

## **S vs Rebirth 1021**

### Chapter 1021 Arriving At Laivaen City

"See you later!" Layla waved her hand toward Aurelia, who could only remain inside the city. Layla was inside the passenger trailer, which was spacious enough for her to do whatever she wanted.

The two other people that came together with Anna were Andreas and Harley. Andreas had to make sure that Anna was alright, while Harley needed to deal with the information and make sure that the crown prince fell into their trap.

"This is marvelous. To think that it can move like this..." Harley muttered while looking around the pulling car. "So, this area here is where we put the demon crystals."

"Yeah. As long as we have enough crystals, a normal person can drive this." Even though Anna said that, she was still the one supplying the spiritual energy to the runes. After all, she wanted to see how much energy they needed to bring all these.

Currently, they attached everything they had, putting all nine of them into a single vehicle.

"How is spiritual energy consumption?" Harley asked.

"Not too bad. If you add the weight, I'm pretty sure it's going to be hard. That's why we're planning to have a paved road that we will need to build as sturdy as possible. At the very least, they should be able to withstand a hundred tonnes of cargo passing at once. With the paved road, the journey should be much smoother. From my rough calculation, we will probably need about an equivalent of 10 Mid Level Demon Crystals from this place to Laivaen City."

"Only ten of them?" Harley looked down. "I'm not that sure with the price, but if I'm not wrong, a single trip usually costs about a few silver coins... That's for a single wagon since you need horses, protection, and other things. A Mid Level Demon Crystals is equal to 10 silver coins, so about 1 gold coin in total, huh?"

"More importantly, this can bring up to fifty tons of cargo, and about a hundred passengers at a faster speed."

"There you have it." Anna smiled. "And by expanding the highway, we can make a route for them so they will go all around Lounstein."

"The goods will be well distributed in Lounstein and more importantly, the people can easily come and go, which makes tourism skyrocket." Harley nodded. "The money that it can bring is simply too big to be calculated."

"Yeah. This is what Noel is planning to do. And we'll gradually introduce it before others can imitate our products. And of course, the information will be spread by you."

"Ah!" Harley finally understood why he was here. He had to gather information from Laivaen City to see how they perceived this new invention. And then he could gradually work his way out to spread it. "I'll do my best."

"Mhmm... In that case, take care of the saintess for now, will you?"

"Yes."

Harley nodded and immediately left the car. He carefully passed the joint of the car, which definitely needed improvement to be safer.

Meanwhile, Anna was carefully driving it. She knew that a weird and absurd turn would cause a big reaction from the rest, so she made sure it was going as straight as possible.

Fortunately, there was only a grassy plain between the main city and Laivaen City, which caused the road to be straight most of the time.

Their arrival had been anticipated by a lot of people. In fact, the mayor had been notified by them so that the people in the city could see it.

"Those are..." The citizens, who had climbed on top of the wall, gasped. They had never seen something this long, and they could see Anna in the very front.

The mayor's expression turned serious. "So, this is a new invention... the one that can bring a lot of people and items in a single trip."

Paladin Lloyd obviously had to come as well, considering the saintess was among the four people that came to this city. He muttered, "It's said that we have to prepare about forty tons worth of materials. We have been sending all kinds of resources that we can to this city. Although we can't fulfill the saint's request, we still get a lot of materials. Can they actually bring all that?"

The Sword Arbiter furrowed his eyebrows. He had been waiting for his chance to enter the main city because he was curious about all the new inventions. Seeing this new one just made him have a harder time holding back.

In the end, he jumped off the wall out of curiosity and landed not far from it.

Anna had reduced the input of spiritual energy, which slowed it down. After it made a complete stop, she came out of the front car and waved her hands to the people on the top of the wall.

They had also raised their gate to receive her, but she had to handle the Sword Arbiter first.

"Is this... What is this called?" The Sword Arbiter asked while looking around.

"We haven't given it an official name yet. For now, we just call it a trailer. As you can see, there are three types: the pulling type, the passenger type, and the cargo type. In a single trip, we can bring about a hundred people and fifty tons of cargo with just ten mid level demon crystals. Of course, the longer the distance, the more demon crystals are needed. But with this, we can minimize the cost of security since this trailer has been equipped with some runes. All we need is to have some soldiers to help."

"What?" The Sword Arbiter dropped his jaw to the ground. For the Sword Arbiter, Anna didn't have to hide most of the information. And her claim made it hard to believe.

"You can do all that?"

"Yes. There's no problem for now. Even a normal person can drive it, as long as there are enough demon crystals. There are some drawbacks, but this thing should be able to operate soon."

"..." The Sword Arbiter could see how this trailer benefited the entire Lounstein. "Are you planning to expand it to other territories?"

"If we have permission, of course." Anna nodded.

The Sword Arbiter fell silent for a moment. His territory was a bit far from Lounstein, so it might not be possible to extend it toward his territory.

However, he had an ally between his territory and Lounstein. He could tell him to accept the Ardagan family's offer and allow the goods and people to move back and forth. And he could just send some goods he needed to him later.

That was right. Noel didn't expect that the highway would connect the entire kingdom. But if he created the highway big enough, the other nobles could just come to the territory where his highway was located and become connected to the Ardagan family.

The Sword Arbiter sighed. "It seems that I can't really match you two."

"Hahaha. Duke Lorelei is still underestimating us." Anna stopped there, making him think more.

The Sword Arbiter furrowed his eyebrows. If that was truly the case, he might really need to go to the main city to take a look.

"So, can I come to the main city now?"

"Right now, Noel is heading to the capital city to receive the reward for our previous battle. But it might take him a bit longer since a certain someone is slowing the travel speed. Once he comes back, we can go to the main city together. That's what he wanted you to know before leaving."

The Sword Arbiter's expression darkened. It looked like he was annoyed by the cheap trick that the royal family was using.

"Tsk." He clicked his tongue as if he wanted to do something, but he didn't say anything. "Anyway, I don't think this can enter the city, right?"

"Yes. We're planning to build a receiving building right outside the city. If everyone has it, the trip will be much smoother and faster."

The Sword Arbiter nodded his head, knowing what he had to do next.

"Don't worry. This trailer will be safe. I can guarantee it. And it seems that you're planning to test it from here."

"You're correct. We'll bring materials first before trying to do both passengers and materials. How about we talk inside?"

"Sure." The Sword Arbiter extended his hand.

Anna asked the soldiers to guard the trailer carefully. He knew that this would attract people, so Anna made more arrangements for their protection.

Meanwhile, Paladin Lloyd was coming toward the saintess. They, too, had a lot of things to discuss.

Lloyd reported everything that had happened so far. Meanwhile, Layla asked him to load all those goods inside the trailer.

Harley and Andreas followed Anna, but their eyes were wandering around. They could see a few suspicious people through their own methods.

However, they still didn't dare attack it because they needed to know what this was first. If it was a trap, they would just expose themselves after all.

These few eyes were glued to the trailer. Some of them looked a bit afraid, some were hesitant, and some were filled with anger and jealousy.

They might not know anything about this trailer, but they needed to inform the masters they served about it and ask for their order.

It was at this time that Andreas and Harley disappeared. Harley might not be a powerful combatant, but he took advantage of the brothel that he set up here to gather the information.

Andreas, on the other hand, became the sword that would kill those spies.

Chapter 1022 An Unexpected Encounter

1022 An Unexpected Encounter

"Mom!" A kid ran across the road, his body was drenched in sweat.

"Look at you." The mother smiled. While wiping the sweat on her son's forehead, she gave him a small bottle of water. "Here's your drink."

"Thank you, Mom!" The kid smiled as he held the bottle. "To think we could drink whenever we want."

"We should thank the Earl for giving us this opportunity." The mother nodded. Tears couldn't help but form on the corner of her eyes, feeling moved. In the past, just to get the water, she would have to walk to the river or wait in a long line to use the public well.

"When I'm bigger, I want to be a reliable person and serve the Earl!"

"Is that so? Go for it." The mother smiled.

Normally, they don't really recommend someone to work in the mansion. While the pay was good, the work was very harsh.

But this time, their Lord was different. She looked at her child, who had gotten stronger and more cheerful after they moved here.

Suddenly, they heard the clapping sound of a wooden wheel as both of them raised their heads, finding a man stopping in front of them. He was driving a wagon without a horse.

"Dad!" The boy jumped up while the mother smiled. "Are you done with your work?"

"How can I just be done with this? I'm just stopping for a bit after seeing both of you. There are still a lot of houses to be rebuilt in this city," said the man with a smug smile. His wagon was filled with rocks and wood.

"Is that so? Do you want to have a drink?" She asked while handing him the bottle.

"It's fine. I'll just drink once I reach my destination. I feel like I have been drinking so much that I end up peeing too much. Hahahaha!" The man laughed. "Anyway, I'm going again."

"Yes." The woman nodded.

"See you later, Dad!" The boy waved his hand with a bright smile on his face.

"See you later, Son. Protect your mother for me, will you?"

"Un!" The boy nodded.

The dad continued driving the carriage as he passed a lot of people with a smile on their faces.

Not long after, the street became busy once again as five people were crossing on it. They were Anna, the mayor, the Sword Arbiter, Layla, and Paladin Lloyd.

"The city feels so different from when I first came here. While I could feel a lot of hope in the past, there was still a gloomy feeling. However, right now... I can only feel happiness. Their voice is brimming with energy," said Layla with a big smile. Whenever she came to a city to bring some help, the condition would never become as good as this city.

The mayor said, "We have completed the water storage in a few locations. And once the installation is successful, we can finally open the pipe and allow them to get an unlimited amount of water. We should be able to do it within the next two months. And all the buildings that will be built from that point on will have the pipe installed already."

"That's good. How is the wall?" Anna nodded, satisfied.

"The wall repair should finish within three weeks."

"This is a wonderful city." The Sword Arbiter muttered while looking around. He had been watching over the city for a while and felt firsthand the difference between this city and his city.

Compared to Noel, he wasn't a good lord at all.

"What are you talking about? Your city will soon be similar to this." Anna smiled, teasing the Sword Arbiter.

"Hoho? Can I take your words seriously?" The Sword Arbiter smiled. "The kids are getting more active because they don't need to worry about the water. The wives can do a lot more things since they don't have to go to the river to fetch water or wash clothes.

"Seeing their family having an easier time, the husbands think all their hard work has paid off. With this, future generations will have a much brighter future." The Sword Arbiter sighed, feeling a bit envious. "I can't help but wonder if you have a plan for the future. Since the kids have a lot more time, doesn't that mean the parents can bring them to school? But school is kind of expensive."

"That's true. Noel mentioned it to me back then. He thought about making the school free. However, it will take a lot of money to do that since we need to find teachers and other things. In addition, the Rune Academy still needs to pay. There might be people complaining about it not being free." Anna sighed.



"We are still thinking about the good system that allows us to increase general knowledge in Lounstein. After all, if we have a lot more people who can think for the future, the more unique ideas that will form."

The Sword Arbiter nodded in agreement. "That's true. Ah, this old man doesn't think that far into the future. I'm ashamed."

"Ahaha." Anna chuckled.

The group was heading to the north gate since this was the day for the test of their trailer.

As expected, there were a lot of people wanting to watch as the soldiers had a hard time controlling the people on the wall.

The moment they came out of the city gate, they could see some people from the Moon Temple loading the last bit of luggage.

"There are about 30 tons worth of materials inside." Lloyd reported. "There are stones, gravel, wood, and even ores."

Anna nodded while asking, "How is it, Andreas?"

The one operating the trailer this time was Andreas.

"The consumption is a bit higher, but it's not that much. Even a Spirit Practitioner can easily support the entire system until the next city. I will record the time, the consumption, and the materials later."

"I'll leave it to you. Once you return here, you can bring a few people to help as well. Just ask Charlotte about the people."

"Got it."

"Thank you for doing all this."

"It's fine. After all, you might have to leave again soon..." Andreas nodded, reminding her that his original purpose was to bring them to his kingdom per Old Ru's request.

"I know."

"In that case, I will go back to the trailer." Andreas immediately returned as the people seemed to have finished the loading process.

After the last check, making sure there was no leak, Anna gave the final nod.

With that, Andreas began pouring his spiritual energy into the runes and the trailer started moving forward.

"Woooah?!" Lloyd sucked a cold breath.

"It can really bring all that stuff?" Layla asked for confirmation.

"It's already worth more than 30 wagons. To think that it can bring people along with it. In fact, it can bring more than a hundred tons if there's no passenger trailer." The Sword Arbiter shook his head in defeat.

"The era of logistics will begin." The mayor smiled, proud that he was going to witness it from the front seat.

Meanwhile, Anna didn't pay much attention. The moment the trailer started moving, she confirmed that the experiment had been successful. She ended up thinking about something else. "I wonder what Noel is doing right now... Has he reached the capital city?"

...

Capital City.

Noel was sitting on the bed. After a long journey, he had finally reached the capital city.

Since Ardagan wished for him to have a safe place before receiving the reward, Noel asked Marquis Stargaze to allow him to stay in the mansion, to which he agreed.

Now that he had gotten the place and time, he closed his eyes on the bed before opening his mouth and saying, "Ardagan."

[Mission: Solve the hidden danger (Complete)]

[Description: There is an incoming hidden danger coming to the city. Protect the city.]

[Reward: Spirit Information Part 3.]

Noel felt like his consciousness was being sucked, but at that time, Noel didn't realize that Ardagan was exuding a black spiritual energy, covering him in a sphere-shape barrier.

When he felt the scenery had changed, Noel gradually opened his eyes, realizing that the sky was dark.

"This place is..." Noel muttered while looking around. It only took him a moment before he realized that he was on a mountain. There was a small stone path going toward the edge and that was where he saw a figure of a woman standing near the railing. She seemed to be mesmerized by the sight of whatever was below the mountain.

Noel didn't know why, but he was attracted to her. It wasn't a romantic feeling, but something much purer than that.

He approached her carefully. "Hello..."

"You've finally come." The young woman turned around, revealing her true appearance.

"!!!" Noel widened his eyes in shock. "You..."

She had long blond hair, slightly wavy at the tip. Her age didn't seem to be that different from his. Her dress was a simple one piece pink dress that reached her knees.

She looked similar to Anna if not for the fact that her eyes were gold instead of purple.

"Who... are you?" Noel sucked a cold breath and took a step back.

Instead of answering him, the woman lifted her hands as if she were about to receive something. But that was when a black-

colored flame appeared and formed a sword.

Once the flame disappeared, a black sword fell to her hands. It was Ardagan.

"It's been a while, Ardagan. I hope you're doing well."

Ardagan released a bit of energy to respond to her, which made her smile.

After seeing her familiarity with Ardagan, Noel couldn't help but ask, "Are you my ancestor's wife?"

The person he was talking about was one of the three people who left behind a book as the Ardagan family's heirloom.

However, the woman shook her head and walked toward him. She gently rubbed his forehead while saying, "You're almost correct."

"Almost..." Noel furrowed his eyebrows before remembering there was one more person who might have the power to do all this. Noel instinctively lowered his head. "I..."

"What a clever child." The woman chuckled while stopping him from bowing. "You're correct this time. My name is Milinda, the first host of Ardagan."

#### Chapter 1023 Noel's Choice

Noel blinked his eyes a few times in disbelief. Never in his wildest dreams would he think of meeting this person.

At the same time, he had been hearing a lot of stories about her grandson. After all, her grandson was directly involved in the creation of the kingdoms.

However, in terms of ability, he believed that this person was much greater. He had heard that she was the one who kept the peace in this world. Only because of her death was the world plunged into chaos.

In other words, she might be able to teach him how to defeat all the demons in the world. Or that was what he thought before coming up with the rune technology.

"I am Noel. It's an honor to meet you..." Noel didn't know how to call her. She had heard from his father that he shouldn't really mention anything related to someone's age. But if he didn't call her 'ancestor,' he would be rude. In the end, Milinda appeared before him as a woman in her early twenties.

Milinda chuckled. "Just call me, Grandma."

"Yes, Grandma." Noel immediately complied. An ancestor would be a bit too much, but Miss wouldn't be appropriate. So, she actually chose Grandma, which was reasonable even for Noel.

Milinda looked at Noel's face closely while saying, "It seems that you have suffered a bit."

"This is nothing, Grandma." Noel shook his head, not knowing what to say after this. In the end, he came to this space for the reward.

As if knowing his thoughts, Milinda said, "In that case, let's move on to your reward. You're here for information, but I can't really tell you everything. That's why let's play it this way. You choose one topic and I will answer everything you ask. Maybe you want to ask about my relationship with the spirits or even the Spirit God? Ardagan has told you that the Spirit God personally bestowed on me with the sword, right?

"Or do you want to know about the origin of the spirits? How about the True Spirit Body? You can choose one topic. This is the reward." Milinda explained.

"!!!" Noel didn't expect a reward like this. This was his chance to gain knowledge that no one expected.

At the same time, he was facing a dilemma. On the one hand, he could satisfy his curiosity by discussing a topic that confused him the most. On the other hand, this could be an opportunity for him to gain more knowledge for the sake of the future.

In other words, he had to choose whether he wanted to clear up his confusion or face the future.

Noel fell into deep thought, unable to ask the question that confused him the most.

After a moment, Noel asked, "Grandma... I want to know more about this world. What kind of civilization did we have before the demon's invasion? I heard that it was only because Grandma passed away that the world was plunged into chaos. Then, what kind of civilization did you live in?"

Milinda had an amused expression. Even she didn't expect that Noel would ask something like this.

"Why do you want to talk about this instead of any other topics? For example, anything related to spirits or maybe a method to kill all those demons."

Noel shook his head. "I will be lying if I don't want to know about the spirit's secrets, and I also want to know how to kill those annoying demons."

"Then why?"

"Because if I die, I can't ask you another question."

Milinda was surprised that Noel was thinking about life and death. What if she told him that if he died, he would become a spirit?

But before she could ask that question, Noel had continued, "Right now, I am walking on top of a thread. One wrong move will result in my death. Even if it's not imminent, it might set me up on the route leading to my death."

"At the same time, even if I want to kill all the demons, they are currently used as fuel for the new technology. If we kill all of them, we won't have enough fuel anymore. I know that this will only happen far in the future, but at the very least, I want to prolong it as much as possible until they can find an alternative fuel."

"Besides, if I can live long enough, I can get more and more rewards from Ardagan. And I'm sure that I could get another chance to find out about spirits. This is my answer. I hope it doesn't disappoint Grandma."

"Hahahaha!" Milinda laughed out loud as if she were satisfied with his answer. "Alright. Let's talk about civilization in my era."

"Thank you."

Milinda then lowered Ardagan before tapping the ground twice. In an instant, the scenery turned back to a simple, plain white cube.

"Alright. What kind of thing do you want to know first?"

Noel looked down for a moment. "When I explored the ancient ruins, they had a lot of giant buildings, even the tall ones, that our technology couldn't replicate. So, I want to see the city's civilization... Then, maybe, the village and the port. And... I can't think of anything right now."

"Alright. But you have to remember that this knowledge comes directly from my memory. Even if you ask me how they work, I won't be able to explain it to you."

"I understand." Noel nodded furiously.

Now that they had reached an agreement, Milinda tapped the ground again.

The new scenery was being built. The sun was right above their heads. On the right and left sides were two tall buildings. Most of them were made of metal, concrete, and glass.

And there were a lot of buildings like this as far as he could see.

"This is..." Noel sucked a cold breath. The towering building alone made him feel small.

But Milinda didn't stop here. She produced the people to fill up the city. They were wearing clothes that he had never seen before.

Noel's eyes were glued to one of the women.

"What is this? How shameful." Noel muttered. The woman wore a tight blouse that exposed her cleavage. She even wore a mini skirt that made it almost visible to see what was under it.

"Hahaha. This is normal during the day." Milinda chuckled. She wore a dress that reached her knees because she expected this kind of reaction from Noel.

"Still..." Noel looked down, trying not to get embarrassed like a country bumpkin. But soon, he heard a roar coming from behind. "An enemy attack?"

Noel turned around and saw a metal carriage moving at a fast speed. It was so fast that it could even rival his full speed. "What is that?"



Unlike what he witnessed earlier, there was a similar carriage that moved a bit slowly. This time, he could see several people inside, looking like they were enjoying themselves. And seeing the composition made him believe that this was a family.

"Grandma... Are those people a wealthy family?"

Milinda shook her head. "Nope. They are common people."

"To think commoners can move together with the entire family at that speed..." Noel gasped as he looked down. "And what is this black road? I have a lot of questions."

"As I said earlier, I couldn't explain everything." Milinda reminded him again.

"I know." Noel, although disappointed, moved on pretty quickly. Even just absorbing these new things would give him insight. "Then, is that carriage?"

"Indeed. But we used to call it a car."

"A car, huh?" Noel thought for a moment. "Can't that car be extended to bring a lot of things?"

"Of course." Milinda nodded and waved her hand. This time, a yellow car appeared. She opened the door while saying, "Let's go. I will show you another place."

Noel panicked when he saw her entering the car. He quickly followed and noticed how cool the air was.

"This is..." Noel looked to the front, finding the gaps where the cool air originated. "How do you keep it cool?"

"I'm not sure. Something about cooling gas if I remember correctly."

Noel had thought that his freezer facility was innovative, but he never thought that people could feel this cool even in a moving car.

"Everything here is amazing. I never thought that they were possible. And all of this comes without spiritual energy."

"Aren't you creating something similar to this?"

"Yes, but mine can't be compared to what I see in this place. There are a few things that bear resemblance. And after some more development, there is a chance that they will become like this in the future. But I might not be alive to witness that moment."

"No transformation can be achieved in one night. You just have to keep working on everything you can at the moment."

"Mhmm." Noel nodded. He had an automatic carriage. Even if they couldn't achieve such a speed as of now, future generations might develop it to be similar to what he just saw.

"To be honest, I have a lot of questions, like, How do they clean this city? How does the layout work? How do they maintain hygiene? And a lot of other things," Noel muttered, fully knowing that it was impossible to get that answer.

"Yes. Unfortunately, I can't show you that. For this reward, I will just bring you around the city... and maybe to a small village and introduce their names. The only thing you can do is observe them and try to replicate it."

"Yes. Just like this vehicle. I call my invention the automatic carriage, but I guess it's better to call this a car from 'carriage.' And just by observing this, I can give my vassals an idea to develop." Noel nodded with a serious expression.

"Then, let's go to the train station, a place you'll definitely like." Milinda smiled.

Chapter 1024 Suspicion

A roaring engine startled Noel as the train swiftly passed him. The speed wasn't as fast as the cars he saw earlier, but the sheer size of this train was beyond his imagination.

"This is..." Noel gasped. "So, this is a train!"

"That's right. There are a few types." Milinda nodded.

"The one at the front is the pulling type. There is also a passenger type, but the one that passed us earlier was the cargo type. Depending on the combination, we can change the consumption or optimize the benefits."

"That's right. You have made a plan for it in your city."

"Yes. In that case, it's better to name it Train. But..." Noel looked down, his eyes locked on to the rail. "This time the train is crossing this thin steel bar. The wheels are also made of steel, which allows them to withstand more weight compared to wood. But we have the rune right now, so we can reduce the burden."

"And because of it, I don't think we can make this track. No, should I say it's not necessary? Just looking at the car earlier, I think that a black wheel is more preferable in our case."

Milinda remained silent on the side, but she looked proud that her descendant didn't just copy everything from here. He wondered which one was suitable for their development. With this mindset, she didn't have to worry about the Ardagan family's prosperity.

"You're talking about rubber."

"Rubber?"

"Yes. You don't know it? In the previous civilization, it's one of the most common things we can find."

"Mhmm. Do you know anything about it? Maybe its characteristics? I can probably search for it."

"From what I know, it's a tough elastic synthetic substance. It should be latex from a certain plant. That's all I know."

"I see. I will look into it later." Noel nodded with a serious expression.

"So, what do you think about the train station?" Milinda asked.

"It's very practical. However, because the cities are still protected by the wall, it would become a problem to position them within the wall. After all, the train has a problem turning. They need a long distance just to turn slightly or it will put stress on the wheels and end up breaking.

"So, I am thinking about building it outside the wall. Then, we just have to design a wall that can protect the train station from the demons, but because it's not the main wall, we have to ensure the design won't mess with the city wall itself. And people should be able to enter directly into the city through the station.

"Unfortunately, I'm not expert enough to talk about the design, so I will ask my vassal to think about it."

"That's good." Milinda smiled. "Then, should we continue to the port? After that, we can go to the village."

"Yes." Noel nodded furiously.

Both of them got into the taxi again and headed to the port, where Noel got the shock of his life.

Instead of a train, this time, he saw a lot of container trucks parked in the harbor.

"Grandma... These things..." Noel looked like a kid who just found a new toy.

"That's called a container truck. As you can see, it has a lot of space inside. Unlike the trains, this is a smaller version, or you can even make it even smaller depending on the kind of terrain you plan to cross.

If it's within the city, a small truck should be enough. If it's an expedition outside the city, something like this will be needed."

Noel thought for a moment. "But we have a train already, shouldn't we just forget about this?"

"Not necessarily. From the train station, you can directly bring out all that luggage to the client's or people's homes. And a smaller truck will be needed, right?"

"Ah! Like a small wagon. That's indeed possible. And we can sell these smaller trucks to private merchant groups or create a company to deliver all these items for a cheap price."

"That's correct. And the container is not a bad thing either. For example, a train station will be hard to create in a small city or village. Then, what if you create a station only in the big city and transfer the luggage to a smaller city by these trucks?" Milinda winked.

"Ah!" Noel nodded with a serious expression. The container truck was definitely useful for improving convenience. Lounstein was big. If he made a station for every city, it would devour his fund in no time.

But if he made all these trucks, his fund would still be fine while still getting the benefits.

"This is indeed good. With this container, the villages can have the supply they need. Most of the time, they have to find a merchant, but most of the time, the merchant takes advantage of the village's remote location to extort them. We can push down the price and not let the people suffer with these trucks." Noel nodded with a smile.

Then, his eyes moved to the ship that was about to depart. It was a cargo ship, so he saw all the containers being stacked up on top of the boat.

"This ship is so massive." Noel sucked a cold breath. "I don't know how much it can carry in just a single trip."

"This is the most efficient way to send items across continents."

"Continents... Are you talking about the distant land?" Noel frowned.

"Yes. From your memory, the Zaecuria Kingdom is directly connected to the sea, right? If you cross that sea in the right direction, you can actually find another continent."

"Does that mean there might be some survivors on those continents?"

"Who knows? The world is big. Even I haven't visited most of the world. It's just... a sea voyage without the right map will just send you to your death. Our world's surface is mostly covered with water after all."

Noel looked down. The battleship that he had agreed upon with the Zaecuria Kingdom might be the leading technology that would discover the new land.

"That is amazing." Noel pumped his fists.

"You're not afraid of meeting unknown people from another continent? You might end up becoming their enemies or they might even be stronger than you..."

"If they are stronger than me, shouldn't I feel glad? At the end of the day, our common enemy is the demon. As long as we have common enemies, I believe humans can walk hand in hand."

"What a positive kid." Milinda chuckled.

Another thunderous roar came from the sky, startling Noel. He thought it was thunder, but the sky was still clear and had no sign of raining.

Instead, he noticed a metal bird flying in the sky.

"Grandma..." Noel pointed at the sky with his mouth wide open.

"Oh. That's an airplane. It's another type of transportation that can fly in the sky. You're planning to do the same thing, right?"

"That's true. But I have never thought that the previous civilization could do all this without spiritual energy and runes. They are amazing."

Milinda smiled wryly. "Well, you can say they are amazing, but they are also not so much."

"Grandma?" Noel tilted his head in confusion.

"While we were able to do all this, the fuel we used to create this utopia ended up poisoning ourselves and this world."

"Poisoning the world? Are you saying they are destroying this world for the sake of all the conveniences?"

"Yes." Milinda pointed at the ship. "That ship requires a lot of fuel. And once they are burned, they will end up producing emissions. This emission is the poison I'm talking about."

"Our world is protected by ozone. You can say it's like an invisible layer of protection. It protects us from being burned by the sun. However, this poison creates holes in that invisible layer, which allows the sun to burn this world more violently, resulting in a lot of catastrophic events."

Noel couldn't believe what he had just heard. "But... isn't it fine now? We are using spiritual energy. I don't think there is any poison released into the air..."

"Maybe, but in the end, there will always be a human's never ending greed. When you continue advancing your technology, there will be a sacrifice. The previous civilization had created a legendary item that brought a lot of developments to the world. It was called plastic."

"However..." Milinda paused and walked to the edge of the port, feeling the wave that splashed on the barrier beneath her. She then waved her hand to calm the sea down and allow Noel to see the fish. But before that, he pointed at the beach not far from the port. "Those are plastics."

When Noel caught up, he was horrified by the sight before him. The beach next to the port was completely different from the one far away from it. The one near the port was filled with a lot of trash. On the other hand, the beach far away wasn't tainted by this junk yet, which showed an incredibly beautiful sight.

"Trash becomes a problem everywhere because this item is hard to decompose. The water from the river carries the trash, the ocean water claims them, and they end up getting buried under the sea.

"The humans feed on the fish, which have eaten these plastics, and end up poisoning themselves by ingesting this synthetic material. Not only sea creatures, but you can also consider land animals to eat them too.

"The humans end up poisoning themselves. They destroy the world by releasing the poisonous gas into the air. Even without the demons, humans are going to destroy themselves. Should I say... the demons actually let the humans survive? By killing billions of humans, nature can finally take over, and a few tens or hundreds of millions of humans will survive."

Noel fell silent, unable to answer that question. If that was what happened in the past, Noel could say the humans were wrong. The demons might come to this place, but they are not necessarily the bad guys. In the end, they prevented humans from extinction.

At the same time, billions of people died. He couldn't imagine the sorrow of people seeing those many deaths.

Still, the way Milinda spoke felt a bit weird. She sounded sad when narrating the tragic end of the previous civilization. But if that was the case, why was the Ardagan family still fighting back? She would have taught her descendants about it. But she still gave the sword to her descendant.

It was as if she was hiding something. It only took Noel a moment to realize why she was talking this way.



"Wait a minute. Grandma... I heard that the world was plunged into chaos when you died, but if you could protect this world, you could also destroy it. What if you were the one allowing these demons to invade this world so that the human race didn't go extinct?"

Chapter 1025 A Dream

"Wait a minute. Grandma... I heard that the world was plunged into chaos when you died, but if you could protect this world, you could also destroy it. What if you were the one allowing these demons to invade this world so that the human race didn't go extinct?"

Noel couldn't help but feel a bit suspicious. If Milinda truly had the power to protect it by keeping away the demon invasion, she could be the one who allowed it to happen.

"Silly child." Milinda chuckled. "This is not part of the reward, but I think I can tell you a little bit about it."

Noel tilted his head in confusion. It seemed that he was wrong because he didn't have enough information to make a deduction. And it seemed that he wronged Milinda by accusing her of doing such atrocities.

Milinda said, "During the night, you could see the stars in the sky, right?"

"Yes." Noel nodded.

"What if I told you it's similar to our sun, but located far... far away from this world?"

Noel looked down, falling into deep thought. "Are you suggesting that the demon and the spirit come from a distant world?"

"You're very clever." Milinda nodded, satisfied. "The Spirit God is trying to extinguish the demons."

"If the Spirit God can even come to this world from a very distant place, can't he come directly to this place? Then again, why is the spirit here?" Noel fell silent.

"I can't give you that answer because it's not part of the reward. Grandma looks stingy right now, but I have to stick to the rule. But let's just say that your grandma has been maintaining a barrier to protect this world. And Ardagan is not a sword. It's actually an antenna that captures something from deep space. What does it attract?"

Noel contemplated for a moment. "The Spirits... demons... a barrier... Ardagan... antenna..."

It took Noel a few minutes before he could find the answer. "Don't tell me, Ardagan has been the antenna that is sucking the spiritual energy from the distant world. Or it might be the energy from the spirits themselves?"

"You used that energy to create a barrier. Unfortunately, it all stopped the moment you passed away. As a result, the demons could finally enter this world, which marked the beginning of the end of civilization.

"Now that no one could control Ardagan to its fullest potential anymore, the energy that the spirits have ended up transforming into a manifestation of themselves.

"This is why the Spirit Seal becomes a link that connects humans to spirits. I can't put it in simple words, but it should be something like this." Noel gasped.

Milinda didn't show any response this time as if she didn't want to acknowledge or deny his answer. She truly stopped giving him information that wasn't related to the reward.

"Ah, I apologize for overstepping my bounds." Noel took a step back and politely lowered his head.

"How about we go to the next spot? It will be the village, right? Or is there any place you want to see next?"

"I actually want to see a common family's house. What kind of facility could a common family afford in the past... I want to know." Noel's answer came from the bottom of his heart. He had been inventing a lot of things to improve the lives of the common people. So, if he knew what he could give to them, it would make his job easier.

"Sure. Let's go to the house in the village then. While it's not exactly the same, it shouldn't be that different."

"Yes." Noel smiled.

The last part of the trip wasn't any different. The moment Noel saw the village, he could see the impressive farmland. People worked with machines to tend the field, which surprised him.

The house, on the other hand, showed how much convenience it could bring. He was a bit surprised that the house could have its own water storage at the top of their building. It was expensive, so Noel only made it the city's facility. Then again, even he couldn't stop if his people wanted to build one over their house.

What caught Noel's attention the most was the light bulb. The fact that the light could be turned on and off for a whole day meant that people could work at any time.

This would definitely make the activity inside the house last longer.

Looking at the smile on Noel's face made Milinda happy.

"How is the trip this time? Are you satisfied?"

"Yes. Although I don't know how they work, there are a lot of ideas in my mind. I have to ask my people to research them so that the common people can live much better in my territory." Noel smiled.

"That's good then." Milinda nodded.

"Thank you very much for allowing me to see all this." Noel bowed.

"You're a clever child. Although you have known this, I have to remind you that because the power of Ardagan is too big, I have made my descendant suffer its curse. Our bloodline can only produce a single child. I'm sorry."

"It's fine, Grandma. I know that a few of my predecessors might hate this, but I'm fine with it. There will only be a woman in my life after all, and a single successor means that there won't be any rival that will shed blood in the family."

"You're a good child. In that case, I will give you a little present."

"A little present?"

"Yep. You already know that demons can control living beings, right? And those with higher consciousness are more resistant to them, like humans. However, what if the humans didn't resist when the demons tried to control them?"

"!!!" Noel widened his eyes in shock. He knew what she was trying to imply. "There might be demons among humans..."

Milinda patted his shoulders while saying, "No matter what, you can trust Ardagan. He was the partner I trusted the most when protecting this world."

"I know." Noel smiled.

"That's good. Then, it's time for you to leave."

Noel nodded. "Thank you for everything, Grandma."

Milinda waved her hand as Noel's consciousness gradually became fuzzy. But before he disappeared from this place, Milinda came closer to him and whispered a few words.

"!!!" Noel couldn't help but shudder. Unfortunately, the next thing he realized, he was actually rising from his bed. "Huh? What?!"

Noel, who was still in shock, couldn't help but look around, noticing that he had returned to the bedroom.

However, his eyes were blinded by the shining light from the window.

"Huh?" Noel was confused. He believed he entered his consciousness only for about one or two hours. But for some reason, he actually woke up in the morning.

"Did I just sleep through the whole night?" Noel frowned. Whenever he met Ardagan, he wouldn't fall asleep like this.

"Then, was our meeting... a dream?" Noel couldn't help but recall the last words that Milinda told him.

"I am still alive, not as a human though."

Noel was completely shaken by that information, but when he thought about it, there was one possibility where living for a thousand years was possible.

"Did she turn into a spirit when she passed away? Or was she transformed by the Spirit God?" Noel looked down, contemplating. However, there was one thing for sure. "If she is really a spirit, what is her power? Is it a sleeping spirit? Slumbering spirit? No, the name doesn't suit her."

"Maybe..." Noel paused for a moment. "Dreaming... Dream... Dream Spirit or Spirit of Dream. She might be a dream spirit. If that's the case, can I just find someone with the dream spirit to find her?"

"And because she is still alive, doesn't that mean the other ancestors are still alive as well? Do we turn into spirits once we die? Or maybe we have to attain a high level of assimilation with the spirit first. In the end, our body turns into something similar to that of a spirit.

"If this is truly the case, then I'm afraid there will be a few more people I have to gather." Noel chuckled. But after thinking about it, he ended up shaking his head because his imagination was simply too wild.

If all his ancestors had become spirits, people would have heard about them.

"Anyway, it's just speculation. And it doesn't really matter for the time being." Noel jumped off the bed while saying, "I should get ready to face those old foxes in the royal palace."

Suddenly, someone knocked on his door before Kevin's voice echoed from behind the door. "Are you awake?"

"Yes." Noel hurriedly straightened his back and fixed his hair.

As expected, Kevin entered the room with a letter in his hand. "Did you get a good sleep?"

"Yes. Thank you for allowing me to stay here, Uncle." Noel nodded.

"Come on. I don't mind if you call me Father." Kevin smiled, teasing Noel.

"Ahaha. If I have married Anna, then I will call you Father as many times as you want. However, I don't want to overstep my bounds. I hope you can forgive me."

"I'm just teasing you. I'm fine with waiting anyway."

"Actually, the marriage might have to be moved ahead of schedule, and I believe it's going to happen in two months, but we haven't finalized the concept and invitation."

"Really?" Kevin raised his eyebrows.

"Yes. I hope that you can forgive us for this sudden change."

"I see. It seems that I have to call back that brat from the frontline."

"That brat?"

"Yes. He is one of the five Spirit Grandmasters of the Stargaze Family and the captain of the Blue Knight Army, Dylan Stargaze. Well, he's Anna's brother. Because of the conflict with the royal family, I sent him away to the west to protect him. But with your current achievement and this marriage ceremony, it's time for him to come home."

Chapter 1026 Father And Son-In-Law

Noel looked down, recalling the information about her brother. 'If I'm not wrong, her brother is known to be a genius as well. It's said that Marquis Stargaze has found a good successor for him. However, everything changes with Anna inside the picture.'

'Her talent is so amazing that her brother turns into a shadow. However, Anna's personality was known to be troublesome, so her brother remains the heir of the Stargaze family.'

'It seems that he has to go to the front line to protect himself. I see. If he has become a Spirit Grandmaster, he's definitely worthy of being the successor of the Stargaze family.'

'And because Anna's personality issue has been solved and she is now engaged to me, there won't be anyone stopping him from returning home. All Uncle Kevin needs to do is teach him the politics before handing him the seat of the Stargaze family's patriarch.'

Noel couldn't help but ask, "Will it be fine for him to return? I'm not going to turn him away from the marriage ceremony. I'm just worried..."

"It's fine. I'd actually sent a message to him about the marriage ceremony. He was delighted to know that and was prepared to return. But it just happened that we would move the schedule ahead." Kevin shrugged.

"I see." Noel nodded, feeling relieved.

"That's right. You've got a letter."

Noel glanced at the letter and mentioned no name. It must be the letter that was passed by the brothel manager in the capital city.

"I understand. Thank you very much." Noel smiled.

"I know that I shouldn't worry about this, but I need to warn you. Don't underestimate those old nobles in the palace. They might end up devouring you."

"Do you know about their intentions? And what kind of things are they planning to seize?"

Kevin thought for a moment. "I'm not so sure about this, but obviously, they're planning to acquire your runes. And obviously, they might end up forcing you to submit it to the kingdom."

"The runes are solely mine. And they won't be able to seize it. I have prepared some assurance as well."

"In that case, you should worry about Duke Briton's incident."

"I know." Noel nodded.

"Last but not least, it's the Atracaeca Kingdom. We don't know about their stance yet, but if they end up joining hands with the royal family, even you might have a problem."

"Atracaeca Kingdom, huh?" Noel looked down before asking inwardly, 'Ardagan. How about giving me a mission?'

[Mission: Win the debate against the old nobles.]

[Description: The old nobles have prepared to make trouble during your reward ceremony. Beat them up with your mouth and obliterate their plans.]

[Reward: Dignity Medal]



[Mission: Win the heart of your father-in-law and brother-in-law.]

[Description: To marry someone means to win the hearts of her family.]

[Reward: Blessing Medal]

'This is...' Noel read the two missions carefully, confusing Kevin.

"Is there a problem?" Kevin looked concerned.

"I believe that the Atracaeca Kingdom hasn't made their stance clear yet."

"Is that so?" Kevin didn't know where Noel got that information, but he wasn't a reckless person, so he could safely assume that this information was true.

"Also..." Noel opened the letter in front of Kevin and checked the content. As he expected, it was about their new project. "Uncle... There is something I'd like to tell you."

"What is it?"

"I haven't given you anything for your blessing. So, if possible, I'd like to extend the new project to your territory."

"A new project? With your rune technology?"

"Yes."

Kevin looked down. "But because I'm one of the arbiters and a minister, I rarely go home. Most of the territory matters are handled by my wife or mayors. Unless they send an important matter to me, I don't really take care of the territory anymore."

"I understand your circumstances, Uncle. However, you're trying to call Anna's brother home, right?"

"Ah!" Kevin finally understood what Noel was planning. Since he would become the successor of the Stargaze family, it might not be a bad idea to have him govern the territory first. And this project would definitely benefit the Stargaze family.

"The project this time is about highways. I'm planning to extend the highway to other territories as well. The rune technology I'm talking about is called 'Train.' This technology allows you to transport at least a hundred tons in a single trip.

"In the future, I'm planning to produce a carriage for both nobles and common families. By using this highway, people can travel easily and much faster. I call this 'Car.'

"However, there is a problem. If Uncle accepts my proposal, we will have to convince the three lords between our territories."

Kevin closed his eyes for a moment. This project was definitely beneficial to his territory. And the task of convincing the three lords shouldn't be that hard, considering they were not in the royal faction.

This might be a perfect opportunity to teach his son how to negotiate with other nobles. In addition, it would also bring these three nobles into their side, which allowed them to resist the royal faction.

"I'm sorry that I'm a bit shameless here, considering it's Anna who came up with the invention."

Kevin shook his head. He had heard about the truth as well. Anna only suggested the idea while Noel extended the idea to a magnificent plan. Hence, he patted Noel's shoulders while saying, "Thank you."

"This is what I should do." Noel smiled.

While they married each other out of love, the usual marriage would benefit both parties. That was the basis of the political marriage. Either to gain an advantage or to provide protection, the marriage between nobles required benefits.

He knew that Kevin didn't really need it since, for him, the biggest gift Noel could give was the fact that Anna had changed into a better person.

So, Kevin knew that Noel told him about this project for the sake of Anna's brother.

"In that case, I'll prepare everything for your ceremony tomorrow. You can just enjoy your time here and make sure you're ready to face those sly foxes."

"I understand. Thank you, Uncle." Noel politely lowered his head.

"I should be the one thanking you. Hahaha. I'll make the arrangement immediately." Kevin waved his hand and rushed off with a big smile on his face.

'And we just have to wait. I hope that Anna's brother is more open-minded. If the mission is completed, it means he is someone I can work with. If it doesn't, then I have to come up with a new way,' Noel thought before closing the door.

The content of the letter contained all the new information and test results from their new invention.

After reading all of it, Noel replied to them about the next project as well as the names of these inventions. He simply slapped the name of the previous civilization onto them though.

...

Finally, the day of his ceremony arrived.

"Am I supposed to wear this?" Noel asked with a wry smile.

"What's wrong? It suits you." Kevin chuckled. Because he usually wore the black military uniform from the Demon Banner Army, wearing the opposite color made him look different.

Yes, instead of black, he was wearing a white ceremonial uniform. It created a contrast with his hair and eyes.

However, the aura of the warrior as well as the pride of a noble transformed the awkwardness into dignity.

Noel was never like Anna, who was one of the flowers of the kingdom. However, he had a charm different from theirs but didn't lose to them either.

Ardagan also matched him by turning white like when they were in disguise.

"Hahaha. You definitely will not lose against those pretty boys." Kevin laughed happily.

"We can just wear the usual one, can't we? It doesn't really matter."

"Of course, it matters. Even though it's minuscule, having a good appearance will give you an advantage in the debate. Besides, there are a lot of ladies attending the ceremony. I want to show off a little bit, telling them that this is what they have missed."

Noel scratched the back of his head. "Well, it doesn't really matter to me. But if that makes you happy, I don't really mind."

"After the ceremony, there will be a banquet too. While it looks flashy, it's pretty comfortable, right?"

"Indeed." Noel's plan was to receive the reward, escape from the banquet, and return to his territory as quickly as possible. Of course, the banquet would definitely allow him to see the nobles' stances about the current political situation, even though he would be tired of dealing with the nobles who would try to shove their daughters at him.

Either way, this was also another opportunity for him to deal some damage to their reputation. He had even arranged a few things.

"That's right. Uncle... There are a few things I'd like you to do. I'm not sure what will happen during the ceremony, so I have prepared some countermeasures. If the condition reaches those points, I hope that you can help me."

"Hoh? Sure. What do you want me to do?"

Noel smiled evilly as if he had made a devilish plan to smear the royal family as well as crush his father's rival.

Even Kevin's face turned into shock after hearing the plan. He never thought that his son-in-law could even come up with something like this.

"Alright. You got my words." Kevin smirked, feeling excited about the drama that would occur in the palace. "Let's go to the palace now."

"Yes."

Both of them immediately headed to the carriage. This was the night where the pair of father and son-in-law would wreak havoc in the palace.

"Earl Noel Ardagan is entering the hall!"

Chapter 1027 Debate

In the royal palace hall, numerous people had gathered to witness the ceremony.

"I feel like Earl Ardagan will rise to the peak with this."

"Right? He has achieved something that no one has ever seen before."

"Even the last invasion was three hundred years ago. And it took more than five great nobles to take action, including a hundred thousand troops."

"But isn't this ceremony going to be used to attack the Earl?"

"That's a pity."

"A light too bright will cast a very dark shadow. Everyone is waiting for the chance to devour this light."

The nobles inside the hall were split into three. The majority actually maintained their neutrality or more like they wanted to wait and see first before taking action.

Meanwhile, the royal faction was the second largest. Their eyes were filled with anger as if they were ready to crush Noel in this ceremony.

The smallest faction were the nobles who supported Noel. However, most of them came from the connection to Marquis Stargaze.

These three factions were observing each other.

"His Majesty the King is entering the hall." The soldier opened the gate while declaring it out loud.

All the nobles fell to their knees to pay respect no matter which faction they were.

The king finally entered the room. His complexion wasn't that good as though he hadn't slept for a few days.

As soon as he sat down on his throne, the king said, "You may rise."

The people stood up once again, but the atmosphere had turned tense. They didn't dare to speak another word, fearing that the king would take action against them.

Even the royal faction waited until other factions spoke up first so that they wouldn't be branded as overstepping their bounds by speaking before their master said anything.

The tension was so high that people felt time had slowed down. It only took five minutes before Noel arrived at the royal court, but it felt like they had been standing for more than half an hour.

They only wished for Noel to come first.

Finally, the soldier opened the gate once more. "Earl Noel Ardagan is entering the hall."

\*Clack!\*

The moment the gate was opened, Noel walked into the hall with Kevin accompanying him from behind.

"That is Noel Ardagan?"

"I have seen him before, but his aura has become even more terrifying."

"Right? He has definitely grown since he accepted his title."

The nobles were observing Noel in awe. The ladies they brought had their eyes glued to him. There was this indescribable charm that made them unable to look away from him.

Even the people from the royal faction were admiring him for a second, forgetting that they were here to crush him.

"Kh." Duke Raymond gritted his teeth. He had suffered a lot because of Noel's father, Luke. So, the hatred was a bit hard to contain.

Kevin was satisfied after looking at Raymond's face and gradually moved to the left, joining the other nobles.

With a solemn face, Noel dropped to one knee while saying, "Noel Ardagan greets Your Majesty. May the Muivell Kingdom prosper for eternity."

The king's expression became grim as he stood up. "Good work for coming here, my loyal subject. I have heard about your achievements in the north. You've repelled the Supreme Devil Organization and numerous demons. As a king, I'd like to personally thank you."

"Your words are a blessing to the Ardagan family. As long as I'm alive, I will continue to fight the demons and the Supreme Devil Organization."

The nobles had their eyebrows twitched, fully knowing that the Supreme Devil Organization was created by the royal family to control the kingdom. Noel was shameless enough to thank the king and even swore to fight the Supreme Devil Organization to death.

"However!" The king raised his voice. "Would you like to explain the reason for Duke Briton's presence in the battle? Are you trying to show that the Muivell Kingdom is weak?"

Noel remained calm as if he had expected this. "Your Majesty. Duke Briton just happened to be a shipwright in my territory in order to build a ship that can cross the North River. If a man is being threatened, I can't see any reasons for them not to fight back."

"So, you're implying that Duke Briton was simply protecting himself?"

"That's right," Noel confirmed without hesitation.

Duke Raymond stepped forward and asked, "If that was the case, why did he need to be in your city? If he was being threatened, he could simply go in a different direction."

As expected of Duke Raymond, he wouldn't let go of this opportunity.



Noel shook his head helplessly and asked, "In that case, may I know where he could go? The Duke was building a ship in my territory, so he couldn't go to the south or west, which were other nobles' territories. The east was the Greenwood Kingdom. So, he only had one option. As the one responsible for bringing him here, the least I could do was provide my protection. I believe my action has protected the country's honor.

"By protecting such an important person from that calamity, the Zaecuria Kingdom would definitely recognize our strength."

Duke Raymond frowned. Noel skillfully dodged the matter. Just like his father, he was indeed a hard opponent.

Another noble stepped forward and said, "Then, how about the cooperation with the Greenwood Kingdom and the Zaecuria Kingdom? Are you trying to invite foreign power into this country, Earl Ardagan?"

"I am not sure what you're talking about." Noel glanced at him before closing his eyes.

"I'm talking about the airship and the battleship!"

As expected, they had spies all around him. There might be some in the Greenwood Kingdom's court. He truly couldn't underestimate the old nobles since they had been in politics for so long.

Still, if this was the only thing, he had prepared an answer. "Of course, I am not trying to invite foreign power into this country. Instead, I'm planning to strengthen this country. I have heard the naval power of the Zaecuria Kingdom is strong, so I cooperate with them to learn from them. With this, we can produce a ship much stronger than the Zaecuria Kingdom.

"The same applies to the Greenwood Kingdom. By creating something better than what they can produce, I believe I have shown my loyalty by showing the power of our country." Noel turned to the noble and continued, "Marquis Silverford, was it? Your territory is connected directly to the Greenwood Kingdom. You have also cooperated with them. Are you trying to invite foreign powers?"

"What did you say?" The noble who questioned him earlier gritted his teeth. "This is just a beneficial trade. The country doesn't ban international trade."

"I am simply doing the same thing."

"You are not. I am only cooperating with a single family, while you are cooperating with the entire kingdom."

"That's slander, Marquis Silverford." Kevin stepped up this time. "Earl Ardagan has done the same thing. In the Zaecuria Kingdom, he is simply cooperating with the Briton family. The same applies to the Greenwood Kingdom. He is only cooperating with the Ezenholm family, which happens to be his mother's family."

"You..." Marquis Silverford gritted his teeth.

Duke Raymond waved his hand, stopping him. "Marquis Silverford was only worried that the technology would be snatched away by other kingdoms."

"Is Duke Raymond implying that I haven't done anything for the kingdom?"

Duke Raymond asked, "Have you done anything?"

"I have spread the knowledge about runes. In the past, the Greenwood Kingdom has been bestowed with a Spirit Enchantment Book. And they became the leading country regarding the Spirit Enchantment, the holy land of the master blacksmiths.

"I have spread the knowledge of runes in this kingdom so that everyone can learn from it. Why does Duke Raymond not think this is a big contribution to my country?"

Duke Raymond said, "Then, what about those rune technologies?"

"Is there something wrong? I merely research it much faster than the rest and take advantage of it."

"You are the creator of the runes..." Duke Raymond gritted his teeth.

"I'm a creator of the rune? I apologize. That is not true. I am merely researching what my ancestors left behind. Just like the other families have their own heirlooms, my Ardagan family has one too. And I'm completing the job that my ancestor hasn't finished."

"I am telling you this to avoid the runes from being taken by another kingdom like the Spirit Enchantment." Duke Raymond became more and more annoyed.

"I have done everything for the kingdom. I have even promised to create a Rune Academy, which will be filled up mostly by the citizens of the Muivell Kingdom, sharing my research. If you still wish to take away the rune technology, then I'm willing to hand over my research as long as the Tower Association also surrenders all their research to the Muivell Kingdom."

"You..." Duke Raymond gritted his teeth.

Old Jade had actually told Noel about this. He simply had to state that it was his research and not his creation. In the kingdom, they had a law to protect the research of the people and encouraged them to do so. That was the main purpose of the Tower Association.

If the kingdom planned to seize the runes, he simply had to state that it was his ancestor's creation and he simply researched and completed it. This way, the Tower Association had to surrender all their research to make it fair or no one would want to invent anything in this kingdom anymore.

The old nobles definitely knew this. That was why Duke Raymond had no words to fight back.

Duke Raymond, however, knew precisely what Noel planned to do. He showed all that to prove he wasn't monopolizing it. But as the creator of the rune, he could simply invent new things and monopolize them until he couldn't anymore.

In addition, the Greenwood Kingdom had started building roads to the demon territory. It was most likely that Noel had asked for them to do so.

And if they dropped all the resources in that territory and Noel claimed them for himself by stating that it was something he found in the ancient ruin, they simply couldn't do anything.

The only way to prevent Noel and the Greenwood Kingdom from expanding even further was to turn that territory into Noel's territory. But it meant that they had to increase Noel's rank to Marquis.

Then again, due to Noel's advantageous position, they could simply extend it a bit more to the north until they reached the demon territory again.

Duke Raymond needed to come up with something fast. He shouldn't allow Noel to win this debate.

That was when someone suddenly asked, "In that case, what's with those new inventions that are capable of bringing a lot of people and tons of materials?!"

"!!!" Duke Raymond wondered who was so foolish to ask that question. But it turned out Kevin had disappeared from his vision and the noble who questioned Noel this time was from the neutral faction.

If he took another look at the neutral faction, he noticed that Kevin Stargaze was among them.

In other words, Noel and Kevin had planned this.

With a big smile in his heart, Noel stated, "This is to improve the kingdom. All the ministers should have known that the biggest problem the kingdom has right now is logistics. I have created a new invention so that we can bring a lot of materials at once.

"Once the flow of materials increases and becomes much faster, the goods can become cheaper and the development of the kingdom will be accelerated.

"However, there is one big problem. The kingdom is lacking a paved road. Roads are built so that people can travel faster and smoother. Nobles have made roads in their own territory for this very reason."

Duke Raymond shuddered, finally realizing the blunder he had made. Noel was trying to force the kingdom to build a road, which he could take advantage of. If the royal family forced them to pay for using the road, the merchants and citizens would hate them.

If they didn't, Noel could easily expand his business by using the royal family's money. Either way, the merchants would be flocking to the Ardagan family for this new invention.

Kevin, who was watching the entire thing, couldn't help but smile, thinking, 'The counter attack starts now.'

#### Chapter 1028 Reward

Duke Raymond's expression turned grim. He had never thought that Noel was planning to expand his influence by using the royal family's money.

The moment it happened, the Ardagan family would become much stronger than before. The royal family had no choice but to be inferior to the Ardagan family after that.

And with the plan for expansion, the Ardagan family might become the center of the kingdom.

That was why they couldn't allow this to happen.

Duke Raymond said, "It is such a big project, there's no way the kingdom can do it right away. We have to think about the resources and other things first."

Noel had expected this answer. Even if they just told them they would bring it up during the royal hearing and create the plan, they could simply not make any plans or just make some bad plans, which couldn't pass the inspection.

"I understand. The road itself is the one connecting the whole kingdom, so I hope that the royal family can consider this matter positively." Noel nodded calmly.

Duke Raymond didn't expect that Noel would back down so quickly.

However, he soon heard whispers from all parties.

"A road, huh?"

"Bringing materials requires a lot of money and time. If they can actually do much better by using the road and the new invention, won't it make the logistics of the whole country much faster?"

"Indeed. Unlike the battleship and the airship, this invention seemed to be much better."

"That's true. Those two inventions can only show their might on the battlefield. Meanwhile, if that trailer thing increased the logistics of the entire kingdom, the effect would be much better."

"But that would make the Ardagan family become the most powerful family in the kingdom since they are the only ones who can produce it."

"But if we don't help him this time, what if he brings the technology to another kingdom?"

"At the end of the day, we still don't know why the Ardagan family remains in the kingdom. If he wants it, the Greenwood Kingdom and the Zaecuria Kingdom will welcome him with an open arm."

"That's true. Is it because he wants to take revenge for his parents' execution, considering they were executed because they were simply on the opposite side?"

"I heard they did it to seize the Ardagan family's wealth. It could be said that even if the royal family gave him the funds to build a road, they were just handing over the previous wealth that was seized from his late father."

"This..."

The people of the royal faction couldn't help but doubt their current decision. If they didn't take Noel's suggestion, there would be plenty of nobles who would welcome him with open arms.

And it became apparent to the neutral faction. The nobles in that faction began to consider this invention positively.

"I have heard that the invention can actually bring more than thirty times more than a single carriage is capable of. And if we think that the expedition doesn't cost a lot since they don't need horses to take care and that they don't need a lot of escort groups."

"Yeah. If we can bring that amount of luggage..."

"But what about the material itself? They come from a different territory..."

"If they manage to expand it to a lot of territories, the materials in those territories will become much cheaper. And the development in those areas can easily be done."

"Does that mean we have to side with them? But if we miss this, we might need to pay a high price if we want to join later..."

The nobles couldn't help but look at Noel. They knew that if they sided with him after this ceremony, they would definitely get a lot of benefits.

There were three people who could take advantage of the current situation. Because the noble south of Noel's territory was in the royal faction, it would be impossible to expand the road in that direction.

Hence, Noel would definitely go to the west of Lounstein. And from that noble, there were two more nobles that were in Noel's faction. That was why if the neutral faction joined Noel's side, they would be able to extend it much farther.

And without them knowing, Noel had instructed Anna to work on it. After all, Duke Lorelei would definitely get it.

That was why a lot of nobles in the neutral faction were considering coming to Noel's side after this.

This was what Noel wanted when he mentioned the road. He never intended to use the royal family's money.

Everything could be seen clearly from the throne. And it seemed that the situation had caused the king to make his decision.

The king suddenly stood up and said out loud, "I have made my decision. Earl Noel Ardagan. Prepare to receive your reward."

Noel fell on one knee while lowering his head. "Your Majesty."

"I have nothing but praise for your achievement in repelling those demons and the Supreme Devil Organization. You shall be rewarded with the 50,000 gold coins, 10,000 demon crystals, and 5 treasures."

Duke Raymond raised his head. While they had decided this was the original reward, after the arguments exchanged previously, it felt like they had to raise the reward a bit to make it fair or a lot of nobles would judge them.

However, the king added, "I can see that your eyes are set on the development of the kingdom. As a king, I am blessed to have such a loyal subject."

"I am very grateful for your words." Noel didn't expect the king to praise him like this. It seemed that he was planning something and he could see what he wanted.

The king said, "That's why on top of the reward, the kingdom will seriously consider expanding the roads so that every corner of this kingdom can be reached. To thank you for all your efforts, I bestow on you the hand of the third princess in marriage."

"!!!" All of them couldn't help but widen their eyes.

The people in Noel's faction obviously realized the hidden intention.



The royal family knew that they couldn't stop Noel's marriage to Anna. In that case, the least they could do was push Anna away from the wife position. This way, the first wife would be their princess, considering the status of the royal family. As a concubine, Anna would have no real power.

In addition, the third princess could also monitor Noel for the royal family. Obviously, it included the fact that Noel had no choice but to bring her to his main city.

More importantly, if Noel agreed to this, it would be a slap to the Stargaze family. There would be a high chance that a rift between Noel and Kevin would form.

This was actually a good move from the king.

Because of Noel's silence, the king asked, "What's wrong? Do you think the third princess is not worthy of you?"

"I feel like I am the one who is unworthy of her," Noel hurriedly replied.

Whether it was a coincidence or not, the king was offering the third princess instead of the second princess. Noel had heard that the second princess hadn't gotten engaged yet.

That was why if they were using seniority, the second princess would be the first one they offered.

However, the fact that he used the third princess meant the king might want to show something else.

The only possible reason he could think of was the Third Prince. The royal family probably wanted to ruin his relationship with the Third Prince. Then again, it had become nonexistent already.

So, it didn't really matter.

Meanwhile, the royal faction saw this as a surprise attack. Even Duke Raymond didn't expect the king to marry the third princess to Noel. He knew his intention and thought this was a good opportunity to control the Ardagan family.

The moment the Ardagan family made a single mistake, they could use it to get their technology.

And there was no way he could reject this marriage...or so they thought.

What they didn't know was that Kevin was staring at Noel with a stunned face, not because he had a problem with the marriage, but because Noel had actually seen through the plot from a mile away.

He couldn't help but recall what Noel said before their departure.

"Uncle. When the situation reaches a certain point, I need you to do something for me."

"A certain point?"

"Yes. To get the most benefit, I might end up poking the royal family a little bit. If the king is as wise as rumored, he will definitely try to marry me to a princess to get control over the Ardagan family."

"A princess?" Kevin frowned.

"Don't worry. I told Anna that rather than instead of using my brain to consider my decision is good or bad. It's time to make a decision first and use my brain to turn it into a good decision. And I told you that the marriage would be held in three months, right? I mean, two months from now. It was only the ceremony, we have married in paper. I had also prepared this..." Noel whispered the plan to him.

When Kevin recalled those words, he couldn't help but smile.

"Emergency!"

Suddenly, the door was burst open as a soldier rushed inside.

"Do you know we're in the middle of a ceremony?" The king raised his voice.

"Your Majesty... We have just received the news that the Sword Arbiter is angered by the action of the Crown Prince. The Moon Temple was also questioning the Muivell Kingdom's decision by ruining the marriage between two people who were blessed by the Moon Goddess."

Both Noel and Kevin couldn't help but smile evilly.

Chapter 1029 Won

"What?" The king opened his mouth wide as if he couldn't believe what he had just heard.

Duke Raymond shuddered while thinking, 'What did the crown prince do in that place? We'd sent him so that he could pressure them to show him the main city.

'A normal complaint wouldn't really matter, but the ones sending it this time were the Sword Arbiter and the Moon Temple. Even the Ardagan family wouldn't let go of this opportunity.

'As the number one arbiter, we still have to listen to Duke Lorelei to a certain extent. Did he say the Moon Temple was questioning the Muivell Kingdom's decision by ruining the marriage?

'Since when did they marry? No, wait. For the Muivell Kingdom, the marriage would only be recognized after a ceremony. But for the commoners, who couldn't pay for it, they usually registered it with the government, which would get the approval of the temple to bless their relationship.

'Don't tell me... The Moon Temple had recognized it? As a noble, it wasn't that much of a problem for him to get it registered with the government. In other words, he had registered their marriage... But when? Wasn't his marriage ceremony still at least nine months from now?

'Even the temple wouldn't really recognize it if the ceremony was too long... unless they either moved up the schedule or got them to bend their rules.'

Duke Raymond instantly realized that it seemed to be the former. Noel moved up the schedule to the point where the Moon Temple had no choice but to recognize it.

As Noel said, he had made a decision to move up the schedule. And he used his sly nature to think of a way to take advantage of it and make that decision a good one.

With this, no one could shove Anna's spot as the main wife even if it was the princess.

And there was one thing that Duke Raymond understood after learning about their marriage. There was only one thing that could anger Duke Lorelei.

'The fact that their marriage had been recognized meant that Anna Stargaze had become the lady of the family. Did the crown prince take action against the lady of the Ardagan family?

'Even if he were a crown prince, there was no way he could do that. His action would be scrutinized, and if he wasn't punished, the nobles would definitely complain about this. We could shut commoners up, but nobles are different, let alone Noel Ardagan.

'Don't tell me... Did he plan this whole thing? He knew that the crown prince would be sent, so he moved up the schedule and set this trap where we have no choice but to recall the crown prince and punish him.

'They got us good...' Duke Raymond gritted his teeth, realizing that they were defeated this time. He never thought that this young noble would be much harder to deal with compared to his father.

Noel couldn't help but turn around and ask with a panicked expression. "What happened? What happened to my wife?"

The soldier didn't know what to say since it was an emergency message that was carried by pigeons. They didn't have a lot of information in it. So, the soldier couldn't only shake his head.

"What did the crown prince do over there?" The king roared, never expecting that his plan would be ruined. No, it could be said that his plan actually backfired, considering he sent the crown prince to find out the truth.

Noel clenched his hands into fists while turning back to the king, asking with a dark face. "With all due respect, Your Majesty, I would like to ask if this is how you're going to treat your loyal subject."

"Earl..." The king was completely astounded, never thinking that during the whole debate, he couldn't get a single advantage from this young man. He thought he had prepared for everything, but he was wrong.

"Was it because of my parents? I have forgotten all my past because I want the best for this kingdom. I was exiled to the Demon Banner Army. In there, I could see all the people seriously wanting to protect the kingdom from the demons. I, too, wish for it.

"I fought against numerous demons and defeated a lot of the Supreme Devil Organization's members. I even killed a total of three Devil Saints for the sake of this kingdom.

"Yet, the only thing I received was humiliation after humiliation. Is this how you're going to treat your subject, Your Majesty?" Noel asked out loud, his expression was dark as if he had been wronged his whole life.

The nobles from all factions fell silent. No one could actually speak. Noel obviously knew what he was doing was weakening the royal family. But the royal family couldn't admit that they were the ones creating the terrorist organization. Even if Noel spouted these lies, they couldn't say anything back.

For those who sided with Noel, this was actually a good time to push back. This was a dark chapter for the royal family. Once exposed, the royal family would lose a lot of trust from the citizens.

Their words might not be heard by the populace.

For those in the neutral faction, they could see that the only way to appease Noel was to either give him a promotion in rank or agree to the road building. Either way, it would benefit Noel the most. In the end, Noel would become a Marquis sooner or later.

At the same time, they could finally see Noel's skills in politics. With such a skill, surpassing his father would be an easy task.

It gave them a favorable impression and persuaded some of them to join Noel's side. However, they wondered what actually happened in his city. Was this staged?

Obviously, the royal faction knew this was staged. They were aware that the king had sent the crown prince to take care of this.

While the crown prince wasn't as good as most nobles, he still saw a lot of politics and learned a lot. To think that he would still fall for the Ardagan family's plot.

Of course, if this matter spread, both Noel and the royal family would take a hit to their reputations. Anna's name would be tarnished and the king would have no choice but to disown the crown prince while losing the trust of the citizens.

However, the king knew the damage to the royal family was much bigger than Anna's reputation. That was why he had no choice but to stop the rumor from spreading.

The nobles in the hall were smart enough not to spread this matter. And even if one or two spread them, people wouldn't really believe it... if the Ardagan family didn't say anything.

That was why the only way to stop all this was to give Noel what he wanted.

He had two options, either rank promotion or road building. If they built the road, the Ardagan family would become the wealthiest family once again. And this time, it might even surpass that title and become the top family in the world.

But if he was given the title, it also meant that he had to expand his territory. Giving the territory south to him wouldn't be possible. In other words, he could only give the demon territory to him.

In other words, if Noel decided to expand, he would be able to get everything that this place had.

And with that size of land, Noel would definitely get a lot of new things and people. His original plan, which was to circle Noel with the nobles of the royal faction, had been ruined because of this.

However, there was one thing that Noel wanted. That was to reclaim the territory of his ancestors. That was right. He wanted to make the fallen territory his own. This was the last he could do for his ancestor.

While he was at it, he also wanted to show that he could make a prosperous territory from it.

The king gritted his teeth and had no choice but to declare, "Recall the crown prince to the capital city right now!"

"Y-yes!" The soldier panicked and hurriedly escaped from the hall.

The king then turned to Noel and said, "I have never thought that the crown prince would do such a thing to the lady of the Ardagan family. As the king and as a father, I apologize. I will definitely give you a satisfactory explanation.

"To reward you for your action in repelling the demons and the Supreme Devil Organization, Earl Noel Ardagan shall be promoted to Marquis. His territory will be expanded two hundred kilometers to the north, which is currently within the demon territory. His reward will be increased to 150,000 gold coins, 30,000 demon crystals, and 15 treasures."

This was what Noel had expected. By expanding his territory to the demon territory, it wouldn't be weird if he asked for the Demon Banner Army to set up a base in that place. In other words, they had to send one sword, one shield, and one utility squads to help him clear up this territory.

In other words, he could actually get a bulk of Demon Crystals from the Demon Banner Army, which would be the fuel for all his rune technology.

In addition, having a joint operation between his army and the Demon Banner Army would definitely be beneficial for his soldiers.

And by becoming a marquis, he could have more nobles and soldiers under his command.

This reward would definitely help him build his new territory.

Noel didn't say anything as he simply fell on his knees as a sign of accepting the reward while showing his disappointment in the royal family's action.

The nobles thought this action was appropriate. However, most of them never imagined that the royal family, who had prepared for this battle, ended up getting extorted by Noel.

In this debate, Noel won.

Chapter 1030 Unexpected Encounter

"Congratulations, Marquis." Kevin smirked.

"Don't tease me." Noel shook his head helplessly.

"Hahaha. I think you know this, but there is one thing that you need to know. No matter how you're going to fight, don't outshine them too much."

"I know, Uncle. Currently, I am only a Spirit Grandmaster. They won't be able to do anything to me for the time being. But it will change the moment I become a Spirit Transcendence Expert." Noel sighed.

In his previous life, Noel didn't know what caused the rebellion. But in this life, it seemed that he wouldn't be able to avoid the confrontation no matter how he planned to avoid it.

He never set his sights on the throne. While he believed he could become a good lord and had the power to lay waste to hundreds if not millions of demons, he didn't think he had the ability to be a king.

That was why Noel planned to remain a noble, but he wanted to make sure that his territory prospered for hundreds if not thousands of years.



"In that case, I don't have anything to say anymore. Today, you are the star. There are a lot of eyes locked on you right now..." Kevin smirked, feeling the gaze of the nobles. It was clear that the moment he left Noel's side, he would be surrounded by these nobles.

"This will be a very long night. Uncle. Will you do me a favor? Please send a letter to Anna saying that I will be going home soon. I might not stop at your mansion tonight and immediately go back to my territory."

"Don't worry. I can understand that." Kevin patted Noel's shoulders. "I'm truly proud of you. Please take care of my daughter."

"Yes." Noel nodded with a smile.

With that, Kevin walked away from Noel.

In that instant, the nobles began to come toward Noel.

"Congratulations, Marquis Noel Ardagan. I never thought that you would become a marquis this soon. You are just like your father, very talented."

"Thank you, Earl Wilde." Noel nodded with a smile.

"Ah, let me introduce you to her." The earl stepped to the side, showing his daughter.

And Noel had to deal with at least fifteen nobles who tried to marry their daughters to him. However, Noel continued rejecting them.

While it looked like he was arrogant, it was true that Anna was the only one who accompanied him the whole time. So, it was natural for Anna to be the only person in his heart.

However, Noel didn't push them away so hard that they would turn into his enemies. Instead, he told them that it was possible for them to work together, especially regarding the road.

Obviously, they considered it positively. It shouldn't take too long for Noel to be able to raise his Ardagan family from zero to the wealthiest family in the world, surpassing the reputation that his father had created.

During the whole ceremony, Noel would always be captured by at least two or three nobles at a time. Even Noel felt a bit tired from dealing with all of them since he had to maintain his etiquette and image.

Finally, after a long four hours, Noel escaped from the ceremony.

"Ha..." Noel let out a long sigh while walking down the hallway. He was tired mentally since he had to repeat his words multiple times.

Fortunately, he managed to gain some cooperation from the two nobles that he wanted to get the most. And with the Sword Arbiter helping him to persuade another two nobles, he should be able to expand the highway to at least a total of ten noble territories.

"For now, I have to find people who are qualified to become nobles under me. At the very least, they should be loyal and clever." Noel looked down, thinking, 'Is there anyone like that in my territory? Or should I find people from outside my territory?'

While he was on his thoughts, a figure appeared in the corner of his eyes as she also walked in the same hallway.

Noel couldn't help but become serious as the person before him was actually the same third princess that the king planned to marry.

The third princess had long bluish silver hair. Her eyes were rather empty as though she were being controlled. At the same time, it was rather daring for a princess to walk without being guarded.

In his memory, the third princess had little achievement under her belt. She didn't know how to fight and had little to no experience in government matters.

Yet, there were two things that shocked Noel. The first was the fact that he could feel the faint strength hidden in her body. It would be impossible for people who didn't have enough strength to sense her ability.

And the second one was her affection.

Name: Wendy Ve Lenfenth

Affection: Friendly (55/100)

Description: Admire you and hope that she can work together with you.

He had been using the Affection Medal to look at all the nobles and the king. The royal family and their faction hated him. Yet, he didn't expect that the third princess would be friendly to him. The number was also quite high. He had never met her, so he couldn't help but wonder where that number came from.

"Congratulations, Marquis, for your promotion. The kingdom is blessed to have a noble like you." The third princess politely bowed to him as a greeting while lifting the hem of her skirt. However, her voice was rather monotone.

"Thank you, Your Highness." Noel placed his hand on his chest while lowering his head.

"I heard that my father wants me to marry you."

"I apologize, Your Highness. I feel like I'm unworthy of your presence since I'm just a new noble."

"If all the new nobles in the kingdom were as capable as you, our kingdom would have dominated the world." The third princess paused for a moment. "It is a pity... I thought that I could work together with you."

"Pardon?" Noel played dumb, even though he had known about it from her affection.

"Beware of the Third Prince. His strength is unfathomable."

"I'm sorry? I don't think I understand what you're trying to say, Your Highness."

"I am merely thinking about the kingdom. My life as the third princess is filled with comparison to the might of the Third Prince. So, I can't help but look into him. I might share it with you, Marquis."

"His influence is not weaker than yours, Marquis. There are at least fifteen grandmasters under him. Even his strength is currently unknown."

"After finding out about your background, I know that you are related to him in one way or another. And it's probably not a friendly relationship."

"You personally should have been aware of the connection between him and the royal family's dogs. The very dogs that dare to bite the hands that feed them."

"..." Noel was quite surprised by what he heard. Despite having such a hollow gaze, the third princess was actually much more resourceful than he originally thought. In fact, this might be her facade so that she could survive in the royal family."

"I am disappointed that you chose to reject the marriage, but I can also understand your position. That's why I want to ask you... If you don't wish to be my husband, would you like to be my sword? A sword that will cleanse this kingdom."

"!!!" Noel raised his eyebrows. Her words made him think about the rebellion. Was he actually working under this person in his previous life?

If that was the truth, their ultimate goal would be to eradicate the Supreme Devil Organization as well as the Third Prince before placing her on the throne."

"I am nothing but a small noble. My hands are currently full with the development of my territory. I will just pretend that I didn't hear any of this tonight, Your Highness." Noel shook his head."

The third princess closed her eyes for a moment. "In that case, I wish you luck, Marquis. If you ever think that this kingdom is too dirty, you can always head to the southwest. There will be someone who will guide you to me."

Noel politely bowed to her as she walked away. This was the first time he saw the princess.

'This is rather surprising. Now that I think about it, I haven't learned much about the royal family. I only know about the king and the crown prince since they are a threat to me.'

'It seems that I have to learn more about the royal family. I don't really want to get into this trouble after what happened not long ago.'

Noel sighed, still remembering how the previous throne war ended. At the same time, the third princess gave him rather interesting information.

The Third Prince had always been the most mysterious faction in the kingdom. After being exiled, it was clear that he was trying to grow his influence and bide his time until he could retake the throne.

But to think that he had fifteen grandmasters under his command, even Noel didn't know where he got those people.

'Now that I think about it, what if the rebellion didn't start because the princess wanted to take the throne? What if it started to actually lure out the Third Prince? In the end, the one who would benefit the most from the rebellion was none other than the Third Prince.'

Noel's expression turned grim, realizing that the rebellion might not be as simple as he thought.

Nevertheless, he had to hurry back to his territory. There were a lot of matters that required his attention.