

Strongest Mage with the Lust system

- Chapter 425: Second extraction |

Chapter 425: Second extraction

"I-It's because he saved my life..." Amara wanted to reiterate the same excuse, but Ashroth cut her sentence short. With a disappointed expression on his face, he said.

"You are still lying to me. I know your relationship with him. If you don't tell me the truth, I'll kill him right now."

Amara's mind raced.

After a moment, she took a deep breath, put on a serious expression on her face and said, "Big brother. I didn't want you to worry. That's why I didn't tell you the truth."

"The truth is, after my bloodline awakening, I was about to die. The wisp of remnant consciousness of that senior told me that if I want to live, I had to calm the chaotic energies in body and to do that, I urgently needed a male's yang energy. However, there was no male apart from that human, so I had no choice but to..."

Hearing this, Ashroth's expression became less stern. Then he said, "But this still doesn't explain the need of him being with you."

Amara lowered her head, and said in a soft voice, "The thing is, when I used his yang energy to calm my chaotic energy, I did that using the formation created by the system. This, however, had a side effect. I have to take some of his yang energy every once in a while. If not, my bloodline would erupt and I would die."

When Ashroth heard this, his brows knitted together. Although he hadn't heard of such a thing, it didn't mean it wasn't possible.

After a while, he worriedly asked, "Isn't there a cure for it?"

Seeing his expression, Amara felt guilty. A moment later, she said, "According to that senior, I'll be fine once I break through to the mortal boundary and become a five-star mage."

"That's good." Ashroth sighed in relief upon hearing that it wasn't permanent.

He then said, "Keep that human in your villa. Don't let him wander out in case he gets himself killed. We can't afford him dying before you reach the five-star realm. Also, don't worry about anything else and focus on your cultivation."

"Yes, big brother." Amara obediently nodded before asking, "Big brother, you... you aren't angry with me anymore, right?"

Hearing this, Ashroth wore an apologetic expression. Gently caressing her head, he shook his head. "No, I'm not."

Upon hearing this, Amara revealed a cheerful smile, but deep down, she was saddened because she had to lie to him.

"Okay. I'll go now." Saying this, Ashroth walked out. While walking, he remembered something and took out Max's spatial ring and threw it toward Amara. "Give it back to him."

"Hm. Okay." Amara nodded and watched him disappear from the sight.

She then returned to her room, her expression downcast.

...

When Amara walked into the room instead of Ashroth, Max sighed in relief.

After Ashroth confiscated his spatial ring, which had his communication crystal, he didn't have any way of informing her what she was supposed to say to her big brother so he wouldn't kill him.

Therefore, he had been worried that she might tell him a different story, which would prove that he was lying.

If that happened, he didn't have any doubt that Ashroth would have kill him. But fortunately, Amara seemed to have said something which proved his excuse to be true.

After calming down his tense nerves, he noticed Amara's expression and asked, "Why do you still have such an expression? Aren't we safe now?"

Ha!

Amara sighed. After closing the door, she nodded, "We are safe, but I don't feel good after lying to my big brother."

Her answer rendered Max speechless. In his mind, he thanked his lucky star that the slave seal was working properly. If not, she might have told Ashroth the truth and he would have died.

Smiling wryly, he patted on the bed beside him. "Don't worry about it too much and come here."

Amara nodded and walked to the bed before gently sitting beside him.

Max didn't rush to take her clothes off, but did some small talk with her.

He asked whether she got the news she went to find. To this, Amara nodded and told him everything Beille told her.

"So, the king ranked demons will command the lower ranked demons in the first wave of attack?" Max asked.

"Yes." Amara nodded, "If this time's invasion was also like the previous times, only the warriors in the three-star and four-star realm would have taken part. In the second wave, five-star warriors and finally the king ranked warriors in the third wave. However, this time, everyone at and under the king-realm are going to participate."

Hearing this, Max's expression turned solemn.

Noticing his expression, Amara stopped talking. From their previous conversations, she understood Max's family and friends lived where the battle was going to take place and he was worried about their safety.

Phew!

Max closed his eyes and took a deep breath to calm down.

He then grabbed her hand and pulled Amara into his embrace before overlapping her succulent lips with hers.

Thus, started the second round of the day.

...

Huff! Huff! Huff!

After an hour later, both of them were lying side by side, their naked bodies glistening with sweat.

After regulating his breathing, Max opened the system notification window and nodded in satisfaction. He gained 250,000 LPs just like last time and, same as last time; they vanished from his status window in an instant.

Closing the system window, he turned to look at Amara. She was still panting for breath and her face had lost all color after the second pure yin extraction.

"Are you alright?" He asked.

Amara took a few more deep breaths before shaking her head lightly. "No. My head is ringing and my body feels very weak. I can't even properly circulate my demon energy. This is awful."

Hearing this, Max felt pity for her. If he wasn't in a rush, he wouldn't have extracted her pure yin two times in a row.

Sighing, he said, "Rest for a while and then use the blood gem to recover your energy."

Chapter 426: 20 million LPs just to hatch an egg?

It took Amara three days to recover her pure yin energy completely.

In these three days, Max continued to practice his spells. Both [Calidus Brachium] and the [Flame barrier] improved a little.

When Amara completely recovered, she also saw some improvement in her realm, which delighted her.

However, there was something which made her feel helpless.

Max noticed her expression and asked, "Shouldn't you be happy that this also helps you become stronger quickly? Why are you wearing such an expression?"

Amara smiled wryly, "Of course, I'm happy, master. But to recover, I needed two grade-four blood gems. After adding the previous one, I have already used three from the fourteen I got from aunt Beille. I fear these won't be enough for me to reach the peak of three-star."

Hearing this, Max went silent. He knew how rare these blood gems were. The chances of them finding more in the city were almost zero.

Just then, the system's voice sounded out, [So what if you don't have enough blood gems? Can't you just kill some beasts or something and consume their blood essence directly?]

Hearing this, Amara hesitated a little before saying, "I also thought about it senior, but the unadulterated blood essence is a lot more difficult to absorb and assimilate compared to the purified essence in the blood gems. Moreover, the resultant energy won't be pure and it will harm me instead."

[That's only true for ordinary people. Not for you.] The system said.

"I'm not normal?" Amara revealed a confused expression, "Apart from my bloodline's higher purity, I don't believe I'm different from any average demon in the tribe?"

[Of course, you are different. You have a master who can ask favors from a supreme being.] The system laughed.

When Max heard this, black lines appeared on his forehead. He knew it wanted to cheat more LPs from him through Amara.

When Amara heard this, she glanced at Max with shining eyes and a beautiful smile on her face.

Max grumbled inwardly for a moment before coldly asking to the system, "What do you in mind?"

[Hehe, kid. Don't be like that. You won't lose anything in this transaction, don't worry.] The system laughed a victorious laugh.

"Let's get to the point, shall we?" Max said in annoyance.

[Alright. So, the thing is, since there aren't enough blood gems for her to use, you two should go out and hunt beasts, demons or any living thing with strong blood energy. Then I'll extract, refine, and purify their blood essence for her to use. This way, not only can you two increase your cultivation, you'll also gain fighting experience.] The system explained.

"Yes. That will solve all our problems," Amara excitedly said.

Max ignored her and asked, "How much will your help cost me?"

[Not much. Just give me 10% LPs you gain every time you extract her pure yin after she uses the blood essence refined by me to recover or cultivate her pure yin.] The system transmitted this directly to his head.

Max thought for a while before agreeing, "Alright."

He then looked at Amara and said, "Let's quickly use up all the remaining blood gems before going out to hunt."

Hearing this, Amara blushed.

To quickly use the blood gems, he needed to have sex with her to extract her pure yin so she could use them to recover. She, of course, could use them to cultivate, but that will take a lot more time.

She looked at him gratefully. She knew he had to pay a certain price to the senior every time he asked for his help. Although he did that so he would have the constant supply of her pure yin, she was still grateful because it was also helping her become strong.

Without saying anything, she took off her clothes and helped him do the same.

A moment later, their bodies intertwined, and they lost themselves in the carnal pleasure.

...

They did it two times in a row before stopping.

Like before, Amara's complexion turned sickly pale, and she was feeling weak. Immediately, she took out a blood gem and started absorbing the blood essence to recover.

Seeing this, Max nodded to himself.

He then opened the system's notification panel. There were two notifications.

[You've gained 250,000 lust points.]

[You've gained 250,000 lust points.]

Seeing them, he nodded in satisfaction. Now that he had repaid the one million he owed the system for awakening Amara's bloodline, he could use the LPs gained next time to enhance his mana.

Just then, the system's voice sounded in his ears, [Kid, do you want to hatch the golden-winged python's egg?]

"You can hatch it now?" Max asked, a little excited.

He remembered after he bought the egg in the auction and asked the system to help him hatch it. The system had told him it needed to recover a little more of his strength before it could do that.

After that, Max had almost forgotten about it.

[Yes. I can. But because the egg is hundreds of years old, there is only a small wisp of life left in it. I'll first have to nourish it before hatching it and this process will be too taxing for me.] The system said.

Hearing this, Max almost burst out in curses. "Can you stop drooling over my LPs? I also need them to improve."

[What do you mean by this, kid? I only ask for my labour money. Can't I do even that?]
The system angrily said.

Max ignored his words and asked, "How much do I need to pay to hatch it?"

The system was silent for a moment after he asked this. Then it said,

[20 million lust points.]

"What?" Max exclaimed in disbelief. Thinking that he might've heard it wrong, he asked, "How much did you say?"

[It's 20 million LPs.] The system repeated.

Hearing this, Max immediately shook his head. "It's alright. I don't want to hatch it yet."

[Are you sure about it?] The system asked.

"Yes. I'm sure. I can't afford to spend so many LPs on it." Max nodded.

Hearing this, the system chuckled. [Hehe, allow me to change your mind then.]

Chapter 427: Fearsome characteristics of the golden winged python

"Don't bother. I don't want to, nor I can afford to spend so many LPs." Max said, not wanting to talk about it anymore.

The system, however, was bent on earning extra points. It said,

[I understand your concern. That's why I'm willing to help you hatch the egg first. As for the payment, you can pay when you can. There won't be any deadlines or any interest. Isn't this a good deal?]

Max's eyes shone when he heard this, but didn't immediately reply.

Seeing him remain silent, the system spoke again.

[Don't hesitate, kid. I'm doing this all for your sake. If you have a high ranked beast companion, the chances of you surviving the upcoming calamity will increase by a few times.]

Hearing this, Max doubtfully said, "The war is only a month away. Even if you can hatch the egg this instant, it will be just a newborn and will need time to grow. I don't think it can become strong enough to help me in the war."

[Hehe, you would be right if it was a normal beast. This beast, however, is the golden-winged python, which should be the offspring of at least a king ranked beast if not higher.]

[Moreover, there are some chances of it to awaken its ancestral bloodline when it hatches. If that happens, not to mention a month, it'll be stronger than you as soon as it is born.] The system chuckled and revealed the shocking information about his soon to be companion.

Max had an astonished expression on his face which lasted for a while before he shook his head and smiled bitterly, "Almost everyone around me is awakening their bloodlines. At this rate, I'll soon be the weakest among them."

[Don't be impatient, kid. When I have recovered enough, I will help you awaken yours too.] The system said, chuckling lightly.

Max smiled and shifted the topic back to the egg, asking. "How long will it take you to hatch it?"

[Given the egg's condition, it should take a few days to a week.] Answered the system.

"Alright. You can get to it then." Max said.

[Okay. Try not to disturb me unless it's something important.] The system said before going silent.

Max nodded, his eyes twinkling in excitement.

After resting for a while, he stood up and went to the bathroom to take a bath.

When he returned, Amara was still absorbing the blood energy from the blood gem.

Not wanting to disturb her, he quietly left the room and went to her practice chamber to continue to practice his spells.

...

This time, it took Amara almost two and a half days to recover her pure yin completely. Also, she almost used up three blood gems in the process.

Just like before, she also made some progress toward the high-stage three-star realm and her demon energy also seemed to have become purer than before, which delighted her.

Looking at the remaining blood gems, she sighed, "If I can use them to cultivate instead of recovering my pure yin, I believe I can easily break through to the high-stage and also made some progress toward the peak of three-star."

Just then, Max entered the room and smiled at her. "Don't worry. You'll be able to focus on your cultivation when we go hunting."

Hearing this, Amara sighed in relief and thanked him. "Thank you, master."

Max nodded and said, "Okay. Rest for a while. Once you are ready, we'll do it."

Amara's heart rate quickened a little when she heard this. Nodding her head, she lay down on the bed and slept for two hours. She then went to the bathroom to take a bath.

After a while, she returned to the room and announced, "I'm ready, master."

Max was lying on the bed with his eyes closed. When he heard her, he opened his eyes. When he laid his eyes on her, he couldn't help but say, "You look beautiful."

She had just a white towel wrapped around her curvaceous body. The towel was covering only her upper body and nether regions, leaving her dainty hands and long, smooth legs exposed for him to admire. Her hair was slightly wet, and there was a refreshed look on her face.

When she was about to put on her clothes after washing up, it occurred to her that if she went out only in a towel, he would most definitely like it. So, to please him, she came out just like that.

Upon hearing his compliment, she felt her heart flutter and a beautiful smile appeared on her face.

"Thank you, master." She said, blushing a little, which made her appear even more beautiful.

"Mm. Come here." Max gestured for her to come near him.

Swaying her tantalizing body, Amara gracefully walked to him and stood at the bedside, right in front of him.

Sitting up, Max extended his hand and wrapped around her slim waist and pulled her onto the bed and into his embrace.

As he inhaled her fresh, feminine scent, an intoxicated expression appeared on his face. Her scent was unique and almost hypnotising.

When he inhaled it, he would feel refreshed. All his worries and thoughts would seem to vanish and his lust would be triggered, which would make it hard for him to hold back.

He had asked her if it was her natural scent and she told him it was natural and almost every female of the blood winged tribe had the same scent. The only difference was in the intensity of it. The stronger the person, the stronger the scent.

Seeing the intoxicated expression on her face, Amara felt happy. Every lady would want their man to have such an expression when they were with them. It didn't matter if the said female was human or demon.

After a moment, Max raised his head and looked at her. Amara understood what he wanted and leaned her head toward him. Gently, she placed her velvety lips on his and started kissing.

As he tasted her lips, his hands didn't stay put. He lifted the towel from her backside and started fondling her springy ass.

Chapter 428: Is she a fairy?

...Human continent, central region, Ice sovereign mountain...

Ice sovereign mountain had many small peaks which almost reached clouds. Only elders and core disciples were allowed to reside on them.

On one of these peaks, an extremely graceful figure in white was standing on the snowy ground, silently staring at the human shaped crystalline ice sculpture in front, her eyes filled with longing.

Whoosh!

Just then, a white feathered bird swooped down from the sky and landed behind her.

It then transformed into a pretty young lady.

When she saw that the girl in white didn't seem to notice her arrival, she pouted her lips and gave the ice sculpture an envious glance before saying, "Big sister, I have some news about this bad guy."

Shua!

As soon as she heard this, the girl in white immediately appeared in front of this young lady, eagerly asking, "What is it? Hurry and tell me."

This fairy like girl was Lilly and the ice sculpture she had been staring at a moment before resembled Max.

Although her cultivation skyrocketed after arriving at the ice sovereign mountain and she also became a core disciple, which countless geniuses would dream of becoming, she wasn't happy at all.

She always missed her Max and wanted to return to his side. If it wasn't for her master's order who prohibited her from leaving the mountain, she would've tried to return to the Claymore town despite the dangers.

Surprised by her strong reaction, the young lady chuckled, "Hehe, Big sister, if anyone from the mountain saw you react like this, they would be shocked."

Because Lilly always missed Max but couldn't be with him, she always felt sad and never liked to talk to anyone, no matter who approached her. The only exceptions were her master, and this young lady who was her master's companion beast.

But because she was the top beauty of the ice sovereign mountain, many young men still didn't give up. Whenever she left her peak, they would flock around her, trying to win her favour.

Fed up with this kind of situations, she stopped leaving her peak altogether. Because her master didn't want her to be alone, she ordered this young lady called 'Little snow' to accompany her.

After interacting with her for a while, Lilly became friends with her.

After finding out that she was a five-star beast and was a lot faster than most peak five-star flying beasts, Lilly had tried asking her to sneak her out of the mountain and go to the green leaf kingdom to find out how Max was doing.

Little snow, however, refused because her master had already warned against it.

Seeing how Lilly became sad and stopped talking to her, Little snow promised her to find out the information through some other means.

After that, she tasked some establishments that specialise in information gathering to find out the news about him.

Finally, after almost a month's wait, the agency finally contacted her.

After she got the information from them, she directly ran over here to tell her.

"Stop talking nonsense, little snow and tell me what news you have." Lilly urged her.

"Okay. I'll tell you. Can you calm down first?" Little snow said, sighing in defeat.

Lilly took a deep breath and nodded.

Seeing this, Little snow said, "That bad guy is alive and well. After you came here, he had joined a small magic academy and living a good life."

Hearing this, Lilly smiled and lost in thought.

Seeing her become happy, Little snow decided not to tell her that Max already had other women.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Just then, the sound of drums sounded throughout the ice sovereign mountain.

Lilly came out of her thoughts and asked, "What is that sound, little snow?"

Little snow knitted her delicate brows and said, "It's the summoning drum. It seems something big has happened. They are gathering every elder and core disciple."

Whoosh!

After saying this, she reverted to her original form and said, "Come up, big sister. I'll take you to the main peak."

Lilly frowned. "Do I really have to go?"

Little snow nodded her bird head, "Yes, big sis. If you don't go, other elders will scold master for not properly educating you."

Lilly frowned when she heard this before nodding.

Shua!

An ice pillar formed below her feet and lifted her to the same height as Little snow. She then gracefully jumped onto her back.

Whoosh!

Little snow flapped her snowy white wings and took to the sky, flying toward the tallest peak.

When they arrived at the gathering plaza, it was already filled with people. Everyone was discussing why they were suddenly called here.

When some of the core disciples noticed her arrival, they hurried over to her and started greeting her with wide smiles. Of course, most of them were males.

Those who had seen her for the time couldn't help but exclaim, "What a beauty!" and also hurried over to her side.

Seeing everyone surround her, Lilly raised her brows in dissatisfaction. She didn't want to come here, because she knew this would happen.

Whoosh!

Little snow transformed into her human form and stood in front of Lilly, shouting in her childlike voice, "You lecherous people! Don't bother my big sis or I'll freeze you to death."

Hearing this, everyone went silent. It wasn't that they feared her, but because they didn't want to leave a bad impression on Lilly by ignoring her beast companion's words.

After awkwardly bidding their farewell, they scattered, causing Lilly to sigh in relief.

Little snow turned around and sternly said, "Big sister. You have to tell them off like I did if you don't want them to keep bothering you."

Seeing the stern expression on Little snow's cute face, a smile appeared on Lilly's face. She patted her head and nodded. "Okay. I'll do that."

When the surrounding people saw her smile, they forgot to breathe and their heart started racing.

"How beautiful! Is she a fairy of legends?" A male core disciple wondered out loud.

"No wonder she is crowned as the most beautiful girl of our ice sovereign mountain." Another exclaimed.

Chapter 429: I'm not in the mood to talk

Everyone seemed to have fallen into a trance-like state and couldn't move their gazes away from Lilly's face.

Whoosh!

Just then, a few figures came flying to the gathering plaza. Leading them was a handsome, silver-haired young man in white robes. He didn't look more than 20 years old. However, from the fact that he could on his own, one could tell he was at least a five-star mage.

After landing on the plaza, he swept everyone with his emotionless gaze and shook his head, saying, "It seems I came too early. None of the stronger people have come yet."

When some of the surrounding disciples heard him, although they felt displeased, they didn't say anything because they knew this guy had the capital to be this arrogant.

However, a strong-looking man who looked to be around thirty years old didn't know who this silver-haired youth was. When he heard him, he sneered and said to the person beside him in a low voice, "Who is this arrogant prick? He is just a high-stage five-star mage but isn't putting us peak five-stars in his eyes."

Shua!

As soon as these words left his mouth, a chilling aura descended upon him, almost forcing him to his knees.

The man shivered and when he looked at the source of the aura; he revealed a shocked expression because this aura belonged to the silver-haired youth.

'This... how can he suppress me with his aura when he is weaker than me?' He thought.

Swoosh!

The people around him immediately retreated, fearfully looking at the silver-haired youth.

Silver-haired youth looked at the man being suppressed by his aura and said in a cold tone, "Can you repeat what you just said?"

The man felt humiliated. Gritting his teeth, he released his aura.

Boom!

Their auras clashed, and his suppression on him was instantly lifted.

He glared at the silver-haired youth, gravely asking, "Who are you?"

The silver-haired youth squinted his eyes. As he did so, the man felt an even more horrifying pressure descended on him and forced him to his knees.

Thud!

The floor under his knees cracked and a trickle of blood flowed out from the corner of his lips.

When the surrounding disciples felt the sudden increase in the silver-haired youth's aura, their eyes widened.

"This... just who is he? His aura is almost as strong as an early-stage king mage's aura." Someone wondered in shock.

A disciple standing by his side looked at him as if he was some idiot and asked, "You really don't know who he is?"

"No. I'm always either on missions outside or cultivating on my peak. So, I don't know many people from the mountain." The former disciple explained before asking, "Is he someone famous?"

"Of course. He is famous. He is the rising star of the Dawn faction." The disciple said, his eyes revealing traces of fearful respect.

The Dawn faction was one of the three leading factions of the Ice sovereign mountain. Two of the current nine supreme elders that oversaw all the matters related to the mountain came from the Dawn faction.

"What? He is that fearsome guy who recently fought the Flame valley's King ranked core disciple, Aaron, and came out unscathed?" The former disciple asked, shocked. Although he didn't interact much with the people on the mountain, he was still aware of the latest matters.

"Yes. He is the one."

When the man being suppressed by the silver-haired youth's aura heard this, his heart skipped a beat and back was drenched in sweat even though the temperature of the mountain was always very low.

Just as he wanted to apologize, a voice sounded from the sky.

"Tsk! Tsk! The famous silver monster is trying to assert his dominance over ordinary disciples? How shameful!"

"Hm?"

Everyone raised their head to see who it was that dared to provoke the silver-haired youth.

Whoosh!

In the distant sky, a young man in black clothes with white stripes was slowly drifting over. His hands clasped behind his back. Several other people in the similar robes were following behind him.

"They are from the Black Ice hall. Things will get interesting now." Someone commented in a low voice.

"Why is that?" The disciple who was clueless about the silver-haired youth's identity asked when he heard this.

"You should pay attention to mountain's matter a little more." The disciple standing beside him shook his head before saying, "The Black Ice hall is also one of the three leading factions of our Ice sovereign mountain. The people of the black ice hall and Dawn faction don't get along. Almost every time they meet, things escalate to fight."

"Most importantly, this silver-haired youth, Oliver, and this guy from the black ice hall, Lucas, are the rising stars of their respective factions. As they say, when two kings of rival nations meet, things will get chaotic and that's what people here like to watch."

"I see."

...

Oliver, the silver-haired youth, raised his head to look at Lucas and asked coldly, "You've a problem with that?"

When the surrounding people heard this, they looked at Lucas expectantly.

The smile on Lucas' face gradually faded, but just as he was about to retort, one of the people behind him whispered something to him.

Hearing what he said, Lucas' eyes brightened, and he turned his head to look at the back of the plaza. He then chuckled at Oliver and shook his head. "Nope. I don't have any problem. You can continue to play."

Whoosh!

Saying this, he flew toward the back of the plaza.

When Oliver saw this, he followed his gaze and noticed Lilly. His emotionless eyes lit up, and he understood why Lucas didn't bother him this time.

Whoosh!

Immediately, he also flew in the air and followed Lucas.

The man who was being suppressed heaved a sigh of relief. Looking at Oliver's departing figure, his eyes flashed with resentment.

...

Whoosh!

Lucas landed in front of Lilly and smiled. "Hello, miss Lilly. How have you been?"

When Lilly, who was talking with Little snow, heard someone call out to her, she raised her head to look who it was.

Just then, Oliver also landed in front of her and shoved Lucas to the side before smilingly greeting her, "Hello, junior sister. It's nice seeing you."

Seeing the duo, Lilly's shapely brows knitted together. She then said, "Hello sirs. Please forgive me, but I'm not in the mood to talk. Can you give me some space?"

Chapter 430: Startling news

The smile on both Oliver's and Lucas' face froze when they heard this.

Although it wasn't the first time she did this to them, this time they were in the presence of many people, so they felt humiliated.

However, neither of them said anything. With a smile, they bade their farewell and went away.

Oliver's eyes flashed with a strange light as he thought, 'Maybe I should ask my parents to put more pressure on aunt.'

...

After they went away, Little snow looked at Lilly worriedly.

Noticing her gaze, Lilly asked, "What is it, Little snow?"

Little snow hesitated for a moment before saying, "Big sister, this Oliver guy, he is trouble. You should be careful of him."

Hearing this, a smile appeared on Lilly's face and she asked, "His parents are still trying to persuade the master to marry me to him, right?"

Little snow's eyes widened in surprised. She stuttered as she asked, "Big sister, y-you knew? How?"

"Of course. How would I not know something like this?" Lilly chuckled.

Seeing her smile without worry, Little snow looked at her strangely and asked, "Big sister, aren't you worried that master may have to agree under his parents' and other elders' pressure?"

"Master won't agree." Lilly said with confidence.

After spending time with her master, Lilly knew what kind of person she was. Although she appeared to be a cold and emotionless person, in reality she was a very affectionate and caring person.

Ever since they met, her master had been treating her as if she was her own daughter. So, under no circumstance would she allow Oliver to marry her, since she knew there was only Max in her heart.

As time passed, more and more core disciples and elders kept arriving. After some time, the white-haired woman, Lilly's master, also arrived.

Lilly and Little snow greeted her and stood beside her.

Little snow curiously asked, "Master, do you know what is going on? Why is everyone called here so suddenly?"

"No. I don't." The white-haired woman shook her head. She was also clueless about it.

Just then, Oliver walked over and greeted her with a smile, "Hello aunt Rose. I hope you've been well?"

Rose gave him an indifferent glance and said, "Address me as elder in public."

"Uh! I apologise elder." Oliver awkwardly apologised.

He then also asked if she knew the reason behind the gathering.

Rose didn't even look at him and said emotionlessly, "I don't know. You can try asking your parents since they are close with the two supreme elders."

From how she treated him, it was clear she didn't like this nephew of hers and didn't want to talk to him.

Oliver's facial muscles twitched upon hearing this. He then nodded, "Okay, elder. I shall not disturb you any longer."

Saying this, he took a deep glance at Lilly before walking away, feeling incomparably angry. He couldn't understand why neither the master nor the disciple seemed to like him.

Standing a few hundred meters away from Lilly's group, Lucas watched all this, his lips curling up into a mocking smile.

"This guy is really too thick skinned." He muttered.

As if noticing his gaze, Oliver turned his head toward him. When he saw the mocking smile on his face, he was even more incensed.

'All of you, just wait.' He thought, his silver eyes flashing with an ominous glint.

After a while, almost every core disciple and elder present on the Ice sovereign mountain has arrived at the gathering plaza.

Many five-star core disciples felt their vision go dizzy because they hadn't seen so many king and emperor ranked disciple in one place before. There were thousands of king ranked disciples and hundreds of emperor ranked disciples and elder.

Dong!

At the time, the drum sounded once again. The noisy plaza immediately quietened down, and everyone looked toward the platform ahead.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Three figures flew down from the sky and landed on the platform.

Everyone held their breath when they saw them because these three were the supreme elders who had the monarch level cultivation.

Immediately, everyone bowed their heads and reverently shouted, "Greetings, supreme elders!"

As the three supreme elders swept their gazes at the plaza, everyone, no matter if they were emperor ranked elder and disciple or king ranked disciple, held their breaths.

Of the three supreme elders, two were females and only one was male.

The one on the right side was a middle-aged female, in white-robos, and the one on the left was a middle-aged man in black robes with white stripes. These two were from the Dawn faction and the Black ice hall, respectively.

In the middle stood a woman, who didn't look no more than 25 years old in a pure white long dress. There was a majestic ice mountain imprinted on the side of her chest.

She was amazingly beautiful and had an ethereal air about her that captivated the people, but didn't let them have any obscene thought about her.

This woman represented the top faction of the ice sovereign mountain, sovereign faction. Even the both Dawn and Black ice hall put together weren't its match. That's also the reason they only ever competed against each other, but not the sovereign faction.

The woman in the middle took a step forward but didn't immediately speak.

After sweeping the crowd with her gaze, she opened her mouth and started speaking, "As all of you must know, the demon race was supposed to invade our continent 8 months later. However, for some reason, the demon race has decided to break to the agreement and will invade in less than a month."

When the crowd heard this, their expressions changed, and they started chattering worriedly.

Seeing this, the woman frowned and shouted lowly. "Silence!"

Boom!

Immediately, everyone felt their mind shook, and had difficulty in breathing.

'How strong!' Everyone exclaimed in their mind and quietened down.

After everyone had calmed down, the woman spoke again, "From now on, you are to stop doing whatever you've been doing and start preparing for the war."

Saying this, she glanced at the supreme elders beside her. "Please tell them the details."

Whoosh!

Once she said this, she didn't wait for them to respond and immediately disappeared from the place, leaving only snow-flakes behind that also disappeared as soon as they fell on the platform.

The remaining two supreme elders exchanged a glance, smiling wryly. Then the female supreme elder took a step forward and said, "Although the demon invasion brings a disaster for us, we have to fight and not let me return to our continent because if they do, you, your loved one, and everyone you know will be subjected to a fate worse than death."

When the people in the plaza heard this, their expression turned solemn. They knew she wasn't trying to intimidate them but was telling the truth.

She then continued, "Of course, this war is also an opportunity for us, as we will be able to hone our skills against the demons and improve our strength."

"Just like the previous time, the supreme factions will establish war halls in the war zones where you can exchange the demon cores for the war merits. You will be able to use these war merits to buy whatever you want in the war halls."

"Let me repeat, treat this war as an opportunity and try to earn as many war merits as you can because the supreme factions have prepared a special reward for the top three people in each realm."

Then suddenly, her expression became serious as she said, "As for those who are too cowardly to participate in the war to defend our continent, they will be expelled from the ice sovereign mountain to fend for themselves. Okay. You guys can return and start your preparations. You have two weeks. After that, you can head to the western region where this time's war will take place."

After she finished saying this, both of them also disappeared from the platform.

The crowd broke out in discussion. Some were worried, some were excited and a few like Oliver and other who had full confidence in their strength didn't have any expression.

Meanwhile, at the back of the plaza, Lilly's face had lost all colour when she heard where the battlefield will be.

"Master, Isn't the Green leaf kingdom in the western region near the sea? This means the demons will invade there first." She asked Rose.

Hearing this, Rose sighed, "Yes."

Chapter 431: Ice God technique

"You knew... they will invade from there beforehand, right?" Lilly asked again.

Rose looked at Lilly silently for a moment before nodding her head. "Yes. I knew."

Lilly's body trembled when she heard this and her eyes grew misty. "Why, master? Why didn't you tell me before? We could've sent someone to warn the young master and Garfield family."

This time, before Rose could respond, Little snow spoke up.

"Big sister. You misunderstand master. Master didn't tell you before because she was afraid you'll constantly worry about them and won't be able to focus on your cultivation. Moreover, they were going to find this out by themselves at least a month before the invasion. But who knew the demon race would invade before the agreed upon time?"

When Lilly heard this, she felt a little guilty toward her master because she had just assumed that her master had betrayed her trust. When she looked at her, she could see her eyes had a trace of sadness.

She opened her mouth to apologise, but Rose shook her head and gently stroked her head. "You don't have to apologise. I understand you are worried about that kid's and others' safety."

"Thank you, master." Lilly bowed her head guiltily. Then, suddenly, she raised her head and asked, "Master, I want to..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Rose cut her off and said. "Don't bother. I won't allow you to leave the mountain even if you hate me."

"But master, they are in danger. I need to go," Lilly exhorted,

Rose thought for a moment before saying, "I'll send someone to warn them and help them move to a safe location. Would that do?"

Hearing this, Lilly thought for a moment. She wouldn't be able to cross the dangerous wilderness alone and even if she can somehow, it'll take her more than a month. By then, the demons would have already invaded.

Moreover, her master would be angry with her since she would have disobeyed her. Comparatively, her master's proposal was the best. She could ensure Max and other's safety and her master, who had become a mother-like figure to her, wouldn't be angry with her either.

Thinking this, she nodded, "Okay. Thank you, master. Please send someone as soon as possible."

"Mm. Go and focus on your cultivation." Rose nodded.

Lilly bowed her head slightly in acknowledgment and prepared to return to her peak with Little snow when suddenly Rose spoke again.

"If you want to go out to meet that kid or participate in the war, you either need to awaken your dormant bloodline or reach the four-star realm. If not, you'll have to stay here obediently."

Whoosh!

As soon as she finished speaking, she flew into the sky and vanished on the horizon.

After she left, Little snow transformed into her real form. Lilly jumped onto her back before they also flew away from the plaza.

...

Oliver didn't return to his peak but come to his father's peak.

His father was one of the elders on the ice sovereign mountain and Rose's blood brother. Just like her, he was also an emperor ranked mage, but he had already reached the peak of his realm while Rose was still in the early-stage.

Whoosh!

Oliver landed in front of the ice palace at the centre of the peak. However, he didn't go in but waited outside.

After a while, a vigorous voice sounded in his head, [You can come in.]

Only after he got the permission that Oliver stepped inside the ice palace and walked to the main hall where a man who resembled Oliver almost completely and looked to be in his early thirties was hovering above ground with his eyes closed.

However, compared to Oliver, this man gave people a more cold, dangerous and unfathomable feeling. This was Oliver's father, Julius Dawn.

Shu! Shu! Shu!

Wisps of icy-cold energy were constantly flowing out of the ground and the palace walls before entering his body.

When Oliver stepped inside the hall, the ground and palace walls stopped releasing ice energy, and Julius opened his silver eyes.

He didn't show any emotion on his face when he saw Oliver and asked, "How is the progress on the ice god technique? Did you manage to comprehend it?"

Oliver looked at his father, bowed slightly before shaking his head, "The ice god technique is too abstruse. I still need some more time before I can comprehend the first volume."

The ice god technique was a set of different spells and cultivation technique which the founder of the Ice sovereign mountain has followed to reach the supreme realm.

Although the original copy had been lost already thousands of years ago, there were some imitations that the later generation had written based on their experience when cultivate this technique.

But even though it was just an imitation, it was still a sacred technique for the ice elemental mages and wasn't easily available. To get their hands on it, people needed to pay millions of contribution points to the mountain. Even then, they could only have it for less than a month.

Despite all this, people were ready to die for a chance to read it because it was rumored that whoever succeeded in comprehending and cultivating it, they were guaranteed to reach monarch realm in their lifetime. However, the challenge lied here because only a rare few could comprehend it.

Julius raised his brows when he heard this, a glint of disappointment flashing in his eyes. He then said in an emotionless tone, "You have three more days. After that, I have to return it to the library. So, try to comprehend as soon as you can."

"Yes, father. I'll do my best." Oliver nodded.

"Mm. Now tell me why you came here." Julius asked.

Oliver took a deep breath before speaking. "Father, how are things going with aunt Rose? Will she agree to let me marry Lilly or not?"

"Mm?" Julius raised his brows, and a displeased look appeared on his face. "Is this why you aren't able to comprehend the ice god technique?"

"N-No, father. That's not the reason. You know when I cultivate I don't think about anything else," Oliver hurriedly said.

Julius didn't comment on it. After a moment, he said, "It's difficult to persuade your aunt, but I'm trying. I'll ask the supreme elders to intervene in this matter after the war. Until then, focus on your cultivation. You can go now."

Saying this, he closed his eyes.

Oliver bowed slightly before turning around and leaving the peak.

'I have to wait that long now?' He thought, frowning. A moment later, he thought of something and his eyes glinted with a strange light.

...

...Demon continent, Blood wing tribe, Amara's residence...

Schlick! Schlick! Schlick!

Amara had an ecstatic expression on her face as she moaned and rode Max in reverse cowgirl position.

Max was holding her waist and thumping her hard from below.

This was their second and last round of the day, so both of them were enjoying it to the fullest.

Ahhhhnnnggg~

After a long while, Amara curled her toes, her body jerked upward and her insides squeezed his rod hard as she moaned loudly and climaxed.

Argh!

Feeling the pressure on his cock, Max also didn't hold back and climaxed with her, feeling her womb with his sticky liquid.

Huff! Huff! Huff!

After they finished, both of them were exhausted and were panting hard.

Although Amara's face had lost all the colour since two-thirds of her pure yin had been extracted, she had a satisfied expression on her face.

After catching her breath, she smiled at Max and said, "You are amazing, master." Saying this, she sat on knees and started cleaning their fluids off his cock with her tongue.

Max rubbed her head and laughed. "You are also amazing."

Chapter 432: Mana enhancement complete

After a while, they had taken a bath and were now resting. Max was lying on the bed with his head resting on Amara's soft lap.

Amara had a gentle expression on her face as she gazed at his face and stroked his hair.

Although she was feeling weak after the double extraction and wanted to recover her pure yin as soon as possible. But since she had the chance to spend some quality time with Max, she held back the urge.

Max was looking at his status screen, feeling a little excited.

[Lust points: 500,000]

With these points, he could easily enhance the rest of his mana to the three-star level and would still have over 100,000 LPs left.

However, he didn't immediately start the enhancement but looked at Amara and asked, "I heard your tribe has a special blood pool where you can cultivate and quickly increase your realm?"

"Huh? How did you...? Amara was surprised to hear him talk about the blood pool. How could he know about it? She was sure she hadn't told him about it yet.

But then she understood the senior must have told him about it. He was a mighty figure, after all. With just a casual sweep of his divine sense and he would know everything about the city. So, it wasn't strange for him to know about the blood pool's existence.

Thinking this, she nodded, a yearning look flashing in her eyes. "Yes. There is indeed a blood pool." She then sighed, "However, only people in the four-star realm or above can cultivate there. I'm still far from being able to cultivate in it."

"Why is that?" Max asked,

"Because of the blood pool's overbearing blood energy. No one below four-star can endure it and would go insane." Amara answered.

Max raised his brows when he heard this. System hadn't told him this, but seeing how it could do almost anything, he knew it must have some way to prevent that.

However, seeing how no one below four-star was allowed to enter the pool, her father wouldn't allow Amara to enter it since she was only a three-star demon. With this, his plan to tag along with her was ruined.

Just then, Amara's eyes glowed, and she excitedly said. "But now that I've awakened my bloodline, I can endure the blood energy and can enter it."

She then asked, "But why did you ask, master? Could it be that you want to cultivate in there?"

"Yes." Max nodded.

Hearing him confirm, Amara's revealed a helpless expression on her face and said, "I'm sorry, master, but my father won't allow you to enter."

"I know. But it's very important for me. So, try to convince your father and take me along when you enter the pool." Max seriously said.

"This... I'll try." Although she knew it was almost impossible for her father to allow Max into the blood pool, seeing how serious he was, she had no choice but to try.

"Good." Max nodded and then asked, "When can we enter?"

Amara smiled a forceful smile and said, "If my father allows the master to enter, we can go whenever we like, since it's usually empty."

Whoosh!

Max sat up and said, 'Alright. Start recovering your pure yin energy. Once you are done, go ask for his permission.'

After saying this, he sat cross-legged and started enhancing the remaining 3700+ mana units.

Rumble! Rumble! Rumble!

As his finger tapped on the screen, his remaining two-star mana started to change slowly.

Not long after, all ten thousand mana units had been enhanced to three-star level. Immediately after,

Argh!

Max's brows furrowed, and a pained expression appeared on his face.

Phew!

He exhaled a deep breath, opened his eyes and murmured, "I need to strengthen my core a little more." Although he had already strengthened his core to the limits a few days before, under 10,000 three-star mana units' pressure, it showed signs of crumbling.

Swoosh!

He immediately took out another bottle of demonic liquid from his inventory, but just as he was about to drink it, system's voice sounded in his ears.

[Kid, don't drink it. The more you use external things to strengthen your core, the more difficult it will be when you try to reconstruct it. So, if you really can't endure the pain, use some of your three-star mana to strengthen your core.]

Hearing this, Max stopped, put away the demonic liquid bottle and started using his three-star mana to strengthen his core.

One...two...three...twenty.

After he integrated 20 units of three-star mana, the pain in his core finally subsided. After that, he used his 2000+ LPs to replenish the 20 mana units he had just used.

When he glanced at Amara, he noticed she had already used up half of the blood gem and her complexion had increased a little.

As if sensing his gaze on her, she opened her eyes. Nodding her head slightly, she stored the blood gem and stood up, preparing to go out.

"Mm?" Seeing this, Max raised his brows in confusion and asked, "Why did you stop? Shouldn't you recover a little more so you won't look sick in front of your father?"

Amara shook her head and smiled. "If I go like this, the chances of my father agreeing are high. Also, I don't need to use the blood gems since I can recover in the blood pool."

Hearing this, Max nodded in understanding, "Alright."

Amara then walked out of the room while Max lay down on the bed to rest.

...

After a while, Amara arrived in front of the main hall. The two old demons kneeled on one knee and respectfully greeted her.

Amara nodded at them before pushing open the door and entering the hall.

She walked up the wall at the back, kneeled on one knee and greeted, "Hello, father."

A moment later, Orlan's voice sounded, "Little girl, how come you are here? Hm? What happened? Why do you seem so weak?"

Amara stood up and calmly said, "Something went wrong with my cultivation, and I lost some of my bloodline energy."

Whoosh!

Just as she spoke, Orlan's appeared in front of her, and put his hand on her shoulder to check what was wrong with her.

Seeing this, Amara panicked. If her father noticed she hadn't lost her bloodline energy but her pure yin, things would get complicated.

However, there was nothing she could do now, since he had already sent his energy into her body.

Chapter 433: Your Father-in-law doesn't like you

"Mm? It's strange." Orlan murmured after a while, his brows furrowed in confusion.

"What's strange, father?" Amara asked, a little nervous.

"Although I can see the energies inside your body are chaotic, I can't see what's exactly wrong." Orlan said.

Upon hearing this, Amara's eyes flashed, and she thought, 'It must be senior's doing.'

Thinking this, she smiled lightly and said, "Don't worry, father. As I said, it's because there was some problem with my cultivation. Once I use some blood energy, everything would stabilize and turn to normal."

"Alright." Seeing how confident she seemed, Orlan stopped thinking about it and nodded, "You can go and cultivate in the blood pool then. Your big brother is also there."

"Oh?" Amara exclaimed in surprise when she heard this and then became a little worried. She knew Ashroth didn't like Max and he could be angry if she went there with him.

Sensing the fluctuations in her mood, Orlan raised his brows and asked, "What is it? Why do you seem concerned about your big brother being there?"

He knew how much Amara loved her big brother. So, he thought she would be happy to hear this, but she seemed a little worried, which was surprising and suspicious.

Amara inwardly cursed herself for showing her emotions on her face before smiling wryly, "The thing is, father, I want my servant to accompany me inside the pool, but big brother doesn't like him. So, he would be angry."

When Orlan heard this, he narrowed his eyes and coldly said, "I also don't like the fact that you have a human as your servant, but I allowed it since you insisted. However, now you want him to enter the blood pool, too? Have you gone mad?"

Amara had expected him to react like this so her expression didn't change and she stubbornly shook her head and said, "Father, he saved my life. It's the least I can do to repay him. So, please allow him."

As she said this, she noticed Orlan's expression turned colder and colder. Seeing this, she sighed in her heart before adding, "Furthermore, he isn't a blood demon. At most, he can enjoy the complimentary benefits of the blood pool. So, I don't see any harm in him allowing to cultivate there."

Hearing this and seeing how stubborn she was being about it, Orlan went silent for a moment before reluctantly agreeing. "Do what you want."

Whoosh!

Finish saying this, he vanished from the spot.

Phew!

Amara sighed in relief and walked out of the hall.

When she returned to her villa, Max was already waiting for her at the entrance.

Amara wasn't surprised to see him because she had guessed that 'the senior' must have told him that her father had agreed.

"Shall we go?" Max asked, a little excited about breaking through to the three-star.

"Mm." Amara nodded before saying in a low voice, "Master, please don't do anything strange after entering the pool because my father constantly monitors it and my big brother is also cultivating there right now."

"Don't worry about it." Max nodded.

Then Amara grabbed him and flew back to the Orlan's main hall.

When the two old guards saw her enter the hall again with Max, they frowned in displeasure but didn't stop them.

Shua!

Just as Max stepped inside the hall, he felt a powerful aura pressing on him. Under this aura's pressure, his bones produced popping sounds, on the verge of breaking down.

He tried to resist, but to no avail. He was completely powerless in front of this horrifying power.

Just as he thought he was dead, Amara stepped in front of him, her back almost touching him, and shouted, "Father, stop it."

"Hmph!" A snort resounded in the hall before the aura vanished, causing Max to sigh in relief. Only now he realised he was drenched in cold sweat and was trembling.

'That was too horrifying.' He thought, wiping the sweat off his forehead and trying to calm down.

[Haha, it seems your father-in-law doesn't quite like you.] System's gloating voice sounded in Max's ears.

Hearing this, Max's lips twitched.

"Are you alright?" Amara looked at him and asked worriedly.

Seeing her expression, although Max was a little touched, he cried out in his heart, 'Can you please not show such an expression since your father is here? Do you want him to kill me?'

Bang!

Just as he expected, that horrifying aura descended upon him once again. Before any of them could react, he was thrown back, crashing into the wall.

Puah!

Upon impact, he immediately spat out a mouthful of blood and he felt disoriented. His bones and internal organs were severely injured.

Seeing him spat out blood, Amara eyes widened in horror and she hastily shouted, "Father! Why are you doing this? Do you want to kill him?"

"Oh, it's nothing. I mistakenly lost control of my aura just then. Go, you guys can go ahead." Orlan's indifferent voice sounded.

Rumble! Rumble! Rumble!

After his voice sounded, the hall's floor shifted, and a staircase appeared in the middle, leading down.

Amara was angry but didn't dare to say anything. Although she had awakened her bloodline and her worth had increased a lot, she still couldn't afford to talk back to her father, the branch leader.

Therefore, she suppressed her anger, took out a yellow-coloured pill, and fed it to Max.

Just as she was about to use her demon energy to help him digest it, system's voice sounded in her head, [Don't use your demon energy.]

Although she didn't understand why the senior didn't allow her to help him, she obeyed the order and put her hand down.

Meanwhile, Max felt a warm energy enter his body. Not only did it help him digest the healing pill in a matter of seconds, it also helped him heal all the leftover injuries.

Once he was fully healed, Max stood up and said, "Thank you." This was meant for both Amara and the system.

Amara nodded while the system's laughing voice sounded in his head, [No need to thank me. I'm always glad to help. Now pay me 5000 LPs for the help.]

Chapter 434: The demon staircase

Max wasn't bothered by the system's greediness this time. He subtly nodded his head to indicate that it could deduct the LPs.

He knew how serious his injuries were. If he had relied on only healing pills, it might have taken him days, if not weeks, to recover fully.

So, in his opinion, 5000 LPs in exchange of the instant recovery was an excellent deal. What 5000, even if the system had asked more, he wouldn't have batted an eye.

Amara sighed in relief and also felt guilty because, even though she didn't know why her father suddenly attacked him, she knew it must have been related to her. To prevent this from happening again, she stayed by Max's side, her body almost touching her.

In a secret room in the hall, Orlan had a shocked and surprised expression on his face as he watched Max stand up as if he wasn't injured at all. He murmured in disbelief, "How did he recover so quickly? Did I go easy on him and didn't injure him enough?"

Immediately, he shook his head. He had clearly used around 10% of his full power in that aura attack. Every three-star or even four-star demons would have been seriously injured. However, this puny two-star human didn't die but only got some injuries? How was that possible?

What he didn't know was that his aura attack was indeed strong enough to turn Max into a meat paste but just before it slammed into him, the system had formed an invisible barrier around him that reduced the attack's power by over 50%, saving him from the certain death.

If Max knew this, he would be surprised because the system only asked for the LPs to heal him, but not for the defence barrier.

'This human is not simple. Not only can he go in and out of the death-valley without dying, he is strong enough to stay alive after being hit by my attack and not mention his insane recovery speed. I need to pay attention to him.' He thought, his blood-red eyes flashing with a strange glint.

In the main hall, when Max stood up, Amara glanced at the end of the hall and said begrudgingly, "Father, please open the pathway to blood pool."

There was no response for a minute. Just when Amara started becoming anxious,

Rumble! Rumble!

The floor in the middle of the hall shifted and a black staircase that seemed to be carved out from a huge obsidian stone leading downwards appeared.

Amara finally sighed in relief, nodded toward Max before walking toward the staircase. Max didn't dare to put too much distance between them in case Orlan tried to attack him again. So, he immediately followed her to the staircase.

Just as he stepped on the staircase, he immediately felt a very strong demon energy surround him. His brows furrowed because this energy was quite uncomfortable.

Swoosh!

Just then, Amara waved her hand and a thin membrane of her demon energy surrounded him, preventing the staircase's energy from entering his body.

"Let's go. Follow closely behind me." She said before walking down step by step. Max nodded and followed her.

Tap! Tap! Tap!

With each step downward, the demon energy in the surroundings increased and pressured the demon energy membrane around him. From what it seemed, probably after a few more steps, this membrane would completely disintegrate.

Max glanced at Amara to see if she was also struggling. However, unlike him, she didn't seem uncomfortable at all, and there was even an expression of glee on her face.

Apparently, this demon energy was beneficial for her and wasn't pressuring her at all. From her expression, he could tell that if not for him, she might have charged down ages ago.

He smiled bitterly and shook his head. Since this was the case, he had to increase his speed, but to do that, he had to increase his defences to isolate the demon energy first.

Therefore, he circulated his mana and formed a protective barrier around him. However, in the next moment, it shattered into pieces.

Shatter!

The instant his mana barrier shattered, Amara noticed it. Just as she was about to use her demon energy to cast a stronger barrier around him, Max shook his head at her to stop her from doing so.

Sizzle! Sizzle!

After which, he circulated his mana and started casting his [Flame barrier]. A couple of seconds later, a crimson barrier appeared around him and started burning the demon energy.

"This..." Amara revealed a surprised expression. She couldn't believe a two-star mage was able to defend against the demon staircase's energy.

Boom!

Just as she was about to turn around and continue walking down the stairs, a boom sounded out and the demon energy around them increased by multiple folds.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

Following the increase in energy concentration, she heard crackling sounds originating from Max's [Flame barrier].

"Oh, no." She became anxious. She could feel that the previously calm demon energy seemed to have become aggressive toward Max and his barrier wasn't able to endure it anymore. Therefore, she hurriedly conjured up a blood red bubble and sent it toward him.

Boom!

Just as the flame barrier shattered, the red blood covered Max, saving him from the blast of demon energy before bringing him to the end of the stairs.

Whoosh!

She landed beside him and dispelled the protective blob before worriedly asking, "M... are you alright?"

Max's face was pale and a trickle of blood was flowing down from the corner of his lips. Although she had saved him from the demon energy's attack, the shattering of his flame barrier had injured him.

"I'm alright but what was that?" He asked, looking up the jet-black staircase and the cloud of dark demon energy swirling above it.

He had used 1500 units of mana to cast the [Flame barrier] and he knew it was strong enough to defend against almost any attack of an early-stage three-star mage. However, this demon energy crushed it into pieces in an instant. If not for her quick reaction, even if he didn't die, he would have gotten serious injuries.

Amara didn't respond to him but looked worriedly toward the blood pool in the distance.

Chapter 435: Entering the blood pool

Max furrowed his brows and also looked into the distance. He could see 4 figures sitting cross-legged in the blood pool. However, it seemed the commotion earlier had disturbed them and now they were angrily glaring at them.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Three of them stood up, their giant wings flapped, and they disappeared from the blood pool and appeared in front of him, their auras pressing him down.

'Fuck!' Max cursed in frustration. He was really fed up with being suppressed repeatedly and really wanted to retaliate. Unfortunately, he wasn't strong enough to do so.

"Greetings, uncles." Amara hurriedly stepped in front of him and greeted them. When the three menacing looking demons recognised her, their expression softened, and they retracted their aura.

One of them smiled and said, "Congratulations, little girl. It's very good that you have awakened your bloodline."

"Thank you, uncle." Amara modestly bowed her head.

The demon who just spoke nodded before shifting his gaze to Max. His expression turned cold as he said, "Who is he? Why did you bring him down here?"

The other two demons also looked at him with deadly gazes. They seemed to want to kill Max, but because the first demon had questioned her, they held back.

Amara secretly took a deep breath and said, "Uncle, this is my servant. I brought him here to let him cultivate here for a while."

"Hehe, little miss. Isn't this puny human's presence here disrespectful to our demon race? How could you bring him here? Did the branch leader really agree to this?" The second demon on the left asked, sneering coldly.

"Yes. It's unacceptable." The last demon spoke, "Let's kill this human and go ask the branch leader what is he thinking by doing this?"

Whoosh!

After saying this, he released his aura toward Amara.

"You dare?" The first demon shouted out loud. He suddenly vanished from his spot and appeared in front of Amara and waved his hand, easily blocking the aura attack.

"What? Are you trying to go against me by saving this human?" The last demon sneered. The second demon moved toward him, also staring at the first demon threateningly.

The first demon's wrinkly face flushed red in anger when he heard this, and he laughed coldly, "Haha, go against you? Who the fuck do you think you are? It seems your guts have grown bigger since you dare to attack the young lady now?"

The last demon chuckled indifferently and said, "Attack young lady? Are you sure your eyes are alright? My target was clearly that human? Now move away and let me kill him."

The second demon took a step toward him and glared at the first demon, showing his support.

"You..." Before the first demon could say anything, a chilling voice sounded from behind, "Is that so?"

Swoosh!

Following the voice, a figure appeared in front of Amara, coldly looking at the two demons and asked nonchalantly, "Why did it seem to me that you were trying to kill my sister, my dear uncle?"

This person was Ashroth. Seeing him appear, Amara sighed in relief and glared at the two demon elders in front, her eyes flashing with anger and bewilderment.

She knew these two. They were her blood uncles and had peak five-star cultivation. Moreover, they were on the verge of breaking through to the king realm. Because of this, they held esteemed status in the tribe.

It was rumoured that they had partnered with Osmont's maternal family to overthrow Orlan. So, it was expected they didn't treat her well. But it was the first time they blatantly showed their killing intent toward her.

However, what really surprised and confused her was the fact that they tried to kill her here, where her father could easily see what was happening with a casual sweep of his consciousness. What gave them the courage?

Seeing Ashroth appear in front of them and question them, both demon elders revealed nasty expressions before the first demon sneered, "You must have gone blind. I was clearly trying to kill the human kid. Now, move away and let me kill him."

Finish speaking, he once again released his aura. This time targeting Ashroth. However, before his aura could reach Ashroth, his expression changed, and he hurriedly retreated.

Boom!

The place where he previously stood exploded, dust and rubble flying about. Then Orlan's voice, laced with killing intent, sounded out, "Try again and see if I don't dare to kill you."

The demon's expression was incomparably ugly, and his heart was beating violently.

From the power behind the attack just now, he could tell if he hadn't retreated in time, the attack would have crippled him and left him in a half-dead condition.

He forced a smile and said, "Haha, big brother misunderstood. I was just..."

Before he could finish, Orlan's voice sounded once again, "This matter ends here. No one is allowed to touch this human."

Hearing this, the demon shut his mouth, not daring to say anything.

After which, he and the second demon exchanged a glance and headed upstairs before leaving the hall. They weren't in the mood to continue their cultivation.

Bang!

After arriving in a large villa, the demon that tried to attack Amara and Ashroth punched a stone table in anger, turning it into small pieces and shouted, "That arrogant bastard. How dare he threaten me?"

Seeing him rage, the second demon didn't say anything. Walking to a sofa, he sat down, his expression grave.

After a while, he asked, "Did you notice he seemed to have become stronger than before?"

"Yeah. I noticed it. He must have used a lot of tribe's resources to increase his strength since he knows his death is near." The first demon sneered.

The other demon nodded and changed the topic, "Since we now know Orlan is very protective of Ashroth, things will be easy. Let's inform them now."

"Alright." The first demon revealed a cruel smile and took out a communication crystal before sending a message.

Earlier, he had deliberately directed his killing intent toward Amara and Ashroth and attacked them. He wanted to see Orlan's reaction.

...

After the two demon elders left, the first demon glanced at Max before returning to the blood pool.

Ashroth also glared at Max before looking at Amara and nodded. "It's good you are here. The blood essence is quite rich right now. Let's go and cultivate."

"Yes, big brother." Amara nodded and walked to the pool with him. Max silently followed them.

Just as he was about to enter the pool, Ashroth coldly said, "Stay out. You aren't qualified to enter."

When Amara heard this, she wanted to ask him to allow him, but Ashroth interrupted her, "Don't bother. Enter the pool and start your cultivation."

Hearing this, Amara could only give Max a helpless smile before entering the pool. After giving Max another glare, Ashroth also entered it and trudged toward the centre.

The blood pool had a radius of 25 meters. According to what Amara told him, the closer you go to the centre, the denser and purer the blood essence and energy. However, it wasn't easy to walk to the centre because the closer one was to the centre, the more violent the demon energy became.

Additionally, there was a gravity formation which continuously put pressure on the people and the pressure only increased as one went closer to the pool's centre.

It was rumoured that even the branch leader couldn't cultivate in the centremost spot.

The demon elder, who was a peak five-star mage like those two, was sitting at the 18 meters mark and one could see him imperceptibly tremble every few seconds.

After entering, Amara could only walk to the 7-meter mark while Ashroth stopped at the 11-meter mark.

Seeing them close their eyes and suck in the cultivation state, Max whispered, "What now?"

[What do you mean what? Enter the pool.] System answered in a carefree voice.

The corner of Max's lips twitched when he heard this and retorted, "When that guy found out I entered even when he told me not to, won't he kill me?"

[Ai, kid. You need to have bigger balls if you want to survive and continue to become stronger.] The system sighed and in a disappointed tone.

"Fuck it. He probably won't do anything to me since he knows I'm vital for Amara's survival." Max murmured before stepping into the pool.

Boom!

Immediately, he felt an overbearing energy enter and rage within his body.

Chapter 436: Barbarian God Physique

Buzz~

His brain buzzed as the berserk energy invaded his mind. Within a second, he was drenched in cold sweat and his body was in so much pain that he could faint. It was unbearable.

He tried to endure it but was unable to and wanted to jump out of the pool, but to his horror, he could not do it no matter how hard he tried. It was as if his body were glued to the pool.

[Don't bother kid. You won't be able to go out for now. Now what you need to do is to get used to it, take control of this wild energy flowing inside you, and temper your inner organs with it. Once you are done doing it, you'll be able to go out or walk further toward the pool's centre.] The system informed.

It then added in indifferent tone, [Oh, yes. I forgot to tell you there is also pure demon energy here. But you don't need to worry about it for 3 days. If you can't get used to the

raging blood energy here in this period, the demon energy will invade you and turn you into an idiot.]

"How do I control this energy?" Max asked through gritted teeth, trying to endure the raging pain in his body and mind.

[Just like you control your mana.] System briefly said before going silent.

Huuu...

Max took a deep breath to calm his mind and started to control the rampaging blood energy. However, it wasn't easy to do.

Whenever he willed to take control of the blood energy, his mind would have a splitting pain. It was as if his will was being constantly destroyed as soon as it touched the blood energy.

'How the hell am I supposed to...!' Just as he was feeling hopeless, he suddenly thought of something.

Wasting no time, he mobilised his mana and sent it toward the raging blood energy in his veins.

Boom!

As the two different energies came into contact, a boom sounded.

Pffftt!

Although the blast wasn't too strong, because it occurred within his body, he got internal injuries and spat out a mouthful of blood.

'It was a bad idea, huh?' He thought, a wry smile on his face when suddenly, he noticed that after the initial explosion, a little bit of his mana and the blood energy had merged, causing blood energy to calm down and now he could control that part of blood energy without any problem.

'Let's continue.' He gritted his teeth and sent more of his mana toward unadulterated the blood energy.

Boom!

Just like before, the energy exploded upon contact and causing him to spit out another mouthful of blood. Thankfully, just like before, the leftover mana and the blood energy from the explosion had merged.

'Continue!' Ignoring the injuries, he continued with the same process.

...

In an underground palace somewhere in the human continent, a huge blood lake surrounded the raised platform from all sides.

There were many round stones arranged in the circular formation around the platform. Around 20% stones were lit while the rest were still dim.

A pale young man was lying at the centre of the platform. His blood-red eyes were half open. A yellowish egg was hovering above him and wisps of energy from the blood lake, 20 lit stones and the young man's fingertips were constantly entering it.

Suddenly, the corner of his lips lifted into a smile and he murmured, "Hehe, the kid has guts to use such a self-harming method to control the blood energy."

...

As Max continued to use his mana to calm and control the blood energy, his face continued to turn paler because of the internal injuries and the loss of blood.

However, there was a determined glint in his eyes which didn't let him stop.

After half a day, he had taken control of more than one fourth of the blood energy raging in his body. However, what made him anxious was that the blood energy was still unceasingly gushing into his body.

Right now, he was extremely bloated. It looked like he would explode if this continued.

Just then, system's mocking voice sounded in his head. [Stupid kid, since you can't handle it anymore, use your mana and seal your pores so more blood energy doesn't enter you. Sigh! I've to tell you everything.]

Max had a constipated expression when he heard this and cursed, "Damn you! If I could, I already would have done that. This blood energy is too strong. My mana can't stop it."

[Oh, I forgot you are still too weak.] The system chuckled before adding, [Try using your mana that has blood energy mixed in. That should do the trick.]

Max didn't respond and immediately mobilised his blood and mana energy and sealed off his pores.

After doing that, he waited for a few seconds because when he used his mana to do the same previously, it would only last for a few second before the seals would be blasted apart and the blood energy would rush into him.

This time, however, even after more than half a minute passed, the seals remained intact and no extra blood energy entered his body, causing him to sigh in relief.

After catching his breath, he once again started sending his mana toward the unadulterated blood energy, and muffled bangs continued to sound in his body.

After two days, all the blood energy was under his control while his bloating had reduced by half, but he still looked unnaturally fat.

Splash!

He sat down in the pool, heaving deep breaths. He didn't have any energy left and was barely conscious right now. However, he had yet to temper his body and system's 3-day deadline was about to expire.

While taking out some grade three healing pills to heal his internal injuries, he asked, "Tell me, how should I temper my body now?"

[First, don't eat any healing pills.] System said.

Hearing this, Max frowned. His body was a mess now, and he had to recover his injuries as soon as possible lest they left lasting side effects on him. But he knew the system wouldn't say anything without reason. So, he asked,

"Why?"

[Although your childish method of controlling the blood energy injured your internal organs quite a bit, I've to say it'll help you better temper your body. Now, I'm going to give you a body strengthening technique. Use it and temper your body with the blood energy in your body.] System answered.

A moment later, information about a body strengthening technique called [Barbarian god physique] appeared in his mind. This skill had five levels, but he could only access first level right now.

After seeing how complicated this skill was, Max asked with a confused frown on his face, "Why are you asking me to temper my body? Wouldn't it be better to learn some magic spells instead?"

Although he asked this, he very much wanted to learn this skill because according to its description, after he successfully reached the peak of first level, his body would be

strong enough to take almost every two-star magic or physical attack head on and suffer some minor injuries at most.

Chapter 437: Comprehending the technique

[Haha, you are too naïve!]

The system mockingly laughed before speaking in a serious tone,

[If you want to break through to the supreme mage or possibly to even higher levels, you not only need strong magic foundations but also a strong body. Most people are ignorant of this and that's why there aren't many supreme mages on this continent.]

"Is that so?"

Max murmured, subtly nodding his head in agreement because he knew it was right since even back on earth, people used to say that if you wanted to achieve big things, you first need to have a strong and healthy body and mind.

[Of course. Now, even if we don't think that far, you would still need to strengthen your body to keep your flawless foundations that I bitterly helped you create. Furthermore, if you can cultivate this technique to reach level 2 before the war, the chances of your survival would shoot up manifolds. So, don't waste more time start working.] System added.

"Alright. I'll cultivate this." Max nodded before suddenly saying, "By the way, I'm curious about something."

[What is it?] System asked in an indifferent voice.

"I've checked the system shop before and know this skill isn't there? Not only this technique, but also that blood elemental spell you gave to Amara isn't there."

Saying this, a mocking smile appeared on his face as he continued, "Since you wanted to rely on the system to recover, shouldn't you have been a little sincere and added everything you have in it? Or could it be that you think your life is worth less than these spells?"

[Cough! Of course, my life is worth more than anything else. I must've forgotten to add them there since I was in a hurry when I created the system.]

System awkwardly coughed before coldly saying, [Furthermore, even if they were in the system shop, do you think you could access them without several tens of millions of lust

points, huh? Now, stop saying irreverent things and get to work. You can't stay in the blood pool indefinitely if you forgot.]

"Yeah, yeah." Max chuckled and then changed the topic, saying with a serious expression, "This technique is quite complicated. I don't think I can comprehend it soon enough. So, are you going to help me cast it?"

The system was silent for a moment before saying, [Even if I want, I can't help this time because I never learned this technique. So, you are on your own. However, you don't need to worry. I believe you can comprehend at least the elementary section of first level in less than half a day.]

Max raised his brows in surprise when he heard this. Why was the system so confident in him? Could it be because his intelligence points had reached 100 or was it because of something else?

Shrugging, he stopped thinking about it. Closing his eyes, he started carefully reading the first level of [Barbarian god physique].

Time slowly passed and four hours quickly passed by.

Max's brows were tightly furrowed and sweat was trickling down his forehead while he felt that his mind was going to short circuit. Despite this, he didn't stop his comprehension.

After an hour later, his entire body was drenched in sweat and was gently swaying. It seemed he was going to faint anytime now.

Max could feel this and knew if he fainted now, the mana-blood energy seals sealing his pores would lose their effect and more blood energy would enter his body, causing it to explode.

However, he clenched his teeth and ignored everything, solely focusing on comprehending the first level. He could feel he was just a step away from having the elementary understanding.

A while later, he was trembling uncontrollably and his consciousness was brink of blanking out.

Phew!

Just then, he exhaled a stale breath and opened his eyes. Although he was both physically and mentally drained, there was a bright glint flashing in his eyes because he managed to gain an elementary understanding of the first level.

"Let's start temper..." He murmured and prepared to circulate the technique to temper his body with the refined blood essence. However, before he could even complete the sentence, his eyelids grew heavy, and he lost consciousness.

Shua!

Just as he was about to fall into the blood pool, an invisible energy enveloped him, stopping pool's raging blood energy outside.

[Good job, kid.] System's voice sounded before everything went silent.

In the pool, Amara, Ashroth and the demon elder had their eyes close and continued to cultivate. Occasionally, they would stop to take a rest.

Strangely, when they glance at Max, they would see him sitting cross-legged outside the pool when in reality he was hovering above the pool. This was the same for Orlan in the main hall above. He also didn't find any anomaly. Needless to say, this was system's doing.

...

After one later, Max finally regained his consciousness.

"Huh? I didn't die?" He mumbled groggily before realizing that the system had helped him.

"Thank you, old man." He gratefully said.

Splash!

In response, the energy surrounding him vanished, and he fell into the pool.

The blood energy rushed into his body like a raging tide and started wreaking a havoc.

"Oh, shit!" He cursed and hurriedly mobilised the refined blood energy and sealed off his pores. After that, he started refining the unadulterated blood energy.

Because he had acted almost immediately and sealed his pores after falling into the pool, only a small amount of blood energy entered his body, which he completely refined after just two hours.

"Let's start the body tempering now." He said and circulated the [Barbarian God Physique]. Immediately, the refined blood energy, which still had some traces of violence, became tame and started to merge into his body.

The internal injuries he had incurred before rapidly healed. As the blood energy continued to merge into his body, all of his internal organs, blood and bones started strengthening.

He could feel his body becoming stronger by the second.

"This is amazing!" He exclaimed in ecstasy.

Unfortunately, it only lasted for a few seconds before all the blood energy depleted and the technique was forced to stop.

Chapter 438: First level physique

"Hmm?" Max frowned in displeasure.

Immediately, he stopped sealing his pores and let the pool's blood energy enter his body without restraint. When he felt enough energy had been collected, he sealed off his pores once again.

Just as he was about to start refining it with his mana, his eyes flashed with a thought.

Since the [Barbarian God Physique] could completely suppress the refined blood energy, maybe it could help him refine this unadulterated energy, too. Even if it couldn't, there was no loss in trying, right?

Thinking this, he immediately circulated the [Barbarian God Physique] technique.

Rumble!

As if responding to it, the raging blood energy rumbled loudly and started wrecking-havoc inside him. In an instant, he was seriously injured.

"Fuck!" Max cursed, his facial muscles contorting in pain. He had never expected such a violent reaction from the blood energy.

His heart pounding in fear, he immediately rushed to deactivate the technique, only to realise that it seemed to have gotten out of his control.

'I'm dead!' He thought in horror and was about to ask the system for help. However, at that instant, the situation took a 180-degree turn.

The previously violent blood energy ceased all movements and became tame. Then, as if under some instructions, it started splitting into two parts, one dark liquid and one pure blood red mist.

The blood red mist started moving throughout his body before converging toward his heart and gradually merged with it while the dark red liquid was slowly expelled through his pores.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Following the merging of the blood mist, his rapidly beating heart gradually calmed down. Even though it was beating at a normal pace now, its blood pumping efficiency had increased at least by one-fold.

In the underground palace, the young man laying at the centre of the formation frowned and muttered in astonishment, "This tempering technique really is... unbelievable. Even at the elementary level, it can purify the blood energy to this extent and take initiative to first strengthen the heart."

"Perhaps I should have given it to him sooner?" His blood-red eyes flashed with a tinge of regret, then he shook his head, "It's alright. It's not too late even now."

...

After all the blood mist merged into and strengthened his heart, Max opened his eyes.

Although he found it strange that this technique could operate on its own, he was delighted to see it could directly refine and assimilate the unadulterated blood energy, sparing him the pain and time he would have to use to refine it with his blasting method otherwise. What more, the resultant blood mist was many times purer.

Just as he was about to unseal his pores to take in more blood energy from the pool to refine, he realised the discarded impurities were clogging them. It was black, slimy stuff and it stank.

Holding his nose to not inhale the stench, he hurriedly rushed out of the blood pool and cleaned himself with the water he had stored in his inventory to use in these types of situations.

After cleaning himself, he only wore a pair of pants and turned to re-enter the pool when he realised that even though he was in the pool for a few days, no one seemed to have noticed him. Even now, when he was causing a disturbance by bathing right at the edge of the pool, they still didn't notice.

He didn't have to think much to realise why this was so. It should be because of the system's doing.

Indeed, just then, system's voice sounded, [Don't waste time thinking about minor stuff, kid. Go and use the blood energy to cultivate to the peak of the first level before anyone realise something is amiss with you. Once you've reached the peak of the first level of

the [Barbarian god physique], reconstructing your mana core will become many times easier.]

Nodding his head in acknowledgement, Max entered the pool and started refining the blood energy.

Five more days passed. He had refined and assimilated a lot of blood energy. Right now, he was nothing like Max from a few days ago in terms of physique.

His skin, which was already quite nice previously, had become smooth like a baby's, but it had become many times more resilient too.

His bones, blood, and internal organs were also refined and strengthened. He was more energised than before. His eyesight, hearing and other senses also seemed to have improved.

Furthermore, he could feel that almost no one-star attack could do much damage to him anymore. He knew he had reached the peak of the first level of the [Barbarian god physique].

While he was checking out the pleasant changes in his body and reveling in happiness, Amara, Ashroth and the demon elder were frowning. They could feel the energy level in the pool had decreased significantly.

[Kid, get out of the pool and keep your mana and aura within your body if you don't want trouble. Hurry!] System's warning sounded out in his head, startling him.

Without asking for the reason, Max rushed out of the pool, dried himself and dressed in the clothes he had when he came here.

Just as he sat cross-legged a few meters away from the pool, the elder opened his eyes.

Weng!

As his eyes swept over the pool, he didn't find anything wrong apart from the diminished energy. Frowning, he glanced at Ashroth, who had also opened his eyes.

"Did you have a breakthrough, elder?" Ashroth asked with uncertainty.

He could only think that the elder may have a breakthrough and used up quite a lot of energy during that. However, that didn't make sense because the breakthrough to the king realm would cause a lot of disturbance, but there was none.

"No." The elder shook his head before shifting his gaze to Amara, who was still cultivating.

The dip in the pool's energy didn't bother her, as the current energy levels were sufficient for her to cultivate for a long time. Moreover, she had a hunch that her master might have done something that caused the blood energy to fall so low.

"Mm?" The elder frowned even more. He could see neither Ashroth nor Amara were the reason behind the change. He then moved his gaze to the last person present, Max.

When his gaze landed on him, Max felt a mortal danger and his heart-rate sped up. He couldn't help but shudder and open his eyes. When he saw the elder looking at him with narrowed eyes, cold sweat drenched his back and he hurried to shift his gaze to the ground.

A moment later, the elder shifted his gaze, and the pressure on Max lifted, causing him to sigh in relief.

The elder then floated up above the pool. With a wave of his hand, all the blood sticking to his body fell into the pool below. Then, without even using his wings, he flew toward the stairs, exiting the underground chamber.

Ashroth frowned when he saw this and murmured while looking at the pool, "What just happened here?"

After glancing at Amara, he walked out of the pool, flapped his wings and flew toward the stairs. Unlike the elder, he could fly without using his wings.

After they had gone away, Max flopped to the ground and asked in a low voice, "Old man, what happened? Why did I feel a killing intent from that old man, and why have they gone out?"

[Hehe, kid. What do you expect them to do when you've used over 40% of the blood pool's energy? Although that old man didn't suspect you, he wanted to kill you out of frustration because he is on the verge of breakthrough to the king realm, but the remaining blood energy isn't enough for him to do so. Fortunately for you, he 'knows' you are that little doll's man, so he didn't kill you.] The system laughed.

Max shuddered in apprehension upon hearing this.

[That aside, congratulation, kid! I never expected you to complete the first level in such a short time, even though you had everything necessary to do so.] The system remarked.

"Tch! Just how low do you think of me?" Max clicked his tongue in annoyance before clenching his fist with a smile on his face. He was feeling amazing right now.

[Alright. Now it's time for you to pay up.] The system said.

Chapter 439: One billion LPs?

"Pay? For what?" Max asked, his elation over achieving level one physique vanishing.

[Hehe, kid. If you think if you act like you don't know, I won't charge you, then you are utterly wrong.] System chuckled.

"Alright. Tell me, how much is it?" Max asked in defeat.

When the system helped him block the demon energy in the pool as he cultivated or when it created illusion to help him or when it gave him the [Barbarian god physique], he already knew he would have to pay for them even if the system hadn't mentioned it then.

[Let's see. For helping you block the demon energy for over 8 days, I should charge you at least 1 million LPs. For creating that illusion to save your ass, I should charge you another 500,000, if not more. Last, the [Barbarian god physique] manual is priceless, even if it's only half completed. So, it's not possible to give it a proper price. However, if I were to give it a rough estimate, it should not be less than 1 billion LPs.] System said in a pondering manner.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

If Max had found the first two prices very high, [Barbarian god physique] technique's price almost caused his heart to beat violently. However, it wasn't only because of the outrageous price.

"O-One billion?" He said incredulously.

[Why? Do you think I'm upping the price?] The system asked in an amused voice.

"That's right." Max nodded.

[Hehe, little boy. Although I accept that I normally set a slightly high price for my products and services, in case of this technique, I'm not doing the same. Believe me when I tell you that this price is already nearing the lower limit. If this technique was whole, even 10 billion LPs wouldn't have been enough to acquire it.] The system said in its rare serious tone.

"Oh?" Max exclaimed, a gleam appearing in his eyes as he asked, "So you mean is, this technique is amazing enough to have this value?"

[Of course. Let me tell you an example of how amazing it is.]

The system paused for a moment before saying, [From what I know, it has nine levels and when one reaches the peak of level nine, even the strongest supreme mages, or perhaps even higher existences than them, won't be able to kill you. So tell me, is it amazing enough?] It asked in a smug voice.

"Yeah, that's amazing." Max nodded, the corner of his lips curving into a smile. He could barely suppress his urge to laugh out loud.

He then asked, "So, tell me. How much are you going to charge me?"

[How about I charge the prices I just told you?] System asked in a joking voice.

"You can do that if you want." Max shrugged indifferently.

[Oh, you don't want to haggle this time?] System asked with interest.

"Of course, I will." Max nodded.

[Then tell me, how much are you willing to pay me?] System asked.

Max thought for a moment and raised a finger. "I'll give you one million for your help in blocking the demon energy and creating illusion. As for the technique, I won't pay you anything for it."

[Huh? ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME, BOY?] As expected, the system howled in rage upon hearing his words. [How dare you deny paying for the technique? It's one of my most prized possession.]

Max furrowed his brows and sternly said, "So, do you want me to pay one billion LPs? To do that, I would have to spend my whole life and probably even then I won't be able to pay them in full. Do you really think I'm dumb enough to do that? Fuck, if you can't agree with my conditions, we can stop our cooperation right now. You are welcome to take away your system if you can."

The system went silent and didn't speak for a long while. Max also didn't say anything. He continued to sit there looking at his beautiful demon slave Amara, cultivating in the pool.

After more than half an hour, system's voice sounded in his ears, [You've grown up, kid. Alright, you don't have to pay me anything for the [Barbarian god physique] technique and as for the one million you suggested for my help earlier, I also don't want that.]

"Huh? Are you sure you are not joking?" Max revealed a shocked expression. He never thought the system would agree so easily.

[Heh, I'm serious as I can be. Of course, since you are not willing to pay with LPs, you will need to pay with something else.] The system scoffed.

The corners of Max's lips twitched when he heard this and the feeling of jubilation he was feeling over the system agreeing to his request vanished.

"What do you want? Remember, it should be something I can do." He coldly uttered.

[Hehe, of course.] The system let out an eerie chuckle as if its scheme had succeeded, and Max felt shivers run down his spine.

"What with this creepy laughter? What do you have in mind?" He asked guardedly.

[Don't worry. It's something you can do. However, you can't do it anytime soon. I'll ask you when you have become strong enough.] The system said before suddenly adding, [Oh, by the way, I've taken all the LPs you had to nourish the golden-winged python's egg.]

"Huh?" Max furrowed his brows before hurriedly opening his status screen and, indeed, he didn't have any LP left.

[Lust Points: 0]

Phew!

He exhaled and inhaled for a few times to calm down his agitation. He knew there was no use in arguing the system. So, he changed the topic and asked, "How much more time will it take for it to hatch?"

[By the time you break through to the three-star. Now take that little doll and get out of here. Her father will come down any second to check the pool.] The system said.

Right then, Amara opened her eyes, stood up and walked out of the pool, saying, "Let's go. I'm done here."

Max nodded and followed after her. Just as they reached the stairs, they saw Orlan and the elder from before flying down. Orlan glanced at the duo before heading toward the pool.

...

A while later, Amara and Max arrived at her residence.

"I'm going to break through to the three-star realm. Make sure no one disturbs me before I'm done. Also, I want you by my side when I'm done. Until then, you are free to do anything you want," Max said before walking to his 'room'.

"Yes, master." Amara nodded in acknowledgement.

After sitting on his bed in his room, Max asked the system the question he was raring to ask. "So, strengthening my physique can help me reconstruct my core faster?"

[Of course. Just go for it. Right, you have to try to make your mana core as big as you can. It doesn't matter if it results in making the core walls paper thin since you can always strengthen it afterwards.]

"Okay."

[Good, now get started.]

Max heaved a big breath, closed his eyes and started meditating to calm his mind in preparation.

Chapter 440: Flavia was taken away

...Human continent, Cloud Academy...

In Max's dorm room, Anna was pacing back and forth, her delicate brows tightly knitted in worry.

Although Flavia, who sat on the bed, seemed comparatively calmer, one could see she also had a worried expression. Something worthy of mentioning was that she wasn't wearing her veil and her exposed face no longer had any scars.

After talking to Anna, she had come to terms with her feelings and had taken the beauty pill Max gave her.

She glanced at the anxious Anna and sighed. "Anna, calm down. There is no use in worrying. If worse comes to worst, I'll go with them."

Anna stopped pacing around. She looked at Flavia in the eyes with a serious expression and shook her head, "No. You are little Max's woman. They can't take you away and force you to marry someone else."

Flavia's face reddened when she heard this and heart felt sweet. However, she sighed and stood up. "But what we can do? My family has already sent people to get me, and I'm sure the academy will give permission in less than an hour."

She walked up to Anna and grabbed her hands, her eyes turning moist as she said, "I... just want you to help me give a message to your brother when he returns. Tell him I

love him and want to be him, but unfortunately, I'm not strong enough to go against my family."

Hearing this, Anna felt a pang in her heart and her eyes also turned moist. "I... I'll tell him. Don't worry. We'll definitely save us... somehow."

Just then, an icy voice sounded from outside the room, "Miss Flavia, come out this instant. We need to go."

Flavia turned still as she looked at the door and murmured in confusion, "What happened? Why do they seem so impatient? What are they planning?"

How could she know it was all because of her cousin who met Max in the Elvin city? After she found out that Max was in the same academy as Flavia and seemed to have some feelings for her, she immediately pushed her mother to summon Flavia back and marry her off to the Dalton family as soon as possible.

Flavia shook her head and stopped thinking about it. She then looked at Anna and smiled, "I'm going Anna. Take care of yourself and tell Max to be careful. I've a feeling that my family will target him if they knew he is my friend."

Saying this, she turned around walked toward the door.

Whoosh!

Anna appeared in front of her and blocked her way and said, "W-Why don't you stay here? I'm sure they won't dare to barge in here since the academy definitely won't allow them to."

Flavia smiled bitterly. "You don't know how things work, Anna. The academy won't offend a family like mine just for me, since I don't have much value in their eyes."

"Furthermore, my family must have promised the academy some benefits since they allowed them to take me away without my consent. If I don't go out, someone from the academy will come to force me out."

"I..." Anna parted her lips to say something but didn't know what to say. She could only watch as Flavia walked around her and went to the door.

She stopped at the door and said in a somewhat bleak tone, "I can make my family give me a maximum of three months. If Max can become a five-star mage by then, tell him he can come save me. If he can't, then forget me and don't ever think of antagonizing my family."

Saying this, she opened the door and went out.

Whoosh!

Immediately, three people, two women and a middle-aged man in luxurious clothes, appeared around her. The two women looked to be in their late twenties.

However, the attention-grabbing thing about them was, they looked completely identical. They were twins. They had angular faces, had cream colored, smooth skin, pink petal like lips, grey eyes and light golden hair. Their height, breasts, hair and even their clothes were identical.

It would be impossible to differentiate between them if not their different expressions. The woman on Flavia's right gave off a mean vibe with her icy and judgemental expression, whereas the woman on the left appeared uninterested in everything with her impassive expression.

Flavia's expression became serious when she saw the twins. She looked at the mean-looking woman and smiled bitterly, "It seems that woman is really serious. She even sent you two, aunt Jenny."

The woman on the right, aunt Jenny, looked at her with slightly narrowed eyes and said, "You know our family isn't on particularly good terms with cloud academy. So, we had to come in case the academy refused to let us take you away. Fortunately, they easily agreed."

She then glanced at Anna, who stood inside the room looking at Flavia with teary eyes, and said, "So, she is that worm's sister?"

Flavia's expression changed when she heard this. Just as she was about to say something, Jenny's expression changed. She looked in the distance, then glanced at Anna before huffing irritably and disappeared with Flavia and others in a flash of light.

A moment later, they appeared outside the academy gates. Jenny glanced at the man following behind them and ordered in an icy tone, "Elder Ru, you stay here and wait for that worm called Max to return. How dare he eye someone from my family? He deserves death."

"Yes, young lady." The man nodded calmly.

Hearing their conversation, Flavia's beautiful face turned pale, and she hurriedly begged, "Aunt Jenny, please don't do anything to him. He... he is just my friend. I'm willing to do as the family says. Please let him off."

The man looked at Flavia with a guilty expression, but didn't say anything and just glanced at the woman.

Jenny smirked, "Heh. He is just a friend? Would a normal friend give you a beauty pill that even a family like ours can barely acquire?"

"Aunt, he..."

Flavia tried to speak, but Jenny raised her hand. "Stop it. I don't want to hear anything. If this arrogant academy didn't refuse to give us details about his family background, we would've destroyed his family, too."

Flavia turned completely pale when she heard this. She knew this aunt of her was telling the truth and wanted to annihilate Max's family because she knew she was really a cruel and bloodthirsty woman.

She thanked the academy in her heart for not giving her Max's background information and preventing her from attacking Anna just now. She knew if not from someone from the academy, her aunt would have killed Anna.

"Let's go." Jenny waved her hand and a black panther type beast with two long, red fangs and huge wings appeared in front of them. They mounted it flew away.

...

Back at Max's dorm room, Anna was staring at the place where Flavia was a moment ago.

She felt very helpless right now, and this frustrated and saddened her. If she was strong enough, she could have prevented Flavia from being taken away. Unfortunately, it was only if. She knew the limits of her own talent and knew she might not be able to achieve that strength on her own.

"I need Max's help..." She muttered and her beautiful face blushed red.

--X--X--

A/N: Hello everyone. I apologize for such a long gap. I won't say why I disappeared without any notice but I'll say that the story will continue. I thank you for your patience and support. Hope you continue to show your support until the end. Love you all!!