

S vs Rebirth 521

Chapter 521 Bullshit Theory

In the morning, Noel and Rose met the guide once again.

"Hello, Sir. My name is Sharkan. I'd like to apologize for my rude behavior yesterday." The guide came to him and bowed.

Noel waved his hand. "It's fine. Rather than that, I'd like you to bring us to the tower immediately. We don't have a lot of time right now."

"Certainly." Sharkan nodded with a serious expression and immediately led Noel to the tower.

From the outside, the tower was made of the more polished version of the stone this city was using. Though, it also made the area slightly hotter.

The tower was a cylinder and it seemed there were at least ten floors inside.

Once they entered the tower, Noel and Rose felt slightly overwhelmed. First, the air inside the tower was cool as if the heat outside never came inside. Second, there were eleven floors and each of them was filled with books.

This was truly the tower of knowledge, Noel thought.

"It's pretty cool inside." Noel made a remark, trying to get an answer from Sharkan.

As if picking up his hint, Sharkan immediately explained. "This tower was built with the help of the Water Lord and Wind Lord. They created a system to circulate the hot air inside to the outside while maintaining the humidity and temperature."

"So, that's why the outside is a bit hotter than I think..."

"Yes." Sharkan nodded. "This kind of environment is good for the book as well as the people who read them. After all, no one can concentrate while continuously wiping their sweat."

"Fair enough. Let's go then."

"Follow me." Sharkan moved to the left and prepared to show Noel another technology that would shock him. Inside the tower, there was a small platform surrounded by four pillars in each corner.

Sharkan asked them to step on the platform and touch a button in the corner. Suddenly, the platform was lifted up.

"!!!" Noel lowered his head in surprise. "This is..."

He could feel the Spiritual Energy fluctuation, meaning it was the work of Spiritual Energy. And judging from the stone platform work, it was similar to the one they had outside. But instead of moving horizontally, this one moved vertically.

"This is how we reach those floors. This seems to be one of the lost technologies from the previous civilization that we've managed to recover and recreate with Spiritual Energy as the foundation."

"..." Noel was speechless. This was truly a paradise for a scholar. They used their brain to create a tool that might be useful to people who had no Spiritual Energy.

If Noel didn't have this platform, he could simply jump to the fifth floor with his strength. But not many people could do that.

He could see how people loved all the technologies inside this place.

Before his shock subsided, the platform had reached the fifth floor.

"We've arrived, Sir, Miss. Please..." He smiled and stepped outside. He waited for Noel and Rose, who were still quite shocked, before looping around the tower.

They eventually reached a section with a 'Spirit' tag on it.

Without hesitation, Sharkan asked, "We've arrived at our destination. This place is filled with books related to Spirit. So that I can understand what you're searching for, I have to know the topic of your research first.

"May I know what kind of information you seek? The more detailed it is, the more accurate the book I can bring."

Noel thought for a moment. "If that's the case, I want a book related to the origin of the spirits."

"Understood. Please wait here for a moment." Sharkan showed a table for them to wait. After that, he disappeared for a minute before coming back with two books.

Placing these two books on top of the table, he introduced these two books. "The History of Spirit, it's a book that records a person who uses all his life to seek information from other people's spirits.

"The second book is called Spirit Heart. It contains information about why the spirits reside within us."

"I see..." Noel took the history book while Rose grabbed the other one. While trying to read the book, Noel asked, "It seems that you know these two books well. Why don't you explain it to me while I read this?"

He didn't want to waste a lot of time reading the book, so he just wanted to get to the point while confirming the information with the book.

"Certainly." Sharkan nodded. "In this book, the writer starts with the question... "Why do we have a Spirit in our body? What are they? And why are people divided into the one who has a Spirit and the one who doesn't have one?"

"For the first question, according to the writer, our world is separated into two realms. Just like how we have day and night, the world also has this world and the spirit world. Each of us is completing each other to make a stable world.

"And the spirits come from that world. Then, what are they? Just like what you said yesterday, Sir. The spirits are the same as humans. In fact, we believe that the spirits are a kind of our reflection in the other world.

"But as you can see, humans can give birth to many children in their life. So, we end up having more people than the spirits. That's the reason why not all people have a spirit.

"The writer believes that reincarnation does exist. So, in both lives, the same person will have the same spirit. This is proven by how the spirits know everything about us and support us thoroughly as if they understand our talents and preference.

"So, if you continue reading this book, you'll realize that the people who have spirits are reincarnated from ancient times while those who don't are the new people that come into this world."

Noel listened to him attentively, but he only had one thought after all of the explanation.

'What a complete mess.'

Chapter 522 Another World?

'What a complete mess.' Noel frowned. After everything they had shown in this place, he thought the knowledge inside this tower would be precious.

However, it turned out to be a complete mistake. He'd got some knowledge from Ardagan and the Moon Spirit.

It was the exact opposite of what they knew.

The spirits came from another world. It was true, but that other world was not in this place, but among the starry sky. Ardagan was a Spirit who had the most solid form in this world.

However, he was an artificial spirit that was made by the God of the Spirits. Meanwhile, the Spirits were like them. They had the ability to give birth to more spirits, and each person had their own spirit.

The only way to divide humans was by separating the people who had awakened their spirits and who hadn't.

As for reincarnation, he didn't know anything about that, but he didn't believe in all that. He only thought about living this life to the fullest.

Noel glanced at Sharkan, who kept smiling this whole time as if he was having fun sharing this knowledge with others.

He wanted to see how smart Sharkan was, so he asked, "So, what do you think about this book?"

Surprisingly, the smile disappeared from his face after that question. It looked like he was completely disappointed by Noel's question.

But it turned out he was wrong. Sharkan replied, "I don't think this book is correct. There is one big question that I always get every time I read this book. If people don't have a spirit in their body, why would many people who are desperate in their lives suddenly have their spirits?"

Noel fell silent, realizing that Sharkan wasn't a complete fool who would just follow anything written in the book. In fact, this was the true side of a scholar. They kept asking a question, even a question, to their own answer.

So, Noel couldn't help but tease him. "In the Demon Banner Army, we learned how to awaken our spirits. The best way to do it is to have a goal in life... Though, most of them can't awaken their spirits..."

Sharkan's expression suddenly became serious as if he had just got important knowledge.

Noel continued, "What if each person has a Spirit? What if the reason people don't think they have a Spirit is that they don't find their goal? The goal that they'll pursue for the rest of their life?"

"You asked that question yourself, right? Why do so many desperate people suddenly get their spirits?"

"!!!" Sharkan widened his eyes as if he had managed to connect something from those questions. He couldn't help but think the same thing as Noel.

Everyone had their own spirit, but they simply failed to awaken them. In other words, each person was equal. There was no untalented person. They simply hadn't found their true potential. And once they realized it and got a goal for themselves, the spirit would awaken.

"This is..." Sharkan gasped. "Sir, may I use this topic as my research? I'd certainly not forget to put your name in it. You inspire me after all."

"Sure." Noel nodded casually as he didn't know the importance of research. However, what Noel knew was that Sharkan was actually a smart person. The only reason why he could actually link them was because the spirit had given him some information.

So, Noel chose a different path for Sharkan.

What if he managed to turn Sharkan into his own person? He had received a list of names that the Water Lord believed to be the spies for the Supreme Devil Organization.

Hence, Sharkan could become his own spy while researching spirits with all the clues he got. He hoped that he could give him information and find out more about spirits.

In other words, Noel's objective had changed from knowledge to spying.

With that thought in mind, Noel grabbed the second book and asked, "How about this book? Give me a summary of it."

"Certainly." Sharkan nodded excitedly. Noel had a different but blunt point of view. It made things easy for him to connect something to his own question and knowledge.

Even his casual remark might be something that his spirit had told him.

Sharkan immediately explained, "Like I said previously, this book contains information about why the spirits reside within us.

"However, this is a bit absurd because it's actually related to the demons. According to this book, the demons aren't from this world.

"Instead, they come from outer space." Sharkan pointed up.

"Outer space? Do you mean outside this world?" Noel was completely baffled by this information. But with how the spirits could enter this world to help the humans, the demons might be able to come here from outside. And they were the ones who caused the previous civilization's destruction.

"Yes. The author of this book was actually a Spirit Grandmaster, who was once a part of the Demon Banner Army. He had a lot of journeys outside the borders.

"Apparently, there was no record of the demons in the ruins he had encountered. This is the main reason why he believes that the demon is coming from the outside world. We don't know how and when, but their appearance might be similar to an invasion.

"They tried and are still trying to invade this world while the previous civilization resisted them.

"Unfortunately, our civilization lost and the demons controlled the world. That was when the spirits came.

"They were here to liberate us. Though, there was also a possibility that they were here to chase after the demons. By using us, they could exterminate them.

"In other words, the spirits might be like us, but to travel from their world to this world, they can only do it with their astral body. And that's the reason why they can only grant their power to us and have to reside within our body."

Surprisingly, Noel couldn't say anything about this theory. After all, he was somehow convinced by the content. The possibility was there, but he couldn't prove it.

Chapter 523 Thought

Rose was hanging her coat when she noticed Noel was still sitting on the desk, reading his note.

She couldn't help but approach him while asking, "Are you still thinking about it?"

Noel was startled at first before turning around while smiling. "Ah, yes. You've come back."

Rose recounted what happened during their discussion.

"Everything coming from the ruins is actually something that can be moved without Spiritual Energy. In that case, what if the demons actually invade this world, not only bringing destruction, but also Spiritual Energy?"

"It's true that the demons are attacking us, but they're actually manipulating the animals, objects, or plants around us. There are some records about the demons possessing the humans, but what if the spirits are the ones repelling the demons?"

"What if those few records are from the humans whose spirits have been corrupted? If they behave like a human, what if there are some rogue spirits who actually want to corrupt you?"

"Even we, humans, don't have a way to differentiate the bad guy and the good guy unless they have acted in such a way."

When Sharkan represented that thought, Noel was completely bewildered. That was right.

He never thought about it.

After meeting Ardagan and the Moon Goddess, he couldn't help but think if he was a special person to meet both of them.

With that thought, he wondered whether Ardagan and the Moon Goddess were good or bad. If they had an evil intention, he might lose his life.

So, a question arose in Noel's head.

'What's the Spirit intended to do in this world? Why are they coming to this world? Is it to fight the demons? Is it to help humanity resist the invasion?'

He wanted to know the intention of these spirits. But asking it from Ardagan made him doubt himself.

After all, it was disrespectful. Ardagan had helped him this whole time, making sure that he got everything he needed.

And then, he began to doubt him as if Ardagan harbored a hidden intention.

So, Noel wondered whether the spirits were the good guy or the bad guy.

Noel closed his eyes to contemplate that thought. It was clear that they had a certain intention. After all, there was no way the spirits would help humans for more than a thousand years.

Noel shared this thought with Rose. Of course, it was a long discussion. Even Sharkan felt a bit overwhelmed by Noel's intelligence.

It was clear that Noel wasn't a normal commoner. Instead, he was a noble.

By taking that thought into account, Noel tried to invite Sharkan to join him. He wanted him to find the truth about the spirits while being his agent in investigating the Tower Association.

He didn't know how useful Sharkan was, but it was enough to know that he could get some information from him. Meanwhile, the rest of the job would be handled by his father's subordinate.

After recounting the scene, Rose asked, "Have you asked about it from the spirits?"

"The spirits might be telling the truth, but we won't know whether it's the whole truth or not. And the spirits can also remain silent." Noel shook his head.

"I see. If that's the case, you're going to have some trouble, you know."

"Yeah. The fact that I doubt the spirits mean the other way around can happen too. So, I don't know what to do..."

"On the one hand, the spirits might already be aware of this thought. On the other hand, I'm still not strong enough to not rely on spirits..."

Noel sighed. He knew how much he had relied on the system. It was basically the only reason why he could get this strong.

So, Noel wondered what would happen if the spirits refused to help him anymore.

He scratched the back of his head.

"Well, you won't be able to get the answer right now." Rose shook her head helplessly. She understood his concern. If he couldn't use his Spiritual Energy and Spirits anymore, his life as a knight would be over. And there was no need to meet the second guide tomorrow to get some insight about Spiritual Energy and Spirit.

"You should get some sleep first to clear your head. I believe you can think of something tomorrow. In the worst case, we'll be canceling the meeting with the second guide."

"That's true..." Noel sighed. He glanced to the side and couldn't see the moon anymore. It showed how much time he had used to sort his thoughts. "I'll get some rest first."

"Then, I'll leave you alone." Rose nodded and left the room, returning to her own room.

Now that he was alone, he couldn't help but think about the spirit again. Still, he closed his eyes as if trying to get some sleep.

It was at this time he was actually invited to meet Ardagan.

"This is..." Noel looked around, recognizing this plain white world. In that instant, he turned around, finding Ardagan in front of him.

"Ardagan..." Noel furrowed his eyebrows. "I guess you have learned my thoughts..."

"Yes." Ardagan nodded his head. "There are some things we have to make clear."

"That'll be for the best. But I don't think you're going to tell me everything, right?"

"That's correct," Ardagan admitted without hesitation.

Noel sighed. Although he had expected it, he still wished he could know the truth. "Well, by residing in our body, you're able to access our senses and brain. You know what we see, what we feel, and what we think. In exchange, you grant us your power."

"That's correct." Ardagan stopped for a moment. "Though, I have to tell you a few things about it."

"I understand. Let's talk about it. Though, I believe I have to ask this question. Can I trust you, Ardagan?" Noel's expression became grim.

Ardagan remained silent for a few seconds before answering, "Of course. You can trust me. The spirits aren't humans' enemies. After all, you, humans, are the descendants of the people the Spirit God holds dear."

Chapter 524 Ancestry

"After all, you, humans, are the descendants of the people the Spirit God holds dear."

"Huh? What do you mean?" Noel widened his eyes in shock. His body was trembling because he didn't know how the Spirit God was connected to the humans.

"Do you remember this mission?" Ardagan asked while using his power to generate a system panel, reminding Noel about a mission he once had.

[Mission: ???]

[Description: ???]

[Reward: Spirit Information Part 1]

[Penalty: None.]

"This is..." Noel gasped. He was trying to get some information about the spirits along the way, but because he had to prioritize strength over information, he forgot about this mission.

"That's right. I have this mission..." Noel looked at Ardagan before realizing what he wanted to say. "Don't tell me..."

"Yes," Ardagan confirmed while revealing the true mission.

[Mission: Doubting the Spirit]

[Description: One never gets an answer if they don't ask a question.]

[Reward: Spirit Information Part 1]

[Penalty: None.]

The mission was actually like the way of a scholar. They kept asking and doubting until eventually they reached an answer.

And this time, Noel's doubt actually cleared the mission.

"Because you have cleared the mission, I'm going to give you the reward." Ardagan's tone became serious. "I'm going to tell you about four things. The first one is related to your ancestry, but beyond what you know."

"Do you know anything about the previous civilization? Not, right?"

Noel squinted his eyes. "You already have the answer, so why ask?"

Ardagan didn't answer him. Instead, he continued with the explanation. "Humans once ruled the world. They conquered the land, the sky, and the sea. Their power was massive. Even without Spiritual Energy, they could do all that.

"And our Spirit God actually had a close bond to one of the humans. I couldn't tell you any details about their relationship.

"However, what I could tell you is that the Spirit God actually forged me so that he could give it to this human."

"!!!" Noel became even more confused. He couldn't help but feel this was a romantic story.

But Ardagan seemed to understand his thought and added, "It's not a romantic story."

"..." Noel looked away as if he was embarrassed that his thought was that easy to understand.

"The current humans are actually the people that managed to escape the destruction of humanity."

"So, we're the remnant of the people from that time? But you said that the world was ruled by humans. Didn't that mean the humans managed to spread their population all around the world? In that case, what kingdom were we derived from?"

Ardagan's tone became sad as if he was disappointed that he couldn't tell Noel. "Unfortunately, that's not a part of the reward. What you need to know is that you are coming from the remnant of an ancient civilization. However, because you're trying to hide from the demons while maintaining the resistance, there are a lot of resources that are lost."

Noel looked down for a moment. "In that case, do you know how the situation was back there? You were supposed to have lived through the age, right?"

"Yes. But that information will come with..." Ardagan stopped as he started releasing energy as if he was trying to do something.

After that, a system panel appeared, showing a different mission.

[Mission: ???]

[Description: ???]

[Reward: Spirit Information Part 2]

[Penalty: None.]

"So, I have to finish this unknown mission again to be eligible to know that information?"

"Yes. Though, I think you have some ideas about how great they are."

"Well..." Noel scratched the back of his head. Of course he understood. Just from the way Ardagan spoke and the relic of the previous civilization, it was clear that the humans somehow managed to use technology, like the one he had seen inside the academy, to rule the world.

Yet, despite such a strong foundation and power, civilization had ceased to exist. It showed how strong the demons were.

Noel thought for a moment and asked, "If that's the case, why haven't the demons annihilated us? They could destroy humans back then. So, we should have been exterminated with the power we have now. After all, humans couldn't conquer the world again."

"That's the third thing I want to tell you. Though, it's connected to the second one, so I'll start with it. It's about my origin.

"As you already know, I'm an artificial spirit, made by the Spirit God to be gifted to a human. And that human was actually your ancestor's grandparents.

"She was my first wielder, Ardagan. And because of her, the demons couldn't enter this world, causing all these destruction. However, it changed when she passed away.

"Now that this world didn't have someone who protected them from the invasion, the demons finally emerged and invaded this world.

"That was the beginning of the destruction. The demons started swarming the worlds and I, the previous beacon from the spirit world, was activated at the price of your ancestor's parents.

"That was why your ancestor wielded me and fled from the swarm of demons and established the new kingdom with the people he fled with. And this was the origin of your kingdom."

"!!!" Noel was taken aback because he never expected that the situation would be like this.

"Does that mean my family has been the one protecting the world?"

"Well, your ancestors did protect the world, but after that, no one was qualified to protect the world again, including your ancestors."

"..." Noel looked down for a moment. "Since it's like that, doesn't that mean humanity is doomed? But how come the demons have been so passive in the past thousand years?"

"Well, I can't tell you at the moment. I know that you might grow curious about it and I won't stop you from getting the answer. However, you have to know that the reason I don't tell you right now is because I don't want to divert your attention. I want you to maintain your focus on your current goal."

Noel narrowed his eyes as if he had picked up something amiss. "Then, that's probably related to the last thing you want to tell me."

"Yes."

Chapter 525 Bloodline

"Yes."

Ardagan confirmed without hesitation. This was probably the most important stuff he had to tell him.

Even though Noel had expected it to be related, he still had no idea what he wanted to talk about.

Noel thought for a moment and asked, "Before you tell me the last thing, do you think you can answer two of my questions?"

"I'll listen to that question first."

"You told me earlier that my ancestors protected the world from the invasion. Did you mean they were fighting alone?"

"Yes. And you seem to want to know whether you are going to do the same or not..."

"Of course. After all, I also have a family to maintain. I can't focus on it if my family is ruined."

"I certainly understand that, but you don't have to think about that. The fight won't be something like what you're thinking right now. You can do both just fine. As for the details, it's better to wait until you get stronger."

"Can't I simply know about it now so that I can prepare for it?"

"That's diverting your attention and your progress will be a lot slower. Right now, you don't have much time left. If you don't get stronger quickly, let alone save the world, you can't even save yourself."

"..." Noel squinted his eyes as if questioning Ardagan. But in the end, he let out a sigh and asked, "When are you planning to tell me about it? Is it related to that mission?"

"No. But if you want to get involved in this, you have to be a Spirit Grandmaster first. Otherwise, you're too weak to even think about it. I don't want you to get scared of something you can do nothing about."

"I understand that." Noel was a bit disappointed, but he didn't show it for the time being. He raised another finger, "One last question. If my ancestors were that strong, how did they die?"

"That's something related to the mission. Though, it's not the current mission."

"..." Noel pinched the bridge of his nose. "Alright then. What do you want to tell me next?"

Ardagan paused for a moment.

"I'm planning to talk about the rank of a spirit."

"Huh? Is it about those five ranks?"

"No. The rank I'm talking about is the ranking used for the spirit's position."

"The spirit position? Now that I think about it, how is the Moon Goddess known to be a Goddess instead of a normal Spirit?"

Ardagan shook his body as if telling him that it was related to that matter.

"We, spirits, have one and only God, the Spirit God. His words are absolute and his rules give us prosperity. There is not a single spirit who doesn't recognize his deeds. While I can't say that all spirits are good and follow his will, it's true that they recognize what he's done for the Spirit World.

"As for the Dark Butterfly Spirit, the reason why she is known to be above most spirits is because she is the Spirit God's wife."

"His wife?" Noel widened his eyes in shock. "This is the first time I've heard about it. But when you take a look at it, I can somehow understand..."

"First of all, you are a Spirit made by the Spirit God. And with the relationship between the Spirit God and the Moon Goddess, I can understand how you get all that information. No wonder you two know each other and have all this information."

Ardagan didn't reply, but it seemed he acknowledged what he said.

"Below it is the Spirit God's direct vassal. Each vassal has the strength close to the Dark Butterfly Spirit."

"Hoh?" Noel became amused. By how the Moon Temple acknowledged the Moon Goddess, it was clear what kind of power she had.

And to think the vassals had strength similar to hers, it was mind-blowing. After all, it meant that the spirit world had so many powerhouses. The humans were completely like ants before them.

This was the time Ardagan dropped the bomb.

"And you have to know that Anna Stargaze has one of the Spirit God's vassals as her spirit."

"!!!" Noel widened his eyes in shock. "What did you say? She has such a strong spirit?"

"Yes."

Noel's body was shaking. On the one hand, Ardagan was telling him that Anna had such a strong spirit. It might look harmless. On the other hand, he was indirectly implying that his talent was far inferior to Anna's.

As if understanding Noel's thought, Ardagan added, "Although you don't have that talent, you don't have to feel down. You actually possess one more thing that won't lose to her talent."

"And that is..." Noel frowned as he couldn't come up with a single thing that could defeat such a talent. After all, the spirit Anna had was the third strongest position in the spirit world.

"It's your bloodline."

"My bloodline?" Noel was confused. After all, how could his bloodline affect all this talent? In fact, if his bloodline was strong, he would be able to get a better spirit.

Ardagan paused for a moment, giving Noel time to think. After that, he continued, "There is one special thing you need to know about your bloodline. It's related to your ancestor.

"Try to think about this. The demons have powerful strength and what do you think if they have the ability to reproduce at the same speed as the humans?"

"Huh..." Noel looked down, falling into deep thought. "They are strong and won't die easily. If they reproduce at the same rate as the humans, they'll certainly fill this world and rule this world."

"Yes. That's why the demons' reproduction rate isn't that high. There is always something to balance it. And currently, your bloodline is so strong that the world has to balance it in the same way as the demons.

"In other words..." Ardagan stopped for a moment, creating suspense. "You can only give birth to one child no matter how much you want it."

Chapter 526 Stronger

"Huh?" Noel tilted his head before remembering his family tree. He covered his mouth with his hand as if trying to hide his thought while thinking, 'Now that I think about it, the Ardagan Family only produced one heir this whole time. Father never mentioned it as a curse, but it seemed he was already aware of this from the beginning.

'Does that mean all of Ardagans already knew about this and lived through it?' While contemplating, Noel suddenly felt something was amiss. "Wait a minute. How does this relate to the spirit position?"

"There is one relation. And this is probably the reason why your father has been chasing after your uncle."

"Wait a minute. Since we can only produce a single heir, why do I have an uncle?"

"He is adopted."

"..." Noel was speechless. He wanted to refute it, but he couldn't do it, knowing what Ardagan said was completely correct. So, he shifted back to the topic. "So, about the relationship..."

"There were only three people in history that managed to wield me. The original owner, her grandson, and you.

"So, your ancestor actually wrote a book regarding your bloodline. And your father knew about it from the book... But your uncle coveted that book and stole it from your father.

"It happened in front of me when I was still sealed away inside the hidden chamber."

"Wait a minute..." Noel gasped. "Don't tell me... the reason why my uncle wants to kill me..."

"Yes. I believe what you're thinking is correct."

Noel was truly shaken by this revelation. "The Supreme Devil Organization is an organization that wants to destroy this world and ally with the demons. In other words, my bloodline is a hindrance, especially after knowing that I can wield you.

"He wants to stop me from using you. And with this bloodline, there's no way my father can produce another heir.

"That's why the bloodline will stop with me and the demons will finally have their way and eventually get rid of humans."

Noel never expected that the reason why he was hunted was because of his own bloodline. But he couldn't think of any other explanation.

"As for its relation with the spirit position..." Ardagan paused for a moment. "I want you to know that your power has been strengthened by me. As the wielder of Ardagan, your bloodline will be strengthened.

"In other words, if you produce an heir, especially from someone with peerless talent, it could be said that your child will become the apostle of the Spirit God.

"He might be the one that can liberate humans. Even if he couldn't, he might become one of the hosts of the spirits whose strength is only second to the Spirit God."

"..." Noel narrowed his eyes. "You are not trying to force me to marry someone, right?"

"..."

There was an awkward silence that lasted for a few seconds before Ardagan gave an answer. "Of course not."

"What's with that silence?"

Ardagan acted as if he didn't hear that question and continued, "In any case, the next spirit positions are the commandants. Basically, they are the rulers of elements.

"There are only six commandants in the spirit world. Fire, Water, Earth, Lightning, Light, and Dark. These are the six rulers of elements.

"I believe you have heard about a few of them in this world..."

Noel paused. As he said, there were many talented individuals whose strengths were completely beyond anyone's level.

"By the way, my ancestor..."

"Of course. As the grandson of the first wielder, his talent far exceeded you. He is contracted to the ruler of Light."

"..." Noel narrowed his eyes. "But our talent has been reduced because of our situation, right? How come there are people like Anna and other talented people..."

Noel couldn't say he wasn't jealous, but he wouldn't insult them just because he didn't have that talent.

"They are exceptions in this world."

"..." Noel's eyebrows twitched as if he didn't like the answer.

Ardagan sensed it and added, "However, you don't need to be jealous."

"I'm not jealous. And why do I have to be jealous?"

"If you're not jealous, then all I can say is that your child will be extremely talented if you pick the right woman."

"Shut up. Is it because you are a spirit and we are humans that you think we are simply like your pawns and that you can do everything you want for the sake of getting stronger?"

Ardagan didn't say anything. He could understand why Noel reacted so strongly. He doubted the spirits previously after all.

"Do you think I'll sacrifice everything just for your sake? I—"

Before Noel continued, Ardagan interjected him with a solution. "Of course. You are my host. I know how you feel and what you want. That's why I'm telling you this. Becoming my wielder comes with a benefit.

"Not only can you have two spirits in your body, but I can also use your blood to help the other spirit. This way, you will get the perfect conversion rate.

"And instead of letting your child do it, I know that you are the type to deal with it yourself. That's why I'm going to tell you this.

"I have a way to make you stronger. You should be able to at least reach your ancestor's level in the future with my help."

Noel furrowed his eyebrows. "My ancestor's level? That's definitely tempting, but you should know that even he couldn't do anything against the demons. The demons are still in this world and we would have to live in this cursed world."

"That's why I'm proposing this second idea to you. I can only tell you this after informing you about the spirit positions."

"!!!" Noel suddenly stopped as if he understood what he wanted to say. "Don't tell me..."

"Yes. Your ancestor's talent allowed him to get the Ruler of Light. Talent might be determined at birth, but the end goal is not. That's why I'm going to propose this.

"You can surpass your ancestor with my help. We are going to make your spirit, Heisk, become the Ruler of Water or even beyond that!"

Chapter 527 Do It

"We are going to make your spirit, Heisk, become the Ruler of Water or even beyond that!"

"!!!" Noel widened his eyes in surprise. He didn't expect Ardagan to suggest this kind of plan.

Noel looked down for a moment, contemplating. "Although I know how to let Heisk become stronger, it doesn't change the fact that it's not something possible at the current state. I need a lot of resources to even strengthen her. And Heisk hasn't even reached the humanoid form."

Ardagan nodded. "Of course, I understand that. That's why I'm going to give you a proposal.

"There are five ways to help the Spirit get stronger. As you know, the stronger they are, the more power you can gain from them.

"So, I'm going to teach you about these ways. The first way is the most common method, which is actually letting them develop their own strength. In other words, you don't have to do anything and just allow them to mature.

"This is the slowest method, so I don't really recommend it. As for the second method... it's to use the items that can improve their elements. I believe you're already aware of this method, so I won't continue with the explanation.

"The third method is through the teaching method. There is actually another benefit for the spirit to help humans. Once they acknowledge the humans, they should be able to see how the humans use their power.

"I'm sure you know about an idiom, 'Two brains are better than one,' right? Heisk has been watching you utilize her ability. And if you come up with a unique way, she might be able to get enlightened. As you already know, we are not that much different from you.

"The fourth method is to use a certain training method. However, this method will drain your lifespan, so unless the human is insane, we, spirits, never tell them about this method.

"That leaves us on the fifth path. We can actually form a symbiotic link between us. This is far better than the Spirit Seal...

"However, I have to warn you that if we proceed with this method, you might be able to gain a boost in your power, but you will have to endure the side effects."

Noel's eyebrows twitched the moment he mentioned the side effect. "What kind of side effect is it?"

Ardagan paused for a moment before explaining with a deeper tone. "This method is called Spirit Link. Basically, we are linking our consciousness with yours. By doing that, you can feel what we feel. Well, you should be able to sense the elements better.

"But the side effect is that you will also sense our feelings, including our temperament. I have sensed the breath of the Lightning Berserker Spirit from that woman. So, I'm sure she is enduring the side effects the whole time.

"I am not sure what it is, but it seems that she can be a little crazy at a time..."

"!!!" Noel suddenly remembered what happened to Anna from time to time. Anna often released such a heavy killing intent as if she had gone mad. He thought it was related to her family's situation, but it seemed he was wrong.

No, he wasn't wrong. He was just not entirely correct. The Spirit Link indeed boosted that killing intent, but if there was no one trying to corrupt her, she would be able to control her killing intent easily instead of developing it to that stage.

And this time, Noel was offered a way to get stronger with that kind of price.

"Is the side effect only related to killing intent?"

"Not really. We, spirits, have different temperaments, so depending on our character, the side effects will vary. Even I don't know what kind of side effects you will experience once you get a Spirit Link from Heisk."

"What about you? There were two people who previously wielded you, right?"

"Yes. But your ancestors didn't know about this method. I didn't tell him because his desire only reached that point. However, you are different. You are similar to my first wielder.

"As for the side effects... it's better to let you feel it yourself."

Noel didn't know what Ardagan was trying to do, but the white world suddenly turned dark.

"!!!" Noel couldn't sense anything from around him, let alone see things. "What is this?"

Noel looked around but to no avail. He didn't know what he had to do in this situation.

"Ardagan?" Noel tried to ask, but his knee suddenly hurt as if he was hit by something. "Kh..."

Even though Noel had endured a lot of pain, this was the first time he had felt this kind of pain. This hit struck deep into his bone, making it tremble. "What is this?"

After that pain, the darkness suddenly disappeared, returning to the plain white room.

"I am a different kind of Spirit. There has been no one like me since I'm born from forging. What you felt earlier was the pain that I went through during the forging... Though, I was metal before. So, I didn't feel any pain. You could think of it as a kind of tempering..."

"..." Noel gritted his teeth. The pain was different because it made his bones reverberate. But he could see why it was called tempering. If that strike appeared from time to time, it should feel like he was being hit by a blacksmith until he changed shape.

"This is..."

Ardagan nodded. "Still, I am considered equal to a Humanoid Spirit. So, the Spirit Link is stronger.

"Hence, I recommend you to get a Spirit Link with Heisk first to get used to the side effect before attempting it with me.

"This way, you can get stronger at a lower price. During that time, you can aid Heisk with a lot of things. And there will be more options for Heisk to choose when giving you abilities."

Ardagan wanted to continue, but Noel suddenly raised his hand, stopping him. He suddenly looked at Ardagan with a face filled with resolve.

"There's no need to continue, Ardagan. Let's do it!"

Chapter 528 Spirit Link

"There's no need to continue, Ardagan. Let's do it!"

Ardagan was amused. After all, Noel looked like he was underestimating the Spirit Link. But with Noel's character, he shouldn't underestimate it after experiencing it himself. So, it meant Noel had prepared his heart for this.

"You should think about this carefully. Once you form a Spirit Link, you can't undo it." Ardagan tried to warn him, but Noel actually shook his head.

"No. I don't think it that way. It's true that the price I've to pay is still heavy even though you said it's a lower price compared to you. However, I have to form the Spirit Link.

"It's not because I'm jealous of Anna or because I underestimate the Spirit Link... I simply have to do it if I want to survive in this world.

"My uncle, the Supreme Devil Organization, the Demons, and the schemers, whether it is the Third Prince or the Royal Family... They won't wait for me to get stronger.

"That's why I have to get all the strength I can get right now no matter what price I have to pay.

"Besides..." Noel made a small smile. "You should know this, Ardagan... My talent can't be compared to my ancestors or even Anna.

"If I don't have a talent, I should have an indomitable will if I want to catch up to those peerless talents.

"People think I am a genius since I can reach this level within one and a half years, but have they seen how hard I've worked?"

Ardagan fell silent. He had seen how hard Noel had worked this whole time. He sacrificed a lot of sleep and did everything in a way to train. He pushed himself further and further, sacrificing a lot of time and sweat in order.

That was why Ardagan suddenly apologized to him. "I'm sorry."

His action earlier was very disrespectful to Noel's resolve and determination.

"It's fine. Let's begin." Noel shook his head with a smile. He knew Ardagan would understand him.

"In that case, I shall call Heisk." Ardagan vanished into thin air before reappearing one minute later.

This time, Heisk, the Ice Fairy, was flying next to him. She bowed her head to Noel as if giving respect to him.

Noel put on the most sincere smile and asked politely, "Heisk. I know this is a hard decision for you. But will you form a Spirit Link with me? I promise that I will continue to strive forward no matter what obstacles I have to face along the way. Will you get stronger with me?"

Heisk nodded with a serious expression. She flew toward her Spirit Seal on Noel's chest and looked at him for one last moment, asking, "Noel Ardagan. Will you accept my power and everything that comes along with it?"

"I do."

"With the Spirit God as the witness, I, Heisk, swear that I shall accompany Noel Ardagan to his ultimate goal no matter how long it takes. I shall support him to the very end. May the Spirit God punish me if I break this Spirit Oath."

Heisk closed her eyes while touching her Spirit Mark with both hands.

"!!!" Noel suddenly felt something strange all over his body.

The Spirit Mark started pulsing, causing the heart to beat faster. Then, blue lines started to emerge from the mark and spread all over the body like that of veins.

Noel couldn't help but feel cold all over his body. It felt like his body froze from the inside.

Yet, he didn't actually feel any pain. Despite the uncomfortable feeling, he felt like something more important was being built inside of him.

Suddenly, Noel's feet became limp as he couldn't help but fall to the ground.

Heisk followed him while pouring more Spiritual Energy into his body.

The blue lines finally reached the tip of his fingers and gradually moved toward his head.

Noel's eyes were already closed, so he couldn't see anything. But he knew that something was penetrating his mind.

This cool feeling gradually spread all over his head. He didn't know why but everything became chill. He didn't have any energy to even share his emotions.

It didn't take too long for Noel to understand what it meant.

'I see. So, this is the price I have to pay...' Noel thought. The price was actually his emotion. The ice was freezing his brain and heart, making him unable to invoke his emotion.

If Noel grew like Anna, whose killing intent was amplified by the brainwashing, he would certainly turn into an extremely cold man, one who was devoid of emotion.

However, Noel had a different path from Anna. His path was formed by the relationships he built along the way.

His parents gave him warmth and love. The people he helped in the past shared their thanks, warming his heart. The kids showed him happiness. And the loyalty of Rose and the others kept him going.

It could be said that Noel's way of living was the perfect counter to this side effect.

"I see... I think I can understand why you suggest this, Ardagan. I don't know how sure you are, but this side effect should be within your calculation. And you know that everything I have right now can nullify that side effect. As long as I continue living this way, that side effect will not matter."

Ardagan didn't reply to him for a moment as if acknowledging that fact. Though, he still tried to praise him. "I simply believe that you can always overcome anything that comes your way. And I, as your spirit, will help you to the best of my ability. I merely ask you to believe in me."

"Is that so?" A smile suddenly appeared on Noel's face. That smile was warm unlike the coldness he had just received from Heisk. "I guess I have to apologize for doubting you, Partner."

"I can understand that." Ardagan flew toward Heisk while the latter gained some distance from Noel.

Both of them said the same thing. "Please trust us. We shall support you to the best of our ability."

Chapter 529 Reward

Noel gradually opened his eyes. He had finally returned to reality.

Since he had just gotten something from his spirits, the excitement still hadn't left his body. He couldn't help but rise from his bed, wanting to try this new power.

Although he looked unaffected by the side effect, his calm and collected expression looked a bit colder as though he was aloof in this world.

He raised his hand, pointing at the table.

'Back then, I could only freeze the thing I touched. But right now...' Noel fell silent. He noticed a new feeling on his skin.

The chilling wind, the coldness of the night, and even the current temperature... he felt them like they were a part of his body.

'So, this is how the spirit feels... Maybe I would be able to reach this point after long training, but right now, I've skipped that phase and gained this power instantly.

'It seems that the way we perceive this world is different from the Spirit. The coldness, the temperature...'

While he was thinking about it, the wooden table started to freeze. It gradually spread to the entire surface, covering it with a thin layer of ice.

He actually managed to do it without even touching the table. After confirming that power, the system appeared.

[Congratulations on building a Spirit Link.]

[Ice Control has been upgraded into Frost Control.]

[Spirit Link has been established.]

[You've acquired Ice Aura.]

[You've acquired Ice Mirror.]

[You've acquired Ice Vortex.]

"This is..." Noel closed his eyes as new knowledge came into his head.

Skill: Ice Aura (1/3)

Requirement: 10 SP

Skill: Ice Mirror (1/5)

Requirement: 15 SP

Skill: Ice Vortex (1/3)

Requirement: 30 SP

"..." Noel was surprised to see these three skills. It was a powerful skill.

There was one skill that didn't use a lot of Spiritual Energy and wouldn't bother the people around him, so he tried using it to check his ability.

Ice Aura.

Suddenly, blue-colored Spiritual Energy came out of his body, hovering around as if they were forming a layer of protection around him.

According to the knowledge, this Ice Aura was similar to his armor. Anything that touched this aura would be frozen by the Ice Aura. Unless they were strong or fast enough to bypass the freeze, they wouldn't be able to touch him.

If he combined it with his Demon Tree Armor, he should be able to block a lot of attacks from a Spirit Master.

As for the other two skills, they were even more powerful than this Ice Aura.

Ice Mirror could be considered an offensive and defensive skill simultaneously. If he formed the ice shield, he could use the Spiritual Energy in it to let the mirror shoot out ice energy that could freeze everything it touched. If he didn't utilize the energy inside the mirror, he could turn it into a shield.

Last but not least, the Ice Vortex. This vortex was more powerful than the Freezing Crystal. If he used it at the right time, it should be able to kill a Spirit Master. Though, it also required a lot of Spiritual Energy, so he shouldn't use it easily.

"I have gained a lot of things from this trip," Noel muttered, thinking of the next meeting. He wanted to know about the power of a Spirit ian along with the utilization of Spiritual Energy. It was a bit important to him since he had just formed the Spirit Link.

He was sure that no one in this world except for a few people knew about the Spirit Link. So, he would try to pique the other party's interest with some hints, turning the guide into an ally. This way, he would have two spies within the academy.

With that thought in mind, Noel continued working on his new control. It never ceased to amuse him whenever he used his Ice this time.

Although he couldn't utilize this power freely since he wasn't 'Noel' right now, it was enough to be a trump card. If he fought against the same Spirit Master that he managed to kill by himself, he should be able to kill that person without risking his life anymore.

Rose was confused when she met him in the morning. After all, Noel looked tired and there was even a black bag underneath his eyes as if he hadn't rested for a few days.

It seemed his excitement had drained almost all his Spiritual Energy, so he asked Rose to protect him while he recovered his Spiritual Energy.

Of course, he still went into the meeting to know more about the Spirits, despite learning a lot from Ardagan.

He knew what he had to do now. He might not be as talented as Anna or his ancestors, but by no means he accepted that condition and remained weak.

He would use every opportunity to get stronger until he surpassed his ancestor. At that time, he should be able to solve the problem with the Third Prince and the Royal Family.

And he would spend the rest of his life striving forward, planning to liberate the world from the demons.

Rose and Noel were standing in front of the inn as they prepared to head to the academy.

But Rose seemed to find something different from Noel.

"Hmm? Did something happen last night? It seemed that you were training a lot, but I think there is something different from you." Rose furrowed her eyebrows, assessing Noel.

Noel made a gentle smile, assuring Rose. It seemed that Rose's powerful senses managed to see through the change. But luckily, even with her senses, she was still not sure. It meant other people wouldn't be able to recognize it.

"Nothing. I'm completely fine. In fact, I feel a bit excited... I just learned yesterday that my journey is far too small." Noel smirked, teasing Rose. "You should be prepared, Rose. The lord you serve right now is bigger than you can possibly imagine. You might regret following me."

"Haha, is that a challenge? Then, we'll see whether I will regret it or not." Rose chuckled as the two started walking to the academy.

Chapter 530 Recruiting A Master Blacksmith

While Noel and Rose were occupied with the academy, Dimitri had reached the village where the Master Blacksmith resided.

Of course, Dimitri didn't plan to offend the Master Blacksmith no matter how confident he was. Instead of lining up, he waited until the night so that he could sneak in.

He was sure that he wouldn't be able to meet the Master Blacksmith. And with this kind of mission, he was sure that it was better to wait until the Master Blacksmith finished his work.

Whether it was fortunate or unfortunate, the two siblings seemed to have returned to the village, telling about their trip this time.

After Noel's help, the family reunited and their bond became far stronger. It was a truly peaceful and happy family.

Unfortunately, Dimitri had to intrude into their happy meeting.

"Hahaha. Is that so? I'm happy that they're treating both of you well. I won't tell you what to do. Instead, you should focus on getting the information network. After all, you need a powerful information network if you want to be a successful merchant. Your mother told me that."

The two siblings smiled. "Father..."

"..." The Master Blacksmith suddenly fell silent and his expression turned serious as if he felt something.

"Father?" His children's smiles also disappeared as confusion filled the room.

The Master Blacksmith furrowed his eyebrows and turned to the corner, asking cautiously, "For what reason your excellency visit this humble blacksmith?"

"!!!" The two kids turned around, following their father's sight. They were surprised to find a shadow that gradually came out from the ground, turning into a humanoid figure.

As expected from a Master Blacksmith, although he always worked with the weapons, his strength couldn't be underestimated either.

He was actually a Spirit Master. This was the reason why he could handle a lot of jobs and even teach Noel some techniques.

"I've come here to complete the task of my master."

"Your master? If he wishes to get a weapon, he should follow the procedure. Even if you are strong, I won't let you bully me." The Master Blacksmith glared at him.

"You are wrong. My master is someone you know, so I don't need to follow the procedure." Dimitri paused for a moment, creating suspense.

All of them were wondering who was bold enough to do this to a Master Blacksmith. But the moment Dimitri opened his mouth, everything was clear.

"My master's name is ladre."

"!!!" All of them widened their eyes in shock. They obviously knew about this person since he was the reason why they could get harmonious again.

"Why does your master seek me? Although I know him personally and am thankful for what he has done, I think there are some procedures to follow. You can't simply barge into my house like this."

"I apologize. However, this matter is far more serious than you can imagine. If any of the people in your workshop know about it, it might bring a disaster to them and your family."

"Hoh?" The Master Blacksmith furrowed his eyebrows. "I hope that you're telling the truth or I might get pissed."

"Don't worry." Dimitri was in his shadow form so that he couldn't recognize him. In fact, he had appeared on multiple occasions, but only when he met Noel and his grandfather that Dimitri didn't use his cover.

Suddenly, a book appeared on top of the shadow, and he held it with both hands. "This book contains knowledge of a complete version of the Spirit Enchantment."

"!!!" The Master Blacksmith was dumbfounded, but his expression soon turned serious. "Your words are not light. You should know that the Spirit Enchantment is a technique that has been recognized all around the world, right?"

"Of course. That's why I am giving you a sample. It contains the complete version of the Hardening Enchantment." Dimitri took out a piece of paper and tossed it to the Master Blacksmith.

The moment the paper reached his hand, the Master Blacksmith dropped his jaw to the ground.

"This is..." He gasped because he couldn't believe what he saw. "These lines, the strokes... They contain the basic Spirit Enchantment. If this is truly the complete version, it should be at least 1.5 times stronger. Is this true?"

"I believe you should be able to recognize it and prove it yourself."

"..." The Master Blacksmith fell silent, staring at the paper. His children were confused and surprised, wondering what kind of thing could surprise their father. However, they didn't come to their father to take a peek in order to respect their privacy. This was a matter between father and their father, so they should stay away until they were permitted to join.

The Master Blacksmith fell into deep thought. It took him five minutes to consider everything.

He glanced at Dimitri and said, "Even with my expertise, I don't think I can prove it easily. I have the basics down, but it's close to impossible to recreate this enchantment in one go. I need around one week to practice..."

"I apologize. I don't have that much time to wait."

"..." He frowned and said, "It might be sloppy, but give me three days. I should be able to do it within three days."

Dimitri contemplated this time frame. After all, he didn't want to be away from Noel for too long.

He calculated the time needed to wait, go back to the Demon Banner Army headquarters to give the kids a present, and head to Noel's position.

"Alright. I'll wait for three days." Dimitri nodded.

"What does he want me to do in exchange for this knowledge? I'm sure it's not a free meal, right?"

"He would like to invite you as a Master Blacksmith in his future territory. As for the price, he is planning to give you the complete version of the Spirit Enchantment." Dimitri raised the book.

The Master Blacksmith closed his eyes. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. After all, he might become the first Master Blacksmith to master this complete version and his name would go down in history. But that price was heavy, considering he preferred this kind of lifestyle.

That was when Dimitri presented the second reward. "Also, my master is planning to venture out of the human territory. There will be a lot of relics and blueprints. You will be able to handle all of it."

"!!!" The Master Blacksmith widened his eyes in shock. The rewards truly tempted him, but he had to consider his children as well.

"Father. Please don't worry about us. We won't be your burden forever."

His children's words touched his heart. But it wasn't an easy decision.

It took him a whole ten minutes to finally agree.

"Alright. But my condition is that you have to support my children in your territory."

"As long as it is within my master's means..."

"We have a deal."