

S vs Rebirth 561

Chapter 561 Greed

"Sir. We have received the book." A middle-aged man presented the book to Count Leinberd.

Count Leinberd frowned and took a look at the book.

Introductory Rune Book.

Author: Noel Ardagan.

"!!!" He widened his eyes in shock when he heard the author's name. Although it would be wise to hide the author's name, Noel knew that it was impossible to escape the clash with the Supreme Devil Organization.

After all, his uncle had joined that organization and tried to kill him. So, it was better to let him know that Noel had the book.

But Noel was supposed to die, so the next person they should investigate was none other than ladre and Rose, who brought the book.

Since they were not sure whether ladre was Noel or not, they had to investigate him. There would be a clash with them soon, if not for the Third Prince.

Yes, the Third Prince wanted this book the whole time. So, he obviously planned to retrieve it and spread some misinformation, trying to protect Noel until he could confirm the book.

Even Christina couldn't prove the book immediately. Hence, he had to wait for a while before understanding the book.

Unfortunately, this book was fake. The Third Prince would be furious, not at Noel or Christina, but at the Count and Marquis.

After all, the books were currently in their hands. There was a possibility of them replacing the book with the fake one.

They might be able to point that suspicion to Christina, but she had an alibi. It was the same rune that she once managed to use but failed to activate. As long as she showed it to the Third Prince, she could say that she had sent the correct book since it was the book she used to learn it.

While the Third Prince hunted down the two nobles for the book, Christina would have an easy time spreading the knowledge.

Of course, she had to start from Count Leinberd and Marquis Walford's territories to make them look like they were the ones spreading it. The more they tried to lie, the angrier the Third Prince would become.

Once the knowledge spread, it would continue spreading and no one could stop it. After all, this knowledge was simply too important to be monopolized.

There was only one possibility of them containing the information, it was to have the royal family take action personally.

But this would be impossible since the royal family would have to fight against the other kingdoms. Yes, this was the reason why Noel wanted his grandfather to spread knowledge in his kingdom and others.

If they stopped the spread of knowledge in their kingdom, it would lead to their kingdom getting overwhelmed by other kingdoms in the future. In the end, no one could stop the spread and Noel couldn't be blamed for this.

After all, Noel, as the author, would become an extremely important person in everyone's eyes. Although it would lead to a series of attacks to eliminate future threats, it would also allow Noel to gain time to negotiate.

This was what Noel was after. He could protect himself during the negotiation. And with the system, by the time the negotiation ended, he would be strong enough to protect himself from any enemies.

Only five people knew about Noel's plan. Rose, Christina, Illia, Harley, and Anna. And they were overwhelmed by this genius plan.

So, Count Leinberd, who didn't know about Noel's plan, immediately fell into his trap without realizing it.

"Noel Ardagan? The son of Luke Ardagan? Impossible. Hasn't he died? Or is this book written before his death and the Demon Relief Squad was helping him to bring this book to Countess Christina?"

Count Leinberd became silent and suddenly rose from his seat. He immediately went to his treasury to look at some treasures.

Obviously, he wanted to see the equipment with Spirit Enchantment on it. He tried to match the symbol on the book with the Spirit Enchantment and realized both of them were the same, but the rune was the completed version.

He had confirmed the information and knew what he had to do.

"As expected, this kind of knowledge..." Count Leinberd fell silent. On the one hand, he could give this to Marquis Walford. It would allow him to get promoted and connected to the Supreme Devil Organization.

On the other hand, the worth of this book was simply too much. If he directly handed this to the royal family and the Supreme Devil Organization, he could gain a lot more than what the marquis promised.

His heart was split between the promise and his own greed. And as someone who had been in politics for too long, he knew that the marquis might betray him sooner or later. Even if he didn't, he could simply ask those two influences to get rid of the marquis and allow him to gain everything he had.

That was why the count came up with his own brilliant plan. He called someone to his mansion who was a master in copying someone's writing.

There were some of these people working for him since he had a lot of documents to copy.

So, he picked a random guy, someone who he could kill after all this was over.

He gave the book to him and said, "I want you to copy this book and change some details in one day. If you can do it, I will give you ten gold coins."

It was a generous amount, so his staff didn't hesitate to take the job. Since the Count was in a rush, the staff had to skip sleep and some meals in order to complete his work.

With great effort, he managed to copy the book while tweaking some of the details.

Unfortunately, instead of a great meal and ten gold coins, what he got was his own death.

Meanwhile, Count Leinberd now had two books in his hand. He hid the original and handed the fake one to the people that Marquis Walford sent him. "This is the book. I've confirmed the authenticity."

Chapter 562 Bloodbath

After giving the book to them, Count Leinberd hurriedly made two copies of the book. They were for the Supreme Devil Organization and the Royal Family.

Meanwhile, he was planning to hold one of them for himself to use as leverage.

Count Leinberd didn't realize that he had completely fallen into Noel's traps. The book in his possession was already a fake or a lie. And with him tweaking the information, it had become a lie of a lie.

It soon became a vicious cycle where the lies overwhelmed the truth to the point no one could see the truth anymore.

There were currently two teams with the books. The first team was Marquis Walford's team.

Since they were going to send the book directly to the marquis, the group didn't hesitate to leave the city as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, the second group was Count Leinberd's elite team.

They were heading straight to the royal capital. Since the marquis team had left, they didn't know that Count Leinberd was scheming something.

Hence, it was supposed to be a peaceful trip.

However, Count Leinberd didn't know that he had provoked someone he shouldn't have.

During their trip, the entire group was annihilated.

And there was one man standing on top of their corpses. It was the Third Prince.

He was unleashing his anger by killing all of them. It seemed that the masked man wasn't the only subordinate he had with him. A middle-aged man came to him and politely handed the books. "I believe these are the books."

The Third Prince looked at him coldly before grabbing the book, looking at the content. After seeing some similarity to what he had learned from observing Noel and the Spirit Enchantment, he thought this was the real book.

"Good. It seems that we have received what we came for. Still, why is he sending the marquis' people away with another book..." The Third Prince looked down, misunderstanding Count Leinberd's intention. "It seems that Count Leinberd plans to spread the books to gain massive influence from multiple nobles. Judging from the direction where this group is going... They must be trying to contact the royal family..."

"I see. This Count Leinberd is trying to bite off more than he can chew." The Third Prince looked at this book. "This book might be a fake as well."

"Sir..." The middle-aged man's body became tense, knowing what it meant to give a fake thing to the Royal Family.

"Yeah. There is also a rumor about them cooperating with the Supreme Devil Organization. It seems that I have to visit both of them personally."

"I'm ready to accompany you." The middle-aged man politely bowed. His expression darkened as if he was angry about something.

"You should know that the one who killed your disciple was not me, but Count Leinberd and Marquis Walford. Let's visit them and demand their explanation. But before that, I want you to investigate their behaviors first. I don't know who has the real book, so we're not going to alarm them before getting the real book first."

"Understood." The middle-aged man disappeared. He was a far stronger expert than the masked man since he was a Spirit Grandmaster. And it seemed that this Spirit Grandmaster had set his eyes upon Count Leinberd and Marquis Walford.

Little did everyone know, the brothel had begun their move as well.

Noel also shared some secrets about the book. So, the brothel was the first to spread the rumor about the knowledge in Count Leinberd's territory. Obviously, they planned to do the same thing after Marquis Walford received the book.

Countess Christina had also sent a few people to help spread the knowledge. They had to be the real knowledge since she had agreed to Noel's condition.

This information eventually reached both the Count's ears and the Third Prince's ears. They were angry about two different things.

The Third Prince was angry because he wanted to monopolize the knowledge to gain supreme power. So, this information made him want to butcher the Count.

On the other hand, the Count was angry because he didn't mean to have this knowledge spread. After all, it would just lessen the importance of the book. He wanted to reap all the benefits, so he immediately tried to lock down the city, blocking all kinds of information from going out.

But it didn't stop there. The Marquis ended up receiving the book before the knowledge began to spread, making him think that the people who brought the book were the ones leaking the information.

And at that time, the Third Prince thought the Count and the Marquis were in cahoots, trying to manipulate him.

In the end, he moved the schedule for their execution. As soon as he got the information about the two cities, he ordered his subordinates to assemble the assassins to kill both Count Leinberd and Marquis Walford.

Obviously, Anna and the Eternal Flower Brothel couldn't miss this opportunity. Anna and Illia immediately used the confusion to infiltrate the marquis' city to get all the information regarding the Supreme Devil Organization. Meanwhile, the team that Harley dispatched to help Anna would help them handle the Count.

The entire problem would soon become a bloodbath. And this would create a lot of chaos, not only in the kingdom but also outside the kingdom.

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As for the one who planned all this mess, Noel... he was actually standing on top of a mountain with a huge smile on his face.

He took a deep breath, inhaling the fresh and cool air that soothed his body. He stretched his hands, waking up his muscles.

"Mhm..." Noel let out a small moan before looking at the beautiful sunrise from the top of the mountain. "Ha... I love this mountain. It's quite cool up here and I can see everything in our surroundings. I guess there's a reason why the firebird lives near! Then again, it's a firebird, so it's weird, I guess. Hahaha!"

He completely enjoyed his time here, not thinking about the entire mess he had created.

Chapter 563 Fire Bird

[Mission: Defeat the Fire Bird Demon]

[Description: Go to the Northwest of Lelelei Fort and kill the Fire Bird Demon]

[Reward: 49 SP and One with Flame Medal]

[Penalty: Someone gets it.]

Noel looked at the mission while recalling the information that Anna gave.

...

A few days ago.

Noel said, "I'm planning to hunt the Fire Bird Demon after this. Are you coming, Anna?"

Noel looked at Anna with a serious expression. On the one hand, they had promised that they would hunt the Fire Bird Demon together. On the other hand, Noel had Rose with him, so it shouldn't be much of a problem to kill the Fire Bird Demon.

As much as she wanted to fulfill the promise, it seemed that the situation had changed drastically. She ultimately shook her head. "I don't think I can fulfill the promise. I'm sorry."

"I should be the one to apologize since the situation has changed so much that I can't even create a situation for you to fulfill the promise." Noel could understand the situation and apologized as well. After all, both of them knew that the situation required Anna to supervise to make sure nothing went wrong.

So, they had to split up after this.

"Still, I'm going to give you some more information about the Fire Bird Demon. This demon is a powerful Peak Level Demon. Its body is covered with fire and a normal attack won't be able to hit the demon.

"You should try using your Ice Ability if you want to take it down. Or maybe you can overwhelm the demon with a stronger fire ability. Then again, the fire covering the demon is one of the most superior flames, so I don't think you can do that.

"Hence, you should focus on freezing the Fire Bird Demon. The demon is residing near a mountain. It's a fresh mountain and doesn't seem to be burned despite the Fire Bird Demon living in it.

"Do you know why?" Anna asked. As soon as she saw the shake of the head, she continued, "Because the Fire Bird Demon has a cycle of life.

"During its lifetime, the Fire Bird Demon will be accumulating the heat from his body. Yes, the heat will continue to increase the older it gets.

"However, it'll make the demon the strongest if that powerful characteristic doesn't have a downside. Actually, the reason why the Fire Bird Demon's flame gets hotter the older it gets, it's because the energy inside the Fire Bird Demon continues to fill up the reserve.

"Once it reaches its peak, the Fire Bird Demon will turn into an egg, processing the energy inside its reserve to expand the reserve itself. In other words, to get stronger, the Fire Bird Demon has to go through this cycle again and again until it eventually becomes a Superior Demon.

"And this is probably the reason why the demon stays near a mountain. The Fire Bird Demon is trying to use the cool air in the mountain to slow down its cycle. Doing so will allow him to gather more energy to use for its reserve while increasing his lifespan.

"I mean, after reviving from the egg, the Fire Bird Demon will have an empty reserve. So, it'll mostly fight you with its body, not Spiritual Energy. The demon doesn't want to be that weak, so it's trying to prolong its life cycle.

"I don't know how old the demon is right now, so I'm suggesting you advance to Spirit Master first before hunting down the demon. This is my only advice to prepare for the worst. I don't doubt your strength, but it's better to be safe than sorry."

This time, Anna's serious expression felt like she was trying to convince him no matter what. If Noel tried to do something else or answered with something unsatisfactory, she might fight it out with him until he agreed.

Noel could predict the demon's strength from her expression alone. He took a deep breath and said, "Well, I don't mind breaking through to the Spirit Master before fighting the demon. After all, I won't be going back and the Third Prince won't know about me before I kill that demon. So, you don't have to worry."

With Noel's assurance, everything was set.

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After recounting their conversation, Noel couldn't help but raise his hands as if giving a signal to someone.

In that instant, Dimitri appeared next to him. He actually brought a big backpack. All the demon crystals Noel had were inside the bag.

"Sorry for making you do this, Dimitri." Noel closed his eyes as if he regretted asking him.

"No need, Young Master. Although it's faint, I can feel the breath of that demon. I can say that it's extremely strong. So, I can understand if you want to break through first. Even I might have to help you later. But for now, I would like the young master to defeat the demon by yourself first. I hope that you can succeed."

Noel smirked. "How about a bet, Dimitri?"

"A bet?"

"Yes. If I manage to defeat the demon alone, can you kill one person for me? We can call it a draw if Rose helps me. And if you end up making your move, it means I have lost."

Dimitri looked down, thinking for a moment. By using a bet, Noel could bypass the agreement they had set before about Dimitri not helping Noel directly.

Still, Dimitri couldn't see the benefits for him taking this bet except for seeing Noel get stronger. After some contemplation, Dimitri said, "If you win, you have to let me know the target first and I have the right to refuse. In exchange, I won't ask anything if the young master loses."

Noel shook his head. "If I lose, I promise you that I won't be making any more bets with you. After all, it looks like I have taken advantage of my position to pressure you to help me. So, until you acknowledge me as your current master, I won't be taking advantage of our relationship! That's my determination."

Looking at Noel's serious expression, Dimitri knew that this punishment was to create pressure for him. This way, he had a big need to get stronger. Hence, Dimitri had no reason to reject it.

"I understand. We have a deal."

Chapter 564 Breaking Through

Noel sat down inside his tent, looking at the pile of demon crystals.

If he absorbed all the crystals he had, becoming a Spirit Master shouldn't be a problem. But before he became one, he had to confirm two things. The first was his status.

Name: Noel Ardagan

Job: Rune Swordsman

Weapon: Ardagan Sword

Main Medal: Demon Hunter Medal (Sensing all demons within 50 meters)

Honor Point: 120 Pts

Skill Point: 8 Pts

Status: Stamina +6.7%, Constitution +6.7%, Sword Mastery +8.7%, Spiritual Energy +5.0%, Rune Mastery +5.0%

Low Quality Crystal - 2209/5000

Mid Quality Crystal - 980/3000

Advanced Quality Crystal - 365/1500

Peak Quality Crystals - 1/1000

Superior Crystals - 0/750

" ... "

Noel looked at his status carefully. He had truly gone a long way to the point he almost forgot that the number of crystals he could absorb was twice that of normal people. And the fact that he had a hundred percent conversion rate meant he would be able to reach the next level far easier than anyone else.

"It's crazy that I have almost filled my Low Quality Crystal if I don't have two spirits since the maximum capacity is only 2,500 crystals.

"Then again, I have to absorb a lot of crystals again if I want to reach the Spirit Master Stage."

Noel knew that he had the biggest advantage, considering he could fill up another 2,500 Low Level Crystals than normal people. It might not be apparent right now, but when he became a Spirit Grandmaster, the difference would start to show.

Normally, most Spirit Grandmasters should have completely filled up their Low, Mid, and High Rank Demon Crystals capacity. So, it would be hard for them to advance.

Though, Noel was essentially built differently with this kind of capacity.

He might be able to reach Spirit Transcendence and become toe-to-toe with the commander or even reach one step further, the Spirit King.

"Still, I have to carefully move around to fill up my reserve. After all, they might start suspecting me if I buy a lot of demon crystals, especially the low and mid level ones to absorb when I'm supposed to have maxed the capacity."

Noel sighed. He knew that talents were a good thing to have, but too much talent would just bring destruction. So, his talent might not be as good as Anna without the help of Ardagan, but he felt a bit happy that he could reach a stage beyond what Anna would reach in the future.

Noel smiled. "Before I start absorbing the crystals, I'm going to review the knowledge about the Spirit Master first. There is a different name for the Spirit Wielder to Spirit Grandmaster. The Spirit Wielder is the realm of Efficiency. In other words, once someone reaches this rank, their bodies have adapted to the Spiritual Energy, allowing them to move the energy around quicker and easier.

"But once someone reaches the Spirit Master, they will gain another advantage. After all, Spirit Master is known as the realm of Assimilation.

"In other words, the body not only has adapted to the presence of Spiritual Energy, but starts to create harmony. And with the help of the Spirit Link, I can act like half spirit. I can imitate how the spirits use their power.

"My senses will also become sharper and I will be able to see the Spiritual Energy itself. Only when I reach the Spirit Grandmaster, the realm of Fusion, that I can go one step further.

"But for now, I'm going to focus on assimilation..." Noel took a deep breath.

It might look like someone could easily break through to Spirit Wielder, Spirit Master, or even Spirit Grandmaster as long as they had enough Demon Crystals. But that wasn't the case.

One had to train their body as well. After all, the Spiritual Energy might affect the cell in their body, but if they didn't train their body, which resulted in their cell becoming stronger to withstand the influx of new energy, it would lead them to their death.

"I believe I have trained my body enough. And pouring more energy into my body and organs will put them under tremendous pressure. I have to endure this since my body has to be active to endure the integration... If not, I might die."

Noel took a deep breath. No matter how prepared he was, he was still a bit afraid since he didn't know his future. Still, he had to face it.

There were many people waiting for him. Dimitri, Rose, Anna, the children, his future people... he had to survive if he wanted to meet them again.

With the determination reflected in his eyes, Noel reached out to the demon crystals and started absorbing the energy.

Just like usual, absorbing the demon crystals took a lot of effort. First, the influx of Spiritual Energy would fuse with the element of the spirit. Since Noel had two elements, fire and ice, The chilling energy spread from Heisk's Spirit Mark and the burning energy filled the body from Ardagan's Spirit Mask.

These two different energies collided with each other. The heat was burning Noel from the inside, making him feel like all the water in his body was evaporating. The cold froze a part of his body, causing it to either stop working or slow down.

He would have to stop from time to time to recover from his condition. But Noel had two supportive spirits.

Ardagan and Heisk joined hands to clash their energy. The chilling temperature from Heisk's energy tried to take away the heat from Ardagan's energy, while the latter tried to warm Noel so that he didn't freeze to death.

This way, Noel could continue absorbing the demon crystals for a much longer time than anyone else in the world.

Noel felt that the energy reserve located in his heart was expanding rapidly. The size was only a portion of his heart earlier. But after a few hours, its size became a third of the heart and gradually grew.

He felt like it would have the size of his heart once he reached the Spirit Master Level.

Rose and Dimitri didn't know Noel's progress as they kept standing outside the tent, waiting for Noel to finish. They hoped that Noel would come out soon, considering they didn't know that Noel had two spirits that helped him absorb more energy before the need to recover.

Chapter 565 Shock

"Kh." Noel gritted his teeth. Even though the two elements in his body had been neutralizing each other, it still led to great discomfort. The two elements didn't neutralize each other in an instant, so the energy around the mark caused extreme pain.

Even Noel had a hard time tolerating the pain. He gritted his teeth, trying to endure the pain for as long as he got.

It had been more than twelve hours since he started. Normal people would have stopped after a few hours, but he managed to endure two or three times their capacity. And it seemed that Noel hadn't given up yet.

He continued absorbing the energy from the crystal, building up the energy in his heart.

Fifteen hours...

Twenty hours...

Dimitri and Rose became extremely anxious. They both looked at each other, wondering what they should do. On the one hand, they were worried that something might have gone wrong. On the other hand, if they disturbed him when he absorbed the energy, they might cause a shock that would disturb the flow of energy, causing Noel to suffer some problems.

"Do you know anything about this?" Rose asked. Dimitri had been observing Noel from the start, so he might know that Noel could cultivate this long.

However, Dimitri shook his head this time. "I don't know. Although I have been following the young master from the start, I have been doing my best to respect his privacy."

"..." Rose didn't know what to say. It was admirable for him to do that, but that action made them anxious here.

They thought for a moment. But because they could only wait, they decided to stay. They would only enter if there was a disruption in the flow of Spiritual Energy, which meant Noel had failed to absorb a demon crystal.

The time continued to pass.

When it reached a whole day, they were completely speechless. They never expected Noel to be this strong.

'An average person can absorb the energy for four to six hours before they have to refine the energy and recover to their peak condition.' Dimitri gulped down. When he looked at this, Noel's talent might be beyond his imagination.

Noel never acknowledged his talent, but he didn't realize that for others, Noel was a peerless genius.

'Even a genius can only withstand not farther than that. If I'm not wrong, the record is eighteen hours.' Rose frowned. 'That record was made by a person who had twin elements... It seems that the secret is the two elements. Noel has two elements that can neutralize each other.'

'On the one hand, it can cause a huge backlash if those two elements are in conflict. On the other hand, judging from the current situation, it seems that the elements are under control and they form a harmony that can help Noel go through all this.'

Noel's voice started to come out when it reached the thirty hour mark. The pain started to become unbearable, causing him to start wailing in pain.

Still, if Noel stopped here, he needed some time to refine the energy. So, Noel must want to last for as long as possible so that he can refine all of them at once.

That was why despite wailing in pain, Rose and Dimitri could still feel the Spiritual Energy circulating inside. They had to endure the urge to enter the tent.

31 hours...

32 hours...

The clock kept ticking. The longer the time passed, the bigger Noel's scream.

They had found a secluded place, so it wasn't that hard to block the noise.

Dimitri frowned for a moment before asking Rose, "Can you hunt some monsters and gather some herbs?"

Rose was confused for a second, but she immediately remembered that Noel hadn't eaten anything in the past 32 hours. Although his energy and muscle were fed by Spiritual Energy, Noel still needed nutrition from food.

So, Rose nodded her head and immediately left. Dimitri was more expert than her in this area, so she should be the one leaving.

33 hours...

34 hours...

It was truly surprising that Noel could endure this kind of pain. Even Dimitri was gnashing his teeth the whole time, trying to see how far Noel could go.

35 hours...

Noel's speed in absorbing the Spiritual Energy started to decrease because he had trouble enduring the pain. Still, he managed to continue for a while.

Unfortunately, he had to stop at 36 hours. This was a new record.

Even Dimitri couldn't help but mutter inwardly, 'God blesses the Ardagan Family, God blesses Noel Ardagan. To think the young master can endure twice as long as the famous Twin Elemental Sage... His talent is not from this world.'

Dimitri couldn't help but picture the Ardagan Family that Noel would rebuild in the future. With this kind of leader in the future, no one would be able to suppress the Ardagan Family anymore. Even the books that Noel spread all around the world were going to create a massive shock wave.

It seemed that this kingdom alone wouldn't be enough to contain him.

'As long as the young master can grow up to become a Spirit Grandmaster or even a Spirit Transcendence safely, the Ardagan Family will surely become the number one family in the world.'

Dimitri couldn't help but clench his fists. He knew that the only way for Noel to grow safely was for him to protect Noel.

Noel had this talent and extraordinary mind that could destroy two powerful nobles without even being directly involved in the plan.

And he had to protect this person.

'Young Master is truly an unparalleled genius. There is only one test remaining. If he can pass that test, it'll be the time for me to swear my allegiance to him.

'But it doesn't change one fact. Young Master, this humble servant swears that even if I have to trade my life, I'll protect you.'

Dimitri closed his eyes for a second. Happiness, determination, and loyalty were mixed in his heart. He knew that this person would be able to reach a height that no one had ever seen before. Dimitri believed Noel could surpass his ancestor and was looking forward to the time he reached that stage.

Chapter 566 Spirit Master

Of course, even though Noel had spent a lot of time absorbing the energy, he still continued until he absorbed all the crystals needed to break through to the Spirit Master.

When he reached the requirement to break through, Noel stopped absorbing the energy for a moment since he had to refine the energy to make it his own.

During the refinement, Noel felt some changes in his body.

The first was related to his senses. Even though he was sitting in a lotus pose while closing his eyes, he felt like he could sense the tent completely. He could measure the distance between him to the side of the tent as if it touched his hand directly.

It seemed that the Spiritual Energy had become a part of his body. So, his sense was linked to Spiritual Energy, allowing him to feel everything around him.

He didn't know how far the sense could reach, but the change was truly important. Even without the Moon Blessing that allowed him to see in the dark, he could still feel the surroundings and avoid some ambushes.

The second change was related to the Spirit Marks. Before, he could only sense the Spiritual Energy coming from these two, not the elements. This time, he could feel the heat and coldness from the Spiritual Energy.

He realized that the two different energies had been circulating inside his body the whole time. If this conflicting energy wasn't managed by the two spirits, they would clash inside his body and Noel would have died before he realized what had happened.

He was thankful for the spirits who had been taking care of him.

The last change was related to the Spirit Link with Heisk. The Spirit Link was an advanced version of the Spirit Mark. He could sense the chill in his surroundings because it was how Heisk perceived the world.

But when he became a Spirit Master, he started feeling something different from those Spiritual Energy.

After some moment, Noel finally opened his eyes and the first thing he noticed was the bluish light in the air.

'Hmm?' Noel narrowed his eyes, wondering if he had worked so hard that he started hallucinating.

Though, due to the familiar feeling he got from the light, he soon realized what they were.

'These blue lights are Spiritual Energy in the air. Thanks to Heisk, I can sense the coldness. And with becoming a Spirit Master, I can now see the ice element within the Spiritual Energy.'

'It seems that the Spiritual Energy contains all the elements. I can only see the ice element in it. That's why I can only see blue light.'

Noel fell silent for a moment. He still had some Demon Crystals left, but since he had broken through, he should share this joyous news first.

Without hesitation, Noel reached out for the tent's cover, opening it. He saw Dimitri and Rose boil some water and cut some meat outside.

They both looked at Noel, surprised. But they soon realized the reason he came out.

"Congratulations, Young Master." Dimitri was the first to react, congratulating him for his breakthrough.

"Congratulations, Noel." Rose smiled.

"Thank you." Noel nodded. He was also happy about his breakthrough since he was one step closer to his goal.

Dimitri couldn't help but drop all his matters and come to him. "Young Master. Do you mind if I check the flow of your Spiritual Energy?"

"Sure. You are such a worrywart." Noel chuckled while extending his hand. Dimitri often did this because he was worried that his extensive effort might cause some problems in the future.

When Dimitri grabbed his hand, he started pouring his Spiritual Energy to sense the flow in Noel's body.

It lasted only for a minute before Dimitri showed a relieved expression. "There is no problem in the circulation. It seems that you have created the Spirit Heart as well."

"Spirit Heart?" Noel tilted his head in confusion.

"Yes. Well, this is not normally taught. But do you know the evolution your body undergoes when reaching a higher rank?"

"Isn't it to build the Spiritual Energy reserve? I mean, right now."

"You can say that way." Dimitri nodded. "When you become a Spirit Apprentice, your body will be introduced to the Spiritual Energy. So, you might have a hard time using your ability since your body doesn't know how to handle it at that time."

"After becoming a Spirit Practitioner, your body finally is adapted to the presence of Spiritual Energy. At this stage, your body starts normally using your Spirit Ability or Technique."

"Then, the moment you reach the Spirit Wielder Stage, the body starts to evolve according to the Spiritual Energy inside your body, refining your muscles, organs, heart... everything! This way, you can use your Spiritual Energy effectively."

"And right now, you have become a Spirit Master. At this stage, the Spiritual Energy reserve starts to manifest in the form of your heart. We call this Spirit Heart. The reason for that name is because this heart becomes a bridge for us and the Spirit. You can say that it's a step where we can utilize the energy like the Spirit."

"Then, if you reach the Spirit Grandmaster stage, you will refine a Spirit Mind, which is in the shape of your brain."

"I see." Noel nodded. "What's about Spirit Transcendence and Spirit King?"

"The former will turn your body into a whole Spiritual Energy reserve. As for the latter, this is only a legend. But it's said that you become a Spirit yourself. Even I don't know much about it."

"..." Noel looked down. It was great to know about what came next. But he knew he had to focus on the matter at hand. He muttered in a low voice. "Spirit Heart, huh? The bridge..."

Noel couldn't help but look at the surroundings.

"I see. It seems that this is the Spirit Heart...." Noel muttered while waving his hand.

"!!!" Dimitri widened his eyes in shock because a single wave of Noel's hand covered the entire area with ice. This was truly amazing. Even he couldn't do it when he became a Spirit Master.

Contrary to his surprise, Rose, who was boiling the water, was annoyed, looking at the fire that had just been extinguished.

"If you want to show off, please do it somewhere else. I'm boiling water here, and because of your ice, the fire is now gone, and the water has turned to ice!"

"..."

Chapter 567 Reward And Mission

"Are you sure about this, Noel? I know that you are determined to do it, but now that I think about it, I'm worried that it's too much for you. At least, let me help you." Rose frowned, showing her concern before the fight.

Noel smiled. Unfortunately, the answer remained the same. "Sorry, Rose. I know that it looks reckless. But this is the only way! I have to do it myself."

The bet might be one of the reasons why he wanted to do it alone. But there was another reason for Noel to be this stubborn.

After becoming a Spirit Master, Noel received a reward from his spirits. After all, his Spiritual Energy reserve had expanded greatly, so he had room to get more Spirit Abilities.

Noel couldn't help but remember what happened after he broke through to Spirit Master.

...

A few hours ago.

After becoming a Spirit Master, Noel gradually opened his eyes, trying to sort his current ability and sense.

However, his vision was completely blocked by the system panel that contained a few rewards.

[You have become a Spirit Master.]

[You've acquired Split Step.]

[You've acquired Circular Sword Strike.]

[You've acquired Flame Scale.]

[You've acquired Ice Lotus.]

"Hmm?" Noel moaned since the sensation had changed. The pain in his body gradually subsided, but the uncomfortable feeling as if something was flowing into his brain appeared.

He received information about those four abilities. He almost forgot that his swordsmanship ability was a bit lacking. So, Ardagan gave him two abilities to compensate for the gap between it and the elements.

According to the knowledge that just entered his brain, the Split Step was a unique footwork. It produced an extremely smooth movement that caused the enemy to see him splitting into two. It was extremely useful for an enemy who relied on their eyes instead of instinct or experiences.

Meanwhile, the Circular Sword Strike was an aggressive sword strike that rotated at high speed, causing the Spiritual Energy to create a small ripple that could distort even flesh. It was a powerful sword strike. Depending on how he used it, it could easily surpass the Sword Fall in terms of power.

Meanwhile, the Flame Scale's ability was the same as its name. It covered Noel with scales made of fire, burning away anything that touched them.

Last but not least, the Ice Lotus. The ability's firepower was similar to the Ice Vortex. However, in terms of versatility, the Ice Lotus was clearly the winner.

All their descriptions couldn't help but make Noel a bit eager to test it. Though, they truly came with a high requirement to upgrade. Luckily, Noel could still keep up with the SP consumption by helping numerous people. But if he didn't have his territory soon, he would fall behind, considering the stronger the technique was, the higher the requirement to increase its level.

Although Noel wanted to think about the future plan, he had to focus on the current matters.

"Hmm... They are useful for my fight against the demon. Though, I don't know who is stronger... my fire or the demon's?" Noel muttered in a low voice.

He wanted to close all the system panels, but there was one more thing noticeable from the reward.

It turned out Ardagan tried to reward him with a mission. And this mission was quite interesting, especially the reward.

[Mission: Complete the Third Prince's task according to Host's best possible outcome.]

[Description: The Third Prince will issue you a task soon, so you have to finish it. But because the Host doesn't know whether the Third Prince is good or bad, the Host has to consider everything first.]

[Reward: Second Slot Medal.]

When Noel saw the reward, he couldn't help but ask for confirmation. 'Ardagan... The reward... Is it like what I'm thinking?'

Noel didn't bother to explain since Ardagan should have read his mind. And the answer was obvious.

[Yes.]

In that instant, Noel's expression brightened. "A second slot for my medal. This is extremely good. If I can use two medals, depending on the combination, I can become extremely versatile. There are medals

that increase the amount of my Spiritual Energy, so if I use two of them, there will be a huge leap in my reserve as long as I put those medals on.

"If I'm close to Spirit Grandmaster, I might be able to fool people with it." Noel smirked, having some unique ways to utilize the second slot.

"Alright. This is enough for now. I get new techniques and I have an ongoing mission. I don't know what the 'One with Flame' medal is used for, but I'm pretty sure it'll be related to my fire. 49 Skill Points are not low for a reward as well.

"However, I'm a bit skeptical about the penalty, considering if I fail, someone will actually get the bird. Doesn't it mean I'm taking someone's future if I kill the monster?"

Noel contemplated for a moment. He felt bad if it meant he took someone else's future. After all, it shouldn't belong to him originally.

"It seems that I have to confirm it with Anna next time. As for now, I think I have to become selfish first in order to strengthen myself. I'll just ask Dimitri to monitor this area. If the person is an innocent person, I'll try to repay him."

Noel sighed. He understood faster than Anna that something he had taken away was someone's future. If Noel was in Anna's position in the first place, he wouldn't suggest anything related to random people and only things related to the common enemy weaken them like the Supreme Devil Organization.

Noel let out a sigh. Thinking about it was useless unless he confirmed it with Anna, so he decided to take a step forward for once even if it meant ruining someone else's future.

"Sorry, but I have to do this," Noel muttered before going out of his tent.

When he recalled that memory, Noel's expression became serious. He looked into the distance while listening to Dimitri's words. "Go straight for five hundred meters and look down. You will find its nest. It's currently sleeping right now, but the moment you try to sense it, the demon's instinct should wake it up. So, be careful."

Chapter 568 Fighting The Fire Bird Demon (1)

Noel followed the instruction and reached the location where he could see the other side of the mountain.

It only took him two seconds to find the nest. After all, there was quite a big part of the trees that covered the mountain that had been burned into the ground.

The Fire Bird Demon should cause it with its fire, so Noel knew where he had to go.

On the one hand, it would be great if he could kill the monster on the ground. But knowing it was a bird, he would have to face the bird from the sky.

'Since the bird's physical body is made of fire, the trees won't be able to protect me from the bird. So, I guess it's better to fight it in a place where I can see all my surroundings to avoid the ambush from the bird.' Noel muttered inwardly. He glanced to the side, finding Rose and Dimitri on the side.

Because of the bet, Dimitri agreed to keep other demons away from him. Rose had no way to convince Noel, so she ended up helping Dimitri.

"I guess, it's time to make my move." Noel smiled. He stared at the nest while circulating his Spiritual Energy. "Sword Fall!"

Three giant swords appeared on top of Noel. Instead of falling down, Noel pointed the three swords upward. He remembered the parabolic movement lesson, so he shot them upward like an arrow, trying to reach the nest with his height advantage.

It seemed that the fluctuation of Spiritual Energy from the three swords had woken up the Fire Bird Demon. Before it even reached the nest, there was a vortex of fire that swallowed the three swords, evaporating the Spiritual Energy.

"!!!" Noel couldn't help but feel a bit surprised. After all, what the demon burned was not his ability, but the Spiritual Energy itself.

After that, the dust around the nest started to fill the area, carrying all the heat from the demon. It didn't take too long for the demon to fly into the sky, searching for the person that dared to disturb its sleep.

The bird had a wingspan of thirty meters. Noel looked so tiny before it, but more importantly, this bird's body was completely made of fiery red flame.

The flame was circulating on its body. It would continue to burn unless the demon died. The heat that the dust carried alone was enough to light up fire on some trees. So, Noel could imagine what would happen if he took a direct hit from that fire.

"I see. No wonder Anna says this guy is strong. Just looking at this is enough to give me a shiver." Noel smirked. "Still, I have become a Spirit Master now. I'm not going to be afraid of a mere bird."

Noel was oozing killing intent from his eyes, provoking the bird.

Cry!

The bird let out a loud cry that woke up all the demons nearby. They tried to respond to its call, but Dimitri and Rose had started moving around to suppress them, so Noel could focus on the bird.

He smiled while covering his body with Ice Aura, cooling his body from the heat. Their ability was the opposite, so the bird knew that he had to crush Noel if it wanted to live peacefully again.

"Come," Noel said, giving one last provocation.

The bird flapped its wings, heading straight to Noel.

"As expected, instead of ice or new sword skills, I should test this one first." Noel smirked and gathered the Spiritual Energy into the tip of his fingers.

Instead of ice, Noel actually released a black phoenix from his fingers.

Undying Phoenix.

The Phoenix made of Undying Flame flew out. The size was only a fourth of the demon and the heat from the flame couldn't be compared to what the demon had, but the moment the demon saw it, its instinct was telling it to dodge.

"!!!" The demon shifted its direction, avoiding Noel's phoenix.

"..." Contrary to the demon's shock, Noel had become calmer. From that dodge alone, he knew that the demon was afraid of his flame. In other words, his flame was far superior to the phoenix.

'It seems that I have underestimated Ardagan's flame. Interesting.' Noel smirked. Although he wanted to continue using his fire, he wanted to test all his abilities first.

So, he let the demon approach him before waving his hand again.

A huge block of ice suddenly appeared in front of him. It was then split into multiple thin plates, facing the demon.

Ice Mirror.

The demon looked at the ice, feeling weird. It felt the strong fluctuation from the Ice Mirror, but it wasn't as dangerous as the previous Undying Phoenix.

Hence, it tried to challenge Noel's ability head-on to learn the level of Noel's power.

Cry!

It let out another cry as the demon's fire body flared up, emitting more heat that tried to melt the Ice Mirror.

Bam!

The demon hit the mirror with its body, trying to evaporate it with its powerful flame.

Surprisingly, the fire from the bird actually failed to melt it before the impact. It only partially melted the mirrors, causing the demon to hit the mirrors for a second before the ice completely disappeared.

"..." Noel frowned. Ice Mirror was one of the latest abilities he got, so it could be considered superior compared to what he had before. Yet, the demon could easily melt it.

If he wasn't careful, he might lose this bet.

Still, this was a challenge for Noel. He could finally compete with a Peak Level Demon by himself. So, he couldn't help but feel excited.

A smile appeared on his face as Noel used the Split Step to move to the side, avoiding the bird.

"!!!" The bird was confused because there were two Noels heading in different directions. It was confused, so it ended up continuing on its trajectory, missing both Noels.

It immediately turned around to see which one was real, but Noel had returned to his original position, making it look like an illusion.

Noel waved his hand, provoking the bird. "Come on. I'll take you on."

Chapter 569 Fighting The Fire Bird Demon (2)

"I'll take you on." Noel smirked.

The demon let out a cry, angered by the provocation. It flapped its wings once, creating a gale that carried the heat from his body.

Even from afar, Noel could feel the extreme heat that could light up some trees. Noel smirked while pointing his left hand at the demon.

Temperature Control.

Noel was using the ability he got after absorbing the Ice Crystal in the past that gave him the Water Purifying Ability.

Back then, he could only transfer it through a solid medium. But after upgrading the skills to max level, Noel could turn the temperature down by using the air as his medium.

The moment the two temperatures met each other, it caused a small vortex that gradually turned into a tornado. However, the tornado failed to form and ended up dispersing both temperatures.

Seeing his heat couldn't affect Noel, the demon flew forward, trying to ram his body at Noel again.

Noel planned to shoot the bird down with the Undying Phoenix, but before he could wave his hand, the demon suddenly spun its body as if trying to pluck his own feathers.

"!!!" Noel widened his eyes in surprise as he saw ten feathers falling from his wings. These fire feathers spread out and flew toward him from multiple directions.

Ice Mirror.

Noel changed his strategy. He formed five huge ice mirrors to shield him from the feathers.

When the feathers hit the ice mirror, they flared up, engulfing the mirrors. Some of the mirrors managed to resist the intense heat, while some had already melted.

"..." Noel narrowed his eyes, feeling something was wrong with the demon. He had made the mirror block two feathers each. Yet, the effect on them was different.

'The demon's fire is unstable? That might be the reason for the impact. What does this mean...'

Noel wondered why the fire was unstable. On the one hand, the demon should have good control over his flame. On the other hand, it was impossible to change the power behind each feather when the amount of Spiritual Energy that fueled them was the same.

The demon didn't care about Noel's thoughts. It was simply trying to take its opponent down.

"Tsk." Noel clicked his tongue, having a hard time figuring it out. As soon as the demon reached him, Noel jumped into the air, trying to avoid him.

The bird immediately spun his body again, trying to send some heat to him. But Noel used his Hyper Jump to redirect his momentum and ultimately avoid the heat.

After that, Noel used his Everchanging Sword Style and Ice Aura. The aura was used to cool down the temperature around him, while the Sword Style used the Fear emotion, allowing him to give a quick slash to the bird.

As expected, despite using Spiritual Energy to cover the blade, he felt no contact with the bird. It felt like the flame had changed shape to follow the sword's path and avoid it.

Although it looked like physical contact couldn't harm the bird, Noel still had one more thing to try.

The bird had turned around to attack him, but Noel wasn't scared. He struck the bird's body, not with the Spiritual Energy or unique sword strike, but with the Spirit Weaponry.

Surprisingly, the bird let out a cry as if it was crying from the pain.

"!!!" Noel widened his eyes in surprise, looking at the small cut on his body. The Spirit Weaponry used Spiritual Energy different from the Everchanging Emotion Sword Style or any other sword abilities. It used Spiritual Energy to harm the target's Spiritual Energy.

It seemed that the demon's body was made of Spiritual Energy since it reacted to his Spirit Weaponry.

"I see..." Noel narrowed his eyes, observing the demon. 'The demon's body should be smaller and hidden inside that huge flame body. I should try to find the location of the real body. But as expected, it won't be an easy task.'

After confirming his approach, Noel immediately used the Phoenix Wings. A pair of wings like the fire bird demon appeared behind him.

Since his opponent was flying in the sky, he should have the same ability if he wanted to fight on equal ground.

After that, Noel flew toward the demon, surprising him with his own wings.

The bird wasn't that surprised as if he had met multiple opponents like Noel, who challenged him to an aerial battle.

Instead, it felt like the bird was happy with the development as if everything had gone according to the plan.

It would have a hard time fighting Noel when he was on the ground. After all, the bird had to dive down with an appropriate angle and speed in order not to hit the ground or any obstacles that would injure him.

But since Noel was flying, there was no obstacle or ground to hit. This way, he could go all out.

Without hesitation, the demon faced Noel head-on as the flame that made its body flare up, trying to swallow Noel.

Noel pointed his palm at the demon as a horizontal tornado flew out of his palm. This tornado was extremely cold and it had some pieces of ice swirling around it that could tear the body that was swallowed by this vortex.

The bird felt the danger from the vortex and immediately gathered the Spiritual Energy in its body. After that, it let the Spiritual Energy out from its mouth, creating a fire beam right through the vortex.

The extreme cold from the vortex froze the flame immediately, but as expected, the flame couldn't be extinguished easily.

A part of the vortex was melting.

Noel clicked his tongue and used the Temperature Control to lower the temperature inside the vortex, completely freezing the fire beam.

However, the bird's purpose remained the same. It was to kill Noel. The demon knew it was impossible for the beam to even harm Noel, so it only used the beam as a distraction.

When Noel used the second ability to suppress the beam, it spun its body again, summoning the feathers to hit Noel.

Chapter 570 Fighting The Fire Bird Demon (3)

There were twenty feathers this time and all of them had been scattered and flew toward him from all directions. If he didn't run away as quickly as possible, he wouldn't be able to do it anymore.

Surprisingly, Noel didn't bother to escape. He glanced at these fire feathers with a serious expression.

Instead of avoiding them, Noel planned to take it down head-on.

Noel raised his left hand, forming a rune. This time, the rune was bigger than he had used in the last few months.

This was the Spiritual Energy Dispersion Rune. Instead of summoning it vertically so that it could disperse the incoming attack, Noel expanded the rune and placed it beneath his feet.

So, the energy from the feathers started to disperse a few meters from him. Ultimately, they disappeared before they could reach him.

Though, utilizing the rune this way ended up dispersing the Spiritual Energy he gathered in his sword earlier.

The effect might be great, but it was certainly a double-edged sword.

'I really need some offensive and defensive runes. Though, I still think my current repertoire is enough to defeat the demon...' Noel thought while observing the feathers. He could see that some of the feathers were stronger than the others and almost hit him.

Knowing that it was unstable, Noel had two options. First, he could gamble that the attack before him was the weakest one. This would cause the demon to be afraid of Noel's boldness. The second option was to maintain a safe distance while trying to suppress the fire from his position.

He remembered Anna's suggestion, so he ended up choosing the second option.

Noel clasped his hand, trying to use the ability he had just acquired not long ago. An ice lotus suddenly appeared on top of him.

The lotus' size was three times his body. It had three petals.

With a single wave of his hand, one of the petals fell down and floated in the air, heading toward the demon.

"!!!" The demon's instinct kicked in again. It sensed the same danger as Noel's Phoenix, so the demon tried to avoid it.

However, Noel had better control over the Ice Lotus than the phoenix. So, the moment the demon moved away, he shifted the petal's direction and chased after the demon.

Boom!

The petal exploded as soon as it reached its attack range, letting out a huge white cloud.

The cloud could freeze even the water particles in the air. If the demon was hit by this, his flame might be suppressed for a split second and it would have a hard time using its fire afterward.

Still, Noel's attack didn't stop there. There were two more petals that came out from the lotus, attacking the demon from two directions.

"..." The demon looked at both petals before flapping its wings. The hot gale formed a huge ball that somehow lit up and turned into a fireball.

This fireball split into two. Then, the demon sneaked inside and pushed both fireballs toward the petal.

Boom!

Boom!

The fireball and the ice petal hit each other, causing a significant thermal explosion.

The shock wave was so big that the demon and Noel ended up getting blown away.

Noel couldn't help but smirk when he saw the power of that ice petal.

'As expected, in terms of the whole power, the Ice Vortex is more powerful. But if I use the petals more efficiently, the Ice Lotus is more useful than the vortex.'

This was a chance to test all his abilities... All, except one. He wanted to use the Flame Scale, but it seemed that he would be harmed by the demon's fire if he used it to block the attack.

So, he didn't bother with this one first. Instead, he raised his sword and poured a lot of Spiritual Energy on its edge.

"Ha..." Noel took a deep breath while slashing downward.

Suddenly, a blue light came out of the sword like the extension of the sword. But this light gradually curved until it formed a circle.

The circle kept rotating at high speed, cutting everything in its path.

"!!!" The demon let out a beam to test this ability. Although it sensed some danger, it wasn't as dangerous as the phoenix and the lotus after all. The demon couldn't be scared of Noel completely, so it tried to resist.

Unfortunately, he underestimated the power of the sword strike. Due to its high speed rotation and the amount of Spiritual Energy used for this ability, the circular sword strike was cutting everything on its path like a saw.

Even a sturdy metal would be cut through, let alone a mere fire.

"!!!" The demon had to stop bursting its fire and started dodging the sword strike if it wanted to stay alive. Unfortunately, a part of its right wing was hit by the Circular Sword Strike.

Cry!

...

The battle was observed by Dimitri, who was stunned because of all the new abilities Noel had shown since the beginning.

'What are those abilities?' Dimitri frowned. He had followed Noel for a long time. Although he didn't watch his every movement, it didn't change the fact that he had seen all his abilities.

Yet, there were multiple abilities that he saw for the first time. He couldn't help but wonder how much Noel had been hiding this whole time.

Although he knew that these abilities must come from his 'spirit,' there should be a significant amount of time to practice this ability.

The fact that Noel could just use it right away without practicing was enough to show his talent.

Even Dimitri was speechless since the more powerful the ability, the harder it took to master it.

'It seems that Young Master's talent is still not explored fully. Though, I can see some flaws in his current fighting style. I'll tell him about it after this fight. I hope that you can defeat the demon by yourself, Young Master.'

Dimitri smiled as if he was looking forward to the day he swore his allegiance to Noel.