

Strongest Mage with the Lust system #Chapter 81 [Bonus Chapter]Lilly's Departure (2) - Read Strongest Mage with the Lust system Chapter 81 [Bonus Chapter]Lilly's Departure (2)

Chapter 81 [Bonus Chapter]Lilly's Departure (2)

The barrier vanished, and Ashton stood up and bowed toward Lilly. Not only he but Esther, Amelia and others also stood up and bowed. Max's expression became strange as he thought, 'Why are they bowing to Lilly?'

He reflexively looked toward Lilly, who was also looking at Ashton and others with a panicked expression. Just as she wanted to ask why were they bowing to her, she heard Ashton speak while bowing, "We greet you, senior."

'Senior?' Lilly heard this and was confused and looked back and immediately realised that they weren't bowing to her but to the person standing behind her. Max's expression froze the moment he looked toward Lilly.

At some point of time, the white haired woman had appeared behind Lilly without them knowing. Max stared at dumbly and when he thought what would have happened if she was their enemy?

The woman nodded at Ashton and others. Then she glanced at Max, staring at her as if he has seen a ghost and felt irritated. She raised her brows and said coldly, "Why are you stating like that?"

Max came to his senses after she spoke and retorted with an unpleasant expression, "Are you a ghost? Why would you appear silently like this?"

If he hadn't met Crimson monarch, Margaret and others, he wouldn't have dared to speak to her like that. But after interacting with them, he now could vaguely know if someone had malicious intentions or not. Of course it was based on the feeling he gets from the said person and based on that he knew that she wasn't a bad person even though she seemed to hate his guts for some reason.

"Do I have to announce my arrival? And who told you to be so weak that you aren't even able to sense if someone had come or not?" She said with naked disdain in her eyes.

Max shook his head, he didn't want to argue with her as it not beneficial. He didn't bother to stand up and greet her as it wouldn't make any difference to her, given her personality and continued eating.

The woman noticed his rude behaviour but didn't seem to care. However, Ashton grew anxious seeing this and quickly said, "I apologise for my son's rude behaviour. I hope you won't take it to heart."

Lilly also grew anxious as Max had told her yesterday night about this woman's strength. She glanced at Max and seeing that he was eating without care, she also wanted to bow and apologise but the woman spoke first,

"It's fine. There is nothing to take to heart. What can you expect anything from men like him?" Max almost choked on the piece of meat he was munching on.

But the woman then glanced at Lilly, and her ice-like expression melted a little as she said, "Child, Finish your meal. We will depart as soon as you are ready."

Max stared at her as he touched his chin in contemplation 'Why does this woman seems to hold some kind of grudge against me? I'm sure yesterday was the first time we met, and I'm sure I didn't do anything that might make her dislike me.' He shook his head and thought, 'It's fine as long as she treats Lilly well.'

Lilly frowned at her for disrespecting her man, but her gentle words that seemed to contain a bit of affection made her unable to say anything. Moreover, she knew that they couldn't afford to offend her because, according to Max's speculation, no one in the Green leaf kingdom was a match for her let alone their family. She hesitantly asked, "Umm, Senior, would you like to eat with us?"

The white-haired woman shook her head "It's fine. Don't mind me and take your time." Saying this she once again vanished.

Max mumbled when she disappeared again "She just comes and goes as she wish. Oh well, At least now we can eat peacefully." Hearing him talking so casually about a supreme existence, everyone looked at him incredulously and thought 'Is his guts made of steel?'

Amelia rebuked "Max; you shouldn't be rude to such powerful people. They usually have quirky personalities, and no one knows when they might feel offended and start a massacre."

Seeing that she genuinely cared, he smiled and nodded "I'll keep that in mind."

...

After they finished breakfast, the white-haired woman appeared again. "Shall we depart, Child?" She asked Lilly.

Lilly looked at Max and suddenly couldn't control her tears and hugged him, not wanting to let go. She didn't care if everyone was watching or not. The white-haired woman sighed seeing this but didn't say anything.

Max patted her back and consoled, "Don't cry. We will be together again in no time."

Lilly finally calmed down a little. Then she hugged Esther too, and surprisingly, Esther also seemed a bit sad. After a while, she bade everyone farewell and went to stand beside the white-haired woman.

The woman asked, "Should we go?"

Lilly glanced at Max, who smiled and nodded at her. She then said in a low voice, "Mhm."

Shua!

The white-haired woman put her hand on Lilly's shoulder, and with a whooshing sound, they vanished into thin air leaving chilly air behind. Max clenched his fists, feeling vexed. But just then the white-haired woman's voice echoed in his mind, "Try to raise your strength as soon as possible so that you can be qualified to come and visit her and be of some help to her in the future."

"Huh?" Max stared dazedly at the spot where they disappeared from. After a while he breathed deeply and nodded at the empty spot. Although he didn't know what that woman meant by helping Lilly, he knew he had to become strong not only to be 'qualified' to meet Lilly but also to come and go to any place he desired without any worry just like she did.

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After Lilly went away with the white-haired woman, Ashton and Max went to his room to continue their conversation.

Max sat in front of his father on a wooden couch. "I heard that Butler George told you about your mother's death." Ashton said.

Max nodded and said, "Yes, I know that mother's death was caused by that count, Wiley."

Ashton sighed. "But what you know isn't the complete truth."

"What do you mean, father?" Max asked confused. Was there something more to her death? He didn't think that Butler George would hide something from him or was it that even he didn't know about it?

Chapter 82 Count Wiley's Greed

"It's not that Butler George didn't want to tell you everything but he wanted me to tell you. I didn't tell anything before because I was afraid that it will make you more depressed." Ashton smiled and continued,

"But now that returned to normal and even became a two star mage at such a young age, It's time to tell you the complete truth about your mother's death."

Max nodded. He wanted to know the whole truth about the situation and it seemed to him that her mother's death wasn't just an act of revenge.

"Butler George should have told you that the first time I met your mother was when she saved Wiley and me from our deaths. After that, we three became good friends. Your mother was living in the royal city at that time, alone."

"We both fell in love and married, she came to live with me here. Your mother was a kind but a strong woman. Even though we both were three-star mages, she was stronger than me and with her lightning element in use she was unmatched in the same realm. She could even fight initial stage four-star mages on equal footing." A hint of pride appeared on Ashton's face when he said this.

When Max heard this, he wondered if she were still alive; maybe she would have long become a four-star mage or a five-star mage. Would that count Wiley dare to suppress them like this. Ashton continued,

"I always knew that she wasn't any ordinary woman but she didn't tell me anything about her family and I also didn't ask. When we first met, she had two artefacts which she cherished the most; one was that blue stone pendant, and another one was a blue sword.

One time count Wiley asked if he could hold her sword but your mother didn't let him and it was at the time when we were best friends and shared everything. Count Wiley felt unsatisfied at this and said 'It's just an ordinary sword. Why do you like it so much? Tell me, I'll give better magic swords.' But your mother just smiled at him and we also forget this.

After your mother and I got married, although we weren't in contact with Wiley as he was also busy with his Viscount's duties, he would come to meet us sometimes. Two years after we married, Wiley came to visit us and we all got drunk while chatting. In his drunken state he misbehaved with your mother. Your mother got angry and heavily injured him and gave him a deep scar on his face. She wanted to kill him as she didn't expect her friend to do something disgusting to her in pretense of being drunk but we finally let live but cut off all ties with him.

"After ten years since then, he came back and apologised. As we were best friends in the past, we welcomed him. But he kept mentioning that blue sword and wanted to buy it but your mother refused. After that he returned to Vista city where he was appointed as a viscount.

But since that day, your mother started to behave strangely and was always worried. When I asked her about what she was worried. She finally told me that she was worried that Wiley would want to steal her sword. I felt strange about it asked that why was she so sure about it. Finally, she told me that her sword and that stone pendant was something her parent had left behind and that her sword which we always thought as ordinary was in fact a half step Monarch weapon and Wiley might have realised this fact. This was why she was always worried

Although I was shocked at that moment as even the royal family only has one emperor grade treasure and wanted to ask why she didn't tell me before, I just reassured her that he might have brought up this topic casually and she didn't have to worry too much.

But who knew her worry would turn out to be true. Wiley has indeed found out her sword's secret from somewhere. Two months after he visited us, he ambushed your mother to steal the sword but when he found out that she didn't have it with her, he wanted to capture her and then take the sword but your mother... She broke her arteries and suicided.

Then he took a deep breath, unparalleled sadness flashing in his eyes, "Your mother had taken her precautions before she went out. She left the sword in her room and established a formation that won't let anyone under King level mage enter her room without the key. When Wiley found out this, he returned to think of some other plan to steal the sword. And when I heard that your mother had died, I led my forces to kill him but that bastard had already broke through to the four star realm and had two other four star mage protecting him. I could barely escape with my life." Ashton sighed.

Max heard him in silence and recalled that when he went in her mother's room with Butler George, he indeed saw a long case on the bed, he wondered 'Was that sword in the case? Why would you leave it in open- Oh well based on father's words that room is the safest location in the manor.'

After a while Ashton calmed down and said "Now that Wiley must have sent his son here to try and steal the sword when I wasn't here. Surprisingly, When they couldn't open the door, they went to destroy the formation protecting the room. They would have succeeded if I didn't return before I was supposed to. I suspect that the locations of the formation nodes were leaked to them by someone, or they wouldn't have been able to locate their locations."

"Father, do you suspect that someone from our family leaked the information to them?" Max asked and realised that when his father erected that sound barrier, it was because he suspected that someone among them has betrayed the family.

Ashton nodded "Yes, only our family members have permission to venture in those areas where formation nodes are. Although these nodes aren't too conspicuous, you can still find them." He then added after a pause "Max, remember not to trust anyone completely. Even your own blood can betray you, let alone others."

Max nodded. He had already seen the treacherous nature of human beings in his previous life. Whenever he watched the news on T.V., there were always a few news proving how cruel and heartless a human can be.

...

Max returned to his room after talking to his father and cultivated his mana core. He could tell that almost one third of his mana core has solidified already and it will take at most two more months until it reached perfection. After that he just need to increase his mana and he will be able to break through to the three-star realm.

"I need to increase my other attributes in the meantime." Max mumbled and opened his status screen.

Chapter 83 Time To Join Magic Academy Arrives...

[Name: Maxwell Garfield]

[Age: 18]

[Strength: 20]

[Agility: 20]

[Stamina: 35]

[Vitality: 23]

[Intelligence: 25]

[Mana: 1331]

[Element: Fire]

[Lust Points: 7500]

After looking at his status screen, he mused, "I've seven thousand and five hundred free LPs available. I can finally raise all of my attributes to the average attributes of a two-star mage."

After he got his memories back, he realised that there is a NORMALISED scale of attributes other than mana which corresponds to the realms of each mage. For example, regular humans and novice mages have:-

Strength: 10, Stamina: 10, Agility:10

Intelligence: 10, Vitality: 10

For one star mages, this scale is set at 20 units. For two star mages, all attributes are 50, and for three-star mages, it has all attributes at 100.

However, it's not necessarily true that a two star mage would have a strength or agility etc of 50 units. If he is a strength based mage or an earth type mage, his physical strength can easily be over 50 units. The same is true for other types of mages that focuses on one particular attribute such as agility, stamina or intelligence. But focusing on one attribute, makes you weak in other dimensions. For example if you are a strength type mage, then either your agility or stamina will be very low.

After gaining his memories, he knew that his previous approach of equally raising his attributes was a good choice. Usually, mages would want to fight in long ranges using their high amounts of mana as an advantage but it's a known fact that when one is out of mana, he is like a lamb awaiting his slaughter. That's why it is equally important to develop others aspects of strength as well.

'With previous Max's memories, I don't need to waste my time in library, searching for information about the common knowledge anymore.' Max had to accept that his previous self, despite not being able to sense mana and improve, was very studious. He had read every book available in their library with the exception of spell books. He didn't read those because he knew it would be useless and make his mood worse.

"I should increase my basic attributes by half for now. I should be able to adapt in a few days." After thinking he increased his attributes by the half of the current points. He didn't directly raise them to 50 as it wasn't an easy to adapt to such increase in power in a short time and he still had around a month until the recruitment of academies starts.

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Days passed very quickly. There was only a week before every Academy would start recruiting again. Although minimum requirement was to be a one star mage and having second grade affinity to participate in the trial examinations, rarely any one-star mage passed and successfully join academies.

However, Max wasn't worried about not being able to pass as he was already a two-star mage. Moreover, his physique was among the top in the two-star realm now, with all of his attributes at or above 50 points mark which was very rare.

[Name: Maxwell Garfield]

[Age: 18]

[Strength: 50]

[Agility: 50]

[Stamina: 61]

[Vitality: 50]

[Intelligence: 50]

[Mana: 1331]

[Element: Fire]

[Lust Points: 50]

...In the dining hall...

Everyone sat around the table, eating the delicacies made from magic fruits and a beast called Thorny fish. This fish is famous for its top-quality meat. Max ate this fish with relish.

"Max, so have you decided which academy you want to join?" Ashton asked as he saw him gobbling in ecstasy.

Max finished his fish and thought for a while "I haven't decided yet. Maybe I'll join the Royal magic academy where Emily is or the Cloud magic academy where Anna is studying."

Ashton nodded, he didn't seem to be worried about him being indecisive and said "Yes, these are good choices. But The royal magic academy as the top academy of our kingdom has very harsh requirements that even a two star mage such as yourself would struggle to fulfill. However, Although the royal academy holds the strongest academy title, Cloud magic academy isn't weaker by any means. In fact, the cloud academy is the best choice if you want to join. So do your best."

"Yes father." Max nodded. He only wanted to join the academy for the purpose of learning some fire elemental spells as they weren't available in every Academy. As for the resources to cultivate, he didn't need them due the grace of his 'godly' system.

"Max if you join the cloud academy, meet Anna as soon as you can or she will be angry with you." Amelia giggled.

Max smiled and nodded but when he remembered that Lilly wasn't here to ho with him. He mood became a bit sad.

Sensing his mood, nobody spoke and kept eating. Esther looked at him and knew what he was thinking. She asked, "Thinking about Lilly?"

Max nodded subconsciously and felt embarrassed when he saw everyone looking at him with amused expressions.

"Focus on becoming strong. When you have enough power, you can go there and join her." Esther said. She then stood up and walked towards the exit, her emotionless voice resounding in the hall "You haven't seen the cruelty of this world yet. If you aren't at least a five star mage, then your life isn't in your control. You won't even know how you may die."

Max frowned. Her words suggested that even a three-star or a four-star mage aren't strong enough to ensure their safety. How can that be possible? In his opinion, a three-star mage can become a viscount and live a very comforting noble life not to mention a four-star mage.

Ashton looked at his confused expression, stood up and patted his shoulder "There are some things you don't know about and you don't need to know them yet. But don't ever get complacent with your strength." He then smiled "Come with me. I will give a gift before you go."

Saying this he walked out. Max also followed as he had already finished his meal. Amelia, Eva and others also finished went to do their own things.

Chapter 84 Zexin City

Ashton led him to his room and closed the door. Then he took out a small pouch from his closet and gave it to him.

Max took the pouch, staring incredulously at his father. He wasn't shocked because his father gave him a normal looking pouch but because he knew it was. It was a spatial storage bag. This small pouch despite it being only fist-sized, it can easily store a large amount of things. This was another fantastic product of magic.

The other thing he surprised him was that despite these spatial storage bags being exorbitantly expensive, his father still gave it to him. He knew that he didn't gave one to his siblings when they left home to join academies. The cheapest storage bag cost fifty thousand gold coins, a amount that even a Viscount like his father can not afford easily. He felt moved by his father's love for him. He guessed that he must have used most of his savings to buy this.

Ashton smiled at him and said in a cheerful voice, "Now that you are leaving your comfortable zone, you would need this to keep your things with you all the times without being them a burden to yourself. So it will help you greatly." His eyes reddened slightly and he quickly turned his back to him and said "Go pack your things now. I've already prepared a carriage for you to travel to Zexin city."

From his shaky voice, Max could guess that he was feeling emotional about him leaving right now. Max was also feeling the same, but seeing his father, feeling sentimental about it despite being a strong man, his heart was felt warm. He bowed deeply and said "Thank you father for your gift." He didn't know what else to say and walked out.

...

Ashton had calmed down now. He with Esther and Amelia by his side came to send Max off. Butler George, Eva and others were also present.

Max stood in front of them. Ashton patted his shoulder and said "Take care of yourself and don't get deceived by others." After pausing for a moment he took a deep breath to calm his emotions and smiled "Come visit us once in a while when you have free time."

Max nodded. "I will father. Please take care of yourself while I'm away." He then talked a bit with Esther and Amelia before bidding everyone farewell and entered the carriage.

When the carriage disappeared from their sight, Ashton's mood died down. Sensing his sadness, Amelia held his hand to comfort him. Esther also looked at him in concern. They knew that he was afraid of Max's well being.

"You don't have to worry about him. When you were out on the mission, sister Mina often sparred with him and he improved quite a lot. She even said he was strong enough to defend himself against a peak two-star mage." Esther said.

Ashton looked at her and Amelia trying to make him feel better and nodded. "Mhm." Then they turned and went inside the manor. Eva was feeling sad about him leaving too. She couldn't do it with him again after Lilly went away. 'I'll have to break through and join the academy or i'll get bored to death here.'

...

Max laid in the carriage seat with his hand below his head. He knew that this journey to Zexin town was going to take around 4-5 days so he relaxed.

With one hand he took out the storage bag and stared at it, deep in the thought. He didn't expect his father to put the blue case which had his mother's sword in the storage bag. Why didn't he tell him this?

"Maybe this was the real gift he was talking about." He mused.

After the carriage has travelled for half a day, it suddenly stopped. Max opened his eyes and asked "What happened? Why did we stop?"

From the outside he heard driver's voice, "A wild beast is blocking the way, young master. Wait a few minutes; I'll clear out the path." Then Max heard him draw his sword and get down from the Carriage.

Max came out of the carriage and saw the middle aged driver to walk toward the bridge with a long sword in his hand. He then saw a buffalo type beast blocking the bridge with its body. This bridge was sole way to enter the forest and continue their journey.

"It doesn't seem to be a wild beast. Can you handle it?" Max asked as he leaned on the carriage.

The middle aged man turned back and smiled "Young master, I was a two star mage at my prime. Even though I'm not as strong as I used to be. I can still handle a one starred beast."

Max nodded. The man walked towards the beast and just as he raised his sword and used his mana to reinforce the attack, the buffalo noticed him and charged at him.

The man didn't seem fazed and hacked down strongly. Buffalo's horns shimmered in pale yellow light as sword struck on them.

Chak!

The sword and horn collided and one of the horns cut into half and sword landed on its head. But as horn had negated most of the force of the attack, it couldn't injure the buffalo and the was was thrown back a few steps.

After realising that the man easily cut its horn, the buffalo scrambled away in fear. The man stood up and walked back to the carriage with a calm expression and drove it across the bridge.

For the next few days, they would travel in day and rest in night. They crossed many forests, rivers, towns and two small scaled cities before they finally arrived before the entrance of Zexin city.

"Young master we have arrived." The driver called out. Max come out and saw many carriages, horses etc around them. At the entrance of the gate stood two guards, they were stopping everyone and telling to enter the city by foot.

The driver explained "Every two year, when various academies come to recruit disciples here, a large number of people gathers here. Therefore, avoid the problem of congestion, they charge fee and prohibits entering the city in carriages."

Max nodded. Just then, a golden wagon entered the city Without paying any fee and guards didn't stop it from entering. Max frowned. Others also started complaining and some even started cursing the guards for such partiality.

Chapter 85 Conflict At The Gate

Guards also became enraged by their cursing. One of the guard who had slightly better built than normal people, shouted and sneered "You fools! Didn't you saw that it was a carriage from Marquis mansion of Aldva? If any of you are also has backing of a Marquis come out, we will allow you too."

The other guard chimed in with a smug smile "If you still have some problem with us allowing an heir of a lord Marquis, then you can gladly complain to our Zexin city's city lord as she was the one who passed down all rules and regulations."

Most of the people quietened down when they heard the name 'Marquis of Aldva' but there were still some, who were either sons and daughters of Counts or Viscounts, that were dissatisfied.

However, When the guard mentioned that they should complain to the city lord of Zexin city, none dared to utter any word and if some dared than the elders of their families didn't let them speak. They had expressions on horror on their faces. After that everyone started apologizing to the guards.

"Ah, So that wagon belongs to Lord Marquis. It's fine I don't have any complain anymore. I apologise for my previous behaviour."

"Yeah, I was wrong to accuse you honourable sirs. Please accept my apology."

"Yes, Yes. Please forgive us."

"..."

"Old man, what's the matter with this city lord? Why do these people seem more afraid of him rather than A Marquis?" Max asked his driver who was by his side.

It should be known that, a city lord is normally a Count. As for Marquis, not only their position is higher than a count and has authority to command any count, but also they are the ones who have transcended the four star realm and stepped foot in the five star or Exceptional mage realm.

By this logic, These people should respect and fear the 'Marquis of Aldva' more than the city lord but obviously this was not the case here which was quite perplexing.

"Young master, you don't know this but the city lord of Zexin city is a mysterious woman who is famous for her strength and cruelty. It is rumoured that a Count, who was also a son of some Marquis, was enamored by her beauty and confessed.

However, she refused and told him to piss off which angered him and he cursed her in anger. But the next day his corpse was hanging outside this city gate and his father The Marquis, didn't dare to retaliate. Moreover, he personally came to apologise to the city lord and retrieve his son's corpse." The driver whispered.

"Oh! this city lord is quite a character, huh? Anyways, You can return now and tell my father that I arrived here safe and sound." Saying this he threw a small leather pouch which had a few gold coins. The driver caught it subconsciously and was dazed.

But seeing him walk away, he quickly reacted ran to him "But young master, I was ordered to stay with you until your recruitment is over."

Without looking at him, Max said "If that's the case, you can come along then." The man sighed in relief and parked the carriage in the parking area and quickly followed behind him.

As Max approached the gate, there was a long line. However everyone was cursing someone in front of the line. He curiously glanced ahead. He saw a boy in tattered clothing pleading the guard incharge of collecting the entrance fee to let him enter. Seeing his pitiful state he walked toward him.

...

"My lord, I can't afford to pay ten silver. Can you please allow me with the one silver I have? After I get selected by the academies, I'll pay you back." The boy pleaded.

The guard felt annoyed by his pestering and said "If I were to allow everyone to enter like this, the city wouldn't have room for the envoys." The jeer in tone was obvious. "Moreover, with your measly one star strength, there is no way you would be selected even if I were to allow you. Go away now. You are blocking others."

The boy looked back and saw that many people were standing in line cursing him to go away. He felt dejected. He worked hard for a few months to earn the entrance fee. In the end he earned 15 silver coins but when he came here, he was robbed of all of his money by the bandits in forest.

He was left with only one silver coin but even when he was starving he didn't use it to eat something. He hoped that he would be able to earn nine more and enter the city but he couldn't.

He was 17 years old now. Due to his family being poor commoners, he couldn't cultivate properly but when he was just 12 years old, he started working for people and by the

age of 15 he was able to buy a third class bronze cultivation technique. In just two years without any guidance or resources, he managed to become a one star mage.

His family which wasn't supportive at first also saw hope in him and supported him however much they could. When he heard that there was going to be a recruitment by the academies in Zexin city, he became hopeful. But luck wasn't in his side and now his last bit of hopes were also gone. His only option was to beg for money which he didn't want to do. But was helpless now.

He looked back and saw a chubby boy standing behind him as he jeered at him. His clothes were very expensive looking and he even had an exquisite looking sword strapped on his waist. He was definitely a noble and was a rich guy. He gritted his teeth and knelt in front of him. "My lord, can you give me 9 silver coins? After I get selected, I'll enter the same academy as you and be your servant."

After saying this, although he received some pitiful glances, no one came out to help. The chubby young man sneered "If you were a girl, I would have helped you. But you aren't worth even a bronze coin in my eyes. Go away, don't ruin my mood." As he said this, he kicked toward him. Others laughed, enjoying the drama.

Thud!

"Huh? Who are you?" His kick was stopped by another kick before it could land on the boy kneeling.

"If you aren't going to help, it's fine. Why hit him?" Max asked calmly. Although he wasn't some merciful hero, he couldn't just ignore this boy's plight. After all, in his previous life, his situation wasn't much better than him.

Ahh—

The chubby man suddenly felt pain in his leg and shrieked. Although this chubby boy was also a two star mage, his physical strength wasn't even comparable to a one star mage.

This is the last bonus Chapter of this week. Phew! If you want more, then targets are in the author's note. Thank you so much for supporting the story.

Chapter 86 Dual Elemental Mage (1)

A group of five guards led by an amicable middle-aged man arrived by the chubby young man's side. Max glanced at five guards they were only comparable to the knights of Garfield family, they any weren't threat to him but his eyes rested on the amicable middle-aged man who stood in front of him, he couldn't feel how strong he was.

"Young man, did our young master offend you in any way?" He asked calmly.

Chubby man shouted from behind "I didn't offend him uncle. I was just kicking that commoner out of the way when he suddenly almost broke my leg."

The people around looked at the chubby man in disdain. It was clearly a normal kick only meant to block him from hitting the boy. How can he blame his own incompetence on him? But they didn't said anything, they wouldn't mind watching a show for free. Moreover, they knew that almost everyone here had significant backgrounds so they didn't want to offend either side.

The amicable middle-aged man didn't seem to listen the chubby guy's shot and stared at Max, a slight smile never leaving his lips. Max didn't know what this man wanted and because he couldn't judge how strong he was so he answered.

"No, he didn't."

"Oh, he didn't. Good." The man nodded. "Do you know this young man here?" He pointed to the boy who was still kneeling.

Max vaguely understood what this man was trying to do. He wanted to apply the invisible pressure of being wrong and then take action so that he would hesitate, making his attack more effective. This meant that the man felt that Max was equally strong to him. Max felt amused at his antics and shook his head "No, I don't."

"So you hit my young master because he wanted to hit someone who has nothing to do with you. Is that right?" The asked again and slowly stimulated his mana but there was no ripple in his voice or expression.

Max didn't bother to speak and just nodded. The man smiled slightly thinking that Max was being suppressed and started to feel fear.

He then continued "So that's to say if I were to hit that boy, you would also hit me. Isn't that right?" He thought that Max would refuse and apologise which would show their dominance but Max's reply shattered his fantasy.

Max nodded "Yeah, do you wanna try me?"

"Huh?" The man seemed genuinely surprised. The chubby man was even more shocked. He knew his uncle's tricks. He would make other party feel that they were in the wrong so they would hesitate, giving him opportunity to attack freely. But his trick didn't worked on Max.

The people around could also guess his intentions which wasn't strange as if the reason was on your side, you can even kill the other party without fearing their retaliation. The royal family made this rule so that others would not abuse their power and get Scott

free. If other party's family wanted revenge, they just need to prove that they weren't in the wrong and no one would blame them. People chuckled seeing his manipulative attempts failing with one sentence.

The man looked at him in silence for a while and smiled "No, I just wanted to know what happened here. I apologise on my young master's behalf. He shouldn't have kicked someone without reason."

Max didn't say anything seeing that the man back down. He looked at boy on the ground and then flicked a gold coin toward the guards "We three are going in. Keep the rest. Follow me kid."

Max entered the city with his driver following closely. The guards also didn't stop them After all this was the boy's turn to enter. So what if they allow two more to enter with him if they could extra 70 silver coins to themselves.

The boy looked at him surprise, disbelief, relief and joy. He was in disbelief because of the fact that someone dared to stop a noble from bullying him and even paid his entrance fee. He was grateful to him for this because if he didn't help him, he would have lost this opportunity to join a academy and change his future. He quickly followed behind Max. He didn't mind even if he wanted to use him as his servant in return of his help.

After entering the city, Max found the roads full of people. 'They are right to not allow everyone enter or no matter how big this city is, there won't be any room for normal activities.'

Just past the entrance gate, a temporary market was established by merchants, selling different kinds of things such as spell books, magic weapons, defensive artefacts, rare artefacts, medicines etc. There were merchant stalls on the both sides of the road with many people forming groups around them looking at things and buying them.

Max wasn't in mood to buy anything after the tiring journey. He just wanted to find an inn to rest. Just then he saw a skinny girl around 12 or 13 years old came running to them. She wore cheap clothes but clean clothes with her hair tied in a ponytail. With her short hight and sparkling eyes she looked adorable.

She looked at three of them and seeing that Max was most handsome and noble looking she bowed to him and said "My lord, would you like a place to stay during your stay here. Our inn is very cheap compared to others and we provide very good service. Also, it's very quiet there, No will disturb you. You can live without any disturbances of the city."

"Okay lead the way." Max nodded. Girl's face blossomed with smile hearing him agree to stay at their inn. She happily nodded and led them to the outer area of the city.

After walking more than 20 minutes, they still didn't reach their destination. Max frowned. He was already very tired by the long journey and now after walking a great distance they still didn't seem to reach their destination.

Noticing Max frown, she panicked and said "Young master we are almost there." She walked faster fearing that they would change their mind.

Max nodded and followed without saying anything. The boy and driver didn't complain seeing Max silent.

After a while, they finally arrived in front of a old wooden house. There wasn't any sign board either. Girl entered the house and yelled "Grandpa, we have customers."

Chapter 87 Dual Elemental Mage (2) [Bonus Chapter]

Max and others also entered the house. Max and the boy didn't seem to mind that inn which girl described as a very good place to stay was this old wooden house. However the driver didn't seem satisfied being tricked by a child but he didn't say anything seeing Max was silent.

Max looked around and found that this house was almost same as those old Japanese houses. There were four rooms, two on each side of the small corridor. At the end of the corridor was a wooden staircase leading to the first floor. From outside the house seemed as if it would collapse any minute but interior was comparatively in good condition.

"Rou, How many times I told you not to go to the market?" An aged voice rebuked the little girl. Then the door of the first room on the right side opened and a feeble old man walked out with a walking stick.

He looked at Max and others warily. He bowed slightly in greeting as said "Noble lords, I hope you forgive my little granddaughter for bringing your noble selves to this old house. If this house isn't to your liking, I'm willing to compensate for wasting your time. I just hope you would be magnanimous enough and forgive this child. Cough Cough!"

Max looked at him oddly and understood that this old man seemed to assume that they would want to cause trouble after being tricked by the girl to come to this house as no noble would want to spend their time in such poor accommodation.

However, the old man wasn't being overly cautious because the same has happened a few times before. His naive granddaughter would bring guests to stay in hope to earn some money but everyone would get angry after seeing their low class house and wouldn't let them off before receiving some kind of compensation.

Initially, he had some savings and could afford pay them some silver but after a few times, he only had around ten silver coins left which wouldn't be enough for them to eat two times a day for a few months. However, he has to give that money to Max and others so that they would forgive them. If not, who knows they might kill them in anger.

He wasn't afraid of dying as he has lived enough already. But if something happened to his granddaughter, he wouldn't be able to die in peace.

"Do you think we need your money?" The driver felt unpleasant hearing old man's words and just as he wanted to continue, Max patted on his shoulder to stop him from speaking.

"It's fine old man. I like your house. It's indeed as she said, we can live here without any disturbance." Max smiled while looking around and continued "But as we were indeed tricked to come here I will decide how much rent I would pay."

Hearing his words, old man seemed a bit relieved and thought 'It's all good if you let us live in peace.' However, the girl didn't like the idea. Who knows if he only pays one bronze coin. She walked up to him and pleaded in panic with her slightly misty eyes,

"No, young master! I didn't trick you. Our house is really very comfortable to live and the food I would make will be very delicious. My grandpa often praise my cooking and says that I make world's best food. Please don't lower the rent."

Max looked at the little girl almost begging him. He could tell that they were very poor and by their skinny bodies, they must not have enough money to eat some nutritious food.

Max smiled bitterly. He said that because he wanted to give them some money so that they could eat properly at least until the girl is old enough but his words weren't clear so they misunderstood.

The old man was given a fright by his granddaughter's actions. He knew that people like Max wouldn't like their bland food. But before he could say anything Max patted her head and said "Okay, If I like the food here, I will more than the rent. How about it?"

The girl seemed happy and patted her non-existent chest "Don't worry young master. You'll definitely like it." She then ran upstairs to make food for them.

The old man was relieved seeing Max was a good person and didn't have any intention to cause them trouble said politely "Young masters, you can choose whichever room you like. Please rest until Rou makes your meal."

...

Knock! Knock!

Someone knocked on the door of Max's room. He knew this must be the boy. He told him to come to his room after resting a bit.

"Come in. It's open." Max said as he sat on the wooden bed.

Creak!

Door was slid to the sides and the boy came inside. Without waiting for Max to say anything, he knelt on one knee and said "Young master, Thank you for helping me. I'm very grateful to you. If you want I, Neer, will join the same academy as you and serve you as your servant.

"Oh! And how are you so sure that you can enter any academy you want? You should know that rarely any one-star mage gets selected by the academies right?" Max asked, he had heard his conversation with the guard and that chubby guy. He showed the same certainty as he did now which piqued his curiosity. That's why he called him here.

The boy thought for a while and said "Young master I'm certain because I've awakened two elements, Water and shadow."

Max looked at him in surprise and understood why he was being confident about it. Dual elemental mages are very rare and hold a much higher value than average three or sometimes even four star mages. If one appears, then every academy no matter if it is royal academy or some other, they would let him join without any requirements. It is said that, every dual elemental mage has potential to surpass the mortal boundary, the four star realm.

Chapter 88 It Is Delicious

"You should know that any academy will accept you and in future you will definitely become someone strong and will be granted a noble title and have very good life. Then why do you still want to become my servant?" Max asked.

He found this confusing and it wasn't like he forced him or anything. If he was in this guy's place, he wouldn't want to become anyone's servant no matter if the said person helped him. At most he would think of some way to pay him back.

"It's because in my hopelessness, I vowed if anyone helped me at that moment, I would follow him. Moreover you aren't like other nobles who treat everyone as trash. After this short time, I came to admire your character. So I wish to follow you." Neer said honestly.

Max looked at him in surprise. He didn't see expect that someone like him would still exist in this world. On earth, he had seen many people going back on their promise after obtaining what they wanted. After all they already got what they wanted, so what if other party accuse them of not keeping their word.

However, he now met someone who made a vow that no one knew about and wanted to complete his it even if it meant to become someone's servant. Such character was respectable yet foolish in his eyes.

And Although he helped him and wanted to help the grandfather-granddaughter duo too, it was only because he felt some sympathy towards their plight. If this was not the case, he wouldn't have batted an eye even if they begged him.

But he understood his perspective, so he said "If that's the case, you can follow me but It'll not be as a servant." He then gave him five gold coins and said "After resting a bit, you can buy yourself some decent clothing."

Neer looked at the gold coins in his hand in a a daze. His eyes turned red but not a single tear drop appeared. He banged his head in front on the floor and shouted "Thank you young master. I won't disappoint you." Although his tone was slightly hoarse, Max could feel that he was genuinely moved by his actions.

He smiled bitterly, he had no intention to make him feel indebted. He gave some money so that he can get rid of his tattered clothes. After all now he was going to follow him so he had to treat his follower nicely. Wouldn't that be embarrassing for him as a noble if his follower dressed poorly?

He sighed 'This world is too cruel. By an act of kindness and only five gold coins, I earned his sincere loyalty. What kind of life must he have lived before to behave like this?' Thinking this, he felt ashamed of himself. In his previous life, he used to compare himself to his rich friend despite having almost everything necessary to live a good life and would blame his family for being a middle class family.

Max helped him stood up and patted his shoulder "Go and rest now. You need a calm state of mind for the upcoming recruitment." After saying this he recalled that most likely he wouldn't have to go through trials after showing that he had dual elements.

"Yes young master." Neer clenched the gold coins and bowed before leaving his room.

...

...After one and a half hour...

Max laid in the bed with his eyes closed. He was sleeping when a knock on the door woke him up.

Then Rou's sweet voice sounded "Young master, I've prepared the food. Please come and eat."

"Okay I'm coming." Max opened the door and was led to the first room on the right where the duo lived.

A table was set up in the middle of the room with three seats placed around it. Neer and driver were both stood there. Seeing Max come in they saluted him with with one hand across their chest and bowed. Max nodded at them and sat on one of the seats. After that Neer and the driver also sat down. Neer was no longer in his previous rag clothes. He was wearing black pants and a bluish half sleeved shirt.

Rou served the food. There were rice buns, salad and meat soup. "Young master I put more efforts today, I'm sure you will like it." She said cheerfully.

Max didn't say anything but his driver looked at the food and then Max. Max knew what he was thinking and slightly shook his head towards him. Then he drank a spoonful of soup after carefully blowing on it. After tasting it, his eyes lit up and praised the little girl "It's really delicious little Rou."

Little girl's smiled blossomed hearing this. Her grandpa however, shook his head. He knew that his granddaughter's cooking was very good. However, how can their low quality meat and rice be palatable to the nobles like him. But seeing that Max didn't complain, his opinion of Max and the way he looked at him changed. The previous wariness was replaced by gratefulness.

Max wasn't praising half heartedly like the old man thought, he really liked the food or her cooking. Even with normal wild beast's meat, she made the soup very delicious. Neer and the driver also ate without a word after tasting the food.

After finishing their meal, Max gave the little girl 10 gold coins and rented the house until the recruitment was over. The little girl, although very happy to receive such a huge some of money, was reluctant to accept it. However, when Max threatened to leave the house without paying she accepted and gave it to her grandfather. The old man cried the tears of happiness and thanked Max again and again.

...

When it was evening, Max with Neer and the driver went to the market to buy something useful for the recruitment examinations and explore the city. When they reached the market, they found It full of people like it was in the day.

"Young master what would you like to buy?" Neer asked as he walked behind him.

"Do you know what kind of tests they would conduct during the recruitment?" Max asked. If he knew what kind of test he had pass, it would be easy to buy some things to aid him.

Chapter 89 Crimson Sword

"Yes I know a bit about it." Neer nodded and explained.

"As you know young master, almost every academy would send their envoy to select disciples to Zexin city. To shorten the recruitment process, various academies gather together and organise tests in one place and select disciples there. This gives equal chance to each academy to select if any rare talent were to emerge during the tests and avoid any conflict that may arise between academies.

I heard that this time there will be three tests, same as previous recruitments. The first test would be to test one's mana affinity. The minimum requirement is to have a grade two affinity. In the second test, one's strength will be tested according to their mage realms and those who don't possess strength comparable to their mage realm would be disqualified. Third test will be a battle in elimination format. According to their requirements of number of disciples, they would select people. Normally, top five academies have very few vacancies as they only want the best talent to join them."

Max got a rough understanding of the process. He shouldn't have any problem to pass the first and second test. As for the third test, this one should be easy for him with his strength unless... 'Unless I get paired up with someone stronger than me and gets eliminated before I could show my prowess.'

"If that's the case, let's buy some healing and mana recovery pills." Max said.

"Umm, young master, shouldn't you also buy a weapon and a few defensive amulets?" Neer asked. He said this not because he thought that Max was weak but because during the battles, usually even two star mages get heavily injured and some also die. Because to impress the envoys, no one shows any mercy and hold back in order to perform their best. So for their safety, everyone buys defensive amulets/talismans. However, once you used a defensive talisman, you would be considered defeated.

As for a weapon, although he was too poor to afford one, he knew that magic weapons not only can make your attacks stronger but also provides a boost to your mana control which gives you an edge if you are matched with someone of equal strength.

"Okay we'll buy them too." Max agreed. After all, his safety was his top most priority. If he could survive in this beautiful yet deadly world, then he can experience and enjoy everything that this world has to offer.

"We should head to the main market district. We would be able to find the best quality products we need there." Neer suggested because he knew that these temporary markets rarely had good quality stuff.

"Let's go there then." Max, Neer and the driver headed to the main market leaving the temporary market established by small merchants.

The main market area had comparatively fewer people but still, it was very congested. Neer asked some people where they could buy medicine pills and found a shop nearby that almost every type of magic medicine.

Seeing Max and others arriving, the shopkeeper gave his professional smile and asked "Customers, how can I help you?"

"Please give us some healing and mana recovery pills." Max replied politely.

"Customer, can you tell me, what grade of pills you require and how many?" He asked after confirming what Max wanted.

"What's the price of healing and mana recovery grade one and two pills?" Max asked. Medicine pills and magic artefacts are divided in grades which corresponds to the realms of mages. For example, grade one medicine is most effective to the mages in one star realm and grade two to the two star realm mages.

If a lower realm mage, for example, a one star mage consumes a grade two healing pill, his body won't be able to endure the potency of the pill and it may injure him further. The same is true for magic artefacts.

If you use higher graded magic artefacts, you won't be able to endure the toll it takes on your mana and body, in some cases, people can die even.

If a higher realm mage consumes lower grade medicine, it won't be much effective on him. Therefore it is very important to use the medicine and artefacts suitable to your realms and precisely because of this reason, The half step monarch grade sword is still untouched in his spatial pouch. He wondered a few times if this was the case how can his mother, who was a three star mage could use it?

"Grade one mana recovery pill costs 50 silver coins and a healing pill of the same grade costs 2 gold coins. As for Grade two mana recovery pill, it costs 2 gold coins and a grade two healing pill costs 10 gold coins." The shopkeeper explained.

Max nodded "Okay, Give me twenty grade one pills of each type and the same for grade two."

The shopkeeper nodded and he quickly took out four small jade bottles that had 20 pills each and handed them to Max.

After inspecting the pills, he paid 290 gold coins from his spatial bag. After noticing that the young boy had a spatial bag, he gaze toward him became more respectful.

Max gave grade one pills to Neer who accepted them reluctantly and stored the grade two pills in his spatial bag.

After wandering around the market for a while, they brought six grade two protection talisman for 100 gold each. He gave two to the Driver and Two to Neer.

Although Neer was only a one star mage, these talismans doesn't need one to be of matching strength to use them like Pills or artefacts. They already have energy stored in them. To use these talismans, one only need a small amount of mana. That's why they are always in high demand. Neer and the driver refused to accept them but Max insisted so they had to accept.

Just then, he caught sight of a crimson sword on a blacksmith's shop's display. He quickly walked towards the shop wanting to buy it.

Chapter 90 Shall We Bid?

Seeing Max walk in the shop in a hurry, Neer and the driver also followed.

When Max entered the shop, there were many customers in the shop looking around for suitable weapons and trying them out. When he entered, Most of the girls' focused their gaze for a brief moment on him. He could even hear some of them murmuring.

"Hey, isn't the guy too handsome?"

"Yeah it's my first time seeing someone so handsome."

"So what if he is handsome? All that matter is strength. I'll challenge and defeat him in front of you." Some guys got jealous and started looking down on him

Max didn't mind any of them and walked to the counter where a stoic looking shopkeeper stood. He pointed to the Crimson sword on the display and asked "Hello Shopkeeper, May I know what kind of sword that crimson sword is?"

Although Max knew that this Crimson sword wasn't the same as the one crimson monarch rewarded the Black Reaper with, it still resembled Crimson monarch's Crimson Slayer. Therefore, he wanted to buy it as it's colour indicated that this might be a fire elemental weapon.

Elemental weapons are very rare because only someone who has awakened the same element and has a deep understanding of it, can forge them and it's also quite rare for someone like that to work as a blacksmith.

Max already wanted a weapon because he would have to fight in the third test of recruitment and a magic weapon may prove to be helpful. Although he was confident that can win only by using his [Fireball], however he couldn't say this for sure. What if he was paired with a two star mage who has more mana and more skilled than him. In that case he might lose.

The shopkeeper who stood at the counter looked at the sword Max was pointing at and hesitated a bit before saying "That is a grade two fire elemental sword. If you are interested, you can buy it for 600 gold coins."

Everyone turned to look at the sword in surprise but seeing that he was referring to the crimson sword hanging outside on display, they shook his their head. Although it was indeed a grade two elemental weapon, it still shouldn't cost 600 gold coins. However, they could guess why shopkeeper offered this price.

Max didn't know how much elemental weapons cost and he had enough to buy it. Therefore, he nodded and took out 600 gold coins to pay.

Seeing this, shopkeeper's expression changed. He didn't want to sell him this sword, that's why he raised it's price. Hoping that he wouldn't want to buy it after hearing that it was this expensive.

However, he didn't expect Max to still took out the money. He smiled awkwardly and was about to tell that the sword was already booked and he couldn't sell it to him.

However before he could say anything, an arrogant voice sounded from the entrance, making his expression one of panic.

"Oh, didn't you know that I reserved this sword beforehand yet you still dare to sell it?"

Everyone turned to look toward the entrance and their gazes stopped on a beautiful blonde girl. She was wearing a slightly loose white dress that covered her milky white skin entirely, only leaving her crane like neck and face. However, it still couldn't hide her lust inducing curves yet everyone moved their eyes away as soon as they saw a man beside her.

Max looked at her up and down and nodded inwardly. She was indeed a rare beauty, comparable to Lilly.

However she wasn't the one who spoke. The speaker was the handsome young man beside her. However standing next to this girl, his handsome visage dimmed considerably.

When Max turned to look toward them, he stared at Max and couldn't help but compare him and himself subconsciously.

In the next moment however, he reflexively glanced at the girl to see her reaction. Seeing that she didn't show any emotion even after seeing Max's extremely handsome gait and those mesmerizing eyes, he sighed in relief.

He then glared at the shopkeeper and asked coldly "Didn't my servant come yesterday and told you to reserve this sword for me? Why it is still on display and even more importantly you dare to disobey me and sell this sword?"

The shopkeeper panicked and quickly explained that by rejecting outright, he didn't want to lose a potential customer and set the price almost double its market price but this young man still agreed and before he could tell why he couldn't sell him the sword they arrived.

"So what if you would have lost a customer? Does this excuse gives you- "

The young man continued however the white clothed girl stopped him and said,

"Sir Dalton, you shouldn't blame the shopkeeper. He didn't purposely disobeyed your order."

She then glanced at Max and smiled "If this really want to buy this sword, how about we bid for it. Whoever bid more will get the sword. How is it?"

The truth was that the young man had heard that this girl, Flavia wanted to buy a fire elemental sword. So when he heard that there was such sword available in the city, he sent his servant to reserve the sword himself.

Max smiled and nodded "If it wasn't because I need this sword to fight in recruitment test, I would have given up on it for a beautiful girl such as you."

Everyone looked at him dumbly. How audacious was this blue haired young man to talk to young Miss Flavia like that? This was what everyone wondered.

The young man called Dalton also looked at him in daze. However, in the next moment, his fury erupted. "How dare you talk to her like that?" He shouted as mana flow around him became chaotic.

Flavia also wrinkled her brows slightly but didn't say anything. It wasn't as if he said anything disrespectful or something. But seeing her companion erupt in rage she shook her head helplessly.

She knew that he loved her and cared about her a lot but this love what one-sided. She didn't have any romantic feelings towards him and she had already told him this the last time they met but he still didn't understand.

She felt annoyed by his behaviour despite her gentle nature, so she said coldly "Young master Dalton, please stop this. Why are getting angry when he didn't said anything inappropriate?"

Every girl present also nodded at her words. However boys still felt that this blue haired guy should be punished for speaking so freely to a goddess like her.

"Ugh!" The young man noticed her annoyed tone and stopped stimulating his mana however he still glared at Max as if he was his enemy of life and death.

Max shook his head. If he knew that he would earn his enmity by saying a few words, he would've kept his mouth shut. However he still didn't care much about him and smiled at the girl as if nothing happened "Shall we bid?"