

# Mystical 421

## Chapter 421: Postpone 1

The collapsed palm print slowly recovered, and the wall returned to being smooth and clean.

And in the row of marks beside, there was a new and clear mark.

The mark appeared in the ninth position from the top, pushing the one who was originally ninth down one spot.

"Ninth?" Only then did Garen's eyes reveal a hint of surprise.

He reached out his hand and touched the ninth mark, his own, lightly. In terms of depth it wasn't that far away from number eight, but further up, compared to the seventh, the difference was a lot bigger.

But having hidden half of his power, he believed he could do it.

Touching the fifth one and comparing further, Garen's heart began to sink.

This person had evidently not used their full power either, but the mark left behind was far deeper than what he would expect his full power to create.

This meant that the other person's full destructive force was a great chunk stronger than his. Starting from number five, the four above him were far, far stronger in destructive power. Although the Nine-Headed Dragon's specialty wasn't destructive power, this result was still way beyond Garen's expectations.

This meant that in Kovistan, there were at least five people with more destructive power than him!

"The Royal Guard Captain, Edin?" He read out the fifth name.

"That's right, Edin is the palace master of this Silver Palace." At some point, Avic had arrived behind Garen. "Garen, the fact that you have reached number nine is already way beyond my expectations. To be able to reach such heights at such a young age, impressive."

"You exaggerate, Your Majesty." Garen smiled slightly, took two steps back, and falling behind Avic. No matter what he was a famous part of the loyalist faction, so he had to watch these basic manners.

"Like you, Edin is also my strongest helper. You two are like my left and right hands, whereas Veska is my back. With you, the Empire can truly be stable and safe," Avic said pointedly.

Garen paused a bit, not because of Avic's attempt at familiarisation, but because his words never mentioned the First Concubine Delouse. That surprised him.

Delouse was extremely capable and prevented the Empire from incurring extreme losses. She had always been known as Avic's arms. At this time, however, she was ignored completely.

He understood what Avic meant by that, if he was smart enough this time, then from now on his position would be the same Edin, having been promoted to his right or left hand.

A thousand thoughts ran through his mind, and Garen didn't hesitate in the slightest, immediately bowing to Avic.

"It is the honor and mission of the Trejons family to serve Your Majesty. From the beginning to the end, my father and I are loyal to the Empire." Garen lowered his head and replied.

As soon as he mentioned his father Vanderman, Avic couldn't help but sigh.

"All of you from the Trejons family, well done!"

The royal sons and daughters who had come with them heard that sentence, their eyes sparkling.

"Oh yeah, I forgot to mention. Your Earldom certificate has already been spread around the whole Empire. From this day forward, the Trejons family territory has an extra piece of plains. And you, are a new Earl of our Kovistan Empire." Avic patted Garen's shoulder.

"Thank you, Your Majesty!" Garen felt a surge of joy, and bowed again immediately.

Avic took out a purple-gold badge, smiling, and put it in Garen's hand. "This is the palace's Purple-Gold Badge, it can control the palace's elite Black Fire Guard, the elite group in charge of the entire palace's safety. Unlike the royal guard, they are a powerful team fully comprised of elite totem users! There aren't many of them, and the structure is simple, but they are powerful. I want to give them to someone worth depending on. Your Excellency Garen, are you willing to accept this burden?!"

With those last words, his voice grew louder.

"I am willing!!" Garen replied loudly.

"Good! My safety, the safety of the entire royal family, they are now all on you." Avic hugged Garen heavily.

Nearby, the Eleventh Royal Daughter was biting her lip tightly.

"I was right, this is gonna be troublesome... Avic gave the Black Fire Guard to the Nine-Headed Demon Dragon. The Royal Guard has Edin. This is especially troubling..."

"Tina!" Avic's voice came from ahead.

The Eleventh Royal Daughter have a shudder, and immediately reacted.

"Here! Father?" She went up hurriedly, bent her knees and curtsied. "Is there anything you want from me?"

"Didn't you want to go out and play? From now on you can ask Your Excellency Garen for arrangements whenever you want to go out. The palace hall I arranged for him is not far from yours." Avic smiled, looking at the young one.

"Daisy, Andy. Come over here and meet the new Black Fire Palace Master." Avic called a few more important royal sons and daughters over.

Daisy was the ice-cold Second Princess. Andy was a young prince whose face was growing pale.

The Eleventh Royal Daughter Tina lowered her head. She could feel Avic's disgusting gaze wandering over her body like a cold snake. She knew this was the sign that Avic had fallen for her. After raising her for so many years, this bestial Emperor with a human face finally couldn't hold it in.

Her heart went a little cold, normally she was the most neglected one, but now Avic called her first. And recently the benefits her palace hall received increased drastically, more and more people coming to honor her.

She was only eleven, but Tina understood that all this meant clearly that Avic was going to visit her at night.

At first, she thought Edin had something on and would leave, so she would have a temporary chance of escape. But now there was another Garen.

She had long since heard about Garen's reputation, or rather the Trejons family's reputation. Garen's father Vanderman was a loyalist through and through, and though his reputation was in tatters, no one dared to touch him on that fact alone.

His son Garen was even more exaggeratedly evil, legends say that the Nine-Headed Demon Dragon must eat ten virgins and twenty children every day. When he was frustrated, even the elderly couldn't escape. Wherever he went, blood would flow like rivers. His favorite hobby was collecting human hearts, and last time the Kingdom prison would send him about a hundred prisoners every month, just so he could choose fresh new hearts.

Just thinking about all these rumors, the Eleventh Royal Daughter Tina's heart began to pound. "If only Stone and the others were here..."

It wasn't the first time she thought that, that weak and defenseless need to find someone to rely on kept surging from her heart.

When he heard the name Tina, Garen's body gave a jolt.

He looked closely at the royal daughters and found the Eleventh Royal Daughter Tina.

It was the little one with the cunning eyes who had explained to him. She looked sweet and cute, her body was soft and petite, the young girl's thin waist wrapped in a white lace dress. Her slender legs wore white silk socks, the black ponytail behind her head had a silver butterfly ornament stuck in it.

Tina's skin was fair but rosy, and somehow utterly flawless, making her look like a petite snow doll.

Garen glanced at Avic. As expected, this demon father's eyes had a glimmer of bestial desire.

But for some reason, Avic seemed to be trying his best to hold back this desire. His gaze stopped on Tina briefly, and then quickly moved away. After a blink, it was replaced with a strange determination, as though he had just made some huge decision.

"From now on, Earl Garen, the new Black Fire Palace Master, and the Trejons family will contribute greatly to our Kovistan, you must refer to him as a senior! Do you understand?" Avic said such a surprising thing.

Not just Garen, even Barton and the royal sons and daughters nearby, all looked surprised.

"Alright, I'm tired, I'll return to the palace now and rest. Come!"

"Here!" A guard jogged over, replying loudly.

"Take the Earl to the Black Fire Palace! Introduce him to his new subordinates!" Avic patted Garen's shoulder without allowing for any protest, arranged the matters from now on, and left first of his own accord.

"Safe travel, Your Majesty (Father)!" Everyone bowed at the same time, and sent Avic off with their gazes.

Garen straightened up and glanced at everyone, his gaze staying on the Eleventh Royal Daughter Tina's body for a few more seconds.

"Tina... Tina..." He suddenly remembered the original path of history, the few people who appeared behind Beckstone. One of the girls looked a lot like the Tina he was seeing.

Coincidentally, that girl also had a graceful body language and an elegant aura, her every move emitting the feeling of royalty that normal nobility couldn't accomplish.

Judging from what he saw now, this Tina...

But now Beckstone and company should still be at the Marquess Black Snake's place, so they wouldn't arrive that quickly. Even if she really was that girl, she probably still didn't know Beckstone at all now, right?

Garen thought about it a bit and then relaxed.

Barton followed behind closely and just smiled at Garen, without saying anything more, before leaving.

The other royal sons and daughters looked at each other. The Twelfth Royal Daughter was adorable at only seven or eight years old, her long white-golden hair combed neatly, and she wore a black silk dress with little leather boots, walking in front of Garen first.

"Uncle Garen, Ivy's going ahead first."

After the first one, there was the second, the third. Each of the royal sons and daughters began to ask for leave from Garen.

Tina glanced at the Fourth Princess, who was biting down on her lower lip, her face turning green. When Avic left without taking her along, everyone knew clearly that Avic was already bored of playing with her. The fact that he changed his attitude so quickly probably had something to do with the Fourth Princess' bad attitude towards Garen just now.

Suddenly all the royal sons and daughters made a decision in their hearts.

Tina was the last to go up to Garen.

"Uncle Garen, please take care of me from now on. My Eleventh Princess Hall is just next to your Black Fire Palace."

She tried her best to act obedient and pure, giving him a saccharine smile.

"You're too kind, Your Highness, Garen will do everything in my power to ensure your safety." Garen smiled, his handsome features and beautiful golden hair making even Tina's eyes spin a little.

But put together with the rumors she had heard, she instantly gave a shudder, afraid to look anymore as she lowered her head.

Finally, the Fourth Princess walked over, her face pale, as she bowed at Garen.

"Uncle Garen..."

By then, Tina had already walked away. She turned around and looked at the Fourth Princess, her previously arrogant Fourth Sister now had tears pooling in her eyes, threatening to fall at any moment.

She was saying something to Garen quietly, but it was rather far away, so she couldn't hear it properly.

Chapter 422: Postpone 2

Two days later. Avic actually announced that the ceremony and royal audience were to be delayed.

On the way back to her palace, Tina saw many servants and maids whispering to each other.

She had just come back from the bath and had returned to the main door of her palace hall, but she saw her personal attendant Bottler chatting quietly with a maid in a white dress. The two of them were so focused that they hadn't noticed Tina coming at all.

"Bottler!"

Bottler gave a shudder and quickly ran towards Tina. The other maid ran away hurriedly as though escaping.

"What were you guys gossiping about!?" Tina's little face was actually rather stern.

"Your Highness, Princess... No... nothing..." Bottler was so scared her face turned white, and she couldn't speak clearly.

Tina harrumphed and put her little hands behind her back as she walked into her own palace hall.

The truth was, she did know what these people were talking about.

Thanks to the recent installation of Garen as the new Black Fire Palace Master, the palace defenses were undergoing a huge makeover, and the places once protected by the Royal Guard were mostly protected by the Black Fire Guard now. These Guards were almost like emotionless beasts, they never spoke, or chatted. They only knew how to be loyal and dutiful, listening to nobody's orders except the Black Fire Palace Master Garen and His Majesty.

And recently there had been some rumors in the palace, saying that the Third Princess' disappearance had something to do with the newly appointed Earl Garen.



Tina didn't comment on any of these rumors. But deep inside, she knew perfectly well that her Third Sister's death was closely related to Garen. She had overheard her Second Sister and First Sister arguing, partly over the investigation results on Earl Garen. The Third Princess did indeed die in the Earl's mansion.

But more terrifying was the way their father and king, Avic, reacted to the death of the then-beloved Third Princess. When he found out the results, he didn't make any move at all. He didn't punish Garen in the slightest, making as though nothing happened, until it all slowly died down.

It was starting from that day, that Tina slowly began to mature, and discovered that Father's gaze on her grew more and more unnerving.

Staying deep within this heavily-guarded palace, she felt like a canary in a golden cage, who could do nothing and dared to do nothing.

Tina walked into her bedroom, closed the door, and walked up to the window, about to draw the curtains, when she suddenly heard talking from below. She froze instantly.

"...The Second Palace's Guard Captain, Caesure was sentenced to death..."

"Wasn't Guard Captain Caesure's the Second Princess' most trusted guard captain?"

"Who asked the Captain to offend the Earl? In front of His Majesty..." The voice faded.

But Tina knew that everyone in the palace was always plotting something, these words weren't something she happened to overhear, but rather the people in her palace were purposely letting her hear them.

They were afraid, scared of the newly appointed Earl Garen. They were afraid she carelessly offended the new Earl, they thought she didn't understand... but in truth, she understood everything.

This new Palace Master was cruel and ruthless, respectful to the royal sons and daughters on the surface, but unbelievably heartless when he actually made his move. The Guard Captain Caesure and the Second Princess were as close as sisters, and she was still killed with one blow this morning.

Tina's heart felt waves of cold, this was the premonition of danger approaching. Of the royal bloodline, she and Twelve had the strongest prophetic power, and now, this prophetic power was beginning to warn her, but she couldn't do anything. She knew that danger was approaching, but she couldn't avoid it.

Just two days after his promotion, Earl Garen was already organizing a massive clean-up.

With Avic's full support, the Black Fire Palace's special guards spread out like a spider web, scattering to every part of the palace, every royal son and daughter had someone from the Black Fire in their palaces, watching them.

With Avic's palace in the center, all the Black Fire Guards formed an indomitable sealing web.

Tina realized with a shock that some blind spots that strong totem users usually didn't notice, the ones that she had often used to go outside, were now patched up by the Black Fire Guards, the whole palace becoming more and more like an airtight metal barrel, squeezing all the breath out of her.

Beckstone and the others should be coming over soon, but under these circumstances, there wasn't only the Garland Sword, Edin, but now there was also the Nine-Headed Dragon Garen.

Tina clenched her teeth.

"I need to think of something!"

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The assassination wasn't brought forward as Garen guessed, but the Aegis Ceremony seemed to have been delayed.

Avic planned to meet the Black Prince himself, splitting up the original plan, the ceremony, and the audience, into two parts.

After becoming the Black Fire Palace Master, Garen hinted to Avic several times that something might go wrong with the Aegis Ceremony. But he didn't clearly state it was Delouse, he just indicated that he noticed some outside powers might interfere with the Aegis Ceremony.

Avic had always been a suspicious person, and after receiving Garen's hints, added together with his unusual trust in Garen, Garen was given unspoken permission to organize a large-scale clean-up of the inner palace.

Not hoping to do good, but at least do no wrong. With that kind of attitude, the palace security grew more and more stringent.

Under Garen's guard, Avic was accompanied by Edin to a secret meeting with the Black Prince five days later, and they achieved a series of understandings.

After the meeting, the Black Prince left the Kingdom quickly.

Although Garen didn't get to see this one of the three heroes, his interference had undoubtedly changed the original route of history.

The Black Prince no longer bore the sin of assassinating the king, and half of Obscuro's plans fell apart.

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One week later

The king's study

Avic was sitting opposite Garen and Edin.

The three of them were playing a three-player game called Nala, it was a bit like checkers, the aim being to reach a fixed target point first. In the process, however, the pieces could capture each other. Certain criteria had to be fulfilled for capture, though. Just like how chess pieces had differences in level and position.

Avic was wearing white casual clothes, his expression carefree, smiling as he took the lead.

Garen and Edin, on the other hand, were wearing black coats, only the colors of their hems different, one dark red and the other silver.

Both of them were also playing the game breezily.

Of the three, Avic was far ahead, Garen was second, and Edin third.

Even though he was last, Edin didn't lose his calm at all, his movements still slow and steady. Compared to the Empire's genius in his thirties, Garen's personality was a lot more normal.

The pale white morning sunlight shone in from behind Avic's back, falling on the edge of the white game board, reflecting the faint white light.

The three of them played with full concentration.

Smack.

Garen put down one of his pieces lightly and glanced at Avic. Now, he truly did respect this Emperor.

As a normal person, he managed to force down both of their playing powers. With a mind like that, no wonder he was the ruler of such a big country as Kovistan.

And after taking over the Black Fire Palace, the more Garen knew, the more he felt that Avic wasn't as clueless to the danger as he acted. He seemed to be playing a much larger game.

There were many things that even a peak-level totem user like him couldn't see clearly.

In Nala Chess, neither Garen nor Edin held back. Forget holding back, if they relaxed even a little, their important pieces would be immediately swallowed by Avic.

"Garen, how are you handling things over at the Black Fire Palace? No big problems?" Avic asked calmly as he played.

Garen smiled.

"Since you have given the Black Fire Guard as it is now to me, sire, that is your trust in me. Your trust in my Trejons family. So, even if there are problems, they're not problems."

The true identity of the Black Fire Guard were actually the results of Vanderman's research, the Green Vine Spheres.

Under the orders of outsiders, these Guards would only be able to use half of their true power. But under Garen's orders, the Green Vine Spheres were originally personal Aberrated Totems Vanderman had made specifically for Garen. Or rather they were no longer totems, but a scientific experimental result.

In that case, the Black Fire Guard, the living experiments created through parasitic cores, would naturally be a power only Garen could truly understand.

Add that to the Trejons family's reputation as famous loyalists, and Avic was finally able to fully let go, handing the Black Fire Guard to Garen. Back when the Black Fire Guard was created, and he realized the specialty of the Green Vine Spheres, Avic had already planned to do this.

The invention of the Black Fire Guard was a brand new power in the Empire's arsenal, there were no more than two hundred of them, but they were all members of the living dead, having undergone countless surgeries and in possession of elite Form Two power. They had no emotion and were only loyal to the owner of the Green Vine Sphere, Garen.

Before the Research and Development Department discovered a way to remove this loyalty limitation, the only one who could take charge of the Black Fire Palace was Garen, this was the conclusion Avic came up with after many attempts.

"Garen, your father Vanderman died for the royal family, and I've always felt guilty about that. But if he saw you now, an integral part of the country, I bet he would be proud of you too. So if anything happens in the palace, you can act with abandon." Avic said calmly, "No matter what, I believe that we will always be on the same side."

Garen's face twitched.

Of course they were on the same side, the Trejons family had a grudge against the Obscuro Society, and an even bigger one with Terraflor. The only power they could rely on was the royal family.

He glanced at Edin beside him.

Edin, Veska, and those two Grand Dukes, were the only four people he had to be wary of in the Kingdom. Of course, this didn't include that old monster who could be hiding deep in the palace.

According to Garen's guesses, these four were all stronger than him, and should have important positions in the three departments. Or perhaps they were already the main people at the very top of the three departments.

"I heard Lord Veska has returned to the Geometry Department, in order to temporarily handle some matters," Edin spoke suddenly and randomly.

"That's right, after waiting for so long, it's perhaps time for them to make a move." Avic nodded, and said ambiguously. "After waiting so long, drawing it out even longer will cost them all their efforts."

Garen narrowed his eyes slightly.

"So it seems Your Majesty was long since prepared."

"I didn't want it to be like this either..." Avic sighed. "But no one could have guessed that the one who betrayed me would be the person I trusted the most."

Garen's heart gave a jolt, so he did know.

"Your Majesty, what you're saying is?"

"When the time comes, the safety of the palace is fully in your hands." Avic didn't say any more, but was evidently ready to make a move. His expression seemed to have a hint of weariness and melancholy. It was obvious that he still found it hard to make a move against the person who had been with him for so many years.

Garen's thoughts ran a mile a minute.

If Avic knew from the start, how could the assassination have succeeded?

Suddenly, he had an intense interest in Delouse from Obscuro. Unfortunately, Delouse still hadn't met him after so long.

All of a sudden, he thought of the Eleventh Royal Daughter Tina, as well as Beckstone and company. Maybe, this had something to do with them as well?

Chapter 423: Gang Up 1

Garen was escorted by four Black Fire Guards away from the Royal Library, towards Black Fire Palace.

It was completely dark in the Black Fire Palace; dark red patterns permeated the dark hall.

From a bird's eye view, the room looked like a right-angled triangle, surrounded by round, dark red pillars, and on those pillars were inscriptions of different large black symbols with unknown meaning.

Opposite the Black Fire Palace was the Eleventh Palace of the Eleven Princesses. Twin statues stood towering against each other.

Garen left the administrative area, past the public area, and walked up towards the little stone bridge at the Black Fire Palace. Four Black Fire guards followed him from behind, all in heavy battle hoods which gave off a cold, stern air.

The guards and maids along the way all gave their respects to Garen.

To enter the Black Fire Palace proper, he had to pass through the Eleventh Palace first.

It was just dawn then, a maid in a red shirt was escorting a young man towards the Eleventh Palace in the open corridor out in front.

The man looked calm but had a hint of anxiety in his eyes. He looked handsome, but due to the contrast between his expression and his eyes, he gave off an odd feeling of disharmony.

As Garen walked past the corridor, he suddenly glanced at the maid escorting the male from afar.

That maid also bowed out of respect in the distance, even the man she escorted had to bow.

"Who is that person?" Garen stopped and asked one of the guards.

"Sir, that man is a guest that the Eleventh Princess wishes to see, he is a commoner from outside the palace." This male guard was surprised by the sudden question and hurriedly answered.

"A man meeting the Her Eleventh Majesty?" Garen frowned, and thought about his previous guess.  
"Have him leave the area."

"But... that man is someone Eleventh Her Majesty insisted on meeting personally..." The guard felt troubled, he was a close guard of the Eleventh Palace, and judging from the intonation of Her Majesty when she gave the order, he reckoned that he was someone important.

"Has he made many trips here?" Garen suddenly asked further.



"Yes...." The guard nodded heavy heartedly.

"In the future, do not let this person in without my orders." Garen barked, then strode away.

The four Black Fire Guards stomped away in their heavy armor, leaving a pressuring aura in their wake.

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Pap!

Clang!!

Eleventh Princess Tina vehemently smashed a vase onto the ground.

"Die!"

"Die die die!!"

Tina locked herself inside the reading room, smashing everything she could inside the soundproof area.

"I'm so furious! Damn that Garen! Damn that Black Fire Palace!! How does it concern you who I wish to meet?!"

Shards of crystal porcelain were scattered everywhere on the floor, leaving the entire room in a mess.

She didn't dare cause a ruckus outside. The Black Fire Heavy Guards were stationed outside the Palace, under orders from the Black Fire Palace to not allow anyone out without permission, and that if need be, to request so from Garen himself.

This made Tina angry to the brink of losing control. She wasn't able to see Beckstone, whom she wanted to meet, now she was even placed under house arrest in her own palace.

However, she could not complain. In His Majesty Avic's eyes, the Ten Princesses were not comparable to his left and right arm, let alone Garen, the expert of the kingdom, a top totem user. Don't even mention house arrests, if Garen wanted her, Avic may not even voice a second opinion, and arrange a marriage.

After lashing out, Tina finally calmed down.

"Now what? I can't even get out of the palace, they can't come in...I would need to look into other avenues if I were to escape from here."

In a short few weeks, the Nine-Headed Demon Dragon Garen's reputation had spread all across the kingdom. He was also regarded as one of the two strongest Generals under Avic, alongside the Garland Swordsman Edin.

Of course, to outsiders' eyes, to the enemies' eyes, the two of them were Avic's most loyal eaglehounds. Or perhaps their status was much higher than that of an eaglehound, but functionally, they were eaglehounds without question.

Although Edin was a genius with strong capabilities, he paid no heed towards macromanagement, and neither was he an expert on it. Garen was different, holding tightly to the status and power. His Black Fire guards were mysterious, each of them exceedingly strong, and their identical Black Fire Wolves were all ferocious. Adding onto the strong equipment produced by the Royal Alliance, each Black Fire Heavy Guard was able to take on two totem users of the same level.

No matter who it was, if they want to take out Avic, They must first go through Edin and Garen, his two defenses.

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Another week later.

Within the Black Fire Palace.

Garen walked into the left hall of the Grand Hall, walking in front of a small room.

The small black door was wide open, inside was a youngster with a black ponytail sitting down.

As Garen walked in, the youngster stood up, his face a reflection of joy.

"Garen, are you done with today's matters?"

"Haven't you gone to your grandfather's place?" Garen walked over and sat opposite the youngster.

A small table was placed in between the two men, and on the tabletop were two cups of steaming hot red tea.

The room was filled with the thin fragrance of the red tea.

This youngster was Prynne, whom he had not seen in a long time.

This was the person who grew up with Acacia and only contacted Garen a few days ago. Garen had visited Prynne's Grandfather, Benoc, but of course, his main objective was to meet Prynne.

This guy wasn't just living a regular fulfilling life, even though he wasn't a totem user, he had a grandfather who adored him, so the family would naturally take good care of him. Adding onto Garen's visit was a show of power.

His status within the family was only growing in a linear fashion. Although he wasn't considered a heir to the family, he at least had some influence.

"My grandfather went off to a hunting patrol. The weather these days is pretty good, with many continuous sunny days. A thought came to Grandfather, and off he rode." Prynne shook his head

"Unfortunately, I am not a totem user, otherwise, I would be able to experience the outside world for myself.

"Looking for me this early in the morning, do you have something urgent for me?" Garen picked up the glass of tea and took a sip.

"Actually, no, I was just planning to marry Marin." Prynne laughed. This brat was much more matured as compared to before.

"Then, what about Andel?" Garen had an expression as though he expected that, that he was not surprised at all.

"Andel's family is a tad bit troublesome. Most of her family members passed away during the assault by the monsters. Only her aunt and her are left in the entire household. In the past few times I invited her out to spend some time, she felt more and more depressed." Prynne frowned as he spoke.

The four of them had played with each other since they were young, their relationship with each other was the most tightly knit, but due to the turmoil in these times, each person's lives had their drastic ups and downs.

If Garen hadn't stood up for himself, perhaps his family would have been exterminated. Even if they had somehow survived, it would probably be quite similar to Andel's situation.

Even though Prynne's household was domineering, with his power and influence currently, it was already a stretch on his limits escort his own good friends around.

"Try to help her as best you can, I guess." Garen sighed.

"Which is why I'm making this trip now." Prynne nodded. "Andel planned to look for something to do in the palace so that she can be independent and not add more burdens on her aunt. Do you reckon you can get her something to do?"

"Entering the palace?" Garen frowned. "It's not that I am unwilling; these kind of things can be settled with a single word of mine. But as close friends, I really hope that she doesn't enter the palace right now."

Prynne stopped for a moment, showing a quizzical, thinking expression.

Garen continued speaking. "Give me some time, I'll let her know. The Royal Palace's Administrative department shouldn't have any issues."

"How long would it take? You should know, if it were just a regular position, I wouldn't have even bothered looking for you. I could have settled it myself." Prynne raised his eyebrows.

"Of course it wouldn't just be some regular position!" Garen laughed.

"She said that it's best if she can enter the palace as soon as possible. Since she doesn't do anything at home." Prynne shook his head, "Her household's situation is not looking very well at the moment. Even if we were hosting her.. Without her own, solid foundation... You know, most of the things are still conflict come from within the household, we're just mere spectators at this point."

Garen suddenly understood what he meant.

The issue with Nadel must be because of her own family's passings, causing distant relatives to come to divide the inheritance. According to the law, doing this was the right way to go, but no matter how it was done, there would still be large loopholes for people to play tricks. She urgently needs a nice paying position to earn some power and influence in order to fend off the greedy vultures of the distant relatives.

"I can understand her problems, which is why I still feel that it's best to arrange her entrance into the palace as soon as possible," Prynne said faintly. He took up the red tea and placed it on his lips, but he wasn't really drinking it, instead just blowing it gently.

"So what's the position she wants?" Garen let out a deep sigh, he had to say it out in the end, he understood that Andel was now embarrassed to meet her old friends; only Marin still had a close relationship with her. Since she was pushed to this point, adding to the fact that Prynne was out to

proactively voice for her, the issue must have gotten to a troublesome point. Otherwise, she wouldn't go through so many channels to reach out to him.

"As I understand, she hopes to find a position suitable for a lady," Prynne answered.

Garen nodded slowly.

"A job that suits the ladies.. The only ones left with such openings are the Royal Palace's Treasury, the Gardening Department, and the Princess's' Palace. Seeing that it's my friend coming in, the position must not be low, naturally."

He thought for a while, "I'll give her three positions; Assistant Supervisor of the Treasury, Botanical Head of Gardening, and Female Supervisor of the Princess' Palace. These three positions can be decided by me, so go check out which one she'd like."

"Alright, then I shall let her know." Prynne swiftly stood up. He understood that Garen had actually done him a huge favor by giving Anadel three options. After all, he was not the only one minding the matters in the Palace, there was still the White Silver Palace, the Princess, and His Majesty. It was also impossible for him to obtain higher positions.

"Rushing off so quickly? Don't you want to stay a little while longer?" Garen smiled.

"I don't think so, Marin and Anadel are both waiting to hear from me."

"If there's anything in the future, why not let them look for me directly? We're all such close friends, why the formalities?" Garen frowned.

"It's all because your status is different from before, previously Marin planned to bring Anadel over to look for you, even if it was just a peek from afar. They definitely wouldn't dare start anything funny like hitting on you, they would've been frightened to death." Prynne spoke without restraint. "With your usual vibe, that look of 'whoever messes with me, dies' look, who would dare greet you casually?"

"That can't be right. Do I look that scary?" Garen touched his chin with confusion.

"The head of Black Fire Palace, the one who would bring around 4 black-robed elites around, who dons two-meter tall heavy armor, and kills people with just a smile." Prynne was speechless, "Are you aware of the rumors about you?"

"What rumors?"

"It's said that you eat 10 virgins daily, your favourite collections are of the hearts of strong people, that you can kill someone with just a glance sideways when you were unhappy, that you have arms as thick as a man's waist, thighs so huge a man can't hug it all the way round, a bite that can pierce steel...."

"Stop stop stop!!" As he watched Prynne's words get more far-fetched, Garen was shocked enough to immediately stop him from going further. "Who's spreading these rumours?"

Prynne shook his head

"I don't know, but it is what it is. Some things about you...to be honest, are really...." He saw Garen's expression and didn't continue speaking.

"All I did was kill a couple people, and the rumors are already starting to fly." Garen's eyes squinted.

Prynne was speechless.

Just killed a couple people? The Fourth Princess was unaware of the current during a Black Fire Guards' patrol and got into a conflict with Garen and a close guard of hers. She then used her identity to suppress Garen, saying that he is just the Royal Family's dog, a henchman.

The result was that the Black Fire Guard killed off everyone in the Princess Palace, aside from Fourth Princess herself. Exactly 96 people were all killed in a single night. The entire Fourth Palace lacked even a maid serving tea.

Even so, Avic insisted that Fourth Princess publicly apologize to Garen.

Not only this, in the recent sweep, of whoever harbored any suspicion from the Black Fire Guards, almost none were left alive

In the name of rooting out spies, the Black Fire guards have swept through the entire palace once, and whoever had a differing opinion was executed by Garen. The kill count from the purge reached over 300 people.

In the eyes of a usually peaceful country, Garen had undoubtedly become the murderer! The hangman!

Chapter 424: Gang Up 2

With the absence of Defence minister Veska, plus the fact the Royal Guard Captain Edin was not leaving the White Silver Palace, and that the First Concubine was busy with the preparations of the ceremony, Avic had completely left all authority in the palace to Garen. The entire palace was almost entirely governed by him.

In actual fact, this was all just Garen following the historic scenarios that he had seen, ridding all the Obscuro spies of the entire palace. The majority of those being purged are all eyes and ears for the First Concubine.

The only thing was that his excuses weren't sufficient; he was also lazy to think of more solid justifications, so he simply thought up a few placeholders and killed the entire bunch of people. Which was what led to his bad reputation. But it didn't matter, the Trejons' family reputation was already rotten ever since Vanderman's human experimentation was exposed; the household's reputation had been thrown out the window. Garen couldn't bother with those menial ethics either.

So long as Avic's heirloom is fine, none of this would be a problem. The guards and maids in the palace could always be replaced. In such a crucial time, Garen couldn't afford to be soft, he must remove all of the First Concubine's spies.

He wouldn't have known if he hadn't uncovered the fact that First Concubine's subordinates were all over the palace. He then ruthlessly killed off all of the spies of Obscuro.



Now that Prynne had mentioned it, the outsiders actually described him to be even more terrorizing than a demon, Garen didn't know if he should be laughing or crying.

"Wouldn't you guys know what kind of person I am? You actually distrusted me this much, you really make me sad."

Prynne said with a worried tone.

"Actually my grandfather said that too, you are now standing on a cusp, there would be some trouble when Veska returns, you'd better make some earlier arrangements."

"I understand." Garen nodded.

"Alright, I shall make a move, the girls are still waiting for my news. When you have the time, let's hang out with the rest, it's been awhile since we got together." Prynne tapped Garen's shoulder.

"Let me send you off."

Garen sent Prynne off outside the palace and then arranged for a Black Fire Guard to escort him out. Garen then returned.

Within the period of time when he had become a Head of Palace, the Trejons family businesses also grew alongside his position and quickly expanded.

A few days ago, Garen had raided a heavily corrupted treasurer, but in the meantime also took a small part of the spoils, just enough to return all the money to Kid. To his tactics, Avic was turning a blind eye too.

Just by ridding the palace of so many spies, Garen still couldn't figure out how Obscuro actually planned to make a move.

Back to the grand hall of Black Fire Palace.

He sat on the pitch black throne inscribed with dark red patterns, his fingers crossed. His mind spiralled into a rabbit hole of thought.

On both sides of the grand hall were two rows of Black Fire Heavy Guards.

There were some differences among the Black Fire Guards too, the ordinary ones in heavy armor were form 2 elites, but the ones in heavy armor and a cape, they were all form 3. The entire Black Fire Guards summed up to two hundred people. In reality, their capabilities far exceeded regular totem users in the same realm, and most importantly, they did not fear death.

The kingdom was full of form 2 totem users, but the ones who were truly fearless of death numbered few. Behind each totem user was a massive chain of resources and supplies, with many beneficiaries of various scales. During a life-threatening event, there were definitely few people who would fight to their death without abandon.

The Black Fire Guards were different. They were the kamikaze elites of the Form 2 totem users. Under Garen's orders, they could unleash explosive amounts of power at anytime.

Despite all that, the Black Fire Guards were of little use to Avic, as the Form 2s in the Kingdom's totem user regiment stands the majority.

The real reason people fear the Black Fire Guards was the fact that they all had the power to self-destruct. And also because of the Green Vine Sphere, their numbers can always be maintained. If they lost one, they can immediately be replenished with another.

It was too bad the Green Vine Sphere could only control so many Black Fire Guards; with the creation of so many kamikaze units, anyone who was below form 4, even spiritualized would not have dared fight them head-on.

"Unfortunately... these people aren't sentient.." Garen shook his head as he sighed. " looks like I have to recruit someone to help me manage the human resources within the palace.

As he calmed down, he began preparing the items for his next expedition, he would go out on a monster hunt every two days to increase his potential points, and also to see when would he reach the Secret Techniques' upgrade threshold.

Perhaps the Nine-Headed Dragon needed too much, for such a long period of gathering potential points, roughly 200 points in total, the Secret Technique had yet to produce any reaction. However, this made him anticipate it even more. As the requirement of potential points increased, so did the degree of change after one finally crossed the critical point needed to reach the next level.

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In a tall restaurant in the Kingdom

By the side of the round beige table in the restaurant, two men with thick black beards were sitting by the table, looking towards a large black palace from afar.

Although it was noon, the sky was covered in clouds. The weather seemed gloomy, and the thick layers of clouds felt like they would collapse to the ground soon, which gave off a depressing atmosphere.

The two bearded men sat towards a corner, ordered a decent, yet normal meal, which did not stand out at all. People came and went around them, hardly noticing their existence.

Nobody realized that the two of them had minute movements on their lips; they were actually communicating using a secret technique.

"Still have no way to contact Eleven?"

"It is extremely difficult." the other man who was slightly shorter looked gloomy. "The most troublesome people in the palace are the White Silver Palace and Black Fire Palace. Eleven's Palace is situated slightly ahead of the Black Fire Palace, so it is very difficult to rescue her! The Nine-Headed Serpent's abilities are extremely powerful. If he catches wind of anything out of the ordinary, not only would we fail the extraction, whoever goes in would also have no chance of walking out alive."

"That's why we must avoid the Nine-Headed Serpent. To avoid him, we must avoid the Black Fire Guards first, but the Black Fire Guards are everywhere, scattered across every corner of the Palace..." The tall bearded man fell into deep thought. "Then we have to ascertain, what kind of people can get into the palace without being checked!"

The other person blinked his eyes.

"Stone, you have an idea?!"

"Let's go find out exactly what's going on, we may have a way around this. We shall first investigate Garen's routines, habits, and behaviors. To win someone, we should try to understand our opponent as much as possible, for that is the most important step."

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Roar!!

A red dragon head dodged.

Within the deep mountain, surrounded by more than ten Black Fire Guards, Garen stepped on a boulder, underneath him were piles of debris.

At a plain nearby, a bovine-shaped monster with the head of a crocodile was slowly lying down on the floor, its body size spanning more than six meters, it had a jet-black body, its thick neck tightly bitten in place by something, protruding to the side.

As its head stretched upwards, and the blood vessels around its burst open. A stream of bright-red blood gushed out from the open wound, but once the blood touched the air, it disappeared as if something swallowed it up.

From the air were faint noises of some large creature's gulping from a swallowing movement at the throat.

The left side of Garen's mark on the forehead was flashing with a hint of bright red. As the swallowing sound diminished, so did the red light.

Bam!!

The giant creature hit the ground, and its body shrunk significantly.

Garen took the white handkerchief from a Black Fire Guard and rubbed his hands.

Suddenly, a strong quake was felt from the ground.

"Who! Dares! To Kill my Bovine Croc!!" A large roar was heard from afar.

Garen laughed, this was already the Meteorite Mountains, which was very far away from the Kingdom, which he rode on the fastest Thunderhawk for a little less than half a day to reach. This was beyond the defensive line, where different forces were constantly clashing, with people from different scales of power. However, the monsters themselves were not very strong, perfect for training.

This was the northern side of the West Farm Defensive line, which, when compared to the south, had much stronger monsters. There were even pinnacle form 4 monsters here, and there were more than one of them, so even the Royal Alliance didn't venture too deep into the mountains, and could only shrink their defensive lines.

Deeper into the mountains were monsters even stronger, Form 4 monsters, even Spiritualized ones were found spawning in hordes within a lair. This meant that the elites were the only ones capable of entering.

A single Bovine Croc could earn Garen five Potential Points, which was a fairly decent return compared previous standards.

One Form 1 totem or monster would provide about a quarter point's worth of potential points, not even a full point.

One Form 2 gave about two points; and five points for form 3. Whereas spiritualized creatures gave a whopping 15 points.

The Bovine Croc itself possessed a combat prowess of about an elite Form 2, with its rough and thick hide, and its high strength, with special resistance towards non-physical attacks. But it actually provided points equivalent to a form 3, so Garen made it a point never to let any of these Bovine Crocs go.

There were actually many creatures with such rough, thick hides, but none of them were as worthy as the Bovine Croc.

As he heard the loud roar, Garen put down his handkerchief and stared at the sky from afar.

Soon, A giant black silhouette appeared from within the gloomy sky.

A giant octopus-like monster appeared, with tens of tentacles each spanning over a metre in diameter wriggling around, just like a bunch of long whips. The giant octopus head was at least 7-8 metres in diameter, and a scrawny old man was sitting on top of it.

The old man had on grey attire, with a gleam in his eyes. The shadow casted by the giant octopus under him have covered Garen and his team.

As the distance closed the distance, the skull-shaped suckers on the octopus' tentacles became clearly visible.

Once it breached a 50-meter radius, the black octopus suddenly shrunk, with all its tentacles being retracting in an instant, and its body turned from black to bright red.

The old man sitting on its head suddenly had a change of expression. His gaze towards Garen's team has also turned more cautious.

"So it seems an expert of the same level had arrived, I am the Seven Nights Tower's Third Tower Head Endjack, how may I address you, kind sir?"

His intonation changed instantly and became much friendlier.

"Seven Nights Tower?" Garen's eyebrow was raised. That was the biggest force within the Meteorite Mountain, It is said that it was formed from a large academy and a few guilds that were indigenous to this region. They were strong, and were famous for their seven-tower combination defensive tactical arrays.

The north of the defensive lines edged nearer to the polar circle, hence the temperature dipped constantly. It was still fine at this point, but if they advanced further up north, across the Meteorite Mountains, the areas there would no longer be habitable. The lowest temperature reached negative ten below in Celcius, the landscape covered in blizzards for a majority of the year, where the snow caps reigned. Although it was not as crowded as the as tropics, there were still hidden forces hiding away in these remote ranges.

Totem users have always had tricks to alter the natural environments around them; nobody knew how many experts there were hiding in the polar circles.

"I have long heard about Seven Nights Tower reigning over the north as the largest force in the Meteorite Mountains, I'd have never expected to meet an expert, the Tower Head from the esteemed organization only after coming here ten or so times. It is indeed my honor." Garen smiled slightly, " I am the Personal Guard of the Kovitan King, Palace Head of the Black Fire Palace, Garen."

"Kovitan? As in the empire, Kovitan?" The old man paid heed and asked in suspicion.

"Indeed."

That old man's eyes brightened up. The reason he rushed over was to catch the murderer of all the Bovine Crocs that he'd let out, but they always winded up dead without him being able to catch the perpetrator. Now that he found the murderer, he'd never expect him to be a high ranking official from the Kovitan Empire within the mainland. The way the opponent looked, he was obviously not a weakling. The octopus that he rode on turned red, indicating that the opponent had the abilities to kill the octopus at any time. It was then obvious to him that Garen was at least at the same level as he was.

Looking back at his person, at the many guards surrounding him, although neither one of them were emitting any strong aura, they had a dangerous air of death about them.

If that issue could be resolved with this person's help....

The old man had a plan.

The reason that he let out these Bovine Crocs was not to nurture these beasts nurtured for so years and to be running around for just anyone, but instead, they carried an important task.

That was, to steal the illusionary tactics of that brat that had stolen the treasures of the Grand Snowy Mountain. He had incomparable talents towards tactical arrays, and this old man didn't have the necessary manpower to catch the culprit. The treasures from the Grand SNowy Mountain may not have any function to other people, but it may just prove useful for this man in front of him as an exchange.

Garen on the other hand, had his own set of plans; now that the Black Fire Palace was severely short-handed, if he could build a relationship with a strong organization such as the Seven Nights Tower, he can greatly increase his own power and influence. No matter what, having a expandable amount of strong troops will always make things more convenient.

The Trejons Family already had a sour reputation far and wide, but on the outer fields, it was unknown.

If he could secure a channel of communication and a friendship, it will be of great benefit to the Trejons Family

Ever since the two wars and periods of chaos, even though he managed to reduce the impact to Avic's side, but Ender, Daniela's side, even as far as East Continent, remained much the same. Hence, he must continuously improve his capabilities and influence, only then can he stop being hunted by Obscuro and Terraflor in the following years.

Chapter 425: Assassinate 1

Thoughts were swirling in both their minds. After a cold stare, both of them greeted each other warmly.



"I wonder for what's the purpose of the Palace Head's visit to the North Field?" The old man slowly descended, controlling the octopus as it quickly shrunk, from a humongous creature into a black octopus the size of a palm which rested on his shoulder.

"I was just bored, so I came out to look for some creatures which were slightly stronger for practice." Garen laughed. "I never expected to meet Tower head Endjack, what great luck I have."

"We from the Seven Nights Tower have good relations with Kovitan, why don't you come over with me to the inner tower area for a visit, so that i can host you properly." Similarly, Endjack smiled as he said.

Garen had originally intended to get close to this person, and the other party also seemed to have similar intent when as he heard that he was from the powerful Kovitan Kingdom. Since both sides intend to build a relationship, both sides travelled with each other, chattering away about the North Field's unique scenery.

As the other party mentioned that they were looking for a brat who stole their treasure, Garen immediately agreed to help and dispatched his own Black Fire Guard for a search and arrest.

The tens of Black Fire Guards each rode on a giant Thunderhawk and scattered across the entirety of the surrounding airspace within the snowy land.

The only elite guard left was merely there to carry miscellaneous items.

The duo walked as they chatted, and soon, two Black fire Guards have sent signals of sightings of human tracks.

Garen and old man Endjack rushed over, but they found a group of people facing the Black fire guards as though they were preparing for war

The group probably had ten or so people, each of them decked in red attire, with the strength of Form 2s, and even two Form 3s among them.

The group was also surrounding an eel-like creature's corpse with a sad expression. The snow-covered ground was stained red by blood, corpses littered the surrounding areas.

"Sir from the Royal Alliance, this Black-tailed Eel is something we took down after hefty amount of preparation and sacrifices..." A man stood up among the red-clothed men and spoke loudly as he observed the duo approaching.

"A form 3 Black-tailed eel..." Endjack had an expression of greed for a moment.

"It's just a form 3 Black-tailed Eel." Garen who was beside him couldn't care less. This thing is primarily used to create leather armor and tactical scrolls, nothing much aside from that. He had the Black Fire Heavy Plate made specially by the Royal Family, and the tactical scrolls were also made by high quality black dragon skin. Those were top-tier creatures that were in the peak of form 4, these kinds of small creatures don't even come close to comparison.

It's just that Garen felt lazy to bring those during the usual days. Most totem users who primarily used totems during combat will pay extra attention to the tactics. Which was to say, most totem users primarily used tactics, their totem's talents and abilities as well as their heirloom abilities for combat. But Garen was different, he didn't need tactics to do combat at all, he used his own physical body as the fastest, most simplistic killing machine.

Adding onto Kovitan's ability to churn out materials, the items forged from these form 3 materials can be obtained anytime. Why would he even bat an eye to these dirty raw materials. That was the reason why he was not attracted at all towards the tactics' raw materials.

As he heard an expert of the same level say this, Endjack was shocked. He decided not to ask to take it in the end.

For the Seven Nights Tower, a form 3 Black-tailed Eel was already decent spoils, one where everything on it had a purpose.

Despite hearing this, the opposite party still didn't loosen up.

One shouldn't be fooled into thinking that it was easy to take down a single Black-tailed Eel. In reality, Black-tailed Eels were actually herd animals. It was an incredibly difficult task to lure and hunt a singular Eel. On top of that, they had suffered a casualty, too, if it were to be snatched by an outsider, it would be tragic.

"Let's go, we'll check out the other places, perhaps you can find the person you want to catch." Garen noticed the greed in the old man's eyes.

Subsequently, the duo repeatedly encountered totem users who came to North field to hunt monsters. These totem users were mostly form 2, with a small portion of them being Form 3, but most of them came over from Kovitan's general direction. Once they saw Garen's Royal Alliance Uniform, they all became fearfully wary. Only a handful of people knew about Endjjack, the Tower Head, but they were most definitely respectful to Garen.

This incident had open Endjack's eyes on the benefits of becoming a Royal Alliance member.

After a round of searches, both of them failed to find any leads, but Garen wished to help Endjack settle this issue as a friendly gesture of the Black Fire Palace.

Endjack only said he would consider, but did not reject it outright.

Garen wasn't rushing it either, instead used his identity as the Head of Trejons Family to express his wish to obtain trade support with the Third Tower. The produce from the North Field had extremely good heat insulating properties; their animal furs were also of good quality with good aesthetics, with some exotic items on the side.

Not only did Endjack not reject it, he agreed to it on the spot. The both of them exchanged a secret communication device, then Garen returned to the kingdom.

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The First Concubine's Palace

Delouse seemed troubled as she sat on the Concubine Throne, observing the black-armored guards patrolling the surroundings through a side window of the hall. Large amounts of dark red flower patterns could be seen inscribed onto armor, which meant this person is from the Black Fire Palace.

"This is troublesome... this Nine-Headed Dragon just appeared and has his line of sight planted everywhere." A voice from a dark corner was heard; transmitted directly into First Concubine's ears.

"That's why you need to figure out a way. With Garen in the picture, we need an additional safeguard." Delouse's lips moved slightly, and a soft voice was sent into the corner.

"If all else fails, we will do 'that'!" The voice from within the corner sounded as if a decision had been made.

Suddenly, a loud noise was heard from outside the hall.

"Minister Veska has arrived!!"

Soon, an elderly man with a head full of grey hair walked into the hall under the escort of two white-armored guards.

"Greetings, Your Highness." Veska bowed out of respect. "By His Majesty's orders, I am here to inform Your Highness that the ceremony of trust shall start tonight. I hope your highness can keep this a secret, and do the necessary preparations.

"Tonight?!" Delouse was shocked, she was caught off guard. "Why does His Majesty want to bring forward the ceremony!? I haven't received any prior notice, this seems a bit rushed."

"These are his Majesty's orders, we have no rights to question them." Veska turned around and left after bowing with respect.

Soon, a red skirted maid walked in; she was First Concubine's close maid.

"Your Highness, what do we do now?" the maid asked softly after approaching the First Concubine.

"Inform everyone, make the arrangements. Though it is slightly rushed, we have finally arrived to this day. That old man Veska had most probably found out something. Do the necessary arrangements on your side and wait for orders."

"Understood"

"Alright, now get going, nowadays the Black Fire Palace are on a vigilant lookout for spies, so don't stand out too much."

"Okay"

As the silhouette of the maid left the door, Delouse's blue eyes turned deep again.

Nine-Headed Dragon and Garland Sword...Looks like Veska that old fart was strategizing for Avic. One was in the light while another was in darkness, and all of this happened simultaneously while getting rid of all the suspicious characters, this was truly the work of an important person.

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Once Garen returned to the palace, he heard the news that the Aegis Ceremony would be held tonight.

He was slightly shocked that Avic would decide so quickly and was planning to investigate thoroughly already.

Although he had done checks for such a long time, Garen still felt that the First Concubine's Obscuro pawns were still hiding inside the palace, and their numbers were not small. This made him uncertain.

He made a special trip to the front of the Eleventh Royal Daughter's palace to inspect it, and kept making guesses. Avic had already sensed the First Concubine's betrayal, but failed nonetheless, and this likely had something to do with the Eleventh Royal Daughter. Thus, he monitored the Eleventh Royal

Daughter closely, not letting her out of his sight, and not allowing any outsiders to have any contact with her.

The Eleventh Palace was completely quiet, and the Eleventh Royal Daughter was focused on drawing practice and did not sense his oncoming presence.

This allowed Garen to relax slightly, and he decided to participate in the ceremonial activities this time.

Regardless whether Avic's assassination succeeded or failed, he wanted to find as many benefits from this as possible. Of course, it would be best if it failed. The important thing, unlike the rubbish massacre previously, was that a proper professional killer was involved. Furthermore, he was also interested in the ancient Endor precious heirlooms.

Soon, after dinner, the sky darkened quickly.

Avic entered the underground palace as well, and went into the Blood Jade Palace that was below ground. He gathered Garen, Edin, Veska and the others, to participate in tonight's secret ceremony.

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Inside the underground palace

The pitch-black floor was covered in black bricks as smooth as mirrors, and each piece was shaped in a large square, and could almost reflect a person's shadow.

On top was a semi-circle shaped black ceiling, illuminated with dots of silver light. In the center, a large crystal chandelier hung downwards, and lit up the room with an unknown, faint red light.

Blood Jade Palace was roughly the same size as most palaces, except that the four walls of its interior were engraved with many gold human portraits, and all of these portraits protruded out of the walls, forming many embossments. The carvings were extremely lifelike, as if the four corners of the palace were filled with a circle of onlookers.

The 'onlookers' included palace officials, royal family members, children, and old people, but most of them were beautiful and flirtatious young women.

These women's bodies were exposed, as some of them were only covered in light veils, while others were half naked, and others had exaggerated movements, and there were others that were shy and charming.

The gazes of all of the carvings were fixed at the center of Blood Jade Palace, where a blood pond was built.

Avic wore his cumbersome royal military uniform and his silver crown, and held the royal scepter in his hand, his gaze solemnly transfixed on First Concubine Delouse, who was half-kneeling in front of him.

Behind them in order stood Garen, Veska, and Edin, and some elite guards who were clad in full-bodied silver armor, holding white dual swords in their hands.

This ceremony was unusually simple, without a large aristocratic ceremony, and without notifying any foreign ministers. Meanwhile, the two Grand Dukes were also absent, and the representatives from the Elder Parliament had yet to arrive as well.

Avic had probably organized this ceremony hurriedly, and perhaps no one knew what he was thinking, or maybe First Concubine had already guessed it but currently, the conclusion was already decided, and she would have to start making her first move soon.

The faint red light shone on everyone, and cast a slightly mysterious atmosphere in the palace.

"The ceremony will begin now," Avic said solemnly.

Clang... Clang... Clang...

Melodious clock noises echoed from the palace.

Chirp chirp chirp chirp...

Suddenly, white streams of air flowed into all four corners of the palace through the windows like white ribbons, flying towards Avic and the half-kneeling First Concubine.

The white air currents were apparently made out of countless tiny pieces of yellow and white paper. They made bird-like chirping noises as they flew circles around the First Concubine.

Avic raised his right hand, before the unassuming black ring on his finger suddenly released puffs of black smoke slowly. The black smoke gathered in a circle and rose upwards, dissolving in the air slowly, before the entire palace was quickly filled with a light flowery aroma.

First Concubine Delouse bowed her head and knelt on the ground, while the white and yellow pieces of paper floated downwards and fell onto the top of her head slowly, before quickly turning into delicate flower petals.

White and yellow flower petals fell from her head and body. Like rain drops, the flower petals fell on her body, and some of them slipped off, while others changed their shape slowly, turning into white and yellow butterflies.

These butterflies flew and danced around, and some of them perched on her shoulders, while others flew everywhere.

"In the name of my ancestors, from this day onwards, I bestow you, my concubine, the final right of asylum!" Avic placed his right hand that wore the ring towards Delouse's forehead, and said in a loud and solemn voice.

Suddenly, a cloud of black smoke wafted out of his ring and flew towards Delouse as if it were alive.

Veska, Edin, and Garen nodded lightly in respect. They were the only three close ministers that Avic had gathered here.



At this moment, in the middle of Delouse's golden undone curls, a lock of braided black hair suddenly underwent a strange transformation.

The braid became pitch-black, and its narrow end sharpened and hardened suddenly before the entire black braid slowly turned into the shape of a scorpion's tail.

There was a snapping noise, before the sting of the scorpion's tail jumped up suddenly, and lit up in a dark red, and almost black glowing sheen.

Meanwhile, Avic's perpetually raised hand now hovered over Delouse's head, and his gaze was still fixed there as if it had never moved at all.

The moment when the ceremony was finally about to end, was when Avic had lost his final ultimate asylum pass, at that time...

First Concubine lowered her head, not allowing the coldness in her eyes to flow out.

The ring on top of her head continued to release almost-sentient black smoke, that drilled into Delouse's head continuously, unceasingly as if it was endless.

Chapter 426: Assassinate 2

As time passed, the black smoke started thinning out, as though it had run out of steam.

Delouse's scorpion tail protruded slightly, its tip aiming right at Avic, in front of her.

"Delouse, you have followed me for about 10 years, no?" Avic suddenly spoke, his voice was deep, with a hint of regret and pain.

Delouse lifted her head, and coincidentally the final trails of smoke went back into her head.

Suddenly, she was faintly aware that there was nobody around her, not even the three ministers who were standing behind her, they just vanished without her knowing.

The original guards have disappeared too, the entire Blood Jade palace was left with only her and Avic.

"Your Majesty, you....!"

Avic raised his royal staff and looked at Delouse. " I never wanted to do this..." his eyes were mixed with clashing emotions, labyrinthine thoughts, bitter betrayal, so much such that it was impossible to etch all of them on his face.

Delouse's face turned mildly black. She also suddenly started to choke on her throat, started coughing involuntarily.

"This....this is...!?"

"I gave you a chance..." Avic lowered his staff as he saw the woman struggling in front of him.

As the staff was lowered, Delouse followed slowly, without a sound. Her eyes, nose, mouth, and ears started oozing black blood. Little black bugs started crawling out of her nostrils, and then dissipated as clouds of black smoke.

At this time, a ray of red flashed past.

Jii!!!

Avic's pupils dilated in that instance.

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Floor Palace

In the White Silver Palace, Edin was gently polishing the silver longsword on his hand.

On the longsword's body was a silver circle, but they weren't attached. Rather it was as if they were once the same entity.

The moon outside the hall shined bright with a hue of silver. The lights in the hall were sufficiently bright, rows upon rows of Royal Elite Guards stood quietly on the flanks of the palace.

"Then, His Majesty brought an illusion of us to the inner palace?" Edin said quietly.

In the shadows, a tall silhouette walked out slowly. It turned out to be Garen, who was donning dense, heavy armor.

He was well equipped; unlike other Black Fire armors, there were two fangs protruding on both of his pauldrons, giving off a sense of intimidation.

The armor made him look like a large monster over two meters tall. Oddly, even though he was wearing such heavy armor, Garen seemed to be walking with ease, as though this were his everyday attire, weightless and mobile.

"I had originally disagreed too, but His Majesty insisted. The choice wasn't mine to make. Even Sir Veska cannot persuade His Majesty." Garen answered coldly.

"Just for the little bugs outside?" Edin frowned slightly.

"Those aren't just regular bugs..." Garen frowned too. "If you carry such an underestimating attitude.."

"I don't need you to tell me that." Edin interrupted coldly.

Garen's expression calmed down as well. He then snickered.

"Go back to your own Black Fire Palace." Edin mocked.

Even though he felt that Edin never liked him, to use such a tone to an expert his own level, Garen felt belittled and angered, and he showed a hint of murderous intent.

"I hope you don't disappoint His Majesty, otherwise..." Garen did not bother covering up his murderous intent anymore.

Edin did not answer, but instead, he lowered his head to continue polishing his sword.

Garen retreated into the shadow and disappeared without a trace.

The curtain nearby suddenly was drawn suddenly. A sudden gust of black wind suddenly blew past the window and quickly disappeared into the night sky.

Edin stood up from his throne. As he gazed up, he looked at the female silhouette which had been standing outside the palace for an unknown amount of time.

He extended his hand, his pale white fingertips were suddenly greeted with a white rose.

"I have been waiting for a long time." Edin walked down from the throne and walked towards that person.

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Black Fire Palace

Garen didn't know what kind of expert awaited Edin, but that aura had been intense and violent, it faintly felt like it was comparable to Edin, but was obviously an expert hired by Obscuro. He originally prepared to assist Edin by combining forces, but Edin brushed him off with such an attitude, which angered him and turned him away.

Tonight was the night of the assassination, but Garen felt that Edin's behavior was odd.

He sat on that throne, gently stroking the shiny sphere on his armrest, his mind shrouded with the feeling of unease. It's too bad that he had too little information now that the main branches strategizing had been left to Veska, while Garen only controlled territory.

Bam!!!

Suddenly, a deafening explosion was heard from outside the palace.

That direction, it was none other than White Silver Palace!

Garen shuddered.

"Edin! To think that it's you!!" no wonder he always thought that Edin felt off. He secluded himself from communicating with anyone, always shut training in his own palace. He lacked the lust, the desire for power, even his dining etiquette was incomparable to a regular noble. Such a man with no desire should never have existed!

The White Silver Palace controlled the entire Palace Tactics; core pivot, and that was a sound was obviously of the pivot's explosion.

"Men!"

Suddenly, Black Fire Guards rushed into the main palace like streams of black river merging into one. The rushed footsteps were oddly in sync, and there was no sense of panic.

Garen stood up.

"Four guards, follow me, the rest of you, kill all the palaces intruders!"

At this point, he did not plan to go underground to assist Avic, but instead set his sight on the Eleventh Palace opposite him.

Avic was infallible, if there were no incidents, he would never be killed. Then, the catalyst of the accident has to be...

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Inside the Eleventh Palace

Tina bulged her eyes as she was caught speechless, looking at the underground passage's sudden appearance.

"You....How did you avoid the underground defense array??"

Beckstone brushed off the soil off himself, pulling another bearded man out as the two men tunneled out of the ground.

"Just a little special technique, if it weren't for Obscuro's attack, we would never have had the chance. Alright, no more nonsense, let's get out of here."

"But... aren't there Black Fire Guards outside?" Tina turned around and looked outside. The Black Fire Guards had vanished without her realizing it. She was completely speechless.

"I've promised, I will definitely rescue you with complete preparation." Beckstone spoke calmly, "would this count as returning you the favor?"

"You've indeed remembered clearly." Tina can't help but laugh.

"Since we are friends, I shall not take it that you violated by that beast without doing anything." Beckstone seemed hurt, from the look of his eyes.

"But..." Tina suddenly got nervous, "I don't know why, but I always feel that my heart would keep pounding, things can't be this simple..."

"No buts, let's go, we're running out of time!" Beckstone frowned as he said.

"Alright...."

The three people packed up, but the maids surrounding them were oddly asleep on the floor.

They were about to get into the underground tunnel and go back where they came from.

Bam!!

The deep tremor of an explosion was heard.

The tunnel's entrance had a gush of air outwards, some black soil was mixed in the gust.

The three of them looked at each other.

Beckstone took out a small purple ball, and gently shook it next to his ears. And his expression changed.

"It's the underground inner palace...the tunnel.....caved in from the tremor." Beckstone looked at his partners with a sobbing voice.

"To the secret passage!" Beard said decisively, leading the way and rushing towards the exit of the palace. "Right now, the Obscuro and Royal Alliance are duking it out with each other, I heard about this from the old fart, all the elites of Obscuro were dispatched, while The Royal Alliance had activated their tactical arrays. The entire palace has been covered in a layer of huge illusionary arrays. We wouldn't make it if we delayed any further!"

Beckstone looked at his party, then carried Tina and caught up with Beard.

"It's so late, Your Eleventh Highness, where are you heading off to?"

The cold voice of a man came suddenly.

What followed was the sound of quick, heavy footsteps, and the Eleventh Palace was suddenly surrounded by Black Fire Heavy Guards. The densely lined guards did not utter a word and completely surrounded the trio in the palace.

In front of the trio, at the palace doors, a tall armored silhouette was slowly walking out, it was indeed the handsome young man with a blood red mark between his brows.

His eyesight was locked onto Beckstone.

"I've said before, never appear in front of me again... looks like you took it for a joke."

Suddenly, Beckstone's breathing became close to hyperventilating, and his eyes turned slightly bloodshot.

"Garen...!"

"Go!!" Beard suddenly pulled him and tossed him behind.

He suddenly opened his mouth wide and out came a giant python.

Tssss!

The python flew out was only as thick as an arm, but halfway through its trajectory, its diameter became bigger and it grew larger in size. By the time it reached Garen, it had already reached a diameter of over two meters. Its mouth was filled with poisonous green mist, its jaws lined to the brim with teeth. It opened its jaw wide and shot towards Garen.



The entire palace was covered with a thin layer of suffocating poison mist.

"Trying to use poison in on me?" Garen flicked his left hand. His index finger was followed by a series of afterimages, landing right on the python's jaw.

Bam!

The python exploded immediately and turned into a cloud of black mist that was scattered in all directions. The smoke effectively disabled the vision of everyone in the palace.

Garen lifted his head and took a deep breath.

Fuuuuuuuh....!!

A large vortex appeared out of nowhere, and the cloud of smoke was sucked into Garen's lungs like streams flowing into an ocean, and was all gone in a single suck.

The poison mist in the palace was cleared by Garen in an instant.

At this point, Beard had already taken both persons and flew out of the palace, almost landing onto a giant white bird's back.

"Running, are we?"

Garen snickered, he extended his right arm towards the trio from afar in a grabbing motion.

Jii!!!

Suddenly, a translucent body flew towards the trio.

Suddenly, a silver ring appeared in a flash and chopped off the three blood-colored dragon heads with cold precision.

Roar!!!

In the instant the dragon head and silver ring clashed, both of them disappeared.

A silver-white silhouette flew towards Garen and blocked him from advancing.

"Move!!" Garen roared in anger, his mark turned blood-red and the Nine-Headed Dragon appeared, attacking the opponent by fluttering towards it like nine blood-red mares while letting out a deafening roar.

"Ring of the Moon."

A clear sound rang out suddenly.

A silver hemisphere suddenly appeared in front of that man, and the giant ring completely halted the advance of the nine dragon heads.

At this time, Beckstone and two other people have already arrived at the giant white bird and were ready to flee. The bird began flapping its wings.

Garen had released boundless killing intent. His irises faintly turned vertical, just like the Nine-Headed Dragon, giving off an unusually violent air.

"Edin... you're courting death!"

"Unfortunately, you can't do it." The man turned his round silver ring sword upright, with no changes whatsoever in his intonation.

"Then let's try it!" the silhouette of the Nine-Headed Dragon suddenly appeared behind Garen.

Roar!!!!

The nine dragon heads roared fiercely.

Chapter 427: Shock 1

The Underground Inner Palace

Within the Dark Blood Jade Palace

The many maids around the palace had suddenly disappeared, systematically rushing out of the palace hall and running to various hiding facilities.

Only Delouse and Avic were left in the Blood Jade Palace.

Delouse's black braid was like a scorpion's tail; the red tail pin was floating in front of Avic's face, only a finger's distance away from piercing into his right eye.

The two of them were in a stalemate.

What's odd was that even though Delouse's face was covered in blood and her facial orifices were still bleeding, her expression showed a ferocious smile.

"This absolute protection..... Really sets an expectation..." Delouse started laughing, and her voice suddenly turned deep, resembling the deep voice of a man, hoarse and gruff!

She still had her slender body, beautiful face and blonde hair, but her eyes became two black whirlpools.

Avic's face turned pale, his body shuddered, and he could not stop his throat from shaking, almost as if he was trying to stop himself from puking.

"You....you're God Cloud....?!!" His voice turned hoarse, carrying a sliver of hope, hoping that she gave the opposite answer.

"You guessed right." Delouse smiled. "From the beginning, I have been God Cloud. Or rather, Delouse, since the beginning, had been my clone."

Suddenly, Delouse's expression changed and became lovable and soft again. "Your majesty~~ don't you love me anymore?" Her voice returned to that of a gentle female's.

A usually delightful gentle voice was giving him the chills at that very moment.

"You... You!!" Avic felt sick from the inside, a strong revolting feeling was rumbling in the pit his stomach. To think that he slept with a man for so many years, he couldn't help but shudder,

Dense layers of goosebumps appeared on his skin.

Finally

"You monster!!" Avic roared, and took a few steps back, he was surrounded by an invisible barrier, protecting him from any harm.

God Cloud had a snickering expression again.

"Your Majesty, how can you speak of me in such way? So many days and nights, have you forgotten all of them?" His voice was interchanged between a man's and a woman's voice.

Avic could not stand it anymore. With a pale face, he lifted his hand and pointed towards God Cloud.

"Kill him! Kill him now!!!" He shouted

In an instant, three powerful silhouettes appeared from around the palace. It was as though they came out from a void, and had been there from the beginning and never moved a muscle.

The Illusionary Array's abilities had masked their presence so that nobody noticed it.

Even God Cloud was slightly surprised.

He took a glance at the three people surrounding him.

Captain Woods of the Silver Knights in the National Service?

Out of the trio, a white-haired old man holding a wooden staff smiled at him as a sign of agreeing.

"Never expected it to be Sir God Cloud coming here, being able to see the number one genius of yesteryear, is indeed my honor."

Old man Woods wore a white robe with a silver inscription, and a necklace made of white skulls was dangling over his neck. He gave less of an impression of a knight, but more of a pagan witch of an indigenous tribe.

God cloud shifted his sight to another person. This man was stern-faced, the black robe he donned was very tidy, and he was holding a blue dagger with a black hilt. A humid scent of seawater was faintly surrounding the dagger.

"So you're here too, Veska."

Veska remained emotionless.

"Who would've guessed that First Concubine was God Cloud. Since you're here, then don't bother leaving."

God Cloud laughed and he looked over at the last person.

"King of the Stars. The head of Geometry Service is here too?"

The last one was a young man, he donned a black noble uniform, his face white and handsome, and he was fiddling with a drawing pen in his hand. Oddly, the drawing pen's tip was flickering, as though it was an ember.

"Sir God Cloud, this time it's you who crossed the border. This is Kovitan Empire, not your Dark Maze."

The three people formed a triangle as they surrounded God Cloud, each of them had a natural expression but placed all their attention on God Cloud.

"Looks like you intend to detain my clone. This cannot happen, my three main clones have all gone through tumultuous effort to produce." God Cloud smiled again.

With a flip of his palm, her right palm quickly bulged up and formed a sphere.

The bulging skin turned greener and greener, and the curvature of the sphere had also become bigger.

Poong.....

An immense quake spread outwards with God Cloud as the epicenter. The invisible quake surged violently onto the three men.

Tssss.....

The three men had been forcibly pushed back a few steps, under their feet were 6 streaks of marks left on the floor.

"Original Heirlooms!!!" King of the Stars had a change in expression, his expression started showing. "Hoho, who would have known that Sir God Cloud would be willing to bring out even an Original Heirloom. Distortion Pearl, hefty, indeed."

"If the clone dies here, the Distortion Pearl would be ours." Veska suddenly said.

"Since he even brought the Original Heirloom, looks like we have to go full out for this, let's not hide our abilities, use our strongest moves straight away, otherwise the victor may not be us." The Silver Knight Captain Woods said. He was the same as Veska, even though they sounded carefree, but their eyes had a gleam of strictness.

Original Heirlooms.... Avic's Absolute defense was also an Original Heirloom, these are the strongest heirlooms, even though Obscuro couldn't win against RAL, but they alone could have comparable power to a single large kingdom. Unexpectedly, he dared bet on that small interval of a pinnacle form 5 expert and take the Distortion Pearl on an attack against Kovitan.

"Can we send a message out to the Department Headquarters chief?" Woods asked.

Veska smiled bitterly. "The formation we arranged ourselves has isolated all communication to the outside, we would need at least an hour to completely disable them."

Woods could only laugh bitterly.

At this time, a quake shook above Blood Jade Palace.

Roar!!!

A loud beast's cry was heard from above them.

The entire palace vibrated slightly, which brought crumbs of debris tumbling down.

"Looks like there're people clashing above us." Veska looked up at the ceiling. Just as his gaze left God Cloud, he could hear a loud gust immediately.

"Careful!!!"

A voice shouted, by the corner of Vaska's eyes, he could see a black chain was shot towards him. Reflexively, he quickly ducked towards the right.

Pewpewpew!!

Countless chains were shot by God Cloud towards the trio.

A black giant's silhouette appeared behind him.

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The Eleventh Palace, Surface

Just as the giant white bird took off, a great sonic boom struck it down.

Its wings tilted and carved out an angled crater, and it fiercely smashed into a garden on its right side.

Bam!!

The garden was a mess, a great number of the plants were either knocked down or squashed.

The white bird laid next to a white granite platform, half of its body landed on two gardeners, and pools of blood were seen flowing out from beneath the white bird and onto the black soil.



The sharp scream of the maids was soon heard, and those white-attired maids swarmed towards the cracks to attempt escape, like frightened bee colonies.

Just as Beckstone and his friends were dizzily climbing down from the bird, dense thumps of footsteps were heard from behind him.

Tens of Black Fire Heavy Guards rushed over, their eyes shined with green lights, each of them had green liquid dripping between the crevices of their armor. As the viscous liquid made its way onto the floor, it burned through the floor, into many potholes of different sizes.

The guard in front suddenly opened its mouth wide, and out came that green viscous liquid spewing out violently, like a tide which rushed towards the trio.

Bam!!

Clang!!

The Nine-Headed Dragon in front of Garen fiercely smashed into the hemispherical moon arc blade.

The red and white light suddenly exploded, countless tiny pieces of shattered Totem light scattered everywhere.

Edin let out a moan, the white arc in front of him was shattered. He took a leap backward, onto a roof nearby.

"Stupid barbarian"

Bam!!

The Nine-Headed Dragon chased after him, violently crashing into the location of which he stood into smithereens. The chandelier in the corridor under the roof broke loose and fell to the ground due to the intense impact.

Clang!!

Amidst the crisp sound of broken crystal, Edin turned swiftly and avoided Nine-Headed Dragon's attack and landed safely on the roof on his right.

The bloodied mark on Garen's forehead got thicker. A strong, murderous intent was barraging within his heart. His eyes were slowly turning blood red as well, the horrifying Dragon's eyes gave him an almost inhumane terror.

With a wave of his arms, the dragon heads move to the right.

Kroonggg....

The nine dragon heads were like 9 pillars tearing everything in its path towards the roof, banking right as it chased Edin.

Innumerable houses were torn down by the dragons, and more the chandeliers in the corridors beneath fell one after the other.

Pang! Pang! Pang!

The shattering of the chandeliers kept continuing, to the point of becoming deafening. The millions of crystal shards were scattered in all directions like snowflakes. The entire corridor was enveloped in a thick layer of white crystal shards.

The Nine-Headed Dragons could not keep up with Edin in the end, and the bloodied eyes of Garen only got thicker.

suddenly, his foot forcefully stomped the ground

Bam!!

Garen disappeared in an instant, the ground beneath him turned into a crater several meters wide.

Edin laughed coldly

"I was waiting for this technique"

He waved his right arm and a few roses made up a few white lines were fixed in midair.

Jii!

The white rose instantaneously exploded and became countless petals of flowers.

Garen's afterimage had been running through the petals, but were discovered by Edin

A cold light flashed through Edin's eyes.

"Florid Sword." A white rose appeared in his hand, as he sniffed it gently, Edin actually closed his eyes fully, without a care of the possible ambush by Garen.

Tssss!

A ray of white light shot out.

The Nine-Headed Dragon's silhouette which encircled Garen flew up and fluttered, his left hand conjured a seemingly unstoppable gust, forming a slab of red afterimage and clashing with the white ray head-on in an instant.

The red shadow and white ray met each other halfway.

The red shadow was effortlessly slashed through. The white rose instantaneously passed through the space between Garen's fingers and stabbed his forehead

Suddenly he could see the clear white petals of the rose, the white, without any hint of impurity, white circles of pure petals that seemed to be stacked together. There was even a dewdrop on it.

At such unfathomable speeds, yet ever so calming.

Garen couldn't care less, his right hand struck out with speed, the auras of a long unused power had begun bubbling.

A surge of a violent, horrid aura exploded from his body.

"Ten Thousand Mammoths, Red Jade!!!" his right palm brought out a clarity comparable to a red jade, his palm was rubbing the air on top of it, and ignited in an instant!

A pure, high-temperature flame ignited just by the friction in the air!

The flaming right palm was like a ferocious dragon, surrounded by nine dragon heads, and after the first attack, it hit Edin's Round-ringed sword.

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Boom!!!

A red fire cloud broke out directly between the two, forming a silver ring.

Chapter 428: Shock 2

The surroundings were covered by a silvery-red aura, while the ground was cracked and dry, with traces of sword marks emerging endlessly.

The stone pillars had collapsed and were charred black. The embossments had burst and were now red. The decorative bronze statues in between the palace had started to melt. Some of them were bent at the waist, while others were destroyed beyond recognition, and were filled with sword marks everywhere.

The silvery-red aura had spread out throughout a distance of thirty to forty meters before it disappeared gradually.

Garen and Edin were standing off in midair, and both of them were suspended there, as if a powerful invisible force was holding both of them up and preventing them from falling.

From afar, it seemed as if the enormous Nine-Headed Dragon was charging violently towards a large white rose.

Above the royal palace, between two tall black clock towers, the thirty-meter-long body of the Nine-Headed Dragon stood taller than most of the royal buildings, making the surrounding palace buildings look like toy models in comparison. Some of the nearby buildings had collapsed completely, while others suffered considerable damage.

The outer areas had been filled with a large number of palace guards who were unaware of the current situation. They were armed with weapons but only dared to encircle the area from far away. They helped hide the royal family members, palace officials, and servants that were unable to retaliate.

At this moment, Garen's head moved backwards slightly.

Tch!!

The white rose from earlier passed through Garen's forehead directly, but merged into his brain like a phantom, without any movements.

"Using a will-type attack against me?" A sneer flashed across Garen's face. His strengthened his right hand's grip on the ring sword suddenly.

Clang clang clang clang clang!!!

A string of frenzied clashing noises rang out continuously.

Edin's face remained unchanged while his figure moved back frantically, but his speed did not increase as frighteningly as Garen's.

His ruby-like fingers tapped against the body of the sword frenziedly, and all of the hits were concentrated on one point on the sword.

Edin's silhouette stopped suddenly. His figure became slanted, as his right hand drew his sword as quick as lightning.

Ching!!!

Another silver ring sword was drawn out of thin air, before the white moon colored sword marks flew towards Garen.

The fingers on Garen's left hand shot out.

Clang!!

His fingers collided with the side of the sword.

Tch!!

Red lights flashed.

Garen disappeared instantly in place, before reappearing again, except that he now stood on a piece of ground that was over ten meters away.

The ferocity on his face had disappeared completely, as he stretched his hand out and touched the right side of his face gently, before bringing his hand down to look at it, and seeing that his hand was now covered in blood.

On the right side of his face, a horizontal wound gradually appeared, and was bleeding slowly.

"I obviously blocked it..." Garen looked at Edin who was still suspended in midair not far away. "What ability is this?"

Edin turned over and fell directly from the sky, before standing on the broken surface of a bronze statue. He looked at Garen again, with a slightly respectful look in his gaze.

His fingertips turned, before a white rose magically appeared in his hand again.

"One hundred and thirty-four."

"?"

"One hundred and thirty four opponents of the same rank, including aberrated monsters. You were the only one who could force me to use the Dislocation Sword." Edin threw out a rose that turned into a pile of white flower petals again.

The abundant flower petals resembled a stream that flowed from the bottom to the top, and flew into his right palm. They gathered together slowly, and formed into a brand new silver ring sword!

Ching!

The two silver ring swords in his hands overlapped one other to form an 'X', while emitting an entrancing light silver glow under the moonlight.

"It turns out that you've always existed in a totem and physical body state from the beginning." A look of understanding appeared on Garen's face suddenly. The air of ferocity that surrounded his whole body had disappeared completely at once. It seemed as if the fury he felt at the beginning was just an illusion.

He was now able to make full use of the Nine-Headed Dragon's negative emotion to enhance his own fighting abilities, and the longer the period of normal suppression, the stronger it would be during combat.

This period of time where he worked in the palace, was not something that he could waste.

Totem combination was something that Garen understood as well, but up until now, he still relied on solo main body combat, or separate Totem combat. He was unlike Edin who used combinations from start to finish.

Although Form 4 and Spiritualization were different, as the time taken to combine was much longer, very few people would use continuous combination like him.

Upon seeing Garen's sudden transformation, Edin's gaze finally turned somewhat serious.

"Looks like I underestimated you."

Both of his swords were still overlapped, and a fiery war challenge appeared in his eyes.

"I have four types of sword skills that take turns to overlap, and have never been defeated. If you can deflect all of them, I will not obstruct you anymore."

"Obstruct me?" A mysterious smile appeared on Garen's face. But moments later, he could vaguely feel a strange, mysterious gas coming from Edin's body. This gas caused his perception to become blurry.



"Bloom, new moon..." Edin closed his eyes and opened them again, and now his pupils had become fully white.

Suddenly, an unparalleled sense of danger rushed towards Garen.

With Garen as the center, within a range of a few meters in the surroundings, a white moon colored rose began to bloom in midair slowly, and the center of the rose petals, was where he currently stood.

The entire white rose wrapped him up completely, and was incomparably beautiful under the moonlight.

Garen stood upright, motionless. He could detect that his surroundings were filled with an extremely sharp presence in the air, as if countless blades had formed a white rose.

His left pointer finger moved slightly.

Tch!

A bloody wound appeared on his fingertip suddenly, as if he had been wounded by a sharp blade.

"This is my second sword skill, Imprisonment Flowers." Edin's voice could be heard from the front, while the two ring swords that were in his hands earlier had suddenly disappeared.

Regarding the powerful Vitality that Garen was proud of, when faced with high level opponents of the same rank, although it was abnormally strong, it was still unable to produce an effect that was powerful enough.

"Right now, you are already within my Imprisonment Flowers, and all movements will lead to an attack by the countless blades, so how will you escape then?" Edin looked at Garen calmly, regarding the Lord of the Black Fire Palace that he had worked together with during this period of time, he now had a brand new understanding of him.

His body felt as if it had the toughness of the Totem Light, but strangely enough, he did not have the protection of the Totem Light. Was it possible, that he had not released his Totem Light all this while, and was merely relying on his main body to fight me?

This assumption flashed across Edin's mind, but he pushed it away immediately.

Impossible! It was impossible for anyone lower than Form 5 to use their main bodies to fight Totem abilities!

"You've finally realised..." The corners of Garen's mouth upturned slightly into a smile. "Indeed, it is as you thought, I didn't use my Totem Light, and have been relying on my main body to fight you."

The expression on Edin's face grew more serious, and his gaze glared at Garen, while black gas began to escape from his opponent's body like a large amount of black smoke, and creatures began to appear in their surroundings, enveloping the empty spaces around them.

"Currently, I've become more interested in you..." Garen licked his lips and pushed Beckstone and the others to the back of his mind, as the combat style of Edin, who stood before his eyes, had impacted him strongly, while an inspired feeling began to float up in his mind like rain after springtime.

"If I could kill you, that would be such a wonderful thing..." Garen's surroundings were slowly illuminated with a layer of faint red light that was the Totem Light of the Nine-Headed Dragon.

He raised his hand slowly.

Cha cha cha!!

The red Totem Light on his arm and the shapeless blades clashed violently, emitting scattered fragments of red and white light.

He was sublimating!

Garen felt that his fighting skills were undergoing subtle changes.

The relationship between Totems and Secret Techniques in Edin's fighting techniques, used a terrifyingly rapid impact to integrate with one another.

The blood plasma-like aura dispersed silently like thick blood that submerged in the surrounding ground, and surged towards Edin.

Edin's gaze changed slightly, as he took a few steps back to avoid the spread of the plasma.

"What is this?!"

"If you survive, I'll tell... You!!"

Before he could finish speaking, Garen's entire body exploded into dots of light suddenly, as those were the countless fragments that were formed when the shapeless blades and Totem Light rubbed together violently.

The red and white dots rained down like fireworks.

A red afterimage appeared beside Edin instantly. Unlike its previous speed, its current speed seemed beyond his line of sight and beyond his nerves.

Before Edin could even open his blinking eyes, he felt a hot sensation collide against his chest violently.

He heard the sound of his own Totem Light tearing, as a terrifying surge of power rushed in through the crack, corroding his body.

When he opened his eyes, he could only see a burning red flame in front of him.

"The third sword... Fantasy Flower..." Edin could not move, and just voiced his command in a low mumble.

The flame disappeared instantly.

"Eh?" Garen said softly, he felt that he had suddenly been transported to an area a few meters away from Edin, as if his feet had made him run there, while the meter-long distance between them was something that he was unable to reduce.

The burning Red Jade Palm in his hands could never seem to get closer to Edin. It was merely a short meter-long distance, but it seemed so far away.

He kept rushing forward, but the ground beneath his feet seemed as if it had been stretched, and was constantly being pulled longer.

"Cough cough..." Edin began to cough violently, while he looked at the Totem Light in front of him that had almost been torn to shreds, flashing across his eyes suddenly. That speed that surpassed his nerves, senses, and even sound. If his Totem Light had held on for a slightly shorter amount of time, he would have been killed!!

Looking at Garen who had stopped not far away, he began to calm his emotions, before opening his mouth slowly.

"It's useless, the Fantasy Flowers are a sword technique that possess unlimited extension. No one has been able to touch me with this technique."

"Fantasy Flowers... What a mysterious sword technique," praised Garen while he stood on the spot and felt his surroundings twisting slightly, he did not know if the space around him was twisting, or if his thoughts themselves were merely twisting, but this strange sensation was the first time he truly felt the powers of ultimate Form 4, and even Form 5 levels.

"I've never met a Form 4 Totem User like you..." Edin shook his head slightly. "Your main body is so powerful that even I fear it. I initially thought that anyone below Form 5 in this world was not worthy of being feared by myself."

Garen's eyes narrowed slightly.

"Dislocation Sword, Imprisonment Sword, Fantasy Sword, I'm very curious as to what the last sword technique may be?"

"Hahaha..." A rare smile appeared on Edin's face. "You'll see it soon enough... The Fantasy Flowers can only bloom for ninety-nine heartbeats. And my last technique is preparing to end..."

He had just finished speaking when the surrounding areas that were twisted earlier now returned to their original calm states.

Without a moment of hesitation, Garen turned into a red shadow and dashed towards Edin.

"White New Moon Sword!!"

Edin growled softly as the two swords clashed, before the body of the sword melted instantly.

Whoosh!!

A terrifying, ten meter long white sword appeared in his hands, and the body of the sword had a large silver ring that turned circles like a clock.

The effect of the Fantasy Flowers finally disappeared completely, while at the same time, Edin raised the large sword, and waved it gently.

Chapter 429: Change 1

Boom!!

Inside the underground palace, four rays of multicolored light exploded suddenly and intertwined continuously. The black chains were suspended in midair by a force field and did not move at all.

Veska's entire body was enveloped by dark blue seawater whirlpool, and the dagger in his hand was soaking in seawater. His surroundings were filled with the echoes of crashing ocean wave noises. His eyes were like deep sea whirlpools that were almost bottomless.

"Choking Blade..." First Concubine, Her Excellency Delouse, or God Cloud, was currently smiling while looking at the dagger in Veska's hand. "Ocean Ultimate Technique Whirlpool Blade. Legend says that it is a terrifying weapon that can silently cause the death of others, and today is the first time I've seen it properly."

She looked at the light blue halos that circled her surroundings, as her eyes blinked in awe.

"You already know my strongest Ultimate Technique, but you're still brave enough to show off?" Veska spat coldly. "However, I'm not your most important opponent today."

Standing on the sidelines, the captain of the Silver Knights, Woods and the King of the Stars from the Geometry Service both smiled simultaneously and took a step forward together.

"With Lord Veska possession of the distortive power of the Original Heirlooms, the next step will depend on us."

Woods leaned on his wooden staff, as a cloud of black smoke circled the top of the staff and formed a whirlpool there, the center of the whirlpool seemed to have a terrifying gaze looking outwards.

He raised his wooden staff and pointed it towards God Cloud suddenly.

A hissing noise could be heard as a cloud of black smoke spurted out suddenly, and flew towards God Cloud. The black smoke was accompanied by an inexplicable heartbeat noise that pumped continuously, causing mysterious sound waves.

"Oh? Fragile Eye? An Ultimate Totem ability that allows one to mold their opponents?" God Cloud's hands were placed together and then separated, before a dark green ball floated at the center of his palms suddenly, emitting a strange green light.

The circle floated in the middle of God Cloud's chest, as thin transparent distortions began floating out of it, and landing on the empty spaces in the surroundings.

"Second activation, distortion!"

God Cloud said the Precious Heirloom's activation commands.

The empty spaces near him suddenly began shaking slowly.

Both Woods' black smoke and Veska's Choking Blade halos were suddenly shaken up by the strange distortive powers.

Bang!!

Both powers collided with one another directly, before extinguishing themselves in a clearing nearby.

The moment the powers collided, the distortive waves from the distortive beads quickly stopped suddenly as well.

King of the Stars held a paintbrush, and the dancing flame on the burning paintbrush began to burn brighter.

"Dimensions of drawn destruction!"

His shadow spread out in a flash suddenly, as the tip of the paintbrush began shooting out black flames.

Shh...!

The paintbrush that King of the Stars held began to etch black drawings in the air, enveloping God Cloud's surroundings. These drawings floated towards God Cloud like pieces of black ribbon, and also like countless black snakes.

Hiss!

The strands of black ribbon began weaving inside when the distortions stopped, and the place they flew towards was coincidentally the back of God Cloud's head.

\*\*\*\*\*

A few thousand kilometers away, at an important checkpoint at the West Farm defense line.

The night sky was filled with stars, and the dots of blue light were like diamond fragments that embellished a black curtain, and were densely packed, as they drifted off far away quietly.

Under the starlight, the guards at the bright, lamp-lit checkpoints yawned a few times and were about to drift off to sleep.

Woo~~!!

Suddenly, an ear-piercing warning siren suddenly rang out from one of the checkpoints that were further away.

Bang!!

A large cloud of yellow fireworks exploded in the sky, resembling a yellow flower.

The guards were almost frightened to the point where they fell on the floor, as they wiped the saliva on the corners of their mouths frantically, and carefully deciphered the faraway warning signals. Next, they rushed towards the fence frantically and peered downwards.



Vaguely, they could see that the black checkpoint wall had collapsed, and was also faintly dotted with countless green and red spots of light, which were actually the eyes of numerous monsters.

The guards began to shiver and did not hesitate any longer.

Woo!!!!

The checkpoint sounded its ear-piercing alarm immediately.

\*\*\*\*\*

The sound of frantic footsteps.

Inside the Kovitan defense line's main command room.

Throughout the corridor, a group of silhouettes in full-bodied black cloaks walked towards the main command room quickly.

The man at the front had a face that was ghostly pale, and his blinking eyelids were purple, while his lips were pitch-black. His collarbones on both sides were now connected to biochemical tube-like tracts, and the tracts were translucent and light yellow, while light yellow fluids flowed throughout them constantly, causing a large number of air bubbles to form occasionally. It gave off a strange quality.

The Totem Users and workers on the surrounding corridors would leave quickly with their heads downcast and bow the first moment they saw him. All of their eyes were filled with looks of horror and a touch of fear.

Bang!

The man pushed opened the metal door at the end of the corridor quickly and brought the others into the main command room.

Inside the command room, a middle-aged man in a white coat stood in front of a large map of the kingdom with his eyebrows knitted tightly. His surroundings were densely packed with office desks filled with over a hundred workers who were seated there and collected large amounts of information from the outside world.

When he saw that the main door had been pushed open, the middle-aged man furrowed his eyebrows and looked over.

"How's the situation?" The man in black had a feminine voice that resembled a woman's, but he did not have a woman's gentleness, as he gave off a fierce, demon-like air instead.

"The situation is terrible! There were a total of forty-two checkpoints in the defense line that released reports at the same time!" The middle-aged man shook his head. "I've already passed the message to the kingdom, but I'm afraid that they have yet to respond until now."

"Don't wait for them anymore, since the situation at the kingdom remains unchanged, I offer my services as the chief for life, and I will step forward to accept the guarding tasks of the entire defense line." The man in black's tone was unquestionable.

"Vice chief, this matter is the responsibility of the National Service."

"It is not your responsibility anymore." The man in black reached his hand out, exposing his five slender fingers that were painted in a layer of purple nail polish, while a black bracelet embedded with diamonds was worn on his wrist, causing bell-like jingle noises when he moved.

"This is what the chief of the Geometry Service intended, as he is busy getting rid of the nests of the newly aberrated monsters, and as the situation on the surface is still not optimistic, I have volunteered myself to come here for a visit."

The man in white narrowed his eyes and glared at the other man. He knew that although the situation was urgent, once he gave in, it would be troublesome for him if he wanted to regain total command from his opponent ever again.

"Idiot!! Why are you hesitating? What's the use if the defense line was defeated by a stronger power?!" The vice chief snorted coldly. "According to the Secret Service's reports, currently outside the defense line, the five highly dangerous nests that were initially noticed are now moving quickly towards our direction, and our time is running out!"

"Highly dangerous nests?!!" The middle-aged man's body shuddered. "Fine! I'll give you transfer the system control rights to you immediately!"

He turned around.

"Martha!"

"Captain Colossus, sir," said a gentle woman's voice within earshot of the men. "Martha number 2 at your service."

"Transfer my highest control rights to Lord Yesha, the vice chief of the Geometry Service!"

Bang!!!

Suddenly, a loud roar shook the ground. The quakes made it almost impossible for the command room to remain standing.

"The defense line... has been broken!!!"

The two highest commanders glanced at each other and saw a trace of fear in each other's eyes.

"How is this possible?! The final defense contains twelve Spiritualized Totem Users, and is guarded by two Form 4 generals!! How could they not have released even one message?!"

Some of the staff officers stood up suddenly.

A large and powerful reaction is coming closer to us quickly!!" yelled one of the staff officers frantically, while he stared at the arching, translucent screen floating in front of him, as a large cluster of red dots rushed towards a blue area rapidly. One of the red dots was abnormally huge and took up half of the screen.

Both of the commanders shivered and rushed towards the screen that the man was monitoring.

"This... This is...!!??"

"Giant Stone Sculpture...!!!" The Vice Chief of the Geometry Service's voice rang out bitterly. "Ender's Giant Stone Sculpture..."

\*\*\*\*\*

Plop...

A drop of fresh red blood dripped on the floor.

It dropped on the large pile of black ruins and rubble in between the palace.

The left side of Garen's body had been expanded by a meter, as the ten meters long, large white sword cut a deep gash there, while the blade had almost sliced off one-third of his body.

On the border of the red wound, pools of fresh thick blood circled around constantly, trying to flow back into the wound, as a layer of thin flesh began growing at the corners quickly, attempting to heal the wound once again.

"Hee... Hee hee..." Garen laughed quietly.

Plop!!

He held the large sword in one hand and took a heavy step forward.

Boom!

A tearing sound could be heard, as the blade tore his long wound open again. The immense pain pierced Garen's nerves constantly.

He ignored it and took a step forward again.

Bang!

The hand that Edin used to hold the hilt was sliced open suddenly, as fresh blood began to drip down the hilt slowly as before.

"It's over..." He looked at Garen who was inching closer, and said softly.

The ring on the large silver ring sword stopped turning suddenly.

Garen's footsteps halted suddenly as well, as the expression on his face began to froze.

Tch tch tch!

In that moment, endless amounts of blood began spraying out of Garen's body.

There was a 'bang' before his entire body immediately exploded into a cloud of dark red blood mist.

Within the blood mist, countless white rose petals sliced him like blades continuously, strangling him, as if the blood mist was being sliced into even smaller pieces.

But Edin remained motionless, as he clenched the hilt tightly, while his gaze glared at the blood mist nearby.

"Ready?"

"Of course." The shadow of a girl who wore a crown of white roses appeared behind him slowly, except that her image only included her upper body, while she was holding a long white sword in her hand as well. "Such strong vitality!"

A shocked look appeared in the girl's eyes as she looked at Garen's blood mist.

"My White New Moon sword causes every opponent that touches the sword itself to be strangled by unending flower petals, and regardless of the strength of their vitality, they all die eventually." Edin closed his eyes as he was somewhat mentally tired by now.

"Let's begin then." The girl nodded. "What a shame, another genius died at the mercy of your sword again."

"This is inevitable." Edin opened his eyes slowly with both hands still holding the hilt.

The girl stood behind him and held the hilt of his sword as well.

"End of the fantasy..."

"End of the fantasy!"

Their voices chorused with one another, as they raised their long swords at the same time.

"Silver Flowers!"

They placed their swords together suddenly, as the shadows of Edin and the girl became one as well, while four hands held the hilt of the sword tightly, and dashed towards the blood mist quickly.

Chapter 430: Change 2

Whoosh!!

Moon-white bands of light floated around Edin quickly, forming a large white ring.

The blood mist was covered by the ring. Inside, the sound of countless blades piercing and rubbing against each other could be heard.

It seemed as if countless blades were continuously piercing through the blood mist at every second inside the bands of light.

"Inside my halo of Silver Flowers, at every second, there are a thousand knives piercing through, equivalent to my maximum attack strength." Edin murmured, as he watched the blood mist become thinner the more it was sliced.

"Goodbye then... Nine-Headed Dragon Garen."

Tch!!

A bloody arm stabbed through his chest suddenly.

Edin's pupils widened instantly.

The air seemed to have stopped moving...

His surroundings stopped moving as well.

Startled, Edin bowed his head, and watched the arm poking out of his chest, and noticed that the blood on the arm was as warm as his body.

His hand loosened its grip on the large sword immediately.

Crash!

"Edin!!!" The shadow of the girl behind him screamed immediately, and outstretched her arms to catch his body, but disappeared quickly instead.

A bloodied figure stood behind Edin, with three bloody glowing birthmarks on his forehead, and an armor-clad body that was dripping with a thick layer of blood.

Garen's arm poked through Edin's chest slowly, causing a large pool of blood to form. The armor and flesh rubbed against each other, and let out a horrifying squeaking sound.

Silently, the two large swords and the white moon halo exploded completely on their own, and turned into countless white rose petals, before being blown by the wind, and dancing around Edin and Garen endlessly.

The ruins seemed to be immersed in a shower of flowers for a brief moment.

Edin's vision became blurry, but he could still see the hole in his own chest, and the color of the blood that flowed out.

It was a bright red color, tinged with glistening black accents. He could smell the weird scent that wafted from his blood, and although it was not a fishy smell, it was a strange stench that contained undertones of rotting.

"It seems that... I was poisoned from the beginning..." said Edin as a bittersweet smile appeared on his face.



"Five lives!" Garen's voice rang out behind him. "You destroyed five of my lives. During the battle at Snowy Peak in the beginning, even God Cloud hadn't killed me so many times..."

He paused, and continued speaking in a more solemn tone.

"Unfortunately, you only paid attention to my Nine Lives, and forgot that the Nine-Headed Dragon was actually a terrifying, toxic ancient creature."

"I never expected that... after serving Ivycius my whole life, that I would die in a place like this..." Edin raised his head painstakingly, and looked towards the moon in the sky, with a feeling of loss caused by his sudden epiphany.

"Dead?" A strange expression appeared on Garen's face. "For a strong individual like yourself, I wasted lots of time and energy to hurt you, not just so I could kill you so quickly."

Edin was slightly shocked, and was about to open his mouth.

Suddenly, he felt a sinister icy foreign matter pouring out of his chest.

When the watery foreign matter touched his flesh, it melted and seeped into his internal organs rapidly.

He felt as if his life force was being frantically sucked out by this foreign matter, as his reasoning became weaker, while his awareness become blurrier.

Pfoo.

Edin knelt on the floor immediately, as his whole body was completely out of energy.

Garen stood where he was, clad in his black armor, as he looked at the messy palace in his surroundings, and noticed that the initially magnificent palace had completely turned into a rubbish dump, filled with rubble and residue.

The night wind blew over, and the air was still filled with traces of flowery parfum.

"Ivycius... I should have known earlier, that this bastard was actually the White Rose Juggernaut Ivycius."

Actually, the last thing that he said to Ivycius, was not true.

The Nine-Headed Dragon's poison was not mainly used to kill one's opponent, as the main purpose, was actually related to Secret Techniques.

After witnessing the moment when Edin strengthened his sword techniques, Garen had finally understood the parts that he could not see clearly before.

Secret Techniques could aid the evolution of Totems and could unearth the body's inner blood flow, meanwhile for Totem evolution, it would form natural Secret Technique Roadmap exercises.

However, this was only one of the uses of Secret Techniques.

In this world, and the previous world, most of them were not blood flow Secret Techniques, but were rather life transforming, life evolving Secret Techniques!

Ivycius presented unprecedented sword techniques that seemed to be able to defeat Rose Totems, by integrating sword skills and Totem abilities, to achieve an incomparably powerful, yet new and different sword techniques.

"If it weren't for that sudden breakthrough, perhaps this fight would have become a prolonged battle." Garen exhaled. "Wouldn't you say so? Ivycius."

Ivycius' corpse blinked mysteriously. His skin and body had blackened slightly, and he had apparently stood up again.

"No matter the reason, a win is a win, and a loss is a loss." He smiled bitterly and shook his head. "I lost, thinking I would die by your hands, but I never expected to lose my freedom instead."

"It's always better to have hope."

"That's true." Ivycius nodded seriously.

Garen walked around Ivycius.

This was his sole Demon Dragon quota.

Because his evolved Nine-Headed Demon Dragon was incomplete, because his ancient Nine-Headed Dragon lacked blood, he was only able to forge one with Demon Dragon abilities.

The Demon Dragon was actually a parasitic life form, because after it killed its enemy, it would preserve a large part of its opponent's corpse, and within fifteen minutes, it would place its parasitic seeds into its opponents flesh to reanimate it, and turn it into the Nine-Headed Demon Dragon's war tool.

As for the Demon Dragon's self-beautifying exterior, that was merely an additional characteristic. Moreover, the beautifying aspect was something that was slowly perfected over time, and not something that could be achieved quickly.

Of course, Garen was not hoping that the beautifying would have any additional effects. He definitely did not harbor any longing for the ancient Nine-Headed Demon Dragon's aesthetics, and as long as it maintained its current state, he would already be very satisfied.

Looking at Ivycius in front of him, Garen felt that they had some blood relations, as if they were close brothers, and moreover, he could now control his opponent's body the same way he controlled Silver Totems.

"Do you feel anything?"

Ivycius shook his head.

"Looks like you're using this type of ability for the first time as well."

"Of course. The Nine-Headed Demon Dragon has possessed this ancient parasitic Demon Dragon ability since ancient times." Garen looked at his opponent with a pitiful gaze. "I have two kinds of news that I'm about to tell you, one is good, while the other is bad, so which one would you like to hear first?"

Instantly, Ivycius realized that something was not right.

"Tell me the good news first, being happy under a burdenless situation is not a bad feeling."

Garen shook his head.

"The good news is, the current state of your body is much stronger than before, especially your regenerative abilities, one of the special abilities that I possess as the Nine-Headed Demon Dragon, Swallowed Lives, is something that you can share as well."

"I understand, the strength that you gain from consuming flesh, can also be used to revive me?"

Garen nodded certainly.

"The bad news is that your body will be changed by the Demon Dragon parasites, and I've heard that it will make you more beautiful... Of course, this version of beauty is defined by the Nine-Headed Demon Dragon... Don't look at me, I don't know the aesthetic values of the Nine-Headed Dragon either."

Ivycius' face twitched, beauty in the eyes of the Nine-Headed Dragon...

During ancient eras, God knows what kind of beauty standards the Nine-Headed Dragon would hold. In the rare chance that it was a large backside or extra chest hair... What if he suddenly noticed an extra mouth growing below his penis, that would truly be bisexual reproduction.

Ivycius' strong associating abilities clicked suddenly, and chills spread through his entire body.

"If that day really comes... I will kill you, before killing myself!!" he said, grinding his teeth.

To him, who loved vanity more than he loved his life, it was definitely more agonizing than death.

Garen was speechless.

"Try being more honest with yourself." He lifted Ivycius in one go. "Still trying to resist even after being captured by me? Looks like you're not awake yet. Currently, your Totem is heavily damaged and your body is seriously injured, and you're not much stronger than a little chick."

"Release me!!"

"If you shut up I might help you think of a plan later, if you keep talking, I'm just going to ignore you!"

Ivycius became honest suddenly.

At this moment, the flower garden on the side became messy as well.

When Garen carried Ivycius and brought him over, the entire flower garden had turned into a pile of wreckage after being burned by the large fire.

The corpses of more than twenty Black Fire Guards lay on the ground, while the Beckstone trio was nowhere to be seen. There were only traces of pools of almost dried up blood on the floor.

"Here!!" Garen looked over at the desolate and quiet ruins of the flower garden and roared loudly.

After waiting for a few minutes, frantic footsteps could be heard vaguely from far away.

A group of Black Fire Guards ran over from the borders of the ruins and bowed respectfully before Garen.

There were almost two hundred guards at first, but all that was left were the forty guards that stood before him.

Garen suddenly understood the tragedy of the current war, which involved him and Edin as well.

All of these elite guards were ranked at peak Form 2, and their scariest ability was self-explosion, and this self-explosion could be overlaid, and under the command of the Form 3 guards, was apparently strong enough to take appropriate revenge on the Beckstone trio, and was truly amazing.

"You're probably very proud by now," Ivycius interjected suddenly. "Beckstone has two Form 4 professionals with him, and although you had to protect the Eleventh Royal Daughter, it must have been an amazing record to have been able to hurt them."

"Two Form 4? Does this mean that Beckstone has finally entered Form 4 already?" Garen asked quietly.

"Yes. Although I'm not familiar with them, as they were always lurking in the palace, I've heard that they were geniuses that have been cultivated from the society during these past years. However, I was always trying to break through to Form 5, and never had any intentions to return. But this time, someone came looking for me and wanted me to obstruct you for awhile, and since we were members of the same society, I grudgingly agreed."

"The person who came looking for you was a woman, right?" Garen interrupted.

Ivycius blushed, and stopped speaking.

"Breaking through Form 5? Well did you find any opportunities?"

"Before the battle with you, it would probably take at least a year or so. But after this fight, I have started to feel this threshold loosening?" Ivycius said proudly.

"Form 5... Perhaps, I've seen a sliver of hope..." Garen's gaze drifted towards his Attribute Pane unconsciously.

In the Attribute Pane at the bottom of his vision, there were now Earth-shattering changes.

A clear blood-red symbol appeared at a far back position in the Attribute Pane. The Colour Changing Butterfly Totem that he had almost forgotten about had now disappeared completely, while the Neon Butterfly that he had gotten from Teacher Emin, which he later evolved into a Totem, was now completely nowhere to be seen.

Meanwhile, strange changes had occurred in Garen's Attribute Pane.

'Strength 14. Agility 10. Vitality 10. Intelligence 10. Potential 22117%. Obtained Luminarist qualifications.'

Secret Technique --

Myriad Water Jasper Technique: Hallucination Toxins have been strengthened to the next level (Originates from the Color Changing Butterfly Totem)'

"Apparently... It's exactly as I guessed..." A bout of sudden realization flashed in Garen's eyes.