

Mystical 401

Chapter 401: Encounter 1

As he sat on the white rhino, Garen intermittently recalled memories from Iron Tank City, and there was an inexplicable emotion within his heart.

He'd thought that Goth would keep blaming him, angry at him. That the two of them would possibly remain at this state of misunderstanding. Who would've known....

From the announcement, he can see that Goth still held grudges towards him, but carried a similarly complicated emotion.

"Team Leader. There's something that awaits your decision." Old Man slowed down at the front, and as Garen closed the distance between them, he held out a map, a soil-colored yellow scroll.

Garen took it from him and listened.

"We picked two routes on the map which were safer, but we couldn't decide on which route to take. Both routes has its pros and cons." Old Man explained. "Please have a look."

Garen nodded, then opened up and scanned the map.

On the map, there was a winding mountain range from the middle leading to the top of the map, as though a black centipede had laid down upon the paper. The route they were currently taking was the way along the mountain range.

Two red lines clearly illustrated the two possible routes.

The destination of both routes was Kovitan Kingdom, but the one on the left was winding, it was significantly longer with a detour. Plus, there were many markings of sightings of strong creatures.

The route on the right was more straightforward, but they would have to go through three troublesome locations.

Garen frowned slightly.

"How long would the shorter route take?"

"Assuming that we do not stop, it will take about 7 days." Old man continued. "The troublesome sections have been marked out. Of course, there will be hordes of weaker creatures, but as there's no markings, it is safe to ignore.

Garen nodded.

"The longer route will require us to brave through 4 clusters of at least form 3 monsters' territories, and we may not necessarily be able to avoid confrontations. Some of them are more troublesome, the terrains are also more complex, and the swamps are not ideal for the white rhinos' movement. We should choose the shorter route."

"But the shorter route passes by Blood Queen's territory..." Kitten interrupted, and the remaining members shuddered. Except Red Umbrella, who was asleep on his white rhino's back.

"Blood Queen Earnest? What's the issue?" Garen raised his brows in confusion.

"One of the members of Secret Service caused a huge amount of losses in her territory Avison City, and now both sides are in a tense situation. Queen Earnest herself has Daniela's support, and there are also strong subordinates under her wings. There was an announcement about a month ago which states that members of the Secret Services are all unwelcome in the city.

Garen was slightly shocked.

"Does the Secret Service have such a strong member? To be able to wreck havoc at Avison City?" Garen was interested

"Who would've known, that person from the Green team, who really wasn't eye-catching by any means, actually could cause such a huge loss." Old Man forced a smile.

"What kind of losses?" Garen got more curious.

Old Man shook his head. "He absorbed the Blood Queen's blood essence. It was an accident that nobody anticipated."

"Blood essence?" Garen was stunned. As one of the Three Heroes, even though she was not abnormally strong; probably on Goth's level, she was not a character that one should offend. Blood essence was a form of essence gem that was extracted from her flesh and blood. This was the core of her largest tactics within Avison City, there were only four of them present in the entire city, and they powered all the tactical arrays.

An ordinary totem user would melt instantaneously as soon as they approached the blood essence, let alone absorb it. Who would have known that it would have been absorbed by some outsider totem user.

Old Man shook his head slightly.

"Now the Secret Service is in an awkward situation with Avison City. At times like this, It is best that a totem user of your calibre maintain your distance from Avison City to avoid any further conflicts."

"What about that person? That fella from Green Team?" Garen was more interested in that man than the tense situation. To be able to do what others could not, he must be special.

"Still hiding in Avison City. With the entire Avison City out for his blood, trying to capture him. It's also hard for us in the Secret Service to step forward. After all, we were at fault for absorbing their important resource."

"Then let's take the short route, just so I can see what this Blood Queen is like." Garen laughed. "Spread this news through the communication device. If that person is smart, he'll take this opportunity to leave Avison City."

"Um...alright." Old Man grimaced.

Two days later.....

The sky was ashen and heavy with mist.

Yellow weeds waved gently in the breeze upon the pale yellow plantation soil. Surrounding the area was a ring of shrubs.

Those murky yellow shrubs grew in uneven patches, but among them was a green passage..

Broken fences littered the area about the passage, the surface of the passage was covered in dense layers of leaves and moss.

Upon the passage were five greyish-white rhinos slowly marching forward. These rhinos were about three metres high, their bodies were round and huge, and every step they took was very stable. They could barely move along the passage, and sometimes they would bump into the fences on the side.

On the thick skins of the rhinos were concealed scars, giving them a rugged appearance.

There were even a bunch of oddly-dressed people riding on their backs. As they were donning black armors and hoods, their faces were hard to see. The exception was the golden iris embedded on their necklines.

Evidently, they were members of the Royal Alliance.

Deep within the plantation field, several pairs of white eyes were observing the passing rhinos, while carefully gauging the auras of the humans on the rhinos' backs.

Woooo.....

A deep howl like a dog's howl was heard from both sides of the plantation.

The rhinos started feeling alarmed and refused to move forward.

Suddenly, white shadows lunged from both sides of the passage; there were no sounds, just the light rustling of the weeds as they were brushed aside.

Most of them were rushing towards the white rhinos, while some of them targeted the people on top of the rhinos' backs.

"Let me do it!" A girl's voice was heard from the top of the rhino's back. "I was looking for some potential points to upgrade my equipment!" her voice was clear, and a red ray flashed as she swung her hand.

Bam!

A giant red tiger was formed midair, with a long, whip-like tail fiercely sweeping.

Bang bang bang!!...

After a series of impact noises, large amounts of white shadows were battered back into the plantations. They tumbled upon the ground several times and no longer moved.

The group then saw the true identity of those white shadows; they were all white stray dogs, except they had two tails instead of one, which was odd.

"That's the Dual-tailed White Dog, just a Form 1 monster pack." a man on top of the Rhino's back said calmly, it was Old Man's voice. "But they usually inhabit areas near the Red Unihorn Lizards. Everybody be more aware."

"Check me out!" Kitten commanded the giant red tiger to start killing recklessly around the plantation, with each swipe and lunge killing off two or three white dogs.

After a while, endless whines were heard as the scent of blood spread across. The pack that originally rushed towards the rhinos were now scrambling away.

"This dual-tailed white dogs have excellent breeding capabilities and are able to give birth to more than ten pups in a month. It's also the reason why they are almost always in state of starvation and are constantly on the hunt for food." Old Man explained. "Coincidentally, they make great prey for higher leveled, evolved creatures too."

Before he'd finished speaking, the sky was suddenly abuzz with a horde of red unihorn lizards flying over them.

They had a black unihorn and red bat wings; much like a winged version of a lizard. These lizards were making some odd sounds as they flapped their wings towards the group. Behind them was a large white bat.

"Is that a white bat?" a man looked up from the back of a rhino in the middle of the formation. A sliver of golden hair was visible from the hood, the man had three scarlet markings between his brows, which look like a birthmark.

This person was actually Garen, who was rushing towards Kovitan Kingdom.

Watching the white bat swinging its chains as it rushed at him, Garen couldn't help but recall the early days of Iron Tank City, where he first met a white bat. At that time he'd been extremely weak and had to resort to fight tactics just to go up against a white bat. But now...

Roar!!

The Giant red tiger roared in fury as it leaped upwards powerfully and pounced onto the bat. Its limbs had ignited in crimson flames, and as its mouth opened wide, a fireball was fired.

Bam!

The sky turned into a sea of fiery explosions, and the bat disappeared into a giant fireball, dyeing its surroundings red.

"Yay!!" Kitten happily withdrew Red Tiger, and surveyed at the messy battlefield. " Successfully cleared!" She puffed out her chest and sneakily glanced at Red Umbrella, but noticing that he was fast asleep, so she pouted.

"Let's go." Garen said coldly.

Kitten then obediently shut up and continued the journey.

After that time where she was frightened by Garen, she didn't dare cause a ruckus in front of him anymore. She could clearly feel that Garen at that point of time had seriously been planning to kill her. It was unlike any other enemy that she'd faced before, where they would have second thoughts due to her attractive appearance and body figure, which would allow her more time to drag it out. But with Garen, she felt that he was looking at her like a corpse, and with just a single misstep, nobody would be able to stop him from killing her. The others may not have realized it, but she'd felt it. Even Red Umbrella, who was most sensitive to killing intent, thought of it as a joke. Kitten had almost wetted herself at that time.

She truly didn't misunderstand that feeling. Garen at that time was really thinking about killing her, and had she been unaware of the affairs, Garen would have better control on the team after removing the "volatile" parts of the team. She did not expect this man to be so capricious.

The six rhinos continued walking past the plantation after a moment of settling and calming them.

After an unknown period of time, the fields in front slowly changed to golden-yellow, as though the harvest season of autumn was coming; golden wheat fields surrounded the passage.

"So pretty..." Kid beside him couldn't help but comment. He gazed at the sky on his left, as though there was something even more mesmerizing there.

The group looked towards the direction in which he gazed but there was only a layer of grey clouds in the sky, nothing else.

"And so it's happened again...." Kitten pouted as she lowered her head, continued playing with her toy which looked like a rubik's cube.

Fox also lowered his head to continue reading

Old man shook his head, and went back to sleep like Red Umbrella.

Only Garen, curiously studying Kid, realized that he was incomparably innocent.

He looked up to the sky, there was indeed nothing there.

He then shuddered suddenly.

An odd situation happened.

Garen actually noticed a little hint of gold in Kid's eyes.

His heart shivered. The sky was still covered in dense layers of clouds and there were no sun to be seen, where did he see the golden thing?

A sudden thought flashed through his mind.

He recalled that he'd received an augmentation tactic previously, which was the war shackle he received when he joined the war guild: Eye of Isaiah.

The Eye of Isaiah was activated through his thoughts.

As he gazed towards the sky again, a blurry gold image faintly appeared from within the clouds.

Garen's heart skipped a beat, and he looked closer after suppressing his surprise. With his current improved vision, he couldn't see any clearly, but he could roughly make out a golden, human silhouette.

Chapter 402: Encounter 2

"Kid, what did you see? Can you tell me?" Garen used a Secret Technique to telepathically transmit his voice by bundling it into a string and transmit it to Kid's ears.

"Something extremely beautiful nice." Kid looked at Garen and naughtily winked his eyes. This exchange was also silent, without a sound. Just by that glance, he made Garen aware of his message.

Garen pressed his chest to control himself.

"Can you tell me what exactly?"

"I don't want to.... Even if i did, you wouldn't believe me, you'd call me an idiot, crazy. I'm not crazy." Kid decisively declined.

"I actually could see a little bit, just not clearly as you."

"I don't believe you." Kid pouted.

Garen laughed as he saw Kid's insistence, so he changed the approach. "Then, can you tell me....what is that golden-colored thing?"

"Golden?" Kid had a suspicious expression, "did..you really see the.."

"Just a little bit." Garen nodded.

The two of them, one used his Secret Techniques to transmit his voice, while the other used his glances and expressions to return the message, could actually communicate at a level that even Old Man, though he was closest to them, was unaware.

Kid scratched his head, and showed a frustrated look. "I also don't know what that was. I saw them often anyway, in the clouds, only when the land was covered in golden fields, only then can we see them."

Garen had a clue.

"Is that thing a human?"

Kid only shook his head

"They? Does that mean there're a lot of them?"

Subsequently, no matter how Garen asked, Kid would only respond by shaking his head, and refused to comment further.

"If I said more, even I would slowly become unable to see them. You have to be careful too, these are the rules; their rules." Kid got anxious from the bombardment of questions, so he answered this final sentence, then stopped replying altogether.

Garen also didn't want to press on too much, obviously Kid had already told him as much as he could. Looking at Kid's attitude towards him, it almost felt warmer than how he was with Old Man. Almost as though he thought of Garen as the same species.

Normally, only Old Man had the patience to listen to him spill out his secrets, but he understood that Old Man just wanted him to cooperate in the squad's movements and operations, and therefore had to be patient. He wasn't actually interested in what Kid said, neither did he believe him.

Kid was not actually stupid, he was well aware of all these.

Although Garen's persistent questioning was somewhat annoying, Kid knew that Garen was genuinely inquisitive, which made him really happy.

As he observed Kid's change in attitude, Garen knew that he didn't have to rush the discussion; there would be many more chances to interact with Kid anyway, perhaps those would lead to unexpected outcomes.

Riding on the white rhino, he once again activated the eye of Isaiah and gazed upon the sky, but that sliver of gold had disappeared.

He then looked at Kid again to realise he had long lowered his head and started humming to that unknown tune again. In his hands were some strands of wheat that Garen's didn't know the origin of, weaving something that looked like a garland.

"This is getting more incomprehensible..." Garen sighed and deactivated the eye of Isaiah.

At night

The white rhinos were tied to a few aging trees, and laid beside in the fields to rest.

Six people were seen surrounding a bonfire, the yellow light from the flame illuminated everyone's faces in a shade of red.

"Do we have anything entertaining to do?" Kitten asked as she yawned.

"Cards?" Red Umbrella answered first.

"I don't want to, Fox always wins." Kitten rejected decisively.

"Then, chess? The three of you come at me; I'll take out two of my pieces." Old Man smiled as he stroked his beard.

"Sure! But you have to take out 3!" Kitten acted demandingly.

"Alright alright." Old Man shook his head.

Garen fiddled with the bonfire as he looked at the remaining 4 people setting up the chess board and preparing themselves for the chess games. He politely declined their invitation, instead spending time sitting with Kid, who was alone on the side, quietly listening to Kid humming to the unknown tunes.

"Kid, can you tell me your real name?" He asked as he picked up some firewood to be placed on the fire pit.

"Real name?" Kid took a twig and drew on the ground. "Isn't my real name Kid?"

"Kid is just a nickname in our group, a real name is the name you had before joining in." Garen explained.

He observed that Kid was drawing a human on the ground, and he began drawing the next one.

"About that..." Kid thought, "I think it's Mason? I don't really remember...."

"Don't you have any relatives?" Garen frowned slightly.

"Relatives? I'm not sure." Kid was drawing something attentively as he was answering. "I grew up in Pumpkin Farm. There weren't any other people there.. The strawberries there were good, I always ate those when i grew up"

"Those strawberries?" Garen wanted to ask further, but suddenly he squinted his eyes and stood up.

"Who's there!"

The four people playing chess got slightly shocked and stood up. They looked towards the direction that Garen was gazing on.

From within the dark fields, a slender silhouette gradually walked out from within the shadows.

This person had a well-balanced body figure, and was donning a light green robe, under the robes was a white shirt and long straight black hair reaching his waist.

The most eye-catching, however, was the long thin green sword sheathed on his waist.

His appearance was handsome, his eyes amber-green, his face was devoid of any expression of coldness, but he let out a chilly and unsettling vibe.

At Garen's first glance on this person, if it weren't for the opponent's long silver-patterned boots, he would have thought an Eastern Warrior from his previous life have appeared.

"Green Dragon Swordsman?" Old Man reacted first, a hint of wariness was shown in his eyes.

"Green Dragon Swordsman?" Garen realized. Green Dragon Swordsman was rumoured to be Blood Queen's strongest subordinate, and had been playmates with the queen since they were kids, a man who followed Jean Earnest to the end.

Soon, rustling sounds from the quick footsteps sounded around the Crimson Team, squads upon squads of veiled swordsmen in green heavily surrounded the team of six as they walked through the field.

"Green Dragon Swordsman Darkla. What is this supposed to mean?" Garen glanced around the people around him.

"It was rumoured that the Nine-headed Demon Dragon had exceptional abilities during the battle at the snowy peak, the one who could retreat without harm in such a harsh environment. I wouldn't expect

such an expert to be appearing during my night patrols so easily." Green Dragon Swordsman said very calmly; it seemed that he is someone with strong self-control.

"You mean, you wanna see if I'm the real deal?" Garen looked at Darkla coldly, realizing that the opponent's right arm was slowly reaching for the sword sheathed by his waist.

Aside from being famous for all the weird plant-type totems, Blood Queen's Avision City was most known for Instantaneous movement totems like Green Dragon Swordsman's totem.

If it wasn't because Garen had seen a history of the futures before, he may have been surprised by this man's attack.

Green Dragon Swordsman's totem was not an independent attacker after release, instead it is completely controlled by the totem user. His sword was the storage device of the totem, and in that instance of unsheathing of the sword, the totem will be released for attack, and when he sheathed it, it would be when the totem returns to him.

The stronger the stored totem, the stronger the sword. Naturally the swordsman himself would be stronger.

Green Dragon Swordsman's title came from the sword on his hand. It was also his core totem -- The Green Dragon!

By the looks of it, the people around him were all elites that uses the instantaneous movement totems.

Garen suddenly recalled the Demon Blade Kunta that he encountered at the snowy peak . That blade...might have the similar structure as the Green Dragon Sword It should most likely be totem storage device.

"Since you came to our Avision City, we haven't been able to give you a good tour around, and Her Highness and I a chance to treat you generously." Green Dragon Swordsman was extending these invitations of courtesy, yet his face showed zero hospitality, instead giving people a stone cold look.

"This is unfortunate, but I am rushing for an errand at the capital. Maybe next time, I'll personally visit Avison City once I have the chance. It'd be great to see the rumoured Green Dragon Sword and Blood Queen's powers." Garen answered with a half-smile.

"No need to delay, let's go now!"

Before the word "now" ended, Green Dragon Swordsman instantaneously pulled out his sword.

Clang !!

Kong !!

The thing that was pulled out from the sheath was not a sword, but instead a green ray!

It was a giant green dragon, just like the Eastern Dragon. The green dragon flew towards Garen, its roar flattening the surrounding wheat field away from the direction of the shockwave produced.

Waves of green light completely illuminated the surrounding, blinding everyone with the bright green.

A green light path was formed by the green dragon midair, the dragon head which spanned over a meter in height opened its jaw and shot straight for Garen.

The dragon left a powerful wake as it rushed forwards, deafening everyone around it.

Bam!

The green dragon's head fiercely crashed onto thin air in front of Garen, a transparent spiral-shaped whirlpool appeared, definitively blocking the dragon's path. The force dissipated into incessant ripple-like waves away from the impact.

Garem smiled lightly, extended his index finger, and softly tapped on the dragon's head.

Instantly, the green light shattered. Everything in front his index finger in front of the index finger, broke into a million pieces, including the dragon's head, turning into innumerable light shards, returning into the long sword on Green Dragon Swordsman's hand like water to its source.

Clang!

The thin sword was sheathed again.

"So it is indeed Sir Garen, I thought it was someone impersonating you, hence I decided to test the waters a bit, surely you won't hold it against me?" Darkla's face remained emotionless.

"Of course not." Garen smiled. He then put his index finger down. "I had the chance to ascertain your identity too."

"I heard that Sir is hurrying back to Kovitan Kingdom, I shall not delay you then, hope to see you again."

"Likewise" Garen looked at the opponent's right hand, and then smiled again. "Let's go"

He turned around and left first. The remaining Crimson Team members warily followed suit. Although, they weren't clear of who won or lost that exchange within that instant. However, the leader had given his orders, so they naturally had no need to question.

Garen and his troupe slowly disappeared into the darkness in the distance.

The Green Dragon Swordsman Darkla slowly let go of the sword in his hand. He flicked a drop of blood away, and it shot into the darkness without a sound.

"Let's go, fall back." he stuffed his right hand into his pocket, then turned around and left.

"Squad Leader?" A female swordsman asked him out of concern.

"I'm fine." Darkla shrugged the female's support away. "What a strong Nine-Headed Demon Dragon! He is not an ordinary Form 2 anymore, I originally thought our difference was small." His face showed a sliver of apprehension.

"Notify all swordsmen within Avision City along with the Queen and I immediately at the sight of Nine-Headed Dragon. This man cannot be fought head-on."

"Is he that strong?..." The female swordsman was stunned.

"Stronger than you can ever imagine." Darkla picked up his speed, and disappeared into the darkness among the escort of swordsmen.

Chapter 403: Hot Spring 1

Garen and the others got on top of the white rhinoceros again, and followed the trail in a specific direction towards their destination.

During the night, their surroundings were filled with the howls of wolves and other strange roars that echoed from far away throughout the open distance. It almost seemed as if they had returned to the ancient behemoth era for a moment.

"Leader? Why do we need to rush even at night? Haven't you won already?" asked Old Man quietly as he stood beside Garen.

Garen shook his head. "I am indeed stronger than the Green Dragon, but his strength was sufficient to bind me for a while. After that, the following territories belong to the Blood Queen, and I've heard that there are many fighters under her influence. Once the conflict rises, the situation may be even worse than the earlier fight at the snow peak. Moreover, God Cloud and the others misjudged my strength, thus allowing me to kill their general suddenly.

"Does this also mean that the Green Dragon's late but sudden appearance here, actually means that some frightening things are in store for you, Leader?" replied Old Man immediately.

"You could put it that way," said Garen, smiling. He thought of something suddenly.

"That's right, do you know Beckstone from the Terraflor Society, Old Man?"

"Beckstone?" Old Man pondered thoughtfully. "Seems like I heard that name two days ago from Marquess Black Snake."

"Marquess Black Snake?"

"Yes, a veteran master of the Geometry Service who made a name for himself about ten years ago. Our relationship is alright, and we used to be partners when we were younger. We used to travel around the world, but went our separate ways because we expanded differently," explained Old Man, "Before this quest, I used to practice playing chess with him, and that guy's skills were slightly better than mine. One time while we were playing chess together, someone came over with a message, and that was the first time I heard of Beckstone's name and found out that he was a representative of the Terraflor Society."

"Black Snake, Black Snake..." Garen thought of something suddenly. "Didn't he have a Precious Heirloom called the 'Rose Snake Crown'?"

A slightly surprised expression appeared on Old Man's face suddenly, before he glanced at Garen.

"How did you know? He and I were the only people who knew about that Precious Heirloom..."

"It doesn't matter how I found out about it. Just pass a message to him from me, and tell him to be careful of Beckstone. That's right, what is Marquess Black Snake's power like?" Garen questioned continuously.

"Stronger than me, but I haven't seen him in action for many years. However, he has two generals under him; two female twins, who both possess form three spiritualized powers and are extremely formidable as a team. He also has two strange beasts that he has been nurturing for many years, and no one knows about the changes they've undergone," answered Old Man simply, "As a veteran marquess who is also a high-class aristocrat, his family's territories are extremely vast. It shrunk after the turmoil, but the size of a province as of now still remains as their territory."

"Oh?" Garen was slightly surprised. According to the original historical timeline, it was now unsurprising that Marquess Black Snake had shown such formidable strength when he encountered Beckstone, because of the powerful domains that were apparently behind him.

Marquess Black Snake himself was incredibly powerful, but Beckstone was an unworthy opponent, causing him to be killed in an extremely humiliating manner. When he was killed this time, the escort masters from the Terraflor Society were suppressed by the masters of the Royal Alliance of Luminarists. After this period of hardship, a series of accidental events were the key in the path that allowed Beckstone to finally gain the trust of Marquess Black Snake's twins. In his final moments, the Marquess was ambushed and seriously injured by the twins, allowing them to steal his Precious Heirlooms in an extremely unjust situation. This was something that no one could have predicted.

In the end, the Ultimate Precious Heirloom, the Rose Snake Crown had already fallen into Beckstone's hands. He obtained a great increase in strength after his hardships, and finally achieved the fourth form. At this stage, he had finally secured his position, and if the powerful organizations wanted to move him, they needed to use even more powerful means. However, the specialized characteristics of the Rose Snake Crown made it impossible for even certain high-end powers to trap him. Therefore, when the powers finally balanced out and the manpower of the strong organizations finally decreased, Beckstone's latent powers began to show themselves, and the other organizations had no choice but to let him go.

Garen thought of this period of history, and remembered that during this key period in Beckstone's life, Marquess Black Snake had already become a very important individual.

"This person, Beckstone, was essentially a specialized seed that the Terraflor Society was cultivating. He has great potential, so you should tell Marquess Black Snake to be more careful."

"I know, I'll pass the message soon," nodded Old Man determinedly. He knew that if even Garen said that Beckstone would be troublesome, he would truly be a menace.

In a dark forest far away

A line of night walkers walked through the mysterious dark woods. The person in front held a torch as its fiery red flames illuminated their surroundings. The crunching sound of footsteps echoed throughout the area continuously, accompanied by the occasional sound of snapping tree branches.

Among these night walkers, the one leading the way was dressed from head to toe in a long white robe, with his cuffs and hems torn off for easier walking. Both of his eyes were different from everyone else's, as they were blinking with dim silver light.

Among the people behind him, there was an old man, a child, and a beautiful young lady in red clothes.

"Stone, are we there yet?" asked the young lady in red softly.

"Soon, just hold on for a little while longer. This is the Barr giant's territory, we must pass through it slowly. If we move too quickly, the giant will be provoked," Beckstone said seriously.

"Do you know if Marquess Black Snake's people have caught up?" said the young lady in red in a slightly worried tone.

"It won't be so soon. Even if the formations were insufficient to hold them down for long, they would surely cause even greater problems assuming that they were unaware of the current circumstances. They might move too quickly through the Barr giant's territory, " said Beckstone with a calm expression on his face.

Ah woo, ah woo..!!!

Suddenly, the sound of wild men's cries began to echo from a far distance behind them.

Instantly, similar cries could be heard one after another, as they echoed throughout all four directions and began to increase in frequency.

"Look, the giants have gone to greet their visitors," Beckstone said with the glimmer of a smile in his eyes.

"Indeed, it is probably that person's disciple. To think that he even knew about a secret message like this," lamented Emin, who was part of the group.

"You're being too humble. We'll be out of this dark forest soon enough, but this is the furthest I can see you off. One of the Terraflor Society's bases are in front, and you can go there before you make your way to the Headquarters," replied Beckstone politely to Emin.

"You've been a great help to me." From his appearance, Emin seemed much more youthful, as the white hair on his head had become mostly black again, while the color of his beard was also becoming darker.

"As a senior of the Terraflor Society, and a schoolmate who was taught under the same teacher as myself, this little bit of help is insignificant. What's more important are the messages that you gave me, as those are enough to make up for everything." Beckstone's eyes showed that he was sincerely grateful. "You guarded this piece of information in a remote village for more than ten years, and for the Terraflor Society to have a senior like you, is something that gives me a lot of pride," he said before he bowed to Emin respectfully.

"That's unnecessary. I should be doing that." Emin shook his head, before bowing in return immediately.

"Alright, let's go." He pulled his disciple away before glancing at the other members of his team. This journey gave him mixed feelings. When Garen first showed signs of his extraordinary talents, he saw unmistakable loneliness in Garen's eyes, and fearlessness and strength that surpassed the average person. With his talents, perseverance and persistence, such power would arrive sooner or later.

He never expected that this day would arrive so soon.

When Beckstone first tasted defeat at the hands of Garen, his hatred did not spill over towards his own teacher, showing that his heart had become more humble. If only the hatred between the both of them could be absolved...

When this idea appeared in his head, Emin thought of the hatred between the both of them immediately. He exhaled at once. This was probably impossible.

Dragging his obedient disciple along, Emin walked forward and exited the dark forest. On the glossy black grass in front of them, a few people were standing there and waiting already.

"Emin, after all these years, it must have been hard for you." A figure stepped forward in the moonlight, and an old woman with white hair appeared.

"Liz..." Emin looked at this woman who was once his close friend, and felt his throat tighten suddenly, making him unable to speak. He shut himself away from the world for the sake of that piece of information from the Terraflor Society, and even allowed his wife to die, while his final research caused him to be hated by his childhood best friend and made them both enemies. Everything was done for this moment, when he finally received his returns.

"Then... I can finally...?"

"You have the right to restore your school, but only a branch of it," nodded the old woman sincerely.

"This is enough," said Emin as a satisfied expression appeared on his face. He turned around and glanced at Beckstone and the others who were still standing in the woods. "Let's go. I haven't returned for so many years, I don't know whether everyone has changed or not."

"They've changed... Everyone's hair is white now..." The old woman's eyelids began to shut, before her words suddenly disappeared into silence.

Garen pulled at the black box communicator at his collar and knitted his brows closely together. He tried to hear the sounds that were coming from the inside.

They walked in single file and slowly passed through the white stone mounds. The white rhinoceros walked through the uneven rocky grounds, and when its steps failed to find flat surfaces, its body would rock violently.

The sun was high up in the sky and shining down on them, the fiery sunlight burning the black clothes on the backs of the six people, causing their body temperatures to increase constantly. The surface of their black armor would constantly reflect the black rays, making the armor seem like it was made of layers of silver plated metal.

"So hot..."

Kitten could not help but pull at his collar. She looked around at her surroundings and noticed that there was not a single green plant in this expanse of white stone mounds. There were only a few black, wilted vines that were lying on a large stone that they passed by, which looked like it had died of thirst for a long time.

"What kind of hellish place is this?! The sun in the sky is already too hot, so why is steam still coming out of the ground?" complained Kitten suddenly in a loud and impatient tone.

Old Man glanced past her impatiently, before looking at Garen, who remained indifferent, and Red Umbrella, who looked drowsy.

"These changes probably occurred after the turmoil. The stone mounds were originally filled with steam, and when I was a lecturer at the Ender Kingdom University, I once brought students here to observe them. The ground here is filled with steam, and has extremely high temperatures, but apparently desert type phenomena have yet to appear here, a sign that there is an abundance of underground water beneath. So..."

"So, there's definitely a hot spring here?!" said Kitten excitedly suddenly. She could feel that her whole body was sticky and full of sweat. The natural temperature balancing effects of the black clothes were completely useless against the frighteningly high temperatures. The terrifying temperature here had already reached forty to fifty degrees. She could only occasionally use some of her Totem Light to deflect some of the strong heat.

Old Man nodded his head surely.

"Hot spring? Taking a dip inside and sleeping will surely make me feel much more comfortable!" An expectant look appeared on Red Umbrella's face as well, showing signs that he had regained some of his energy too.

Kid widened both of his big eyes as well, as he looked around at his surroundings.

Meanwhile, Garen pondered thoughtfully.

"Old Man, you used to be a Forger, so you should know about the War Guild's War Chain right?"

Chapter 404: Hot Spring 2

"Of course. That was the basis of the War Guild, and the other forces had no way of reproducing it whatsoever. I researched it for a period of time as well and attempted to reproduce it, but unfortunately, I failed," Old Man nodded in reply.

"This place has an abundance of geothermal heat. Could you help me reform a War Chain? I want to upgrade the level of the Chain because this thing can be used for Solidifying and Permanent Tactics to covertly increase the powers of the members of the Chain. It's quite useful," Garen said immediately.

"Just upgrading it should be no problem, but retrieving some of the required materials will be quite troublesome. The War Guild constantly monopolizes these rare materials, making it difficult for outside forgers to obtain." Old Man shook his head to say that they had no choice. "Leader, if you want to upgrade the level of the Chain, you must upgrade it at the War Guild. There's a branch in the Kovitan Kingdom."

"Alright..." Frankly, Garen did not harbor any expectations and was merely asking around, but received the expected answer straight from Old Man's lips. Core items like these were definitely firmly controlled by the War Guild themselves.

Currently, the Nine-Headed Dragon's potential points were exhausted, and since there was no way to upgrade it, he had to think of other ways to upgrade his own strength.

Other than the effects of the War Chain's Solidifying Tactics, there were also Precious Heirlooms. Of course, if he were any other person, he would only be able to depend on these two paths to find a solution. The potential of his Core Totem was exhausted, and there was no way he could upgrade it, unless he switched the core. However, an Ultimate Totem that had reached its form 4 peak was not easy to cultivate, and he had undergone a lot of tribulations and misfortune in between.

After all, there were no tricks to get through this road easily. In the end, Core Totems needed to combine with their Totem Users, as this was one of the characteristics that were embodied during Spiritualization. If the Core Totem was not grown and cultivated with its Totem User since its low level stages, it would be impossible for them to merge.

If a strong individual gave a high level Totem to a low level Totem User directly, this high level Totem would not be able to adapt to the Totem User, and would cause the required Totem Strength consumption to increase rapidly in a short span of time. This would make it undergo terrifying changes that had the potential to suck the life out of a low level Totem User.

A Totem User needed to cultivate their Totems to ensure that the Totems would feed the Totem User themselves during the process, so that their respective natures would be able to match with one another gradually. This was in order to reach the final combination stage in the end.

Natures that were not matched, regardless of the level of the Totem, would only be burdens and encumbrances to the Totem User, and would not be of any support at all.

Thus, carelessly changing Core Totems was something that only low level Totem Users would attempt, because once they reached higher levels, only a handful of individuals would be willing to pay such a hefty price. After all, changing one's Core Totem and cultivating it from the start again would require a painstaking amount of time and effort.

Most people, even the talented ones, needed at least ten years or more. Every high level Totem that they cultivated required sources of astronomical proportions.

However, Garen was different because of his regenerative abilities. Although he had to cultivate his Totems, his Totems themselves would also feed his circulatory system, which was caused by his regenerative abilities that increased the speed of his terrifying evolution.

The time taken for him to cultivate his Totems were much faster compared to the other Totem Users. As long as his Potential Points were sufficient, he could increase his efficiency to a terrifying degree.

Garen was still pleased with the abilities of the Nine-Headed Dragon. Nine lives that could constantly be refilled through his regenerative powers easily made it a perfect match with his abilities! Perhaps it

would be stronger if he changed it to a different Totem, but it would not necessarily have the same kind of powerful skills and abilities.

Next, he had to consider how to strengthen the Nine Headed Dragon.

God Cloud and the other Marshalls all had Form 5 Totems, while the Nine Headed Dragon was Garen's only Form 4 peak Totem. If he did not coordinate it with the strength of his physical body, it would be impossible for him to defeat something that was Form 5. However, his strength was only a rough guess, as actual combat would depend on his creativity, Precious Heirlooms and other means. The difference between their basic skills, however, would always be an existing factor. His other means were merely add-ons, and did not mean that his nature belonged to the Form 5 level.

Garen sat on the white rhinoceros while his ideas became clearer.

He looked at his current Attribute Pane immediately.

'Strength 14. Agility 10. Vitality 10. Intelligence 10. Potential 2218%. Obtained Luminarist qualifications.

Secret Technique -- Myriad Water Jasper Technique, Ten Thousand Mammoth Battle Skills.'

He skipped the rest.

The blood-red symbols in his Skill Pane represented his skills and their respective explanations. Garen himself was unclear of the number of skills that he had achieved, but since his Skill Pane was filled with symbols, he knew that he had obtained at least ten different types. Some of them were even accumulated from the Secret Technique world.

His attention was immediately turned towards the relationship between his Secret Techniques and Core Totem.

"The Secret Techniques are currently at the first level of the Myriad Water Jasper Technique."

It appeared on the Skill Pane clearly.

'Myriad Water Jasper Technique: Level one (Five levels in total, One of Neptune's top level ancient martial arts, used to increase the adaptability of one's body to water, and can be used to control a large amount of liquid flow.'

Garen was unsure about this exceptional Secret Technique, as it was just something that he had traded with Celine for the Divine Statue Technique earlier.

That sly little fox Celine thought that she had been taken advantage of. She did not expect that the Divine Statue Technique was an Ultimate Secret Technique that only existed in theory, as the average person would not be able to adapt to it. All of this was only possible because of the Potential Points that Garen used to achieve this result. Once that cheat had been given to someone else, there was no way they could train themselves to use it.

Now that the Divine Statue Technique was gone, Garen had lost his immense physical strength and regenerative abilities in exchange for the Myriad Water Jasper Technique, and from the look of it, this new skill was not especially powerful.

He looked at his remaining Potential Points, and realized that there were only 22 points left.

He attempted to focus his gaze on the Myriad Water Jasper Technique to stop it.

There were no changes at all... Everything was still the same as it was earlier.

Garen furrowed his eyebrows. All this while he had been thinking about how he only needed ten or more points to upgrade his Secret Techniques in the past, whereas new issues had occurred now.

"It's very likely that my Potential Points are insufficient," he said as the guess appeared in his mind.

Right now, he was about to combine with the Nine Headed Dragon. The Nine Headed Dragon possessed a huge body, entirely filled with terrifyingly powerful spirits. Moreover, it also had nine lives!

A huge physical body foundation such as this was completely unlike his initial human body, and the difference was enormous.

These changes were probably caused by its difference in foundation.

A weak human body required a small amount of energy to be transformed, thus the large Nine Headed Dragon naturally did not undergo a large transformation as well.

For example, if the foundation was 1, the transformation would only need a single digit to easily undergo a large change. If the foundation was 10000, the changes of the new digits would not be substantial, and would not affect it at all.

Once he realized this point, Garen decided to attempt to accumulate a large amount of Potential Points. At the same time, he wanted to go to the War Guild in the Kingdom to upgrade his War Chain. He also wanted to see another one of the Chain's members, Angel.

She was the woman that he had once worked with in Iron Tank City, but now he was unsure of the progress of her and her group. Initially, she was already an elite Form 2 Totem User. Right now, he did not know whether or not she had entered Form 3.

Returning to his senses, he realized that his line of people had gradually entered a rocky area that was shrouded in mist. Their surroundings were still filled with the same jagged stones, except that muddy, slightly white colored flowing water had appeared in the stone cracks.

The flowing water formed large and small potholes that were all filled with hot steam that floated around endlessly.

Old Man stood in front of the line and led the way.

"It's not often that I drop by here, so I don't know if the hot spring in front still exists, but we should go there and clean our bodies."

"We can rest properly here for a day. This road is much faster than the one we took to get here. Thanks to Leader!" fawned Kitten as she smiled at Garen, before noticing that the latter was closing his eyes and concentrating, without looking at her at all.

"Hmmp!" Kitten pouted angrily.

"Is there anything good to eat here?" Meanwhile, Kid was busy thinking about food.

"There used to be whitebait here that tasted alright, and were good when roasted or made into soup. It's also full of nourishment to top it off. I don't know whether they're still here or not," replied Old Man, smiling.

"I don't think we should waste time here, so we can return to the Kingdom faster. If you want to bathe just do it quickly," said Garen absently.

"Leader, don't you need to rest? After running around for such a long time with such a dirty body... Can I ask you something, when was the last time you bathed?" Kitten retorted impatiently.

"Huh?" Garen's gaze drifted over.

The latter jumped off the rhinoceros suddenly, and hid behind Red Umbrella immediately as she had been frightened to the point where she was too afraid to come out.

"Lea... L-leader, I know that someone as kind hearted as yourself would not be offended by the little joke that I just made!" Kitten hid behind Red Umbrella's back and shouted loudly, speaking in one breath without stopping to breathe.

The others could not help but laugh softly. Before Garen's arrival, Kitten had always been the uncontrollable one in the group with a fiery mouth, and Red Umbrella who was the only one who could control her and was therefore unbothered.

No one expected that Garen's arrival would cause her to act like a mouse that had just seen a cat, thus keeping her in check at the same time.

"Men's bath times and women's ages have something in common, they are both things that you cannot ask. Understood?" said Garen coldly as he glared at Kitten who was still hiding behind Red Umbrella's back.

"Un... Understood!" Kitten nodded seriously, her whole face ghostly pale. Red Umbrella, the white rhinoceros below them, and Kitten herself had all been frightened until their entire bodies were frozen.

"That's good." Satisfied, Garen returned his gaze.

The two people and the animal breathed a sigh of relief simultaneously.

After going through this period of teasing, the atmosphere of the group had become slightly livelier.

Soon, bigger stones appeared in front of them, and the potholes in the middle of the rocks increased as well, and became bigger. Some of the potholes had become the size of little ponds with grey colored water that flowed out endlessly and constantly.

Shh...

In one of the stone cracks in front, white water mist was spraying outwards like a high pressured water gun. The water mist sprayed outwards for a little while and then stopped, as if it was accumulating power before every gush.

The air was filled with water vapor, and every few meters it became difficult to see the others, and was occasionally so blurry that only black figures could be seen.

"A little further in front and you'll see the hot springs. Be careful, everyone. I haven't been here after the turmoil and I don't know whether any monsters are entrenched here," said Old Man loudly.

But the surprising part was that although the crowd had reached the large hot spring pool that Old Man led them to, there was not a single monster in sight.

Garen began to think that a stronger monster had designated this area as its territory. Thus, once they had reached their confirmed location, he began to survey the area. However, he soon realized that there were still no monsters to be seen, causing him to feel slightly confused.

These rocky areas were shrouded in white smoke. The surrounding temperatures reached over thirty degrees, while the core temperatures were up to fifty, sixty degrees. The highest temperatures of the hot springs were had almost reached a hundred degrees.

Large clouds of hot steam floated upwards, and formed a thick layer of black clouds in the sky.

He was unsure whether it was an illusion or not, but when Garen arched his head upwards, he noticed that the black cloud was changing its shape, and twisting and turning slightly.

Chapter 405: Hot Spring 3

It felt as though the black cloud itself was alive.

Garen narrowed his eyes slightly and felt a tremble in his heart, as he activated the Eye of Isaiah and looked towards the black cloud.

The black cloud continued to move along normally, except that it had slowed down slightly, with no other signs of abnormalities.

He returned his gaze and took a look around his surroundings. He did not notice anything suspicious.

Returning via his initial route, he passed through a few stone forests filled with large rocks and noticed a medium sized, oval shaped hot spring pool in front of him.

Large clouds of steam rose up as the air suddenly became humid and damp. Garen felt as though his skin had been covered in a sticky layer.

He heard vague laughing noises coming from the direction of the hot spring which sounded like female voices.

The exterior of the hot spring pools was barricaded by a circle of large stone pillars, an obvious sign that people had moved them over as blockades.

Near one of the outer stone pillars, Red Umbrella and Old Man sat cross-legged on the floor while chatting about an unknown topic. Kid was drawing on the surface of one of the stone pillars with his fingers to amuse himself.

When he saw Garen walking over, Old Man waved the jerky in his hands.

"We were planning to use the water here to cook some meat soup. Would you like some, Leader?"

"Have you found the whitebait fish?" Garen asked immediately, as he walked over to sit cross-legged on the floor with the others.

Old Man shook his head as a hesitant expression appeared on his face. "It's strange, I easily got a net full of whitebait the last time I fished here, but now it seems like I can't even see one. It would be an unlikely assumption to say that a monster had dived underwater and eaten all of the whitebait. We used our Totems to dive deep into the water, but we couldn't find traces of any creatures even when we reached the bottom."

"We didn't find anything in the surroundings either," said Garen, shaking his head. "This place seems kind of strange. We'll let them finish bathing first and then we'll leave at once. I wouldn't want to wait around here."

"That's fine," Old Man nodded his head.

"Don't, I still want to soak... It's been three months without bathing..." Red Umbrella groaned suddenly.

"Three months..." Garen and Old Man were speechless now.

"Every time I've thought of bathing before I sleep, but every time I just fall asleep first..." Red Umbrella was beginning to feel embarrassed now, and laughed it off.

"Just go and rest for now, while we still have time." Garen glanced at Kid and noticed that the usually strange Kid was now acting normally, a sign that this place was not entirely problematic.

He crossed his legs and closed his eyes, before sitting on the rock and meditating slowly.

He had planned to investigate his surroundings earlier to see if there were any monsters that he could use to obtain Potential Points, but unfortunately there was not a single monster to be seen.

Garen adjusted his state of mind properly, before he slowly immersed himself in the state of practicing his Secret Techniques like he did in the previous world.

Practicing Secret Techniques in a world where Totems were mainly used, occasionally allowed him to reminisce on his past mistakes.

He calmed his heart as he focused his attention towards the core of his vital energy.

Unlike the Divine Statue Technique, the vital energy and blood roadmap of the Myriad Water Jasper Technique were extremely complicated, and required the flow of all of his bloodlines, regardless of whether they were large or small, main blood vessels or capillaries.

This Secret Technique was an ancient martial art passed down to him from Neptune Fist, and Garen knew the uses of some of the roadmaps, but was unclear of the uses of a large number of roadmaps.

While practicing the Divine Statue Technique, his control of his physical body reached an unprecedented degree, and bloodline flow roadmaps that he himself did not understand appeared as well.

He followed the instructions of the Secret Techniques.

The first level of the Myriad Water Jasper Technique resulted in the effect of being able to control the flow of vital energy from a one meter radius. This type of control overlapped between the categories of humans and nonhumans, and would affect all living things that had blood flowing through their veins.

The second level was used to enhance the range, while the third level was used to enhance strength and to control power.

However, he was unclear regarding the following levels, as Celine had only trained until the third level, while the fourth level could only be achieved successfully by professionals from Neptune Fist. He was unclear about its exact abilities.

The Myriad Water Jasper Technique was one of the hardest main Secret Techniques to be learnt from Neptune Fist. Some said that other than the creator, no one else had managed to achieve such a high level.

Once Garen had closed his eyes, he concentrated and began to adjust the flow of the vital energy in his body to circulate towards a specific roadmap. There were far too many blood vessels that he had to operate, and even if his energies were stronger, one large circulation required at least two hours.

Moreover, this type of flowing movement was extremely difficult because the movement of vital energy required a fixed speed, and the slightest change would result in a huge setback.

An illusion began to form in Garen's mind, telling him that if he wanted to combine with the Nine Headed Dragon, he would need to pass through this Secret Technique Roadmap as well.

The noises in his surrounding began to echo as though from a distance, as time continued to tick pass. His consciousness slowly drifted towards the stage where he had forgotten himself.

Old Man and Red Umbrella sat beside Garen. One of them closed his eyes and held a black box in their hands, listening to an unknown sound, while the other remained in his old ways, yawning constantly and dozing off to sleep.

Meanwhile, Kid lay on his back on the floor, unbothered by the heat of the ground, as he stared upwards at the white gas. Occasionally, he would glance at Garen who was doing cross-legged exercises.

The noises surrounding the hot spring pools changed from excited comfortable sounds to soft voices, as sounds of people getting out of the water could be heard as well. It seemed like Kitten and Fox had finished bathing, and were getting ready to get out.

Old Man, who was listening to the black box, opened his eyes suddenly.

"After this quest is over, do you have any plans, Red Umbrella?"

"Plans?" Red Umbrella covered his mouth and yawned a few times. "Going home to sleep properly for a few days... No I can't, it's too difficult."

"With Leader around, don't you plan on doing any level upgrading quests?" Old Man wiggled his eyebrows.

"Won't you guys still be around?"

Old Man remained silent as he looked at Kid who was standing on the sidelines.

"Kid, after this quest is over, do you have any plans?"

"Going back to the farm," said Kid in a crisp, abrupt manner.

"Do you want to stay with us in the Kingdom?"

"Why?" Kid asked hesitantly.

"There's nothing wrong if you choose to stay on the outskirts alone. The current situation has almost calmed down by now. The monster lairs in most places have mostly already been confirmed as dangerous zones, and the activity areas have been clearly stated on the maps. Hence, as long as we don't loiter around, we won't be in serious danger. The situations in most countries have calmed down, and the defense lines have also been solidified. Without exterior threats, orderly rebuildings of new societies will come next. This kind of order is still being tested out, but under these circumstances, we as part of the armed forces will receive much greater benefits than before if we stay in the Kingdom, unlike during the tumultuous period when the armed forces was the department that had the highest casualty rates."

Old Man paused for a moment.

"Our Kovitan, Daniela, and Ender built the West Farm defense together. After that we built the three major areas. As well as a few small organizations that survived in the secure catch. In this era, one cannot live on without power, and thus, those that control powerful abilities like ourselves will benefit greatly."

"Old Man, you're thinking of becoming a solicitor for the princess, right? I remember you putting yourself under her command last year?" Red Umbrella brought up lazily.

"Since you already knew about that, that's why I brought it up," nodded Old Man. "It's true that I'm working for the princess. Although His Majesty Avic has great talents and strong forces, he is still dispirited sometimes, and thus under all circumstances, the princess is naturally the best choice. After my family pledged our services to Her Majesty the Princess, we received great care, and thus this was the obvious decision."

"That's your problem. I don't want to hang around someone else and do their work. Remaining in the Secret Service is fine by me. The benefits are good, the treatment is good, the positions are high, plus it's also relaxing," said Red Umbrella, as he smiled with both of his hands behind his head.

"What about you, Kid?" Old Man looked towards the little guy on the side.

A similarly bored expression appeared on Kid's face.

"I'll go with Leader."

"What if Leader joins me as one of Her Majesty the Princess' subordinates?" Old man smiled suddenly.

"I'll just go with Leader," nodded Kid confidently.

"That's good. Look, Leader will surely join us as well," smiled Old Man as he patted Kid's head.

Soon, Fox and Kitten who had just changed into a new set of clothes walked towards them after getting out of the hot spring. Both of them had changed into white clothes that resembled figure-hugging swordsman's uniforms, except that there were short cloaks hanging off their backs, which made them look exceptionally cool. Both of them were exposing their beautiful, pale legs.

Unfortunately, not a single person there was giving them a second glance.

Kid did not understand anything, while Old Man had a lot of past experience, as shown on his calm expression. Red Umbrella was busy dozing off.

All that was left was their sane male leader Garen, who was still closing his eyes and resting, as if he were meditating.

Kitten twitched her lip regretfully and glanced at Fox, as she began to feel like it was a wrong decision to hang around in this group.

Fox continued to cover her face, making it impossible to read her expression.

Old Man explained Leader's actions to them, before Kitten and Fox expressed their understanding.

Garen opened his eyes slowly at this moment as well.

He glanced at the sky and noticed that the dark clouds were still the same.

After hesitating for a while, he realized that he had not bathed for a long time.

Although he could prevent dust and dirt from sticking on his body as a Totem User, he could not do the same for the sweat that his body released. He used his Secret Technique to control his body, allowing his secreted sweat to be released out of his body through other methods. However, the others did not have this ability.

Looking at Kid and Red Umbrella's pleading expressions, he felt that he had been slightly cruel towards them. Allowing someone who had gone three months without bathing to not be able to enter a hot spring...

"Okay, okay. Since we're here, we might as well bathe," sighed Garen. "I'll go soak for a bit as well."

"We'll guard the door!" Kitten exclaimed immediately.

"Wise Leader!!" Red Umbrella was the first one to jump up, before he ran to the white rhinoceros that was not far away and quickly found four black towels, which he gave to each of the men. After that he brought a little bottle of shower gel that had dark red flower petals floating inside. There were filament like red flower petals.

Garen and the other men each took a towel and walked into the man-made hot spring in the stone forest.

There was an oval shaped pool inside that was steaming with clouds of hot air, while there were stone pillars of different lengths that surrounded the pool in a circle, forming only one entry point.

The four men took off their clothes quickly, exposing their once hidden body shapes.

The white mist made it hard to see clearly, but Garen could still see the faces of the three other people.

Old Man had a kindly, elderly face and wore a pair of silver-rimmed spectacles, and was currently using a white cloth to wipe the glass. If he was seen at a library or a similar place, people would assume that he

was a university researcher or scholar. However, there were rumours that he was actually once a scholar.

Red Umbrella had short red hair, a pair of slanting, flyaway eyebrows, and unusually handsome features. Coupled with his red eyes and porcelain skin, he definitely looked like a well-bred aristocratic prince.

Kid removed his clothes, and exposed his bony slender body that lacked flesh. His skin was dry and it was obvious that he was underdeveloped. His eyes were also sunken, his dark brown hair was coarse and messy, and there were freckles on the tip of his nose.

But none of these were important. The strangest thing was that Kid's skin completely lacked the colour of blood. He was terribly pale.

Garen glanced at him a few more times unconsciously.

Only then did he remove his clothes and throw them onto the stone by the side of the pool carelessly.

Garen walked into the water and sat down, allowing his golden, shoulder-length hair to float on the surface of the water. He immersed his entire body into the water, exposing the parts above his chin only.

The temperature of the water was just right, at almost forty degrees.

Garen closed his eyes, and finally let go of the tight nerves that he had been holding on for so long.

Excluding the moments when he was in the outskirts such as this, Garen could never let go of his nerves completely. He always needed to keep his guard up in case a strange phenomena occurred, or in case a strong monster decided to attack out of the blue.

However, his own team mates were keeping guard now, and some of them were even soaking with him, which allowed him to not worry about issues regarding his safety for awhile.

Unconsciously, Garen drifted into a half asleep state.

Before he'd upgraded the Myriad Water Jasper Technique, this scene had appeared once, and now, it was appearing a second time.

Chapter 406: Hot Spring 4

Amidst the blurriness, he saw the large, ten metres tall metal door again.

The borders of the door were filled with dark red rust marks that left faint patterns, as though fine, complex and gorgeous lines had once been engraved there.

Hungry...

So hungry...

Garen realised that he had turned into that pitiful, little Dual Headed Salamander again.

His entire body was covered in dirty scales, and he was only slightly more than three meters long. A strong sensation of hunger rumbled throughout his belly continuously.

Too hungry...

Garen unconsciously hit one of its heads against the large door violently.

Bang!

A loud noise echoed from the metal door as a slit revealed itself when it was pushed open.

Bang bang bang!! Bang bang bang!!

The sound of loud footsteps echoed from behind the door suddenly as if a large creature was pacing back and forth with heavy rhythmic stomping noises, that walked and stopped continuously.

The little Dual Headed Salamander could not suppress its hunger any longer. It was starving and it followed its instincts by attempting to push the large door open, before crawling inside slowly.

Garen hid inside its body and looked out quietly while experiencing everything, as if he was the Dual Headed Salamander.

Behind the door was a large black wasteland that was surrounded by broken and damaged walls.

A rotting stench permeated the air.

The little Dual Headed Salamander crawled inside clumsily before noticing that right in front of it, stood a tall, large black church.

The church was sturdy and well-built, but the sound of the heavy footsteps from earlier had echoed from within it.

Bang bang!!

The loud footsteps rang from the church once again.

The little salamander raised its head and looked towards the sky.

The sky was filled with large grey clouds that gave off a heavy feeling of hopelessness. It looked like someone had used a pencil to scrawl on a sheet of white paper, staining it with grey blotches that gave off an unclean sensation.

He did not know why, but Garen currently felt more awake than before.

He could vaguely feel that this little Dual Headed Salamander seemed to be a native ancestor from the ancient times, of the Nine Headed Dragon that he had evolved.

That was from an era when countless salamanders still existed, possibly more than ten thousand years ago in the Totem World.

In the history of humankind within the Totem World, there was only about six thousand years of history that up to the present day. This included the time periods from two different calendars; the current solar calendar that had spanned almost three thousand and five hundred years, and the ancient calendar from the past that spanned over two thousand years. When added together, there were almost six thousand years in total.

This was the journey of human civilization, from the wilderness to development.

Moreover, the period where the Dual Headed Salamander still existed was at least twenty million years away.

To think that during an era in which humankind had yet to plant the seed of civilization, a man-made building like this actually existed...

A sense of curiosity began to bubble up inside Garen suddenly.

For such a large door and an enormous church like this, how had it been built?

Perhaps everything would be revealed when the Dual Headed Salamander entered the church.

The little Dual Headed Salamander walked towards the large church clumsily.

The large black church resembled a tall black mountain that stood in front of it. It cast a large grey shadow.

As the Dual Headed Salamander got closer, the loud footsteps inside the church began to quieten down, and soon stopped completely. Everything was immersed in the silence of despair once again.

This whole world seemed to lack any signs of life; there were no green plants, no flying insects, and no chirping of birds.

Unable to see any of its brethren or any remaining living beings, the little salamander was all alone.

It stood in front of the enormous black copper door of the church and glanced at the remains of the door, which resembled the strange face of a bat. The little salamander suddenly hesitated.

Garen could feel the incomparable fear rising up in its heart. That strong sense of fear was caused by the incomparable terror that existed within the church. From the sound of its footsteps, he could tell that the bastard inside the church was at least fifty meters tall, and was definitely a humongous giant. One stomp was all it needed to crush the three meter tall salamander into meat sauce.

But the little salamander had been wandering the vicinity for far too long, and this place was the only area where it had found the existence of other living things.

The other places were all filled with silence and despair without any other life forms, not even plants. There was only wreckage, as if the whole world had been rent and destroyed. It felt as though it was currently walking towards its death.

To go in? Not to go in?

The little salamander's brain was wrestling with itself violently right now.

In this world where the sun did nothing to warm the land, it had wandered for many years, eating roots and wet soil and barely surviving. Now that even the roots were beginning to wilt to death, it had no other options to turn to anymore.

Finally, the little salamander pressed its main head against the large door steadily, and began to push strongly.

Woo...

Garen opened his eyes suddenly and woke up.

His surroundings were still filled with white misty water vapor. He was still half-lying inside the hot spring pool.

His bright golden hair was spread out on the surface of the water, and he could see himself vaguely from the reflection in the water, before he noticed that the three red marks on his forehead were beginning to bleed suddenly.

He reached his hand out to touch it, before bringing his fingers downwards, and noticing that his fingertips were stained with fresh red blood.

"Is this an after effect?" Garen murmured to himself.

Obtaining strength quickly would always require one to give a designated trade-off in exchange. This was the biggest disadvantage of not acquiring the basics. Garen had always been worried about the after effects that would occur in himself.

Initially, he assumed that his heart might have undergone a rejection reaction, but now he found out that the most troublesome part was that he would have to relive the memories of the salamander's ancestors that were encoded in its genes.

These memories were merely parts and pictures to a simple-minded salamander. However, to Garen, as a human, he could use them to find important information.

"Leader? Are you okay?" Red Umbrella was sitting a short distance away from Garen, and had noticed that his forehead was bleeding as well as the scent of blood.

"I'm fine, it's just a minor issue," Garen answered lightly.

Red Umbrella saw from his expression that he did not want to say anything else, and thus he stopped asking.

He looked on as Leader's handsome pale face began to sink into the water slowly, and noticed that the three dot marks on his forehead continued bleeding slightly. Leader's face was completely expressionless, as if everything was normal.

Red Umbrella had always felt that Leader emitted a strange air throughout his entire body. It seemed as if this body he was approaching was not human, but a monstrous wild beast instead.

He glanced at Kid who was standing on the other side, and thought about how this child was no older than fourteen or fifteen years old, yet possessed terrifying powers and had managed to reach the peak of Form 3.

Meanwhile, his body was covered by deathly pale skin, without a single sign of blood.

Even after soaking in the hot spring for such a long time, in forty degrees water, not a tinge of red coloured his little face.

Kid seemed like a corpse when he immersed his whole body in the water like that.

These two people were stranger than others, and Red Umbrella felt that as a normal person, he should not come into too close proximity with them.

He inched away slowly and quietly to rest at the other end of the hot spring.

At this moment, Old Man approached Garen quietly.

"Leader, can we speak alone?"

"Speak alone?" Garen lifted his head out of the water and wiped the water off his face. The blood on his forehead dripped down his nose to the corner of his lips, and Garen stuck his tongue out to lick at it. He was unsure why his emotions were beginning to feel an inexplicable sense of irritability.

"What do you want to talk about?" He closed his eyes again and waited for Old Man's next words.

Old Man tidied up his train of thought and looked at Garen's calm face, before glancing at the other two people, before softening his voice.

"I don't know whether you are aware that I'm actually a Totem User under the command of the princess?"

"Princess?" Garen had no impressions of this person. "I'm not that familiar with her, I've only heard that she is very competent. And she's also a wise leader."

"During this quest, I was actually sent with the Princess's sincerity. Not just for yourself, but also for the other members in the group, as her Majesty the Princess wishes for an opportunity to work with all of you," said Old Man with an honest look in his eyes.

"What do you mean? You want me to join you as one of the princess's subordinates?" said Garen as a playful look appeared on his face suddenly. Him? A=He was a first class fighter that could even take on Obscuro Society's Marshall God Cloud head on.

He still had a high level friend like Goth by his side, and he was also part of a loyalist family that had received Avic's trust, giving him a high position in the interior of the empire. To think that this princess would not solicit him personally, but chose to ask Old Man to pass on the message instead.

"You're not wrong about that," nodded Old Man. "The princess wants talented individuals, and prioritizes those who are strong and competent. If a strong individual like yourself joined our ranks, it would truly be a large blessing to our camp."

"So what kind of remunerations can you give me?" said Garen as a somewhat playful expression appeared on his face. "I'm treated like an Earl in the Secret Service, so what kind of promises can you grant me?"

Old Man did not say much, but withdrew a black scroll from his clothes beside the pond instead, pulled off the string, and opening it delicately.

This scroll was resistant to water, and had started to emit a faint black light in the midst of the mist. The rows of handwritten words on the scroll began to vibrate slightly.

Garen looked at the scroll and noticed that the writing was engraved in a secret language using Totem Light. It was written in a type of secret cryptography, and could only be read after it was decompiled.

"What is this?" Garen looked up at Old Man.

Old Man remained silent and outstretched his hand to point at the end of the scroll carefully.

Garen looked in the direction of his finger and noticed faint traces of a seal there.

He was slightly shaken when he realised that this was the special seal used by the royal family of the Kovitan Empire, which was also the emperor's seal that only Avic possessed.

"This scroll was sent by His Majesty the Emperor?"

Old Man nodded.

"Do you still remember the incident where the king's daughter was stabbed in the kingdom some time ago?"

Garen's heart skipped a beat.

He'd assumed that the incident had occurred silently, and that he had destroyed all of the witnesses, he did not think that...

"What do you mean?" he asked quietly as he looked at Old Man.

"It's very simple, now Avic has started to doubt you as well. Meanwhile, the ones that can truly help you within the entire kingdom, are only limited to us!" He said his last sentence in a louder tone, while a confident expression appeared on his face.

"Tell me the password." Garen's expression had changed slightly.

If he wanted to beat God Cloud now, the battle at Snowy Peak would shake the world. However, the strength to face an entire empire was something that he still lacked right now.

It did not matter how much hidden strength Avic kept hidden, as the professionals on the surface of the empire were bad enough. The two Grand Dukes, defense minister Veska, and the three pillars of the empire were all extremely powerful strengths that were hard to understand. Once the stabbing incident was exposed, he would turn from a loyalist of the empire to a wanted convict immediately. It did not matter to him, but Big Sister Hathaway, Goth, and his other relatives would not be able to escape. They would all be involved.

After Old Man told Garen the password, he decoded the entire message carefully, as all of the contents of the scroll displayed themselves clearly.

'Permission granted to examine the head of the Trejons household thoroughly, but it must be done in secret.'

Garen narrowed his eyes.

"This doesn't mean anything, right?"

"Does it really not mean anything?" Old Man replied with a smile.

Garen grew silent for a moment.

"You aren't worried that I hand this over to His Majesty?"

Old Man continued to smile but did not answer.

Garen knew that if this was real, even if he did hand it over to His Majesty, it would not benefit him at all.

Moreover, just like what he'd said earlier, the only one that could help him was the princess who was seated in a high position. With an important individual in the palace grasping the entire situation, his own control of his dangerous position would increase greatly as well.

Furthermore, for the other man to give this to him so confidently, it meant that he was not afraid that he would hand it over to His Majesty.

"His Majesty's doubts are doubts. In the end, the stabbing of the king's daughter was not something that I carried out, so I have nothing to worry about," smiled Garen, as he steadied his emotions.

Chapter 407: Princess 1

"If you think of it that way, you're making a huge mistake," said Old Man, shaking his head. "Although you're an exceptionally powerful individual, His Majesty's doubts are still doubts. We don't know for sure if he contacted you just because of these uncertainties. He definitely has a more farsighted plan, of course? Your father's contributions then were not done in vain, right?"

"We should stop our discussion here for now." Garen closed his eyes, unwilling to talk further.

The Black Prince had already arrived in the Kingdom, and Avic's stabbing incident would be exposed, which would cause an uproar in the Kingdom. Then it wouldn't matter if he wanted to seek refuge with her, the question of whether the princess would even be able to protect herself was already a problem.

Moreover, as to whether or not Avic knew that he had killed the daughter of a king, realistically the nature of the incident was already very severe. However, when he thought about it carefully, he realized that it was not an issue that was too serious.

He had powers equivalent to a Form 5 Totem User himself and was probably the strongest person in the entire Kingdom. The battle at Snowy Peak proved that he had achieved that level. To fall out with him merely for the sake of a king's daughter, was beyond someone who was as wise as Avic.

The Trejons family of the past may have encountered terrible disasters because of this. However, now, it was different.

Before Garen could switch his status completely, he was already cornered by Old Man. When he thought back about this now, he realized that there was nothing serious to be worried about.

Old Man and the others only needed to look at Garen's expression to know that this rationale was something that he could not refuse.

He did not bother to overthink it, this was not one of the key bargaining chips in the beginning anyway.

"Since we've come to this, just wait until we've arrived at the Kingdom so the princess can speak to you personally. Frankly, ever since you handed your household treasure over to His Majesty Avic, Her Majesty has wanted to speak to you. The problem was not that you didn't have time to speak to her, rather, Her Majesty was the one who had no time."

"Then we'll wait until we arrive at the Kingdom to continue discussing this matter," answered Garen simply.

Old Man shook his head and did not say another word.

From their perspective, Garen was a royal minder that would hold on stubbornly, and would never change his mind so quickly. Right now, he was only trying to create a sliver of doubt in Garen's heart, to create uncertainties in his loyal heart towards Avic.

The tasks thereafter would require Her Majesty to speak to him personally.

Regarding the princess, Old Man had unshakeable confidence in her.

He moved away slowly and stopped bothering Garen, choosing instead to run towards Red Umbrella on the other side to speak to him.

Garen had actually seen through Old Man's intentions.

However, he knew that future forces and the Obscuro Society were ready to stab the king, which would then throw the Kingdom into a state of turmoil. Before the situation cleared up, it was too early to be discussing these matters.

The steam in the hot spring continued to rise, and at once, Garen immersed himself in his thoughts again.

He did not know why there was an unknown irritability bubbling up inside his heart. He kept trying to think, but was unable to focus quietly.

Whoosh!!

Garen stood up from the water suddenly and used his Secret Techniques to dry off the steam on his body, before grabbing his clothes from the side of the pool and putting them on quickly.

"I'm going to take a walk first, you guys can take your time to soak."

"Okay, we're almost done as well," answered Old Man hurriedly.

Red Umbrella made a sound of agreement as well.

Garen walked out of the hot spring with long strides and saw Fox outside using a dry towel to wipe her long hair, while Kitten sat on the side and laughed happily about something.

When both of them saw Garen come out, they frantically stood up cautiously.

"Leader."

"You're done bathing, Leader?"

"Yes," answered Garen simply with a slightly impatient tone. He did not know why his heart had been filled with an uncomfortable irritating feeling since just now.

He was about to make a round around his surroundings before a loud angry yell echoed from the hot spring suddenly.

"Get lost!"

It sounded like Red Umbrella's voice.

"I only had good intentions, Red Umbrella. Don't you get the wrong idea!!" Old Man's anger-filled voice could be heard as well.

"What's going on?!"

Garen raised his voice and asked the people inside.

Instantly, the three people came out one after another, two of them fuming with anger. They seemed to have started fighting. Meanwhile, Kid walked behind them, clad in his brand new black skirted armor.

"It's nothing, just a little quarrel. Leader, don't worry about it," said Old Man, suppressing his anger determinedly.

"All my life I've hated it when others tried to threaten me!" Red Umbrella replied coldly from the side.

As he looked at both of their faces, Garen did not know why violent emotions started bubbling up inside his heart suddenly.

Could these weak pieces of trash give him some peace of mind?! Not only had he protected them throughout the journey, did he have to be responsible for their mental health as well? He was their leader, not their nanny!

The anger inside him grew stronger.

The air around him began to solidify gradually, and the atmosphere became more and more tense.

Suddenly, a shock quaked through Garen's mind, and he began to feel like something was wrong.

As a fighter who had extreme control over his own abilities, he had always understood his physical changes like the back of his hand. Moreover, practicing his Secret Techniques had allowed him to repair some parts of himself as well.

But currently, Garen felt that something was not right.

Usually, he would not get upset at others so easily.

Furthermore, Old Man and Red Umbrella were usually mild tempered as well. How did they get mad so suddenly?

He glanced past Kitten and Fox.

Kitten's brows were currently furrowed as she glared at Old Man angrily, as she was obviously furious at Old Man who had picked a fight with Red Umbrella.

Meanwhile, Fox had a cold expression on her face, a sign that she was somewhat upset as well.

"Is this place making us all like this?!" A thought flashed through Garen's mind.

He glanced at the expressionless Kid again and noticed that the little guy had a sleepy look on his face, and seemed to be completely unconcerned about the emotions of his teammates.

Garen raised his head again and looked at the sky, noticing that the dark clouds had moved closer, while the sentient-like feeling became more obvious.

"Shut up!"

He yelled suddenly.

"Leader!"

"What's happening?!"

Old Man and Red Umbrella rushed forward one after another and shouted back at Garen.

A red light flashed.

Roar!!

A hostile flash illuminated Garen's forehead, as two dreamlike red dragon heads flashed in front of him suddenly.

Bang bang!!

After the two loud strikes sounded, Old Man and Red Umbrella were both sent flying before crashing into the stony ground on both sides and rolling far away.

"Garen! You dare touch me?!" Old Man attempted to get up, but his whole body was powerless, and he could not seem to move.

"Speak again and I'll kill you!" Murderous rage flashed in Garen's eyes suddenly.

Old Man was shocked and could not speak anymore.

On the other side, Red Umbrella seemed to have realized that something was wrong, as his power was now slightly stronger, and one hit had made him nauseous and unable to react properly.

Garen glanced at Fox and Kitten and noticed that both their eyes had become slightly more bloodshot, as they were temporarily suppressed by his strong powers, and it would not be long before he exploded.

"Hnngh!" Garen huffed coldly as two dragon heads flashed in front of his body again.

"Don't fight back!"

The four dragon heads bit down one person each.

While the four of them were being bitten, even if they tried to retaliate, they were currently held down by its terrifying level of suppression which made it hard for them to breathe. Not only was it hard for them to fight back, but speaking required a lot of energy as well.

"Kid, follow me!" Garen glanced at Kid.

"Okay." Kid bore no sign of abnormalities and nodded his head sincerely.

On his own, Garen brought the four others out of the misty area and ran outside quickly.

Kid returned to the white rhinoceros and took everyone's bundles from it, before following behind Garen closely.

The group of people rushed along for more than an hour before the white mist in front of them gradually became thinner.

The white rocks on the ground had also decreased, and the cracks between the rocks had stopped spraying water vapor.

The mysterious irritating feeling had also finally disappeared.

Once they reached a depression in one of the large rocks, only then did Garen throw the four people he had been biting on top of the rock.

He had regulated his own breathing slightly and began to feel as if his emotions were suddenly normal now. The irritating feeling from earlier was gone.

He looked at the others and their uncomfortable faces, that seemed to have realized the strange things that happened earlier.

"I knew there was something wrong when there were no monsters there. Who would think that there was something abnormal inside!" Old Man got up and shook his head.

"Everyone was almost done for." Red Umbrella forced a smile and got up as well. "It almost caused me to fall out with Leader and Old Man, really..."

"It seems like there aren't any places without danger in this wilderness, so we have to keep our guard up at all times. Regardless if they're strong or weak..." Garen nodded and said seriously. "Since I fell victim to it, you guys would be more likely to. No wonder there wasn't a single monster in that area, I didn't expect this effect to exist."

He stopped speaking and looked at Red Umbrella and the other man, before smiling slightly.

"You two are alright, right? I attacked you a bit harshly earlier. But I believe that you won't blame me, yes?"

"It's fine. Don't worry, Leader." Red Umbrella stroked the left side of his face where a burning sensation could be felt, which meant that there was no way he was fine. But after looking at Leader's fake concerned expression, if he even dared to say that something was wrong... He remembered Garen's murderous rage from earlier, and a chill ran down his spine unconsciously.

"No... Nothing's wrong. Leader, you did all this to save us, and we are inexplicably grateful. How could there be anything wrong? Ha... Haha..." Old Man held the swollen part of his face that had been hit and answered jokingly.

"That's good." A happy look appeared on Garen's face. "Since nothing's wrong, we'll continue our journey, because I don't think we can get the things that were on the white rhinoceros' back."

"I took all of our stuff." Kid dragged six suitcases along and stood beside them, taking credit for his contributions loudly.

"Well then, this time we owe you, Kid!" Garen laughed as he patted Kid's head.

Kitten stood on the side and rejoiced in their misery. She was angry and speechless when Garen bullied her, but now that she realized another two people had joined her side, her heart was suddenly unbelievably joyful.

Fox, on the other hand, was still analyzing the abnormalities of the place.

"If I hadn't guessed wrongly, the misty area earlier probably had characteristics that amplified the negative emotions of large creatures." Fox's calm voice rang out amidst all the other people.

Garen was shocked. "Amplified negative emotions?" He pondered carefully and realized it was true.

He was worried that there would be no cure for his after effects, which caused the irritated and fretful feeling. Old Man and Red Umbrella had disagreed on only one matter, and while both sides would usually compromise, this time no one had expected them to be impatient to the extent of having outbursts.

Behind them, Red Umbrella had dared to yell at someone who was stronger than himself, which was an obvious sign that something was not right.

"I've observed Kid for a long time. Kid has never gotten angry. He was even happy. Regardless of how others treat him, he's never troubled and always happy," explained Fox in a soft voice. "That's why he was the only one among us who was completely fine and did not feel threatened at all. At the time, I heard the noises as well, and began to feel an inexplicable need to explode suddenly."

Garen turned around and looked at the direction they had rushed in from, and etched this place in his heart deeply.

"We'll stop discussing this matter here then. Let's just hurry up and head to the Kingdom."

The others had no objections. If they had not been convinced about Garen's strength last time, they had experienced it first hand now, and finally realized that their Leader's strength currently surpassed theirs greatly, and the difference between them was too large, and even his mere breath could make them terrified.

Chapter 408: Princess 2

Kovitan's Castle

The black city stretched over the mountain top. Red and yellow lights were flashing from within.

In the evening, the kingdom's mountain roads winded down in circles, passing through a sea of white clouds to the foot of the mountain.

Within the forest at the foot of the mountain, the black-roofed white-walled civilian houses were like fine white stones. They came in all sizes. In the middle of them were civilians passing by, as if they were ants.

Several carts were carrying heavy loads of goods as they headed towards the mountain road.

The faint moonlight shined on the surface of the mountains, coating the ground with a layer of silver.

Garen's black-robed group appeared before the road to the entrance of the civilian housing district.

At the entrance, two black stone towers stood tall. Sentries were on guard with a totem user on one of the towers.

This totem user was in white robes. As he saw Garen's group of six's appearance, his face instantly turned solemn. He rushed down from the tower, appearing from the exit at the bottom with a few silver-armored soldiers behind him.

As he took the initiative to meet Garen's group, the totem user bowed his head.

"I am the totem user on guard, Anlin. May I ask you to present your passes."

As he spoke, he was assessing the group in front of him. The six of them weren't like normal totem users or martial artists. The carved golden iris pattern on the collar of their black robes showed their noble status.

Looking at their dusty bodies, it was evident that they had come from a long journey. Being able to travel long distance and passing through the area where the monsters gathered, it can only mean two things. Either they were incredibly strong, reaching the third form level, or they had strong backgrounds with the support of precious heirlooms.

As they only had a small number of six people, the possibility of the former was the largest.

Anlin had met quite a few experts, but this group of people were on par with the masters of national authority. The smell of their bodies were obviously due to their countless killings.

Garen only nodded towards him. The old man beside him quickly walked forward with a black-golden pass and handed it over.

Normally, they always flew in and out. Rarely would they enter the kingdom through the main entrance. However, he was prepared and everything was proper.

After checking, Anlin volunteered and led the way towards the second tower.

Along the journey, Garen casually talked to the man.

"I heard that the black prince is visiting the kingdom to meet His Majesty. I wonder if he's arrived in the city?"

"Sir, the prince has arrived yesterday night. I heard that he has entered the Jade Pool. After freshening up, he should be officially meeting His Majesty tomorrow." Anlin replied respectfully.

"This time the Black Prince is really a big deal. He has more than a hundred totem users following him. Rumors have said that there are also third form totem users among them. Gee.."

Garen didn't care about third form totem users. In the eyes of this second form totem user, a third form user is an immensely powerful figure. Garen wouldn't be able to obtain any information about stronger forces from him.

"When the Black Prince arrived, who was the minister who went to meet him?" He asked again.

Anlin hesitated for a moment.

"I'm not very sure myself, but if I'm not mistaken, the Foreign Affairs Minister is usually the one who does the welcoming. His Majesty would wait until the other party washed up before officially meeting him. But the Black Prince is also the king of a country. The only thing is that he doesn't have an official title. So I think they would be meeting today."

Garen nodded and took out a golden Rumb.

"Tell us about other major happenings in the past ten days."

In the era of war, the Rumb has been heavily devalued as a commodity. However, to a second form totem user, a golden Rumb was not an amount that could be neglected.

After getting the small reward, Anlin instantly felt more relieved and continued speaking.

"There is another more important piece of information. The King has decided to hold an Aegis Ceremony for the First Concubine. The only thing is we do not know what the Aegis Ceremony is. In conjunction with the Black King's visit, His Majesty has decided to hold the ceremony next Monday."

"Aegis Ceremony?" The old man looked surprised and let out a low mutter. "It should be a ceremony of trust, awarding the rights to guard the precious heirlooms.." He explained softly through the black box.

The rest of them quickly understood and instantly let out a yearning expression. It was the strongest, legendary Original Heirloom! To be able to be protected by a heirloom of this level, would be a big thing for any totem user.

Naturally, Garen was the clearest on this matter. This meant that the First Concubine or the Obscuro Society's plot were coming to a head.

He continued asking Anlin about some other trivial matters until there was absolutely nothing. Only then did Garen stop asking.

The group of them did not talk much, and very quickly arrived at the second tower.

This time there were already men waiting outside the tower. It was clear that Anlin had informed them ahead.

"Let me excuse myself." Anlin bowed respectfully and left.

"Thanks for your efforts."

"My pleasure to be able to serve all of you."

As Garen and the rest went closer, they suddenly realized that the group of people welcoming them were dressed luxuriously. They were wearing thick cloaks used for concealing, and their faces couldn't be seen clearly.

"Your Excellency Garen Trejon, I wonder if Liv can have the privilege to have dinner with you?"

One of the black-cloaked figures lifted her mask, revealing her face beneath.

It was pure yet pitiful, beautiful girl's face.

Her fair and delicate skin was faintly glowing under the moonlight. Her blond hair was combed into a ponytail, winding down from her shoulders. Her lips were pink and delicate.

Her most prominent attribute was her eyes. They were clear like purple gemstones.

Although the girl had evidently no intention to beg, Garen still developed pity towards her.

It was like her gaze would unknowingly cause others to develop pity.

"Princess.." The old man honorably called out her name. He was evidently trying to point out her status.

"Princess?" Garen blinked and fixed his gaze on the legendary princess.

"I wonder if Your Excellency can agree to Liv's stubborn request?" The princess had a tiny figure, with her height only up to Garen's chin. They stood opposite each other. As the wind blew, it brought with it a faint fragrance. It wasn't a recognizable fragrance, but a girl's natural body fragrance.

"Since Your Majesty has invited, how would Garen dare to reject?" Garen smiled, assessing the legendary princess in front of him.

Being King Avic's most precious daughter, Princess Liv had astonishing beauty, a superhuman strategic mind and extraordinary courage. Unknowingly, she gathered large amounts of forces for King Avic.

Vast forces.

Being Avic's eldest daughter, Princess Liv definitely wasn't very young, but looking at the girl, there was a hint of doubt in Garen's heart.

The girl was at most sixteen years of age! It was impossible that she was the rumored thirty-year old princess!

"Are you suspicious?" The princess smiled. "In fact, there's no harm in telling you directly. This is my body's natural talent."

"Body's natural talent?"

"Yes. My body will never grow old, up till my death. This is my natural state." The princess smiled. "However, this is not the time to talk about this."

Suddenly her expression turned solemn.

"Your Excellency Garen, I'm sure you know about the upcoming Trust Ceremony?"

"What about it?"

"Let's start walking. We'll talk in detail during dinner."

Garen nodded and gave the rest of his group a glance.

"You guys head to the headquarters first. I will return later."

"Yes team leader." The old man and the rest of them stuck with Garen over these few days. In this chaos, only the strong ones had the highest possibility of assuring their own safety and benefits.

Together with the princess, Garen and the group went along the mountain path. Very quickly, they arrived at a secluded bungalow.

The bungalow was brightly lit. A banquet dinner was already ready in the hall.

Golden roast chicken, rich beef and vegetable soup, fragrant black caviar, red colored fruit platter and big pieces of black steak. There were also fine egg rolls with unknown fillings, and others.

The princess ordered everyone to leave, including the waiters. Then she put on a confident look.

Very quickly, she and Garen were the only two left in the hall.

She lifted a jade-green colored wine bottle and poured some wine for both of them. There was a pure smile on the princess' face.

"You might know this, but, the First Concubine Delouse is very possibly someone from the Obscuro Society?"

Garen furrowed his brows and nodded without uttering a word.

The princess glanced at him and continued. "But, you do not know her other identity."

"Oh? What identity?"

"I didn't plan to tell you this secret, but I did not expect....aih...Honestly,

"It was my father that requested me to wait at the tower for your return to the capital. This secret, was also told to you by my father's request. His intention is for you to not worry."

"These are King Avic's intentions?" Garen got more and more curious.

"This secret is simple." The princess smiled. "First Concubine Delouse is actually a spy that my father placed long ago in the Obscuro Society."

"Oh?!" Garen shuddered. At this point he finally understood why the Obscuro Society ignored him although they knew he might have found out about First Concubine Delouse's status. This was where the problem was.

Delouse was originally not of the Obscuro Society, but a spy that Avic placed in the Obscuro. If it weren't for the fact that he already knew this history, Garen couldn't have imagined that Delouse would give up her status as the First Concubine, and eventually choose to betray Avic.

"Why tell me such a big secret?" Garen asked without any expression. Now only he knew, the depth of the complications behind Avic's stabbing.

"Tomorrow, father will personally meet you. He will let you know then." The princess shook her head.

Garen looked at the innocent, beautiful girl in front of him.

She looked innocent, but in fact there was huge ambition hidden inside her. You can't judge these kinds of people by their appearance.

"Alright. I've completed my father's request. Next, it should be our own time." She pouted her lips signaling displeasure.

"I originally thought my father would stay away from you. Then I would have opportunity to grow close to you. I never imagined it would be like this. It's really disappointing."

She raised the wine and drank a big gulp. As she put down the glass, her face instantly blushed.

"You know, when I heard from the palace that you managed to escape from numerous ambushes in the battle of snow mountain, I was instantly excited." There was passion in her eyes. "Since young my body wasn't healthy. I did not have the qualifications to become a totem user. My body was weak. It would have been impossible for me to live to this age if it weren't for the herbs from the Royal Family. My greatest dream would be to be like the ancient heroes, surging through armies. Unstoppable! That would indeed be too... amazing!!" She could not find a word to adequately describe that feeling, as she formed a fist showing her passion.

"So at that point of time, I was thinking, if only I can meet the person that could carry my dreams..."

Without knowing why, Garen felt a surge of lust within him. Looking at the innocent and cute princess opposite him, he suddenly had an urge to rush over and press against her, tearing her clothes apart. There was a fierce rampaging impulse within him. He noticed her eyes of adoration as she looked at himself. Time to time, a small tongue protruded from her soft lips.

"I know I do not have a perfect body. But I only want to fulfill my my ambition...wonder if you would agree..." The princess bowed her head, letting out a shy expression. Her face and neck turned a rose-like pink.

"If you agree.whatever position...I will allow you. Even from behind..that's...fine too" The princess spoke softly.

Chapter 409: Countermeasures 1

Garen's eyes drooped.

"Your Majesty, your dream is indeed precious, but I am not the person that you should pass it to."

He adjusted his body and closed the majority of his pores. Instantly, the heat all over his body reduced by a half. He glanced at the princess again, and he no longer was as impulsive as before.

The princess slowly stood up. Her pretty eyes looked like they were about to cry.

She slowly walked towards Garen's back.

"Am I really that unattractive? I only wanted to fulfill my dream. A small request..." She begged softly.

Garen leaned his head back slightly. He could feel that the bump on her breasts had already touched his face. The fragrance of a young girl was even clearer now.

He also stood up with a faint, absurd smile on his face.

After walking behind the princess, Garen slowly insert his hand through the princess' collar. He instantly felt a lump of soft flesh. It was extremely bouncy, like jelly.

"If that's the case." Garen whispered in the princess' ears. "Why did you drug the candles?"

"Well....that's just an alluring fragrance." The princess cuddled her body in Garen's arm. Her eyes blinked, revealing a gleam of joy.

"Do not have pity on me..." She placed her hands on Garen's chest.

Garen abruptly moved his hand and reached for the princess' bosom.

As his fingers were about to act, the sound of hurried footsteps came from the outside.

"Your Majesty, Your Majesty!!" A girl's hurried voice came from outside the door.

Garen's eyes smiled as if he had predicted it. He retrieved his hands and backed off.

The princess' face was blushing. Her whole body mildly released fragrant sweat, intensifying the fragrance of her body. She gave Garen a sad glance, and adjusted her clothes.

"Come in."

"Elaine is my bodyguard. She wouldn't take the initiative to look for me if there was nothing important." The princess looked apologetic.

Suddenly, Garen understood.

"Alright then. I shall excuse myself today. There is still time in the future." Garen smiled. His words seemed to carry another meaning.

"Send the Viscount." The princess shouted loudly. She then stepped forward. Her hand deliberately swept past Garen's lower body. "I will not forget about tonight.." She exhaled, walked towards Garen and gave him a light kiss on his chest.

Garen's slightly raised the corners of his mouth without speaking a word.

Very quickly, two white-armored guards entered. One of them held Garen's cloak, then both of helped Garen to put it on.

The three of them left the hall under the princess' bitter gaze.

As the exited the bungalow, the smile on Garen's face intensified.

The princess was playing hard to get. Although she said to let him do anything he wanted. However, if he really made his move and crossed the line, there would be someone who would rescue her in time. To a male, the best things are always the ones out of reach. Therefore, she could always stir up a man's desire.

The night air was a little cold. Garen took a deep breath. As he exhaled, there was a strong, fragrant vapour coming out of his mouth.

It was the faint fragrance that he inhaled in the hall. Because it was covered by the princess' body fragrance, he did not realize it, but now as he came out, he instantly forced the majority of it out.

"She is indeed a seductress." Garen recalled the previous scenes. His body was still heaty. "If I hadn't had insider information, he might still be under her seduction."

Unfortunately, whether it be the eldest princess or the other princesses, Avic was already bored of most of the older princesses. Only the eldest princess' unique body assured her of Avic's enduring love.

Pulling off his cloak, Garen saw a black carriage with gold sides awaiting him. There was a white-armored lady guard beside the carriage.

This guard had an enchanting body. She wore an armored top but it was evidently not for protection. The armor was just like an undergarment. Her slender waist was revealed and her fair skin looked exceptionally fair under the moonlight.

She wore the same colored white dress on her lower body. Her long, round legs looked powerful.

As she saw Garen coming closer, the female guard turned over, revealing a pretty face. Her long, white hair draped over her shoulder, glowing in silver underneath the moonlight.

"May the duke board the carriage."

She uttered respectfully.

Then she bent down and crouched on the ground, allowing her back to become a step for Garen to step on.

Her hips were cocked up, forming a seductive arc. It shook from time to time as if it weren't steady.

"Indeed." Garen was clear that the princess used her beauty to control a large number of people. That was why she could gain Avic's love and at the same time gather such vast forces.

Served by the pretty guard, he simply nodded his head, then stepped on her back onto the carriage.

The white-haired guard slowly got up, bowed at the horse carriage, then retreated into the darkness.

The driver was also a pretty woman. She was dressed in green armor with short black hair. Her long legs looked long and curvy in her long boots.

This woman also had a seductive figure. She had a solid bust and a slender waist. As she straightened her body, her lower body armor was a little low, faintly revealing a ravine on her abdomen.

Garen closed his eyes. He felt his blood boiling.

There was also a downside in having a powerful body. Once the body was tempted, it was far more difficult to control compared to an average human.

A hint of fragrance wafted through the carriage. It was the princess' body fragrance.

Garen refocused and quickly adjusted the state of his body.

Under the rumbling wheels, the carriage continuously moved forward.

After sometime, Garen heard the voice of the driver coming from the front.

"Your Excellency. We have arrived."

"Yes." Garen opened his eyes and looked out from the left window. He had arrived at his manor, Blue Bay.

When he got off the carriage, a guard was standing straight at the gate with his head held high, indicating that he was energetic and alert.

"Welcome Your Excellency on your return!" The soldier shouted.

The door to the manor was already wide open. Lala, in her black tunic skirt was standing in front of the door, waiting silently. Evidently, there were also some new servants and guards.

"Welcome back, Your Excellency Garen." There was a relaxed smile on Lala's face.

"It's been a long trip." Garen also said. "I thought I would be back in around ten days."

He took off his overcoat and handed it to Lala, then walked into the manor surrounded by the others.

"During the time when I was away, did anything major happen at home?"

As he entered the hall, he went straight for the sofa. After finishing the tea prepared for him in one gulp, Garen asked.

"There are some things going on. There are some changes with the family assets. The businesses under your name received support from the government's policy. The shops in the capital have also reopened. There are many suppliers looking for us, hoping to supply stocks to us..."

"Shops?" Garen was surprised. He instantly recalled that he still had a totem repair shop. It was long closed due to lack of suppliers and raw materials.

"Yes. A totem shop." Lala nodded. "There's also an auction house given by the King. The contract documents were sent over earlier."

"Auction house? When?" Garen was surprised. "An auction house, ignoring its intrinsic value, even the land that it's on is worth quite a lot. His Majesty is indeed generous." Auction houses were commonly

relatively large. A certain level of fame was also needed to run it. It wasn't something that anyone could build. Without sufficient power and fame, a built auction house would be equivalent to trash.

"His Majesty gave it on the second day after you left the capital. This wasn't the only thing. There are also twelve other unrenovated, empty shops. They were said to be your reward for being loyal to the kingdom."

"Twelve empty shops. His Majesty is willing to give them up. Are there any nobles who faced predicaments recently?" Garen smiled faintly.

"Yes. Earl Boliu who lived in the East district was suspected of colluding with the Obscuro Society, and had already been sentenced to death. The vast assets under his name were distributed among the other nobles. These shops and the auction house were also part of Earl Boliu's assets."

"What should we turn these shops into? What do you think?" Garen asked Lala plainly, "In fact, our family does not have a stable income source. His Majesty gave me these shops as a foundation to get back on my feet. What do you think can earn quick money?"

For Garen to be able to maintain the manor's operations and the salaries of the many servants, finding a stable income source is a must.

He couldn't always depend on rewards, or hunting monsters to sell materials right? Supporting so many people by himself was obviously unrealistic.

"Miss Angel is doing decently well in the War Guild and has also made some good friends. Her side could provide a relatively stable source for raw materials. With so many shops, we can convert all of them into chains of potions and consumables stores, selling medicine and ointments. We can also sell equipment produced from the monster's materials, or simple tools that totem users like." Lala, who seemed to have thought about it before, immediately spoke her mind.

"Besides, we can also purchase some rare items from totem users for auctions in the auction house. I've contacted some individual forgers to purchase their goods. If there are good items we can also use them for auctions. The other two auction houses in the capital also function this way."

"What will be our advantage? How do we ensure that we won't be squeezed out by the other two auction houses?" Garen asked with interest.

"You are our advantage, Lord Garen." Lala said. "You are incredibly strong. Among the other two auction houses, the Dawn Auction house is backed by a Grand Duke. The other one can't be compared with us at all. The difference is, their elites wouldn't simply go out and explore, but would choose to stay in and protect the family. However, only elites would be able to obtain the goods an average person wouldn't dream of obtaining. Hence, that is our competitive advantage."

"You have a point."

"The problem at hand, is insufficient manpower." Lala frowned as she said.

"Manpower. How about the transformed inmates?" Garen thought.

"Not possible. They have already created trouble a few times in the chamber. It was almost as if since they are no longer imprisoned, they would like to come out. These people have been underground for a long time. Their heart has gone a little wild." Lala whispered.

Garen nodded his head. After the inmates were transformed by him, and had been staying underground without any opportunity of contact with the outside world. They had no news about the outside world at all. Without the Crystal Derivator to imprison them, plus their incredibly strong transformed bodies, it was natural that they desired to get out.

"How many people are there now?"

"Five. The one that create trouble is one of the girl assassins." Lala answered simply, " If it wasn't for the two knight leaders who returned twice to suppress them, I wonder what other trouble they might have created."

"Understood." Garen nodded. "How are Maxilan and Edney doing?"

"They organized and trained all of the old family old survivors, and removed those who were unqualified or had lost focus. The remaining people are guarding the different shops respectively. These people are using quite a huge amount of resources daily. Our family wealth is depleting as we speak. We have to find a new income source immediately."

Garen was instantly ashamed. He only cared about his personal development and almost neglected the family business which was declining each day. There were so many people around him to support. It was his responsibility as the family head.

Chapter 410: Countermeasures 2

"In the entire Trejon Household, there are twenty-three official subordinates. The eleven guards are assigned into two groups with the two knights, Maxilan and Edney, leading one each. The remaining twelve are elderly, handymen, maids, coachmen, and others. Myself included." Lala was incredibly familiar as she immediately reported all the information.

"We have three manors, twelve farms, thirteen shops and an auction house." Lala summarized. "The people who remained are those who have been raised by the family since young. They are living in the other two manors."

"Don't we still have farms? How are the profits?"

"It looks like a lot. But recently, the farms were unable to find a preventive measure for mutated flies, which has severely affected the crops.." Lala shook her head. "The food produced is now sufficient only for their own survival, nevermind the family."

"What's the status of the family's totem users?" Garen asked further.

"Not good...Out of the 10 first form totem users, half of them already left. The remaining five have deep sentiments towards the family. Furthermore, you were out there for such a long time. There were rumors from the capital that you'd been killed by the Obscuro Society. It was then that the men left."

"It's really bleak..." Garen shook his head. He himself had become stronger, but the entire Trejon Family was on the verge of disappearing. The assets left by his father were either gone or weakened. If it wasn't for the King, who couldn't bear to watch it happen and thus provided some assets in support, the entire Trejon Household would have been eradicated.

Even the old totem users that were raised by the family were disheartened. They were only left with five loyal first form totem users. If it wasn't for the support of the two elders, Maxilan and Edner, the family guard would have long been extinguished.

Garen thought for a moment. Avic's assassination was about to happen. Whether he should choose to help or be a bystander would be a major decision.

The Obscuro Society was his greatest enemy. Therefore, it would be a logical decision to help Avic and thwart their plans. However, Garen did not know of Avic's perspective towards himself.

Moreover, the crucial detail was the palace was where Kovitan's strongest was stationed at - that old monster. The elite from the Elder Council was not a laughing matter. The old guy was different from Garen himself, who was not a fifth form but managed to reach the level of a normal fifth form through unique methods.

The old guy in the palace was a genuine fifth form totem user. He might even be the top amongst them.

What methods did the Obscuro Society use to fight the old guy and successfully retreat from the capital?

According to history, after the Obscuro's assassination had succeeded, all of them had quickly retreated from the capital. The old monster had not left the palace in pursuit. In fact, he hadn't even been in Garen's vision. After that, the whole of Kovitan had fallen into a state of discord. It led to internal struggles and eventually decline. The Black Prince was suspected to be a member of the Obscuro Society, and he left the capital injured.

"Let's wait for a few more days. After the Aegis Ceremony, I will make arrangements for the matters of the family." Garen thought for a moment then murmured softly.

He wanted to wait until the incident had happened, then make his move based on the situation.

"The family resources can only last for two more months." Lala coldly reminded him.

"Don't worry."

"Alright. Prepare some food and get some rest after dinner. We still have things to do tomorrow."

"Okay."

Now, Lala willingly followed Garen. Although she was now free from the control of the derivator, it was obvious that she had nowhere else to go. She was already used to taking care of the Trejon Family, hence she did not entertain other thoughts.

Garen knew that in his current state, it was necessary for him to help.

Since he would be pursued by both by the Obscuro Society and the Terraflor Society, he might as well help to preserve the power of the Royal Alliance, albeit earlier than before.

After dinner, he went to the secret chamber.

In the underground cave, the female assassin that had created trouble was the last female inmate that he'd transformed. She had a strong body and was already two meters tall. As she had muscles all over her body, she didn't look much like a woman.

As Garen strode into the underground hall, the woman was boxing fiercely with two muscular men. Muted thuds sounded whenever one of them managed to land a blow on the others.

The three of them were engaged in a scuffle, much like a bunch of barbarians. Blood was splattering everywhere.

Two other men were clenching their fists as they stood beside to watch the commotion. Both of them had incredibly strong bodies, which were comparable to Hercules. They only wore black underwear and their heads were completely bald. They were all shaved including the female assassin.

Garen entered in his white pyjamas and coldly stared at them.

When the two bystanders saw Garen, it was like mice noticing a cat. The hairs all over their body stood upright. They quickly put down their hands and bowed their heads, looking like they were timid and obedient.

"Lord..." The two men softly greeted him one by one.

Garen walked over to them. He was 1.8 meters tall, yet was still obviously a head shorter as compared to the two men. His normally strong body was clearly not on their level.

The bodies of these men were swollen like Garen when he'd been practicing the Divine Statue Technique. The muscles on their bodies were incredibly tight as if they were about to explode.

The three people who were embroiled in the fight had not noticed Garen's entrance.

"Not bad. Now you know how to create trouble." Garen smacked his lips with a bloodthirsty stare. For whatever reason, he'd often felt his body burning recently. Only during a slaughter would he feel slightly soothed. This put him on his guard.

After not killing for a few weeks, he felt something stuck in his heart. He grew more and more uncomfortable.

The two men who stood in front of him were shivering due to this gaze.

"It's not us who created trouble. It's that b*tch!!" One of them pointed at the female assassin who was midfight. "It's all because of her! Her body grew stronger and stronger recently. After our transformation, our skin grew tougher and tougher. We can't even feel any pain from being beaten. The b*tch is especially strong!"

Garen's gaze grew cold.

He turned his head towards the direction of the fight.

His gaze was almost tangible as it swept over the three of them.

Instantly, the three people shuddered and noticed Garen standing at the side.

At this point in time, one of the men behind Garen raised his hands quietly, flexed his tough, steel pillar-like arms and fiercely crushed Garen's head.

"Die!!" The strong man cried with a vicious expression.

The female assassin let out a satisfied smile from afar.

According to their previous tests, with their strength, a punch on the wall would leave a deep hole. Other than the bodies of their companions, nothing could withstand their hits.

The last time Maxilan and Edney came, they only showed a third of their strength and acted like they were defeated by the two men. It was all a farce to conceal their strength for this moment.

They wanted to completely eradicate this man who'd made their life hell.

Out of the five, this was planned by three of them.

At that point in time, the other two were completely stunned.

One of them was Komodo, the one who'd previously trusted Garen the most. At this moment, he looked absolutely terrified. He rushed towards Garen in an attempt to save him.

He was immediately held back by the female assassin and another strong man.

Bang!!

Finally, the strong man's two fists smashed into Garen's temples on both sides of his head.

It did not even activate totem light.

Garen turned. There weren't even red marks on his two temples.

"Are you helping me scratch an itch?" He smiled abruptly.

The man was sweating all over his body. He bowed and looked at Garen, realizing that he had done something incredibly stupid.

"He...hehe...Lord...It wasn't on purpose.."

Crack!!

A red blur flashed by.

The man remained motionless. His whole upper body disappeared as though he had been bitten into two by something. Only his lower body was left on the ground, then it fell over with a thump.

His bloody intestines spilled onto the ground, releasing a thick fishy odor.

"I thought I was already merciful enough. Who knew that something like that could still happen."

As the rest of them witnessed the scene, their expressions were filled with terror. Especially Komodo, who saw with his own eyes how Garen had turned a monstrous, frightening beast into jerky. He couldn't imagine that these idiots would dare to revolt against their Lord!

As he saw Garen's glowing red eyes, he instantly felt like the sky was about to fall.

Crash!!

With another clear sound, the female assassin and another man were instantly left with only their lower bodies, and they toppled onto the ground.

Komodo and another man were the only ones left shivering. Their sweat trickled down their bodies onto the ground. Their faces were twisted in fear as they fell onto their knees.

"Lord! It had nothing to do with us! It's that bitch! It's her! We totally do not know anything!!" Komodo beseeched him.

The other man could only howl. He shook his head non-stop, begging for forgiveness.

At this point, Garen had slightly cooled down. He glanced at the three corpses.

"I know who has the heart and who doesn't. Both of you really did not know anything. Go clean up the place. Follow me out tomorrow."

"Yes! Yes! Lord!!" Komodo immediately bowed repeatedly.

After Garen left the hall, the two of them trembled and fell to the ground. They looked at each other in relief, as if they'd received a second chance at life.

"Quick! Quickly, clean it up!" Komodo quickly reminded.

"Alright!" The other person immediately started moving as well.

Garen left the hall. After killing the assassin in the secret chamber, he understood more about the people he transformed.

Although his initial experiments had been carried out to perfect the dragon heart transplant on himself, the results he'd obtained weren't weak at all.

The transformed humans had the power and speed of a first form totem. Each of them were incredibly, silver totems in human form.

With this conclusion, he could actually use this technique to create a living army for the family. However, he would have to completely perfect the surgery before starting.

Due to the incredibly painful repelling process, the mortality rate was too high.

Out of the hundreds of inmates he'd experimented on, only five had succeeded.

Of course, this was a plan for the future, but he could actually bring out the two men to be members of the family guard.

As he left the chamber, Garen considered the information he'd received from various sides. He returned to his bedroom. After washing up under Lala's service, he climbed onto the bed to rest.

He had to be revitalized. It was likely that tomorrow would be the day Avic called for him. It was imperative for him to gauge Avic's attitude. After all Avic could not represent the Royal Alliance.

Even if he wanted to help, he had to think of a plan.

The First Concubine was Avic's most trusted person. For him to suspect her based on Garen's few words would be completely impossible. It might even get Garen himself into trouble.