

S vs Rebirth 571

Chapter 571 Fighting The Fire Bird Demon (4)

The bird widened his eyes as the sharp pain hit his mind. It never thought that the sword strike could cut his wing.

'Hmm?' Noel frowned, feeling something was wrong. At first, he thought that the bird's real body was smaller than what he could see. But he started doubting that conclusion after his sword was able to reach him with the Spirit Weaponry.

He thought it must be because of the Spirit Weaponry's ability that could cut the Spiritual Energy itself. But it seemed he was wrong. The Circular Sword Strike didn't have the same characteristic as the Spirit Weaponry, so it shouldn't be able to harm the bird.

Yet, the conclusion was different.

'Is there some missing information in my head?' Noel tried to recall the information about the birds and his abilities.

He couldn't help but question how the Spirit Weaponry was able to cut through the Spiritual Energy while the others couldn't. And how it was related to the Circular Sword Strike.

The fire bird demon noticed that Noel was distracted and let out a cry as if it felt Noel looking down on him.

The bird dove down, trying to grab Noel with its talon.

Noel clicked his tongue and raised his sword, trying to block this attack. But as expected, the bird was planning to use its weight to crush Noel.

Luckily, Noel thought the same thing as the bird. He knew that the Peak Level Demon had a thought similar to that of a human. So, he knew the bird was trying to trick him with the diving motion as if it wanted to grab him.

Right before the bird reached him, Noel activated the Ice Aura to protect himself from the heat. After that, he went into one of the trees and poured his Spiritual Energy into it.

Ice Infusion.

Suddenly, the tree was covered in thick ice. Due to its shape, the tree looked like a nail that was about to hit the bird's talon.

"!!!" The bird tried to stop, but he was moving too fast. In the end, his talon hit the tree.

The weight from the body broke the tree apart since the bird came diagonally. But it seemed that the pointed tip of the tree managed to cause a wound on the talon as a portion of the trunk was stuck to the bird's talon.

"..." The bird flew around, trying to gain some distance from Noel.

While he was at it, Noel asked Ardagan, thinking he was related to the Circular Sword Strike's ability.

'Ardagan. Does the Circular Sword Strike have the ability to strike the Spiritual Energy itself?'

Although he didn't want to rely on anyone other than himself, he had to do it to get a fast answer.

[No. It's an ability from Heisk.]

'Heisk?' Noel widened his eyes in shock. The only thing he could remember about Heisk was her ability to control Spiritual Energy. She never used a sword, so she shouldn't have given him the ability.

But Ardagan didn't seem to be lying.

So, there was only one possibility in Noel's mind.

'Now that I think about it, the only thing different from the previous Heisk is that I have created a Spirit Link with Heisk...' Noel fell silent, thinking that the answer was the Spirit Link.

'It seems that the Spirit Link is more important than I originally thought.'

As if trying to guide him, Ardagan gave one more reply.

[The Spirit Link allows your body to behave like a Spirit. And Spirits are born to control Spiritual Energy naturally.]

"..." Noel got his answer. As expected, the Circular Sword Strike must be related to the Spirit Link and Heisk. He didn't know why Heisk had it, but it was clear that he could utilize the Spirit Link with the help of the ability.

"I don't know much about the Spirit Link, but I think I can understand it a bit. The Circular Sword Strike and all my Ice Abilities are working, so I should focus on these two in order to figure out about the Spirit Link."

Noel looked at the bird with a serious expression. Although he wanted to ask Ardagan again, the latter wouldn't like to talk about it. After all, he wanted to know everything about the Spirit Link, whereas Ardagan wanted him to experience it himself.

Noel sighed while gathering the energy into the blade, ready to use another Circular Sword Strike.

He knew which ability would be working, so killing the demon shouldn't be impossible.

The demon flew toward him while letting out a huge cry. It flapped its wings a few times, shooting some feathers made of flame.

Noel still held the energy on his sword, ready to release it. But he had to handle the feathers first.

He used another ability in his other hand. This might be the first time he used two powerful abilities at the same time.

The energy around his sword instantly became unstable.

"Kh." Noel gritted his teeth, having a hard time controlling the Spiritual Energy. However, he had to do it.

He forcefully released the Ice Mirror.

A part of the Spiritual Energy on his sword leaked out, cutting one of the mirrors. So, Noel had to stop all the feathers with only four Ice Mirrors.

In the end, he surrounded himself with the mirrors, blocking the feather from all directions.

He knew that some feathers would fly on top of them since it was the only unprotected area.

That was why Noel instantly jumped to the side, sneaking past both the feathers and the mirrors.

Boom!

The feathers that dropped onto Noel's position exploded, destroying the Ice Mirrors.

But Noel was free and even had time to approach the bird while swinging his sword.

Circular Sword Strike.

The bird had already seen this ability once, so it immediately flew away.

However, Noel was one step ahead. He had already used the Temperature Control to suppress the fire bird's body.

The fire bird was slowing down for a moment due to the sudden change in temperature, allowing Noel's Circular Sword Strike to hit the bird.

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Cry!

The bird was in pain as the sword strike hit him again. Although it left a smaller wound due to some of the sword energy depleted from Noel's lack of control, it was still quite big.

Noel immediately used his Phoenix Wings to chase after him.

'I can use some utility abilities like Split Step or Phoenix Wings at the same time as an attack ability. But I still don't have enough control to use two extremely powerful abilities since they require greater control and a bigger amount of Spiritual Energy.'

Noel clicked his tongue. He truly lacked a lot of things despite getting stronger constantly. No, he felt that he could see more problems when he became stronger.

This frustrated him a lot but also made him feel grateful since it taught him how to get stronger.

'Well, I should focus on the battle first.' Noel muttered inwardly before the bird was angry again.

The fire bird demon rose into the sky and spread its wings as if it was trying to absorb the heat from the sun.

Noel narrowed his eyes, feeling the fluctuation of Spiritual Energy getting stronger.

"This is..." Noel gasped, seeing the flame on his wings flare up.

When the bird flapped its wings, it sent out a gale again. But this time, the gale contained some red aura as if it was the blazing fire that was carried by the wind.

Noel hurriedly used his Ice Vortex to disperse the attack.

As soon as the cold and heat collided, the heat flared up and caused an explosion, dispersing the Ice Vortex instead.

"What?" Noel couldn't believe what he saw. It was one of his most powerful abilities, yet, it was taken down easily.

This was the second concern he had the whole time. The fire bird's flame was extremely unstable. Sometimes, they were strong. Sometimes, they were weaker than he expected.

He wondered where the instability came from. And it seemed he had found the answer.

When the fire bird spread its wings as if it was basking in the sunlight, he realized that the fire bird's flame had become more intense.

"No way." Noel gasped. "Does the bird's heat come from not the fire in his body or the natural fire around him but from the sun itself?"

Noel couldn't help but shudder. If this was truly the case, he realized that fighting against the demon at this time was a foolish move.

The fight started one hour before midday. If he couldn't defeat the fire bird within one hour, the sun would continue to rise and reach its peak.

"This is not looking good..." Noel muttered with a serious expression. On the one hand, he could still take advantage of the weaker abilities. On the other hand, that weakness might disappear when the sun reaches its peak.

When that happens, the demon would be in its strongest form. Although he could gain some advantages with his current abilities, their positions would be exchanged the moment the sun was at its peak.

'I have to kill the demon as soon as possible.' Noel gritted his teeth and flew straight toward the fire bird.

He used his Ice Aura to cool the temperature around him, trying to withstand the heat from the gale.

As expected, the fire had become stronger. The fire even neutralized a portion of his Ice Aura and almost penetrated the ice Aura. If it managed to reach his skin, he would surely be burned.

Noel ignored the current damage since it hadn't reached him yet. He pushed through in order to get closer to the bird.

The bird had realized that Noel had figured out his true ability. He wasn't supposed to be called a Fire Bird. He should be called the Sun Bird.

The more the sun let out its heat, the stronger he would become. Seeing Noel getting desperate all of a sudden was enough to answer his doubt.

That was why the bird immediately flew back, trying to gain some distance. He planned to buy some time until he became even stronger.

Noel clicked his tongue. He immediately used the Undying Phoenix to stop him.

The bird knew it had no chance of winning against the black-colored phoenix, so it moved to the side, avoiding it.

Noel took this chance to close the gap between them and struck the bird from above.

"Die!" Noel shouted while waving his sword.

The bird's eyes flashed as if it had been waiting for this chance. The moment Noel was above him, the bird spread its wings again.

"!!!" Noel suddenly noticed the sudden increase in the temperature. He immediately realized that the bird was connected to the sun through the sunlight.

So, it could raise the heat between them by using Spiritual Energy.

Noel tried to use his Temperature Control to slow down the increase in temperature while flying to the side.

He managed to avoid it, but the bird also used that time to change direction. The chase had just begun.

Noel kept flying after the bird while the latter maintained the distance by using a lot of Spiritual Energy. The bird knew that his power was currently inferior to Noel's. So, he had to wait for a while until his fire became strong enough.

Meanwhile, Noel also acknowledged the fact that the gap in their strength was shrinking at a rapid rate. He realized his prediction was wrong.

If he didn't defeat the bird within thirty minutes, he might lose.

Noel gritted his teeth, glaring at the bird.

He tried to formulate a plan that could pin the bird down and defeat it within the time limit.

And to do it, he had to use his new abilities and the Spirit Link.

'Circular Sword Strike, Ice Aura, Ice Mirror, Ice Vortex, and Ice Lotus... How should I use them... No, wait.'

Noel suddenly remembered something.

[Shop]

Available Points: 120 HP

1 Skill Point (2 HP)

Water Bottle (1 HP)

Water Gallon (2 HP)

Water Tank (3 HP)

Random Rune Scroll (30 HP)

Random Upgrade Scroll (30 HP)

His eyes were locked on the Random Rune Scroll in the shop. Something he needed to cover the gap in his plan.

Chapter 573 New Runes

Noel knew that his current abilities were enough to kill a Peak Level Demon in a short time. However, this demon was different.

Not only did his ability as a Peak Level Demon top notch, but he was also fleeing with all his abilities. Unless Noel had an overwhelming attack or a surprise attack that could catch him off guard, he wouldn't have any chance of defeating this demon within the time limit.

'The rune I will get from the Random Rune Scroll will be according to the current level of my Rune Mastery. I am at level sixth right now and I have only learned about the Rune Enchantment System.

'The next four levels of the Rune Mastery are Rune Engineering, Rune Spell, Rune Body, and Rune Array. Rune Engineering is about programming a certain movement in an object while Rune Spell is a way to store and release the rune power in a certain object...'

Noel fell silent. He had enough Skill Points to upgrade his Rune Mastery, but he didn't know whether the Rune Engineering was enough to defeat the demon or not.

"This is annoying." Noel clicked his tongue. Since the scroll was random, he decided to give more options by upgrading the Rune Mastery twice. 'Ardagan! Exchange the Honor Points to Skill Points and upgrade the Rune Mastery with all the Skill Points I have!'

Rune Mastery (7/10)

Rune Mastery (8/10)

In that instant, he received a lot of new knowledge regarding engineering and spell systems.

He also got four new runes from each system.

[You've acquired Enhance Forward Rune.]

[You've acquired Extension Rune.]

[You've acquired Rune Sword.]

[You've acquired Rune Arrow.]

"..." Noel gritted his teeth, trying to process the knowledge as quickly as possible. "This..."

Noel didn't know what to say about these four runes, considering each rune from each system was similar to the other.

The Enhance Forward Rune can be embedded in an object and cause the object to move forward. But the Extension Rune could shoot up the Spiritual Energy inside the rune to extend the tip of the object. It was similar since both of them released something forward.

Meanwhile, if he used the Rune Sword, there would be a sword made of Spiritual Energy appearing before him. The Rune Arrow was similar. It summoned an arrow from the Spiritual Energy.

However, there was something unique from both Rune Systems. He felt they were connected.

The Rune Arrow could be paired with the Enhance Forward Rune, allowing him to shoot the arrow without a bow. On the other hand, the Rune Sword could be extended with the Extension Rune.

However, there was a problem. He didn't know whether these runes could harm the demon or not.

He thought for a moment, thinking of another way to use the rune. He couldn't help but smile, realizing that there were more applications he could try to attack the demon.

Noel took a deep breath and gathered the Spiritual Energy into the tip of his fingers. He started pouring out Spiritual Energy to form a rune in front of him.

This time, it was Rune Arrow. After that, he formed another rune on top of the arrow. This was the Enhance Forward Rune.

With the Spiritual Energy, he could tweak the arrow energy to apply the rune's ability. He immediately released that rune arrow.

As expected of the rune system, the rune arrow flew forward even faster than Noel's flying speed. It managed to catch up to the demon in an instant.

"!!!" The demon was surprised by this new ability. After all, this ability didn't come from the spirit, but from a new system unrelated to the spirits. It wasn't something that he used to deal with.

The demon didn't know whether to dodge it or not. On the one hand, he didn't know whether this ability could harm him or not. On the other hand, he had some level of confidence that his instinct would kick in if this arrow was dangerous.

So, the demon tried to choose whether to follow his rationality or his instinct.

In the end, he chose to follow his rationality. This was what made Peak Level Demon different from other low level demons after all.

The demon dodged it carefully while using his fire to burn the arrow.

To his surprise, the arrow was completely reduced to nothingness. It turned out his instinct was right. The arrow was not dangerous.

And because of his action, the demon ended up giving Noel some time to catch up.

Noel smirked while gathering the Spiritual Energy to use the Spirit Weaponry on his blade. After that, he formed the Extension Rune on Ardagan.

Suddenly, the sword was extended forward, turning Ardagan into a twenty meter long sword.

"!!!" The demon widened its eyes, not expecting that Noel was actually able to release that unique Spiritual Energy out of his sword.

This was what made the Rune System unique. Not only could it incorporate normal Spiritual Energy, but it could also work with the Spirit Ability and Spirit Technique. It was so versatile that it was too strong for anyone to monopolize the system.

Noel immediately swung downward, trying to cut down the bird.

As expected from a flying demon, its maneuverability was far superior to Noel's Phoenix Wings. The moment it saw the incoming blade, it immediately spun its body while flapping its wings, generating a wind to push him sideways.

The spin even released a few feathers from his wings.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

The feathers exploded, trying to crush the extension from the Spirit Weaponry.

Looking at the result, Noel was happy about two different things. Firstly, he realized that the enemy was wary of his ability, showing that the Spirit Weaponry could really be extended. Secondly, he might be able to fuse the rune with something else.

'This is interesting. I know that combining the runes is possible, considering the last level of the rune is the composite rune, which is basically combining all four rune systems.

'Although I don't have a lot of knowledge and experience about combining two runes or even more, I'm still able to do it safely. I just have to maintain enough distance so that the demon can't turn around and attack me while I'm drawing the rune.'

Noel knew how to fight the demon after confirming his new ability.

He immediately drew the Rune Sword, summoning a gold sword made of Spiritual Energy. Instead of using the new runes, he actually used the Energy Gathering Rune.

This was normally used in the Spirit Enchantment to fuel some energy into the rune to activate the runes embedded in the pieces of equipment. But this time, he enhanced his Rune Sword with the Energy Gathering Rune.

As for the Spiritual Energy that would be poured into the rune was none other than his own Spiritual Energy.

Of course, normal Spiritual Energy wouldn't work. But he had two answers to fix it. He could either apply the Spirit Weaponry's energy or the energy from the Spirit Link.

Unfortunately, to release the energy from the Spirit Weaponry, he had to use the Spirit Dispersion Rune on the Spirit Weaponry first, so it would make the system extremely complicated. Hence, Noel chose the second one.

He used the energy from his Spirit Link, which was a unique Spiritual Energy that came from the spirit itself.

He poured that ice energy into the Rune Sword, turning the gold sword blue.

Seeing the overwhelming ice element inside the sword, Noel grabbed it with his bare hand as if he had just pulled a sword out of the ground.

The ice element would have frozen him if he had wielded this sword without any protection. But due to the Spirit Link, his cold tolerance increased, so he didn't feel any cold from the sword.

So, he raised his sword, aimed at the demon, and threw it forward.

There wasn't much distance between them, so the demon had to move quickly if he wanted to dodge it. But because this was the first time he had seen something like this, the demon's reaction was a bit slower.

The sword ended up touching the tip of its wing.

Boom!

The ice element immediately exploded, releasing a chilling white smoke from within the sword.

As expected, Heisk's Ice was quite strong even though she wasn't the highest rank of Spirit. The ice extinguished a part of the fire wing, causing the bird to lose its balance.

It ended up flying to the side to maintain its balance. This was Noel's chance to catch up.

He knew that he would be attacked by the connection between the bird and the sun if he went from above. So, this time, Noel approached the bird from the side.

His left hand formed the Ice Lotus while his right hand gathered some Spiritual Energy to use the Spirit Weaponry.

Noel smirked, seeing this opportunity. The lotus released its petals while Noel flew straight to the demon's body while swinging his sword.

Chapter 574 Injury

Seeing the incoming attacks, the fire bird realized that Noel had been preparing this attack the whole time. With the current condition of the wing, he would have a hard time dodging both attacks. So, he had to take it head-on if he wanted to survive unscathed.

But he didn't have enough time to prepare for an ability that could achieve that result. So, he knew he had to sacrifice something.

He had seen Noel's Ice Lotus and the Spirit Weaponry. The Ice Lotus had an overwhelming ice ability. It wouldn't be strange if it could extinguish the fire on his body or wing.

On the other hand, the Spirit Weaponry was a unique sword ability that could cut even his Spiritual Energy. So, getting hit by either one would still be pretty hurt.

Yet, he had to take on if he wanted to survive.

The demon gathered his energy in front of his body. The concentrated enemy started to burn like a raging fire, trying to engulf Noel.

"!!!" Noel was surprised by the bird's choice. He waved his sword, slicing the flame. As expected from the Spirit Weaponry, it immediately sliced the flame into two like butter.

The flame was cut, but the three petals from the Ice Lotus were closing in.

One petal approached the other wing, another one flew to its head, and the last one appeared behind him.

Noel would get his doubt answered when he saw the demon spinning his body at the last moment. Instead of letting his body hit just like that, the bird covered its body with its wings.

Boom!

The ice petals exploded, releasing the white icy fog. It instantly extinguished a part of the other wing. This way, the two wings would have a similar circumstance.

This was when Noel realized the intelligence of a Peak Level Demon.

After receiving that ability, the demon started flying again like nothing had happened. It turned out the demon had calculated the ability and used the Ice Lotus to trim his own wing so that both had the same condition.

This way, he had two same wings. Aside from the uncomfortable feeling because he wasn't used to flying with a smaller pair of wings, there was nothing stopping him anymore.

'Seriously? The demon can even do that?' Noel gritted his teeth, trying to chase the bird again. He never thought that the bird allowed him to be hit so that he could adjust his wings.

Unfortunately for him, the demon seemed to have planned a counterattack. The moment Noel tried to chase after him, there were several feathers surrounding him.

'Huh? Since when?' Noel looked at them and saw the small red sphere that isolated them. He soon realized that the demon was hiding them inside the white smoke this whole time.

He almost forgot that every time the demon released its feathers was when he spun his body.

In other words, not only did the demon use the previous attack to condition his wings, but he also secretly placed an ambush.

"Kh." Noel hurriedly used his Flame Scale to cover his body.

Boom!

Boom!

A series of explosions occurred, engulfing Noel.

The power of the blast launched Noel away and the heat from the fire made his body release smoke as if he was being burned alive.

However, Noel's body was covered with black colored fire. This was Ardagan's Undying Fire. And if one took a closer look, they would notice that Noel's skin looked like they were covered in scales. And these scales were the ones releasing the black fire.

"Kh." Noel gritted his teeth while scanning his body. 'Kh. Although the flame scale and the Undying Fire managed to absorb a huge portion of the flame, it's still pretty hurt to get blasted like that. Even the heat is warming up my organs..."

Noel felt the burning sensation inside his body. The Undying Flame was covering the organs as well, but as expected, it still made him in pain.

He took a deep breath. "My current condition is not too bad, but I can't say it's good as well. If I take another attack from the bird, my organs might start to have some problems."

There was one thing he noticed from the explosions earlier. Out of ten explosions that hit him, eight of them reached unprecedented might. The bird was getting closer and closer to its peak.

Noel gritted his teeth and chased after him. He wanted to be careful, but he didn't have enough time.

Still, the bird had made a considerable distance by using the previous attack. So, Noel had to use all his abilities in order to catch up to him again.

If he used the same combination, the bird might dodge it easily because he had learned the attack pattern.

So, Noel had to be more creative.

Noel's expression became serious. He tried to position the bird between him and the mountain.

Seeing the sudden change, the bird tried to cross the mountain to avoid Noel. He hadn't realized what Noel was planning.

Noel's plan started the moment they passed the mountain. Noel used the mountain to step on the ground without diving down.

That step was all he needed to activate the Split Step, dividing himself into two.

"!!!" The demon was startled. This was the ability that confused him earlier. But when he was away from Noel, he could see the difference. One of them was surrounded by Spiritual Energy, while the other one was made of Spiritual Energy.

It was pretty clear for the bird. So, it flew toward the one made of Spiritual Energy to gain more distance.

But this intelligence was what Noel needed the most. Noel smirked. He had predicted that the bird would have seen through the ability. So, all he needed to do was to take one step ahead by going in the same direction.

The bird was startled, realizing that he had been tricked by Noel. But it was too late. Noel once again managed to approach him while utilizing his abilities.

Chapter 575 Risks

The fire bird demon was trying to get away from Noel. As long as he could persist for a bit more, he would be unstoppable.

But Noel had thought one step forward. He used the new rune, the Enhance Forward Rune, on his shirt.

Yes, he applied it on his shirt so that his shirt would move forward, carrying him. This way, he didn't need to spare some attention for the Phoenix Wings and other things.

He could retract all of them and focus on the next strike.

He also used the Rune Sword to summon another sword for his left hand. The bird never saw Noel wielding two swords. In fact, his subordinates had never seen it as well.

The bird was surprised, trying to figure out what Noel wanted with these two swords.

Noel gathered the Spiritual Energy for the Circular Sword Strike on Ardagan and Spirit Weaponry for the Rune Sword.

The bird hurriedly raised its talons and stopped both swords. But Noel instantly cut the talon made of fire. Even if the bird was big, he still had enough power to cut through the giant body.

The other talon also tried to stop him but to no avail. Noel had his momentum, cutting the demon's legs.

The demon was wailing in pain, but he didn't stop there. The demon knew that Noel was unstoppable and it would be hard to defeat Noel in his current condition. So, he planned to injure Noel with some sacrifice until he reached his peak.

With Noel's momentum, he would have a hard time stopping his movement. So, the bird invited him in while wrapping Noel with his wings and body.

"!!!" Noel realized that the demon was trying to burn him from the inside.

It seemed that the bird was ready to pay some sacrifice in order to defeat him.

Noel gritted his teeth, enduring the pain that came from his body warming up. If he didn't do anything, he would be cooked alive. So, Noel used the Phoenix Wing to strike the demon.

Phoenix Strike.

The black-colored phoenix reappeared and flew straight to the demon's body before exploding.

Boom!

The phoenix exploded, releasing a raging black fire that seemed to be able to burn the demon's fire.

Despite not having intense heat like the demon's fire, the Undying Fire was completely dominating the demon's fire.

Even the bird ended up falling down while feeling all the pain. It felt like the flame was eating him alive.

Noel was supposed to launch another attack here, but he couldn't help but spat a mouthful of blood.

"Gah." Noel coughed a few times. His organs had started failing for being too hot. He never thought that the bird would sacrifice a huge portion of its body to harm him this way. It was surely effective, but the demon didn't have an easy time either.

When he looked down, he saw the bird's size shrinking drastically until it revealed the real body of the demon. It turned out the demon was a bird the size of Noel's body. It had extended its body with the Spiritual Energy, but because the Spiritual Energy was connected directly to the body, he ended up feeling the pain being cut by Noel's Spirit Weaponry and Circular Sword Strike.

Though, now that the flame had gone, the demon's real body was revealed. As long as Noel could defeat it, he would win the bet with Dimitri.

Still, Noel couldn't rejoice. After all, the bird might have revealed its true body, but the fire remained on his body. The scattered flame was burning even fiercer than earlier.

When Noel glanced up, he realized that the sun had reached its peak.

Although the demon was in its weakened state due to the attack earlier, the power of the sun was boosting its ability to an unprecedented level.

In the meantime, Noel was injured internally. Inner injuries were far more dangerous than outer injuries, so Noel didn't know whether he was still fit enough to kill the demon or not.

He might be able to kill the demon, but if he continued, he might end up with a long lasting injury that would plague him for the rest of his life. So, Noel had to consider it properly.

'Ardagan. Is there anything you can do with my current condition?' Although Noel didn't want to rely on Ardagan, Dimitri or anyone else too much, he had to do it this time.

[Heisk's power can let you recover for a bit. But Heisk can't use her power to freeze the organs immediately since it'll end up harming you instead. As for your current condition, Heisk said that it's not

too bad at the moment. As long as you don't receive a similar attack within five minutes, you will be good.]

'There are a lot of risks, huh.' Noel took a deep breath. He started to feel the energy from the Spirit Link that gradually chilled his body. It wasn't an overwhelming chill since the drastic change in temperature could harm the organ. It was a gentle breeze that would gradually cool down the organs.

'Five minutes... It seems I have to find a way to survive for the next five minutes.' Noel muttered inwardly.

Meanwhile, the demon had stood up while spreading its wings. It released another cry before soaring to the sky.

The fire that covered his body started to recover. The intense heat from the small fire could rival the one in his prime condition.

"..." Noel clicked his tongue. It would be a bit risky, but he had to do it.

Seeing the change in Noel's expression, the demon flew forth, trying to kill Noel.

On the other hand, Noel had drawn the Spiritual Energy Dispersion Rune. His sword was gathering the Spiritual Energy for the Spirit Weaponry. Due to the rune, the energy that had been converted by the Spirit Weaponry was dispersed in the air.

"!!!" As expected from a demon, whose senses were heightened, it noticed the change in the Spiritual Energy. He didn't know what would happen to him if he passed this Spiritual Energy, making him hesitate.

Chapter 576 Victor

The demon knew that it was close to its peak state while Noel was heavily injured. The situation had gradually shifted.

And the moment Noel showed the last rune to disperse the Spiritual Energy from the Spirit Weaponry, the demon realized that Noel had a hard time fighting back.

This time, the hunter had become the hunted.

Without hesitation, the demon looped around the unique energy and approached Noel from the back. Noel smiled as he moved back, using the unique Spiritual Energy as his cover. He planned to stay this way as long as possible since the demon was scared of this energy.

Since Noel refused to come out, the demon ended up flapping his wings, blowing the unique Spiritual Energy away.

Noel actually followed the movement of Spiritual Energy. It had been dispersed further, but it was still enough to hinder the demon's movement.

But as one would expect from a bird, it flew past the hurdles skillfully, forcing Noel to fly away.

"!!!" The demon had confirmed with this action that he truly had become the hunter.

So, the bird chased after Noel. He might be heavily injured as well, but all he needed was one blow to defeat Noel. As long as he could catch up, he should be able to kill Noel.

It seemed Noel had prepared for this chase. He summoned the Rune Arrow and applied the Extension Rune instead of the Enhance Forward Rune.

In that instant, the arrow expanded forward. It might not be as quick as the Enhance Forward Rune, but the expansion made it sturdier.

Unfortunately, the demon avoided it effortlessly.

Noel raised his left hand again. This time, he used 'Flame Conjuring' to form a big palm made of black fire.

He tried to slap the demon from above.

The demon had long acknowledged that this black fire was superior to his fire. So, it didn't hesitate to dodge the palm even if it meant Noel got away.

Still, the gap didn't widen that much. So, the demon used its fastest speed to catch up.

Just like the demon, Noel had an ability to use feathers. Instead of spinning his body, Noel only flapped the Phoenix Wings once, plucking out five black feathers.

Noel sent them forward, alarming the demon.

"!!!" The demon obviously understood how the feathers could be used. So, it soared into the sky, trying to get as far as possible from the feathers.

After that, he dove down, getting all the momentum to reach Noel.

Noel used the Ice Infusion and waved his sword, sending forth the frost energy. But because it was too small, the demon easily avoided it by flying to the side.

It missed Noel, but the demon's speed still far outpaced him, so the demon reached him a few seconds later.

Noel clicked his tongue and used the Ice Mirror to stop the demon.

The demon only spread its wings and struck the Ice Mirror fearlessly. After the sun reached its peak, the demon didn't fear Noel's ice ability anymore.

The moment it touched the demon, the Ice Mirror immediately got engulfed by the fire and melted away.

Phoenix Wing.

A black colored phoenix emerged from Noel's hand. It turned out Noel used the Ice Mirror to cover the demon's eyes so that he could use the Undying Phoenix.

The demon was startled and tried to avoid it, but it was too late. The Undying Phoenix hit the tip of the wing and exploded, engulfing the demon.

Luckily, the demon's momentum was extremely fast. The body managed to avoid the explosion and flame with its momentum alone, but the black flame managed to reach its body.

The demon's right wing and right side of the body had a black flame on them, killing the demon slowly.

The demon knew that if it continued, he would just die without a fight. So, he had to kill Noel before his body was burned.

This was the most effective way to get rid of the fire.

So, he ignored all the pain in his body and continued to fly straight to Noel.

"!!!" Noel seemed to be shocked. He must think the demon would stop and wail in pain because of the pain before chasing after him. Unfortunately for him, the demon was stronger than he expected.

It instantly closed the gap between them and finally reached Noel.

Noel raised his sword, trying to kill the bird with a single slash. But that was only a desperate attempt from a shocked person. It didn't have any other meaning.

The bird was faster in closing his wings, using the flame to create an oven to burn Noel.

"Aaaahhh!" Noel let out a scream as if he was in pain. Although he didn't catch fire yet due to the Flame Scale, it didn't change the fact that his organs would be cooked completely after this.

Cry!

The demon let out a huge cry while looking at Noel happily, knowing that his attack definitely became the last blow.

Unfortunately for him, Noel had Heisk inside him. She had cooled down Noel's organs, allowing him to withstand this heat once more.

And knowing that the bird would use this kind of attack to kill him, Noel immediately flew forward while gathering his Spiritual Energy into his sword.

Spirit Weaponry.

Extension Rune.

The sword became long enough to slice the bird in half.

"!!!" The bird was shocked, never expecting Noel to use this kind of strategy. Its instinct was to move its body away from Noel, but it was too late.

Noel slashed horizontally, cutting the demon's body into two.

The bird never thought Noel would be able to defeat him. But there was nothing he could do since Noel had cut him down.

It could only glare at Noel one more time. It wanted to let out a cry, but it didn't have the energy or consciousness to do it.

The fire on the body had gradually subsided. When every flame was gone, it was the sign of the death of the fire bird demon.

The battle was over, and Noel was the victor.

Chapter 577 Fire Bird's Heart

"Young Master!" Dimitri instantly appeared the moment he saw Noel delivering the killing blow. It seemed that he had taken care of the rest of the demons in the area and had been waiting for him to finish.

Noel smiled at Dimitri before dropping to his knees while coughing up blood. "Gah."

"Young Master!" Dimitri tried to check his condition. He even used his Spiritual Energy to scan Noel's body.

But surprisingly, aside from the heat, Noel's body was completely fine. He might experience a huge discomfort for a while, but he will definitely recover from this.

He couldn't help but feel relieved. He wanted to intervene this whole time, but he had a bet to uphold. If he participated in the battle before Noel gave up, he would break his own promise. So, he chose to believe him.

"I'm fine." Noel let out a sigh. "This is truly hard."

"No. I'm extremely impressed by Young Master's strength." Dimitri shook his head. He pointed at the demon and said with a serious expression. "Look at the demon, Young Master. The demon was extremely strong. If I'm not wrong, it's close to the limit of a Peak Level Demon.

"And that kind of demon was defeated by you, who had just become a Spirit Master not long ago.

"To think the young master can surpass that gap..." Dimitri sighed, feeling overwhelmed by the victory.

Noel knew there were four phases to differentiate a single level. He was in the first phase of the Spirit Master, a new Spirit Master.

Once he had more Spiritual Energy to consolidate his power, he would become a solid Spirit Master.

If he could utilize all his abilities as a Spirit Master, he would reach the next phase. Meanwhile, the last phase was just the preparation to break through to the Spirit Grandmaster.

The fact that Noel could bypass the gap between a new Spirit Master and the last phase Spirit Master was amazing. It was almost impossible for someone to fight someone above their level, let alone a few levels.

Although Noel managed to take it down with surprise, it didn't change the fact that Noel's Black Fire, Powerful Ice, and Unique Rune allowed him to have the same strength as someone in the third or fourth phase of Spirit Master despite being a new Spirit Master.

'If he is allowed to grow, he will become unstoppable. With his other talents, there is no doubt that he will become a leading figure in the future.' Dimitri thought after observing Noel's ability.

Even though it was such a shocking scene, Noel wasn't fixated on his ability. Instead, he focused on the mission he had just completed.

[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 received 49 Skill Points in one go and a new medal. He immediately checked the medal's power and was surprised by it.

Medal: One with Flame

Effect: Flame Ability +10%

It was a simple description, but it was enough to show the overwhelming effect the medal had.

'What? Ten percent of my flame ability? My Undying Fire is already so powerful to the point the demon didn't dare to fight it head-on. What will happen if I use this medal? And what if I get the second medal slot along with another medal with fire ability amplification?'

Noel gasped from that thought alone. He would become extremely terrifying in the future.

As Noel thought previously, the daily mission or the medal might increase a small portion of his abilities to the point it looked completely insignificant.

But when he went further and further in this path, the amplification would become bigger and bigger. Eventually, he would reach a point where the medal alone could allow him to skip a single level.

'This is good. Extremely good. If I continue this way, I will become unstoppable.' Noel had no intention of becoming a ruler.

Even he acknowledged his lack of ability. He might be able to become a noble that governed a single territory, but he wasn't good enough to be a leader of a country.

Besides, his ambition was not that small. So, he wanted to become unstoppable for his ambition instead of his revenge.

If he thought for too long, Dimitri would be confused. So, Noel dropped the thought for a moment since he had one more task to do.

"Protect me for fifteen minutes. I'm going to recover a bit of my strength before I cut open the demon's corpse."

"Understood." Dimitri nodded and immediately disappeared, giving Noel time to recover.

Noel cooled down the temperature in his body while recovering some Spiritual Energy. Even though he had used a lot of Spiritual Energy earlier, it seemed that he still had a lot of Spiritual Energy to spare.

After recovering a portion of his strength, Noel stood up while unsheathing Ardagan. He walked toward the bird and saw Rose in the corner of his eye. It seemed that she had regrouped with Dimitri, but because he was meditating earlier, Dimitri stopped her.

So, Noel gave a nod to her first to show that he was fine. After that, he continued to the demon and cut open the head and the body.

Just like any other demon, the head contained the Peak Level Crystal. But the real objective of killing this monster was its heart.

The Fire Bird was an extremely powerful animal that had undergone an evolution due to the existence of Spiritual Energy after the demon's invasion. It was just a normal bird before, so it showed how much stronger they were compared to other species when they managed to evolve by themselves.

And the secret to their evolution was their heart.

When Noel cut open the body, there was an oval-shaped organ burning fiercely inside the dead body. This was the Fire Bird's heart.

'So, this is the heart. It's said it can grant powerful abilities and even evolution for the spirit if one consumes this heart... So, I have high expectations from this heart.'

Noel smiled while extending his hand, absorbing the energy from the heart without hesitation.

[You've acquired...]

Chapter 578 Rewards

Noel looked at the fiery heart and extended his hand. Ardagan's Spirit Mark shone on the back of his palm and began to absorb the flame on the heart.

There was no need for Noel to consume the heart since all he needed was the energy coming from the heart. It was the demon's purest flame.

Just like how Heisk absorbed the energy from the Ice Crystal, Ardagan did it in the same way. The abilities were immediately transferred to him through the system.

[You've acquired Fire Gale.]

[You've acquired Fire Heart.]

[Undying Fire Feathers Level +3]

[Phoenix Wings Level +2]

[Undying Phoenix +2]

Noel immediately opened his eyes wide, never expecting that absorbing a single heart of a Peak Level Demon would give him so much advantage.

"What is this... Is the fire so strong that it stimulates the Undying Fire?" Noel muttered while looking at the notification. At the same time, he also received an influx of knowledge from the system due to the Fire Gale and Fire Heart.

"This is interesting. Fire Gale is the ability that the demon used so many times earlier. It's quite annoying but extremely useful. Unfortunately, if I want to use it, I have to activate my Phoenix Wings first. It can be said that the Fire Gale ability is the extension of my Phoenix Wings ability.

"As for the Fire Heart, I don't know what to say about this. On the one hand, the Fire Heart can be activated at minimum Spiritual Energy. It can amplify my fire ability while it's active. To put it simply, the Fire Heart will absorb the energy from the Spirit Mark and amplify it.

"On the other hand, the Fire Heart will increase the consumption of my Spiritual Energy drastically. I see, I got a lot from the demon and it felt like the Sword Saint had already known that this would happen, so he asked me to kill this demon."

Noel looked down for a moment, wondering one thing. "Now that I think about it, this is supposed to be someone's possession. I wonder what kind of ability they get after consuming this heart.

"Obviously, the spirit rank might increase, but since Ardagan is considered to be the highest rank, he doesn't evolve. Instead, he uses that ability to raise my abilities. It should be easier to upgrade a similar ability...

"Last but not least, whoever it is must have gotten the two abilities as well, the Fire Gale and the Fire Heart. I should say that the Fire Heart Ability is the best gain in this hunt."

Noel was curious about the Fire Heart Ability. He glanced to the side and still saw Dimitri and Rose waiting at the side. It seemed that they were curious about his gain.

So, Noel planned to try the Fire Heart first.

Noel shouted, "Dimitri. Do you mind if I test something?"

"Testing the new power you've got from the demon?" Dimitri glanced to the side. Since he was also curious about the ability, Dimitri nodded, "Understood. Let's test it. What do you want me to do?"

"I'm trying to summon the black phoenix at you. Do you think you can kill it?"

"I can." Dimitri nodded without hesitation. He jumped back to gain some distance before waving his hand to let Noel know he was ready.

Noel nodded and gathered the Spiritual Energy into his hand. He took a deep breath before using the Fire Heart.

In that instant, he felt his heart pumping faster and harder to the point he could easily feel the pumping motion.

'This is...' Noel narrowed his eyes for a moment, feeling the surge of strength coming from his heart. He remembered that his heart had evolved after becoming a Spirit Master. And due to the Fire Heart, the amplification became several folds.

Noel waved his hand, releasing the phoenix.

As expected from the Undying Fire Phoenix, who had just gained two additional levels. The Undying Phoenix's power became twice as big and as powerful compared to the previous one. But Noel also noticed the amplification from the Fire Heart.

The Phoenix suddenly let out a cry, stimulating the fire even further.

"!!!" Dimitri widened his eyes in shock, never expecting to see this kind of power from the Undying Phoenix. He remembered that the Undying Phoenix wasn't this strong.

'What is this? The strength... It should be three times more than the previous one.' Dimitri panicked after seeing the difference in power. He thought the fire heart would be beneficial, but he seemed to have underestimated the effect.

Dimitri hurriedly gathered the energy on the sword's blade before waving it downwards. The black-colored energy from his blade flew down and hit the ground, fusing with the shadow. After that, it spiked like a raging fire and ran through the ground before finally hitting the Undying Phoenix.

Bam!

Their clash resulted in an immediate explosion. Dimitri was using the Hard Approach because he thought his power was not enough to deal with the Undying Phoenix, but as a result, the Hard Approach caused the sword strike to explode upon impact.

The Undying Fire that made the phoenix scattered in the area, burning the trees, rocks, and even the soil.

Thankfully, due to the blast, the Undying Fire didn't fly in Dimitri's direction. Or it would be terrible if he got caught.

'This is...' Dimitri narrowed his eyes. 'What I used earlier was equal to a Spirit Grandmaster's strike. To think the phoenix would be that strong... Although it's only equal to a Spirit Grandmaster who has just broken through, it's still beyond what a peak Spirit Master can do.'

It seemed that Noel's ability had improved again. This time, his ability surpassed three levels at once.

He couldn't say it was equal to a Spirit Grandmaster, but it was close to that level.

Dimitri couldn't help but sigh, "That demon truly benefits you a lot, Young Master."

Noel could also feel the change in his power as well. He nodded with a serious expression. "Yeah, I think so."

Chapter 579 Questions

Noel took a deep breath after using that ability. As expected, it drained a lot of Spiritual Energy. But seeing the power behind that phoenix, he knew the Undying Phoenix could become a trump card to defeat his enemy.

'I'm ladre right now, so the rewards mean a lot to me.' Noel thought for a moment before looking at Dimitri. "It seems that the situation is going to change."

"Are you talking about the Third Prince?"

"Yes. He must be occupied with the current matter, so he wouldn't visit me that soon. So, I'm planning to go back to the Demon Relief Squad's headquarters first before meeting the Third Prince. I'm sure it's going to be easier to handle him that way." Noel sighed.

"At the very least, you have all the alibi you need to handle the matter about the rune." Dimitri waved his hand, telling him that it wasn't a big deal. He would be near as well, so Noel didn't need to worry about the Third Prince.

He might be strong, but Dimitri had enough confidence that he could bring Noel away if he ever tried to kill Noel.

'Indeed.' Noel nodded in agreement.

"Though, I might step over my bound by asking this question. But after some consideration, it seems that I have to ask you..." Dimitri fell silent. "Why do you need to spread the knowledge? If you just use the ability for yourself, people will think it's an ability that belongs only to you. In other words, Spirit Abilities.

"Although it will give a resemblance to the Spirit Enchantment, as long as you don't use it easily until you're strong enough, no one will try to get the knowledge from you," Dimitri asked with a serious expression. He believed this was a safer path for Noel. And with his intelligence, Noel should have considered this path as well.

So, he didn't understand why Noel wanted to traverse a riskier path.

Noel closed his eyes for a moment. He had two reasons. The first one, he wanted to try whether spreading the knowledge would allow him to gain the contribution to helping people. After all, knowledge could be considered wealth, power, and influence.

If he spread the knowledge and changed someone's fate for the better, he could be considered to have helped him. So, he wanted to see whether it would work or not.

If it worked, Noel would gain a huge influx of contributions, allowing him to gain a massive amount of Honor Points. If it didn't work, his name would still spread in all kingdoms, allowing him to gain a lot of options.

As for the second reason, Noel simply believed that the path that Dimitri mentioned earlier was a far longer path.

Noel had Ardagan and the system. He knew that his ability and power would grow by leaps and bounds by taking advantage of the system.

If he raised his power like this without spreading the knowledge and taking risks, he thought that a lot of strong enemies would come after him and he would be too weak to fight against them.

He didn't want to be helpless. So, he spread the knowledge to stimulate the urgency to get stronger as well as to speed up his own progress.

He believed this was the correct path and the only path he could take to surpass Anna Stargaze.

Noel didn't realize that in his previous life, he didn't take this risky path. Yes, he indeed spread the knowledge about the runes, but he didn't do it like this.

That was why his progress in his previous life was much slower than his current progress. Seeing how Anna easily got stronger than him stimulated his desire and urgency to get stronger as well.

And he managed to keep up with Anna, who had knowledge and memories from her past life. If not for this, even with his system, he wouldn't be able to fight Anna.

Though, Anna also contributed to his progression from the information to the fact that she didn't take everything that Noel needed to get stronger.

Noel only knew that he had good reasons to spread the knowledge and replied to Dimitri, "I know that taking the safer path will bring a lot of benefits for me. I can also rebuild the Ardagan Family safely since much time should have passed before I gain the power to do so."

"However, you have forgotten one thing, Dimitri." Noel raised his finger.

"What is that, Young Master?" Dimitri furrowed his eyebrows.

"You've forgotten the existence of Anna Stargaze."

"!!!" Dimitri gasped. He was surprised and confused at the same time. "But Young Master, both of you seem to have understood each other and resolved the hatred between you. Why are you still doing this then?"

"You could say that if I don't do this, I will progress slower than her." Noel shook his head. "Although the misunderstanding between us has been resolved, it doesn't change the fact that I have to surpass her!"

Dimitri looked down, contemplating. He didn't know about the system, the two spirits, and the limit of Demon Crystals Noel could absorb. So, he thought Noel always felt inferior to Anna, forcing him to take this path to stimulate his growth.

Dimitri hesitated for a moment but still said what needed to be said. "Young Master. I don't know if you've realized this, but I think your own pace is still fast enough compared to all people. You are also a genius like Anna, so you don't have to—"

Noel raised his hand, stopping him. "That's enough. No matter how you persuade me, I'm not going to take the slower path. I have my own ambition, desire, and expectation... If I lose a single one of them, I might not be able to reach my goal, Dimitri."

"..." Dimitri fell silent before bowing to him. "Understood. I apologize for my rudeness."

"Well, that's enough. We've got what we need, so it's time to go back." Noel waved his hand, telling him it wasn't a big deal. He glanced at Rose to signal her that they were ready to return to the headquarters. They didn't know what the Third Prince did to the two nobles that dared to take his rune book.

Chapter 580 Massacre

"What is this..." Count Leinberd was staring at the hallway of his mansion in horror. After all, there were supposed to be many maids and butlers going around to take care of the hallway. But this time, all of them were gone.

Instead, there were countless bodies on the ground. Each of them had their own throat or body sliced, killing them as painlessly as possible.

The blood splattered on the wall, furniture, and carpet. The smell of the blood was so strong that it almost made him vomit.

He soon heard screams coming from all over the mansion.

"Aaaahhhh!"

"Noooo!!!"

Although he never paid that much attention to his workers, it was clear that those screams came from them. They were murdered mercilessly.

Seeing the tragedy that happened in his mansion, Count Leinberd couldn't help but fall down, wondering what he had done to incur this person's wrath.

He was a Count. Not many people dared to massacre his people, so the person he had offended must be extremely powerful.

However, he had been careful this whole time. So, he wondered who actually targeted him like this.

But before he could say something, a blade pierced through his heart.

"Gah!" Count Leinberd widened his eyes in shock, trying to figure out the situation. He looked at the blade before turning around, trying to see who had just killed him. But there was nothing he could find from the culprit.

The culprit was wearing a tight black cloth. Aside from the curve of her body and the purple eyes that locked into his eyes, he couldn't figure out who and why she did all this.

Count Leinberd tried to move his mouth, but the culprit had pulled out the blade, causing the blood to spurt out his heart.

The count could only drop to the ground and die without being able to figure out the situation.

A few minutes later, two people who wore similar outfits reached the hallway and saw the count.

"Hmm?!" They were stunned when they found out that the count had died.

"This is Count Leinberd. Who killed him?" One of the assassins gasped, trying to figure out why Count Leinberd died like this.

"We have been ordered to kidnap him alive and kill the rest of the people..." The other person panicked, thinking this matter wouldn't end well. "What should we do..."

"We have to find the person who killed Count Leinberd. After we finish, we shall gather at point B to find the culprit. I'm afraid that the situation is more complicated than we think."

The two assassins looked at each other. They didn't want this to happen, but since it had already happened, they had to figure out who killed him. After all, they had been trained for this, so they shouldn't make such a mistake.

If one of them incurred the wrath of their master, their life was basically forfeited. So, they had to find the culprit if they didn't want their master to blame all of them and eliminate everyone.

They brought the corpses with them and retreated to the rendezvous point.

There were a total of four people who carried out the massacre. Each of them was a Spirit Master.

Once they brought Count Leinberd's body in, all of them were startled.

"Why is he dead?"

"I should be the one asking that. We have been together since the start and found his corpse in the hallway. So, the culprit must be either of you!"

"What? We have been killing the people from the garden. We haven't even found him the whole time."

"Do you think you can lie just like that?"

"I should be the one to say that! You must be framing us."

When they were about to start their argument, someone suddenly opened their door.

They all turned around, trying to find out who dared to interrupt them. But the moment they saw that unique hair, they immediately dropped to the ground.

"Your Highness."

All of them fell on one knee while sweating. They knew that the moment the Third Prince saw the body, he would be furious.

Without raising their head, they could hear the rough breathing of the Third Prince.

He gritted his teeth before asking coldly, "Who killed him?"

None of them spoke. All of them were also confused about the situation. They were expert assassins, so they wouldn't mistake their target. Yet, the body was right before them.

The atmosphere in the room turned cold as the Third Prince released his killing intent.

"!!!" All of them suddenly felt a chill down their spine. The Third Prince was restraining his Spiritual Energy, but all of them were able to sense his strength. He was already beyond them or even the Spirit Master Level.

They knew that the moment he was angry, the Third Prince could kill them easily with his own hand.

"We don't know, Your Highness. When we were carrying the massacre, we stumbled upon his corpse. It seems that he hasn't died for too long, so there might be another person trying to kill him to keep the information."

Since no one was admitting their fault, they had to make up something in order to find a way to escape death.

The Third Prince wanted to get angry, but he couldn't deny that fact as well.

He knew that Marquis Walford was wary of Count Leinberd. He must have known about the fake book, so he must try to silence him and recover the real book.

"This..." The Third Prince gritted his teeth and said, "I'm going to the mansion personally."

"Your Highness..." One of them tried to stop him, considering they had just carried out a massacre.

But the Third Prince was already too annoyed, so he just roared at them. "What? You incompetent bastards. If you are a bit more competent, you can kidnap him alive."

The Third Prince didn't care about their opinion and immediately headed to the mansion, trying to figure out the situation himself.