

S vs Rebirth 771

Chapter 771 Suspicions

One week later.

Noel channeled his ice element to Anna's right hand and right foot at the same time.

Anna skillfully covered her body with her lightning element and matched the Spiritual Energy to accept Noel's power.

The ice element flowed smoothly on top of her body as if she was just a rock that didn't mind getting frozen by the ice. Yet, this time, the ice element could actually circle around her head, stop on her forehead to make a crown, or even create an ice armor.

Anna managed to control Noel's ice element to such a degree. As soon as she returned the ice element back, she began channeling her lightning into Noel's body.

Noel was even more surprising at this point. Due to the mission task that increased his Spiritual Energy sensitivity, he managed to easily sense the amount of lightning.

When it flowed onto his body, the lightning actually jumped around as if it was a rabbit. It moved around Noel's body and even stopped on his shoulder to nudge his cheek as if it were trying to act cute.

After that circulation, both of them opened their eyes, staring at each other.

Old Ru watched them with a smile. This was the first time he saw people with this much talent. Anna, who had experienced another life, was obviously talented. But Noel was even monstrous. He might start slow, but his pace might be even faster than Anna's currently.

"Now that you have grasped the essence of it. Let's begin to do a practice match. You can start off slow."
Old Ru raised his hand, gesturing to them to stand up.

Noel and Anna nodded, following his instructions.

"Remember. This is just a practice match. Don't try to harm each other... Well, I don't think you are going to do it, but I'll just remind you about it. You can only attack once before defending. Starts off slow to get the hang of it. Make sure you completely repel your opponent's Spiritual Energy and element. Anna attacks first."

Anna and Noel nodded. They raised their stances.

Anna sent forth a fist, but the speed was extremely slow. It seemed that she was matching the speed she needed to increase her Spiritual Energy and infuse her element before sending it to Noel.

Noel also carefully watched her movement and matched her speed. In addition, he raised his right hand to block this.

Since Anna would be trying to send the element into his body, he had to let the element flow onto his hand but redirect it to his fingers before releasing it upward. This way, he wouldn't have to endure the sharp jolt from the lightning.

The moment her attack connected, she sent the lightning directly onto his body, trying to electrocute his body.

However, Noel had made his Spiritual Energy and Ice Element flow in reverse, causing the lightning to shoot upward.

Noel was slightly surprised. In the past, whenever Anna attacked him with his lightning, he would have a hard time blocking it. Only the Spiritual Weaponry could completely dispel any lingering effect the lightning would cause.

In fact, when the people from the Demon Banner Army trained for the first time in the headquarters, they were trained harshly so that they could ignore the lingering effect the enemy might have caused. But for Old Ru, it seemed that he wanted to be completely free from it.

That was why this ability was terrifying. Even if they faced a stronger opponent with a more powerful element, they could face them without any fear.

Now that he finally understood how terrifying this ability could become, Noel began to concentrate his element into his fist and directly sent it to Anna.

Anna also followed what Noel did, skillfully releasing the ice element upward.

"Good. Continue that way. Once you get used to it, gradually increase the speed. I'm not going to let you leave before you can fight at the speed of a Spirit Master while maintaining this. Of course, that includes the fact that you're to use Spirit Abilities and other things." Old Ru smiled. Even though he said it lightly, reaching that level would require a lot of time. They didn't know if one month was enough or not.

After all, there was a huge gap between their current speed and the level of a Spirit Master.

However, they had no choice but to do it. It was only practical at that level after all.

While they were training, Damian couldn't help but remember the time when they fought against Laufey and the others.

Back then, Noel had trouble when fighting against the serpent. She used her poison to endanger the others. While his fire could burn her poison, it would be impossible for the others to replicate his feat.

If his teammates managed to learn something like this, they wouldn't have to fear the serpent. Of course, it was impossible to learn this ability so quickly.

Hence, Noel was all that mattered. With his current expertise, it shouldn't be hard for him to send the fire on her body, letting it remain to engulf the poison she was emitting. No, he might even be able to cover his teammates with his fire, wrapping them without burning them. If the team could gang up on her, there was no way the group would lose.

That was why if the serpent was coming back at them, they would definitely win after Noel learned this technique.

His overall ability alone might still not reach the level of a Spirit Grandmaster, but with the control of his element, he could be considered at the peak of Spirit Master.

Since Noel was determined to finish this training quicker than planned so that he could hunt the demons around and absorb their Spiritual Energy, Noel might reach the peak of Spirit Masters this time. When they returned to the kingdom, it wouldn't be weird if he suddenly advanced to Spirit Grandmaster within the next six months.

Anna would definitely do the same. And this would be the birth of the pair of geniuses that would shake the entire world.

However, there was something that felt missing in his observation.

Damian furrowed his eyebrows for a moment before realizing something. Their friendliness made him forget, but the world knew them to be enemies of each other.

"Wait a minute. Dimitri!" Damian gasped, staring at Dimitri. "Did you know this would happen?"

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

"I'm talking about the fact that they are known to be enemies. If both of them are on the same side, people will think that these two geniuses are going to threaten the royal family. After all, Noel has his family executed by them."

"On the other hand, if they are on the opposite side, the royal family will think that Anna will be there to suppress Noel. This way, they could prolong their acts and gradually build up their plan."

Dimitri only smiled at his revelation while Damian actually managed to see through Noel's little scheme in the previous life. The reason why they could reach that stage without getting betrayed was because

they were on the opposite side. While Noel tried to change Anna, he didn't do it too much to the point Anna would be on the same side. They would end up getting besieged from all directions after all.

However, it seemed that in this life, Noel had changed his stance, especially after meeting Anna.

Nicole was only listening to them, but the revelation was enough to shock her to the core. She obviously knew how the royal family had been trying to suppress the Stargaze Family and forced Anna to marry into their royal family. If not for the fact that the Stargaze Family was quite strong, Anna would have definitely fallen into their hands.

That was why it seemed that Anna and Noel planned to join hands to shake up the entire kingdom. Besieged? They had truly underestimated the power of the Ardagan Family and the Stargaze Family.

There was another reason why Nicole joined the inquisitor. Of course, she was trying to aim to become an arbiter. But the real reason was that she had to find talented people in the organizations and tried to recruit them.

As for Noel's parents, who had been faking their deaths this whole time, no one actually knew what they were planning to do.

Of course, there was also a need for Noel to pay back his parents for faking their deaths. Even though he could understand the reason for it, he simply couldn't forgive them for doing something like this without his knowledge. His father might have provided him with life lessons and trained his brain for the sake of rebuilding the family, but it didn't change the fact that prowess was the most necessary preparation.

That was why he wanted to infuriate both of his parents and force them to come out of their holes. He wanted to show them that he was the one in charge of the family, not them.

However, these were only the suspicions that these three Spirit Grandmasters had.

As for whether it would come up that way, it would depend on Anna and Noel. After all, Anna's information about her previous life coupled with Noel's brain might give a different answer.

Chapter 772 Spirit Veins

One month later.

"Haa!" Anna shouted while punching Noel in the face.

Noel hurriedly raised his left hand to catch it, but Anna poured more Spiritual Energy that Noel saw at the last minute, causing the imbalance between their Spiritual Energy.

The Spiritual Energy burst out, producing a shock wave that knocked Noel's back.

However, Noel skillfully redirected the shock wave only on his upper body while his lower body remained on the ground. As soon as he was about to fall, he used his other hand to touch the ground, supporting his entire body so as to not fall to the ground. At the same time, he kicked Anna's ankle from the left side.

Anna tried to jump, but that was when Noel's ice appeared once again. She almost tripped because of this ice. In fact, she had suffered a lot from this Frost Control Ability and remembered that the first time she fell from his trick was when she tackled him.

The trick worked because Noel chose such a time to execute it, causing Anna to be unable to leave the ground. In the end, she had to use her own Spiritual Energy to block it.

The clash of their Spiritual Energy lasted for a second as Noel tried to manipulate his own Spiritual Energy to outsmart her.

However, Anna kept matching the amount of his Spiritual Energy whenever he increased it. Hence, Noel chose an unorthodox strategy to catch her off guard.

Instead of increasing the Spiritual Energy to overwhelm her, he decreased his own Spiritual Energy.

The result was obvious. Anna ended up knocking him back even though he was the one to attack.

"!!!" Anna widened her eyes in shock, never expecting Noel to lose deliberately. But she soon understood why he did it.

Noel used the momentum that knocked his foot back to spin his body and deliver another kick at her stomach.

"Kh." Anna caught both shoes, stopping them at the last second. Unfortunately for her, his shoes had been covered with a layer of ice... specifically, only on the bottom's surface.

That was why when Anna caught it, Noel simply had to release the ice to leave Anna's grip.

"!!!" She was confused when she lost the feeling of resistance from Noel, but it turned out Noel had pulled his feet once more and increased the amount of Spiritual Energy before launching another kick.

The kick shattered the ice, and Noel's Spiritual Energy burst out, knocking her back.

"Ouch... Are you insane?" Anna waved both hands down as if trying to make the numb sensation disappear. "If that's someone else, their ribs would have been broken!"

"I did it only because my opponent was you." Noel shrugged. "You are the only one who can make me feel safe to try a lot of things, after all."

"Eh?" Anna was slightly flustered by his statement, but as one would expect from Noel, he actually took advantage of that split-second gap to approach Anna and punch her.

However, it seemed that Noel had influenced Anna to the point where she could apply some of his tricks.

When Noel's fist was about to reach her, she suddenly spun her body while grabbing his arm before using his momentum to throw him away.

"Wha—" Noel was shocked as he flew upside down, staring at Anna, who stuck out her tongue.

He realized he had been tricked. Anna only acted flustered because she knew he would charge at her.

"Tsk." Noel clicked his tongue.

Anna smirked at Noel's frustrated face. "Do you think I'll let you beat me up all the time? I already know all your tricks."

Noel shouted back, "Then I'm going to prepare more tricks that you don't know yet."

"Sure. I'm looking forward to stealing it and using it against you!" Anna didn't seem to be scared. Instead, she had gotten used to this since Noel had been tricking her from her previous life to the current one.

Noel landed on the ground after twisting his Spiritual Energy to spin his body. Before he could rush to her again, Old Ru stopped them.

"That's enough. You two have been able to fight at Spirit Practitioner Level. There are still Spirit Wielder and Spirit Grandmaster Levels, but I don't think it will take too long before you master them. So, I'm going to give you one last lesson," said Old Ru while waving his hands to both of them.

They nodded and walked to Old Ru, wondering what she had to say.

"To be honest, I don't really want to teach you this, considering it's not that useful, especially to Noel. But I think you should know about it." Old Ru glanced at Anna before pointing at his stomach. "This place is my Spirit Seal. Both of you should have leveled up your connection to the Spirit Link, right?"

"Yes." Noel and Anna nodded without hesitation. Noel only achieved it with Heisk, not Ardagan though.

"Now that you have reached this level, you should be able to feel the Spirit Link in your body..."

Noel and Anna furrowed their eyebrows before shutting their eyes. Now that their Spiritual Energy sensitivity had increased so much, they could sense veins coming out of the Spirit Seal.

The Spirit Seal looked like a tree that spread its roots in their bodies. This was the connection that Old Ru was talking about.

"I think I can sense it." Noel and Anna answered at the same time.

"Those links are connected to your entire body... Try to use your Spiritual Energy to make a connection with it." Old Ru continued.

"Understood." Noel and Anna hurriedly infused their Spiritual Energy, matching the amount with the Spirit Seal. As expected, they could actually connect with it.

"Just like how you are connected to other objects, once you connect with the veins, you will be able to reinforce your body and make you even stronger." Old Ru explained.

Anna widened her eyes because she saw that the Spirit Veins began to glow, making her understand what the trick was. This was the ability she showed to Noel before coming here. She didn't know the principle and only tried to replicate it with what she could. But to think it would be related to the Spirit Link, it was no wonder why someone would get a surge of strength when they used this.

It was clear from Anna's reaction that she was already aware of this ability. So, Old Ru ignored the reaction of someone who was in her second life and moved to Noel.

"There is one fatal problem for you, Noel. From what I can see, you haven't made the Spirit Link with your second spirit, right?"

"Yes." Noel nodded.

"Second spirit?" Anna looked surprised.

"Why are you so surprised? You should have figured out something like this, right?"

"I mean, I thought you had twin spirits. In that case, when you made a Spirit Link, shouldn't you have done it with both spirits at the same time?" Anna sighed.

"..." Noel paused for a moment. It didn't seem he was planning to hide it, but he also didn't want to easily reveal his secret. So, he said, "The two spirits in my body are different."

Old Ru shifted the conversation back. "In any case, the fatal problem is that I haven't experienced this method with two Spirits. Each Spirit has its own unique Spirit Link, and in your case, the moment you create a Spirit Link with your second spirit, the Spirit will definitely create all the veins like that."

"When that happens, their veins will be interlinked. Those two are different spirits and each spirit has its own unique Spiritual Energy and element. So, if we look at the theory, it's possible that the energy from both Spirit Links would cause a reaction and make your body explode."

"In addition, controlling two different levels of energy inside your body is easier said than done. It's like splitting your brain into two... that's not including the fight against multiple opponents."

Noel fell silent, imagining this that Old Ru said. Of course, the spirits should have known about this better, so he asked inwardly, "Ardagan, Heisk. What do you think?"

"Everything he said makes sense. We haven't tried it, but there is a possibility it will happen." Heisk replied.

"Does that mean it's not possible for me to use this?"

"Currently, not. However, there is a method that you might want to try in the future." Ardagan reassured him that there might be a method.

"In the future, not now?"

"Yes. The method requires Heisk to at least become a humanoid rank spirit. Although our energy levels won't be the same, there shouldn't be a huge gap. Once that happens, you should be able to maintain both Spirit Links. Of course, it will require a lot of practice, but it should be possible."

"Now that I think about it, what will I receive from you when we form a Spirit Link?" Noel asked, curious.

"Unfortunately, it's better not to tell you about it right now because there are probably three things that might come to you, but only one will be selected depending on our compatibility. Instead of diverting your focus to prepare for those three, it's better if you just focus on making Heisk a Humanoid Rank Spirit first. We'll immediately proceed with the Spirit Link after that... You should be at least a Spirit Grandmaster at that time."

"I see." Noel took a deep breath. As Ardagan said, if he diverted his focus, he would end up slowing down his progress. It was like playing rock-paper-scissors, so it was useless to worry about it.

The fact that it was possible alone was enough for him.

Noel looked at Old Ru and said, "You don't have to worry about it. Please teach me about this as well."

"Alright then." Old Ru nodded.

Chapter 773 Leaving

It didn't take too long for Noel and Anna to get accustomed to tracing their Spirit Link and utilizing it to boost their physical prowess. However, Old Ru mentioned that it was only one of the functions. There was one more hidden function that they had to discover.

It didn't take too long for them to realize it. Since the veins flowed to their limbs, it would act as a natural flow. In other words, they could use the Spiritual Energy that flowed from their Spirit Seal to their limbs to repel the enemy's attack.

These two continued to train under Old Ru at a ridiculous speed. It was already insane that they managed to become a Spirit Master within two years, but the fact that they would soon become a Spirit Grandmaster would shock the entire kingdom.

Time passed by. Without them realizing it, two and a half months ever since they arrived at this place had passed by.

Every day was fulfilling to the point where they couldn't think of anything other than training. Of course, the interaction as well as the competition between Noel and Anna made the training less boring, but it didn't change the fact that a long time had passed.

In another forty-five days, they had to return to the kingdom. Hence, this was the time they should begin the last phase of the training, which was the hunt.

Noel and Anna stretched their bodies as this was the first time they fought demons after their training. They didn't know what kind of change it would bring to them.

Obviously, the area was extremely dangerous. Dimitri, Damian, and Nicole were worried about them, thinking they would be in danger.

But Old Ru actually stopped them, saying, "You three. I know that you are worried about them, but how about staying here? I'm sure that you've learned a lot over the past few months. You should take some time to sort your thoughts and try your theory, right?"

"But..." Dimitri was the first one to express his worry.

"Don't worry. I will go with them." Old Ru waved his hand lightly, reassuring them.

They knew that Old Ru was extremely strong. They might not even be able to do anything to him even with the True Spirit Body.

So, after some consideration, Dimitri bowed to him and said, "Please take care of him... them."

"Mhm." Old Ru nodded.

"Are we going to the valley where we enter here? But we've cleared the area previously. The demons shouldn't have filled the valley, right?" Noel asked.

"Of course. We are going to a different area. At the back of this place, there is a demon nest. The nest is filled with at least a thousand demons with the leader being a Superior Demon. Your task is to clear the demon nest." Old Ru smiled.

As soon as Dimitri heard those words, he immediately retracted his words and shouted, "That's extremely dangerous. They are still Spirit Masters. Do you think they can fight against a Superior Demon?"

"You are underestimating these two kids. If they fight at the very limit, killing a Superior Demon should be possible." Old Ru shook his head helplessly. "Besides, even if they can't, I can always kill the Superior Demon... Though, I bet that their competitiveness will stop me from doing so."

"..." Anna and Noel fell silent. On one hand, they didn't mind fighting against a Superior Demon. On the other hand, they knew that only a Captain could put up a fight against them. Even a Spirit Grandmaster like Paul would have a hard time stopping them, let alone defeating them.

However, they knew that Paul became a Spirit Grandmaster not long ago. His strength couldn't be compared to a full-fledged Spirit Grandmaster.

When they thought about it, they couldn't help but think it was possible to defeat Paul as long as they worked together. They managed to defeat a Spirit Master when they were only a Spirit Wielder after all. So, they might be able to do the same with a Spirit Grandmaster now that they have become a Spirit Master.

In addition, Anna had the so-called True Spirit Body. If everything looked dangerous, there was no doubt that she would use this trump card.

Though, the problem was that once she used it, she would have a hard time training because the connection with her spirit would be extremely thin for a week.

In other words, Noel and Anna had to make a decision. The reward was extremely great, but the risk was also high. They couldn't proceed with a half-baked decision.

Noel and Anna exchanged looks for a minute before nodding their heads.

"We will go." Noel stopped Dimitri with a determined look.

"But Master..."

"Dimitri!" Noel raised his voice, making his intention clear. "Once we return, we are going to face enemies far stronger and more wicked than a Superior Demon. There will be a lot of Spirit Grandmasters, if not Spirit Transcendences."

"If Anna and I can't even defeat a Superior Demon, do you think we will be able to face them? It's true that we can rely on you for some time, but have you forgotten about the previous ambush?"

"The enemies have outsmarted us and even sent forth a Spirit Transcendence to kill us. If not for you using the True Spirit Body, the loss would be unimaginable."

"If worrying about my safety is your priority, then you should know that while this training might possess a lot of risks, there is still Old Ru acting as a safety net. Meanwhile, if we return with me still weak, there won't be anyone stopping the enemies from killing me again. No, dying in their hands might be salvation..."

Noel clenched his fists. He knew that with how much Laufey was obsessed with them, he would definitely be subjected to a lot of humiliations where dying would be better.

Now that they had learned this new ability, he wanted to see how far he could go against a Superior Demon. As long as he could do it, he would have the confidence to go against someone like a Devil Bishop. That was why he had to go.

"If you are truly my butler, then... rather than over-protecting me, you should believe in me and wish for a safe journey."

"!!!" Dimitri's body shook. He couldn't help but remember the time when Noel was still a baby. At that time, Noel looked extremely fragile. A single pinch from him might even kill him.

Even though Luke knew he wanted to kill Noel not long ago, Luke actually asked him to carry him.

Dimitri didn't know at that time, it was the turning point in his life. When he held him as gently as possible, Noel was actually smiling.

Even though he was held by bloodied-hands of his, the smile melted everything. Noel even held his thumb as if telling him it was fine.

As an assassin, he had taken a lot of lives under the commander's command. Most of the time, the target of assassination would have someone they held dear.

Every time he took their lives, those behind them would cry. That was why these bloodied hands of his couldn't hold something precious. The only thing they did was take away people's happiness.

And it was at this moment he thought that his hands might be able to bring something new. Instead of doing it to take people's lives and make others sad, he might be able to protect this precious smile. Luke, his father, had done a lot of good deeds that brought smiles to people's faces, so this little baby might also bring a lot of smiles to people.

In his heart, he wanted to protect this smile, he wanted to protect this little life... all so that when he grew up, he would bring joy to others. When that happened, he would know that he had done a good deed.

Now that Noel stood in front of him with that determined look as if telling him that he didn't need his protection anymore, he felt that this might be the time to stop.

Noel had grown up.

Yet, as if Noel understood his feeling, Noel came to him and said, "You have been protecting me a lot this whole time. I'm eternally grateful for it. However, if I keep relying on you to protect me, there will be a time when we won't be together. If I can't even protect myself, then what should I do?"

"Of course, I'm just asking you to trust me this time. There are still a lot of things you have to teach me. So... please trust me this time." Noel knew that the last time they got ambushed by Laufey had traumatized Dimitri a bit, he knew that Dimitri wouldn't always be with him. There was a time when he had to stand up, telling him that it was fine.

Dimitri shut his eyes and clenched his fists. There were a lot of things to say, but the only thing that came out of his mouth was, "I apologize, Master. I was rude."

There was a thin line between protecting someone and not trusting them. He slightly leaned to the latter, thinking Noel wouldn't be able to do anything without him. That was why he apologized for his rudeness.

Noel smiled. "Don't worry. I will be back soon."

"Yes. May the fortune bless you with its presence." Dimitri nodded.

Looking at their interaction, Anna couldn't help but look at Nicole while pointing at herself, asking whether she had anything to say to her. Unfortunately, Nicole could only shake her head and shoulder, not knowing what to say.

"Let's go then!" Old Ru decided to break the silence, or the situation would become awkward.

Chapter 774 New Challenge

"This is the place." Old Ru pointed at the giant building behind him. They had ventured quite far from their place, so it wasn't that surprising that they found a mysterious building out of nowhere.

"What is this building?" Noel asked while furrowing his eyebrows.

"This building is a mansion from the previous civilization. Though, this is just a normal place that I usually visit a couple of times every year. What I want from you is to beat all the monsters behind the building. There is a giant sinkhole behind this building and inside you will find a lot of monsters... So, I will wait for you here until you finish."

"Hmm?" Noel frowned. "Are you not coming with us?"

He had talked big to Dimitri that his safety was guaranteed, but it seemed that Old Ru had a different plan.

"If I come with you, you will always think that you have that assurance... Well, I won't completely leave you without nothing, so..." Old Ru took out a small piece of paper with a weird symbol on it. "This is a talisman that is imbued with my power. If you think you can't defeat your opponent, pour Spiritual Energy into this talisman and I will sense the reaction. After that, I will immediately go to help you. You should be able to withstand the onslaught for five minutes, right?"

"I see." Noel looked down, contemplating. If Old Ru went with them directly, they would definitely be unable to use all their power, thinking that Old Ru would intervene when their lives were in danger. But by doing this, they would feel a sense of urgency and make them more careful.

With their current strength, they felt like fighting a Superior Demon was possible.

However, they still lacked one thing.

Noel raised his hand. "I know that we shouldn't ask this, but considering our opponent will be a Superior Demon. May we know about the information of that demon?"

"That's true. It's not fair for two Spirit Masters to challenge a Superior Demon." Old Ru nodded. "In fact, you should be able to guess what Superior Demon you will encounter once you reach their nest. Inside that sinkhole, you can find an entrance to an extremely complex tunnel. It's a demon that lurks inside the ground that usually makes the land fertile. Just expect something quite big. And don't worry about your battle inside; the tunnel it created is quite sturdy."

Anna looked down, wondering what the demon was. Meanwhile, Noel glanced at Anna, asking, "Do you think it's possible to fight the Superior Demon?"

"There's no way we can do that normally. But it might be possible if you use both of your elements. I'll also warn you of the danger."

"Alright then." Noel nodded in agreement. "Let's go, shall we?"

"Yeah. I'm quite curious about how strong we've become with this new ability. I feel like improving the control of my Spiritual Energy causes my overall control to increase."

"I feel the same."

Before they left, Noel and Anna bowed to Old Ru. "We will go."

"Yeah. By the way, your time limit is two days. You have to kill all one thousand demons and the Superior Demon within two days."

"One day is enough." Noel and Anna answered at the same time. Both of them smiled at each other and said the same thing. "Kill all the demons in a half day and take a rest for another half day before challenging the Superior Demon."

They had the same plan in their mind. Looking at their synergy couldn't help but put a smile on Old Ru's face.

"Is that so? Happy hunting."

Without hesitation, Anna and Noel turned around as they headed to the sinkhole. As Old Ru said, there was a giant hole a hundred meters behind the mansion.

The hole diameter was about fifty meters. It could swallow the entire mansion with the size alone. And it was quite deep, considering they had to use their Moon Blessing to see through the dark to see the bottom of it.

"The hole is quite deep, huh?" Noel frowned. "There is definitely a bottom layer and the rain should fill this hole with water. Yet, we can't see any water on the bottom."

"Indeed. It seems that the demon has drunk it or something?"

"Do demons drink?"

"I'm not sure. They can live with only Spiritual Energy, so..."

Both of them fell silent. They realized that this area was more mysterious than they thought.

"Look at that hole." Noel pointed at the hole that Old Ru said was the entrance.

"The hole is quite big... ten meters in radius... What kind of giant demon is hiding inside this nest? In addition, there are going to be tunnels and caves inside..."

"Do you feel anything with your instinct?"

"I've picked up a few dangers from the ground, but they are pretty scattered. I'm sure that they are Peak Level Demons. We have to go into the tunnel before I can pick up the rest."

Noel thought for a moment. The entrance was about thirty meters inside the hole, so they had to go down carefully.

Though, both of them seemed to have reached the same conclusion on how they were going to enter the tunnel.

"I think I don't have to tell you, right?" Anna smirked.

"I will drop you in the middle of the hole." Noel snorted.

"Then, how about making a slide to the tunnel?" Anna stuck out her tongue.

"You know that I have to use more Spiritual Energy than necessary, right?" Noel let out a sigh. Noel ended up moving behind Anna and gradually lifted up her body, carrying her like a princess.

Anna didn't even bother to resist since she knew what they were about to do. As she expected, a pair of black fire wings appeared on Noel's back. This was the Undying Phoenix Wings, and they had to fly directly into the entrance.

And due to the characteristic of the wing and its placement, there was no way Noel could carry her like baggage or on his back. In the end, he had to carry her like this even though it would make Anna feel complacent.

Noel's eyebrows twitched as Anna had a sly grin on her face, thinking that she was above him.

In the end, he flew toward the entrance while ignoring her cheeky smile.

"Hehe. You know how to treat a woman gently too... I thought you were just a savage."

"Do you want me to drop you here?" Noel glared at her. They were in the middle of the hole. Even Anna would have a hard time landing unscathed from this height, especially since there was no wall she could use.

That was why Anna immediately wrapped her hands around his neck, making sure that she wouldn't let it go. "With this, I won't fall."

"..." Noel sighed. "In any case, the hole is quite—"

Before Noel finished his words, he sensed some demons with his Demon Hunter Medal.

Obviously, Anna also picked up some presence with her instinct. But Noel didn't let her warn him as he picked up the pace.

As soon as he landed on the tunnel, he tried to toss Anna to the ground, but Anna made a cheeky grin as her arms were still refusing to let go.

However, their time had to be interrupted by the inhabitants of the tunnel.

They instantly picked up a total of nine presences inside the tunnel. With their Moon Blessings, they could see their appearances. They were either earthworms, mice, or centipedes.

As much as Anna wanted to show her superiority, she knew that the enemies had to be killed first.

She turned around and raised her right foot. Lightning began to spark from her body before moving toward her leg. Due to the training, the flow was so smooth that she felt she could muster more power than she originally thought.

Bam!

She stomped the ground, channeling all the lightning to the tunnel. The lightning electrified the walls, causing the demons to jump off the wall if they didn't want to be electrocuted. But there were a few that couldn't react to it and died from the lightning.

As for those that jumped off the walls, Noel had looped around Anna and followed the lightning. He coated his feet with the new ability so that he didn't get electrocuted while stepping on the lightning. After that, he reached the jumping demons and took advantage of the fact they were in the air to slash them.

Within just a few seconds, they already killed nine demons.

"Noel. Do you feel it?"

"Yeah." Noel nodded with a serious expression.

"I discharge more lightning even though I use the same amount of power... More like, I become more efficient in releasing my power?"

Noel agreed with her. "It seems that we can test our new power here."

As he said those words, Ardagan gave a response to his desire.

[Mission: Testing New Power.]

[Description: Eliminate all demons in the lair.]

[Reward: Empowerment Rune.]

[Mission: Superior Demon!]

[Description: Kill the Superior Demon.]

[Reward: Force Control]

[Mission: Time Attack!]

[Description: Clear the whole nest within 24 hours. (1064 Monsters Remaining)]

[Reward: Challenger Medal and Secret to Career Advancement.]

Chapter 775 Entering

'Three missions?' Noel raised his eyebrows in surprise. He thought he would receive a mission, but he didn't expect Ardagan would give him three missions at once.

'Ardagan. Are you sure about giving me three missions?'

[It's rare for you to worry about it.]

'I mean, it's going to put a burden on my Spiritual Energy Reserve, right?'

[That is true. However, you have to thank your new ability. Due to you being able to use your power more efficiently, you can utilize the Spiritual Energy that you couldn't previously use.]

'I see. In that case, I won't hesitate to complete all these three missions.' Noel was ready to make one or two missions fail if it only caused problems for him. He was greedy, but it didn't mean he was careful. That was why he wouldn't make a rush decision or get dictated by his own system.

He checked his missions. Normally, he would check the system later when he had some time, but since he was with Anna, he didn't really mind showing weird behavior.

After all, Anna was going to learn about it sooner or later. And he would realize all of Anna's secrets.

'Eliminate all demons in the lair, kill the Superior Demon, and clear the whole nest within 24 hours. The first and third missions are similar, but I can't take my time with the third one, making it a bit more dangerous. But I'm quite curious about the second mission.'

Noel had received a mission to get Force Control by helping Anna in the previous mission. But because he failed in doing so, he didn't receive the Force Control.

It seemed that the Force Control was so important that Ardagan wanted him to learn it.

'Although I don't know much about the rewards, I'm quite curious about them. I mean, Force Control has appeared twice. Empowerment Rune is an extremely advanced rune from what I know... It can increase one's physical strength and Spiritual Energy for a set period of time. However, the rune is so complex that if I have to use my time to learn this rune, I might need a whole month just to learn one rune, let alone there are more than one thousand runes in total.

'While I have the knowledge, I can't use or even draw them without any practice, so I'm glad that Ardagan can transfer all the knowledge. Anna also seems to rarely use her runes. It seems she can only draw basic and intermediate level runes like Duplication or Strength Blessing Rune.

'Last but not least, the Challenger Medal and the secret to career advancement. The medal name surely has some impact. When this happens, it's usually an extremely good medal. In fact, this medal might reflect the new ability like increasing my Spiritual Energy Sensitivity.

'Then, there is this secret to career advancement. When I became a Swordsman, I received a few abilities. Then, I received the same amount of rewards when I became a Rune Swordsman. I wonder what kind of ability I would receive this time...'

Noel couldn't help but smile, thinking this was his chance to shine.

Anna was curious about what Noel was thinking. He was looking down as if he was reading something, but his pose looked like he was in deep thought.

Luckily, she didn't sense any incoming danger, so she only waited for Noel to finish his business.

After three minutes, Noel finished sorting his thoughts regarding the new missions. He glanced at Anna, who looked bored.

"Sorry. That took longer than I originally thought."

"So, what were you doing?"

"I don't think I'll answer that question, but I've prepared a plan." Noel raised one finger. "Currently, we have to locate the Superior Demon. After knowing about him, then we can eliminate all the demons first before challenging him."

"That's a normal plan, I guess." Anna nodded in agreement. "Should we split up?"

"No." Noel shook his head while pointing at the tunnel. "If we take a look at the tunnel, I can imagine the kind of nest inside this place. There should be a tunnel connecting all the bigger areas inside. In addition, there is also a chance that we'll meet a dead-end. If we separate in this place, it's unlikely that we can regroup together. And when we meet the Superior Demon like that, do you think we stand a chance?"

"Now that I think about it, Old Ru also gives us only one talisman..." Anna agreed, realizing that he wanted them to stick together.

"Yeah. So, we'll explore the tunnels and kill all the demons as quickly as possible. You should be able to hear the echo from here. Thankfully, the cave is quite large, so the echo is not that apparent, but if the monsters let out a loud sound, it will surely alarm the other demons."

"I don't think earthworms can do it, but the mice might be..." Anna thought for a moment.

"Indeed. So, who will handle the mapping? If we are not careful, we might be trapped here, you know." Noel sighed.

"Do you think it's possible to map the entire nest? The tunnel shouldn't be on the same level and they might be overlapped with each other." Anna frowned.

"I know that, but we have no choice." Noel sighed. "Well, I will take care of it then since I can't see you successfully doing it."

"..." Anna wanted to retort but couldn't. "In any case, my backpack has a sleeping bag and all the equipment for food."

"I have the rest necessary items." Noel nodded while taking out a notebook and a pencil. After that, he used the Moon Blessing to see the dark tunnel. "Let's go."

"One last thing!" Anna raised a finger, stopping him. "How should we use the crystals? You should know that it's hard to recover all one thousand of them."

"It's simple. I still have some rooms to carry it. Whenever we reach a bigger room, we will clear up the area and all the tunnels leading to it before absorbing it. As for the split, 50-50 to make it simpler. What do you think?"

"That's good enough. Though, it will be hard to track time here, considering we can't see the sun."

"Don't worry. I can take care of that." Noel smiled while looking at the Time Attack Mission. He saw the timer so he could keep track of the time.

"Alright then. Let's head inside!" Anna nodded. She didn't show it, but she was quite impressed that Noel could take care of all those important stuff by himself.

The two started running inside. Thankfully, they had their Moon Blessings, allowing them to tackle this challenge.

In fact, Old Ru might have already known about this before suggesting this place to be their hunting ground.

With their speed, it didn't take too long before they encountered another wave of demons. Looking back at the demons at the entrance, it seemed that the demons inside this place formed a small group to live together.

On the one hand, it would be easier and much faster if they could eliminate one at a time, but since they had to gather the Demon Crystals as well, it was better if they were in a group.

So, Noel and Anna liked the arrangement.

After moving for a few hundred meters inside the tunnel, they finally saw the path split into two.

πάντας ἠθνε | Noel instantly chose the right one and would continue doing so until they reached the end so that it was easier to remember and note. Still, it also made him unable to fight most of the time.

Luckily, he could still maintain some sort of support fire with his Undying Fire Feathers and Ice Abilities. As for Anna, she had been wielding her sword at the very front, preventing any demons from slipping past her even in this spacious tunnel.

After an hour, they finally found their first destination.

Noel and Anna stopped inside the tunnel a few meters from the exit, discussing.

"From the way I perceive the danger, the space inside is about one hundred meters wide. There are monsters in the ceiling, around fifteen meters above us. It's quite large that I'm surprised." Anna explained.

"Hmm..." Noel looked down, contemplating. With that range, his Demon Hunter Medal couldn't calculate the number of demons and even their strength. "How many demons?"

"I can faintly sense 80 demons... at least 3 Peak Level Demons and 15 Advanced Level Demons. But the number should be higher."

"In that case, you will handle the Peak Level Demons. I haven't done a lot today, so I will decimate all those lower level demons with my elements."

"Sounds good." Anna nodded in agreement. She put her bag on the ground and pulled out her sword. The yellow lightning began to spark around her body, ready to charge at the Peak Level Demons.

Noel also put down his luggage. His right hand was filled with his fire element, while the left hand contained his ice element. This was the first time he fully utilized both of them together ever since the training began.

"Let's hunt."

Chapter 776 Different

The demons in the cave didn't know what was going to hit them. However, they soon felt the fluctuation of Spiritual Energy that wasn't supposed to happen in the cave.

They all turned their heads to the source of the Spiritual Energy, which happened to be the entrance.

All of a sudden, two humans emerged from the cave at high speed.

Roar! The first to react was the Peak Level Demon. It informed the other demons that the enemies had attacked.

The other demons immediately made their move, approaching the incoming humans.

Anna jumped into the air as she pointed her palm at the Peak Level Demon. "Lightning Discharge!"

Her palm released a bolt of lightning. Unlike the previous time she used it, the power was at least double. The bolt of lightning was huge, quick, and strong.

The Peak Level Earthworm used its Spiritual Energy to cover the entire body before deflecting it away.

But surprisingly, the lightning didn't bounce that easily. The lightning moved around its body, electrocuting the earthworm thoroughly.

The earthworm resisted the lightning strike with its Spiritual Energy, but it was clear that the lightning was burning off the Spiritual Energy by using its heat.

During that period, Anna reached the earthworm and struck its body with her blade. clear

Cling!

Unfortunately, there was a clicking sound from the clash, making her realize that even though the earthworm looked like it had slimy skin, it had been reinforced by rock. It was harder than he originally thought.

In addition, a lot of demons approached her to help their Peak Level Demon.

Anna only took a glimpse of their appearance without putting much thought into them. Instead, her focus remained on the earthworm and the other two Peak Level Demons.

As for the rest of the demons, she completely let Noel take care of them.

"Ice Lotus."

A giant ice lotus emerged in the air. The size was bigger than the previous time he used it, but more importantly, each petal contained a strength that even a Peak Level Demon had a hard time resisting.

The petals began to fall and get carried by the wind, flying toward the demons.

Once they hit, a huge ice crystal formed, piercing the demons in the surrounding with its sharp, pointed tips.

Roar!

Roar!

Roar!

The demons panicked as that attack eliminated at least fifty of them. However, Noel hadn't finished his attack just yet.

After a breezing chill wind from the ice, he changed the temperature by using the Fire Gale.

The intense heat caused the demons to get confused. At first, they were shivering in the cold. When they wrapped their body with Spiritual Energy to resist the cold, this heat brushed their skins, causing them to feel like they were being burned alive.

"!!!" The demons didn't know what they should do. However, the sudden change in temperature caused them to forget that the ice would also melt.

Anna could see the movements of the demons from the air, including the fact that one of the Peak Level Demons decided to loop around to stop Noel.

Without even saying anything, both of them seemed to know what they should do.

Anna pointed her palm at the ground and discharged lightning. The melted ice conducted the lightning and electrocuted the demons that stepped on the water.

Roar?!

Roar!

The demons were writhing in pain as a lot of them soon fell down, not being able to resist the lightning.

Meanwhile, Noel turned around, seeing the incoming Peak Level Rat.

Noel raised his sword, covering it with Spiritual Energy. In addition, he channeled a portion of his energy to the ground.

After the training, his control over Spiritual Energy became much more refined. He could split his Spiritual Energy easily.

This way, he looked like he was trying to stop the rat from slashing his head with its sharp claws.

But surprisingly, the moment the rat was about to reach him, Noel jumped back as though he wanted to escape.

That was when the situation changed. All of a sudden, a rune appeared on the ground, blasting the rat into the air.

The rat was confused because it couldn't resist the power from the ground that came out of nowhere.

When it was in the air, it had trouble moving, allowing Noel to take advantage of this situation.

Noel immediately stepped forth and waved his sword. I think you should take a look at

Circular Sword Strike.

A sharp circle-shaped energy flew out of the sword and hit the rat. The latter managed to move its hands to the front, blocking it with the sharp claws. But that was Noel's plan in immobilizing the rat.

Once it couldn't move, Noel summoned his Phoenix Wings and shot out his Fire Feathers.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

The rat was screaming in pain as a portion of his body was charred black. In addition, the flame still continuously burned the skin and the Spiritual Energy that tried to repel the flame.

Of course, Noel could use this opportunity to take down the rat, but it would mean that no one could provide support to Anna.

He took a glimpse of Anna's situation, which happened to be surrounded by demons. It was clear that the rat was just buying time for the others to defeat Anna before moving to him.

Hence, Noel jumped toward her while forming two runes.

This was one of the runes that he got from the five runes reward for surviving Laufey's onslaught, Rune Blast.

Once it was activated, the rune shot out a chunk of Spiritual Energy that burst upon impact.

The shock wave repelled some demons, creating a gap for Noel to enter. He then waved his sword and utilized his Circular Sword Strike to push them away.

Anna also leaped into the air to see an opportunity.

However, to their surprise, the demons joined hands to grab the Circular Sword Strike and stop it.

"Hmm?" Noel raised his eyebrows. This was the first time he saw the demons joining hands to stop his attack. Usually, they would dodge and let the demon that was targeted take care of it alone.

And it seemed that he didn't have time to be surprised. The moment they stopped and shattered the attack, the demons released their Spiritual Energy, shooting at him.

"Tsk." Noel clicked his tongue and used the Ice Mirror to act as a shield.

Unfortunately, three out of the six mirrors broke apart, and the low level demons began to swarm him.

Noel skillfully avoided and sliced them, but their number was quite overwhelming. If he didn't constantly move, he would be surrounded.

Meanwhile, Anna had nowhere to go in the air. The Peak Level Earthworm stopped her movement while the Peak Level Bat used its wings to gain air superiority, blowing her away with the sound wave.

"Noel!" Anna warned Noel when she was flying away. She also felt the danger approaching from behind. It was clear that the rat was going to strike her this way.

Noel knew that he was surrounded by demons. It was no wonder why Old Ru chose this place for them.

The demons had different behaviors. It wouldn't be weird if they ended up getting defeated by them.

However, Noel and Anna had confidence that they wouldn't be defeated by them.

"I see. So, this is the test." Noel smiled. The demons didn't pose a threat if they fought alone, but once they grouped up, they would have a different behavior from a normal demon. It seemed that the Superior Demon in charge of this place had trained them as such.

However, that wasn't enough to stop Noel.

Without hesitation, he poured all the Spiritual Energy he could muster into his wings, expanding them.

The blazing wings released an intense heat that scared the demons. Once they got hit by the flame from the wings, their entire body was covered in fire and their organs soon melted due to the heat.

Due to these wings, he managed to gain some distance from the demons, allowing him to jump into the air.

In addition, he saw Anna skillfully avoiding the rat's strike and cutting its arm. The rat's movement had been sluggish ever since he got burned by his flame, so it was no wonder she could achieve such a feat.

Since the bat would be troublesome for Anna, Noel formed another two runes, shooting the Peak Level earthworm with two Rune Blasts and knocking it away.

After that, he flew to the bat and struck it with his sword.

The bat tried to blow him away with the sound wave, but Noel simply used the Ice Mirror to block the sound wave until he was close enough.

The bat used its wings to stop the attack, but the sword suddenly emitted an explosion, knocking it down.

Anna made a sly smile as if asking him, "Heh? What happened to me taking care of the three Peak Level Demons?"

Noel rolled his eyes, not wanting to argue with her during the battle. Though, he would surely give her an earful after all this was over.

Seeing the demons on the ground was about to shoot him down, Noel suddenly dove while spreading his Fire Gale.

Bam!

He hit the ground at high speed, creating a shock wave that spread his fire gale to the surroundings.

"Change of plan, I guess." Noel sighed.

Chapter 777 Change

"Change of plan, I guess." Noel looked at his surroundings. The intense heat had made the demons cower. They knew that they would be burned alive if they stayed where they were.

But since the bat and the earthworm had been restrained by him earlier, Anna could finally move.

"Noel!" Anna jumped over the demons with a confident smile. "Shoot at me! We kill these demons."

It took Noel a second before understanding her request. Since the demons made a distance earlier, it meant Noel could jump into the air again.

Meanwhile, Anna landed on his previous spot as if she wanted to be surrounded by demons.

However, instead of flying away, Noel turned around as soon as he reached the apex of his jump and gathered Spiritual Energy on his finger.

With a single wave of his hand, a black bird emerged and headed straight to Anna.

"This one is quite troublesome." Anna clicked her tongue, but her confidence hadn't disappeared. She jumped into the air and concentrated her lightning and Spiritual Energy on the tip of her blade.

Noel's Undying Phoenix might be the strongest attack that Noel had. It could completely evaporate anything that was hit by it. Yet, Anna didn't hesitate to stab it with her sword.

Surprisingly, the moment the tip of her blade touched the phoenix, the latter lost its form and turned back to the original fire. And that fire soon dispersed due to the concentrated energy and element.

In other words, the fire that powered up the Undying Phoenix actually dispersed in all directions and fell down like meteors.

This was Anna's plan to kill a lot of demons in one single swoop.

The demons were shocked and tried to protect themselves, but even when an Advanced Level Demon put up barriers, the Undying Phoenix could easily melt it and continue on its path until it reached the demons or the ground.

Roar!

Roar!

Roar!

The demons were panicking as they tried to run away to save themselves. The demons in this place might have different behavior, but it would mean that they understood the importance of their lives.

Noel and Anna took advantage of their differences to cause chaos among themselves.

"As expected, if only they were normal demons, they wouldn't think much about the fire." Anna smiled confidently.

Since Anna was moving upward and Noel had begun to fall, they ended up meeting in the middle. Obviously, Noel caught her, making sure she fell with him.

"Oi! Why are you dragging me down? I'm about to use this momentum to reach the earthworm and the bat." Anna gritted her teeth.

"No. You're going with me. Change of plans." Noel looked around. From his attack earlier, he managed to kill around thirty demons. In total, they had killed more than fifty demons, leaving only another fifty to defeat.

Hence, Noel wanted to reduce their number even further. "Can you control your lightning around?"

"Go for it." Anna smiled, knowing what he wanted.

"In that case..." Noel summoned his Undying Fire and formed a giant cylinder with the help of Flame Conjuring Ability.

After that, Anna covered the fire with her lightning. With this, the fire had no other choice but to get dragged around.

Anna controlled the lightning to fly to the demons, making this giant cylinder flame like an earthworm that wanted to devour them. The difference was that this flame would reduce them to ashes once they got caught.

The demons tried to escape while the Peak Level Demons charged forward, messing with Anna and Noel to cancel their abilities.

"Hahaha. Go!" Anna laughed out loud while moving the flame to the Peak Level Demons.

Since the rat was the first demon that would be engulfed, it decided to stop it with its claws.

The energy of the claws increased drastically as his body turned around.

That was the time Noel made his move. Since the weaker demons were pushed back by the fire and the two Peak Level Demons tried to stop them, it meant no one was watching out for the rat.

Noel used his Split Step to confuse the Peak Level Demons. His shadow moved to the left while the real body headed to the right and continued toward the rat.

Roa—!

As one would expect from Peak Level Demons, their intelligence was enough to realize what Noel wanted to attempt and hurriedly warn the other.

But that roar only alarmed the rat, not helping him with anything. After all, Noel had reached the rat when the latter turned around.

"Goodbye." Noel smiled as he struck the rat's neck with his fire-covered sword. I think you should take a look at

Scree!

The rat screamed in pain. Noel wanted a clean swing, but it seemed that the rat's skin was tougher than expected.

His blade only penetrated a quarter of the entire neck. It was fatal, but the rat should still be able to launch a few more attacks before dying.

"Not enough!" Noel changed his approach. Instead of the Sword Fire, he used Ignition Sword, creating an explosion inside the rat's neck.

"!!!"

Boom!

The rat couldn't do anything as the explosion engulfed its throat and organs. The force also tore the skin and ligaments connecting the head and the body.

Ultimately, the head was severed and flew into the air.

As for the flame cylinder that was about to fight the rat, it shifted its path and avoided Noel before heading to the remaining two Peak Level Demons.

Noel looked around, seeing the other lower level demons. He placed his hand on the ground.

Frost Control.

In an instant, the ground was covered by a thin layer of ice. The ice had a radius of fifteen meters.

The demons lost their connection to the earth. Even if they could dig the ground, the ice prevented them.

On the other hand, Noel was the user, so he had gotten used to moving on top of the ice. He slid forward and used the Circular Sword Strike to kill the confused demons. After that, he began to aim for the rest of the demons, leaving Anna to fend off the two Peak Level Demons and the other demons near her.

As much as Noel wanted to go all out by bringing one big ability after another, it would prove to be detrimental to his mission if he wanted to finish it within 24 hours. After all, he needed to spend more energy, which meant he had to recover his energy.

That was why once the situation was under control, Noel changed his approach from big abilities to only Frost Control, one of his first and weakest abilities.

pandasnovel.com This Frost Control might not be powerful, but if he used it creatively, it could be as fatal as the rest.

Ultimately, Noel killed one demon after another while Anna dissolved the lightning that controlled his flame and let the flame hit a lot of demons and kill them.

After that, Anna also followed Noel's approach and handled the Peak Level Demons with her sword.

Even without saying anything, they knew each other's plans. Noel eventually killed the remaining demons while Anna bought him time from the Peak Level Demons.

Once there was no more nuisance, Noel and Anna finally fought one Peak Level Demon respectively.

Since Noel could fly, he fought the bat.

The bat kept using the sound waves to wreak havoc, trying to injure him. Unfortunately for the bat, Noel skillfully flew around and even controlled his Undying Fire Feathers to make an unpredictable flying path.

The bat, of course, flew around to avoid it, but coupled with Noel's blade, the bat ended up having no place to go. Eventually, the Fire Feathers hit the bat's wings, burning them down.

The bat could do nothing when its wings were gone. It didn't take too long for Noel to kill the bat.

Even though the bat was a Peak Level Demon, it looked like Noel could easily kill the bat.

The same applied to the earthworm. Now that Anna didn't have to worry about other demons attacking her, she could control her lightning to completely overwhelm the earthworm.

The earthworm was covered with tough skin that seemed to have been reinforced by the rock from this place. However, Anna's lightning had a far higher penetrating power.

Once she used it to its fullest potential, the earthworm couldn't stop it anymore. In the end, a few holes were created in the earthworm's body. After a while, the earthworm finally died.

It looked like the Peak Level Demons never stood a chance in a one-on-one fight.

However, Noel and Anna believed that had to be the case. After all, a Spirit Grandmaster was supposed to be able to overwhelm a Peak Level Demon. So, if they couldn't achieve such a feat, it would be impossible for them to defeat the Superior Demon.

Besides, Noel had once fought against multiple Peak Level Demons by himself. Even if the demons' behaviors were somewhat different, it would be a problem if he had a hard time against them.

"It seems that the enemies are tougher than we expected. I've used twenty percent of my Spiritual Energy. We might not be able to clear the entire nest if this continues... So, let's change our plan." Noel suggested.

"You can make a new plan. I'll take out the Demon Crystals and absorb my portions. You should have come up by then, right?" Anna nodded in agreement.

"Yeah." Noel didn't mind the arrangement since this was the most efficient way to use their time.

Chapter 778 Secret

"Ha!" Noel slashed a Peak Level Demon. It had been ten hours since they entered this cave.

Noel couldn't help but take a look at the surroundings, only to find Anna had finished taking care of the other demons.

Hence, Noel took this time to open the mission to check their progress.

[Mission: Time Attack!]

[Description: Clear the whole nest within 24 hours.]

[Reward: Challenger Medal and Secret to Career Advancement.]

[Remaining Monsters: 210]

[Remaining Time: 13:50:10]

They had made good progress in the last ten hours. The number of demons had been reduced to a fifth of its original number.

There were six giant caves they had encountered so far, allowing them to kill about one hundred demons in each cave. However, he knew that they would be struggling for the remaining few demons, considering they would be hiding somewhere in the passage.

Noel thought for a moment and muttered, "There should be two more caves like this. And considering there is one Superior Demon residing in one of them, it's clear that the demons there will be fewer. However, it doesn't mean that we're safe either."

"After all, it means that we have to fight more than fifty demons together with the Superior Demon. And considering it's the Superior Demon we're talking about, the demons surrounding it should be stronger than normal. Most likely, we're going to encounter more than ten Peak Level Demons in that place alone."

Noel fell into deep thought that he didn't realize that Anna had walked toward him. "What's wrong? Is there anything bothering you? Do you find something wrong?"

"Hmm?" Noel's body shook a bit as he looked at Anna. There was probably one thing that could turn around the situation, but there was no way Noel could suggest it.

However, Noel wasn't someone so foolish that he thought hiding this matter was good. He knew that his life had been surrounded by schemes, misunderstandings, and hidden intentions. But he believed that the relationship between him and Anna had been cleared.

Even though they had hidden intentions and schemes, those were only at the level where they ended up helping each other or petty competition. There was nothing serious about it. As for the misunderstandings, he had cleared almost everything just simply by talking to her.

So, Noel decided to share the problem with her. "Actually, this looks like we've made good progress..."

"Indeed. Having killed so many enemies within ten hours is good progress. I mean, we only have some minor injuries so far. And our Spiritual Energy is still quite high." Anna nodded. "We should be able to fight the Superior Demon in our best state."

"That's the problem. After examining the pattern, the cave, and their number, I think we will be facing the Superior Demon with a lot of other demons. And they should be far stronger than anything else we've faced so far."

"Ah!" Anna looked down, contemplating. "Are you telling me that it's impossible to kill them?"

"It should be possible, but I still haven't figured out the plan yet. For the time being, we can use our power to dig the ground and create some traps to kill some demons. However, the Superior Demon won't be affected by it. And with those strong demons protecting him, I'm sure that the traps will be even less effective."

Anna understood Noel's worries. "I see. It seems that the situation is trickier than I originally thought."

"Yes. That's why before challenging the Superior Demon, we need a concrete plan." Noel nodded.

Anna raised one finger. "I think it will be possible if I activate my True Spirit Body."

"!!!" That was right. Noel also wanted to suggest this, but telling her to do it was something he could never do. After all, he wanted to do it himself, considering he had two missions.

So, when she suggested it herself, Noel couldn't help but frown. "What do you mean?"

"You didn't hear it wrong. I'm going to use the True Spirit Body to fight against the Superior Demon. In the meantime, you are going to wipe out the remaining demons before helping me."

"Are you insane?" Noel gritted his teeth and glared at her.

"I am not insane. In fact, I believe that the True Spirit Body is something that I should test after acquiring this power." Anna reminded him, "Don't forget that we still have a lot of time to spare. Even if I use my True Spirit Body and rest for a few days, it shouldn't matter that much."

Noel grabbed her collar while saying, "I think you're forgetting something. I, too, deserve to use it as well, right?"

pandasnovel.com Anna was startled. When she looked at Noel's grim expression, she realized that Noel was burdened by this fact.

Noel had seen her state after using the True Spirit Body. Even Dimitri had a hard time fighting for a week.

It was clear that the burden was too much. And he should have that ability as well instead of letting anyone carry that burden. I think you should take a look at

That was why Noel had this grim expression. He was desperate, especially with the fact that the risk was bigger when it was used by a Spirit Master.

"Do you think I'm just a weakling that needs to be protected all the time?"

Anna couldn't reply to him. Noel had definitely made her suffer a lot in her previous life. However, all those actions were needed in order to undo the brainwashing as well as change her behavior.

Hence, she wanted to repay him in this life by helping and even protecting him. After all, she was granted an immeasurable experience and knowledge from her previous life.

Noel managed to keep up with her this whole time, but because he didn't have the knowledge about it, he couldn't use the True Spirit Body. He couldn't even sacrifice his own lifespan to use the latent talent of his ability.

That was why Noel thought he was useless because he ended up getting protected all the time.

Anna faced a dilemma. On the one hand, she had already planned to tell him about it after he reached the Spirit Grandmaster stage. On the other hand, seeing Noel acting like this shook her heart.

'Should I give the secret to him?' Anna thought. 'I do want Noel to be strong, but...'

Anna knew the price he had to pay if he used the True Spirit Body.

'I don't really mind giving him the secret. In fact, I even plan to talk about my previous life experiences after this trip is over. But if I give him this secret, there is a chance that he will be too obsessed with artificial power.'

Anna fell into deep thought. She didn't say anything for a few minutes, making Noel more and more frustrated.

Soon, she opened her eyes. It seemed she had made a decision.

"As much as I want to tell you about it, I can't. There are two reasons. First, even if I tell you about it, no one can tell whether you can activate it without any prior training. Second, you need your Spirits' cooperation. After all, using the True Spirit Body will cause your Spirit Link to get weakened."

Noel frowned and couldn't help but ask Ardagan inwardly, 'Is that true, Ardagan?'

Suddenly, a system panel appeared.

[There is one more hidden reason that the Spirits usually don't tell humans. The True Spirit Body is not the human's ability to synchronize with the spirits and borrows their full power. In fact, it's proof that the spirits have undergone ultimate training to achieve the most powerful ability.]

[In other words, even if you understand the secret, it's impossible to use it.]

Noel was completely shaken. He never thought there would be a hidden condition. And from the way Anna worded it, it seemed that she also didn't know about this hidden condition.

'Then...'

[The very basic requirement for a spirit to cultivate this ultimate ability is to become a Humanoid Spirit. Currently, Heisk hasn't reached that stage yet. If you want to activate it, you need to pour more resources into her so that she reaches that rank.]

[After that, Heisk has to cultivate this ultimate ability. No one knows how long she needs to be able to get this ability. Even in the Spirit World, there are less than two hundred spirits that have this qualification.]

'Then... are you saying that it's impossible for me to use it?' Noel bit his lips. He finally understood the gap that his hard work couldn't overcome. Anna's talent didn't simply come from the conversion rate. She also had the spirit who had cultivated the True Spirit Body resided within her. Heisk couldn't be compared to that spirit.

However, it seemed that Ardagan didn't plan to let him down.

[There is one way to speed up the process. It's to be granted special power by the Spirit God himself.]

'The Spirit God? Are you talking about the Moon Goddess? But even if I know about it, I don't have the connections to be granted that power.'

[No. Did you forget about me?]

'Hmm?' Noel became confused. However, Ardagan soon reminded him of another mission that he got a long time ago. He didn't put much thought into it because the mission had a '???' mark. But it seemed that Ardagan confirmed the mission and told him what he needed to advance.

[Mission: Helping Heisk advance to Humanoid Rank]

[Description: Get a lot of materials that could be used to improve Heisk's ice power.]

[Reward: Spirit Information Part 2]

[Penalty: None.]

Chapter 779 Sorting Thoughts

After seeing the new mission, Noel couldn't help but fall silent for a moment.

Instead of talking to Ardagan, Noel actually bowed his head to Anna and said, "Thank you, Anna. And I'm sorry. I won't be talking about the True Spirit Body anymore."

"Eh?" Anna was confused since this came out of nowhere. But considering there was a momentary silence earlier, she knew that his spirit must be talking to him. It seemed that there was no need to convince him anymore. "Well, it's alright."

"If you don't mind, I want to have time alone for a bit." Noel gestured that he wanted to move away for a bit to talk with Ardagan.

"Sure." Anna agreed. While looking at Noel's back, she couldn't help but wonder, 'What kind of spirits are inside of him? Considering it can easily talk to him, I guess he should have a Humanoid Spirit. Then again, the one-hundred conversion rate... and double the limit of a normal person. It seems that the conversion rate is artificial, but...'

Anna was engulfed in her own thoughts. However, if they let Noel grow even further, he would definitely become the strongest man in the world.

'If the Royal Family knew about this, they would have killed Noel no matter the case. No, wait... They would definitely forgive the Ardagan Family previously and used the political situation to force Noel to marry into their family. In fact, I might be thrown away.' Anna let out a long sigh, realizing that one move was all it took for them to exchange positions. She wondered what would happen if she ended up in Noel's position.

Noel would be favored as the greatest genius and married into the royal family. Meanwhile, she would be exiled to the Demon Banner Army.

While she might not be strong, she was extremely talented. Her rise would just be a matter of time in the army. However, Noel managed to overcome all the hurdles with his brain. If she was in his position and Noel had that kind of power in his hand, it was obvious that she would die no matter how hard she worked.

Of course, she was imagining things from her previous life. Everything changed the moment her 'rebirth' took place.

'If I'm in his position with all this experience and knowledge... Maybe I can somehow put up a decent fight, but that's all. He can keep up with my progress this whole time, so...' Anna looked up, contemplating. 'I still can't find the reason for this rebirth... the unique reason for me. Why would Noel give me this rebirth? Is there something I can achieve that he can't?'

Anna clenched her fists. She refused to just do whatever Noel wanted. If this continued, she would just become someone's pawn for the rest of her life.

That was why her determination to find the reason and overcome it grew stronger the longer she contemplated her rebirth.

'Noel must be trying to achieve something, but I'm still me. Our visions are different. Whether it's for better or for worse, I'm going to find my own reason... So that I can stand as equal or even surpass that.' Anna took a deep breath.

...

While she was thinking about her rebirth, Noel checked the mission again and asked, 'Ardagan. This mission is weird... How come it's suddenly revealed? I mean, the previous mission too...'

[This chain mission's purpose is to let you know more about the spirit world, including their system and unique power. So, letting Heisk evolve will definitely expose you to this kind of system.]

'Yes. It's just... I had never thought the mission would be like this. Even in the previous mission, all it took was me questioning the spirits.' Noel frowned.

[Have you seen me making an impossible mission?]

Noel fell silent. Even from the first mission, it looked plausible. Yes, fighting against an Ancient Demon would definitely be beyond everyone's imagination, let alone for a young man who just awakened his spirit not long ago.

However, the fact that the Ancient Demon's strength was extremely weak made it possible for him to fight the demon alone. And having Anna's cooperation just made it easier.

Even during the two failed missions, he realized that it was still possible to clear the mission.

Unfortunately, the first failed mission was caused by his arrogance in his planning. If he retained Dimitri and fought Laufey with both Damian and Dimitri, the mission would have succeeded.

As for the second mission, if he had tried and somehow forced the two captains to stop the mission due to the danger, he would have evaded the ambush.

In fact, he still had one favor that the Demon Hunting Squad's Captain owed. Just using it to stall time was enough since Anna would have told them the danger.

That was why when Noel saw Ardagan's words, he couldn't help but agree. Ardagan never gave him an impossible mission. Yes, it was hard, but not impossible.

Noel took a deep breath. "It seems that I'm overthinking everything."

[Please don't forget that I'm a Spirit. Whose Spirit I am?] I think you should take a look at

'Mine.' Noel answered firmly.

[That's right. I am your Spirit, not the other way around. You are the one in control while I'm here just to support you. There's no way that I'll try to harm you.]

Noel sighed while scratching the back of his head. He almost forgot that all the missions, the training, and even the information he shared were for the sake of him. Due to all those he received, he could become this strong and keep up with Anna's unprecedented growth.

When Ardagan revealed the mission, he thought that Ardagan was only using him to evolve Heisk. In the end, the humans would be living under the Spirit's control.

However, it was wrong to think like that. It was true that the spirits wanted the best of their own. But Ardagan suggested doing so because it would bring more merit to him.

If he followed this mission, he could get Heisk's True Spirit Body and understand more about spirits to the point where he got a connection with their Spirit God. Since the Spirit God gave Ardagan to his ancestor to protect the world, there might be a time when he wielded Ardagan to once again expel the demons from this world.

It seemed that having the Ardagan Family get back-stabbed by a lot of nobles to the execution took a huge toll on his heart.

Noel opened his mouth. "I'm sorry. It seems that I haven't thought this through."

[After experiencing more than a thousand years with humans, I can understand your feeling. It might be a lot to ask, but please trust me.]

pandasnovel.com It wouldn't be enough if he just said he would trust him. So, Noel used his action to prove it. "What do you want me to do?"

[As you might expect, the Spirit God created me. And I'm still connected to him. He gave you a mission. First, you have to evolve Heisk to Humanoid Rank. After that, there will be one more mission before he gives Heisk the True Spirit Body ability.]

"Then, what about you? You are a Unique Rank Spirit that is comparable to or even stronger than a Humanoid Rank Spirit, right?"

[If you're talking about my ability to use the True Spirit Body, then yes, I have it. However, I have to wait for you to become a Spirit Grandmaster first. Body and mind, I'm sure you understand the importance of them.]

[If you don't have the Spirit Heart and the Spirit Mind, the moment I begin releasing my Spirit Link in your body, you will definitely get incinerated alive. My Spirit Link will intertwine with your blood vessels. If you have the Spirit Mind, you can somehow control my Spirit Link so that it doesn't incinerate you.]

"I see. So, all I have to do is to become a Spirit Grandmaster..."

[Yes. Though, that's only for the Spirit Link. If you wish to perform the True Spirit Body, then you might need Rune to do that. Your body alone won't be able to withstand my power, so you need Rune to bear a portion of the pressure.]

"Wait a minute. You gave me a mission with Empowerment Rune and even the Secret to Career Advancement for the reward. Don't tell me..."

[That's right. It should make you closer to the new Rune System you haven't explored yet, the Rune Body. And Career Advancement will definitely help you with it. Unless you achieve those two, I don't think you are strong enough to contain my power.]

"I see." Noel sighed. It seemed that Ardagan had been preparing him to accept his power. He would proceed even if Noel didn't realize it. "I'm such a jerk..."

[You don't have to apologize. I understand your feelings. If you keep apologizing, it will just make it mean less. Besides, there is one thing I have to warn you about.]

Noel furrowed his eyebrows. "What is that?"

[The True Spirit Body can't be used easily due to the risk it carries, much so when a Spirit Master uses it. She might look like this, but she should be experiencing pains all over her body the entire time. After all, she is not a Spirit Grandmaster who can heal those injuries completely. In addition, her Spirit Link must have given her all kinds of things that would make her mind go insane. Hence, you need to know that if she ends up with heavy injuries this time, it might put her life in danger.]

'Huh? Seriously?' Noel's body shook. Anna had never shown him something like that, but it seemed that he didn't know how strong Anna was.

[I have a medal that can show you three states of people. It's similar to the Affection Medal, but it measures people's health value, mind value, and status ailments such as poison or other things. But I haven't given it to you because I believe it's useful when you're a noble.]

Noel couldn't help but agree. Having that medal and the Affection Medal would allow him to understand his subordinates better and make sure that he didn't employ a spy.

"I understand. You can leave it there. It won't be long before I become a noble, but Anna's condition is a more serious problem. It seems that the situation doesn't look as favorable as before." Noel sighed. He knew he had to come up with a new plan, one where Anna wouldn't suffer such injuries.

After sorting his thoughts with Ardagan, he returned to Anna, bringing a revised plan that looked aggressive in nature but turned out to be conservative. This was the only way for Noel to repay her.

Chapter 780 Traps

Noel emerged from a tunnel, staring at the demons. A single glance was enough to count the demons inside.

'There are approximately 40 demons, with 7 Peak Level Demons among them. Not good, but not that bad either.' Noel smiled and began pouring all his Spiritual Energy into his palms.

Each hand summoned an Ice Lotus, sending forth a total of ten ice petals.

The demons were varied in size, so he wondered where the enemy leader was. After all, he couldn't detect the enemy's danger level like Anna.

The ice petals flew toward the demons, trying to kill them. The Superior Demon would obviously react first.

Its body pulsed as if releasing its order to the other demons. In addition, his body released a huge amount of Spiritual Energy and formed a barrier, catching five petals.

Bam!

Bam!

Bam!

The petals exploded and formed huge ice crystals, enveloping the barrier. The other Peak Level Demons also came forth and each struck a petal, protecting the other demons.

"..." Noel couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows. On the one hand, he had marked the Superior Demon. On the other hand, their coordination was much better than he originally thought.

Still, he had sworn that he wouldn't allow Anna to get heavily injured.

Another fluctuation of energy shook the room, telling the other demons to chase after Noel.

"Tsk." Noel clicked his tongue, showing an annoyed expression. He didn't know if the earthworm could see him or not, considering it had no eyes. But it should sense the fluctuation of energy, the sound, and the movement he made. It was clear that Noel looked frustrated, as if his plan didn't go well.

Superior Demons were extremely smart, so this Superior Earthworm Demon should have realized it. He sent all his minions to chase after Noel.

Knowing that his plan didn't work, Noel retreated into the tunnel. The demons chased after him as if Noel was just a cornered beast.

However, after a few seconds of entering the tunnel, Noel could feel that most of the enemies had gone inside.

He then turned around and raised both hands, waving them together. All his fingertips were covered in flame as waving his hands summoned forth two Undying Phoenix.

Cry!

Cry!

Both Phoenixes let out a cry. Due to the nature of the Undying Fire, it didn't light up the tunnel.

In that darkness, the Undying Phoenixes hit their targets. Even if the Peak Level Demons could react, they were not at the very front.

So, the Undying Phoenixes hit directly the lower level demons and burst out. The flame followed the momentum and spread to the demons on the back. Even the Peak Level Demon's barriers were burned away.

"!!!"

Roar!

Roar!

The tunnel was immediately filled with confusion and screams. They were in pain because they were being burned alive. If it was an open space, Noel might be at a disadvantage, but this enclosed space allowed him to concentrate his power into one single line and destroy the enemies.

But as one would expect from the Peak Level Demons, their barriers might have been burned away, but they still managed to repel his Undying Fire.

Since the demons in front of them had died, they were the ones charging ahead, trying to prevent Noel from doing something similar.

'Tsk. I only killed thirteen demons... Only less than a third, huh?' Noel sighed, turned around, and started running again. He never expected to kill all of them, but the number was lower than he wanted.

After all, the moment the Peak Level Demons took the lead, it was close to impossible to recreate the same effect.

In addition, the tunnel was big enough to allow five Peak Level Demons to move at the same time.

The Peak Level Demons were gathering their energy, trying to kill Noel as quickly as possible. They didn't want to leave their leader for a long time.

However, Noel used this to his advantage. "Ice Mirror."

A few ice blocks appeared in the tunnel as Noel stacked them up to block the tunnels.

The Peak Level Demons believed there was another trick behind this ability, so one of them took the lead in order to expose that plan and allow the other Peak Level Demons to solve the trap.

Scree! I think you should take a look at pandasnovel.com

pandasnovel.com The Peak Level Rat slammed its body to the Ice Mirror while gathering his Spiritual Energy in his claws, trying to block anything that Noel had prepared for them.

But surprisingly, there was nothing behind the ice mirrors. The ice blocks only crumbled to the ground.

"!!!" The demons were confused. However, they saw Noel used this opportunity to get more distance from them. It seemed that Noel's intention was just to distract them and get away.

If he didn't die, he would definitely return and kill more demons in this place.

In fact, the fact that he managed to reach their place meant he had killed a lot of demons that stood before them. There was no way they could forgive Noel for killing their kin.

The demons trampled on the ice blocks on the ground and headed straight to Noel. But that was Noel's other trap.

The moment they crushed the ice blocks, the Spiritual Energy trapped within the ice blocks began to leak out and activate the runes that Noel had set up.

Since the rune was made of his Spiritual Energy, they reacted to the ice's Spiritual Energy, causing them to light up.

"!!!" The demons felt that fluctuation of Spiritual Energy, albeit they were too late.

Four runes had been scattered on the ground and all of them released the same burst of energy.

Rune Blast.

Boom!

Boom!

A series of explosions occurred in rapid succession and knocked the demons all over the place.

Even two Peak Level Demons got hit by the blast and ended up stumbling to the ground. The other demons behind them couldn't stop and ultimately stepped over them.

The Peak Level Demons were obviously strong enough to reinforce their skins, but it was still too much getting stepped on by a lot of demons, especially after those Rune Blasts hitting them.

'Alright. The second trap is working.' Noel was happy with the result since two Peak Level Demons were injured.

However, this trap put the demons in a dilemma. On the one hand, their Superior Demon had ordered them to kill him. On the other hand, it seemed that they were falling into one trap after another. If this continued, they might die without being able to do anything.

Meanwhile, they didn't think that this person would leave just like that. Noel had gone this deep into their nest, so it was obvious that he was trying to kill their leader.

Upon that realization, one of the Peak Level Demons released a screeching sound to inform the others to stop and turn around. They had to return, believing that their king was in danger.

"Hmm?!" Noel widened his eyes in shock. The Peak Level Demons might not be as smart as Superior Demons, but they were, by no means, foolish. He couldn't even use the third trap before they realized the whole scheme.

Still, stopping abruptly at that speed took more time than they imagined. Without hesitation, Noel took a deep breath and shouted at the top of his lungs. "Anna!"

His voice echoed across the tunnel. Two seconds later, a spark of yellow lightning brightened the end of the cave as it moved toward them at a fast speed.

Yes, this was Noel's plan to make sure Anna didn't get heavily injured. He would lead the demons into the tunnel in order to defeat them inside before challenging the earthworm personally.

Anna increased her speed and poured all her energy into the tip of her sword, which had been covered by lightning, to increase her penetrating power.

Two Peak Level Demons hurriedly moved forward, trying to stop her.

However, their clash was brief before Anna broke apart their defense and destroyed a part of their body in her charge.

Still, they absorbed a portion of her momentum. The other Peak Level Demons joined forces to stop them and managed to stop her even though Anna almost tore their defense apart.

Seeing that her momentum had stopped, Noel stepped forward and shot out two Undying Phoenixes to allow Anna to regain some distance.

Realizing that they couldn't stop the Phoenixes with their current condition, the Peak Level Demons tossed a few lower level demons into the front, especially the corpses, to block the Undying Phoenixes.

"!!!" Noel was quite surprised that the demons were capable of doing such things. But it was effective. The demons somehow stopped the Phoenixes. The remnant fire that managed to slip through got extinguished by them.

"We have killed half of them, five Peak Level Demons left, with two of them being injured," Noel informed Anna of the situation.

"Not good, but not bad either." Anna nodded. "We can't use plan B, so plan C?"

"Ye—!!" Before Noel answered, the demons suddenly trembled as though they sensed something. They suddenly charged at them, not because they wanted to kill them, but because they were afraid of something behind them.

Noel was confused for a split second before imagining one possibility.

"Not good." Noel grabbed Anna's hand and dragged her. "Run!"