

S vs Rebirth 141

Chapter 141 Connection

"I know that you have two Spirits in your body, Mr. Noel."

"!!!" Noel's heart thumped and his body trembled. Noel raised his hand as if he wanted to grasp that neck, but he restrained himself for a bit.

He didn't want to strike her first without giving her any time to explain. He already had a time when he was so impulsive back then, so he was already mature enough to control his emotion.

"What do you mean?" Noel asked.

The Saintess smiled and put on her blindfold. She said, "I'm sure that you are here for the Moon Blessing. My Moon Blessing is a bit different than the rest. Not only can you see in the dark, but you can also see the Spiritual Energy easier. Though, it also comes with a price of my eyesight. Not that I complain for my blindness... since it can help more people that way.

"But don't worry. Only my eyes can see something beyond the Spiritual Energy, which is the source of our power, the Spirits..." The Saintess smiled, locating the two Spirits in Noel's hand and heart. "I know that you don't want your secret to be exposed and the best way to do it is to eliminate me.

"But to be honest, the reason why I'm exposing you like this is because I want to gain your trust. Instead of sneakily holding your secret, I want you to know that I have known your secret. This way, if the information is leaked somewhere, you surely can think of me as the suspect."

Noel narrowed his eyes, feeling suspicious. "And why do you come to a conclusion that you want to gain my trust?"

"The Moon Goddess," The Saintess answered without hesitation. "I am not so sure, but it seems that the Moon Goddess wants me to support you."

"Wants you to support me?" Noel remembered the feeling of him wanting to protect her earlier. He wanted to question the connection between Ardagan and the Moon Goddess but it would reveal a lot of information, so he wondered if this was the right thing to do.

As if she could see Noel's doubt, she added, "We're the same. We both know nothing and have the doubt. But never in my life that the Moon Goddess ever did something bad to me... She might give me some hardship to overcome, but she wouldn't harm my entire being. That's why I choose to believe her and reveal this information to you.

"Have you ever asked these questions? What is actually the Spirit? Why are they inside of us this whole time and why must we discover them first before we can gain their power? What's the difference between the spirits and the demons? The spirits reside in our body like the demons reside in living beings."

Noel fell silent because he never asked those questions. He had been learning many things in the past few months through the books in the library, but he never questioned the information itself. How did they come up to such a conclusion?

Noel could see that the spirits and demons were more mysterious than he thought. "So, you are assuming that there's a connection between spirits?"

"Yes. But because they don't have the uniqueness like us, they don't realize it."

"So, what's the connection between our spirits?"

"That's what I want to know as well. We can even use the Spirit Oath to share our finding."

"..." Noel knew that he wouldn't be able to lie when using the Spirit Oath, so he decided to refuse because he didn't want to get trapped again. "No need. Instead of talking about this, we should distribute the water as soon as possible."

"That's right. The longer we're here, the more impatient they will be." The Saintess smiled, not pursuing the matter further.

Both of them were curious about the Spirits, but they knew that the situation was more complicated than they thought.

In the end, the Saintess opened the door and asked the knights that stood by outside to help her in bringing the water gallons out of the house.

The knights immediately distributed the water and Noel could see their faces after drinking the water. It was truly a bliss. It seemed the water from the Ice Pearl couldn't be compared to the water from the system. But then again, the Ice Pearl gave him free water while the latter used two Honor Points. Of course, the water from the system was better.

While distributing the water, Noel was often distracted by the connection between Ardagan and the Moon Goddess.

It was so visible that Anna could see through him easily. After checking Noel's condition from a distance, she approached him to know what was going on.

"What's wrong?" Anna asked worriedly.

Noel looked at Anna for a while.

'What should I do? I should get going with Anna to locate the demons, but my mind is distracted from this thought. If I go outside with this kind of thought, it'll be dangerous. I might get distracted in the middle of a fight. This time, my curiosity is far higher compared to any events in the past.'

On the one hand, Noel wanted to act like normal. On the other hand, he would just endanger their lives if he went out right now.

He knew it would be rude for him to take back his plan like this, but he still asked, "Sorry, Anna. I think I'll have to meditate for a while to sort my thought about the previous incident. Do you mind waiting for me?"

Anna was surprised because Noel never abandoned his plan just because of a small matter. It felt like she was abandoned just for his cause. It wasn't fair.

However, Anna also knew that if something had distracted Noel to this degree, the matter wasn't small. Hence, she nodded her head with a smile, assuring him. "Sure. That'll be the best. I'll take care of your job here, so you should finish it quickly."

"Sorry and thank you."

Chapter 142 Spirit Ranks

Because of his curiosity, Noel ended up borrowing a room from Layla and sat down in a lotus pose to meet Ardagan. This matter disturbed him too much because the connection between them could interrupt his bigger plan. So, he needed to resolve this matter as soon as possible.

After meditating for a while, Noel finally entered his consciousness where Ardagan had been waiting for him.

With a serious face, Noel stood in front of Ardagan and said, "I believe that you already know what I want."

"Yes. But Master, I can only answer to what you want to know. You have to directly ask me that question." Ardagan acknowledged the question but still asked Noel to give the questions.

"Then, I won't hold back. What's the connection between you and the Moon Goddess."

"I can't say."

"You can't say?" Noel squinted his eyes, pressuring him for the answer. He also started suspecting Ardagan who had been helping him this whole time. "Do you know what you did earlier?"

"Yes." The talking sword slightly tilted its body as if a human nodding their head.

"It's clear that you're trying to make me protect her. That influence is too much even for me... It's said that a Spirit won't lie, so Ardagan... I'll ask you. Are you trying to take over me?" Noel didn't hold back with his question.

If Ardagan said no, it would mean he would never do it. If he gave him the answer in a roundabout way without answering the question, it meant he had a hidden intention and Noel had to suspect him. There was even a possibility where he had to abandon Ardagan's real body.

Ardagan answered as if he already knew Noel's doubt. "No."

"..." Noel fell silent when he heard that answer. Ardagan didn't seem to be lying. But the fact that he managed to influence him earlier made Noel fear that Ardagan would be taking over him in the future. And it was clear that there was a connection between Ardagan and the Moon Goddess.

Then, he recalled the discussion about spirits. Thinking he could understand the connection between them by knowing more about spirits, Noel asked, "Then, what is the spirit itself? What are you? How does spirit appear in our body? Are we truly born with a spirit residing in our body?"

Ardagan fell silent for a moment. "As an apology for what I did earlier, I shall tell Master one thing.

"Spirits are divided into five ranks. They are Normal Spirit, Superior Spirit, Beastly Spirit, Demi-human Spirit, and Humanoid Spirit."

"Five ranks? This is the first time I've heard something like this."

"Because no one knows about these ranks. Even your ancestor doesn't know it. Heisk is considered to be a Demi-human Spirit."

"Demi-human? What's that? Is it something like a human?"

"The body is a spirit but the appearance looks like a human." Ardagan explained. "Her actual body is like a tiny human with a pair of wings, the Icy Spirit of the Northern Plain, Heisk."

"Hmm..." Noel thought for a moment, trying to connect the information with the relationship between Ardagan and the Moon Goddess. He asked one more question, "Then, what rank are you? A humanoid spirit? But you don't look like a human at all, you are a sword."

"I'm none of them."

"None?" Noel widened his eyes in surprise.

"I might be a spirit, but I was originally a sword. My first master granted me a life, thus allowing me to become a spirit."

"Becoming a Spirit? You can become a Spirit? Who is your master?"

Ardagan fell silent as if he was refusing to answer. Instead, he gave him something that piqued his interest.

[Mission: ???]

[Description: ???]

[Reward: Spirit Information Part 1]

[Penalty: None.]

"Is this your way of telling me that I shouldn't learn the information?"

"No. You have the right for the information, but I can't give it to you right now."

"Curiosity kills the cat, you should know the phrase, right?" Noel narrowed his eyes. If he knew about this phrase, Ardagan who remained in his mind should also be aware of the meaning.

Ardagan acknowledged it. "Yes. That's why I'm telling Master that you have the right to the information."

"Is there something stopping you from giving me the information?"

"Yes."

"And you can't tell me anything about it?"

"Not really. I can give you some clue on how to attain that information. It's to appease Master's curiosity as well. I am your Spirit, so I shall support you to the best of my ability."

"A clue?"

"Yes. It's related to the Moon Goddess as she also has that information."

"!!!" Noel suddenly linked up the connection between them. "The desire to protect, the Moon Goddess... Are you telling me to become a Holy Knight so that I can protect the Saintess? And in exchange, the Moon Goddess might give me some information?"

"Yes and no."

"What do you mean?"

"I know more than anyone else that Master wants freedom. By telling you to become a Holy Knight means I'm controlling your life."

"And that's why you don't give me a mission about it."

"Yes. However, you can help her from time to time since both of you have the same path which is to help people in need. Whether you want it or not, it's entirely up to you. Don't forget, Master. The only person who knows some exclusive information about Spirits is you. If Master has no desire to be controlled, you can pass on the information and continue living like you always do.

"You can even wait until you have settled everything and have some time to seek some information. You have the freedom to choose."

Noel lowered his head in contemplation. On the one hand, Ardagan was right. He truly had the freedom to choose. Because no one had this kind of information and the world still continued as usual, it was clear that the information wasn't important enough to affect the world. But it should be mind blowing to him just to satisfy his curiosity.

That was why there wasn't a need to rush to discover this knowledge. At the same time, Ardagan had given him enough explanation that his future was still in his hand, not in anyone else's hand, including the Moon Goddess and the Saintess.

He was free to exact his revenge or everything else.

"I have more questions now than when I first came here. But my doubt has truly been answered. If I chase for that information..." Noel glanced at Ardagan.

"It'll take a lot of time."

"And I precisely don't have that kind of time." Noel nodded in understanding. "Well, it's not too late to learn more about spirits after I finish my revenge. Then, two last questions, do you know how to hide that reaction?"

"Two ways. Simply retract my body to the Spirit Seal or Suppress my Spirit Seal by channeling the energy from Heisk's Spirit Seal."

"Okay. Then, let's finish this conversation with this question. Do you have any connection to spirits other than the one in the Saintess' body along with the Moon Goddess?"

"Yes. But Master doesn't need to worry that you can't do anything. Even if you kill the Saintess, no one can stop you. The connection between spirits are different than that of a human."

"..." Noel closed his eyes and took a deep breath. He truly had many questions in his mind, but it was enough to solve his current doubt. "Okay. That's enough for now. In the future, I hope that I can learn more things."

Chapter 143 Leaving The City

Noel gradually opened his eyes with a complicated expression. He scratched the back of his head and muttered, "I have more questions now, but it's a relief to know that I can still control my own life. I don't have to give up my revenge and ambition. Besides, I can find more and more information about the spirits in the future."

"No one knows this information and the world still works like usual, so there's no rush in finding more information about spirits. In that case, I should focus on getting stronger and my revenge first."

Ardagan might be related to the Moon Goddess, but their lives, by no means, bound to each other. Hence, Noel didn't have to revolve his life around the Saintess.

"Alright. That's decided." Noel slapped his cheeks to shake the thought off and raise his spirit.

After sorting his thoughts, Noel came out of the room, finding the water had been distributed to the people.

According to them, there were 4367 people still alive in the city, so he had taken out 44 water gallons.

It might take him 88 Honor Points which he didn't have, but because he continuously helped them and gained more Honor Points, he could supply enough water to them. And thanks to their number, Noel also gained an additional 44 points.

With this, he had a total of 82 Honor Points, the highest he had so far. He could exchange so much Skill Points with this, but he didn't forget that half of the points he got was from his effort for the last two months.

"To think I did all that for only 38 points... and it took me two months to get all that. As expected, having a city to help is the best way to gain Honor Points." Noel sighed, lamenting the fact that his two months of effort couldn't be compared to save a single city.

Still, he had enough Skill Points to play with. Although he wanted to rush and improve all the skills he had, he didn't know what kind of monster this Advanced Level Demon was. Hence, he chose to not level them up first and wait until he confirmed the enemy.

With this, he had an assurance if something went wrong.

As soon as he left the house, he found Anna still distributing the remaining water. But the sun was already above the sky, if they didn't leave soon, they didn't know if they could find the demon today.

"Anna."

"Mhm?" Anna turned around and found Noel walking toward her. "Have you finished?"

"Yes." Noel nodded with a serious expression.

"I see. Should we go now then? Our action will surely alert the demons, so we have to kill those who chase after us."

"Yes. Anyway, the enemy this time is an Advanced Level Demon. As much as I want to split up to expand the search range, we have to be together all the time to even stand a chance against this demon."

"Agreed. Though, do you have a place in mind?"

"The west side of the city. According to them, the demons had been attacking the city in a clockwise direction. Yesterday came from the south, the day before came from the east and so on."

"So, you're assuming that the Advanced Level Demon are preparing some demons to supply the attack from the west." Anna thought for a moment and agreed with Noel's plan. "Good enough. Since we're already here, there's no need for a horse, right?"

"Yes. Let's go."

The two had come to an agreement as they immediately told the Saintess they would be leaving to scout the area and headed to the west gate.

On top of the west gate, Noel and Anna stood next to each other.

"Approximately fifteen meters to the ground. Can your body handle that?" Anna asked while looking down.

"There is a cushion."

"Cushion?" Anna tilted her head in confusion.

Noel, on the other hand, remained silent and walked one of the soldiers.

"Wait, Noel! Watch out!" Anna panicked because there was a demon coming up to the wall in his direction.

As she expected, the demon reached the top of the city wall and planned to defeat the soldiers around it.

However, Noel shouted while running toward it. "Move away!"

The soldiers were startled by the shout and turned around, finding Noel coming at them. "A kid?"

Noel ignored their reaction and strengthened the muscle as well as covering his body with Spiritual Energy. After that, he kicked the demon right in the belly and blew him away from the castle gate.

"What?" The soldiers were shocked because they never expected a kid could be this strong.

But what shocked them the most was the thing he did next.

Without hesitation, Noel jumped at the demon, resulting in both of them flying away from the castle.

The people thought Noel wanted to die, but the moment the two landed on the ground, Noel was actually standing on top of the demon unscathed.

He even had the time to cut the demon after using the demon as a cushion for his fall.

"!!!" Anna was stunned because Noel truly had a crazy idea on leaving the city. "He used the demon as the cushion and killed it right after? He's crazy, but... why does it look so fun?"

She was planning to just jump down as far as possible with the help of her Spirit, but she couldn't help but kick a demon and followed Noel's action.

"Yahoo!" Anna smiled brightly, feeling excited as if she was using the demon to surf in the air.

Bam!

As soon as she landed on the ground, she killed the demon with two slashes. She still laughed and said, "Hahaha, that's truly fun! Maybe we can do it again tomorrow."

"Shut up and run!" Noel's eyebrows twitched as he already started running. Anna almost forgot there were many demons behind them.

Her face became pale as she immediately picked up the pace. There were around fifty demons that turned around to chase after them.

"Still, isn't that fun?" Anna smirked while running beside Noel.

"It's not fun." Noel gritted his teeth.

"Why do you have to be so tense?" Anna sighed.

Noel only pointed to their front while making a grim expression.

"Huh?" Anna turned around and tried to see what was going on. She was shocked to find some movements from the forest where the Advanced Level Demon resided. And it was clear who made all those movements.

In just a few seconds, more than fifty demons suddenly came out of the forest together, pinching them from two directions.

"Ballom..." Anna muttered.

"What that word means?" Noel was confused of this weird word, thinking it was a foreign word.

"I learned it from the Saintess. It's to pray to the Moon Goddess for her protection." Anna smiled.

"Huh? What do you mean?"

"We're screwed."

"..." Noel's eyebrows twitched, annoyed. "You still have the mood to joke around?!"

Chapter 144 Anna's Hidden Strength?

"This is not good. They'll be surrounded by the demons and die in that place." The knight captain still watched over Noel and Anna because he was worried that they didn't have the strength to put a fight against the demons.

And his worst fear came when numerous demons emerged from the forest, causing them to be pincered.

"How do we help them? We can't open the city gate and even if we can reach them, they might have died..." The knight captain gritted his teeth, trying to come up with a solution.

However, he would be shocked once again when Noel and Anna revealed their true ability.

...

Meanwhile, Noel and Anna were discussing about their plan in escaping from this place.

"Can you use the Duplication Rune again?" Noel asked. They were already too late to avoid the clash by going to the side. And if they didn't do anything, they would be overwhelmed and surrounded.

Even if they had the ability to take down many Demons at once, they couldn't defeat all one hundred Demons, especially with at least ten of them being Mid Level Demon.

"No. It takes me at least ten seconds to prepare that rune." Anna shook her head. She took a deep breath and said, "Well, if that's the case, we can only break through them, right?"

"That's the only way, but..."

Anna smirked and said, "I'll take the front. You support me. I'm going to release everything I have right now."

"Huh?" Noel was confused, but seeing Anna's serious face, he fell silent and slowed down his pace to run behind her. At the same time, he opened his System and exchanged for some Skill Points.

With his 82 Honor Points, he could exchange 41 Skill Points. The only way for them to escape from this was an overwhelming strength, so he had to support her.

Of course, he had planned to raise their level this whole time, so Noel raised Increase Agility Rune and Strength Blessing Rune to the maximum, costing a total 14 Skill Points.

Noel then utilized these two runes to support Anna.

"!!!" Anna could feel the great increase in strength and agility. It was different compared to the increase she felt when they were about to enter the city. She glanced at Noel in shock, thinking, 'What did he do to be able to increase his power drastically?'

Unfortunately, she couldn't receive that answer because they had something to do.

Anna took a deep breath.

'Kill!'

'Kill!'

'KILL!'

A scream kept echoing inside her head as if it was trying to drive her to the madness.

'Ha... It's been a while. Thunder Berserker Spirit, I am going to use your strength for the first time.' Anna smirked as her gaze became extremely cold.

Even Noel felt the different atmosphere around Anna, making his body tremble.

Suddenly, lightning started sparking around her. The spark was different than anything that she had released in the past.

The lightning was more ferocious and ruthless. The spark came from all over her body.

"Sword D'Dantalian." She muttered while summoning a lightning sword in front of her. This was the sword she always summoned to blow things up.

And she sent this sword forward to create a path for them.

Noel reminded her, "We need speed if we want to break through."

"Don't worry." Anna's tone was cold and contained killing intent as if she had experienced a great change.

The lightning sword finally reached the demon and caused a huge explosion. The power was at least twice of her usual ability and it even let out a spark in all directions.

"!!!" Noel widened his eyes in shock. 'This is not the usual her. The power was far stronger than what I have seen this whole time. And that spark... the spark went to all direction with the lightning cutting those demons down instead of electrocuting them.'

But what shocked him the most was the fact that the lightning sword didn't disappear after that explosion.

Anna grabbed the sword on the way and threw it again. The lightning flew like an arrow and pierced through multiple demons. It didn't cause any more explosions, but its lightning seemed to be powerful enough to pierce through four demons before it disappeared.

Obviously, now that they were surrounded by the demons, the ones running next to them wouldn't let them live. They hurriedly turned around and pounced on Anna. Two demons were far closer than the rest as they reached Anna from two sides.

Anna glanced to the sides, but a sword came and cut their necks, killing them.

It was Noel. As long as they kept up with their speed, not many demons would surround them, so he said, "Keep attacking. I'll protect you."

A grin appeared on Anna's face as she leaped forward while kicking the demon that she killed earlier.

The lightning sparked around her feet, causing a powerful shock wave that knocked the demon's body away.

The corpse crashed to other demons, restricting their movements.

'Completed a third, need to kill at least 10 more demons.' Anna thought while moving in a zig-zag way to avoid the corpses that had fallen to the ground.

After that, she took out her own sword and channeled it with the lightning before swinging it down.

A crescent-shaped lightning flew forth, running through the ground and cutting everything on its way.

The demons in front of them tried to escape but didn't have enough time and ended up dying. Meanwhile, the demons at the back had more time than them and barely avoided it.

The path was to escape from them was completed, but the demons soon closed it again. They even took this opportunity to attack her from the sides again.

This time, there was even a volley of Spiritual Energy coming from the air. It seemed one of the Mid Level Demon released this mass of Spiritual Energy from the distance.

Anna took a peek at the attack but immediately retracted her gaze as if believing that Noel would protect her.

Like she predicted, a giant sword fell next to her and planted itself in the ground, protecting her from the lump of Spiritual Energy.

When it hit the sword, the latter stood tall, towering the attack and the shock wave it produced so that none of them reached Anna.

Anna couldn't help but smile. As she expected, she could focus on the offensive as long as Noel was on her back.

Despite the bridge called hatred between them, Noel and Anna worked together perfectly.

Even the knight captain dropped his jaw to the ground when he saw their performances.

"They are still Apprentice Knight in Demon Banner Army? They're already at the level of a full-fledged knight! And within this time, they should only train for four months... What's wrong with this generation? How strong they will become after a whole year?"

Chapter 145 Escape

Roar!

Roar!

Roar!

The demons were roaring to scare them off, but Anna only clicked her tongue and swung her blade, releasing another lightning to the surrounding. "Shut up and die!"

She soon noticed there was a huge sword in front of her. The sword fell down but in a diagonal way, causing the body to tilt to the side.

This was Noel's Sword Fall and with the way its body leaning, she understood what he intended too.

Without hesitation, Anna stepped on the sword's body and climbed it. The sword was tall enough to surpass many demons' height, so when she was at the top, she had nothing to fear.

Four Points Circulation.

She released the energy on her feet, using the power to jump higher than any demons as they leaped past the demons.

However, Noel seemed to miscalculate one thing.

When they flew in the sky, a volley of Spiritual Energy suddenly rained them down as if preventing them to escape.

Anna could see at least five demons that were looking at them from a distance, shooting them down.

'We're going to fall at this rate.' Anna thought, but this was their chance to escape.

Anna raised her left hand and formed multiple lightning balls. She shot them forward to counter these attacks.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Multiple explosions occurred as soon as they clashed, causing a powerful shock wave toward the sky and Anna.

"Ah, not good..." Anna had expected this, but it was truly troublesome because this shock wave stopped her momentum in the air. And she could do nothing to stop her from falling back to the demon's encirclement.

However, two hands suddenly grabbed her body as Noel's voice echoed in his ears.

"As I said, I'll protect you."

It turned out Noel had predicted this but still thought about jumping past them. With Anna blowing them away, she would fall down. All Noel needed was to jump slightly later than her to avoid the shock wave and caught her in the air as they went past the demons.

Anna blinked her eyes a few times as she looked into Noel's face. Noel was reliable, that was a fact. But this time, she felt something different. She felt like she could do anything because Noel would take care of the rest.

This sense of dependency somehow stuck in her heart. In the past life, Anna was their strongest genius. No one could even come close to her. That was why every time she stood tall, she would be alone.

And the only one who could stand before her was Noel, but back then, he stood as an enemy.

This time, Anna experienced the first time what it felt to have someone standing by your side. If it was him, he could stand next to me. If it was him, I could rely on him.

It was a fresh feeling in her heart. She felt like she truly could do anything with him by her side.

However, her dream was shattered when Noel stated with annoyance. "Hey, we have landed already, so run with your own feet!"

"..." Anna was startled as she realized Noel had been carrying her in his arms. When she glanced back, some of the demons seemed to have turned around and chased after them.

Anna couldn't help but cover her mouth and say, "I feel like I'm getting addicted to this."

"Huh?" Noel's eyebrows twitched.

"Doesn't this mean I can just cling to you and have you carry me all the way without me doing anything?" Anna looked away as if she was a weak woman that needed her knight to protect her.

"Eh?" However, the reality was far different than her expectation. Noel wasn't a knight and he truly had fed up.

Without hesitation, the moment he heard those words, he threw her to the side and kept running.

Anna fell on her butt as she complained, "Oi, don't throw me like that! Can't you just put me down norma—"

She felt the incoming presence from the side as she forgot that the demons were chasing after them for a moment.

"W-wait!" Anna hurriedly rose from the ground and ran with her full speed, catching up to Noel. "You bastard, do you know how to treat a lady?"

"Then, behave like one. You are just like a gorilla compared to the ladies! And we've escaped from the demon, so my job to protect you is already over."

,m "Gorilla? Call it Independent and Strong Lady!" Anna gritted her teeth. As expected, she couldn't really win in argument with Noel. The previous feeling she had when relying on Noel felt like it never happened.

"Whatever. Now that we are out, there's only one thing to do." Noel glanced back.

"True enough." Anna smirked.

Now that they were the one getting chased, there was only one thing to do. Instead of using their agility to escape by using the forest, Noel and Anna were looking back while running.

There was only one thought in their mind. 'Just blast the demons who dare to chase us.'

Sword Fall.

Bouncing Spiritual Slash.

Sword D'Dantalian.

With the demons chasing after them, they simply had to drop one attack after another, killing those demons since their speed was a tad faster than the demons due to Noel's Increase Agility Rune. The demons wouldn't be able to catch up to them and ended up dying from one of the attacks.

...

The knight captain, who witnessed everything, couldn't help but say, "Who are they really? They are too abnormal. Are they seriously Apprentice Knights?"

"I think I know them." The soldier next to him raised his hand. "I was in the capital city a few years ago and I saw the woman. If I'm not wrong, she's Anna Stargaze, the most talented person in the kingdom."

"Anna Stargaze? Marquis Stargaze's Daughter?"

"Yes."

"Then, who is that man?"

"I'm not very sure. But with how the guy doesn't seem to like her that much, then I only have one person in mind." The soldier paused for a moment because he was confused by the situation. "Count Ardagan's Son, Noel Ardagan."

"Count Ardagan? Wasn't the Count executed by the royal family? If I'm not wrong, Anna Stargaze was the one suggesting the execution. With that much of hatred, how did they end up working together?" The knight captain dropped his jaw to the ground.

However, no one knew the answer. So, the knight captain scratched his back, looking at them while muttering, "Well, I'm now impressed by Noel now. What a strong kid, to think that he can hide that much hatred in his heart and work together perfectly."

Chapter 146 Hidden Danger

"Now, no demons are chasing us anymore," said Anna while glancing at their back. They had been raining the demons with their power, killing them one by one. Because they had to chase them, they couldn't move so much, so they ended up dying.

Meanwhile, Noel was staring at Anna, thinking, 'What was the power earlier? She felt different as if she underwent a great change. In fact, it felt like a completely different person.

'I don't understand how she can draw out a power like that. The lightning sword that is usually vaporized together with the explosion remained intact and could still be used. Each attack had the lightning power instead of just a mere Spiritual Energy.

'Lightning power should come from her Spirit, so is it related to her Spirit? Does that mean she can utilize the Spirit better?

'But I haven't found any record about them being used like that... It's like the spirit is possessing her. Still, a spirit shouldn't think like that. Even Ardagan doesn't have the intention. Though, he never clarified that the other spirits had the same intention.

'This only means one thing, Anna seems to know Spirits than your average person. I don't know how much she knows, but it's worth to explore.

'Now that I think about it, Anna is powerful and knowledgeable. I have been using her as my sparring partner so that I can get stronger. And I think I should make her spill the knowledge from time to time, not just about a special region that can provide me with some power up, but also the general knowledge about spirits.'

,m Noel thought for a moment. He wanted to say, 'What a powerful humanoid spirit,' to see Anna's reaction. The information that only he knew currently.

If Anna actually reacted to the word 'humanoid,' she might be aware of the Spirit Ranks as well, making him doubt Ardagan and Anna at the same time. This statement also meant that Anna's spirit originally was a higher ranking compared to his if he didn't meet Ardagan.

In other words, he could see Anna's true potential.

Still, it would be too risky to expose something that he only knew currently. Hence, Noel decided to refrain himself and rode the wave, waiting for the right time to probe for more information.

He said, "Now that we've escaped from the demons, it's time to chase after the Advanced Level Demon. The fact that the demons chased us to this forest meant that the Advanced Level Demon is here."

"So, we're in the middle of his territory now." Anna nodded with a serious expression.

"Yeah. But I don't think the Advanced Level Demon will be meeting us. And his movement right now will be extremely unpredictable."

"So, that's why you were so angry?"

"Yeah. I believe that we can escape those demons in one way or another, but the aftermath will be horrible." Noel nodded.

"Should we split up now?" Anna asked.

"No. We can't split up no matter what." Noel shook his head solemnly. The moment they were separated, the demon would take advantage of it and attack one of them. It didn't have to fight them since controlling their mind was all it took for the demon to win.

"Alright then. Where should we go?"

"Let's go to the north first to make sure it doesn't escape according to his pattern."

Anna and Noel had come to an agreement as they started running, chasing after this Advanced Level Demon.

Unbeknownst to them, the Advanced Demon itself was actually hiding not far from them. There was a small mushroom behind the tree that could move left and right depending on his needs.

And this mushroom had been releasing its spores into the air this whole time. Unfortunately, the demon was barely outside the range of Noel's detection with the help of the Demon Hunter Medal. If not, he would have found it.

...

A few hours later.

Noel and Anna had been running around the forest, trying to find the demon's location but to no avail.

"This is going nowhere." Anna became a bit frustrated.

Noel was the same but his expression remained calm. He had predicted this outcome, so he wondered what they should do next.

They had met multiple demons but had no result in finding the Advanced Level Demon.

"So, you don't have the mood to joke anymore?" Noel glared at her.

"..." Anna looked away, ashamed. She finally understood why Noel wasn't happy this whole time. At first, she thought the reason was because they were in danger, but it turned out the search was the one that concerned him.

"I'm sorry, alright? Spare me with the nagging. I won't be like this anymore."

Noel rolled his eyes, not believing a single bit that she would repent.

"Whatever. The problem is that... the night is going to come soon, and the search will become extremely hard and dangerous after that point. Even so, we have to find them no matter what. There's a chance that the demon is preparing more demons, but their target is not the city, but..."

"Us." Anna's face turned serious. She knew what would happen at that point. They could barely defeat the Advanced Level Demon, but their mission would absolutely fail if there were other demons helping them. Although the knight captain had promised to help, but he wouldn't bring so many people to make sure the city didn't fall while they were fighting here.

Hence, they couldn't afford to have other demons fighting them.

"What should we do..." Noel muttered in a low voice, racking his brain.

"Noel. I have an idea." Anna raised her hand as this might be the first idea she ever gave him since she had been relying on his brain to come up with an answer.

"How about causing chaos everywhere? We utilize one explosion to another to check the place in wide area. The normal demons will be alarmed by this movement while those demons... I'm not sure. There are two possibilities. If a huge number of demons gather in one place, their roars will be extremely loud or there won't be any roars at all because they're controlled by the Advanced Level Demon."

"What a reckless plan, but it sounds like you, a crazy witch." Despite his words, Noel was actually impressed.

But everything didn't seem to be going according to their plan. Noel suddenly received a notification from Ardagan as if it was the proof of his explanation from earlier.

[Warning!]

[Unknown source has entered Master's consciousness.]

Chapter 147 Challenging The Danger

[Unknown source has entered Master's consciousness.]

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

[Burn/Freeze/Let it be?]

'Something is entering my consciousness? What is that something? But we're talking about the Advanced Level Demon who is specialized in controlling its targets... Don't tell me.' Noel's expression turned cold.

He also glanced at Anna. If she was infected, she should be the same because they were together the whole time.

However, the most shocking thing he realized was the Demon Hunter Medal.

'What's going on, Ardagan? I have been using the Demon Hunter Medal that allows me to sense all demons within fifty meters radius. Are you telling me the Advanced Level Demon can influence me from outside the radius?' Noel bit his lips, wondering if the Demon Hunter Medal was any use.

Back in the dam, he used it to prepare himself against the incoming demon from the water, while using it to locate the demon around them this time.

Yet, the only thing they could find was only normal demons.

Noel narrowed his eyes while looking at Anna.

"This cold wind is very uncomfortable. If I'm a normal person, I would have fallen sick by this time without any proper warm clothes." Anna sighed, complaining. She was using the knight uniform, so it wasn't enough to handle this cold wind that seemed to be lower than any places she visited by a few degrees.

"Wind?" Noel widened his eyes in shock and grabbed Anna's shoulders.

"Ehm, Noel?" Anna was startled due to Noel's sudden action. He was actually staring at her intensely as if he wanted to push her down right away. But the Noel she knew wasn't someone like that, so she didn't know what to do.

Noel kept staring at her without blinking. His mind was revolving crazily, contemplating about this matter.

After a minute, Anna felt a bit uncomfortable and wanted to push him away, but the intense gaze didn't change as if he was in deep thought. She couldn't afford to take this matter lightly anymore like what she did when they got pincerred in two directions.

Anna only closed her eyes and let Noel do whatever he wanted. As long as he didn't cross the limit, she wouldn't do anything.

But as soon as she closed her eyes, Noel let her go and took a step back as if he was playing with her. He just wanted to make her embarrassed with that action.

"Hey—" Anna wanted to complain but stopped when she heard Noel muttering, "The wind, the spore, and the demons... So, that's how it is. The Advanced Level Demon is a mushroom, so it'll be releasing its spores into the air and let the wind carry it. Now that I think about it, the wind is particularly strong in this forest. Why did I not realize it until now?"

"The demon is using the wind to carry its spores so that it can control more demons. If that's the case, all we have to do is to follow the wind."

"!!!" Anna blinked a few times, never thinking the situation was like this. She thought Noel was considering about her proposal earlier in that silence, but it seemed he was thinking about how to track the demon. Even if they caused many explosions, it would be useless if they went to the wrong way.

Noel wanted to pin point their direction and started working from there.

On the other hand, Noel was also thinking about another thing. He asked Ardagan inwardly, 'So, Ardagan. How do I burn or freeze this spore?'

Skill: Undying Fire (0/5)

Requirement: 20 SP

Skill: Freezing Crystal (0/5)

Requirement: 7 SP

'It seems that I can use both of these skills to eliminate the spore. But the problem is Anna. There's no telling when the spores will be acting up.' Noel fell into deep thought before a devilish plan appeared in his mind.

Because he was acting as Noel, he immediately leveled up the Freezing Crystal instead of Undying Fire. There were two reasons. Firstly, Noel's known element was ice. Secondly, although the Undying Fire sounded powerful, it cost too much Skill Points. It was something that he couldn't afford to use for a moment.

As soon as he leveled up the Freezing Crystal, he got the knowledge about its use. As expected, it seemed Heisk was still powerful even though she wasn't the highest rank of Spirit.

From the knowledge, it seemed he could turn the spore with the Freezing Crystal the moment he located the spore.

Still, the spore should be so small since he couldn't even see it. In that case, he had to choose a perfect timing.

Right before he would be controlled or right after the demon activated the spore in his mind, he should freeze the exact same spot and cancel the mind control.

'Still, there's one problem remaining.' Noel glanced at Anna.

"What's wrong?" Anna tilted her head in confusion since Noel had been staring at her a lot.

Noel smiled and said, "Nothing. Since we can now locate the Advanced Level Demon, we should chase after it right now."

Anna nodded in agreement, not realizing that she was already under the control of the demon. As for Noel, he had already prepared for everything, including Anna's mind control and what he would do when that time came.

They hurriedly followed the wind to find the demon. Noel obviously knew the danger. The fact they were going through the wind, there should be some spores left in the air. However, he just kept chasing as if he wasn't scared of these spores.

After getting Noel's approval, Anna started shooting the 'Sword D'Dantalian' to the area, causing explosions after explosions that woke the demons up.

Roars resounded across the area, displeased by the situation. But because those two acted covertly, they didn't get spotted by any demon. Noel even took charge due to his Demon Hunter Medal, avoiding all the demons that came at them.

However, there was one spot where they didn't hear a single roar of the demon.

Noel and Anna exchanged looks and agreed to check this spot.

While going to this place, Noel suddenly stopped Anna as his Demon Hunter Medal was picking up several presence. Anna could also feel it too and agree with him.

This was the spot.

Chapter 148 New Abilities

Both of them stopped and hid behind a tree as they approached the area carefully, making sure they didn't make any noise. The animal's ears were sensitive, and it was worse when they turned into demons, so if they were not careful, everything would be in vain.

Of course, both Anna and Noel didn't dare to approach them easily. They were watching them from far away on top of the tree.

Noel had a hard time finding the right spot to watch the entire scene, while Anna seemed to have found her spot and even asked him to come over. In the end, Noel came to her and finally had a view of the demons.

There was a three meters tall mushroom standing in the middle. It had thin legs and arms, making it look vulnerable to sharp objects. However, dozens of demons were watching this mushroom demon as if they were listening to their father.

Noel and Anna had agreed that this demon was actually the Advanced Level Demon they had been looking for. They also could see the mushroom in the demons' bodies. Some were hidden, some were easily visible.

But it was clear that all these demons were under the mushroom's control.

Both of them exchanged looks as if they were trying to communicate their next move.

Noel pointed at his eyes and those demons in succession, telling Anna that they were going to watch over them.

Since the Saintess was planning to bring some Holy Knights to stop the demons, there would be some trouble in the city wall due to the lack of capable people. Hence, it was better to stall the remaining demons here instead of letting the city take them head-on.

After all, it would still be considered a defeat if they let the people in the city die. Noel couldn't bear the fact that he would lose so many Honor Points.

Still, when Noel counted the demons, there seemed to be a total of 38 demons in this area alone. Taking them head-on would be too reckless. Even the Holy Knights wouldn't be able to defeat them.

Hence, they had to challenge some of the demons first. This was a challenge for Noel to see what kind of plan they had to use in order to defeat these demons.

After some consideration, Noel used 8 Skill Points to upgrade the Rune Mastery.

Skill: Rune Mastery (2/10)

Requirement: 12 SP

Noel received more information about the Runes, such as more rune strokes and some basic knowledge. If he could keep this up, he didn't even need the knowledge from Ardagan to form a new rune. Of course, he had to level this skill up for a bit more before he could do such a thing.

And for now, Ardagan seemed to be responding to that lack of knowledge.

Skill: Spiritual Energy Dispersion Rune (0/3)

Requirement: 5 SP

Skill: Chain Bind Rune (0/3)

Requirement: 5 SP

Noel thought for a moment because this was the first time he saw these two runes. Unlike the previous two runes, these runes weren't support runes that could enhance their abilities.

If he allocated his remaining 12 Skill Points to these two runes, he wouldn't be able to react to the enemies in case something bad happened.

Still, these two runes might be good for him. The first would be the Spiritual Energy Dispersion Rune. As its name implied, the rune's purpose must be to disperse Spiritual Energy. It seemed to be a defensive rune that could block a Spiritual Attack by dispersing that energy.

On the other hand, the Chain Bind Rune could help him restrain a demon. Depending on the situation, he could use it to stop a demon.

However, there was one thing in Noel's mind. The time needed to cast both runes. The Increase Agility and Strength Blessing Runes could be used pretty much in an instant, so if they had to wait, it would be a problem.

After some consideration, Noel decided to level up these two runes. And now, there were only four Honor Points left since he hadn't exchanged them for Skill Points.

The knowledge about the runes entered Noel's head.

'Their effect is as expected. Well, the Rune Mastery allows me to understand more about runes, but this is not the place to review it. In that case, let's focus on the important matter first.' Noel tapped Anna's shoulder and glanced to the back as if asking her to step down and talk in a place the demons couldn't listen.

Anna acknowledged it with a nod as those two climbed down and walked quietly until they were a few hundred meters from the spot.

Finally, Anna asked, "So, what are we going to do with them?"

"As expected, we have to launch a sneak attack and kill as many demons as possible at the first strike. The Saintess has to keep up her barrier to stop the mushroom until we kill enough demons for the Holy Knights to handle.

"After that, we'll take care of the mushroom with the Saintess. That's the gist of the plan." Noel explained.

"The city wall can't take them, huh?"

"Yes. With their numbers decreasing to help us, it's better to keep the demons here." Noel nodded. Regrettably, this was the best option they had.

Anna closed her eyes, recalling the memory of her past. 'I had a similar mission in the past, but at that time, I took care of everything alone and sacrificed the city to make sure I could kill the demon. But Noel got the help of the people, so this wasn't only his victory, but their victory. At the same time, he shared his plan so that they knew he didn't have any plan to sacrifice the city no matter how many advantages it would bring.'

Anna nodded in agreement. "Alright. Let's do it then."

"For tonight, just maintain our distance, and we will send a signal to the Saintess tomorrow morning."

"Got it. We can't set up the camp and fire and we don't have anything to cover our body... It's going to be a cold night." Anna sighed.

Noel took out his military jacket and handed it to her. "You can use it. I'm going to work my body during the night to keep myself warm anyway."

"Are you sure?" Anna was startled because Noel wouldn't do something like this no matter how much he changed.

"If you don't want to then..." Noel tried to put it back, but Anna immediately grabbed the jacket with a smile.

"Thank you." Anna had a big smile on her face as she covered herself with it. However, the same thing couldn't be said to Noel as he looked at Anna with a dark expression.

'That's the least I can do for what I'm planning for you to go through.' Noel looked away so that Anna didn't get any suspicion.

Chapter 149 Thunder Berserker Spirit

Anna was leaning on the tree while watching Noel swinging his sword. This somehow became her night routine, considering Noel only rested his body according to the schedule, not because he was sleepy.

Noel would keep swinging his sword every night during their journey. She even wondered if he was possessed by the sword.

'Still, I can understand how Noel can keep up with me. Well, there will be many problems in the near future. I don't even know how much my actions influence the future. Like the case about the bandits with the demons, I'm pretty sure that there's going to be some reaction from the Supreme Devil Organization. I have to get stronger as quickly as possible... I don't know why but the stronger I become, the faster Noel's growth is. It's as if he can keep up with me the whole time.'

Anna was watching Noel with a nostalgic gaze as if she had known him for a long time.

At the same time, she felt uncomfortable about something. Whether it was due to her using the real power of her Spirit or not, she felt the need to sort her mind.

,m After some consideration, she quietly closed her eyes and meditated, entering her consciousness.

Inside her consciousness was a plain white room with a man standing next to a punching bag.

The man had spiky yellow hair and a huge muscular body. His gaze was fierce and fighting intent was emitting from his body as if he was picking a fight with anyone that saw him. If Noel was here, he would have recognized this man as the highest ranking spirit, the Humanoid Spirit.

Upon her arrival, the man noticed her presence and turned around, confused. "What's wrong?"

She looked at the man and said, "I feel uncomfortable. Is it because I have used your power, Thunder Berserker Spirit?"

"Nope." The man shook his head while pointing upward. "Something is sticking in your brain. I can feel it."

"In my brain?" Anna widened her eyes in shock. "I didn't feel anything though."

"Are you sure? Why don't you check it with my power? I mean, you surely know that technique without me teaching you, right? A brat like you who seems to know everything in our first meeting." The man smirked.

"..." Anna fell silent before closing her eyes. Suddenly, she furrowed her eyebrows and felt a tingling sensation in her brain. "This is... a kind of power that can control my brain?"

"Definitely." The man nodded in agreement as if he knew everything.

"..." Anna contemplated for a moment. "Is this the mushroom? But how? I don't even feel its presence and haven't even seen its attack?"

"What does mushroom release?"

"Spores?" Anna finally understood the situation. "So, that's why Noel said that..."

Noel told her that the wind was carrying the spores, allowing the mushroom to control demons in a wide area without showing itself. It also meant that the spores had entered their brains.

"In that case, Noel is in the same situation too? He must haven't realized it." Anna gasped, knowing that the battle would be hectic. "I should inform Noel about this situation and get rid of the spores so that the battle goes smoothly."

"Are you sure about that?" The Thunder Berserker Spirit smirked.

"Huh? Noel's plan has to go smoothly so everyone can be happy." Anna tilted her head in confusion, not understanding why the man before her doubted her action.

"I'm sure that you have felt when using my power what kind of madness that will revolve in your head. But aside from that madness, I do have a working mind you know. That's why I want to ask you whether you want to do it or not. Don't be Noel this, Noel that... I just want you, my contractor, to express your desire."

"Huh?" Anna was confused.

"Are you dumber than me?" The spirit shook his head helplessly. He pointed at his head and said, "Why don't you try to outsmart Noel this time, Idiot Master? I know that you're trying to learn from him, but don't you think it's also fine to surpass him this time?"

"Surpass him? Outsmart him? How?" Anna sucked a cold breath as she asked herself whether it was possible or not. "No, wait a minute. If Noel doesn't know this, won't the demon control him at that time?"

"What if I use this chance to suddenly turn around the situation by removing the mind control from his mind? Won't this also make Noel owe me a bit?" Anna muttered, falling into deep thought. However, there was one thing that stuck in her mind. "Wait a minute. I can remove the mind control from my brain by inducing my own brain, but I have the protection of the Thunder Berserker Spirit. My brain can withstand the lightning used to electrocute my own brain."

"Noel is different... There's no way his brain can withstand the electricity. How do I remove it?" Anna tried to come up with a solution from her past life but to no avail.

The spirit smiled and asked, "Do you want me to help you?"

"Can you? If that allows me to outsmart him for the first time, then..."

"Hehe, sure..." The spirit walked to her and placed his finger on her forehead, transmitting the knowledge about a certain technique. "With your control over my power, I don't think this is a hard technique for you to use, right?"

"This technique..." Anna sucked a cold breath and stared at the spirit with a dumbfounded face. Instead of horrified, her face reddened when she fully understood the technique. "You... What the heck are you thinking?"

"I'm just helping you with a technique. It's your choice whether you want to do it or not." The spirit shrugged. "Well, I have helped you, so..."

The spirit snapped his fingers and transported Anna back to reality.

In this lonely white room, the spirit smiled with a mysterious smile. "Well, I'm simply going to help you. I don't understand why, but it already happens... So, you should treasure this second life to make everything right, Anna Stargaze."

Chapter 150 Three Types Of People

"Hmm?" Noel glanced at Anna who just returned and asked, "You good?"

Anna nodded with a serious expression. After getting Anna's confirmation, Noel continued his practice. Meanwhile, Anna took a moment to think about the knowledge that the Thunder Berserker Spirit gave her earlier. She still couldn't comprehend how the Thunder Berserker Spirit would give this technique.

The technique itself wasn't that hard, but if she had to fight Noel before applying the technique, she had to restrain him somehow.

"..." Anna took a peek at Noel once again before closing her eyes with a troubled expression.

She didn't know what to do.

"Anyway, we have to wait until dawn before executing the plan. It's also better since we'll get a good visibility." Anna muttered in a low voice while examining Noel's body. She had to make sure that he didn't train too hard that it would affect his performance tomorrow. Though, it seemed Noel just made a simple swing without putting too much power. A swing like this wouldn't do anything to the current Noel.

Since there was nothing she could do, she just sat there without doing anything while thinking about what her spirit said earlier.

'Noel this, Noel that, huh...' Anna lowered her head. 'It's true that I have been trying to learn from Noel, but it seems that I've come to accept that I'm inferior to him? No, my talent should be similar or higher than Noel.'

'Even though I want to change Noel, it doesn't mean I'm going to pursue my own path. Have I truly forgotten this? Has Noel changed me to this weak self?' Anna let out a long sigh, realizing that she had softened a bit too much.

Noel was indeed special in her mind, but there was this charm that somehow made people accept Noel. Even she didn't know what it was.

She couldn't help but be curious and ask, "Noel. Why do you help people in the first place? Normally, Nobles won't be this kind to the commoners, especially those who live in the village."

"Huh? This comes out of nowhere." Noel's eyebrows twitched.

There was a mission from Ardagan that forced him to help people. But there was one more reason why he tried to turn over the new leaf and became this kind of person.

...

A few years ago.

Noel was lying down with his head on top of a maid's lap while enjoying the gentle breeze in the morning.

It was a peaceful day and he didn't want to do anything.

But a middle-aged man came. This middle-aged man had long black hair and tied neatly on his back. He looked at Noel with a smile despite him being a useless guy.

"Noel."

Noel opened his eyes, recognizing the voice. "Father?"

He also realized the maid had also lowered her head as if she wanted to greet his father without waking him up.

But since Noel had opened his eyes, there wasn't a need to do it anymore.

"You're lazying around here again?"

"I'm supposed to take care of the family after succeeding your position. Since my life will go through hell after that, won't it be the best choice to spend the rest of my peaceful days like this?" Noel asked.

Even though he looked like lazy and irresponsible, he still accepted the fact that he would succeed his position as if it was his duty.

The middle-aged man glanced at the maid and said, "Consider you are dismissed."

The maid fidgeted for a moment, not knowing what to do with Noel's head on her laps. But Noel was still thoughtful enough to lift his body so that she could move away.

After the maid left, Noel asked, "Does Father have something to tell me?"

"I know that you don't want to be bothered by many things, but I have things that I want to teach you."

"I have read some books about the business. It should be fine since I'm reading those books in installment. I should have finished all of them by the time I succeed your position." Noel nodded with a calm face.

"No. This is something more important than the book."

"Huh?" Noel furrowed his eyebrows as if he felt his peace was disturbed. Learning from his father meant it would take a lot of time from him, so he didn't really want to do it.

However, Count Ardagan raised one finger and said, "I'm going to teach you about one topic every week. Don't worry. I'll make sure it doesn't exceed thirty minutes. You can even throw those books away in exchange for this time because I'm planning to teach you a life lesson."

"Huh? I can throw away those books?" Noel narrowed his eyes, contemplating. "For now, let's hear about it. I'll see whether I have to throw those books away or not."

Count Ardagan smiled. Despite his laziness, it seemed Noel was still responsible enough to consider the books to be important. It showed that even though Noel would meet some difficulties in the future, he should be able to maintain the family.

"I know you are smart. When you show me how you notice some blanks in the account book, I know that it'll be fine to leave the family in your hand. But there is something that differentiate our Ardagan Family from your average merchants. What I want to tell you this week is about three types of people."

"Three types of people? You're not talking about genders, right?"

"Not at all." He shook his head and began his lecture. "Let's say there is someone who is asking for help. The first person thinks like this, 'What can I get from helping him? Shouldn't he pay me for labor or shouldn't he give me something bigger?'

"Then, the second person thinks like this, 'He has helped me in the past or he might help me back in the future, so I should help him I guess?'

"Lastly, the third person doesn't think and simply say, 'Sure. Let me help you,' without the need of exchange. What do you think about these three people?"

Noel lowered his head, thinking.