

S vs Rebirth 201

Chapter 201 Respect?

The spider moved around to match Anna's speed, but with the loss of its two legs, the spider had a hard time supporting its own weight.

Anna took this opportunity to attack the spider from the back, but the spider shot out the web from its back.

Anna jumped to the side, avoiding this attack. When fighting against a spider demon, it would be better to attack the spider from the sides instead of any other direction, but there was a reason why she approached the spider from the back.

When she avoided the web, the web continued to the opposite side of the room and struck the egg. The spider was already angry, so the force from that web was enough to drag Anna to the wall and trap her there.

But since Anna dodged it, the egg had to endure that kind of force and ended up breaking.

"!!!" The spider realized it had just killed one of its children. It wailed in tears while Anna took this chance to strike the spider's body. She joined both hands and pushed them forward, stopping right before she touched the spider's body.

Lightning Discharge.

The extraordinary lightning gathering around her hand was released, striking the spider's body.

Reeee!

The spider was screaming as its body flipped to the side with a small hole on the side caused by the lightning.

"Good. If I continue this way, I should be able to defeat this spider without any injury." Anna smirked. "Well, I'm lucky that my opponent is a spider instead of a demon with good defense and power. My attack will surely not be able to pierce it. If only you fought Noel, you'd have won."

There was another reason why Anna and Noel managed to make a good pair. And this was what Saintess Layla had seen from them.

Noel's ability came from his rational mind as well as his overpowered ability. Meanwhile, Anna's strength was in her speed and stability.

They solved each other's weaknesses and knew their roles, allowing them to create a balanced pair.

Both of them were aware of each other's strengths and made use of them. They simply never thought about more than that.

Anna took a deep breath and started regulating her lightning. "This is just the start..."

Anna smirked and continued attacking the injured spider without mercy.

A few minutes later, the spider's body was covered with injuries, and its blood constantly flowed out of its body, weakening its strength as time passed.

Anna, on the other hand, was pretty exhausted as well. Even though she managed to destroy three more spider legs, the spider was stubborn, not letting her kill it easily.

"My Spiritual Energy is almost empty." Anna sighed. "If only my Spiritual Energy was as much as Noel's, I would be able to kill this spider faster. Well, at least it's dead now and I can gain many things here."

Anna looked at the spider's corpse and thought for a moment. Although she wanted to remove the corpse from this cave due to the smell, she had to endure it since she had many things to do inside the cave.

The first thing she did was to smash all the remaining eggs since they would be dangerous if the baby suddenly came out when she was in the middle of the training. The second thing she did was to cut the spider's body open, letting the remaining blood flow out.

Only after that did she gather the Demon Crystals into one spot to absorb them.

"Yeah. I think I have a rough calculation. If I absorb all these, my total counts should be around... 1400 Low Level Crystals, 400 Mid Level Crystals and 10 Advanced Level Crystals. This should be enough to reach Spirit Wielder.

"Sadly, I can't get more Advanced Level Crystals since most of them are in the Dark Territory. As expected, after graduating, I should go to the Dark Territory to start getting all the necessary crystals.

"In my previous life, I could get the crystals easily just by asking my teacher. She had the way to acquire all those crystals, allowing me to focus on honing my skill. But this time, I have to stay away from that woman because who knows if she will backstab me again. And there's also the third prince, Noel's backing.

"I should make Noel stay away from him since he's going to be betrayed by him. But the current Noel has a lot of suspicion about me. I wonder how I can make him stay away..." Anna sighed. Thinking about it now was pointless, so she ended the thought and sat down, starting to absorb the crystals.

She grabbed those crystals and placed them near her Spirit Seal so she could begin absorbing the Spiritual Energy.

The absorption process wasn't that hard, the problem was the fact her body would become numb whenever she absorbed a lot of crystals. Then, the lightning started electrocuting her body, giving tremendous pain.

If it continued, the lightning would completely numb her body to the point she wouldn't be able to move her body anymore.

"Kh." Anna gritted her teeth when she started feeling the pain. "I really hate it when I have to absorb this."

Sweat began to cover her forehead as she clenched her fists, trying to withstand the pain.

If this was Noel, he would be surprised by the amount of pain she had to endure. After all, he had never experienced something like this due to Heisk and Ardagan canceling each other.

Though, Anna's opinion about Noel was extremely high.

"To think I have to endure all this pain again. I wonder how Noel handled this kind of situation. Back in the Earldom, Noel absorbed the crystals so fast... That must be him trying to increase his pace so that I can't take advantage of his crystals. But then again, absorbing all of them in a short amount of time will result in him experiencing pain beyond belief.

"As expected, Noel is a beast. Even though we were equal in the previous life, I should be far ahead, and Noel wouldn't be able to catch up to me because I have my previous life's memory, but Noel somehow grows even faster than in my previous life... It seems that in this life, Noel works even harder. I can't lose."

Anna kept taking the Demon Crystals, enduring the pain that kept increasing while thinking of Noel.

Chapter 202 Reaching The Ezenholm Family

While Anna was absorbing all the Demon Crystals, Noel had finally reached the Greenwood Kingdom, specifically the Ezenholm Territory.

As a Spirit ian Family, the Ezenholm was located near the border to both the Dark Territory and the Muivell Kingdom, becoming the tower that stopped both of them. There were also other families located near the Dark Territory, but Noel's focus was on the Ezenholm Family.

"Ezenholm Territory is not that vast. However, it's incredibly solid. They have fortresses around the border of Dark Territory and the Muivell Kingdom, allowing them to keep control over both of them.

"However, the real territory is located in the middle of those fortresses. That's right. We're heading to the middle territory where the Ezenholm Family could easily send reinforcement to all forts.

"This is..." Ilzen smiled and pointed at the huge city with a great wall and ditch surrounding the city. "This is our main city, named after our own family, Ezen City. The city works as a headquarters that maintains stability within all our borders. If there's a need for reinforcement, Ezen will send forth reinforcement since this is the place where people are trained.

"Unlike the Demon Banner Army, the Greenwood Kingdom allows each noble to create an elite army instead of a regular army. Of course, this caused a lot of cold wars between nobles, but this also forced them to improve if they didn't want to get swallowed up.

"With the royal family reigning as the supreme power, they're creating a system that can make the nobles improve themselves, causing a continuous improvement.

"Although I don't want to brag, the Greenwood Kingdom is the most advanced kingdom right now." Ilzen smiled, explaining. It seemed that he wanted to convince Noel to defect to this kingdom instead of continuing to stay in the Muivell Kingdom.

Even Elsa looked away, knowing that Ilzen loved how smart Noel was. Noel was very hardworking and talented, making him a good heir. Now that he had lost laziness, he had to continuously improve himself. That was why it would be good if Noel Ardagan could become Noel Ezenholm.

However, Noel had no intention of doing it. He refuted Ilzen's words by saying, "But... Don't forget that the Muivell Kingdom is not that weak either. It's focusing on its military might. That's why it can create the Demon Banner Army."

"But it doesn't change the fact that the Muivell Kingdom is relying too much on talent. Here, we're working toward a better future, trying to produce something that can make an ordinary person fight as well. In other words, even if you're not talented, you can change your life." Ilzen tried to convince him, but Noel only shrugged, rebuking everything. He made it clear that he had no intention of leaving the Muivell Kingdom before he finished his revenge.

Ilzen could only sigh, knowing he had no way to convince him. In the end, they managed to reach the gate as Ilzen used the badge of the family to enter. They went straight to the mansion located in the middle of the city, the Ezenholm Family's mansion.

The guards standing outside the gate recognized Ilzen and hurriedly opened the gate. But they didn't recognize one person in the group.

"Young Master Noel. I'll be informing Master Raincart about your arrival. For now, you'll have Elsa show you your room. Alanton will handle the report." Ilzen smiled and politely bowed to him.

"I understand." Noel nodded. He had gone to this place in the past, but it seemed the guards were new, so they didn't recognize him. The mansion didn't change, but the scenery was different from his memory.

"That's right. When was the last time you visited this place, Young Master?" Elsa asked.

"Mhm... Around seven or eight years ago. I was seven years old at that time. Well, I visited this family every year when I was four. But I didn't go anymore after I was seven years old." Noel looked around while pointing at the fountain between the gate and the mansion. "The fountain had a star decoration on the top back then, not a circle."

"Ah... that..." Elsa scratched the back of her head embarrassedly.

Surprisingly, an aged voice filled their ears, completing her words. "That's because Elsa destroyed it accidentally because she loved the star that much."

"!!!" Elsa widened her eyes and immediately turned around, finding an old lady walking toward them. She had an aged face, but her expression was still brimming with energy. Despite her old age, she often walked around. Elsa recognized her and immediately lowered her head, blushing. "M-madam!"

Noel also recognized her. He was surprised that her appearance didn't change much after all these years. He placed his hand on his chest and bowed, "Grandmother."

"It's been a few years, Noel. How are you?" She nodded, giving him a warm smile to make him at ease.

"Yes." Noel straightened his back and said, "I hope that Grandmother has been living well."

"My life here is as good as ever, unlike you... Such a pitiful child. Come and hug Grandma." She spread her hands.

Because he hadn't met her all this time, his movement was awkward, but he still hugged her.

"Look at you. You have grown into a big man. I really want to see you growing up. You look like Leysha..." She closed her eyes, embracing Noel.

"I'm sorry I didn't visit you all this time." Noel could finally feel the warmth of the family again.

"It's fine, it's fine. You have your own vision. As long as you are alright, Grandma doesn't mind." She smiled and stroked his hair.

She then glanced at Elsa and said, "Where are the others?"

"Butler Ilzen is meeting Teacher, I mean, Sir Raincart. Alanton is making the report."

"So, you're going to bring him to his room?"

"Yes." Elsa nodded.

"Then, can you bring him to the third room on the second floor?" She asked.

"Ah! Grandma, you..." Noel let her go and took a step back in surprise.

She chuckled. "Silly kid, do you think I forgot about your favorite room?"

"Grandma..." Noel felt moved and subconsciously called her more intimately.

"Go and have some rest first. We can talk later."

"Yes." Noel nodded and saw her walking away. He turned to Elsa and said, "Please."

"Yes, Young Master."

Chapter 203 Raincart

"This is your room, Young Master." Elsa opened the door for Noel.

"Thanks." Noel smiled and entered the room, looking at the nostalgic room.

Elsa also felt the nostalgia from Noel and left the room. "Then, please excuse me."

"Mhm." Noel nodded while looking around. The familiar table, bed, and window position. He was small at that time, so he had to use the chair to look outside. But this time, he could simply reach for the window and look at the town.

This was one of the reasons why he loved being in this room. He could see the bustling street that was the exact opposite of his laziness.

Every time he visited, he would be with his parents. This time, however, he stood here alone, watching the bustling city.

Noel's expression contained his sorrow and loneliness. He thought that he should have spent more time with his family instead of lazing around. He should have accepted their invitation every time they visited this place.

Unfortunately, no one knew regret until they experienced it. And Noel was too late to realize it as his parents were no more.

He closed his eyes for a moment, recounting all those images in his mind. He subconsciously clenched his fists and muttered in a low voice, "Don't worry, Father, Mother. I'm going to exact my revenge. I'm

sorry that I couldn't spend more time with both of you, but I have to move on. Sorry and thank you, Father, Mother."

He took a deep breath while trying to brush this thought so that he didn't show it to this family. Although it was fine, he believed it would just bother them.

Unbeknownst to him, there was an old man leaning his back on his room's door. He also had a sad expression. Despite Noel's volume, he could hear it just fine.

It took him a while before he straightened his back and knocked on Noel's door.

Knock!

Knock!

"Noel, it's me."

"!!!" Different from her grandmother, he could barely recognize the voice. It took him a few seconds to realize it was his grandfather's voice.

He hurriedly opened the door and saw his grandfather. "Grandfather!"

The old man had long white hair coupled with a white beard. His aged face looked completely different from her grandmother's. He didn't seem to be filled with energy.

"Noel. It's been a few years." He nodded with a warm smile.

"Yes, Grandfather. I apologize for not visiting you."

"Are you tired?"

"Not really."

"In that case, do you want to take a walk with me?"

This kind of invitation was important, considering his grandfather was the one sending Ilzen and the others to pick him up. So, he agreed without hesitation. "Yes. I'd love to."

His grandfather, Raincart, nodded and started walking to the garden. "Well, you can meet the others later during dinner. As for me... I just want to see my grandson's condition. Are you living well?"

"Yes. Absolutely." Noel answered without hesitation, not trying to worry him.

"Is that so?" Raincart paused for a moment. "I don't know what I am supposed to say now that I'm with you. But I guess let's talk about some important stuff right away. I'm sure this is the reason why you come here, right?"

"Well.." Noel chuckled, feeling a bit embarrassed since Raincart saw through his purpose.

"It's fine. What do you want to talk about... Just ask me questions. Is it about why I'm not helping your family? Or is it about the conspiracy in the Muivell Kingdom?"

"I'm not very sure. There are many things I want to ask, but I guess I want to know this first. What do you think about my parents? Do you hate them?"

"Silly child. There's no way I'm going to hate them. Even if that bas... I mean, your father stole my beloved daughter, I never hated them." He shook his head. "If you're asking whether I hate them or not, it must mean that you're curious about why they didn't escape to this place. With our strength, we should be able to avoid the execution..."

"Y-yes." Noel nodded, confirming his doubt.

Raincart smiled while looking at the sky as if imagining their faces. "Your father actually sent me a letter, asking me not to help them."

"My father?" Noel widened his eyes in shock. "What do you mean?"

"Yeah, your father asked me not to intervene in this matter. I don't know the reason, but no matter how hard I decline their request, they keep telling me to. My only concern is you. After they leave you just like that, I don't know what will happen to you."

"But seeing you are standing in front of me like this, I think everything is going according to their plan." Raincart let out a long sigh. "It's not that I didn't want to help; they were the ones who didn't want my help."

"I understand." Noel nodded in understanding. If it was his parents' wish, even Raincart would be in a hard position.

"Thank you for your understanding. Since you're already aware of the situation, let me share you some information." Raincart walked to the table in the middle of the garden where he usually enjoyed his tea. He sat down and asked Noel to sit across from him since they were going to talk about a more important topic.

As soon as Noel sat down, he asked, "Grandfather, do you know the reason why my parents didn't want you to intervene?"

"I don't know. All I know is your father is shrewd even though he looks like a good guy. So, that leaves me to start some conspiracy theories after knowing some facts... I guess it's fine for me to tell you about this thing..." Raincart smirked while raising his finger. "Don't you think this is strange? For your parents to be executed."

"Mhm? I don't think it's strange at all." Noel shook his head.

"No, it's very strange from my perspective. After all, Marquis Stargaze was your father's best friend, who had gone through life and death many times."

Chapter 204 Three Questions

"No, it's very strange from my perspective. After all, Marquis Stargaze was your father's best friend, who had gone through life and death many times."

"!!!" Noel widened his eyes in shock. "What... did you say?"

"You didn't hear it wrong. Your father and Marquis Stargaze were best friends." Raincart smirked.

"Then, are you telling me that Marquis Stargaze betrayed my father?" Noel furrowed his eyebrows.

"That's something I don't know, but I feel it's weird. I've heard the stories from your mother, Leysha. She told me that your father had always saved Marquis Stargaze with his timely support, mainly with supply. Meanwhile, Marquis Stargaze had repaid him so many times, including gambling with his life in exchange for your father's safety.

"With that kind of relationship, I hardly believed that either of them would betray the other. So, if this is not betrayal, then what is it?" Raincart asked.

Noel looked down, contemplating. He didn't know why but this kind of ridiculous thought appeared in his mind. "Now that I think about it, I heard that Anna Stargaze asked her father for my parents' execution. Meanwhile, the Marquis Stargaze had agreed with the royal family to spare my life.

"If it was the normal Royal Family, they would surely agree with Anna because executing all of us would mean solving the problems from the root.

"Does that mean Marquis Stargaze had been begging the Royal Family and stopping his daughter from executing me as well? But the best they could give was my exile. If that's the case, does that mean Marquis Stargaze actually saved me? Still, if they're best friends, shouldn't they be on the same side?"

"Exactly." Raincart pointed at Noel. "That's why I feel it is strange. There are three questions that can easily come up with this situation. The first question is about Anna Stargaze. Even if she's the most talented person in the kingdom, there's no way the Royal Family could follow her words.

"In other words, her words couldn't change anything. Whether she said anything or not, the judgment wouldn't change. Yet, why did they emphasize that they made this judgment because of her? Don't you think it's strange?"

"I mean, if I'm from the royal family, I'd rather have her marry into the royal family to give her more right to speak. Yet, the royal family didn't do it and simply used that as an excuse, making people's focus shift to her.

"This surely gave the Marquis a hard time, considering it was the same as repaying his support with a slap on the face.

"Then, the second question is... about your exile. You're together with the heirloom of your family, right?"

"Yes." Noel nodded with a serious expression.

"After seizing all of your father's assets, why don't they keep your family heirloom as well? Imagine, since your father is no longer with you, don't you think it's fine if they just gave you some random sword instead of the family heirloom, which was the most important asset in your family since it was basically the symbol of the Ardagan Family?"

"They'd seize all kinds of opportunities to get the sword, so it's weird when they didn't. At the same time, I haven't seen any signs that the Royal Family is selling your family's assets even now.

"The assets won't be useful if they don't sell them since your family is a merchant family instead of other kinds of family... I mean, if it's like the Ezenholm Family, a Spirit ian Family, there's no need to sell anything since everything you've taken from here is better to be used instead of sold.

"That leaves the last question. Seeing how your father sent me a letter as if he knew about his execution, shouldn't he have made any preparation for it? Surrounded by all sides? I already told you that your father was shrewd as hell. If not, how could he steal my daughter? That's why I couldn't believe him not trying to smuggle you out of this country."

After listening to these three questions, Noel felt like he got another understanding of what had transpired behind his back.

"I see. It seems that the matter is more complicated than I thought..." Noel pinched the bridge of his nose.

"Yeah. At first, it looked normal, considering your Ardagan Family is one of the richest nobles. Then, with your father's reputation, the rebellion could be started, so killing your parents was the right thing to do. But if you investigated further, why was your family the only one to suffer this kind of fate?"

"I don't know that answer." Noel shook his head. "There must be some shady dealing behind the entire execution."

"Exactly my point. But we don't know what kind of stuff happened in the dark. There were probably three people who knew about this."

"And they are..." Noel squinted his eyes.

"Your father, Marquis Stargaze, and the king himself."

Noel's expression darkened. Marquis Stargaze was his father's best friend and he might be the one begging so that his life would be spared. The royal family was the executor, so they might also know something. And his father might also be behind this.

"It's impossible for me to know the truth for the time being, especially since it's related to the major power..." Noel let out a long sigh.

"That's probably not the case." Raincart shook his head. "There's a possibility for you to dig out some information."

"Huh? From where?"

"Your parents."

"Are you asking me to dig out my parents' graves, Grandfather?"

"No. There's one more place to find out, no?"

"!!!" Noel finally understood his meaning as his tone became solemn. "My family's fief?"

"Yes. Your current territory belongs to the royal family, but there aren't many people guarding it. If you want to find some information, I think that's the right place. Don't you think so?"

Noel fell silent. If the royal family hadn't touched his family's mansion, it meant any kind of evidence would be present there. If he could sneak in, it might give him some information. In fact, not many people guarding the mansion alone was already a kind of invitation for him.

"I can't cross the border, but no one will suspect you. So, I'm thinking about sending you there to investigate it yourself. I said it earlier... your father was shrewd and knew about his execution, if he was actually the mastermind of his own execution, he should have hidden something in that mansion."

Chapter 205 Next Plan

"..." Noel understood what Raincart was saying. In fact, with all this information, he would have the same thought. It seemed that Raincart had been investigating on his own even though his son-in-law had asked him not to interfere.

But due to the limitation, he couldn't really investigate that far. Only someone from the Muivell Kingdom could do it without getting suspected.

Noel was the perfect example.

'I see. There's a chance that Marquis Stargaze himself is an ally and my father is the mastermind of his own executions. I don't know the reason, but I feel that a portion of it is the truth. If that's the case, the best option right now is to go to my family's mansion to get some information.

'With a low number of guards, I can sneak into the mansion to find out the real reason behind the execution. If I can't find anything, then I have to get stronger so that I can meet the marquis himself. Whether it's from torture or normal interrogation, I will be able to get some information.'

'It seems this is the path to discovering about my family's circumstances. If it's like this, can I consider Anna the murderer of my family? But she was advocating for my family's execution... Although her opinion didn't matter, she was still...'

Noel fell silent, wondering what he needed to do now.

'Well, I'm planning to meet with Anna to explore the Sword Saint's tomb. After that, we're going to complete the rest of the requirements for graduation... Should I bring Anna to my family's mansion to help with the investigation? But I can't really trust Anna completely. She might be trying to erase all kinds of evidence. As expected, I have to go there alone.'

Noel pinched the bridge of his nose because there was another problem. 'Still, if I graduate, I'll be sent to the Dark Territory to fight against the demons. It's an opportunity to grow because there are many demons and we can absorb their crystals... That's what the knights from the Demon Banner Army needed.'

'But if I go there, I don't know when I can return to investigate it. If I wait too long, the evidence might disappear since there's a chance someone might come to that place.'

Noel was contemplating his choices because one wrong move could screw him.

But there was one missing variable in his thought. Noel suddenly asked, "Grandfather. Do you know this figure called the third prince?"

"The third prince of the Muivell Kingdom... I mean, the former prince. The former prince seemed to be an honorable person since he wanted to take the throne for the people. It was said he wanted to remove the Supreme Devil Organization from the Muivell Kingdom."

"I think that was why your father supported him. Well, I'm not sure myself since I haven't investigated him. After losing in the throne fight, he was exiled to the southwest area to live there for the rest of his life."

Noel thought for a moment. "This is weird. Shouldn't the royal family kill the third prince since the latter might make a comeback?"

"Indeed. But I don't know anything about it. I can try to investigate, but my influence is limited in the Muivell Kingdom."

"If that's the case, then I'll go. I mean, my father told me that I could go to the third prince for help."

"Your father? I see. Well, if he says it's fine, it's fine I think." Raincart nodded in agreement. "It's your life. You can do everything you want. If you are tired and don't want to do anything with the Ardagan Family anymore, you can go back here and change your name to Noel Ezenholm. I'll be sure to protect you."

"Thank you, Grandfather." Noel bowed his head. "That's right. I want to ask you something..."

"What is it?" Raincart tilted his head in confusion.

"I..." Noel hesitated for a moment. He wanted Raincart to keep safe the introductory rune book for him, but knowing Raincart was a famous Spirit ian, he might realize the relationship between the runes and the Spirit Enchantment, making things more complicated.

But if he brought the book back, Septa might be able to find it and ask him about the relation between that book and the runes he had seen in the Ancient Demon Tree's location.

Noel thought for a moment and said, "I want you to keep something for me."

"And that is?"

"I'm going to keep it a secret for now. I'll give it to you before I go back to the Muivell Kingdom." Noel made a wry smile. He also wanted to test his grandfather slightly, wondering if his grandfather would investigate him or not.

"I see. Well, I'll be looking forward to what kind of thing you want me to hold. I just want to make sure of one thing. You are not going to give me something illegal, right?"

"Don't worry about it." Noel shook his head. The runes weren't illegal since he was the only person writing them. Even the record about rune was only at the grand library in this kingdom.

But that also raised another question. Where did Anna's knowledge about runes come from? She said it came from a book, but it was kinda impossible since the only record was the book in this kingdom's library.

Raincart continued, "I'll hold that thing from you since it's not illegal. But you have to promise me that you're going to get it back."

Noel smiled, knowing that Raincart was indirectly implying to him to not die. "I understand. I'll be sure to get it back from you."

"Good." Raincart stood up and said, "Well, it's almost time for dinner. Let's go back and have dinner."

"Do you think it's fine for me to come?"

"It's fine. Everyone seems to like your father. As shrewd as he was, he was indeed a generous person." Raincart remembered one thing. "That's right. I heard you could use many Spirit Abilities. Tell me, since when did you start training?"

"I was truly ignorant before I came to the Demon Banner Army." Noel chuckled. It was truly hard to believe it, but that was what truly happened.

"I see. So, how about taking Ezenholm's name? With your talent, I can match you up with the princess, you know. Or maybe someone related to Duke..." Raincart smirked.

"Stop being my matchmaker. It's not the time for that yet."

"Even though you asked Ilzen to teach you how to cook?"

"How did you even come to that kind of conclusion?"

"Now that I think about it, Ilzen tried to test your rationality by making you sleep with Elsa. I guess you're not that kind of person."

"It was a test?"

"Hahaha, did I say that?"

Chapter 206 Introductory Rune Book

Noel had dinner with the Ezenholm Family. There was his grandfather, grandmother, uncle, aunt, and their two children. Their first child was older than Noel by two years, while the second child was far younger than him.

There was no tension in the middle of dinner. The Ezenholm's was very welcoming. Even though the second child was a bit vigilant about Noel's appearance since he'd never seen Noel in his life, he didn't show any hostility during the dinner.

It might be a bit awkward for Noel, but he certainly didn't feel repulsive.

When returning to his room, he was accompanied by Elsa.

"Young Master. I've received the instruction from your grandfather that I have to teach you something. After some considerations, I'm thinking about teaching you how to curve your attack."

"Curve my attack?" Noel tilted his head in confusion.

"You should remember my power, right? I can shoot everything by using the Demon Crystals. I can also throw the stones next to me and shoot them forward. Depending on how I use it, I can really do whatever I want."

"I have guessed it, but you truly have hidden your ability." Noel glanced at Elsa.

"It wasn't my intention. I simply didn't have the chance to use it."

"Well, whatever." Noel thought for a moment. "I couldn't really stay in this place for so long."

"I know. That's why I'm just going to teach Young Master the simple parabolic movement. Your Spirit Ability... The giant sword that falls, that one is a very powerful Spirit Ability. If you can actually throw it forward, don't you think it'll be a better ability?"

"Huh?" Noel was surprised and imagined the Sword Fall that moved horizontally. If that kind of attack could be used that way, it would truly help him. And with the number of Sword Fall that would keep increasing the more he upgraded the skill, this ability would be perfect for the Sword Fall.

"I see. That's interesting." Noel nodded with a serious expression. "Are you sure you're going to teach me that?"

"Yes. If we're only thinking about the parabolic movement, it's the simplest one. After some practice, you should be able to do it... maybe within a few weeks."

"Well, that'll be useful for me. I guess I'm going to rely on you again."

"It's fine. Please leave everything to me."

Noel nodded and entered his room. Before closing the door, Noel said, "Thanks, Elsa."

"You're welcome." Elsa smiled while waving her hand. She almost forgot to bow her head and said, "Please have a good rest."

"Ehm, you too. Good night." Noel nodded and closed the door.

After listening to Elsa, he understood what he wanted to do next. Instead of sleeping, he went to his notebook, the introduction of the runes.

He checked his Honor Points and used 24 Honor Points to buy 12 Skill Points, which was the requirement to upgrade the Rune Mastery to the next level.

With this, he only had 10 Honor Points left, but the knowledge about the rune was almost complete.

He hurriedly wrote his knowledge about the runes into this notebook.

'The Greenwood Kingdom is the most advanced kingdom, right? If that's the case, they should be able to understand these runes, including the potential that they can bring to normal people. With this, anybody can change their fate since the rune itself allows an ordinary person to wield Spiritual Energy without the Spirit Awakening.

'And it seems that I've gained four more Runes to learn. Well, I can forget about them for the time being since I don't have enough Honor Points to upgrade them for now.

'Besides, if I level up my Rune Mastery to level 5, I should be able to unlock all kinds of runes. So, I don't need to use my Skill Points to upgrade them anymore. I just have to continue upgrading the Rune Mastery to understand more applications.

'This is a good idea. Although I'm pretty sure that this book will be studied further, I don't really mind if this family is the first to master it. If this family becomes greedy simply because of runes, which they know can improve even further by me, it means I can't trust this family anymore.

'That's why this is a big opportunity for me. I believe that the Ezenholm Family will popularize the book just fine and the Greenwood Kingdom will be thankful to me. Depending on their moves, my life will be in danger. But I'm going to use my second identity soon... The only person who knows about it is the commander, Shale, and possibly, this third prince.

'I can narrow my targets easily. I think this is a good plan for the time being. I don't know what will happen when I explore the Sword Saint's tomb, but I'm going to use my time here to the best of my ability.'

Noel had steeled his resolve, wanting to discover the truth about his family's execution. That was why he wanted others to favor him as much as possible while maintaining enough distance so that they didn't try to possess him completely.

He continued writing as much as possible for the next few days, albeit he felt a bit sad that there was a page that he had ripped a few days ago.

Even so, the introductory book should be finished in a few days.

During the morning, Noel came to the garden to meet Elsa, who would teach him about the parabolic movement.

It seemed his grandfather wanted to watch his progress as well, probably trying to see Noel's talent. If Noel was truly talented like how he claimed to be, Noel should be able to learn the parabolic movement easily. That was why he decided to observe him from afar.

Noel and Elsa stood in front of each other as Elsa smiled, starting her explanation. "Alright. Today, I'm going to teach you about parabolic movement. This is a new technique popularized two decades ago, so I hope that Young Master can learn this ability."

"I'll do my best."

Chapter 207 Parabolic Movement

"Basically, the parabolic movement is just you extending the movement of your body." Elsa raised a finger, giving Noel the shortest explanation possible.

"Extending the movement of my body?" Noel tilted his head in confusion.

"Yes." Elsa took out a small coin from her pocket and threw it into the air. "Look at the coin. After we throw the coin, it will create a curve to go up to the highest point before going down, right?"

"Indeed."

"This is what you call parabolic movement. You create a curve to the limit before it goes another way. If you take a look closely, this kind of movement is like you extending your body and attaching that coin to a thread, right?"

"Well, that's true." Noel nodded in agreement while raising one of his fingers, imagining the thread that tied a coin. If he swung the coin, it would create the same movement. "But doesn't that mean we can create a movement from the side or probably from the bottom?"

"Yes. You can. You can imagine yourself extending a part of your body to create that movement. That's why I said it's just an extension of your movement."

"I see. I can understand that."

"Since you've understood the principle of the motion, I'll start with the theory on how to curve the Spiritual Energy." She nodded with a serious expression before beginning her explanation.

Elsa's words were a bit crude and hard to understand. Seeing Raincart was sitting on the side just observing them meant Raincart used this chance to help Elsa in this area. If they truly didn't reach anywhere, he would surely help with the lesson.

Whether it was fortunate or unfortunate, Noel managed to keep up with her explanation.

"I see. To put it simply, the curving Spiritual Energy is based on our movement. No, it's more like this motion is the one helping us to learn it. If we have mastered it, there's no need for such a movement."

Noel furrowed his eyebrows while waving his hand. When it was rotating clockwise, Noel made a motion as if tossing a ball from the bottom. The ball would create a parabolic movement until it reached the ground.

Meanwhile, when he tried the counter-clockwise direction, he threw the ball to the ground directly.

"Hmm... This is weird." Noel narrowed his eyes.

"No, no, no. You have to use your Spiritual Energy to keep going upward as if the Spiritual Energy is spinning." Elsa scratched the back of her head.

Raincart chuckled and finally entered the lesson. "Alright. Let me give you an explanation. If you gather the Spiritual Energy in your hand and throw it forward, it won't go down like what happens if we throw the coin, right?"

"Yes." Noel nodded.

"Then..." Raincart formed a ball with Spiritual Energy and pointed at the top part of the ball. "What if I make the top part continuously flow to the bottom, creating a kind of spin?"

"If that's the case, won't it give you an extra force to go down? After all, if the Spiritual Energy spins, it will generate a force downward."

"Exactly. What if I add the spin from the bottom?"

"Ah! It'll generate an upward force, causing the ball to go up."

"That's the basis of curving Spiritual Energy."

"I see." Noel nodded in understanding. Elsa took more than twenty minutes, but Noel still couldn't understand it. Meanwhile, Raincart only needed a few sentences, and Noel completely understood the concept.

"I apologize." Elsa scratched the back of her head, feeling embarrassed about her own ability.

Raincart nodded with a smile. "Then, how do you create that spin?"

"Giving it extra energy?" Noel asked.

"Yes. That extra energy will cause the spin to happen, and the Spiritual Energy will continue flowing that way. If you put too much energy, the spin will be too fast and you'll miss your target. On the other hand, if you put too little energy, the spin will be too weak to the point it won't even curve."

"I see. It's trial and error."

"Exactly. But once you get the hang of it, you'll know how much you need for all techniques you have." Raincart nodded, confirming Noel's theory.

Noel thought for a moment. "I can try it, but I don't know if my control is enough or not."

"Do try it. Elsa will be next to you." Raincart finally walked to the side, returning to his original position and leaving the rest to Elsa.

The training continued as Noel had a hard time adjusting to Spiritual Energy. Even a small error could actually cause a high deviation, making it extremely hard to adjust.

But considering this was just flowing one motion, which was the parabolic curve, there was only one spin that he had to add. It was the reason why the Parabolic Movement was one of the easiest abilities to learn.

Still, even if Noel couldn't learn it when he was in this family, he could continue practicing this ability after he returned.

For the time being, he completely focused on the matter at hand until his stay was over.

After a few days, Noel was ready to leave the Ezenholm Family. The visit was more useful than he thought and he had gotten a lot of information from Raincart's investigation.

Since the situation around the border wasn't stable enough, Elsa and Ilzen escorted Noel until he reached the Muivell Kingdom. Raincart actually gifted him a horse that he could use whenever he wanted without the need to borrow it from the Demon Banner Army. It was quite useful, so he took it.

"This is the furthest we can escort you, Young Master." Ilzen politely bowed.

"Thank you." Noel nodded with a smile. He hesitated for a moment but still took out his notebook, handing it to Elsa. "Can you tell my grandfather to keep this? I've been hesitating this whole time, but I think this notebook will be better in his hands."

"This is..." Elsa furrowed her eyebrows, reading the title of the book. "Introductory Rune Book."

Because of Anna, Noel ended up naming it this way since he didn't want others to think he plagiarized someone's book, not knowing he was the one actually writing that book in his previous life.

"Well, just hand it to Grandfather." Noel smiled and waved his hand. "Now that everything is finished, it's time for me to leave. Take care."

"Yes, Young Master." Elsa and Ilzen politely bowed their heads until Noel was far away.

Chapter 208 Mysterious Guy

"Kirika. Watch out!" Lokhtar, the bald guy, shouted.

Kirika widened her eyes and turned around, swinging her sword to the right.

Clink!

The clicking sound symbolized the clash between her sword with another hard surface. When her body finished turning around, she found a mole jumping out of the ground and almost struck her with its claw if not for her blade.

"Kh." Kirika gritted her teeth.

There wasn't only one mole demon, but multiple of them. They started coming out of the ground with only their heads out as if peeking at their group.

"This is... There are fifteen demons around us." Samuel Quartzal informed while taking a deep breath, not knowing whether he could defeat all these demons or not. The number was simply too overwhelming.

They had been fighting this whole time, so they were already quite exhausted. They thought about killing a few more demons before retreating to a safer area to rest, but they ended up getting surrounded by the demons.

Kirika gritted her teeth while glaring at these demons. She couldn't help but recall what Anna said a week ago. "Sorry, you're not strong enough."

Kirika steeled her resolve and stepped forward. "I'll open up a path!"

"Wait, Kirika. Don't—" Misha Quartzal wanted to warn her, but it was too late.

Her stepping forward was a kind of aggression to these demons, so they immediately made their move by jumping out of the grounds, swarming them.

The people's hearts skipped a beat as they panicked, wondering how they should get away from this.

"Lightning Dragon."

Suddenly, dragon-shaped lightning appeared and struck all these demons in rapid succession. All the demons were electrocuted, and smoke started coming out of their bodies as if they were perfectly cooked inside.

The lightning dragon stopped and started swirling around as if watching the entire group. At the same time, Anna landed on the ground while looking around, confirming there were no other demons in the area.

Her expression was calm as if these demons weren't her opponents anymore.

The menacing dragon scared them. Misha Quartzal gulped down as she wondered whether this dragon would kill her anymore.

Meanwhile, Samuel Quartzal was trembling, never expecting that Anna was this strong. Not only was her status very high as Marquis Stargaze's only child, but her strength was also the strongest among her peers. This was Anna Stargaze.

Kirika fell on her butt as Anna actually landed in front of her. She could see Anna looking down on her as if paying back for the previous conflict.

"Miss Ann—" Samuel tried to call her, but Anna harrumphed and leaped away without saying a single thing.

However, everyone knew that Anna was indirectly implying they weren't strong enough to talk to her.

Kirika gritted her teeth. Although Anna didn't say anything, her gaze was telling her that she wasn't strong enough to do anything. And even if she still had a few more months to go before graduation.

They couldn't say anything because of the strength Anna showed them earlier. Anna completely destroyed the demons. No one would believe such a person was only fifteen years old.

However, it was too late for them as Anna had left them and they wouldn't even be able to catch up.

After passing the hill, Anna took a deep breath to think up her next course. "I have finally become a Spirit Wielder. Noel hasn't reached this level yet, so I've regained the upper hand. But who knows, Noel is an absurd guy who can somehow keep up with me.

"Anyway, I have to go to the Sword Saint Tomb now since Noel will reach that place in a few weeks. I don't know about the details, but Noel should get something special from this tomb... I wonder if I should go with him right now... but I made him go to the tomb a year earlier.

"What kind of change will it have to the current situation?" Anna furrowed her eyebrows. Even if she tried her hardest, the answer wouldn't come to her mind unless she experienced it herself.

So, she immediately headed to the nearest city to get a horse before heading to the town next to the Sword Saint Tomb.

Her action in getting all those Demon Crystals this time truly affected people's fate.

A few weeks later, a guy walked to the cave and found out that the Demon Crystals had been absorbed completely, leaving only an empty shell. Although the spider corpses and the crushed eggs weren't there, it was impossible to get rid of all the evidence, especially the melting ground from the poison.

The mysterious guy furrowed his eyebrows while touching the ground, realizing there was actually someone coming to this place.

"Kh... Who... Who was the one entering this cave?" The mysterious guy shouted in anger. "I had been storing all the Demon Crystals I had this whole time without raising anyone's suspicion. I had even put a demon to guard this place. Yet, there was a thief who stole everything from me?

"Who is it? I'll kill whoever gets all these crystals. I'll do whatever I can do to catch and torture them for the rest of their lives." The guy roared.

Meanwhile, Anna was riding her horse pretty slowly since she was already near her destination.

"Mhm..." Anna furrowed her eyebrows. "Is it because I have been traveling far too long that my body is so dirty that I have the urge to scratch all over my body... Well, I can wash my body since the city shouldn't be too far from here. This life is truly good. Noel and I have been improving far faster than in our previous life... by the time my master... I mean, that witch found me and the third prince found Noel, we would have become far stronger than they expected..."

"With that, they couldn't kill us anymore. This time, we both are going to live. Though, how do I convince Noel to not trust the third prince?" Anna let out a long sigh before the city finally came into her vision. "There is some time, so I'll think about it along the way."

Chapter 209 Chicken

In a tavern, Noel was sitting down with a plate of food. He had reached this place three days earlier than planned, so he had to wait.

They had agreed to meet in a plaza when the sun was on top of their head, so he still had some time.

He looked down while contemplating, 'We're about to go to the Sword Saint Tomb. I don't know what awaits us there, but it's clear that the Sword Saint and my ancestor were related.'

'I read in a book that the Sword Saint was my ancestor's best friend. My ancestor might be the greatest spirit user in his time, but the Sword Saint was truly a peerless expert with a sword. If my ancestor didn't use everything, he would have lost against the Sword Saint.'

'Since both of them were best friend, I should be able to take advantage of this, right?' Noel tapped the table a few times, thinking deeply. 'That's right. I can simply tell him that I'm the last Ardagan and Anna is the culprit for my family execution. The Sword Saint's Spirit is related to soul, so he must have a way to retain his soul.'

Right after, Noel thought that way, fate worked ally. A feminine's voice echoed in his ears as she sat down in the empty seat next to him.

"Hello, gentleman. Do you mind if I share a seat with you?"

"No..." Noel wanted to refuse but soon noticed the voice sounded familiar and turned around, finding Anna sitting down next to him. "Anna, huh."

"Why do you sound so disappointed?" Anna pouted.

"Don't you think you know why?" Noel shrugged.

Anna let out a long sigh. Whenever Noel brought this up, she truly couldn't say anything. Hence, she decided to change the topic. "So, when are we going to go to the ruin?"

"I'm ready whenever. You want to rest first?" Noel asked.

Anna raised her eyebrows, looking surprised. She stared at Noel with a gentle smile. "So, you're worried about me?"

"No, I'm just afraid you will mess up because of fatigue, endangering my life as a result."

Anna's eyebrows twitched as she thought, 'This guy truly knows how to use all kinds of insults. I wonder if this guy's brain is actually filled with this kind of thought.'

On the other hand, Noel had a different thought in his mind. 'Anna is just a pawn. It's a fact. Then, her father might be the one protecting me from the execution, but I don't know just yet, considering the mastermind might be my father. I truly have to investigate it.'

But Noel and Anna had a similar thought in their mind.

'I'm going to use the relationship between my ancestor and the sword saint to deal with you.'

'I will use his ancestor to confess and somehow explain the situation.'

Both of them smiled at each other, knowing what to do in this expedition.

"If that's the case, how about going to the ruin tomorrow morning?"

"Sounds good to me." Noel nodded in agreement.

"Excuse me, give me the same thing as him." Anna then called the waitress and ended up eating there. Since their condition was important, they decided to go back to the inn, having some rest for tomorrow's expedition.

But the two somehow went back to the same inn.

Noel had an annoyed expression while Anna made a wry smile.

"Say... Are you a stalker or something?" Noel glanced at Anna.

"This must be a coincidence. So, you're staying here too Noel?"

"If you're a noble, then act like one. Stalking someone is not good. Oh, wait. I think I can use this to ruin your reputation." Noel walked inside, trying to forget about this.

"What do you mean? I'm simply searching for a good but affordable inn. This is the perfect inn for that. I'm here as Anna, not as a noble daughter, so I can't afford to use their money." Anna chuckled.

While they were talking, their feet continued to move toward their room, but out of three floors, they somehow ended up in the same floor. Not only that, Noel and Anna surprisingly stood next to each other, trying to open their door.

"You are seriously not a stalker?" Noel's eyebrows were twitching.

"If I told you I'm not and everything is just a coincidence, will you believe me?" Anna looked away.

Noel slammed the wall and cornered Anna, looking at her coldly. "You seriously think I'm going to believe you? Now that I think about it, you have all that kind of information and knowledge as if you can see the future. Don't you think it's possible for you to locate me with that kind of power?"

"Hoh?" Anna made a cheeky smile, not backing down in this conversation. "I have the power to see the future? What if I tell you that the next future after this is both of us returning the key and end up sleeping in the same bed?"

"Are you taunting me?" Noel squinted his eyes as he began excluding killing intent.

"You're the one saying I've the power to see the future." Anna shrugged.

Noel took a deep breath, holding his anger. Surprisingly, he put on a smile while saying, "If that's the case, then we should do that. Getting a single room for both of us is surely cost effective. We can use that money for something else. Well, I don't mind a single bed."

Noel took a step back and started walking as if he wanted to go to the clerk to return the key.

It took her a while to realize before Anna hurriedly caught up and held his hand, stopping him. "Wait, wait, wait. Just think of this as coincidence, alright? This is truly coincidence."

p Suddenly, an evil smirk appeared on Noel's face as he turned around as if nothing happened. He also whispered to Anna. "Haha, chicken."

Anna was dumbfounded and could only stare at Noel as he went to his room, leaving her alone. She realized Noel had just played her earlier. She thought she had seen all Noel's tricks, but she was never this close to Noel in the previous life, so this one was new to her.

"You..." Anna clenched her fists and shouted inwardly, 'Just you wait. Next time, I'm not going to cower. Next time, let's see who will run first!'

Chapter 210 Ardagan Family Crest

The next day, Noel and Anna came out of their room since they were planning to go to the ancient ruin today. Since their rooms were next to each other, they didn't have to wait somewhere else since they could simply call each other.

Anna had also gotten a new sword, since her previous sword broke when fighting the demon spider.

Since they weren't that far away from the ancient ruin, they went there without using their horses.

However, instead of the ancient ruin, they actually went to a mountain range.

"Huh? What is this?" Noel narrowed his eyes. "Why are you bringing us to this mountain range?"

"Because the ruin is around here. I don't know how we can find it though." Anna shook her head helplessly. She added inwardly, 'In the past life, the tomb was found around here. But Noel was the only one who could open it. So, I don't know if there's some kinds of hidden mechanisms waiting for us or not...'

"You don't know how to find it?" Noel looked at her with an annoyed expression.

"But it's true. The ancient ruin should be in this place. It's better if we start searching around. Although we don't care about the dark thanks to the Moon Blessing, it's still better to finish this matter during the day." Anna shrugged, telling him that her information was limited to this.

Noel let out a long sigh. On the one hand, he wanted to ignore all of this and just went straight to his family mansion to find out about the truth. On the other hand, Anna wasn't someone who would joke around like this. He could easily confirm it with the Spirit Seal, but seeing how she wanted to use this as an opportunity meant there was something around here.

Noel thought for a moment and asked, "If that's the case, can't you scan the area? Just find some clues about the ruin?"

"Alright. Let me look around." Anna nodded in agreement and started looking around. At the same time, she was also recalling all information about the ruin. 'How was the ruin found anyway? According to the information, there was actually a guy who accidentally stumbled upon this ruin.

'However, the guy couldn't enter deeper because of some reasons. And those some reasons were Noel. Noel became the only person to find something inside and acknowledged as the Sword Saint's disciple. Of course, we're talking about Noel's second identity. With that kind of identity, Noel becomes famous.

'Maybe I shouldn't have suggested this? Although Noel can get something from the tomb, he doesn't get the popularity... But we've gone all the way here. I made this mistake months ago, so I guess I can only continue with this. I won't forget this mistake.

'Anyway, where's the ruin? The Sword Saint had a Spirit related to soul, so his soul must be there? If that's the case, how should I do this? If we're talking about soul and darkness, the tomb should be underneath a mountain. But there are a few mountains here.'

Anna thought it really hard. She had some pieces of information like the rough area as well as the fact you needed a lot of torches to explore it. So, she knew the tomb was buried underneath a mountain, but she never went here in her previous life, resulting in her not knowing the exact location and what was waiting for them.

However, she noticed something different when looking down. "Wait a minute..."

"What's wrong? Do you find something?"

Anna pointed down. Since they were at the mountain peak, they could easily see everything below them. Her fingers were directing Noel to the gap between the trees.

"Look at the gap between trees over there. Don't you think it's strange?"

Noel furrowed his eyebrows and pointed at the nearby mountain. "Look over there. You can find the same thing. Won't it be a river or something?"

"Is it?" Anna turned the other way around and found the same pattern. "There is one over there too."

"Maybe we'll find the same pattern in all mountains around here?"

"That's probably the case. But don't you think it's strange?"

"What do you mean?" Noel asked while contemplating, whether there was a meaning or not.

Anna pointed at the left. "There, the gap is like a straight line. In this mountain, the gap is curving. Meanwhile, the gap in our right is a straight line again."

"What are you trying to imply?"

"There's a pattern..."

"I know that much. But I don't know if it's related or not. We might just be overthinking about this."

"But isn't it fine to start searching from there? It's not like we have other clues."

Noel and Anna looked at each other for a while before Noel made his decision. "Alright. You go to the left and record the pattern. I'll go to the right to do the same. We'll gather in this place again after we record all of them and share what we find."

"That's a good idea."

The two came to an agreement and immediately started working. They ended up walking around a few mountains before noticing there were no more patterns they could find.

Still, even with their strengthened body and Spiritual Energy, it took them half a day just to record all the patterns.

"Here you go." Anna showed the paper that recorded all the patterns. After that, she took out a pot to start cooking. "I'm going to cook, so you can try to figure it out."

Noel nodded and tried to figure out the patterns. As expected, the pattern was all over the place. It didn't even give anyone any idea. It didn't form a sentence or symbol, making him think it was just a natural occurrence.

He let out a long sigh, thinking about giving up this clue and searching for another one tomorrow. But he was surprised by Ardagan who suddenly alarmed him.

[You've found Ardagan Crest.]

"Ardagan Crest?" Noel widened his eyes and looked at the patterns again. It was scrambled, but if he connected each other according to what Ardagan said, he could find a sword and with a star on it, symbolizing the most powerful general in history, whose figure was immortalized in the family crest. "This is... Ardagan Family Crest..."