two to be back in time for dinner.

Outside the mansion, the two found themselves lost without knowing what to do. Within seconds, Han had them out without even giving any explanation. Sighing, Heimer took the lead.

"Come with me, I know some people nearby", Kayden, who had nothing better to do, followed his friend who was using his cell phone. After a few minutes, Kayden discovered that Heimer had talent in many areas, but directing wasn't one of them.

Kayden coughed.

"Can I see the map?" Heimer handed over his cell phone as if he wasn't the problem as the two were walking around the place. The dot on the map was barely two kilometers away and, considering the size of the houses in this neighborhood, it was practically three houses away.

A few minutes later, the two found themselves facing a giant iron gate. Unlike Lucian's house, this one had a griffin coat of arms representing that it was the residence of a noble family.

"Who are your friends, Heimer?" Kayden asked curiously, the capital was quite far from his hometown.

"I met them when I went to compete in the state magic competitions a few years ago," before the boy could continue, the gate opened revealing a couple of blonde teenagers.



## **the monarch Chapter 88 - Capital[2] BONUS**

### **Chapter 88: Capital[2] BONUS**

The boy had square features and blue eyes, with perfect proportions his face resembled that of a model. Matching his face, his body was tall and sculpted with defined muscles.

The girl had long blonde hair that bordered on white, her eyes were also blue and, with her red lips, her beauty far surpassed that of models, it was almost as if she were the personification of the goddess of beauty.

Kayden didn't remember seeing such beautiful people before, for a few seconds he doubted his own appearance.

"Heimer! Long time, I didn't expect your message", the boy was the first to start a conversation with a friendly smile.

"Hello, Matheus, hello, Sarah," Heimer smiled amiably and pointed at Kayden. "This here is my brother, Kayden, I came to participate in the Sol Academy test and it turned out that you lived nearby."

His sentence caused a gleam of understanding to pass through the eyes of the two blondes.

"You should wait another year, Heimer, but that's your choice in the end, come, come in", this time the girl spoke and it seemed like she had already had this conversation with Heimer before.

Along the way, the two introduced themselves to Kayden in a friendly way, it didn't even seem like they were nobles.

As they entered, it was possible to see several statues and sculptures from different eras, the quality of the work was truly impressive, it didn't even look like it had been made in marble.

All of this was complemented with a stone path and carefully chosen trees to enhance the beauty of the place. The mansion was in the Greek style, with large pilasters and made of white marble, it didn't even look like a family home.

"What rank are you?" Heimer asked as they walked.

"Beginning of the ninth kingdom," the boy replied.

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"Peak of the ninth realm," the girl also gave her answer.



Kayden was shocked once again that day, it seemed like all the people in this region were incredibly strong.

"What about you, Kayden?" Matheus asked curiously.

"I'm only in the sixth realm," Kayden didn't feel bad saying that, he still had practically five years before taking the academy test. "But I'm only eight years old," the end of his sentence took them both by surprise.

Because of the accelerated development caused by the mana heart, his body already appeared to be a few years older than it actually was, his muscles were already developed, giving him a healthy and strong appearance.

"I see, in a few years you can join us at Academia Sol then", before Kayden could respond, Matheus was slapped on the head by Sarah.

"We haven't entered yet, don't claim victory too soon",

The next few hours Kayden and Heimer spent talking and playing different types of games with the two brothers, this was probably one of the first times in both of his lives that Kayden just took a day to rest without doing anything at all.

Close to the time agreed with Han for them to return home, a man similar to Matheus walked through the door, along with two other brown-haired children.

The man had the same characteristics as Matheus and Sarah, with blond hair and blue eyes, and in addition to his sculpted face, there was a well-cut blonde beard, demarcating his elegant appearance.

The two children had practically the same features as Matheus, the only difference was their brown hair and eyes of the same color, other than that they were practically the same person.

The appearance of this family being practically the same reminded Kayden of something David had told him, as wizards advance on the path to power, their offspring used to come more and more like him.

Almost as if his own DNA recognized that only certain characteristics should be passed on as they were of better quality, David called this natural selection of mana.

"I greet the duke," Heimer bowed, taking Kayden by surprise, the boy never expected that man to be a duke nor even that they were in the house of a high-ranking noble family.

Heimler 's greeting and bowed. The duke just told them to relax and left with the two children, not even an iota of his attention was directed towards the two as he had to carry the two children who seemed to be sulking.

After exchanging contact with the two, Kayden and Heimler left the house and returned to Han. The championship was held over two days, meaning Heimler only had one more day to relax before simply undergoing exams.

As soon as they arrived at the house, they were greeted by Han, who took them to dinner again in the same room with Lucian. Again, the table was simply filled with different foods.

"Dad, can I participate in this year's exams?" Kayden asked directly, bluntly. Even if he wasn't even at the level to pass, he could still use the experience to train.

"Kayden..." Han took a moment to respond as he thought. "Unfortunately, I can't sign you up at the last minute." His tone left no doubt that his words were true.

"It's okay, dad, no problem..." Kayden was interrupted by Lucian.

"I have one spot left, but what can you offer me, kid?" Lucian said with a heavy voice. Unfortunately for him, Han didn't care about his opinion at all.

"There, Kayden, I'll take you the day after tomorrow with Heimler ." As soon as he said that, he went back to eating as if nothing had happened.

"Hey! But what about my compensation? These jobs are not easy to get." Lucian complained and was simply ignored by the old man as if he were a child.

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The day had finally arrived. Kayden didn't really expect to participate this time, nor did he even have any ambitions of coming to see the exam, as Heimler only told him about it recently.

It can be said that it was several turns of fate that brought him here. To go to the exam location, which was outside the city, they boarded Lucian's private airship. Kayden didn't know exactly who the redhead was, but he was certainly rich.

The aircraft had dozens of massage chairs, drinks and maids ready to serve any desire of its crew members. Even a private chef was present. All of this reeked of luxury and money.

The trip took about two hours just to get out of the city area and another thirty minutes to get to the destination. As soon as they got close, they could see the huge number of air and land vehicles heading in the same direction.

The exams took place on a plain near a forest. The roads ended in a gigantic parking lot, where robots did the maneuvers so that everyone could be allocated correctly.

## **the monarch Chapter 89 - The first test**

### **Chapter 89: The first test**

Outside the parking lot, there were dozens of tents on the plain, with televisions and spaces to watch the event. It was a surreal amount of accommodation, and the further into the center, the more luxurious it became.

The airship continued to float at low speed forward. Kayden was able to see dozens of children and adults sitting and milling around the place. If the test was counting on more or less 10 million people, there should have been at least 20 to 30 million in total accommodated there.

As they advanced, it became more and more deserted, until they reached a platform that was flying. Its entire floor was made of dark noble wood, it was an immense square in length reaching 500 meters.

The boy estimated that, from the entrance to this point, they covered at least 20 kilometers, making evident the surreal size of the event they were participating in.

As soon as they got down, they were met by a man in a suit who guided them to a private tent. Again with all the possible luxuries inside, even the tent cloth seemed to be something expensive. Before they settled down, the man took out several non-disclosure agreements about the test that they had to sign.

The food and wine displayed on the table also revealed the luxury of the environment, with one of the drinks marked as 1000-year-old wine. The price of this bottle should be able to easily buy a house.

Once everyone was seated, Han began to speak.

"As you know, there is a large number of participants . The three tests you see on television are actually four. The first is the one that really cuts out 90% of the participants," the old man paused to fill his glass. "The first test comes down to a gigantic Battle Royale held in the forest in front of this plain."

Kayden was able to see while in the airship that in front of the plain was a large forest as far as his eyes could see. He had guessed that this was probably where the staircase was also.

"The innate talent test has no weight for entering the academy, only for choosing a patron, but that's a conversation for another time," he said as he looked at Kayden, it seemed like he had already talked about something similar with Heimer. "The first and

the staircase test are the main ones, but even then it's difficult to know who can and cannot pass."

This was something Kayden had noticed a long time ago. This entire test was nothing more than a show for the participants to show off their best skills. Probably, the academy administration handpicked those who would be approved or not.

"Kayden, don't insult any nobles or cause intrigues that you don't need to. No matter how strong I am, there are still people who shouldn't be touched", that was the last sentence Han said before leaning in his seat and closing the eyes.

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Seeing this, Heimer called Kayden to take a walk. There were still a few hours left before the start of the competition, as they left Lucian's house very early. They went directly to meet up with their friends from the previous day.

Five minutes later, they saw a tent a little bigger than the ones in the area. At its entrance, there was a logo of a restaurant. As soon as they entered, it was clear that it was a meeting place for young people.

Dozens of teenagers were sitting at round tables, sharing a meal or simply talking to each other. The first thing Kayden noticed was how well everyone was dressed .

Not only that, but they also carried different accessories, such as chains and watches carved in gold or silver. Luckily, Han gave the two boys fine clothes to wear today, so they didn't attract much attention.

"Heimer! Kayden!" Matheus shouted, catching the attention of the two at one of the tables located near the wall. Along with him was Sarah and the two brown-haired brothers from the day before.

After a little conversation, Kayden discovered that their names were Linus and Isaac. The two were exactly the same age as Kayden and were identical twins, making it difficult to identify who was who.

"Who could be the two filthy commoners who are fouling the air of the best restaurant in the capital?" an arrogant voice took away from the happy atmosphere and quickly emotions went from shock to anger.

"Shut the fuck up, Raymond", the first to defend the two was Matheus. His family taught him not to belittle any type of person, regardless of their origins. Unfortunately, not all nobles had this thought.

Kayden chose to stay quiet. He knew that if he said something there and Raymond was one of the people Han warned him to stay away from, he would simply be lost. In his

previous life, he read enough novels to know that arrogant young masters had the worst revenges.

Heimer also did not speak while the two argued. It seemed like the boy wasn't an idiot either and knew the right moments to be arrogant.

"Oh, the blonde got angry and came to defend the little princesses", Raymond's high-pitched and irritating voice matched his thin and skeletal-looking physique. To go with his physique, he had pale skin with black hair.

"Leave before I get mad," Sarah said. As soon as she spoke, Raymond lost all his composure and simply left while promising that this wasn't over. Kayden chuckled to himself in his mind. He never imagined he would go through such a cliché soap opera scene.

"Sorry about that", Matheus scratched his head in an embarrassed manner.

"Don't worry, we know it wasn't your fault," Heimer nodded in agreement.

"Very well, I hope he doesn't try to cause you trouble in Battle Royale," Sarah said calmly. "He doesn't have the courage to go against me since I'm the Duke's heir and not even touch my brothers. But you two don't have that protection. Be careful."

His sentence brought two new pieces of information that Kayden didn't know. First, that she was the duke's heir. Perhaps because of his previous world, where most of the time it was the man who inherited everything, he had a bit of a wrong conception of things.

And the second information was that the twins would also participate. He should have thought that this was probably so they could train.

When it was noon, a booming voice resounded, drawing the attention of everyone in the 20 kilometers of structures in the area.

"For the next 10 minutes, all participants will be levitated. Anyone who resists will be disqualified. You will be placed at a random point in the forest and must face each other until there are the right number of participants. There are 100 kilometers of test area. Every hour, 10 kilometers will be shortened. We will automatically move people off the edge and into the test zone. Good luck."

"Good luck everyone", this phrase began to repeat itself like wildfire among the children. And when Kayden said his, the medal that Kayden received from Lucian earlier began to glow blue. A number of 10 million and some broken ones appeared on its surface, and in parallel, Kayden began to feel his body being lifted into the air.

As soon as he left the tent he saw several children and teenagers being levitated too, passing his eyes through the crowd he saw Han next to Lucian.

"Good luck " Kayden understood the words that came out of the old man's mouth even with that distance between them. For the first time in a long time his heart started to race, this was the biggest event he had participated in in his life.

## **the monarch Chapter 90 - Team**

### **Chapter 90: Team**

As soon as he took to the skies, Kayden found himself being lifted at an absurd speed towards the forest. It didn't even take 10 seconds before he couldn't tell where he was anymore. Everywhere he looked, there were trees and more trees.

His body was trapped by an invisible force that prevented him from making any movement or even manipulating the mana in or around his body.

"The test has begun," the voice resounded as soon as a few minutes had passed. Kayden got his moves back and started looking around. Silently, he decided to approach one of the biggest trees.

Before he could even start climbing, he heard the sound of magic being fired in the distance. From the height of the sound, they appeared to be strong explosive spells. And as quickly as it started, the sounds stopped.

In the meantime, Kayden began climbing the tree, and once he reached the top, he had a commanding view of the surrounding area. At some points, he saw teenagers fighting and some simply running, appearing to try to gain time.

The boy debated what he should do: fight or try to get a better classification? Before he could make a decision, he saw Linus fighting a knight a few dozen meters away from him.

Without even thinking twice, Kayden got down from the tree he was in and ran as silently as he could to the boy. Luckily, he wasn't noticed and managed to get closer without facing any other opponents.

As soon as he got closer, he saw Linus talking to himself while releasing small explosions of fire at his opponent. It didn't seem like he was doing very well, as he was just running backwards and trying to stay away from his opponent.

"Stop running, boy," his opponent began to lose his patience. They were in this game since the test started.

"Leave me alone," Linus' voice was shaky. It was obvious that he was scared of the situation. This surprised Kayden. The boy thought that nobles should all receive the necessary education about combat.

After watching for a few seconds to find the ideal moment to make a lunge, Kayden heard babbling and then an explosion of a completely different magnitude erupted. This time, the knight had to move far away.

Unfortunately for him, his retreat was towards Kayden's position.

" Ugh !" he groaned in pain as a concentrated beam lodged itself in the middle of his back, and then his entire vision went black as Kayden slammed the wooden tip of the katana into his head.

"Kayden!" Linus almost cried with happiness at seeing himself saved. "Thank you so much. I don't know what I would do if it weren't for you." His attitudes also did not match that of a nobleman. He was very insecure.

"Don't worry, that's what friends do, isn't it?" Kayden actually said it sincerely. Even though they had barely known each other for more than a day, Linus treated him very well, almost as if he were a brother from another mother.

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And, for some reason he didn't know, he found himself linked to the two twin brothers. Even with his old team and Astolfo, with whom he spent months together, he didn't feel that small connection.

"Come on, let's hide," again Kayden chose the biggest tree nearby and started climbing. Not even one person bothered the two during this period. But the biggest problem was... well... Linus was able to climb the tree. The boy was practically a sedentary class S+.

"What's your rank and abilities? We need to come up with a plan," Kayden activated his captain mode and tried to gather all the information he could about his new teammate. His sentence caught Linus by surprise.

"Do you... want to form a team?" Linus expressed fear in his voice.

"Yes, there's nothing in the rules that doesn't allow that, right?" A small plan began to form in Kayden's head.

"Well... I'm a fourth rank wizard and I don't have any special skills. I only know how to do some offensive and defensive spells, I also don't have any combat experience."

The boy's sentence left Kayden blank. He never expected a high-ranking noble to be so... mediocre, to say the least.

"Because you didn't specialize in anything?" Kayden unconsciously blurted out his doubt. This made Linus' eyes cloud over for a few seconds.



"When I was younger, I was born with the ability to utilize mana. My only hobby was studying ancient science, things like physics and chemistry were my favorite pastimes." Kayden didn't know how a kid got interested in this. "When I was 7, my father got the healing god to help me, but since then I've had to give up my hobbies."

It was now clear to Kayden what happened. The boy probably never managed to find anything else that really interested him, but 4 ranks in 1 year? This was bizarre. Indeed, the nobility had its ways of pushing someone up the steps of magic.

"But why didn't you just introduce your hobbies to magic?" Kayden wasn't 100% sure, but he believed it should be possible. Dynamite was nothing more than pure chemistry, wasn't it?

"My father said it would only get in the way and forbade me to continue studying. I can still do things like that." The boy reached out and whispered "nitrogen." Then a small explosion erupted.

Kayden was really impressed, as he knew that if the boy studied more and perhaps managed to get his hands on the theory of nuclear fission, he would become a one-man army.

"Linus, you shouldn't let other people dictate your path," Kayden said with a touch of bitterness that wasn't felt by the boy.

"But it's my father, Kayden. You don't understand the strictness of a noble family." He was right, but Kayden still had something to add on this subject.

"Linus, have you ever imagined living your entire life, enjoying everything you could, achieving impressive levels of magic, but when you're on your deathbed regretting everything you did? Simply because it wasn't the path you chose? Or because it was something drawn up by other people and you just followed that plan?"

Kayden's voice seemed full of emotions and his sentence caught the boy by surprise. For a few minutes, the two simply sat quietly, with Kayden mulling over his past memories and Linus thinking about his life.

Before any of them could say anything, they noticed the sound of metal hitting wood, getting louder and louder. The sound was coming from below...

"Shit," that's what Kayden thought before looking down and seeing a knight holding a large ax and simply chopping down the tree. As soon as Linus saw this, he started to panic.

They didn't have time to get down. The tree was down to its last strands of wood. Quickly coming up with a plan, Kayden took Linus' arm.



"Hold my neck and don't let go for anything in the world", the boy who had been saved by Kayden developed a certain trust in him and didn't even think twice before following his orders.

Author's note: sorry for the delay, yesterday wasn't a very good day for me