

Strongest Mage with the Lust system

Chapter 261: Aren't I fine now?

Even when Max was using his Mana to help digest the pill, it took a dozen minutes to start dissolving.

Right as the medicinal energy started to pour out of the pill and surge into every part of her body, starting from the heart, a golden glow suddenly enveloped her, which gradually became brighter and brighter.

Phew!

Max exhaled the breath he was holding onto until now and stepped back. Only now did he notice that his forehead was covered in sweat, and his leftover Mana had been exhausted. His legs slightly wobbled, but he held on.

Shua!

Belen appeared by his side and supported him before taking her handkerchief out and wiping the sweat off his face.

"Thank you!" Max glanced at her and lightly smiled.

Belen nodded and then hesitantly said, "Mm, Max, can I ask you something?"

"Ask away." Max nodded. He could guess what she was going to ask.

"What was that pill you fed her?"

"Grade four vitality pill." Max smiled.

"Huh? It was really that?" Belen looked at him in disbelief.

From their conversation earlier, she knew Max didn't have one because when she said that only a grade four vitality pill could save her, Max's first reaction was to take Rima and return to the academy, where they might find one. If he had it earlier, he wouldn't have reacted like that.

"Yeah!" Max nodded without looking at her, but his attention was on her. He wanted to see what her reaction would be. Would she try to pry into his secrets or not?

"Good. She will be alright now." Belen nodded and didn't ask any more questions, which surprised Max. After gazing at Max for a moment, she shook her head and sat down beside Rima.

Leticia, on the other hand, stood near them with a dumbstruck expression on her face. When she saw Max giving Rima the golden pill, she didn't think that it was actually a grade four pill.

However, seeing the golden light covering Rima's body and hearing Max and Belen's conversation, she knew that it was indeed a grade four golden pill.

"Hm? What is it, Leticia?" Max finally noticed Leticia standing there with a dazed expression.

Leticia came out of her daze after hearing his voice. She hesitated for a moment and then asked in a low voice, "Max, do you have another grade four vitality pill?"

Hearing his question, Belen also looked at him.

Max looked at her in confusion, and seeing her melancholic expression, he guessed something and shook his head, smiling bitterly, "There was only this one." He then asked, "Do you need one?"

"No. I-I was just asking." Leticia shook her head.

Max sighed inwardly. From her expression, it was clear that she needed one for some reason, but he couldn't give her one even if he were willing, as there was only one item of each type in the system shop.

'It seems I need to think of some way to earn more Mana stones.' He thought. He then shook his head and stopped thinking about everything else, and glanced at Rima.

The golden glow surrounding her body had become so bright that they couldn't see her current condition.

"Belen, how much time would it take for the pill to heal her completely?" Max asked.

"Since it was a grade four pill. I'm guessing that it should be able to stabilize her condition in one hour. As for how much time would take her to be fully healed, I don't know." Belen said after thinking for a while.

"Okay." Max nodded and squinted his eyes to take a closer look. Although his vision was also obstructed by the golden glow to some extent, he could still see that her dried skin had started to become healthier gradually.

"He... help!" Just then, they heard someone crying for help.

When Max looked back, he noticed that apart from four elves who were in slightly better condition, others seemed to be in even more miserable state than Rima and had already fainted.

It was the only human who was still conscious and looking toward them with a pleading gaze.

Max sighed in his heart and shook his head, "I'm sorry but we don't have anything that can heal you."

The corpse like human's eyes dimmed when it heard Max. But in the next instant, it looked at Max in anger and shouted in a hoarse voice, "You bastard... why did you have to give that cough! life-saving pill to that b-bitch. If you had given it to me... I would have given you all of my wealth cough!"

"Hm?" Hearing this, Max expression turned cold and he moved to walked toward him. However,

Thud!

He suddenly collapsed on the ground and blood started flowing out of his mouth, nose, and ears while his skin also split and blood started dying his clothes red.

Whoosh!

"What happened Max?" Leticia who was standing near him instantly reacted and squatted down beside him. When she turned him over and saw his condition, she panicked. Belen also came to him with a worried look.

"I'm alright. Kill... that bastard for me." Max raised his head to look at the human corpse in the distance. This bastard wasn't thankful that they had been saved from the dark mages and was instead cursing them. How can he not be enraged?

Sou~ Thud!

Just as Max said this, Leticia waved her hand, and a wind blade flew toward the human corpse and beheaded him.

Belen, on the hand, took out a bottle of life potion and fed it to Max.

Max smiled lightly and said, "I-I'm fine. Just exhaust..." While speaking, he fell unconscious.

After forcefully casting [Calidus Brachium], he had exhausted all of his three-star Mana as well as most of his stamina. Moreover, his vitality was also hurt because of this.

He should have collapsed right then, but because he was in a state of tension, he didn't feel anything. Then, he killed the middle-aged dark mage, exhausting a large portion of his leftover Mana and stamina.

After giving Belen the vitality pill, his nerves relaxed, and the side effects of forcing his limits took effect, and as a result, he fainted.

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When he opened his eyes, he was in a small room, lying on a comfortable bed.

"You are awake?" A familiar and excited voice sounded in his ears.

Whoosh!

Leticia appeared beside him and helped him sit up. She then asked, "How are you feeling? Are you hungry? Should I bring some food? Are you-"

Seeing the worry in her eyes, Max felt warmth in his heart. He extended his hand and placed his finger on her lips, and stopped her from asking any more questions.

"I'm fine. Don't worry." He smiled lightly and then asked, "How long was I unconscious, and how is Rima?"

"It's been two days since you passed out. We are in an inn in a nearby town. As for Rima, she is in another room. Belen is with her. Although her condition is a lot better thanks to the pill you gave her, she hasn't woken up yet." Leticia replied.

"Let's go. I want to see her. Argh!" Max said and tried to stand up, only to fall back on the bed while crying in pain.

"Don't try to exert yourself. Your injuries haven't completely healed yet." Leticia said worriedly and took out a bottle of life potion, "Here, drink this." She then opened the bottle and put it on his lips while supporting his head with her other hand.

Max smiled and wanted to say, 'I can drink it by myself.' But didn't and let her feed him.

After drinking it, he wondered, "How come I'm not healed yet?"

"How would you heal when you had so many inner injuries? Almost all of your veins and internal organs were damaged." Suddenly the door opened, and Belen walked inside.

"Oh, how did you know I had woken up?" Max smiled and tried to change the topic when he noticed that her face was filled with anger and knew that she would lecture him now.

"Because I heard the noise coming from this room." Belen looked at him fiercely and rebuked, "Why did you have to force yourself like that? You could have killed him even if you fought normally." As she said this, her eyes became misty.

Although it had been only a few months since she became his woman, and she didn't love him initially, after spending so much time with him, she had started to love him just like Rima and Leticia. So, when she saw his condition when treating him, her heart couldn't help but clench.

Seeing her reacting like this, Max didn't know what to say.

He slowly stood up and embraced her, "It's okay. Aren't I fine now?"

Chapter 262: Are you willing?

"Hm. But you should be careful from now on, okay." Belen, who was angry until now, suddenly calmed down and nodded. At the same time, her heart rate quickened, and her cheeks turned rosy.

She was feeling ecstatic being embraced by him as apart from the moment having sex with her, Max had never shown this type of affection and tenderness toward her.

Out of reflex, she extended her hands around his waist and was about to hug him. However, the next moment, she hesitated and eventually put her hands down. Although he treated her like his woman, she was aware of her status, which was only an enslaved person.

Max noticed this and quickly realized that she had misgivings about her status. He then grabbed her hands, put them around him, and hugged her soft body even more tightly.

He could see that she had started to love him just like Rima and Leticia. So, how could he let her feel this way? He even thought of dissolving her vow of slavery, but on second thought, he didn't.

Belen's body trembled lightly, and her eyes flickered with a happy expression.

"I'm also here." Leticia also joined them and hugged him. Embracing beauties with each hand, Max's vanity was satisfied. As he smelt the fragrance of their hair and felt their bodies' warmth, his lower regions became hot.

"Cough! Let's go. I want to see Rima." Max coughed and moved away from the two ladies. He knew if he continued hugging them for a few more seconds, he wouldn't be able to control himself. However, his body was riddled with injuries, and he was in no condition to do the 'hard exercises' in bed.

The two ladies reluctantly nodded and supported him to walk Rima's room.

Rima was lying on the bed with a peaceful expression on her face. The state of her body had returned to normal and was no longer corpse-like.

Seeing her sleeping soundly, Max was relieved and then asked, "Do you know how much time she needs before waking up?"

"The vitality pill's effects had subsided yesterday night. She should be waking up within two or three days at most, although I'm not sure." Belen answered uncertainly.

"Okay." Max nodded and then said, "I'm going back to my room to heal and meditate. You guys also rest. Once she wakes up, we will depart." By the dark circles under their eyes, Max understood that both of them hadn't gotten a good sleep because they had to look after him and Rima.

"Mm!" Both ladies nodded. After that, Max returned to his room and checked his body. All of his external injuries had healed completely. As for the injuries to his organs and veins, they had healed around 70%.

'Hm? There's still some medicinal energy left undigested.' He noticed he hadn't digested all the energy of the medicine Belen and Leticia fed him when he was unconscious.

'This should be enough to heal the leftover injuries.' He thought and started to actively digest the remnant medicinal power inside him and heal his injuries using his Mana.

"Argh...!" Suddenly he let out a low grunt because the moment he tried to use his Mana, he felt as if his Mana core was about to collapse.

"This? Why is it like this?" His expression turned grim when he noticed the current state of his Mana core. It was devoid of Mana and had some faint cracks all over it.

Just as he tried to remember what could be the cause of this situation, the system's disappointed voice sounded.

[This is the result of the host's recklessness. Just as that Belen girl said, the host could have dealt with the situation more easily and avoided the Mana core from injury if the host hadn't lost control over his emotions.]

Hearing this, Max felt that he was indeed a bit too emotional back then. However, he didn't regret it and was sure that if he could go back in time, he would've reacted the same way as before. After all, how was he supposed to keep calm when his woman was being tortured in front of his eyes and was on the verge of dying?

"I understand your point." Max nodded as he wasn't in the mood to explain himself and asked, "Tell me, why isn't there even a shred of Mana in my core? Although I was unconscious and the Mana recovery speed must have been very low, and these cracks must have leaked some of it too, even then, there should be some left in the core, right?"

[Host is right. There should have been. However, because the host was unconscious and incapable of making any decision, the system had to stop the Mana from entering the core to ensure that the damage to the host's core didn't proliferate and the host's body didn't explode because of the leakage of Mana from the damaged core.] The system explained why his Mana core was devoid of Mana.

After he heard what the system said, Max couldn't help but feel chills running down his spine. He didn't doubt the system's words as he knew that if Mana entered his core, his damaged and weakened core wouldn't have been able to endure its pressure, especially the pressure from three-star level Mana.

"Thank you for that." Max thanked the system and then asked, "How should I proceed now? Should I recover my Mana and use it to repair and heal the damage to the core like I did when strengthening it, or do I need to do something else?"

Given the current state of his core, he didn't want to do something which might worsen the injuries of his Mana core since they were many times more difficult to heal than other kinds of injuries.

After a moment of silence, the system replied, [Host is advised to buy the foundation healing pill from the system's shop. It can heal the Mana core without any complications, and it would be many times faster and safer.]

"Buy again? You know I'm broke right now and already have a huge debt because of that grade four vitality pill." Max had a bitter smile on the corner of his lips.

The system went silent for a moment once again and then said, [There is a way that host can repay that debt and earn many times more to unlock the stuff from the system shop. I wonder if the host is willing?]

Chapter 263: The most feared race

'Hm? Is there any other way to earn LPs?' Max was surprised by the system's words. He then hurriedly asked, "Of course I am. Tell me, how can I?"

[System can teleport the host to a place far away. After going there, the host needs to kill its netizens and gather their 'cores.' According to the grade and quality of the core,

the system can give the host the 'shop points,' which the host can use to buy the stuff in the system's shop.]

"What place?" Max asked, curious.

[Before that, the host should know about some things.] The system spoke in a deep voice. [If I'm not wrong, what I'm going to tell you now is something the host should have found out about after becoming a three-star mage.] The system paused for a moment once more.

"Oh? What's that?" Max frowned and recalled when Elder Jack wanted to say something but eventually didn't. 'Could it be?' Max became even more curious.

[Our world is very vast. So vast that the current you can't imagine it and is home to several races such as humans, beasts, Elves, etc. One of the strongest and most feared races is the demon race.]

[Although the newborns of the demon race aren't much different compared to humans or some other weak races, they are feared because they possess the ability to become stronger by killing and absorbing the powers of other races...] The system hadn't finished speaking when Max suddenly exclaimed,

"Demons are real?" He was stunned. Although he had encountered elves, one of the mythical races on earth, he had never thought that demons, the incarnate of all evils, were also real in this world.

[Yes, they are.] The system replied in an amused tone.

"Then doesn't it mean that we... are in constant danger..." Max gulped, and an expression of fear appeared on his face. If the dark mages were already so cruel, it could be imagined how vicious the demons, whose methods the dark mages were imitating to become strong, would be.

[Let me finish, host.] The system rebuked before Max could indulge in his fantasies.

[A long time ago, when there was only one enormous continent, and all the races were living together, the demons became too strong after killing countless creatures of other races, and some races like the elves and humans were on the verge of vanishing from the face of this world.

Under the threat of annihilation, the 'supreme existences' of various races joined forces to annihilate the demons. Subsequently, a war broke out and caused much destruction. After many years of fighting, the demons were defeated under several races' joint forces, and peace finally returned to the world.

However, who knew that it wasn't going to last? After a few ten thousand years of recuperating, the demons emerged again; this time, they were even more ferocious and stronger.

The 'supreme existences' of various races had to join forces once again, and this time, they vowed to eradicate the demons, not letting even one survive. However, the reality proved otherwise. The supreme leaders of demons were not inferior to them in strength, and their numbers were more significant than theirs.

In that second war, many supreme existences of the various races fell one after another. When they realized the situation was becoming hopeless, the surviving supreme existences used a heaven-defying spell formation, knowing they would die as a side effect of using it.

Thanks to the might of that spell, most of the demonic supreme existences were annihilated. However, the experts of other races knew that the same situation would repeat a third time or even fourth as long as even a few demons survived.

Therefore, before they died, they used that heaven-defying spell formation again and divided the continent into two parts. The part that was the habitat of demons drifted into the boundless ocean under their might.

The reason they did this was to ensure that even if demons regained their former strength, it would be difficult for them to start another war with various races because of the distance between the two 'continents.'] After speaking till here in one breath, the system stopped speaking, letting all the information sink in properly.

Max was stunned after hearing this, and only one thought kept repeating itself in his mind, 'How powerful the people capable of dividing an enormous continent in two would be?'

However, he realized that the system didn't address them as supreme mages but as supreme existences. Was there a difference between the two?

"System. What do you mean by supreme existences? Were they supreme mages?" He asked as his eyes flashed with bright lights.

[...Most probably.] The system replied. However, Max could sense that it wasn't sure about this.

'How amazing it would be if I became that strong? Almost no one would be able to threaten the people around me or me.' Max took a deep breath to calm his surging emotions and asked,

"C-could it be that the place you'll send me is that second continent?"

[Yes.] The system replied in an emotionless voice.

Hearing this, Max's expression froze, and he had an urge to curse the system out loud, but since this didn't have soundproofing formations, Rima and Leticia would be alerted, so he heaved a few deep breaths and replied coldly,

"No thanks. I'll earn LPs, although it would take some time." After hearing how dangerous those demons were, he would be a fool to agree to the system's suggestion.

The system didn't reply instantly and then asked, [What if I send you to a comparatively rural place? You won't encounter many three-star demons there. As for those who you would encounter there, their strengths would be more or less equivalent to that dark mage from before.]

"Hm?" Max's eyes flickered as he heard the system's words. If that was the case, he could go there and as long as he was a bit careful, the danger would lessen considerably.

Chapter 264: Rima's choice[1]

Max thought for a while and then nodded, "Okay. I'll go." Before the system could react, he added, "However, it will after I return to the academy." He didn't want to leave his women alone lest they encounter some other problem.

[Alright, host.] The system replied indifferently.

"So, you can give me that foundation healing pill now, right?" Max asked.

[It has already been stored in your inventory, host.] The system replied before going silent.

Hearing this, Max hurriedly opened his inventory and found a translucent pill.

Without delay, he took it out, threw it into his mouth, and gulped it down.

Boom!

The moment he did so, the medicinal energy blasted out of the pill and started to spread throughout his body before slowly converging around his Mana core.

At the start, when the soothing medicinal energy spread in his body, he felt very comfortable. However, when it reached his Mana core, he started to feel a little bit of pain.

Initially, he could endure it without any problem as he was used to it after enhancing his Mana a few times, but after a few seconds, the pain magnified several folds and forced him to clench his teeth so hard that his gums started to bleed, but he still endured it as he didn't want his pained cries to startle the girls.

"Argh!" However, despite his great efforts, a pained groan still escaped his mouth, and his vision started to blur as if he was going to pass out at any moment.

Just when he was trying his best to remain clear-headed, the system's voice sounded in his ears, [It's okay if host falls unconscious. It won't affect the healing process in the least.]

After hearing this, Max stopped resisting, and due to overwhelming pain, it didn't take him even an instant before he fell unconscious.

Bang!

Right after, the door to his room was blasted open, and two beautiful figures with concerned looks charged in. They were obviously Belen and Leticia, who had heard his cry.

Whoosh!

Leticia appeared beside his bed and wanted to feed him a healing pill when she saw how his body was still quivering in pain. However, Belen stopped her and put her hand on his chest before sending out his Mana in waves to check his condition. Immediately after she did so, her eyes widened in shock.

"H-How can this be happening?" She muttered in disbelief.

"Belen, W-what's happening to him?" Leticia worriedly asked after seeing Belen's expression.

Belen took a deep breath to calm her emotions and smiled, "It's nothing to worry about. As you know that his injuries hadn't healed completely before, he must have taken some healing elixir. Now that his injuries are being healed very quickly, it is normal that he is feeling some pain."

"Oh!" Leticia nodded and asked, "Is there anything we can do to alleviate his pain?"

"I'm afraid we can't." Belen shook her head and patted her shoulder, "It's okay. He'll be fine after a few minutes."

"Hmm!" Leticia nodded helplessly and sat on the bed beside him as she held his hand.

Belen also sat down. However, she was trying to suppress the shock in her heart, the change in her expression and glints in her betrayed her. 'H-he has medicine capable of healing the injuries of Mana core?' She recalled what she saw in shock.

Previously, when she was treating him, she had seen that apart from the injuries to his organs and veins, his Mana core was injured quite a bit and, for some reason, was deprived of Mana.

This gave her a huge scare. She even thought he would be crippled for the rest of his life. She thought like this because, to her knowledge, there wasn't any medicine capable of healing injuries to Mana's core in the Green leaf kingdom or even in the whole western part of the continent.

After realizing this, the thought of leaving his side sprouted in her mind for a fleeting moment before it was suppressed by her. She even blamed herself for having such thoughts.

After all, he never treated her unjustly and treated the same as Leticia and Rima, and coupled with the fact that she was happy being with him, she decided that no matter what, she wouldn't leave him.

However, now she witnessed that his core injuries were being healed and noticed the medicinal energy around his core, it was expected that she would be stunned like she was. If it were someone else in her place, they would've reacted even more strongly. However, she didn't as she had seen that until now, Max had shown some things which shouldn't be possible according to her.

'He is a mysterious man indeed.' She thought as a relieved smile appeared on her lips. At the same time, she was relieved that she didn't make the choice that any sane person who wanted to become strong would've made.

Knock! Knock!

Just then, someone knocked on the door, and a gentle and aged voice sounded.

"Hello, miss Belen. Is everything alright?"

Belen stood up and went to open the door. An old man and a woman were standing with slightly concerned expressions. Both of them looked somewhat sickly.

They both were humble looking and wore simple clothes. Moreover, both seemed feeble, as if they had been sick for a long time. However, despite everything, anyone who saw them would be attracted because there was something peculiar about them: their pointy ears.

"Hello, elders." Belen smiled lightly. This duo was the elf couple they saved from the dark mages. Because they felt indebted to them, they followed them here to wait for Max to wake up and express their gratitude for saving their lives.

"Hello, miss. We heard some cries from your room. Is everything alright?" The female elf asked.

"No. Everything is fine." Belen shook her head without explaining anything. She then scanned them up and down and smilingly said, "It seems elders have recovered quite a lot in these few days."

The elf couple smiled and nodded, "Yes, a little. Unfortunately, we can no longer recover to our previous peaks."

Belen's eyes flashed with sympathy for a moment after hearing this. She then asked, "How's that little guy? Has he recovered?"

- Chapter 265: Rima's choice[2] |

Chapter 265: Rima's choice[2]

Hearing Belen's question, the old elf couple's expression became sad. The male elf sighed, "He is better than before. We appreciate your concern, young miss."

He was grateful to these saviors of theirs. Not only did they save them, they even showed concern for them. He couldn't help but think, 'Maybe not all humans are villains.'

"Don't worry. He'll recover soon." Belen said reassuringly.

"Thank you, young miss." The elf couple bowed slightly and said, "Please inform us when that young hero has awoken."

"Okay. I will do that." Belen nodded. The elf couple returned to their room on the first floor while Belen went to Rima's room after notifying Leticia about it. By now, Max wasn't quivering as much as before.

Just like this, four days passed in the blink of an eye.

Belen and Leticia were having lunch in Rima's room. There was another person apart from them here. It was the little elf who had informed them about the dark mages' whereabouts.

"Big sisters, how long would big sister Rima and that big brother take to wake up?" She asked, looking at the unconscious Rima. Unlike before, she wasn't stuttering and was more cheerful.

Belen and Leticia were surprised by her talent. In just a few days after interacting with them, this little elf was speaking like a native.

Most surprising of all, she could use healing magic. But because she was too young and weak, her healing magic wasn't potent enough, but still, it was able to heal small scars from a person's body. She had healed all of Rima's scars that weren't deeper than one inch.

Hearing her question, Leticia also looked at Belen. She was also getting anxious after seeing that neither Max nor Rima showed any signs of waking up, even after so many days had passed.

Belen frowned slightly and said, "Rima should wake up anytime now as almost all the medicinal energy has been used up, and her vitality has recovered to almost 90%. As for Max... I don't know what's going on." As Belen mentioned Max, her frown deepened, and she finished her statement with a wry smile.

Although she wasn't a doctor, her master back in her hometown was one who was not only a powerful mage in her prime but also a well-known doctor. From her, she had learned quite a few things about medicine.

However, because the things that can heal a damaged Mana core were very rare, her teacher had never touched upon that topic, but even then, Belen knew that once the medicinal power was used up inside a person's body, they would wake up within at most a day.

The doctors here were almost the same as the doctors back on his home planet and knew how to cure various kinds of illnesses that even a powerful mage would be helpless against.

It should be known that after a person become a mage, even if it were a novice mage, they would rarely fall ill like ordinary human beings. However, there were still some illnesses that would be deadly to them, and only doctors knew how to treat them.

However, unlike on earth, doctors were very rare in this world, and therefore, they were respected by the masses, no matter whether they were strong or not. However, most of the doctors were proficient in wood magic or light magic, and as a result, they were quite strong.

"Oh!" The little elf nodded, and seeing that the atmosphere had become slightly gloomy, she cheerfully said, "I'm sure they would wake up very soon. Cheer up, big sisters."

Belen and Leticia could see that this little girl was trying to cheer her up, so it wasn't possible for them to continue being so glum about it. Therefore, they smiled at the little girl and nodded, "Yeah, they will."

...

While the ladies were having lunch in Rima's room, Max finally opened his eyes.

Hu!

The moment he opened his eyes, he desperately gasped for air as if his life depended on it.

After a while, his breathing rate became normal, and he mumbled, "Why do I feel that there wasn't even an ounce of oxygen in my body?"

"Argh!" When he tried to move his body, he let out a low grunt. His body was too stiff to move.

In the next moment, Max felt that his lips, mouth, and throat were completely dry. Moreover, his skin was also dry. It seemed that his body was also lacking water.

"Fuck, what has actually happened to my body?" Max cursed in a low voice.

[This is a side effect of using a high-grade healing pill when the host isn't strong enough to endure its tyrannical medicinal energy.] The system's replied in a slightly gloating tone.

Hearing this, Max asked in anger, "Why didn't you remind me before?"

[Tch, so what if I had reminded you about it? Wouldn't you have eaten it all the same?] The system scoffed.

Max was stunned after hearing it and thought that what the system said was indeed true. He would've eaten it even after knowing about the side effects. After all, healing his core was the most important thing right then.

As he thought of this, his expression suddenly changed as he asked, "Hey, is there only one foundation healing pill in the system shop like other items?"

[Yes, host.]

"Damn it!" Max couldn't help but curse after hearing this. When the shop appeared in the system, he had decided that he would save enough LPs and buy the medicine capable of healing an injured Mana core for his father. However, now it was gone.

He then forced himself to calm down and asked, "Is... cough! Is there some other medicine that can heal an injured Mana core?"

[No, host. There isn't.] System replied.

Max's expression became dejected. The system took the initiative and asked, [Why does the host need it?]

Max was speechless at this question. Why would he ask for such medicine? Wouldn't that be to heal a Mana core?

However, he understood why the system asked this and said, "I need it to heal my father's Mana core."

The system went silent for a moment before saying [If that's the case, it isn't impossible to find such medicine in the outside world.]

Chapter 266: Rima's choice[3]

"Really? Tell me, how can I obtain that?" Max was paying full attention to the system after telling it his reason. Therefore, just when the system spoke, he immediately asked.

[You should find that in the trading company established by a supreme mage as only they would have treasures or medicine at that level.] The system replied.

"A trading company of a supreme mage?" Max was stunned for a moment. He hadn't heard of such things until now. Where would he find it?

However, his eyes flashed when he remembered that Lilly, his sweetheart, had gone to Ice Sovereign Mountain, which was led by a supreme mage. Maybe he would find it there.

His expression became gentle when he remembered Lilly. It had been almost half a year since Lilly had gone away with the silver-haired woman to the Ice Sovereign Mountain. Although he had been with Belen and others after joining the Cloud academy, he still missed Lilly very much.

That's why when he joined the academy, he tried to gather information about the Ice Sovereign Mountain, but to no avail. Even Jasmine or the sun feather city's Elder hadn't heard about it, causing him to become disappointed.

However, he didn't know that the 'ordinary' people from the small kingdom, which included three or even four-star mages, didn't know about the organizations established by the supreme mages.

As for why his stepmother, Esther, knew about the existence of Ice sovereign mountain because of an encounter she had when she was young.

"System, do you know where I can find such an organization?" Asked Max. In his opinion, since a supreme mage created the system, it should have such knowledge.

Although what he thought was right, he seemed to have forgotten that it had been several thousands of years since that supreme mage created the system. From that time until now, the system had been in a state where it didn't have any knowledge of the current era.

[Host should know that the system doesn't have any information on the current structure of the powers across the continent.] The system patiently replied.

Then it continued, [However, all the supreme forces should be in the central part of the continent just like were before.]

After hearing the first half, Max was disappointed; however, after hearing the second half, his eyes flashed, and he became a little excited. Finally, he had a hint of where the Ice sovereign mountain could be. All he needed to do was go there and confirm it.

However, the system's following words shattered his fantasy.

[But it isn't easy if the host wants to go to the central area of the continent.] Before Max could even ask, the system continued, [One needs to be at least a five-star mage if they want to travel to the central area; if not, they would just die.]

"Die? Why?" Max was puzzled. At the same time, he hurriedly opened his inventory and took out some water to drink.

After he was done drinking, the system explained, [As far as I can see, the place host is currently living in is at the far west corner of the continent, and it should be near the vast ocean. The places near the vast ocean have a low density of Mana; therefore, there aren't many strong people or magical beasts.

However, as we go toward the center, the Mana density would increase, and so would the average power of the living being residing there. Let alone the central area, even in its vicinity, the three-star and four-star beings are as common as one-star beasts here. This makes it very dangerous for people who aren't five-star mages or above to reach the central area safely.]

"I understand!" Max nodded after hearing the system's explanation.

'It seems I need to raise my strength quickly.' He took a deep breath as his eyes flashed with determination. No matter what he wanted to do, be it avenging his mother, meeting

Lilly, or finding the medicine to heal his father's Mana core, first, he needed to become strong enough.

After that, he slowly got up and sat down cross-legged. He then started to look inside his body to check the condition of his Mana core.

Phew!

After a moment, he breathed out in relief and muttered with a smile on his face, "Fortunately, my core has recovered to the peak level, and it seems that it is sturdier than before."

Immediately after that, he took out some Mana stones and started to cultivate to recover his Mana.

Creak~

After half an hour, Max entered the state of meditation, the door slowly opened, and a slender figure walked inside. She was Leticia.

"H-he has awoken," After she saw him cultivating, her eyes turned misty, and a pleasantly surprised expression appeared on her face.

Out of instinct, she wanted to run to him and throw herself in his embrace, but eventually, she suppressed the excitement in her heart. Without making any sound, she slowly retreated and went to Rima's room, where Belen and the little Elf were.

...

"Belen!" Leticia called out Belen after barging into the room; her face was flushed with excitement.

"Hm?" Belen and the little elf looked at her in puzzlement before their eyes lit up.

"Max has awoken, right?" Belen asked.

"Un." Leticia nodded.

Seeing this, Belen sighed in relief while the little elf stood and said excitedly, "Big sisters, let's go and meet that big brother."

Belen nodded and stood up to go. However, Leticia stopped them, "He is in meditation right now. He must be recovering his Mana. Let's wait until he is done."

"Okay. We'll do that." Belen nodded. The little elf's excitement also died down after hearing this.

"Big sisters, I'll go and inform my grandparents about this news, or they will be angry."
After saying this, she ran out of the room.

Hu!

After a few hours, Max stopped cultivating and opened his eyes. After he recovered his Mana, his parched skin had also recovered to its former state, and he was full of energy.

"Ha! How refreshing!" He exclaimed. After the torture he felt in the last few days, this feeling was almost heavenly to him.

Creak~

Just when he wanted to stand up and stretch his body out, the door to his room opened, and two ladies entered.

Max smiled at them and opened his mouth to greet them. However,

Whoosh!

Before he could open his mouth, Leticia threw herself into his embrace and sobbed like a little girl. Although Belen didn't react like Leticia, Max could see that her emotions were also slightly unstable.

Max's heart felt warm seeing their concern, and he gently caressed Leticia's back, "It's okay. I'm completely fine now. Don't cry." At the same time, he pulled Belen into his embrace too.

After a while, Leticia calmed down and looked at him with her teary eyes, "Are you really okay?"

"Why would I lie to you?" Max smiled and wiped her tears away.

"Um." Leticia nodded and smiled a little after hearing this. Belen, on the other hand, was surprised. When he hugged her, she couldn't suppress her curiosity and checked his Mana core, and just as he said, it was healed completely.

After a while, the old elf couple, along with two little elves, arrived.

"They..." Max was surprised to see them. He didn't expect that they were still here.

Before he could react, all four of the elves bowed toward him, "Thank you for saving our lives, young sir."

Belen smiled lightly and explained after seeing his surprised expression, "They didn't leave because they wanted to thank you in person. However, since you were unconscious, they chose to come with us."

Max nodded and helped them up, "It's okay. You don't have to be so serious."

"Big brother, you are very strong. I heard from my grandfather that you killed that bad guy in a single punch." The little elf girl, whose name was Arya, said while excitedly waving her small fists around.

Everyone laughed at her cute antics. After that, they talked for a while. Max found out that this little elf family was from a forest near this area. Because Arya and her brother wanted to see the outside world, the old elf couple, who were their grandparents, took them out to journey around. However, they hadn't expected to be kidnapped when passing from that deserted area.

After a while, the old woman asked, "Has that young lady not awoken yet?"

Chapter 267: Rima's choice[4]

When the elder elf woman asked this question, Max instantly remembered Rima, who was still unconscious, when he went to check up on her and turned to look toward Belen and Leticia.

Belen sighed lightly and shook her head, "No, she hasn't yet. However, I'm sure she should be waking up anytime soon."

"Oh! If that's the case, we'll wait until she wakes up." The elder elf woman nodded.

"Okay!" Belen nodded. After that, the elf family returned to their rooms.

After talking for a while and reassuring the ladies that he was perfectly fine, he went to check up on Rima.

...

Rima was lying in bed with a peaceful expression on her face. Her face was brimming with vitality, indicating that she had completely recovered.

Suddenly, her slender fingers trembled slightly. After a while, her long eyelashes started twitching, and gradually, her eyes opened.

"I-I'm still a-alive..." This was the first thought that came to mind when she regained consciousness.

After looking around the room and checking her body which was now without any injury, she muttered in confusion. 'Hm? Wasn't I tortured in that cave? How come I don't have any sign of injury?'

'Wait...!' Suddenly, a blurry scene appeared in her mind. "I think someone saved me? Hm, right. I was saved by someone right before I passed out, and it seemed they also helped help me.' She guessed.

After guessing this, she felt heartfelt gratitude toward that 'savior' of hers. She then got up from the bed and slowly staggered toward the door to go out to see if she could find her 'savior.' However, she hadn't even reached the door when it opened on its own.

"Huh? Who-" Rima frowned and opened her delicate mouth to ask who it was when she suddenly stopped.

"You woke up?" The young man who opened the door was equally surprised to see her. He then smiled and asked in a gentle tone.

"M-Max..." Seeing the man she loved, her eyes became misty, and she hurriedly staggered toward him and hugged him tightly as if she were afraid of him leaving her. At the same time, her seductive body was trembling due to the surge in her emotions.

"M-Max... sniff... I missed you. I was afraid, afraid that I won't be able to see you again." She cried in an incoherent voice as her tears drenched his clothes.

Max's heart clenched when he heard her words. He lovingly caressed her back to help her calm down, "It's alright. It's alright. You are fine now."

Standing behind Max, Belen and Leticia's eyes were also moist. They could sympathize with her as they had witnessed what condition she was in when they arrived at that underground cave. It was clear that she had lost all hope of survival. If Max were even a second late in saving her, she would have died right there like others.

After half an hour of continuous crying, Rima finally calmed down. Noticing Belen and Leticia looking at her with faint smiles, her face flushed a bit in embarrassment. They then greeted each other.

Following this, she asked, "Who saved me from those people? Are they still here?"

Hearing her ask this, Max wasn't surprised that she didn't know that it was they who saved her since she was barely conscious when they arrived.

He gently wiped her tears and smiled, "Yes. They are here. You can thank them later. First, sit down and recover. Your body must be having difficulty moving after lying in bed for many days."

"Umm." Rima nodded and returned to the bed.

After sitting on the bed, she asked in confusion, "We aren't in the academy, right? How did you guys find me? Did the people who saved me inform you?"

"Let me tell you," Leticia spoke and then explained everything that happened after they didn't find her at the pre-decided place when they returned after completing their mission.

After a few minutes, Leticia finished her explanation. After hearing how they had searched for her for many days and fought the group of dark mages to save her, Rima was overcome with emotions, and her eyes became teary again.

"...T-Thank you." She thanked them, her voice full of gratitude. Although she had become good friends with Belen and Leticia since they shared the same man, she hadn't thought their relationship was so good that they would be willing to risk their lives for her.

As for Max, although she knew that he was very protective of them, she still hadn't thought that on the slightest possibility of her being in danger, he would directly come looking for her. This deeply touched her, and her feelings for him became even more profound.

"You don't have to thank us. You are our... precious friend after all, and I'm sure you would have done the same if it was one of us instead of you." Belen shook her head.

"Yeah, Rima. There isn't any need to say thank you between us. After all, we can be considered family already." Leticia excitedly chimed in.

However, as she finished her statement, her face flushed, and she unconsciously sneaked a peek at Max. Belen also glanced at Max to see his reaction. She also wanted to say something similar, but unlike Leticia, she hesitated and ended up calling her 'precious friend.'

Noticing that everyone was looking at him, Max smiled and winked at them, "She is right. We can be considered a family already."

Be it Leticia, Rima, or Belen, they all had bashful expressions while their eyes revealed the joy they felt after hearing this.

...

When it was evening, Arya, the little elf, visited them again. She instantly became happy when she saw that Rima had woken up.

"Wah! Big sister, you are awake." She hugged Rima and started crying.

"This..." Max was stunned at her intense reaction. A while ago, when she saw him, although she was excited, she didn't react like this.

Leticia noticed his confusion and said, "Previously, when all of them were held captives by those dark mages, she and Arya became friends, and it was Rima who had helped her escape from the cave when that three-star mage wasn't present. So, this little girl is very close to her."

After Leticia's explanation, Max understood why she had such an exaggerated reaction and, at the same time, the confusion about the fact that how could this little girl have escaped from the underground cave.

"It's alright. Everything's fine." Rima patted the little girl's back and spoke dotingly. She wasn't surprised to see her here because Belen and Leticia had already told her that the elf family was staying in the same inn since they wanted to thank Max and her when they woke up.

Little Arya calmed down after a while and ran out of the room, "I'll bring my grandparents. They have been waiting for the big sister to wake up."

After less than five minutes, Arya, along with her grandparents and brother, came back.

"Little lady, are you alright?" The elder elf woman asked in concern.

"Yes, granny. I'm completely fine. Moreover, I feel that my vitality is higher than before." Rima smiled as she glanced at Max; her beautiful eyes were filled with tender love. It was this man, her man, who, to save her, gave her a priceless pill.

"Good. It's good that you are fine." The old woman sighed in relief. The next moment, she glanced at the old man as if asking something. After the old man nodded, she looked at Rima and asked, "Little lady, would you like to go with us to our city?"

"Hm?" Max raised his brows, and there was a surprised expression on his face. Belen and Leticia were similarly surprised. Everyone knew that rarely any human was allowed to enter any elvish city, and only high-ranking elves could grant permission to humans to enter their cities. Now, this old elf lady asked Rima to go to their city. So, it was natural that they were surprised.

"Granny, You... what do you mean?" Belen asked, surprised.

"The moment your friends saved us, My husband and I decided to allow you to enter our city. If you agree, we can recommend you to a six-star sonic-type mage of our elf race. She will guide you and help you become strong." The elf woman smiled amiably.

Boom!

Her words sounded like thunder in Rima's ears, and her heart jolted. Max and others were also stunned.

Chapter 268: Rima's choice[5]

Guidance from a six-star mage? Moreover, it wasn't an ordinary six-star mage but a sonic-type mage. Rima's heart thumped like drums when she heard this.

The most shocked among them was Belen. It was because she had the most information about the elves, and thus she knew although it was rare for elves to allow humans in their cities, it was even rarer for elves to take humans as their disciples.

Everyone in the world knew that the elves had the best affinity with natural elements. Thanks to this, almost every member of the elf race would have the potential to reach the three-star realm by the time they matured. This was why the elf race was always one of the strongest races.

Since the elves had expertise in natural elements, everyone wanted to learn from them as it would help them reach higher in terms of strength.

Therefore, the majority of people would visit Elvin cities in order to find a master to learn from. However, because the elves were a peace-loving race, they usually didn't take anyone since it would disturb their normal lives.

However, people didn't give up just because of this and continued trying their luck to learn from them. Because they were pestering them too much, the elves resigned and started taking them as their disciples, most of whom were humans.

Everything was good until around fifty thousand years ago when the then leader of elves, a supreme mage, took three people as her direct disciples. Two of them were humans, and one was an elf.

The three of them were only four-star mages when the elf leader took them as her disciples. She taught them to the best of her ability, and after a few years, the three of them became monarch-ranked mages.

At that time, The demons, under the leadership of five supreme mages of the demon race, attacked the continent. Because after the continent was divided into two parts, there was a rule that whenever demons attacked, every race would reunite to fight them off. Naturally, the elves also participated.

Although the united force was able to repel the invading demons, same as always, a few supreme mages died or were severely injured. The elf leader was one among those injured ones and needed a few years to recuperate.

At this time, a tragedy happened that caused the elves to turn hostile to humans.

The elf leader had a daughter who was an unmatched beauty and was crowned as the number one beauty in the world at that time. Countless men across the races were in love with her. Naturally, the elf leader's two human disciples weren't an exception.

In fact, they were in deep love with her because, unlike other men, they could easily interact with her since they were her mother's disciples. The elf leader also knew this but didn't stop them from pursuing her since they were extraordinary among men and had a chance of becoming a supreme mage.

However, her daughter was in love with her third disciple, who was her childhood friend. Naturally, she rejected them when they proposed to her.

This caused them to be furious at their fellow disciple and wanted to kill him so that they would have a chance to make her theirs, but they couldn't do anything to him because if the elf princess found out, she would never agree to become their woman and as for their master, she would be furious and might even kill them.

Therefore when the elf leader went to recuperate in seclusion, they finally couldn't suppress their animal nature. They killed their fellow disciple and forced themselves on the elf princess, which caused her to commit suicide.

When the Elf leader found out her daughter had died, she flew into a rage and killed them. However, this didn't quench her anger, and she went ahead and killed everyone related to them. From then on, elves became hostile to humans and disallowed the entry of humans into their cities. As for taking them as their disciple, it naturally stopped.

As time passed, although they allowed humans in their cities for trade or travel purposes, it was only after they were granted permission from the high-ranking elves. Because the interaction between races started again, although some humans managed to become elves' disciples, their total number didn't exceed two digits in the last ten thousand years.

So, it was natural that Belen was shocked when she heard that Rima could take an elf as her master and a six-star mage no less.

Even though Max, Leticia, and Rima didn't know the whole story, they knew that elves didn't let humans become their disciples. So, they were also dumbfounded by the old elf woman's words.

"G-Granny, are you s-serious?" Rima asked, nervously looking at the old woman. Max and company also turned to her.

"Of course, I'm serious." The old woman smiled.

"Senior, I thought elves didn't take humans as disciples..." Belen couldn't help but ask.

"In normal cases, we don't. However, this little lady's situation is different since we will recommend her." The elf woman replied.

"But... can I be allowed into the city? I heard that only high-ranking elves of the cities could grant the permission." Rima asked.

"Big sister, you don't know, my grandparents are respected very much in our city. Moreover, my parents are current lords of the city. No one will stop her if big sister goes with us." Arya excitedly said.

"I see." Rima nodded in understanding, and her eyes flashed with excitement.

Belen, on the other hand, was shocked once again by this revelation. From what she knew, the rulers of an Elvin city, even if it wasn't big, were four-star mages at the very least.

"So, why wasn't anyone protecting you guys when you came to travel outside your city?" She asked. If her parent were rulers of the city, they should have sent some people to protect them, right?

The elf couple took a deep look at Belen. They realized that among all of them, this girl knew most about them.

They then looked at Arya, and a wry smile appeared on their faces. The old woman sighed, "Arya's father didn't allow her to go out when she asked him. So, she took her brother and sneaked out alone. When we came to take her back, she threatened us that if we didn't let her see at least one human city, she would sneak out again.

We were helpless. Moreover, because this area was relatively remote and we had a group of two-star mages protecting us, we thought that there wouldn't be any problem. However, who would have thought that we would be ambushed by those dark mages? All of our two-star guards died protecting us."

After hearing this, Arya's eyes teared up, and a guilty expression appeared on her face as she said in a low voice, "...I'm sorry, grandma. Arya won't do anything like this again."

The elf couple looked at her lovingly and caressed her tiny head, "It's okay. We don't blame you. So, don't feel guilty." Meanwhile, her brother, who looked to be the same age as her, grabbed her hand to show his support.

The old woman then glanced at Rima, "So, tell me, little lady. Are you willing to go with us?"

Hearing this, Rima hesitantly glanced at Max. The elf couple, Belen and Leticia, also glanced at him.

Max felt warmth in his heart when he saw this. He knew she was asking for his opinion and was sure that if he refused, she wouldn't go with them.

However, he felt conflicted. He didn't want her to go with them because of his selfish reasons. At the same time, he knew that it was a rare opportunity for her.

If she stayed with him, although he would be able to help her raise her cultivation and give her a few more sonic elemental spells, he wouldn't be able to help her with other things, such as comprehension of the sonic elemental spells, which was her weakness due to her using Mana spells.

However, if she went with them, under the guidance of a mighty six-star sonic-type mage, not only would her cultivation rise, she would become skilled in using her elemental spells.

After staying silent for a while, he turned to the old woman and asked, "Currently, she is a middle-stage two-star mage. If she stays with me, her cultivation speed would be very fast. She wouldn't take more than a year to break through to the three-star realm. Tell me, if she goes with you, how long would it take for her to do the same?"

"Hm?" The elf couple looked at him with surprised expressions. Less than a year to break through to the three-star realm from the middle-stage two-star realm?

Chapter 269: Rima's choice[6]

It wasn't only the elf couple that was surprised by Max's claim, but Belen, Leticia, and Rima were the same. Although they had experienced his 'ability' to raise their cultivation, they still felt that his claim of him helping Rima break through to the three-star realm in less than a year was too 'bold.'

However, they weren't wrong to think like that. After all, to break through to the three-star realm, one needed to condense and purify their Mana and reform their Mana core. Even if one were a peak two-star mage, they would take more than a year, even if their talent was extraordinary.

Faced with everyone's incredulous gazes, Max didn't even bat his eyelashes and continued looking at the elf woman, awaiting her answer.

Seeing him being so confident, The old man spoke, "Although I don't know why you are so sure that you could help her break through to the three-star realm in less than a year,

I can confidently say that if she goes with us, it should take her almost the same time if not less. Of course, it is only if her talent is up to the mark and her master helps her."

"Hm?" Max was taken aback by his answer. Apart from the ability provided by the system, were there other methods to expedite the cultivation speed?

As if seeing through his thoughts, the system's voice sounded in his ears, [Yes, host. Many other things can increase the cultivation speed. The most common examples are the Mana increasing pills, foundation strengthening pills, and other similar medicine.

Apart from these, high-grade medicine can increase the cultivation speed several times. However, a person with low strength can't endure their medicinal efficacy and would die if one forcibly consumes it.

Other than this, there are some safe methods too—for example, the spirit fruits. Spirit fruits are different from regular fruits and are nurtured by the pure natural Mana. Unlike high-graded medicine, if an ordinary person eats it, there won't be any danger to their lives, and their cultivation will progress rapidly.

Some spirit fruits can help shorten the process of condensation, purification, and reformation of the Mana core in just a few months or even weeks. Moreover, some spirit fruits can even help comprehend an element to a high degree. In other words, different types of spirit fruits can bring different kinds of benefits to mages that ordinarily aren't possible.

Since they are so precious, they are equally rare and only grow under some special conditions. Among all the existing races, only the elf race is capable of producing them in low quantities, and most of these fruits come from them.

This was also one of the most important reasons why the human race spent thousands of years after the elf race prohibited all contact with humans due to that incident.

Moreover, a mage above the mortal boundary can use his energy to hasten the breakthrough of mages below the mortal boundary. So, if that six-star mage helps the host's woman when she is about to break through, the time she would take to break through might be around six months, if not less.]

'Huh?' Max was surprised to hear this. Then he asked in a voice that was so faint that no one could hear, "How can it be so quick? Even I would need more than six months to break through even though I can enhance my Mana with your help."

[It's because a mage above the mortal boundary can not only help hasten the process of Mana purification and condensation using his energy but also help reform the Mana core to the three-star level, which the system is incapable of doing.] The system replied indifferently.

"Heh, aren't you useless compared to a mage above the mortal boundary then?" Max scoffed.

[Host should know that the system isn't a living entity and doesn't have its own energy. So, don't make such brainless remarks again.] The system replied in an indifferent voice. However, Max could hear that it was irritated.

"So, what does the young hero think? Would you allow her to follow us back?" The old man asked with a smile when he saw that Max wasn't responding.

Hearing this, Max stopped conversing with the system and sighed audibly. When he asked whether Rima's cultivation speed would be up to his standards or not, he had hoped that they would deny that.

If that happened, he would have a reason for not allowing Rima to leave with them. After Lilly, he didn't part with Rima too. However, it seemed that his little plan didn't work out.

However, suddenly his eyes turned sharp, and he asked, "Can you guarantee that she would be safe in your Elvin city? From what I heard, elves don't like humans. What if she is bullied there?"

Sigh!

The old woman sighed and said, "Indeed, we elves don't like humans. However, it's mostly true in the case of human males. As for females, we don't hate them that much since they aren't as abominable as human males. I apologize it hurt your pride as a male, but it's true."

After a pause, she continued, "This is also one of the reasons why we offered her this opportunity. Moreover, we, as the parents of the current city lord, guarantee that she will be safe as long as she is there."

Hearing this, Max was relieved yet felt bitter at the same time. He forced a smile and looked at Rima, "Rima, you should know the benefits of following them and take an elf six-star sonic-type mage as master. If you want to go, I won't stop you."

He left the decision to Rima as it concerned her future. After all, he couldn't just refuse her such a good opportunity for some selfish reasons, right?

Seeing that Max wasn't against her going with them, the old elf couple nodded and thought, 'Hm. He is a sensible kid.' They then turned to Rima, awaiting her decision.

"I... understand." Rima took a deep breath and nodded. She understood that he wanted her to make this decision since it concerned her life.

Then, her expression turned solemn as she asked, "Granny, Can you give me some time to think about it?"

"Of course." The older woman smilingly nodded. After talking for a while, they returned to their room, leaving Max and the others alone.

Belen and Leticia looked at Rima enviously before they also left. They knew that Rima wanted to talk to Max alone.

After everyone left, Rima and Max lay on the bed, embracing each other. Rima had her head on his sturdy chest. Max could see that she was deep in her thoughts.

After laying quietly for half an hour, Max opened his mouth and asked as he gently caressed his back, "Can't come to a decision yet?"

"Un." Rima nodded.

"Why? Don't you know that it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity?" Max smiled.

"I know. I also know that if I went with them and trained under that six-star sonic-type mage, I'll be able to progress quite a lot b-but..." By the end of her sentence, she stuttered while her eyes became moist.

"But what?" Max asked.

"But I don't want to leave you. I don't know how long it will take for me to return. I-I'm afraid that you'll f-forget about me." Tears started falling when she said this.

Seeing how much she loved him, he was overcome with emotions. He hugged her tightly and said, "You silly girl. Don't forget you are my woman, and there is no way I would forget you. Moreover, you can always come back if you miss me."

He was sure about this because the old elf couple had told him that her future master, a female elf, was closely related to their family and had a good character.

If it were a normal case, she wouldn't have taken a human as her disciple, even if it was a female. However, because Max and others had saved the old couple, Arya, and her brother, who happened to be her nephew, coupled with the fact that Belen had the same element as her, she won't refuse and would treat her nicely.

"Un. I know." Rima nodded. Then her face blushed as she said, "But I don't know if I can live without you for more than a few days." As she finished her sentence, she dug her face in his chest, not daring to look at him.

Seeing this, Max felt warmth in his heart and hugged her even more tightly, and smiled, "Silly girl. Once we are strong enough, won't we always be together? So what if we need to be apart for some time?"

After thinking for a while, she nodded. "Okay. I'll go."

She knew that if she didn't grab this opportunity, given Max's growth, she would be left behind and would always be a burden on him. So, if she needed to accompany him in the future, she needed to become strong enough.

She then added, "However, before I go, I want you to fulfill a small wish of mine."

Chapter 270: Fulfilling her wish

"Oh? Tell me." When he heard her, he was puzzled for a second. Suddenly, his lips curled into a small smile when he recalled how Lilly had made a wish before going with the silver-haired woman.

Rima's face flushed red in embarrassment when she saw him looking at her with a knowing expression. She dug her face into his chest and said in a barely audible voice, "I want you to accompany me for a few days before I leave with them."

"Okay. I will do that." Max nodded and smiled wryly. It seemed that he had read too much into it.

'Huh?' Rima realized he didn't understand what she wanted. However, she didn't try to explain herself and simply rested in his embrace.

Because both of them had woken up just a few hours ago from their comatose state, their bodies weren't at their optimum condition. Therefore, they fell asleep in each other's embrace after a while.

...

In the room beside Rima's room, Leticia and Belen were sitting cross-legged on the ground. After the incident with the dark mages, Belen and Leticia realized that although their strength had risen quite a bit in the past few months, they weren't strong enough and needed to raise their strength quickly.

Previously, because Max and Rima were in a state of coma, they couldn't cultivate properly since they needed to take care of them. So, after both of them woke up, they were already itching to cultivate, and now that they saw that Rima, who was the same as them, was presented with an opportunity to be a six-star elf's disciple, they knew that

her strength would rise dramatically and they would be left behind. This gave them even more motivation to cultivate without wasting any more time.

After resting for two days, Max and Rima recovered to their peak state.

Rima's room...

Rima and Max were having breakfast with Belen, Leticia, and little Arya. While eating, little Arya asked Rima, "Big sister, have you decided whether you want to go with us?"

Hearing her question, Belen and Leticia also looked at Rima with slightly envious gazes.

Rima glanced at Max before saying, "Yes, I've decided."

"Really, what is it, big sister?" Little Arya's eyes gleamed with excitement when she heard this.

Seeing her become excited, Rima smiled and asked, "Little Arya, tell me, do you want me to go with you?"

"Yes... yes, yes, big sister. Please go with us." Hearing her question, Little Arya hurriedly nodded like a chick pecking on grains.

Rima and others laughed when they saw her cute reaction. Rima patted her head and said, "If that's what you want, I'll go with you."

"Really?" Little Arya asked, trying to contain her excitement.

"Of course. Why would I lie to you?" Rima pinched her cheek.

"It's great. I'll go and tell my grandparents; they will be happy." Little Arya was immediately excited. In excitement, she stopped eating and ran out of the room to tell her parents about this.

After she went out, Belen glanced at Rima and asked, "When are you planning to go?"

Rima's face reddened a little as she said, "After a few days."

"Why? Aren't you healed now?" Leticia asked in confusion. In her opinion, now that she had already decided and Max also seemed okay with this, she should leave as soon as possible lest the elf elders change their minds.

Hearing her question, Rima's already reddened face flushed even more, and she instinctively glanced toward Max.

"Come here." Belen shook her head helplessly. After spending so much time with her, she knew that Leticia was somewhat naive when it came to worldly matters. Therefore, she moved toward Leticia and whispered something in her ear. An expression of enlightenment appeared on Leticia's face. After that, she didn't say anything and glanced at Belen with a knowing smile.

After finishing their breakfast, Rima said something to Belen, who nodded in response and took Leticia with her, and headed to where Arya and her grandparents were staying.

"Belen, what did Rima say to you? And where are we going?" Leticia asked, curious.

"She told me to inform the elf elders that she will leave with them in three days, and we are going to do just that," Belen replied.

...

In their room, Max and Rima lay on the bed. Rima had her head on his chest while Max was hugging and caressing her slender back.

After a while, Rima asked in a low voice, "Max, you have fully recovered, right?"

"Yes," Max replied as he felt her body's warmth and smelt her hair's fragrance.

"You know I'll be leaving in three days, right?" She asked.

"Hmm."

"For these three days, I w-want to be as c-close as I can." Rima blushed, and her breathing quickened when she said this.

"Okay." Max, who was barely able to control himself, cupped her beautiful face and planted a kiss on her seductive lips.

"Um~" Rima's heart fluttered, and she closed her eyes as she responded to his kiss. At the same time, tears appeared in her eyes.

She had been longing for this sensation for a long time now. When she was about to die in the dark mages' lair, the thing she dreaded most was the thought that she wouldn't be able to see Max again and feel his warmth which she was kind of addicted to now.

Just when he was about to feel intoxicated by the sensation of her soft, sweet lips, he noticed her tears.

"What is it, Rima? Why are you crying?" As a man who cared for his women and wanted them to be happy, he immediately panicked when he saw her crying.

At the same time, he was puzzled. Did he do something wrong? He didn't think so. Then why was she crying just when they were being intimate with each other?

"It's nothing. I... I just don't want to be away from you." She softly said, and before Max could say anything, she continued, "However, I know that I need to go if I want to be of some help to you in the future."

Max felt his heart tighten when he heard this, and he was reminded of his lack of strength. If he was strong enough, would his women have to worry about such things?

He took a deep breath and said, "H-how about you don't go? With my help, your cultivation won't lag behind, and as for-"

Before he could complete his sentence, Rima put her finger on his lips and shook her head, "No. I've already decided to go. So, don't worry about me, okay? Just make love to me so that I won't miss you too much."

After saying this, she started kissing him. Max sighed in his heart and decided to enjoy the moment and fulfill her wish.

He supported the back of her head with one hand as he responded to her kisses. After savoring the taste of her lips for a while, he stuck his tongue out and put it in her mouth and greedily sucked on her tasty little tongue.

At the same time, his other hand didn't remain idle and started fondling her soft and plump breasts. Rima also didn't stay passive. Her tongue also moved out to fight for dominance with his tongue, and her hand reached out to his nether region and started to caress his little dragon from above his clothes.

...

Ha! Huff! Ha!

After half an hour, Rima and Max stopped kissing. They looked into each other's eyes while taking deep breaths to calm their breathing rate.

Rima's face was completely red right now, and her eyes burned with passionate fire. Max, on the other hand, had also lost himself to his lust.

After giving her one more deep kiss, he helped her take off her clothes before removing his too. Then he cupped her big soft boobs in his hands and started to kiss and suck on them.

Ahn~

A sensual moan escaped Rima's lips when she started stimulating her boobs. She hurriedly covered her mouth when she remembered that the room didn't have any soundproofing formation set up.

She then reached out her other hand to grab her spatial bag from the bedside and took out a thin, transparent sheet. It was her soundproofing artifact that she had used previously in the forest as they had sex. She then injected her Mana into it. The transparent sheet took the shape of a tent and covered their bed.

Ahn~ Ha~ Mm~

After installing the soundproofing artifact, she closed her eyes and stopped suppressing her moans.

Chapter 271: You cheated~

Maybe because it had been a long time since he last had sex, while he was playing with her boobs, his cock turned hard as a rock.

After a short while, he couldn't hold back anymore. He stopped teasing her nipples and positioned himself in between her legs, and put his cock on the cave entrance.

"Max... Let's take it slow... Ahhh~" Rima was enjoying herself with her closed when he suddenly stopped playing with her boobs and went to the main course. So, when she opened her eyes and saw his almost savage expression, she panicked and tried to calm him down. However, she couldn't finish her sentence in time and let out a sensual cry because,

Thwop!

After putting his cock on pussy entrance, Max didn't wait even for a second and, with a strong thrust of his waist, pushed his cock into her depths.

"Argh!" A pleasure-filled groan escaped his mouth when he felt her warm, soft and slippery insides.

"Huh?" When the wave of pleasure hit his nerves, he came out of his 'berserk' state, and when Rima's half-pleasure and half-pained moans entered his ears, he stopped waist and softly asked, "Are you okay? Sorry I was too rough."

"Ha... It-It's okay, but can you be a little gentle, at least until I get used to your t-thing." Rima said with an embarrassed expression.

"Of course." Seeing her bashful expression, for a moment, Max wasn't able to resist and wanted to grab her slim waist and pound her tight pussy very hard. However, he resisted the temptation and nodded.

After that, he started moving his waist slowly to make sure she was comfortable.

Thwop! Thwop!

Ahn~ Ngh~ Ha~

As his thick cock slowly went in and out of her sacred cave, Rima started feeling good. She would moan with his every thrust and pull while her pussy would tighten around his rod every time he reached her depths, giving both of them intense pleasure.

While they were making love, Leticia and Belen came back after informing the elf couple of Rima's decision.

"Belen!" As Belen and Leticia came near Rima's room, Leticia called out to Belen.

"Yes," Belen responded.

"Do you think they are doing it right now?" Leticia asked, an envious expression on her face.

Belen glanced at her, and when she saw her expression, she chuckled lightly and said, "Maybe."

"Belen, don't you feel a little envious of her?" Leticia asked as she glanced at Rima's room. Just as Belen was about to respond, Leticia continued, "It has been a long time since we did it with him while she had done it before we came on the mission, and now she has him all to herself. How envious!"

When Belen heard her complaint, she was speechless. She had thought that Leticia was talking about her opportunity to be a six-star mage's disciple. However, this girl's mind was trained on a completely different thing.

"Did you forget right before we departed from the academy on our mission, it was you who did it with him?" She scoffed in a low voice. This girl wasn't content with what she had.

She followed her gaze and glanced at Rima's room. To be honest, she was also feeling a bit envious of Rima. It was going to be a month in a few days since she last felt his warmth. However, there was nothing she could do except wait, wait for him to come to her and take her.

"Oh, I forgot about that, hehe." Leticia giggled embarrassedly.

Belen shook her head helplessly and sighed, "Let the girl enjoy while she can. Who knows how long it would be before she could come back?"

"Hmm. You are right. I will miss her." Leticia nodded.

"It's fine. Let's stop talking about these things and go and cultivate." Belen raised her speed and entered the room beside Rima's room. After giving a last glance at Rima's room, Leticia also followed behind her. They had decided to focus on their cultivation for these three days and leave Max and Rima alone so that they could enjoy their time together.

...

Thwop! Thwop! Thwop!

Max had her legs on his shoulders as he rammed his cock inside her dripping wet pussy without holding back.

"Ahn~ It's amazing~ Ngh~" Rima had her eyes closed as she moaned loudly. Her tongue was hanging out of her mouth, and her face had an ecstatic expression.

Watching her lewd expression, Max felt his cock throb and his thrust became faster and deeper.

Thwop! Thwop! Thwop!

"Ngh~ Ahh~ M-Max, I'm cumming~" Suddenly, Rima's body stiffened, and pussy tightened on his cock to an unimaginable degree as she climaxed.

"Argh...!" As her wet pussy exerted too much pressure on his already sensitive cock, Max couldn't hold back, and he also climaxed inside her womb.

Thud!

After shooting his thick milk inside her, Max put her legs down and lay beside her.

"Huff! Huff! Huff! Ha, it was amazing!" Rima gasped for breath, her face was completely red as she exclaimed in satisfaction.

When Max heard it, his lips curled into a smile. He extended his hand and brought her into his embrace.

After catching her breath, Rima looked at him and asked, "How was it for you? Did you enjoy it?"

"Yeah, I did." Max smiled and gave her a kiss on her captivating lips and then said, "Shall we start the second round now?"

"N-no. Not right now. Let's rest for a bit, okay?" Rima immediately panicked. Her pussy was still numb from all that pounding, and she needed a short break. Only then would she be able to enjoy herself properly.

"Okay. Let's rest for a while then." Max smiled and hugged her tightly.

"Mmm!" She snuggled in his embrace for a while before Max started kissing her again.

"How about you ride on top this time?" Max asked as he motioned her to come on top of him.

"Un!" Belen bashfully nodded and sat on his crotch area. Without him needing to say anything, she grabbed his cock and guided it to her pussy.

Suddenly, she smiled and started rubbing his cock on her clit and underlips without putting it inside and smiled, "Do you like it?"

"Argh! Yeah. I like it. However, I'll like it even more if you put it inside." Max's cock throbbed in her delicate hand as he groaned.

"Okay. If you want it that much, I'll... let you wait for a bit, hehe!" Rima nodded at him and guided his cock to her pussy entrance, and just when he thought she was going to put it in, she suddenly moved it away and giggled happily.

Max was amused by this. However, he put on a serious expression and said, "You naughty girl! I'll punish you if you keep teasing me like this."

"Oh! How will you punish me?" Rima smirked and kept rubbing her cock on her pussy without putting it in.

Slap!

Suddenly, the sound of a crisp slap resounded inside the soundproof 'tent' as Max spanked her ass.

"Kyaa~" Due to the sudden slap, she yelped in surprise and lost her balance.

Squelch!

Because he slapped her ass just when his cock was just below her pussy entrance, it slid inside her when she fell down.

"Hehe, now you'll see how I'll punish you." Max laughed when his little scheme succeeded.

"You cheated," Rima complained with a wronged expression.

"No, I didn't." Max chuckled, and before she could react, he pushed her ass down.

"Nngh~ It's too deep~" Rima moaned with a dazed look in her eyes.

Squelch! Squelch! Squelch!

Ahn~ Nngh~ Haa~

Max started moving her ass up and down, and his cock started moving in and out of her pussy. At the start, it was Max who was helping her move her waist, but after a while, Rima started moving on her own.

"Ah, yes. Keep moving like that." Max was feeling amazing as he lay there without having to do anything.

Every time she moved her ass down, his cock would reach the depths of her pussy, and when she moved up, her insides would wrap around it tightly as if reluctant to let go, which gave him intense stimulation. Because of how good he felt, just after a few minutes, he felt like cumming again.

However, just when he was about to shoot his load, Rima's movement became sluggish. Max hurriedly grabbed her by her waist and started thrusting from below.

- Chapter 273: Arya is a saint elf |

Chapter 273: Arya is a saint elf

"Tell me. D-do you l-love me even if it's a little bit?" As Rima asked this, her voice stuttered due to her anxiousness. After asking her question, she stared into his eyes with a face full of expectations.

Max's expression turned stiff when he heard her question. He hadn't expected her to ask this and was caught off guard.

The light in Rima's eyes dimmed down when she saw his expression. However, after she noticed that he was merely surprised, she sighed in relief and continued to stare at him.

After his initial surprise died down, Max sighed inwardly. Then, he took a deep breath, cupped her face in his hands, looked into her beautiful eyes glimmering with anticipation, and nodded, "Yes, I d-do."

When Max nodded, his heartbeat quickened, and he was a bit unnerved because this was his first time admitting his feelings to a girl. However, after he said, 'Yes, I do.', he was relieved.

"R-Really?" Rima's eyes' brightened, and her heart started beating like drums when she heard him. However, she asked again for confirmation because she felt as if she was hallucinating.

She knew that even though he was very good to Belen, Leticia and especially her because he had given her two priceless spells, he never confessed his feelings to any of them. As a woman, she could feel he was uncertain about his feelings, so now, when he admitted that he loved her, she couldn't help but ask again.

"Yes, I I-love you." Max nodded again and then continued, "However..."

Seeing him nod again, Rima's face blossomed like a beautiful flower, and before Max could say anything further, she had sealed his lips with hers.

Ha!

After a while, they stopped kissing and moved their faces away. Max opened his mouth to say something. However, Rima put her finger on his lips and prevented him from saying anything; she smiled and said, "It's enough for me as long as you love me. I don't want anything more."

After spending so much time with him, she knew what kind of man he was. However, as long as she had a small corner of his heart, it was enough for her.

"Okay." Max smiled, kissed her lips and said, "Let's hurry up and get ready. They are waiting outside."

"Un. Okay." Rima nodded.

...

"Big sister Belen, should we try and knock again?" Arya blinked her big black eyes as she asked,

Belen shook her head, "Let's wait for a few minutes-"

Creak~

Before Belen could finish her sentence, the door to Rima's room opened, and two beautiful figures, Max and Rima, walked out.

"Wow! Big brother. Big sister. You look amazing!" Little Arya cried out when she Max and Rima.

Max was dressed in blue-coloured robes. His handsome features, blue hair and captivating sapphire eyes made him look very handsome. Hardly any woman could resist his charm. Even the old lady gave him a few more looks.

Rima, on the other hand, was dressed in a fiery red dress that accentuated her seductive curves and made her look like a beautiful succubus. Previously, when Max saw her when she came out of the bathroom after getting ready, he had the urge to push her down and rava... make love to her again. However, he controlled himself.

"Hehe, thank you, Little Arya." Rima giggled happily.

After they greeted each other, The old elf woman glanced at Rima and asked, "Little lady, shall we depart now?"

Rima glanced at Max, and after she saw him nod, she nodded, "Okay, granny. Let's go."

Following this, the elf family and Max and company departed from the inn they were staying in. They hired a carriage and headed toward the nearby great forest where one of the elf cities was located.

When it was noon, they had travelled for a few hundred miles into the forest, the old elf man stopped the carriage. Then they had lunch before continuing on their journey.

"Elders, how far are we from your city?" Leticia asked the elf couple.

"It's still quite far. If we continue at this speed and aren't hindered by the beasts here, we should reach there by tomorrow evening." The old woman replied.

When Max heard this, he furrowed his brows and asked, "How high are the chances that we might encounter a three-star beast?"

Previously, when they were looking for a carriage, they couldn't find any driver willing to journey with them to the elf city even when they offered to pay double the Mana stones. The reason they weren't willing was that they were afraid of the three-star beasts residing deep in the forest.

"More than 50%." The old man replied. Hearing this, Max and others' expressions turned grave. Three-star magical beasts were different from the ordinary three-star human mages, they were stronger.

Although Max was confident of defeating an average early-stage three-star beast thanks to his enhanced Mana and his strongest spell, [Calidus Brachium], if they encountered a slightly stronger or more agile beast, they would die without doubt.

Seeing their grave expressions, the old woman glared at the old man, "Don't joke with the kids." She then turned to Max and others, "You don't have to worry. We have some beast-repelling talisman with us. Once we use them, we'll be safe."

Phew!

Belen, Rima and Max sighed in relief when they heard this. In contrast, Leticia was confused. It was obvious she didn't know what beast-repelling talismans were.

"Belen, what are the beast-repelling talismans? I don't think we saw them when we were shopping for the mission?" Leticia asked with a puzzled expression.

Previously, when they were shopping on the Cloud academy's trade peak, they had seen various types of talismans in the market, and Belen had explained their uses. However, they didn't see a beast-repelling talisman there.

"We didn't see them because, in comparison with other types of talismans, beast-repelling talismans are quite rare because only some top talisman masters in the kingdom are capable of making them. I heard that apart from the fact they are hard to make, the materials needed to make them are also unique." Belen replied,

After a small pause, she continued, "A beast-repelling talisman can be used on anything, for example, this carriage. If we put a beast-repelling talisman on it, based on its grade, it'll send out some kind of energy in a limited radius for a limited time that will keep the beasts away.

Of course, it's only true if the beast isn't more powerful enough to resist the repelling energy. For example, a grade-three beast-repelling talisman can repel all beasts under the three-star realm."

"Okay. So, that's why we haven't encountered even a single beast until now." Leticia was hit with the realization.

"Hmm?" When Belen heard her, she raised her brows and turned toward the elf couple.

As if the old woman knew what Belen wanted to ask, she nodded, "Yes, after entering the forest, we had already started using grade-two talismans."

Belen, Rima and Max looked at each other and smiled wryly, "And here I thought that we are lucky not to have encountered any beasts until now." Belen shook her head.

The elf couple merely smiled at this and didn't say anything.

...

"Grandpa, look, they are our warriors." After travelling for a day, they neared the elf city. As the distance between them and the city became lower, they started seeing a few elf people on the way.

Hearing Arya's cry, everyone looked ahead and saw a group of five heading toward them.

"Are they?" The old man was uncertain whether they were elves or humans since they were half a mile away from them.

However, unlike others, Max could see that they were indeed elves. Moreover, all of them seemed to have serious expressions. He couldn't help but look at Arya with a surprised expression.

Rima and others also looked at her in surprise, "Little Arya, you can see them from this distance?"

"Hehe, of course. My senses are quite sharp." Little Arya giggled proudly.

Rima and the others didn't know how to respond. Belen couldn't help but sigh with emotion, "As expected of the elf race."

The old elf woman smiled and shook her head, "Not everyone in the elf race is gifted like Arya. She is one of rare few."

"Rare, huh?" Rima and the others nodded. However, they were still shocked by her innate talent."

Suddenly, Belen's eyes flashed, and she couldn't help but ask, "I-is she... a saint elf?"

Chapter 274: Ninam, the elf city

The old couple looked at Belen with slightly astonished expressions. They hadn't expected that this girl would even know about the saint elves of the Elvin race. However, on another thought, it was no secret, and many people knew about it. So, their expression returned to normal.

"Hehe, Big sister, you even know about the saint elf?" Little Arya giggled. Then her smile vanished from her adorable little face as she nodded with an unwilling expression, "Big sister is right. I'm one of the successors to become the next saint girl of our race."

Belen was dumbfounded by her reaction. Wasn't a saint girl a respectable entity in the Elvin race, and didn't most of the female elves want to become one? Then why she had an unwilling expression?

Although Max and others didn't know what exactly a saint girl was, from Belen's expression, they knew it was someone good. Therefore, they were also bewildered by little Arya's expression. Belen couldn't hold back and asked, "What? Little Arya, Don't tell me you don't want to become the saint girl?"

Arya didn't reply and kept quiet as if she was unwilling to talk. Her brother tugged on her sleeves with a worried expression. Her grandparents, on the other hand, had wry smiles on their faces.

Seeing that little Arya wasn't willing to talk about it and Max and others were curious, the old elf woman spoke, "That's right. Little Arya doesn't want to become the saint girl."

She then glanced at Belen and continued, "As you may know, although the position of saint girl is very much revered in our race, and almost every female elf wants to become one, it isn't easy to actually become one."

After listening to her explanation, Max and the company found out why little Arya was unwilling to become the saint girl.

As it turned out, there can be only one saint girl at one time in the entire Elvin race, and the number of successors is usually in the hundreds because almost every Elvin city has to choose a qualified successor. After that, they have to go through a very difficult and lengthy 'selection process.'

Moreover, the successors have to follow many strict requirements if they want to participate in the selection that happens every hundred years.

If the successors want to participate in the selection process, they aren't allowed to cultivate or interact with people from other races, and after they become 15 years old, they have to be sent to a faraway place where they have to live their lives in seclusion until the next selection process starts.

"Given Arya's playful and curious personality, it is no wonder she isn't willing to live such a tasteless life," Leticia mumbled in realization.

"Elders, didn't you say that her parents are the current lords of your city? If little Arya is unwilling, why don't they elect someone else to represent your city?" Belen asked,

Sigh!

Hearing Belen's question, the old woman sighed dejectedly and said, "It's not that we don't want but can't. The successors have to have the pure bloodline of the Elvin race,

and at the time of nomination as a successor, their ages shouldn't exceed ten years. Five years ago, when the successor from our Ninam city was to be nominated, only little Arya was completing both requirements."

Before the old woman could continue, Leticia impatiently interrupted, "Little Arya still has a few years left before she becomes 15 years old and has to be sent to that faraway place. Can't you nominate someone else in this time period?"

"If we could do it, we would have done it a long time ago." The old woman had a helpless expression. She sighed again, "However, we can't because, in our Elvin race, there is a rule since time immemorial that once a successor has been nominated, her identity is sent to the main Elvin city in the central continent, and we can't arbitrarily change the successor."

"Arbitrarily?" Hearing this, Leticia opened her mouth to speak again. However, Belen stopped her.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Just then, the group of five elves approached their carriage, and upon seeing the old man, all of them sat on one knee as they bowed toward him and greeted unanimously, "Greetings, lord."

"Rise, kids." The old man smiled. Only when they heard this, that they stand up.

Max and company had surprised expressions on their faces when they saw how respectful these people were to the old man. Wasn't he just a normal old man who couldn't even protect himself against a few two-star mages? Could it be because he was the father of the current city lord's?

"Hehe, big brother, didn't I tell you before that my grandparents are well respected by the people in our city?" Arya giggled when she noticed the change in their expressions.

"Yeah, you did." Rima pinched her adorable cheeks.

"Are you thinking why it is so when he is just an ordinary old man? And maybe because he is the current city lord's father?" It was as if the old woman could see through their thoughts, she asked with a smile.

Everyone smiled embarrassedly after being found out. The old woman shook her head and said, "It's normal for you to think like that. However, your speculation is wrong. The reason why he is respected by the masses in our city is because of his sacrifice toward his people."

After saying this, she sighed and continued, "Until a decade ago, he was a powerful five-star mage and was the previous city lord. However, a decade ago, our city faced a beast tide which was led by three five-star and a few dozen four-star beasts.

At that time, apart from him, there weren't any other five-star mages in the city. To save the city and its people, he alone fought with all three five-star beasts. Even though he was at a disadvantage against three beasts of similar strength, he managed to kill two of the five-star beasts and severely injured the third one." As the old woman said this, her face was brimming with pride, as if she was the one who did that.

However, in the next moment, her face turned sad, "Unfortunately, by the time the fight came to an end, he was also severely injured, and his Mana core had shattered. From then on, he became an ordinary man."

Hearing this, Max and others sighed regretfully. They hadn't expected that this 'ordinary' man who they had saved from the dark mages' lair had such a glorious past.

After a few seconds, the old woman's expression returned to normal, and she smiled, "Because of his sacrifice, everyone in the city respects him a lot, even more than the current city lord."

"He deserves that respect." Rima emotionally said.

...

"My lord, have you found the saint girl?" The group of five anxiously asked as they tried to look back into the carriage.

"Yeah, we found her." The old man smiled, "You guys continue your duty." Saying this, the old man flogged the horses, and the carriage continued toward the city.

The guards sighed in relief when they heard the old man's words and gave way to the carriage. Following this, one of them took out a small crystal, injected his Mana and said, "Commander, Lord Raku has returned with saint girl."

...

After a few hours, when it was dusk, the carriage finally arrived at its destination.

"We've arrived, kids." The old man said.

When Max and others looked out from the carriage, they found themselves in front of a majestic city gate. It was quite huge, and many elves with spears and swords in their hands were patrolling around it.

When they noticed the carriage, everyone became alert. However, as it neared them and they saw the old man driving it, all of them revealed respectful expressions and kneeled on one knee and shouted, "Welcome, my lord."

"Tch, you guys are too loud." Before the old man could say anything, little Arya cocked her head out and shouted in her angelic voice.

"Welcome back, saint girl." Everyone bowed toward little Arya.

"Rise." The old man nodded and smiled at them before he drove the carriage inside the city.

"Thank god saint girl is unharmed!"

"What did I say that she will be alright since lord Raku had gone to look for her."

"Yeah, however, why can't I see others who went with lord Raku?"

"Did they encounter some problem?"

After the carriage had entered the city gates, discussions broke out among the patrolling guards.

Chapter 275: Honoured guest token

"Hey, it's grandpa Raku. He has returned."

"Greetings, lord Raku."

"Welcome, lord Raku."

"Is sister Arya in the carriage?"

"Hehe, Let's follow. We'll see how uncle city lord punishes her for running away."

"Aren't you her friend? Why are you getting excited to see her being punished?"

"Although I'm her friend, she always bullies me. So, it'll be fun to watch her being scolded."

...

As the carriage drove through the wide city streets, everyone, be they young or old, greeted the old man with respect.

At the same time, the children of Arya's age ran after the carriage as they animatedly talked about Arya. Although they couldn't see the people sitting inside the carriage, they knew she must be inside since the old man had returned.

"Hehe, Arya, it seems you've been too naughty. Even your friends are excited to see you being scolded." Leticia giggled when she heard the children's conversation.

"Humph! I never bullied anyone and have always been good to them, and they want to see me being punished. I'll deal with them after. Humph!" Arya pouted angrily. Max and the others couldn't hold back their laughter when they saw how adorable she looked.

After a while, the carriage stopped, and the old man called out, "We are here. You kids can come out."

"G-grandpa, are my father and mother waiting here?" When Arya heard her grandfather, she immediately put on an anxious expression and asked in a low voice as if afraid someone else will hear it.

"No, they aren't here yet. You can come out." The old man laughed.

Phew!

Little Arya breathed in relief when she heard this and hurriedly opened the carriage's door and jumped down, "Big brother, big sisters. Let's hurry up and go inside before my parent comes out."

Max and others were taken aback by her sudden outburst. Suddenly, Leticia's expression fell, and she asked in a deep voice, "Granny, why is she afraid? Are her parents too strict?"

"Mmm?" Max and the others slightly raised their eyebrows when they heard her serious tone and saw her expression. 'Why was she acting strange all of a sudden? '

"Leticia, are you alright?" Rima asked in concern. She had never seen Leticia wearing such an expression before.

"Yeah. I'm fine." Leticia took a deep breath and nodded.

When Max saw her trying to calm herself down, he frowned, 'Could she have some issues with her parents?' He wasn't alone who thought like that. Belen and the old woman shared the same thought.

The old woman shook her head, "No, her parents aren't strict. In fact, they love her a little too much. This is also why she is so mischievous."

"Yes, big sister. My parents are very good to me." Little Arya chimed in. She then put on a sad expression and continued, "However, when I go out of the city without telling anyone, they get very angry and scold me."

Leticia's eyes reddened when she heard this; she took a step forward, crouched in front of her and patted her head, "You are very lucky little Arya, to have such caring parents. So, remember to inform them if you want to go out in future, okay?"

"O-okay big sister." Little Arya nodded when she the look in her eyes.

"Haha, what a sensible girl!" Suddenly, a peal of sweet laughter sounded from inside the city lord's mansion.

Whoosh!

"Hmm?" When they turned around to look at who it was, they saw a gorgeous Elvin couple in luxurious green robes walking toward them with smiles on their faces. The man was tall and sturdy and had sharp features, which made him look very handsome.

The woman by his side was also a beauty. Although her figure wasn't as curvaceous as Rima's or Belen's, it was good enough to leave a man salivating after a look. She had skin smooth as a baby, thin lips, vibrant green eyes and black flowed hair, and she had a small silver crown on top of her head, which gave her a regal look and made her look even more beautiful.

'What a beautiful woman!' Max exclaimed inwardly, and for a while, he couldn't move his gaze away from her.

"Mommy, daddy!" After hearing the voice, little Arya's body trembled a little. However, when she saw them smiling, she excitedly called out and ran toward them before jumping toward the man.

'So, they are her parents.' Max and others finally identified the duo.

Seeing her jumping toward him, the man opened his arms and caught her. Then he laughed, "Haha, you little girl. You're finally back."

"Yes, daddy!" Little Arya giggled and gave a kiss on his cheek, which made him became even happier.

The beautiful woman watched them for a few moments before she smilingly asked, "My dear, weren't you saying that you would scold her? How come I can't see that happening?"

When the father and daughter duo heard her, they both trembled.

"Cough! I was going to do that." Arya's father coughed awkwardly. He then put on an angry expression, "You little girl. You are becoming more and more disobedient. Even if you wanted to roam outside, should you have told informed us, huh?"

"Sorry, daddy. I will remember to tell you in future." Little Arya apologized. However, from her expression, one could see that she wasn't sorry at all and had a mischievous smile on her face.

"Hmm, good." Her father nodded and turned toward his wife, and said, "See, she is sorry."

"You...!" The beautiful woman was speechless. She sighed and shook her head, "Forget it. You guys are hopeless."

She then turned to look at the old couple and greeted them respectfully, "Father, mother!" After that, she looked up and down at the little elf boy, and after seeing that he was fine, she sighed in relief.

"Greetings, auntie!" Noticing her gaze, the boy bowed toward her and apologized, "I'm sorry, auntie. We went with telling you."

"It's okay. I'm sure it was Arya who forcibly took you with her." She gently shook her head and smiled, "Go and meet your parents. They have been worried about you."

The boy nodded and ran inside the mansion after greeting Arya's father.

After that, Arya's mother finally glanced at Leticia and others and asked the old man, "Father, who are these kids?"

When she asked this, her husband also glanced at them curiously. The old man glanced at Max and others and said, "These little guys are our saviour."

"Saviour?" The couple frowned when they heard this, and immediately their expression became solemn as they asked, "What happened?"

The old shook his head, "I'll tell you later." He then turned toward Max and others and introduced the couple to them, "This is our city lord, and my only daughter and Arya's mother, Elena, and this man is her Arya's father, who is also the supreme guard commander of our city, Ryan. You can call them uncle and auntie."

'Oh?' When the couple heard the old man's last words, they became surprised.

Max and others bowed slightly toward them as they greeted, "Greetings, auntie and uncle."

"Greetings. It's nice to meet you." After seeing how their father treated them, the couple politely returned the greeting. The city lord then gestured for them to enter the mansion, "Please come inside."

...

After a while, the elf family, Max and others were sitting in a hall.

After listening to the old man's explanation, the city lord and her husband had grave expressions.

Suddenly, the couple stood up and bowed toward Max and others, "Thank you for saving our family. We'll always be grateful to you guys."

"This..." Max and others were stupefied by this and hurriedly helped them up, "Uncle, auntie, you don't need to do this." Leticia said.

However, the elf couple shook their heads, "No, we need to. If it weren't for you, we would have lost our family."

The city lord then said, "If you guys ever need our help, please don't hesitate to come to us." After saying this, she took out four badges and gave them to Max and the others.

The badges were made of wood, and a word was carved in silver colour that neither Max nor others understood. Apart from this, they looked completely ordinary.

"This is..." After Belen saw the token in her hand, she almost couldn't contain her excitement. Max, Leticia and Rima were puzzled by her reaction. Was there something special about these wooden badges?

Seeing their confused expressions, the city lord smiled and explained, "These are the honoured guest tokens. With these, you can enter every bronze and silver grade Elvin city without paying anything and enjoy the VIP privilege in our auction houses and other establishments."

Chapter 276: Since you are good, I'll forgive you

"Oh! So, it's a VIP pass." Max muttered under his breath.

A pass allowing one to freely enter the Elvin cities, which had strict requirements regarding human entry, was indeed a good thing.

However, he didn't seem too happy because he didn't think there would be anything he wanted in the Elvin auction houses or other establishments since the system had most

of the things. Moreover, even if he wanted something, he had to pay for it even though he would be treated as a VIP.

On the other hand, Belen had an excited expression, and she hurriedly stood up and bowed, "Thank you, city lord."

Leticia and Rima also stood and thanked her, "Thank you, city lord."

"Hm?" After the three ladies stood up to express their gratitude, only Max was left sitting.

Just as he wanted to stand up so as not to feel awkward, the city lord smiled, "Please be seated. This is nothing compared to my daughter's and parent's lives. Please tell us if you want anything. We'll do our best to complete your wishes."

Hearing this, Max shook his head and smiled as he said, "City I- auntie, you don't have to act like that. It's more than enough that you feel grateful."

"Yes, auntie." Belen and Leticia also chimed in.

After seeing that, the old elf couple looked at each other and smiled. They were impressed by their characters.

"You guys are very good." Ryan, Arya's father, nodded in appreciation as he glanced at Max and others.

Hearing his praise, Max and others modestly smiled. In the next moment, however, Max's expression suddenly froze.

'Since you aren't too bad, I'll overlook the fact that you have been staring at my wife.'

When he heard this, he instinctively glanced at Elena, ready to apologise, but he found that she was acting as if she didn't hear anything. When he looked toward Belen and others, they were the same. 'They didn't hear it? Was I imagining it?'

When he glanced at Ryan, he found that he was smiling at him. However, he had a knowing look in his eyes which confirmed that he didn't imagine.

An embarrassed expression appeared on his face, and he prepared to stand up and apologise. However, before he could do that, Ryan's voice sounded in his ears once more.

'It's fine, kid. You don't have to apologise. I know you didn't have bad intentions.'

Phew!

Max exhaled in relief when he heard this. However, after he recalled how Ryan communicated with him without alerting anyone, an astonished expression appeared on his face as he looked at Ryan and thought, 'He can telepathically communicate? Is this also an Elvin ability or some kind of magic spell?'

Elena, the beautiful city lord, also looked at them appreciatively. She then took out a spatial bag and extended it to Belen, who was sitting closer to her, "This a small token of our gratitude. Please accept this."

"This... auntie..." Belen had an awkward expression. She then glanced at Max as if asking for his permission. Only when he nodded did she accept it.

After that, they talked for a while. The old couple also informed about their decision to recommend Rima to the sole six-star mage in their city. The city lord and her husband agreed without hesitation and even offered to accompany them when they visited her. However, the old couple rejected it.

Following this, Elena clapped her hands. Four maids beautiful young maids in green clothes arrived and bowed respectfully to her, Ryan, and the old couple respectfully.

Elena glanced at Max and the others and said, "You guys must be exhausted after such a long journey. Please follow them to your accommodations and rest for a while. After that, you guys can accompany father to see Rima's soon-to-be master."

"Thank you!" Max and the others nodded and followed after the two maids, who led them to the guest houses in the mansion, where the rooms were already prepared for them.

"Respected guests, these are your accommodations. Please see if these are to your liking." The maid asked respectfully after they led them in front of four large rooms.

"These are good enough. Thank you!" Max smiled at the elf maids, who were quite looking.

Seeing him smile at them, the maids' faces blushed slightly, and they hurriedly bowed, "O-okay. Please call us if you need anything. We are right outside."

"Humph!" Leticia snorted when she saw them blushing. After glancing at Max, she entered one of the rooms.

The maids' expressions turned anxious when they saw Leticia's displeased look. One of them whispered to other maids, "How did we displease the city lord's guest? If the city lord finds out, our job might be lost. What should we do?"

Belen and Rima smiled wryly when they heard it. They obviously knew why Leticia reacted that way. Rima then glanced at the maids and said reassuringly, "Don't worry. You didn't do anything wrong."

"Okay. Let's enter and rest for a while, shall we?" Max smiled and turned to enter one of the three remaining rooms.

"Max, wait!" Belen suddenly called out.

"Yeah!" Max turned around and asked.

Belen threw the spatial bag given to her by the city lord, "Here, you keep it."

Max instinctively caught it. He then shook his head and threw it back at her, "It's fine. You can keep it for the time being. We can divide it later."

When Belen heard this, a beautiful smile blossomed on her face, and she muttered to herself, "Thank you."

When Max saw her smile, he shook his head inwardly and thought, 'It seems I need to do something about her inferiority complex.'

She gave the spatial bag to him because she must have thought that since he regarded her as his slave, he might not trust her with valuable things. Therefore, she became happy when he gave it back to her as it indicated that he trusted her.

After that, all of them entered their respective rooms to rest.

Thud!

After closing the door, Max directly jumped onto the soft bed. After travelling for almost two days non-stop, he was exhausted, so it didn't take him long before he fell asleep.

In another room, Leticia was also lying on her bed. As she stared at the ceiling, she mumbled, "Should I go into his room and spend some time with him?"

Because it's been many days since she spent some quality time with him, she was becoming impatient. "However, what if Rima wants to be with him for some more time?" While thinking this, she also fell asleep.

...

Creak!

As it turned out, what Leticia was thinking was true. It hadn't been even half an hour since they entered their rooms when Rima opened the door to her room and came out.

"Do you need something, milady?" The maid stationed outside her room respectfully asked when she noticed her coming out.

Rima waved her hand and asked with a slightly embarrassed expression, "H-He is alone in his room, right? I mean, nobody entered his room after we went into our respective rooms?"

The maid was puzzled when she noticed her embarrassed look. However, after she heard her question, a knowing smile appeared on her face. She then shook her head and responded respectfully, "No, milady. He is alone."

"Thank you." Rima nodded and walked toward his room. When the maid standing in front of Max's room saw her walking toward her, she also had a knowing smile on her face before she turned around and knocked on the door.

When Rima's noticed this, she felt embarrassed, but she acted calm and nodded, "Thank you."

...

"Huh?" Max, who was fast asleep, heard the knock on his door, and a displeased expression appeared on his face.

However, he still got up and went to open the door because he knew that it must be either Leticia, who seemed to be in a bad mood before or Rima, who wanted to spend more time with him and as a gentleman, how could he ignore the ladies just because he was feeling a little sleepy?

Creak~

Bang!

He opened the door, and just as he expected, he saw Rima standing there. He smiled at her, grabbed her hand and pulled her inside before slamming the door shut. He then lifted her in his arms and walked toward the bed.

Chapter 277: Why didn't you sleep in your room?

"Kyaa~" Rima let out a cute cry when Max suddenly lifted her and led her to the bed.

Flop!

He placed her on the bed, and just as he was about to move on top of her and kiss her delicious lips, Rima put her finger on his lips and stuttered, "M-Max, c-can we not do it today? I came over because I was feeling anxious."

When Max heard her, he raised his brows, appearing slightly displeased. However, in reality, he wasn't displeased but was embarrassed because he didn't even try to ask for her reason for coming over before he decided to pounce on her.

However, he also wasn't wrong to assume this because they had been 'very intimate' all day and night before they came to this city. So, it was natural that he thought she came with those intentions.

Rima became anxious when she saw his expression, thinking that she had displeased him and immediately said, "I-if you want to do it, we can."

Seeing how flustered she became, Max smiled before he kissed her forehead and shook his head, "No, It's okay, and I'm sorry for not asking you what you wanted."

"No, don't say that. I also want to do that, but I want to r-rest in your arms." Rima hurriedly shook her head when she saw him apologising, and her face flushed red as she finished saying the last part of her sentence.

Flop!

When he saw her captivating expression, he was tempted to do it. However, he managed to control his urges and flopped to her side before he hugged her shapely body in his arms, "No, there is no need. We'll just stay like this."

Rima's eyes gleamed with tender affection when she saw this. She didn't say anything and snuggled deeply in his arms before closing her eyes with a contented expression.

On the other hand, Max struggled to control his fire of lust for a while when he felt her tempting body in his arms and smelt the intoxicating scent of her hair before he also fell asleep.

...

After sleeping for a long time, Max finally woke up.

"You are awake." Rima's sweet and tender voice sounded in his ears.

"Mmm." Max nodded and brought her delicate body in his arms before giving her a peck on her forehead.

Rumble~

Suddenly his stomach rumbled. He frowned, "Hmm? Why do I feel so hungry?"

"Hehe..." Rima giggled when she heard his stomach rumbling and said, "It's because you didn't wake up to have dinner yesterday."

"Huh? Is it already morning?" Max asked,

"Yes." Rima nodded like an obedient child.

"Why didn't you wake me up at dinner time?" He asked as he got up and stretched his body.

"W-well, it's because I also didn't wake up." Rima scratched her head embarrassedly.

"You..." Max was speechless. However, he understood why she didn't wake up. It was the same reason as him. She was exhausted from three days of intense mating sessions and two days' journey. Moreover, the side effects of staying unconscious for many days hadn't completely faded yet, which made her a bit lazy.

"Let's freshen up and go out to have a meal," Max said and walked toward the bathroom.

...

Knock! Knock!

After a while, Max and Rima were ready to go out when they heard someone knocking on the door.

"Big brother. Big sister. Come out. Let's have breakfast. Everyone's waiting for you." Little Arya's energetic voice sounded from outside the room.

"What perfect timing!" Max and Rima smiled and opened the door.

Whoosh!

Just as they stepped out, Little Arya ran toward Rima and hugged her hand as she asked, "Big sister, Big brother, did you sleep well?"

Rima smiled, "Yes, we did. How about you?"

"I also slept well. However, big sister, why didn't you guys have dinner with us yesterday, and why didn't you sleep in your room?" Little Arya asked curiously.

Rima became embarrassed when she heard this and pinched her cheek, "Why are you being so curious? Let's go and have breakfast."

"Aww... Big sister, don't pinch my cheeks." Little Arya cried out and caressed her adorable cheeks.

...

Under Arya's lead, they arrived in a big hall where a big dining table was set up. Arya's parents, grandparents, Arya's cousin who travelled with them, Belen, Leticia and a few others were sitting around the table, happily talking to each other.

"Mom. I've brought Big brother and sister." Little Arya yelled excitedly when they entered the dining hall.

Everyone stopped talking and turned to look toward them. Apart from the people Max and Rima had already met, others curiously sized them up.

"You are finally here. We've been waiting for you. Please take your seats." Elena, the city lord, sitting in the head seat, smiled and gestured for the maids to bring out chairs for them.

Two maids came forward and brought out two chairs beside Belen and Leticia while Arya ran up to her mother and sat on her lap.

After they sat down while the maids served them food, Elena smiled lightly, "You already know us. Let me introduce others to you guys." She then pointed to a male and female elf sitting beside Arya's cousin, "They are Little Kuh's parents, who are also my brother and sister-in-law. You can address them the way you address us."

"Greetings, uncle and auntie." Max and Rima politely greeted them.

Whoosh!

Little Kuh's parents didn't respond to their greetings; instead, they stood up.

"This..." When Max and Rima saw this, they knew what they intended to do.

Indeed, as they expected, the elf couple bowed deeply toward them and said, "Saviors, thank you for saving our son, Little Arya and our parents' lives. We are very grateful to you. Please don't hesitate to tell us if you need any help. As long as it's something that we can do, we'll try our best to fulfil your wishes."

Max and Rima exchanged looks with Belen and Leticia, who had helpless expressions. Max nudged Rima, who nodded to him before she spoke up, "We just called you uncle and auntie, which means we treat you as our elders, and as our elders, you don't have to bow to us."

Bonus chapter (1/10)

Chapter 278: System's reminder

"O-okay." The elf couple nodded and looked at Rima approvingly. Then the male elf said in all seriousness, "Please remember to come to us if any of you guys need anything. As long as it's something that we can do, we'll try our best to do it."

"Okay. We'll do that." Rima smiled.

Max sitting beside her, also had a satisfied smile on his face. He asked her to deal with them because he wanted her to leave a good impression on the people present so that they would take care of her while she stayed in the city, and from the look in the eyes of the elf couple and other people present, he knew she was successful in doing that.

After little Kuh's parents sat down, Elena introduced other people present to Max and Rima. It should be mentioned that the elves were really good people. Not only Arya's parents, grandparents and little Kuh's parent expressed their gratitude to them, but others also did the same and promised to fulfil their requests if they had any. After that, everyone focused on eating breakfast.

...

"Big brother, Big sisters, since we can't go to meet granny Mira. Come with me; I'll show you our city. You'll definitely like it." After they had breakfast, Little Arya asked excitedly.

While talking, the old man had told them that Rima's soon-to-be master, who was a king mage or, in other words, a six-star mage, wasn't in the city for the time being and would return in a few days. So, they had to wait before they could meet her.

"That's a good idea. You should follow her around and see how our city fares in comparison with your human cities." Ryan, Arya's father, nodded.

"Okay, We'll do that then." Max, Rima and others nodded. They also wanted to see it. After all, not everyone had the opportunity to, even if they wanted, since very few humans were allowed entry.

"Hey, kid. Here, take it." Suddenly, Little Arya's uncle threw a spatial bag toward Max, who instinctively caught it.

"Use these to buy it if you find something to your liking." He said, and before Max could say anything, he went out of the dining hall with his wife and son.

"Hehe, uncle is very generous." Little Arya giggled. She then tugged on Max's arm, "Big brother, let's go. We'll buy many delicious sweets in the market with them."

"Little girl, it's still morning, so the market shouldn't be opened yet. Wait for a few hours before you go." Elena reminded her.

"Oh, I almost forgot." Little Arya stuck her tongue out playfully. She then looked at Max and others and said, "Big brother, big sisters, I'll come to get you after a while. Be ready, okay?"

"Yes, yes. We will be." Rima patted her head as she nodded.

The city lord then glanced toward them and smiled, "I've asked my people and started the Mana gathering formations in your respective room. If you wish, you guys can cultivate while you wait."

When Belen and others heard this, they became excited and hurriedly thanked her, "Thank you, city lord." The reason they were so excited was that the Mana density and purity in this city were already almost double what was in the Cloud academy.

So, it was evident that if they cultivated in the rooms with Mana gathering formations activated, their cultivated speed would be a few times faster than what it was when they cultivated in Cloud academy's training rooms.

They didn't linger around anymore in the dining hall and hurriedly returned to their residences and entered their room.

"Wow! Such dense Mana. This room feels completely different from before." Leticia exclaimed when she entered her room. Without delay, she sat cross-legged and started to cultivate.

Rima and Belen were the same. They didn't waste any time and started cultivating. They were feeling a bit regretful that they promised Little Arya to go out and roam around the city.

"As expected of the Elves. Even this small silver city is more resourceful than the cloud academy." Max exclaimed when he felt the dense Mana in his room. However, unlike the ladies, he didn't rush to cultivate since he couldn't do that even if he wanted.

He sat on the bed and took out the spatial bag he received from Arya's uncle to see how many Mana stones were in there.

"So many!" After taking a look, Max couldn't help but exclaim in shock when he saw the small mountain of Mana stones contained in the spatial bag.

"These are at least fifty thousand. I only need a few ten thousand more before I would be able to buy the healing pill for Flavia." His eyes gleamed when he thought this. However, in the next moment, his expression froze when he suddenly heard the system's voice.

[The system would like to remind the host that if the host doesn't go to the demon continent within a week, the system will start charging interest.]

"I know. You don't have to nag me." Max replied, annoyed.

The moment he recovered from his injuries, the system told him that he needed to go to the demon continent as soon as possible to collect demon cores to pay back the debt he had taken previously, or it would start charging interest.

Initially, Max wanted to return to the academy after Rima woke up and then go to the demon continent. However, because Rima was given the opportunity to become the disciple of a king mage, he had to delay his plan since he needed to go with her to meet her to be master and see where Elvin city was located so that he would know where to find Rima if he wanted to meet her in future.

[It's good that the host knows it. Please try to gain some more Lust points since the current ones aren't enough to open the teleportation portal to the demon continent.]

Chapter 279: Spatial ring

Max had an unwilling expression when he heard the system's words. It was because the system had told him that he needed at least 150,000 LPs or 300,000 mid-grade Mana stones to open the teleportation portal to the demon continent.

Needless to say, when Max heard this, he flew into a rage, but there was nothing he could do about it since the system had threatened him with interest on his debt.

"I know." He sighed and murmured, "It seems I would need to have another session with one of the ladies before I've enough LPs to open the teleportation portal."

"However, now that Elena had started the Mana gathering formations in our rooms, it's unlikely they would come to me anytime soon." He smiled bitterly, then sighed, "It's fine. I'll find some time with them when they are free since I still have a week until the deadline."

Although he could also use Mana stones, where would he find 300,000 of them? Not to mention they weren't low-grade stones but mid-grade stones. Moreover, even if they were low-grade ones, he wouldn't be able to collect so many of them.

'It would be great if these were mid-grade stones.' He looked at the spatial bag in his hand and sighed.

"Oh, right." Suddenly he remembered something and took out a small black ring from his pocket. This was the spatial ring he obtained after killing the three-star dark mage in the underground cave. But because he was unconscious for a few days after the fight, he forgot to check it."

He then tried to 'see' what was inside the ring, but much to his surprise, he was unable to.

"Huh? Why can't I check it?" A puzzled expression appeared on his face. He then tried it with the spatial bag and found out that he could clearly 'see' the things stored inside, and if he willed it, he could easily take them out.

"System, why can't I explore this spatial ring? Is there something wrong with it?" He decided to ask the system.

[Host, there is nothing wrong with the spatial ring.] The system took a moment before it replied.

"Then why can't I use it while I can use the spatial bag easily?"

[If the host wants to use a spatial ring, first, you would need to establish ownership over it. Only after you do that will you be able to use it.] The system replied.

"And how can I do that?" Max nodded in understanding before asking.

[It isn't difficult. The host only needs to use a drop of blood, infuse it with your Mana and drip it on the ring.] The system replied in an impatient voice before falling silent.

"Okay." Max nodded and proceeded with establishing ownership.

...

Somewhere far away, In a dark underground palace, a handsome man was lying on an altar located at the centre of a small lake filled with blood-red liquid.

If someone were to see him and disregard the fact that his eyes were half-opened, they would think that he was dead.

"I shouldn't have taken over the control of the system. This kid is going to annoy me to death with his questions." The man murmured in an almost inaudible voice before closing his eyes.

...

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Two figures flashed through the forest in the direction of the small town where Max and the company stayed before departing for Ninam city with the Elvin family. One was a skinny middle-aged man in scarlet robes, while the other one was an average-looking young woman garbed in yellow clothes.

"That's the town, my lord." Although from her words, it would seem that she was respectful to him, her tone was indifferent, and she didn't think too highly of him.

"Are you sure that kid is there?" The middle-aged man asked sceptically.

This middle-aged man was a three-star Mage who was sent by the Dalton family on Dalton's orders to kill Max.

"Are you doubting our intelligence network?" The woman's tone became even more chilling when she heard this.

"You!" The middle-aged man was enraged by her reaction. However, he forcibly calmed down and said, "I'm not doubting you but merely want the confirmation."

The woman's expression eased up slightly when she heard this and replied in a plain voice, "Well, I'm not sure whether he is currently in that town or not. But from the report I received from our informant, he was there with his companions until three days ago."

"Why don't you ask your informant?" He asked.

"I would have if I could. However, for some reason, he stopped responding to us three days ago." As she replied, her eyes gleamed when she glanced toward the town in the distance. She sighed inwardly as she thought, 'He must have died. If not, there is no way he wouldn't inform me about the target's current whereabouts. Did the target find him and kill him?'

After they entered the city and asked around, they quickly found the inn where Max and the company were staying.

"They left with the Elves two days ago." After asking the innkeeper, they found out that Max and others had already left.

"If they left with elves, they must be heading to their city and from what I know, only the Ninam city is the closest Elvin city." The yellow-clothed woman informed the middle-aged man in a timely manner.

"Ninam city?" The middle-aged man's expression became a bit grim when he heard this before he smiled bitterly, "It has become a bit tricky now."

He then took out a communication crystal, and after infusing his Mana into it, he spoke, "Young master, from what I found out, that kid has gone to an Elvin city. So, It is going to take some time before I would be able to kill him."

A few moments later, a frustrated voice sounded in his ears, "If that's the case, you go to that Elvin city and wait for him to come out. Don't return without killing him."

"Yes, young master." The middle-aged man nodded and put away the communication crystal. He then turned to the yellow-clothed woman and said, "You can go now."

Whoosh!

Without waiting for her reply, he flashed out in the direction of Ninam city.

The woman watched him leave with an emotionless expression before she also headed out deeper into the town.

...

Sizzle~

After Max dropped his blood drop on the spatial ring, the blood drop sizzled before it vanished into the ring.

"Huh? I can feel a connection with the ring." Max was surprised by the strange sensation he felt after the blood drop vanished into the ring.

'I should be able to check what is inside now, right?' He thought.

"The space is almost three times bigger than the space inside the spatial bags." He exclaimed when he 'saw' how big the space was inside the ring.

He then shifted his attention to the stuff stored in it. Apart from daily use items, there were a few jars of dark red liquid, a few bottles of pills, three paper talismans and three hundred Mana stones which seemed to be of higher quality than the low-grade Mana stones.

'These seem to be mid-grade Mana stones?' He thought and took them out. When he tried to 'cultivate' with them, he found that the Mana in these stones was of higher quality. 'These should speed up the ladies' cultivation speed.'

"This is blood?" Max almost threw up when he opened one of the jars with dark red liquid.

Bang!

He hurriedly closed its lid and stored all the blood-filled jars in a separate spatial bag.

He then checked the talismans and pill bottles. Needless to say, he didn't recognise any of them.

"Forget it. I'll ask Belen, she will know what are these. For now, let's use this Mana-rich environment to train." He shrugged and stored all the stuff back in the spatial ring before he stood in the centre of the room.

Whoosh!

Mana surged out from his body and enveloped him before it formed a flaming barrier around him. He intended to train his [Flame barrier] until it was time to go out to explore the city.

...

Huff! Huff!

After approximately two hours of continuous training, Max was gasping for breath as sweat trickled down his forehead.

"I didn't expect to make such improvements in just two hours." Although he was exhausted, a bright smile was plastered on his face.

Knock! Knock!

"Big brother. It's time. Let's go." Just then, Little Arya's melodious voice sounded out from outside the room.

Chapter 280: Bad impression

"She is already here, and I thought I would be able to rest for a while." Max smiled wryly and opened the door.

"Big brother, you..." When little Arya saw Max's exhausted complexion, her cheerful dimmed as she said in a sad voice, "Big brother, why aren't you ready yet?"

Seeing her expression, Max smiled and patted her tiny head as he said in a gentle tone, "Give me a few minutes. I'll quickly get ready." He then pointed toward Rima and the others' room when he noticed they weren't out yet and said, "Why don't you call out your big sisters in the meantime?"

"Okay. I'll call them out, but big brother, you hurry up, okay? There is a shop in the market that sells delicious sweets; if we are late, it will be sold out." Little Arya urged him to hurry before she went to knock on the ladies' room.

After Max closed the door, he went to the bathroom to take a bath and changed his robes.

When he came out of the room, Arya was impatiently waiting with Rima and the others right in front of his room.

Whoosh!

When Little Arya saw him, she charged toward him like a bolt of lightning, grabbed his hand before pulling him out of the mansion, "Let's go. We are going to be late."

In front of an overly excited Arya, Max was helpless and could only allow her to drag him however she liked.

When Rima and the others saw his expression, they glanced at each other before they broke out into laughter. This was the first time they saw him wearing such an expression.

...

Under little Arya's lead, Max and the company left the city lord's mansion and went toward the city market.

As they walked through the spacious streets, Max and the ladies kept looking around in amazement. Leticia couldn't help but exclaim, "How amazing!"

Because they were in the carriage when they arrived, they couldn't properly see what the city looked like. However, now that they could see it, they were amazed.

All the buildings and houses in the city were made of wood with extremely beautiful craftsmanship. All the people they saw had smiles on their faces as they went about their daily work. Children were happily playing on the streets while the elderly could be seen sitting in front of their houses, sipping tea as they merrily talked and laughed. The atmosphere alone here was extremely soothing.

"Big sister, nothing is amazing about it. This is just the residential area of our city, so it's very boring here. However, the market is more lively in comparison. There are many fun places there. However, my parents and grandparents also like this part of the city more, and now you also find this amazing. Why is it so?" Little Arya asked in a confused voice.

"Because it's very peaceful here." Leticia smiled and then thought with a dreamy look, 'How amazing would it be if we could live here without any worry!'

"What's so good about it? I like the fun and lively places more. That's why I always sneak out. Human cities are more lively." Little Arya laughed mischievously.

Max and the ladies only smiled in response while a thought emerged in their hearts, 'It's good to be young.'

"Hey, look, it's big sister Arya." Suddenly they heard an excited childlike cry in front of them.

A group of Elvin kids was playing there. When they noticed Arya, all of them became excited and ran toward her.

"Big sister. You have really returned."

"We missed you, big sister."

"You came to play with us, right?"

She was immediately surrounded by the kids who seemed very happy to see her, unlike the previous group of kids they saw when they came to the city.

Seeing this, Little Arya glanced at Rima and others with a smug smile on her face, it was as if she was saying that 'I'm popular.'

Rima and others couldn't help but chuckle when they saw this.

"Humans?" When little Arya glanced back, the Elvin kids finally noticed Max and others. A shocked and fearful expression appeared on their faces, and they hurriedly stepped back.

"Huh?" Max and the ladies were surprised by their reaction.

"Hey, what's with your reactions?" Arya asked in a deep voice as her expression turned grave.

Whoosh!

Suddenly, three elderly elves who were previously enjoying tea and talking appeared in front of them and looked at the humans warily. One of them looked at Arya and asked, "Saint girl, who are these humans?"

"Granny, this big brother and sisters are our honourable guests." Little Arya replied after she glared at the group of kids.

"Honourable guests?" The elderly elves were taken aback by her words. After that, they smiled and nodded toward Max and company, "Please don't mind the kids."

"It's fine, elders." Rima modestly replied.

The elderly elves nodded and then turned toward the group of kids, "Saint girl is busy with the honourable guests. Don't bother them. Go and play by yourselves."

The kids obediently nodded, and after taking a few more curious glances at Max and others, they walked away while whispering with each other.

"Big brother, big sisters, let's go. This place is not fun." Little Arya said grumpily as she glanced at the group of kids.

"Okay. Don't get angry now." Rima chuckled and then asked, "However, I'm curious why they acted as if they had seen a ghost when they saw us. From what I know, humans aren't that rare in your city, right?"

Hearing this, Arya nodded, "That's right, big sister. There are always a few humans present in our city because of trade purposes." She then continued, "However, no one is allowed in this part of the city, and the people living here rarely go out of here. So they here rarely interact with them. That's why they were surprised to see you guys."

"Oh, that's why." Rima nodded. At the same time, she sighed, 'If it were not for those two lecherous bastards, the Elvin race wouldn't have a bad impression of the humans.'

Bonus chapter (2/10)