

S vs Rebirth 51

Chapter 51 Rune Mastery

Meanwhile, Noel hurriedly went to the infirmary to meet Evan.

Not expecting to have a visitor, Evan furrowed upon this sudden intrusion. He asked coldly, "What are you doing here? It seems that there are bruises and grazes here and there, but it's not something that I should heal. I don't want to waste too much power."

"No. You misunderstood me." Noel calmly explained. "I actually want to go to the library to learn more about Spiritual Energy."

"Library?" Evan widened his eyes in shock. This was the first time someone asked him about reading books.

"Yes. Sir Shale sent me here and told me that I could ask you."

"So, you want to learn more about the Spiritual Energy? Just wait for the official appointment. You'll be learning Spiritual Energy for a few months before graduating to become a real soldier."

"I know that, but I can get the full details and explanation if I read the books."

"Fair enough. This is the first time someone wants to read a book. But well, most of the trainees here are commoners, so they can't really read and write. Most of them only comes back after a few months or years. Well, I guess I can give the permission... But with my schedule."

"I understand. I appreciate the help." Noel nodded.

"You can only enter the library with my permission and you need to leave before I go back."

Noel agreed without hesitation.

"Then, you should go back first. My shift will end in half an hour, so there won't be any time to read. If you're serious about it, meet me tomorrow at dawn."

"Understood. Thank you for your help." Noel then left the room with a smile on his face. With this, the first task had been completed.

The second task was learning how to cook. As long as he couldn't cook, Anna would have the supremacy. Hence, he should use this time to turn around the situation.

At the same time, he needed to schedule his days properly because he wouldn't have too much time for helping people and training.

Hence, he returned to his room to make the plans for everything.

With the addition of the trainings from the army, he would only have one or two hours to read the book in the morning. He then planned the rest of his schedule in the evening.

"This should be enough." Noel nodded with a smile, satisfied with the schedule. After that, he looked at the bag that carried more than one hundred crystals.

"In that case, I should focus on getting stronger." Noel then poured all the crystals on the ground as he closed his eyes while putting the crystals on top of Ardagan's Spirit Seal.

He could feel the steep increase in his Spiritual Energy. The warm feeling from the Spiritual Energy spread all over his body to the point it made his consciousness a bit fuzzy.

"I see. So, this is it... It has reached the point beyond uncomfortable. It's becoming painful to absorb one." Noel sighed. "I have only absorbed fifty of them. It seems that is my current limit. I can relax for a bit to cool down my body's temperature, or..."

Noel remembered the pearl and ice spirit. He took off his shirt and tried to absorb the Spiritual Energy through Heisk's Spirit Seal.

To his surprise, Heisk's Spirit Seal sent a chill all over his body.

"So, that's how it is. Ardagan's flame is increasing my temperature and Heisk's ice is cooling down my body. If I absorb through both of them at the same time, I might be able to increase the rate of my absorption as well as preventing my body from being exhausted.

"Though, I'm not sure whether it's safe or not for my body. I should consult Ardagan and Heisk about this first."

After a while, Noel decided to enter his consciousness. As expected, Ardagan and Heisk told him that there wouldn't be any complication if he did it like that. Both Spirits had claimed that they didn't feel discomfort, so the means must be safe.

With the approval of those two, Noel hurriedly absorbed all the crystals without hesitation. This way, he managed to erase the side effects that Anna talked about. Although he couldn't show this to everyone else, it was good enough for him.

Name: Noel Ardagan

Job: Rune Swordsman

Weapon: Ardagan Sword

Main Medal: Military Service Merit III (Spiritual Energy +2%)

Low Quality Crystal - 109/5000

Mid Quality Crystal - 2/3000

"This is great. I can feel that my Spiritual Energy has become a lot stronger. I believe that even normal people won't have any trouble in killing 2500 Low Level Demons. This will give everyone a chance to become stronger at the start.

"Then, they will start having difficulty in Mid Level Demon and Advance Level Demon. Depending on their abilities, they can fill them as well. And those who manage to do it must be elites. I think that's how it is? I need to make sure about it with the books tomorrow." Noel smiled.

"Anyway, I'm glad that I have Ardagan with me. A 100% Conversion Rate is simply a perfect Conversion Rate. Its power is beyond everyone's imagination. Even at my current state, my Spiritual Energy is twice as much as the people who have 50% Conversion Rate...

"Still, I can't be too complacent. Although I have a lot of Spiritual Energy, I need to keep training my body. If I can't use the Spiritual Energy well, I won't be able to defeat that Anna. That's why Spiritual Energy is useless without proper combat techniques. Hence, I should learn something that can increase my power. And that is..."

Noel smiled and opened his system, buying 5 Skill Points from the shop and spending all of them on Rune Mastery.

To his surprise, there were a few information Ardagan gave him.

[You've learned Rune Mastery.]

[Officially open the Rune Swordsman Path.]

Skill: Increase Agility Rune (0/3)

Requirement: 3 SP

Skill: Strength Blessing Rune (0/3)

Requirement: 3 SP

At the same time of the notification, his brain also received an influx of information about Rune.

"This is..." Noel gasped. There were so much information to process and they were in pieces, so it would be hard to sort them. However, Noel could say one thing for sure. Raising the Rune Mastery was worth it.

Chapter 52 Learning (1)

Noel fell on his butt after receiving the knowledge. Despite being a basic knowledge, their information was quite complete.

"Let's see..." Noel looked down, sorting the information. "Rune is a way to draw Spiritual Energy in a more unique way. They're not necessarily the quickest one, but they can amplify the Spiritual Energy.

"Normally, the Spiritual Energy will move to their destination immediately. If I want to infuse my Spiritual Energy into my sword, they'll just keep flowing into it one at a time. However, Rune can gather them in one place, allowing me to accumulate the Spiritual Energy instead of wasting them.

"Sadly, there is not much knowledge about the Spiritual Energy here. All I can see is that instead of pouring the Spiritual Energy to the target, it's better to use the rune to gather it and create an explosive power.

"Each person has their own unique rune. However, there are numerous basic strokes that one can learn to understand their function and purpose.

"For now, I only get five basic strokes. Their purposes are for Spiritual Energy Gathering, Spiritual Energy Storage, Spiritual Energy Explosion, Body Amplification, and Body Connection.

"I don't understand much about it, but if I'm not wrong, the Strength Blessing Rune or Increase Agility Rune relies a lot on Body Amplification and Body Connection. They also need Spiritual Energy Gathering and Energy Storage to maintain their power. I can understand why upgrading the Rune Mastery unlocks the two runes.

"I should go back to the forest right now and see the rune under the lake. But at the same time, I don't know if my shallow knowledge can do anything about it or not. And it will also make Anna Stargaze realize I've understood something about runes.

"That's right. I'm planning to use another identity soon. How about I use the Ancient Demon Tree as a debut for my second identity? With the help of the rune, I can make my identity unknown because of this unique ability." Noel muttered in a low voice.

Due to the influx of information, Noel knew that he needed to prepare his second identity as soon as possible. At the same time, he needed to focus in strengthening his basics while holding some of his power back.

If he and his second identity had the same amount of power, people would figure it out soon.

Last but not least, he needed to think carefully about his weapon.

"Now that I think about it, how do I hide my sword? Should I get a new weapon?" Noel narrowed his eyes while remembering how the sword had two colors when they first merged.

After a while, he met with Ardagan and Heisk once again.

"There is no need to think much about it, Master. We can simply change it anytime you wish it." Both Ardagan and Heisk gave the same reply.

"What do you mean?" Noel tilted his head in confusion.

Heisk then looked at Ardagan and said, "Please."

Inside the gem in the sword hilt, a blue snowflake shone. Suddenly, Ardagan's black color turned white while the red part changed into blue.

Although Noel could see that the sword's body was still the same, Ardagan's body itself was similar to the mass produced sword from the kingdom. People wouldn't easily suspect him this way.

"I see. So, I can just talk to you about this?"

"Yes. Whenever Master wishes for a change, you can simply ask us. We're here to help you after all." Ardagan answered.

"Alright. With this, I can start the preparation." Noel smiled and waved his hands. "Thank you for the help. I'm going back."

"Yes, Master."

Noel returned to the reality sooner than he expected. Although the sword was still black, he knew that he could simply request Ardagan to change his color.

"In that case, I should start writing down all the information about runes. Even I have a hard time organizing them because there are too much information. It's easier to sort them when I have the physical copy. I can burn the book later or whatever." Noel shrugged.

If Anna saw him writing this book, she would be stunned because this book would become the first guide of the runes called 'Basic Rune.' Yes, the book that she told Noel about.

After putting down his thoughts, Noel took a rest since he needed to meet Evan early in the morning.

As expected, Noel ended up waiting for Evan. It took him thirty minutes before Evan finally arrived at the infirmary.

Upon seeing him, Evan sighed, "It seems that you've waited for quite a while. I've seen your determination. Follow me."

He thought someone like Noel would have a hard time to come this early in the morning where most people hadn't even started working.

So, his determination and lack of complaint pleased him. Evan decided to bring him to the library.

The room turned out to be located two doors away from the infirmary. When Evan opened the doors, Noel could only see a small room with only one bookshelf. Even that shelf is only half filled.

"This is..." Noel widened his eyes.

"Not many can read and books aren't necessities since we're teaching you all the basics. So, there are not many books that we collect." Evan shrugged and approached the shelf. "Still, if you want to learn about Spiritual Energy, I suggest these two books."

Evan put down two books on the table.

Curious, Noel approached the table and read their titles.

Spirit System.

Basic Application of Spiritual Energy.

"Spirit System is basically the introductory book for Spirits. You will understand more about your spirits by reading this book, including demon classifications as well as the usage of their crystals. I don't know much about you, but I think you don't have any knowledge about Spirits, so I suggest to read this book first.

"Then, you can continue to this Basic Application of Spiritual Energy. As the name implies, now that you're aware of Spiritual Energy, you can learn how to manipulate it inside your body. They can do many things. Even so, if you want to get stronger, you need to know about Spirit first because Spiritual Energy alone is not enough."

"I understand. Thank you so much for the help." Noel nodded with a serious expression. These two books were truly what he needed, especially remembering how he was trapped by the Spirit Oath.

"I don't think there are many people that will come to the infirmary today, so come to me if you have any questions. But you need to finish reading the whole book first before asking a question related to it." Evan waved his hand and left with a poker face.

Even so, his action couldn't help but give warmth to Noel's heart. Despite his nonchalant and not caring appearance, Evan truly took care of others.

Chapter 53 Learning (2)

"Hmm... Spirit is born from human's desire. After realizing one's true desire, the spirit will manifest according to that desire.

"Normally, people will recognize their true desire in six months to five years because people believe that their desires are their goals, not what they truly want.

"And because they're from your desires, the Spirit has a unique character. They'll support you in using their power, but in their own way. Because the Spirit shares their senses with you, they'll know what you're thinking... No wonder Ardagan can give all those missions and simply talk to me in an emergency.

"The Spirit itself has a similar classification to demons. There are five classifications for spirits based on their conversion rate.

"1% to 25% is Low Level Spirit.

"26% to 50% is Mid Level Spirit.

"51% to 75% is Advanced Level Spirit.

"76% to 99% is Ancient Level Spirit.

"Lastly, 100% Conversion Rate means you have the Legendary Spirit. There are not many records about Legendary Spirit because the last person to have it is Arvart Ardagan. It's said that Spirit itself is related to one's bloodline, so people are trying to marry those with higher conversion rate for the chance that their descendants to have a higher conversion rate.

"The higher the Conversion Rate, the more Spiritual Energy you can have. To grow your Spiritual Energy, you need to absorb the Spiritual Energy from Demon Crystals.

"Well, this is the first time I learn that Ardagan is a Legendary Spirit. However, it's truly surprising that Ardagan can help Heisk increasing her Conversion Rate. Either way, I can make use of this information."

Noel kept reading page after page. He learned all the basic knowledge about Spirits from the Spirit Classification to Spirit Seal to Spirit Oath.

The information might not be complete but it should be enough to avoid being fooled again by Anna.

After learning about the Spirits, Noel began to read the second book. He had a time off, so he didn't mind spending all his time in the library.

Obviously, he had many questions that he wanted to ask to Evan, but because of the promise, he ended up writing down his questions first.

Luckily, the books weren't that thick, allowing him to finish one book in just four hours.

As soon as he finished, Noel went to Evan to ask some questions. Although Evan kept showing an annoyed expression, he continued answering him until there were no more questions left.

Even Evan didn't expect for Noel to be able to learn all that from just two books. It showed how much Noel's imagination was.

He explored the possibility from the knowledge instead of taking everything he learned as it was.

As expected, due to the number of the questions and discussions they had, Evan became too busy that he ended up going back to his house later than usual.

Still, Noel was smiling the whole time as he gained so much knowledge that gave him endless possibility.

That night, Noel immediately applied the knowledge he just got.

While sitting on a lotus pose, Noel closed his eyes, focusing his attention to the Spirit Seal.

"People who haven't found their Spirit will have a trouble finding the Spirit Core. To put it simply, the Spirit Core is where the Spirit channels their energy.

"The Spiritual Energy given by the Spirit can now be channeled to the entire body depending on the intention. Of course, learning how to move it alone requires a huge amount of time. This whole time, I've been taking advantage of Ardagan's skills, which seems to be controlled by him.

"If I want to get stronger, I need to learn how to control the Spiritual Energy myself. I might still use Ardagan's skills, but I'll control how much power and how fast the Spiritual Energy flows when using that skill.

"At the same time, by using Ardagan's skills, I can learn how the Spiritual Energy flows in my body. This will help him in comprehending the Spiritual Energy.

"The flow of the Spiritual Energy itself carries a special feeling so it can make one recognize it easier.

"Anyway, with the help of Ardagan, I can skip a few stages... I don't need to find the Spirit Core since the Spirit Cores are on my Spirit Seals. Then, I need to learn how to direct the movement of the Spiritual Energy from both seals. It'll take more time, but Ardagan helps me through his skills.

"After learning how to direct the flow, I will learn about each application like muscle strengthening, senses enhancement, hiding presence and so on. Yeah, that sounds like a plan for me."

Noel had decided his priority as he immediately took out Ardagan, preparing to use Swift Strike and Mega Slash to feel the movement of the Spiritual Energy.

Although he could barely feel it, Noel felt the increased temperature in his hand and a drop in temperature in his heart. The two seals had different powers, so he expected this.

According to the book, the best imagination that one could use for flowing Spiritual Energy was like a water that smoothly flowed on a calm river.

Noel used that imagination to send a signal to his brain. It seemed that the brain was the one controlling the flow of energy, but how much one could transfer depended on the concentration and mastery.

Noel didn't give up in trying no matter how he felt. Although barely, he could see the improvement.

To his surprise, the learning process actually amused him to the point he forgot about time. Without him realizing, he had wasted more than seven hours in meditation.

He needed to sleep but at the same time, his excitement couldn't go down after discovering the Spiritual Energy.

Ultimately, his curiosity got the best of him. He ended up using the remaining time to continue his training.

As a result, Noel's eyebrows were so heavy when he did his morning routine. Even his mood decreased because of the lack of sleep.

"This is annoying. Lack of sleep can annoy and bother me this much... Why do humans need to sleep anyway?" Noel sighed as he went to the barrack with a fool mood, hoping that Anna wouldn't do something worse today.

Chapter 54 Goal

After a long training, Noel finally returned to the training ground with the rest of the trainees.

It seemed they had an important announcement. Even Shale straightened his back and wore formal clothes as if he was receiving someone with a high rank.

To everyone's surprise, a middle-aged man walked to the platform. The man had fierce and sharp gaze that could send chills down one's spine with just a single look. His muscular body was even excluding an aura that made them feel they were just a hopeless prey.

Noel recognized him because he was the most important person in this fort, the commander, Oscar.

Unlike the pity or gentle expression he showed in the past, Oscar didn't seem to want to give any differential treatment to the trainees.

After taking a glance at all the trainees, Oscar opened his mouth, speaking with his deep, gallant voice. "I am the commander of this fort, Oscar. I congratulate you for finishing the test with flying colors. Although it's unfortunate that people died in the last outbreak, it's impressive that you didn't fall into the same pit in the last test.

"With this, I've recognized you to have graduated from the trainees introduction class. Now, you shall become the Junior Soldier of my Demon Banner Army.

"If you want to become a full-fledged soldier, you have an objective that you'll need to complete within one year. Shale will give you the full explanation later.

"What I want to say here is that... The number of our soldiers might not be high, but..." Oscar paused as he took a deep breath before shouting with all his pride. "...our soldiers are elites! They have the strength of a hundred if not thousands of men! Why?

"Because we'll pour our resources on each of you and give you the best training we can provide.

"What we provide is the power to fight a hundred demons! Spiritual Energy! You've collected ten Demon Crystals with the first test. We'll teach you how to induce the Spiritual Energy from within the Demon Crystals.

"This is the use of Spiritual Energy!" Oscar raised his right hand as a blue-colored flame coming out.

The flame stunned the trainees. Even though they had seen Spiritual Energy from Anna and Noel, they only saw the particles.

However, Oscar condensed flame with that Spiritual Energy. "Spiritual Energy can be used for many things. Strengthening your muscle, thus enhancing your strength and speed. Giving an explosive boost on your foot so that you can jump higher or faster. Anything!

"Including a powerful attack like this." Oscar punched upward, releasing all the flame on his hand.

However, the small flame that came from his fist suddenly erupted and turned into a giant tornado.

Even if they were far away from him, they could feel the intense heat from it. They thought they would be burned alive if they came closer to this flame.

"This is what you'll learn in the next one year while accomplishing your mission. I know that most of you don't have any literacy skills, but we'll also provide you with the basics so that you can read and write. This is a must!

"All the detailed information shall be explained by Shale later. He'll become your mentor for one year. Prove to us that you can become an elite soldier. I wish you luck." Oscar ended it with a nod as he turned around, leaving the platform or even the training ground.

Not a single of the trainees clapped their hands or even moved. But it was clear that the flame in their heart was ignited.

If they were employed by a local noble or an imperial army, they might not be taught Spiritual Energy. But in this place, they would become the most elite soldiers in the entire kingdom. There was no one who didn't get excited from such a tempting future.

They swore in their hearts.

"I'll survive."

"I'll complete this training."

"I'll become an elite soldier."

Noel's expression was serious this whole time as he had an entirely different reason for completing this training. He just wanted to get stronger to have his revenge.

As long as he could get stronger, he could help more people and gain people's affections. In the future, there would be a chance for an uprising. This would be his revenge.

After seeing off the commander, Shale walked to the platform and said, "I shall be explaining your tasks in one year.

"There are three main things you need to clear within a year. First shall be your basic literacy. We often have a record of your mission and journey, so it'll be easier if you can read and write.

"The second task is to learn basic application of Spiritual Energy. I believe you've seen what a Spiritual Energy can accomplish. The reason we're elites because all our soldiers can use their Spiritual Energy unlike any other army. We're here to fight demons, so don't misuse this power! As long as you're in the right, our army will back you up!

"Last but not least, you have to complete ten missions from us. They're divided into two, solo mission and group mission! You're not an elite soldier just because you're strong! You're an elite soldier because you have good judgment skills and powerful strength.

"If you just take your training as it is, you'll become strong, but you won't be wise. We won't limit your creativity... That's why you'll be the one to judge your own schedule. When and where will you go for a mission? Will you take a single mission or two at once? That's entirely up to your decision making.

"Just to remind you that if you haven't completed five Solo Missions and five Group Missions within one year, you'll be expelled from the army. Any questions?!"

Shale looked at the junior soldiers in the training ground.

Surprisingly, one of them raised their hands, asking, "Sir! I have a question. Don't you think it's still beneficial for us even if we don't finish the missions? With such a skill set, we can be paid high from other lords? You're not planning to kill us or something?"

Shale shook his head. "The answer is simple. What we'll be teaching you is a basic. You might be able to live a leisure life with what you learn from this place, but you won't become the elite among elite. In fact, your true training will start after completing all these tasks.

"There are many of our soldiers who retire from this place and become the head knight of noble households. It's them who are begging you to stay in their house. Can you see the privilege now? It's you who will choose them, not the other way around. They might even marry their son or daughter to you and make you a noble! You can become a stronger knight in their territory if you don't accomplish the missions, but that will be all your achievements. You won't be able to climb to an even higher place!"

Shale's statement shocked everyone as they never thought about this. Becoming the head knight or even a noble? It was a truly shocking privilege.

Those who wanted to join this army already had a high ambition but when learning about the potential, they realized they didn't aim high enough. With this fire igniting their desire, they clenched their fists and swore. "I will make it."

Shale smiled after seeing their expressions. "Now then, I'll explain the details."

Chapter 55 Challenge

After a bit of explanation from Shale, all junior soldiers sat down in a lotus pose. Shale had given them five Demon Crystals each for this next training.

"Just close your eyes and take advantage of the peaceful atmosphere in the morning to feel the Spiritual Energy from the Demon Crystal," said Shale while observing their progress.

As expected from Anna, she already absorbed the Spiritual Energy with her own Spirit Seal. In fact, she had been emitting Spiritual Energy from her body in perfect harmony as if this meditation was just a way for her to strengthen the connection between them.

'She has been using Spiritual Energy skillfully in the training, so I don't need to teach her anything. The control is very stable, so she'll get stronger just fine. On the other hand...' Shale turned to Noel who had been training with Anna.

In the training, Noel also let out his Spiritual Energy, but unlike Anna, his control was sloppy. He could only use the Spiritual Energy on his sword.

'Well, he has absorbed the Demon Crystals, but...' Shale glanced at the purple crystals that now had turned gray. It was the proof that he had absorbed all the Spiritual Energy from it. However, Noel couldn't release any Spiritual Energy he had despite having plenty of it. 'It's going to be tough for him from now on. He needs to learn how to control his Spiritual Energy as soon as possible.'

After a while, Shale said, "Every morning, you'll be meditating for four hours! The rest will be your physical training and group training. Because of the missions you can get, attending my class is not compulsory anymore. You can do your own meditation and training at your own room, but if you're here, you can consult me with your problems. I'll help as much as possible.

"If you want a mission, just come to me and I can show you the mission catalog you can choose from. I can read them for you but I'm sure that you can understand why we want you to have basic literacy skills.

"Anyway, that's all I have to say. For now, you can go to your pair and discuss your schedule and plan for the next one year. After that, you can continue meditating." Shale then walked away from them, giving them some space.

Anna came to Noel and sat in front of him while asking, "So, what do you have in mind?"

It was true that Anna had already planned everything with her experiences, but she believed Noel's brain was smarter than her, so she also needed to ask for his opinion.

Noel slowly opened his eyes and said, "There are group assignments, huh..."

"That's right. You can't escape from me." Anna smirked, teasing him.

"Can we change our pair?" Noel sighed.

"Haha!" Anna chuckled.

To their surprise, Shale appeared next to them while saying, "You can! This is a special privilege for all of you. If you want to change your partner, you can simply kick someone else from that party.

"In other words, you can beat someone else from another group and replace their position. It's easy, right?"

"!!!" Anna and Noel widened their eyes. In fact, everyone also heard his statement.

Noel acted as if he was tempted by it while Anna gritted her teeth, glaring at Shale as if she hated him for giving that idea to Noel.

The others even had that thought because Anna was a huge temptation for all of them. Having Anna in their group meant they could easily achieve the top. At the same time, they could ask her about all their questions since Anna was knowledgeable. And for men, there was no way they would let go the chance to work together with a beauty.

Still, if they wanted to work with Anna, they needed to defeat Noel. Although they didn't want to admit it, Noel was stronger than them due to his Spiritual Energy.

If not for Anna covering her sword with Spiritual Energy, the wooden sword would completely be shattered by his attack. So, before learning about Spiritual Energy, it would be foolish to challenge Noel.

Yet, no matter how obvious it was, there was always someone foolish, ignorant, and arrogant enough to do it.

A muscular man approached them while asking, "So, Sir Shale. Does that mean we can challenge that person?"

"Of course. The other party has no right to refuse. However, I need to remind you that you can only challenge the same person once! We have a talented healer in our infirmary, so as long as you don't kill the other party, it's alright. Oh, don't cut anyone, alright?" Shale smirked.

"Since the other party can't refuse then..." The muscular man walked to Noel while looking down on him. "I want to challenge you!"

Noel furrowed his eyebrows because this person was the one who bullied him the most. He was the one that led Lezlev and other bullies to attack him in the training.

However, unlike all of them, this one didn't stop bothering him. If not for Anna, he would continue to bully him.

That was why he thought he needed to settle this grudge. Although he couldn't kill him, he could still beat him black and blue until he feared him. This way, no one would bully him anymore.

"Hmm." Shale narrowed his eyes and said, "Alright. I shall authorize this fight. Because you've just returned here, the duel will be held tomorrow morning before the meditation."

"..." Noel closed his eyes as if he had accepted the duel.

"Hmph. Don't run away!" The muscular man snorted and walked away.

"Tsk." Anna clicked her tongue, annoyed. Everyone thought she must be angry because she couldn't torture Noel again if the latter lost.

At the same time, Alfred and surprisingly Kirika looked at this pair as if they were interested in it.

Surprisingly, Noel said to Anna, "One solo mission near the fort within the first month. The rest can be scheduled later."

"Hoh? You sounded like you can win tomorrow. Do you want me that much? Or do you love the pain that I inflicted? Pervert." Anna smirked.

"I simply think this is my best choice to kill you." Noel shrugged.

Chapter 56 Warmth

After coming to an agreement with Anna, Noel continued his training like normal. Other than the meditation and some additional training in mobilizing the Spiritual Energy, there was no change in their schedule.

Of course, Noel still couldn't use his Spiritual Energy yet. He only took advantage of the skills to manipulate the Spiritual Energy. However, his control improved by leaps and bounds due to the skills.

He expected that he could do a basic control of his Spiritual Energy within a week.

Before going back to his room, he made another trip to visit the street kids that he looked after.

They danced every time Noel visited them. And it was clear that they became more skillful as time passed. From the awkward and robotic movement to a fluid but still awkward dance, Noel was impressed by their progress.

Their progress stuck in Noel's heart because they proved what he believed in. As long as one worked hard for it, they could still be good at it.

With their talent, they somehow managed to make a bit of money to at least buy food themselves.

Noel started to grow attached to them.

"Everyone's become good." Noel smiled.

"Thanks to Big Brother Noel. We wouldn't be anything without Big Brother Noel." The bright kid that first met Noel replied with a smile. He was the leader of these kids, guiding them to make their own

money instead of begging or stealing. It was hard at first and they got scorned by others, but every penny they got felt so satisfying. The food became even more delicious.

After learning this pleasure, he continued to lead the kids to do it.

"Is that so? You know how to flatter now, Eric?" Noel smiled.

"My brother is too stupid to think about flattery." A female kid came over while shaking her head helplessly, disappointed by Eric.

"Erica!" Eric pouted while glaring at her.

Erica looked away.

"Is that so? I guess that's true." Noel chuckled.

"What?!" Eric gasped and took a step back. He was shocked by the sudden betrayal.

The others laughed together.

"It seems that you have been managing the group, Erica. Well done." Noel smiled and patted her head.

"It's thanks to Big Brother Noel. You taught us that we needed to work hard to pursue our ideal life instead of accepting our fate." Erica answered with resolve, but when their gaze intertwined, she couldn't help but look away, feeling embarrassed.

Food wasn't the only thing she bought with the money they earned. They also paid for clothes. The tidier and cleaner they were, the more people would be more impressed by them after all.

Despite being a commoner, Erica seemed to have this understanding without Noel teaching her anything.

"Is that so? Haha, you make me embarrassed." Noel smiled.

"She used my words and tweaked it a little." Eric pouted.

"Well, I hope that you can continue becoming better and better!" Noel waved his hand and started walking away.

"In the future, we'll get very good! We'll perform at Big Brother Noel's land to repay Big Brother!" Erica shouted before Noel left them.

Noel felt moved. If he was still a noble, he might not care about their words and even ignored them. But with his current status, he could see the world differently and appreciate all small things.

"Is that so? I'm looking forward to it."

The kids waved their hands with a smile.

Unbeknownst to them, there was one person that looked at this group from afar. His expression was cold and even had a shred of killing intent.

Noel didn't know that there was danger looming nearby.

After returning to his room, Noel made the last preparation for their duel.

He had four weapons to defeat Azgar: pure swordsmanship, Mega Slash, Swift Strike and his Ice Control. By no circumstances he could use his Rune Mastery. He even refrained himself from using the remaining Honor Points to learn one of the two runes.

He had experienced fighting against Anna many times, so he expected a victory against his opponent.'

The next day.

Noel and the bully, Azgar, stood in front of each other. All the junior soldiers seemed to attend this duel as they wanted to measure Noel's true strength to see whether it was possible or not to take his position.

They both were equipped by a wooden sword, but Azgar chose a bigger sword to match his build. It was clear that he would have a powerful swing. Even Noel would have a hard time blocking this.

However, Noel could use his Spiritual Energy to completely crush that sword before defeating Azgar. But whether Noel would use it or not was another question.

The junior soldiers stood in the side of the training ground, allowing the two to have the whole training ground for themselves.

Shale stood in the middle as he became the referee of this official challenge. He also needed to make sure that none of them died.

With a calm expression, Shale said, "I need to remind you about the rules. We're soldiers from the Demon Banner Army. Using all kinds of tricks are allowed because it's the proof that we can defeat demons with everything.

"However, there are two lines that you mustn't cross. First, you're not allowed to cut someone's body. Our doctor might be able to heal broken bones or superficial injuries, but it can't reattach or regrow body parts. Second, you shall not kill your opponent. If you somehow kill your enemy, the fort's rules shall apply. Whether you're a commoner or a noble, if you kill someone here, you'll be jailed for at least twenty years if not getting executed.

"Don't try to challenge our authority. The moment we know you kill someone, we're going to enforce the rules. Once a count's son killed a commoner here and his father executed him on the spot because he feared us." Shale explained the rules and finally took a step back.

"If you understand then..."

He paused for a moment as Noel and Azgar raised their swords, preparing to clash.

"Start!"

Chapter 57 Shaken

"Start!"

The moment they heard Shale's signal, Noel and Azgar leaped forward.

To gain as much experience as he could, Noel wanted to fight Azgar without his Spiritual Energy first to measure how far he could go with only his Ardagan Swordsmanship.

Noel swung his sword from the left while Azgar slammed his sword toward Noel's head, wanting to crush it.

However, Noel skillfully struck Azgar's sword and slightly pushed the sword so that it moved away from its trajectory. At the same time, Noel had a few small steps to push his body to the other side, allowing him to avoid this powerful strike.

Once Azgar hit the ground, a small shock wave kicked up the dust. It was clear that Noel would have bled if he was hit.

Noel glanced at the power behind that swing while taking a few steps back, regaining some distance from Azgar.

His expression remained calm as he had expected this kind of battle. At the same time, he checked his hands' conditions. Luckily, he didn't feel anything because he didn't try to block the hit earlier.

Azgar didn't want to let him go because this was his chance to defeat Noel. Before the latter used his Spiritual Energy, he needed to win.

Hence, Azgar hurriedly chased after Noel and made a diagonal swing from above.

This time, Noel tried something different. Instead of dodging the attack, Noel parried this attack with his sword. But the result was expected. Azgar's strength overwhelmed Noel's and immediately pushed his sword back.

His sword continued making its way toward Noel's neck. Unbeknownst to him, Noel used the force that he used to his own advantage.

With the sword still clashing, Noel used it as a support to tilt his body in the direction the sword moved.

This way, Noel ended up falling to his knees with his body tilted almost ninety degrees.

Azgar smirked as he thought he was winning, but because of his huge and muscular body, Noel's body disappeared from his vision due to him dropping to his knees.

When everyone thought Noel would be in disadvantage after this exchange, they were shocked by Noel's adaptability.

In fact, Noel intentionally put himself in this condition.

Now that he had disappeared from Azgar's vision, he spun his body and raised his right foot, kicking Azgar on the head.

"Wha—" Azgar widened his eyes when his head was already tilted due to the kick. The sharp pain jolted his brain, making his body tremble and losing its balance.

Using this opportunity, Noel continued pushing his kick to the side until Azgar fell to the ground.

"Kh!" Azgar gritted his teeth and saw Noel rising from the ground as if he had won.

The only way to avoid losing this fight, Azgar hurriedly swung his sword even if his body refused to move.

Luckily, he somehow managed to swing his sword to Noel's feet, forcing the latter to jump.

However, Noel had pointed his sword at Azgar to stab him from above.

Azgar hurriedly rolled a few times to avoid the attack before rising from the ground. While stabilizing his body, he pointed his sword at Noel to keep him at bay.

On the other hand, Noel took another deep breath to calm his heart down. It was clear that Ardagan's swordsmanship appeared to be useful even in a battle like this. If he applied the swordsmanship while using the Spiritual Energy, it would become even more powerful.

The entire battle had been in Noel's favor.

"As expected, Noel Ardagan is strong even without Spiritual Energy."

"His swordsmanship is among the best."

"Still, his strength and speed are lower than us if not for the Spiritual Energy."

"But he has been improving by leaps and bounds. This means the longer we wait, the stronger he'll become."

"We need to challenge him as soon as possible, huh?"

The people started talking about the battle as the few rounds they exchanged were truly extraordinary. It was the swordsmanship that had been polished every time he challenged Anna.

Although Noel didn't want to admit it, Anna's swordsmanship was currently far superior than his. The experience he got in each spar was a huge boost in his stability.

And now, Noel had been utilizing everything he had learned to control the entire fight.

Even Anna couldn't help but smile, thinking, 'As expected, he's a genius, might be more than me. If his start wasn't that low, he would have surpassed me.'

Noel and Azgar continued their clash for another few rounds. Every time Azgar attacked, Noel skillfully blocked or repelled it before making an opportunity to deliver a counterattack.

Azgar managed to avoid some of them, but bruises started appearing on his body.

With the way things were going, it was clear that Noel would defeat Azgar without using his Spiritual Energy.

Bang!

Their swords clashed once again as Noel prepared to back down to avoid his strength again. However, Azgar did something different this time.

When their swords clashed, Azgar smirked as his head slightly leaned toward Noel. He opened his mouth, whispering something to Noel.

Noel widened his eyes in shock when he heard those words. His body trembled. He was clearly shaken by the words he told him.

'An opening!' Azgar thought. That news truly shocked him to the point it gave such an opening. He smirked and struck Noel's sword. He would have blown Noel's sword away if Noel didn't have a good swordsmanship foundation.

Still, with both hands above his head, Noel wouldn't be able to block his next attack.

He swung his sword once again to deliver the killing blow, but Noel's reflex was beyond his expectation. Even at the last moment, Noel managed to swing his sword once again, stopping his sword.

But his expression was still in clear shock. Azgar took advantage of it to let go one of his hand and punched Noel in the stomach.

"!!!" Noel felt the fluid in his stomach rise as he spat out some acid before getting launched into the air and falling to the ground. "Gah!"

Chapter 58 A Devil

Rolling a few times on the ground, Noel stopped several meters from Azgar. He hurriedly stood up to avoid the continuous onslaught from Azgar.

At the same time, the words he told him earlier stuck in his mind.

"Those eleven kids are cute, eh? I wonder if they'll be able to see you anymore."

Noel didn't expect that Azgar mentioned them. And with his tone, it was clear that he had done something to them.

'Did something happen to them?' Noel thought.

He couldn't help but remember the memories he had with them.

"Big Brother Noel!" Eric's voice and figure flashed in his mind.

"I'll take care of the group." Erica's smile appeared in his vision.

"Thank you for giving us this opportunity, Big Brother Noel!" The other kids' big smiles and energetic cheers shook his heart.

But Azgar actually did something to them? Noel couldn't believe it. Shale had told them about the fort's laws, so it was clear that killing someone was forbidden inside the fort. But if he was talking about Azgar, he could clearly do something worse than that.

He could torture the kids or even break their bones. As long as they didn't die, Azgar could get away with the crimes.

Just thinking about that possibility made his body freeze.

Although he didn't want to admit it, he had grown attached to them. After all, those children could be taught and had the will to improve themselves.

Yet, the connection between them was actually the one that harmed them the most. Noel gritted his teeth as he couldn't forgive himself and especially Azgar.

Because of his contemplation, he saw Azgar coming to him to take advantage of his opening.

"Ha!" Azgar roared as he released all his strength to strike Noel's sword. As long as he could blow his sword away, he could defeat Noel.

Unfortunately for him, Noel's focus had returned. In fact, his anger soared to the sky as his eyes started emanating killing intent.

Blue particles started appearing on Noel's sword as he swiftly and precisely struck Azgar's blade.

Bang!

This one strike actually smashed a portion of the wooden blade. If Noel could deliver the second blow, he could snap the blade. In fact, if Noel used Mega Slash earlier, he would have destroyed the blade. But due to his opening, he needed to resort to Swift Strike to get enough speed to hit Azgar's blade.

Seeing such a situation, Azgar hurriedly said, "If you don't admit defeat, you won't be able to see them anymore."

This should be enough to stop Noel from moving, but Azgar had made one big miscalculation.

Noel's bottom line was never the kids. When he reached this place, he was alone without nothing to protect. There was only revenge in his mind.

He wouldn't allow eleven children to be the wall that stopped his revenge.

That was why the last threat actually made Noel even angrier.

He used Mega Slash and struck Azgar's sword, snapping the blade into two.

"You bastard!" Azgar gritted his teeth, but Noel didn't care about him anymore.

Instead of protecting the kids' future, Noel chose the path that was currently suited to him.

Noel's killing intent was telling him, "If I can't see them, then I'll avenge them by making you live a life worse than death."

Killing him was impossible, so Noel didn't use his Spiritual Energy this time. Instead, he used this blunt wooden sword to strike Azgar's face, breaking his nose in one hit.

Due to the hit, Azgar's muscular body became unstable. Noel punched his broken nose to add the last bit of force needed to take him down.

Bam!

Azgar fell on his back while screaming.

"Argh!"

'This is...' Shale widened his eyes in shock. He never expected that Noel would show such a fierce action and killing intent.

'That guy whispered something to Noel earlier... What was that?' Anna frowned, suspecting something between them.

However, Noel didn't wait for Azgar or anyone else to react.

As soon as Azgar fell, Noel swung his blade to hit his head, planning to crack his skull.

As his desperate attempt, Azgar grabbed the dirt and threw it to Noel's face.

"!!!" Noel hurriedly closed his eyes as the dust entered his eyes. The sting his eyes experienced forced him to be unable to open his eyes.

"You bastard!" Azgar roared as he used all his strength to land a blow on Noel's face.

Luckily, Noel was far smarter than most people. He hurriedly leaped back, knowing that this was also one of the oldest tricks in the book.

As long as he continuously ran away until he could open his eyes, he could fight back. At the very least, he knew that they were in the middle of the training ground, running for a few seconds should be enough to recover his vision.

But as soon as he missed Noel, Azgar grabbed another handful of dirt and threw it to him. Even Noel had to cover his eyes with his left hand.

'Kh.' Noel gritted his teeth. While running, he thought, 'What should I do? Show him my back? No, I can't. But he keeps throwing the dirt from the ground... Wait, the ground?'

Before reaching the wall of the training ground, Noel jumped. This action obviously confused all the people because there was no point in jumping.

However, what came after shocked all of them.

When Noel landed on the ground, a thin layer of ice formed around his feet, allowing him to take advantage of the momentum to slide on the ground. And the ice kept spreading so that he could continue until his momentum stopped or hit something on the way.

On the other hand, Azgar obviously didn't expect Noel to have an ice technique. With the sudden loss of the friction that kept his balance, he tripped.

His face even hit the hard ice surface to the point it cracked. And Azgar felt an extra pain from his broken nose.

"Argh!" Azgar let out a scream of agony.

On the other hand, Noel forced himself to open his eyes. They were red because of the sand that entered his eyes earlier.

He ran to Azgar while raising his sword. With the addition of the killing intent and anger emanating from his eyes, Noel looked like a devil that wanted to take Azgar's life.

Chapter 59 Anger

"..." Shale had started pouring his Spiritual Energy into his feet, preparing to stop Noel if he wanted to kill Azgar. After all, the commander asked him to take care of this guy. Although he couldn't play too much favoritism, he could stop him from breaking the law that would result to his execution.

However, Noel was a person who managed to overcome his hatred. If it was the Noel a few weeks ago, he would kill Azgar right now.

But he managed to calm his heart enough to rationally think about the consequences. Hence, Noel redirected that anger to something else.

Without using his Spiritual Energy, Noel slammed his sword to Azgar's arms.

Bang!

Bang!

"Aaaaahhhhh!" Azgar screamed while writhing in agony.

"Did you think I was going to buy your cheap provocation?" Noel shouted and struck Azgar's hands this time.

"Aaaahhhhh!"

"Did you think just because I'm a fallen noble, I wouldn't dare do anything against you?" Noel shouted and stabbed his hand until it bled.

"Aaaaahhhhh!" Azgar couldn't do anything as the pain was too much for him to handle.

"Did you think just because I didn't do anything when you bullied me means I'm powerless?" Noel roared and stomped on his feet.

"Aaaaahhhh. Stop!"

"If you think you can get away with everything just because my house has fallen, then you're wrong!" Noel struck Azgar's thighs. This way, he broke all the things that allowed Azgar to counter-attack.

"No, STOP!" Azgar kept shouting, but Noel kept hitting him.

"I had never oppressed my servants or even the civilians when I was a noble! And what's with your prejudice?" Noel struck him again.

"Stop! I surrender!"

"Remember this! I can't kill you here, but remember this! If something happens to them, I'll break all your limbs every day!" Noel shouted while delivering another strike.

However, this time, Shale intervened by grabbing Noel's wrist to stop him.

Shale said with a cold tone. "Stop it. More than this and you'll break the rule."

Noel gritted his teeth as he hadn't had enough. However, there was nothing he could do when Shale had intervened.

In the end, he dropped his sword as the sign and Shale released his hand.

Noel glared at Azgar while gnashing his teeth. After that, he looked at the rest of the people in the training ground.

There was panic, fear, or even worse terror reflected in their eyes. When they looked at Noel's red eyes due to the sand, they couldn't help but tremble.

Noel's current appearance and all the rage he released earlier truly put a deep fear in everyone's heart.

Because he was stopped, Noel took a deep breath to calm his rage while saying, "I don't think I can do meditation right now. If Sir Shale doesn't mind, I'd like to get some fresh air for a while. I promise to return to the training ground before the next training."

"You can do meditation everywhere that can make you feel at ease. So, feel free." Shale nodded while carrying Azgar's body. Although Evan could heal his injuries, the pain would still remain. If Noel was

going to do all this every day, even Azgar would be traumatized by it to the point he didn't want his body to be healed anymore. This was simply a torture.

Still, before bringing Azgar away, Shale watched Noel's back until he left the training ground.

Anna raised her hand while saying with a serious expression. "I am his pair, so I think I should observe him for a bit. We don't want him to break the rule after all."

Shale nodded. After Anna left, Shale then carried Azgar who seemed to have passed out away.

Meanwhile, the others were also scared of Noel right now. They never expected that Noel could be that cruel if they pushed the limit.

And Anna was the one controlling him currently since Anna had done something worse than what Azgar did. If she wasn't careful, Anna would meet a fate much crueler than what they saw earlier.

Yet, such a person still planned to look after Noel. They simply couldn't understand about the relationship between them. She might be genuinely concerned of his well being, or she could rub salt into his wound. But only both of them knew what exactly happened.

In the end, the junior soldiers had some trouble in calming down their heart, thus making the morning session a bit useless. At least, most of them thought the same thing.

'Never antagonize Noel again.'

On the other hand, Noel walked to the area where he usually met the kids. But this place was empty.

He then continued deeper to the slum where the kids usually lived, but still found no one.

Normally, he would think that the kids were going to another place to make some money. But no matter how hard he tried to look for them, he couldn't find a single clue of them until one hour later.

Whether it was fortunate or unfortunate, Noel saw a white cloth that seemed to have been ripped apart near where the plaza. This might just be a random cloth, but he remembered the button and flower pattern embroidered on it.

This piece of cloth was from the sleeve of Erica's clothes. Erica was a smart girl, smarter than all the other children, so she must want to use this to inform him that they were attacked.

Noel bent his knees and picked up the piece of clothing as his expression darkened.

Anna stopped not far from him to see his state, but Noel seemed to know she was there all this time.

He even started talking. "Eric is a bright child that can inspire others to continue to work hard. He refuses to accept his fate as a beggar kid and works hard to become a better person.

"Erica is a smart kid. She knows what they need to become better and lead the group. Bluhan might look like a coward, but when pushes come to shove, he'll be the first one to step forward. Hella is..."

Noel kept saying all their good points, showing how good their relationship was.

Anna, on the other hand, shared the pain that Noel had in his heart. Even though Noel still wanted to kill her, Anna could feel a change in Noel.

To her surprise, Noel even turned around and said, "Anna Stargaze. Let's make a deal."

Chapter 60 Ambush

"That bastard. I'm going to make him regret. Starting from the children!" Azgar gritted his teeth while walking down the street. Although his wounds had been healed, the pain was still lingering in his mind. And it simply made him furious, wanting to take revenge against Noel.

At first, he thought he could win this match by using the psychological battle, but Noel actually was bothered by it for just a few seconds. It seemed that Noel was crueler than he thought.

All that kindness he showed to the kids were just a facade.

Still, the fact that Noel was bothered by it meant there was a chance that he still cared for the kids. Hence, he planned to torture those kids every day he broke his bones and show them to Noel as the consequences of his actions.

,m He returned to his room first to change his clothes first before heading to another place with the cover of the night.

He even looked around to check whether he was being tailed or not. After confirming there was no one following him, he continued walking a few blocks down the street.

Eventually, he reached a small house in the outskirts of the slum.

The house was made of woods and had a rather monotonous rectangular shape, making it look like a box. The house barely had light, but it also made the house not that noticeable.

Knock.

Knock.

Knock.

A middle-aged man opened the door while looking around as if checking the surroundings.

On the other hand, Azgar wasn't patient enough as he complained, "Hurry up and let me in. I want to beat those kids again!"

The middle-aged man ignored him and made sure there was no one around. Only after he completed his surveillance did he let him in.

As soon as he let him in, Azgar hurriedly stormed in and ran to a door in the corner. When he opened it, there was an empty room with eleven children in it. They had been tied up and gagged completely.

Some of them had bruises covering their bodies. It was much worse for Eric and Bluhan, the two people that always stepped forward to protect the group.

Eric proudly stood with his tattered body, glaring at Azgar to protect his group. On the other hand, Bluhan was a coward. Despite his staggering body, he still stood next to Eric, using his body to hide the rest of the group.

Meanwhile, most of them were staring at Azgar in horror because they didn't want to experience the pain anymore. Only Erica who remained calm, trying to find any escape path.

"You bastard. If not for you, if not for you! I'm going to make you regret for being born in this world!" Azgar shouted as he raised his arms, planning to beat the children again. He wouldn't kill them because there was law, but no one stopped him to beat them up. And it would be the children's faults if they ever committed suicide.

It was a perfect plan, but he miscalculated Noel and Anna.

Before he could punch them, the door was opened again.

"What's wrong, Hagar?" Azgar was already annoyed that he shouted in frustration. He turned around and saw Anna Stargaze standing in front of him.

"What a joke. A commoner, a noble? There is no difference between them. A good noble can help many people with their governance. A good commoner can help other people with their skills. However, a bad noble and a bad commoner can do the same harm." Anna looked at him with disgust while glancing at the children to check their conditions. It seemed that the first beating wasn't that bad.

At least, all of their body parts were still intact. After getting treated, they would recover in no time.

It was Noel's idea that they acted fast because he knew Azgar would continue doing this.

"Anna Stargaze, you!" Azgar widened his eyes in shock, never expecting Anna to appear here.

"Hagar!" Azgar shouted because he knew he couldn't stop Anna. There were only two options left for him. First, he should have Hagar to stop Anna while the second was to take the children hostages. He wanted to use the first option first before resorting to the latter.

Unfortunately for him, Hagar suddenly fell to the floor with a black-clothed man pinning him down.

"I've restrained him, Miss," The man reported with a serious expression.

"Wha—" Azgar was shocked and immediately turned around to grab one kid.

However, Anna's reaction speed was much faster than him due to her previous life. She leaped toward him and kicked Azgar on the head, knocking him to the floor.

Bam!

The force of the kick was so great that the body cracked the wooden floor. Anna even kicked him outside, away from the children.

She then waved her hand and smiled, "Are you alright, kids?"

"Who are you?" Erica asked while being vigilance. She had heard her name from Azgar, but she didn't know why she helped them, street kids.

"Hmm, you'll know about it in a minute." Anna smiled as she walked toward Azgar with a cold expression.

"Anna Stargaze! I'm going to report you after this!" Azgar gritted his teeth.

"Is that so? I'm not afraid. After all, no one can punish me if I kill you here." Anna snorted. "Though, I won't be the one to kill you."

"Do you think you are above the law just because you're extremely talented?" Azgar shouted back.

Even the black-clothed man was confused by her statement, he looked at her with a worried gaze.
"Miss... I still don't know why you agreed to that deal."

"There are two reasons."

"Two reasons?"

"Ancient Demon Tree."

"Ancient Demon Tree... That Ancient Demon Tree?" The black-clothed man widened his eyes.

"Yes. And the second reason is... How about you lift up that man's right sleeve?" Anna smirked.

"You!" Hagar was shocked as he suddenly struggled with all his life as if stopping them to lift up his sleeve.

However, the moment it was shown, there was a tattoo on his right arm. It was a tattoo of a skeleton head with two bright red dots as its eyes. And there was even a sword planted on the skeleton's head.

"This is... Supreme Devil Organization."