

S vs Rebirth 801

Chapter 801 Douglas

In a certain city, a robust middle-aged man was walking in the city while humming.

"Mhm, hum, hum." The middle-aged man seemed to be enjoying his walk. He was also observing the locations of the buildings in the area.

"Life is good." The middle-aged man nodded in approval. He continued for another thirty minutes before he eventually reached a two-story building.

When he opened the door, he was greeted with a lot of tools for construction such as hammers, axes, saws, and others.

"Welcome, Sir Douglas. Are you done with your walk today?" A young receptionist smiled at him.

"Oh, Jack. You're already up?" The middle-aged man, who was called Douglas, smiled, watching the young man carrying the tools around as though he was displaying them on the shelves.

"Of course. I don't know why, but I feel like something good is going to happen today. So, I'm setting up the shop as quickly as possible."

"Is that so? Maybe we're expecting the same thing. I don't know why, but I feel energized today." Douglas chuckled, not thinking much about it. "In any case, just open the shop as usual."

"Understood." Jack nodded in agreement as he continued moving things around.

However, their peaceful morning was suddenly disturbed when a man suddenly slammed their door open.

Bang!

The sound was so loud that it startled both of them.

"I need one hundred saws and one hundred hammers right away!" The man shouted in an authoritative tone, looking down at them.

Jack couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows while Douglas put on his smile and said, "Welcome, Mr. Raffles."

"So, you're here, you idiot old man." The man snorted, staring at Douglas as if he was a fly.

Jack looked angry because the man looked down on Douglas, but he couldn't do anything. There was a reason why the man could actually look down on them.

"Of course. Since you're here to make a purchase this big, then I should be the one welcoming you." Douglas smiled. "Besides, you're the butler of the city lord, so how could I let anyone serve you?"

"This is an order. Bring one hundred saws and hammers to the city lord's mansion if you don't want this shop destroyed." The man harrumphed, thinking he was far above Douglas.

"I understand. But Sir, we don't have the number you require right now. Please wait for three days, and I can deliver it to the mansion." Douglas replied, still putting on his best smile.

"You don't have that much time. Do you think if not because of the city lord, you could still be alive? You only have until dusk. If you can't deliver the order, I will destroy this shop." The man laughed out loud.

He didn't care about their reply and immediately turned around, ready to leave the shop.

However, he saw a hammer and a window next to the door, so he grabbed the hammer and smashed the window for them to see. He added mockingly, "Hahaha. Since this shop is going to be destroyed, then this one is just in advance."

The man exited the shop while laughing out loud, slamming the door so hard that the wooden door bent.

Outside, he saw two people who were staring at him in confusion.

"What? If you continue looking, I will rip out your eyes." The man glared at them angrily, which caused the two people to look at each other. Because he was in a good mood after destroying the window, he harrumphed and walked away. "This is why commoners are..."

The two were completely dumbfounded since they didn't expect that another commoner would be able to act this mighty.

Due to the wooden door bent, the voice from the inside could be heard.

"Sir Douglas. Why are you serving that man so easily? Couldn't you see how they treated you? You have been helping Count Helsberth for so long, but look at how they treat you in return."

"Even their butler is looking down on you. You... you have... even helped them build a lot of things. Without you, their city wouldn't be this good." Jack was shouting in frustration.

Douglas had reached his hand to a slum guy like him and turned him into his assistant, so Jack was angry when his savior was treated horribly.

"You don't know anything, Jack. And I don't think it's time for me to tell you about it... not yet. Let's just do our best here until the time comes." Douglas smiled, not caring about the treatment.

However, the two people outside had actually opened the door and entered the shop, seeing the mess inside.

"..." They didn't know how to react since this was the first time they went to this shop.

But Douglas seemed to recognize one of them. He didn't know the one wearing a masquerade, but the moment he saw the man behind him, he could make a guess of their identities. I think you should take a look at pandasnovel.com

"This..." Douglas gasped. Seeing the second man nod his head, Douglas suddenly dropped to one knee and lowered his head. "I humbly greet your presence, my lord."

"Huh?" Jack was utterly confused. Even though Douglas let everything happen with a smile on his face, he never knelt to anyone, including the city lord. That might also be the reason for their action.

Yet, a single nod from them actually caused Douglas to do the thing he never did in the last few years.

Who could actually force Douglas to do this?

After they closed the door, the younger man took off his masquerade as the blond hair gradually returned to its original color.

From behind the mask, a young yet gallant face was hidden.

Douglas instantly confirmed his identity and put on a small but genuine smile.

"Sorry, Jack. I'm going to take my words back. Sorry for letting you experience all this, but it's time we leave the town," Douglas finally explained the reason. "I have been helping the count because I'm planning to sit away from the spotlight. By making them hate me, they will definitely hide my presence because my existence is equal to their shame. But that doesn't matter anymore. The time has come."

"Sir?" Jack was dumbstruck.

pandasNovel.com Douglas pointed at Noel and said, "This is the person I've been waiting for. He is Noel Ardagan."

"Ardagan? That Ardagan?"

Obviously, the Ardagan Family's deeds had spread all over the kingdom. They were a merchant family, but instead of using their wealth to rise through the ranks, they used their wealth to help the people.

Even someone from the slum like him knew the name of Ardagan.

"I will explain everything to you later, so go upstairs and pack up your luggage. We'll be leaving the city."

"But the city guards will stop us," Jack warned him while frowning.

"Will that be a problem?" Douglas glanced at Dimitri.

"I have four methods to leave the city. Which one do you want?" Dimitri smirked.

Douglas smiled and waved his hand, telling Jack to hurry.

"I didn't think it'd be this easy..." Noel scratched the back of his head. He thought he had to find a way to convince Douglas, but the latter immediately recognized him and decided to follow him.

"Did Dimitri not tell you?" Douglas pointed at Dimitri.

"Tell what?"

"If Dimitri wasn't standing behind you when you visited us, it would mean that Dimitri still recognized you as the young master of the Ardagan Family. But considering Dimitri is with you now, it's clear that you've become the master of the family. If it's the former, then you might have to convince us because the time is not ripe."

"We've been waiting for you, Master. The former family head told us to lay low for the time being as the revival of the Ardagan Family would be in our hands. He told us to see for ourselves whether you were qualified or not. If you are qualified, then we have promised to follow you." Douglas smiled.

"Did my father tell all of you something like that?" Noel frowned.

"Yes. It seemed that he had known the end of the Ardagan Family and prepared for it. So, this time, we have to rebuild it again."

"It seems that there are a lot of things I want to ask about my father from you and Dimitri. But I guess we should leave the city as quickly as possible."

"Indeed. I'll be ready in just an hour."

Before Douglas left, Noel asked, "It seems that you've encountered a problem. Do you want me to help?"

Dimitri nodded. "Master might still be a Spirit Master, but his prowess is equal to a normal Spirit Grandmaster. I can help as well."

"No. It seems that you do not understand our forte, Master." Douglas smiled. "The Ardagan Family had several pillars. There was a reason why we were acknowledged as pillars and I would tell you after we left the city."

Noel was confused, but it seemed that he couldn't convince him.

Unbeknownst to Noel, he was about to know how Douglas's existence alone could threaten Count Helsbert.

Chapter 802 Pillars

"Where are the tools?" A middle-aged man was staring at the construction of a big bridge not far from the city.

"I have asked my man to grab them from the shop, Sir." The butler that stormed Douglas's shop earlier reported.

He nodded with a serious expression. "All of his tools are excellent and he has all the perfect tools for everything. He even sells them at a low price. That's why we've been developing the city at a fast rate. How about the other projects?"

"They are steadily progressing."

"Good." The man looked at the paper in his hand. "There are a total of ten big projects and sixty smaller projects. We have to begin changing our tools to new ones."

"Of course. I'll definitely bring you all the tools, Sir."

"You're a good butler." The man nodded in approval.

But as he just acknowledged him, a huge problem occurred. The man, who the butler sent earlier, had returned. He appeared to be rushing and without the carriage that was supposed to bring the tools.

"Report... Bad news!" The guy shouted while panting.

"How rude of you? Don't you know you're in the presence of the Count?" The butler hurriedly shouted, glaring at him.

However, the Count was more focused on the bad news and asked, "What's wrong?"

"I..." The guy hesitated for a moment before reporting what he saw. "I've gone to the shop, but... he has disappeared."

"What?" The Count and the butler were dumbstruck. The Count asked, "What did you say? He left the city?"

"That's what most likely had happened. When I reached the store, all the items had disappeared. I investigated a bit more, but there was no sign of him living there anymore. All the clothes and other necessities had disappeared. Only..." The guy took out a piece of paper that had been folded neatly. It didn't seem the guy had seen it because there was "For the Count" written on it.

The Count hurriedly grabbed the paper and read what he had left.

'It's time for me to go. This is how I'm going to repay what you've done to me... especially that butler. Have a good day.'

It was a simple but powerful message.

The Count understood that Douglas had left the city. And the butler might be the reason for it.

The Count's body was shaking as he couldn't help but recall all the projects he had as well as Douglas's help.

He had taken on a lot of projects because Douglas often gave him some suggestions which were doable and perfect for the project, allowing him to cut costs. Then, he used it to negotiate with another partner and lowered the price they had to pay, making his family become the favorite in those people's eyes.

But now that Douglas had disappeared, it meant that the tools he provided would disappear.

Of course, the Count could easily ask some workshops to provide some tools, but they wouldn't be able to do it as good as Douglas.

There was also another option, which was asking them to make the same tool as the one they had. However, it would definitely take a lot of time to make by unfamiliar hands. And the price would be extremely high. He didn't know if the quality would be the same or not.

After all, he had tried this method and got disappointed.

However, that wasn't all. Even if he somehow solved the tools' problem, he would have to face the design problem.

Douglas had been giving some advice on all kinds of structures, making them beautiful and cost-effective. He even knew where to procure materials and used the natural landscape to cut more costs.

If Douglas was gone, the cost would rise so high that he would go in the red. He might not have any more money to pay the workers or materials.

That problem would cause a chain reaction that would reach the ones paying for the construction.

In other words, a lot of projects would definitely fail and his family might have to use loans to pay off their debts. Then, the situation would become worse. The citizens would lose their trust.

Even if he could extort the citizens, they would be dried sooner or later. In fact, there was a chance that the citizens would migrate to another territory.

He had a lot of enemies, which would be happy enough to accept the refugees and take advantage of this situation to strike his enemies.

Just thinking of all the problems the Count Family would face, Count Helsbert's face became pale.

He glared at the butler and shouted, "What did you do that ended up forcing him to leave?"

"What?" The butler was confused. He didn't know what to say. Not only was he afraid of the Count's anger, but he also didn't know why Douglas would leave. After all, he had been doing similar things in the past. "I don't know."

Looking at the butler's expression, it seemed that he wasn't aware of the problem as well. I think you should take a look at

But the messenger noticed something from the shop and said, "Sir... When I investigated the shop earlier... I noticed that the shop's door was bent and the window was shattered. Did they get attacked?"

"What?" The Count's face became pale. He thought that there was someone aiming for Douglas because he was the core of his plan. But the moment he turned to the butler and witnessed his shocked face, he realized that it was the butler's work. "Were you the one who did it?"

"What? I... I..." The butler couldn't answer.

"I have told you to treat him with respect!" The Count gritted his teeth, wanting to kill the butler that he had praised earlier.

"I..." The butler looked down. The Count might probably be the only one who treated Douglas warmly. However, the other family members, such as the madam and the Count's sons, had been looking down on Douglas, thinking of him as a mere commoner. He was also influenced by them and treated Douglas as such.

"You..." The Count was fuming in anger. He raised his head and shouted, "Guards. Bring this guy out of here. I'm going to execute him!"

Even if the Count executed him, Douglas wouldn't return. Of course, the Count immediately ordered his people to search for Douglas.

As for the one who caused all this problem, Douglas was walking with Noel, Dimitri, and Jack.

"That's probably what's going to happen." Douglas finished his explanation, which was similar to what the Count experienced and predicted. "It might not be enough to destroy the Count. If he used this and that, he should be able to maintain the family. But he would be weakened so much that he would soon be harassed by his enemies. Unless he could somehow restore his wealth, he wouldn't be able to stop them."

Noel sucked a cold breath. "I see. So, that's why you're the pillar of the Ardagan Family."

"You could say so. Though, your father built the Ardagan Family with a solid foundation, not reckless, but not extremely careful. Even if one pillar was gone, the other pillars could easily fill up the spot."

"Like producing something at a certain limit, not the maximum amount, so that it can be pushed to the maximum limit when something goes awry?" Noel asked.

"Yes. Something like that."

"The other pillars should be doing the same. Who are you planning to meet after this?"

"Balott and Charlotte."

"Balott, huh? If I'm not wrong, he has become a free accountant that a lot of merchant groups sought. Though, he's not doing something big currently, so even if he's gone, there won't be a lot of things to happen. As for Charlotte..." Douglas is scratching the back of his head.

"What's wrong?"

Dimitri looked at Douglas's troubled expression and explained, "Charlotte is probably the only one who can stop his madness. Charlotte can actually track everything in the city. If you inquire anything about the city, Charlotte will probably know it. I think Rose should learn from her since Charlotte is already quite old."

"I see." Noel nodded in understanding. "By the way, how many pillars did we have?"

"There are ten pillars. Dimitri is the Worker Pillar, and Balott is the Economy Pillar. Charlotte is the overseer. There are also farming, information, city development, defense, public relationship, and two other pillars that aren't much visible. It's said that your father is the only one who knows. Dimitri might know about it."

"I only know one of them. It's not that different from the information pillar, but they are in charge of eliminating threats. As for the other one, it's just a rumor. There is another pillar that is secretly protecting the people of the Ardagan Family."

Douglas pointed at Dimitri. "That one... I heard that people who are recruited won't encounter any problems for the rest of their lives. Sometimes, there is someone who is dealing with anything that might cause them problems."

"Hoh?" Noel looked down. It seemed that in governing a territory, his father was still far beyond him. "I wonder how he managed all of you."

"Are you sure you are asking about that from me?" Douglas made a wry smile as if telling him it would be awkward after this.

"Hahaha. In any case, I might not be following my father's footsteps, but I'll continue to strive to be a better lord." Noel chuckled.

"In that case, Master. May I know where we'll be going?"

"I'm planning to ask you to stay with Harley?"

"Are you going to revive the city?"

"No. We're going to a new region. I'll manipulate the royal court to get us there. So, I want you to stay with Harley for the time being."

"Instead of that, how about telling me the name of that region? I can go there and survey the location. In fact, I can plan ahead so that we can begin the moment we're granted that land."

"Still, it's going to be dangerous, considering that place is near the border." Noel thought for a moment. "How about going to Harley for the time being? Since he is planning to get Howard, you should be safer that way, no?"

"I see." Douglas contemplated. "Understood. I will follow your arrangement."

"Thanks. I'm planning to become a noble in about five months. So, get ready."

"Understood."

Chapter 803 Visit

As Douglas explained, it seemed that the pillars of the Ardagan Family had been waiting for Noel and Dimitri the whole time.

Although Noel was supposed to have died in Anna's hand, they still followed the instruction that Noel's father had given them.

The order was to wait for five years, which was the time limit, before something big happens.

However, if Noel somehow managed to gain the power and influence to become a noble, they would become Noel's vassals.

Douglas had told Noel about all the matters that his father had passed on. Still, he couldn't believe that Anna was Noel's ally, even though she had brought the Ardagan Family to the brink of destruction and even killed him.

Noel explained to Douglas and the other pillars that Anna had changed. This time, she would become their reliable ally that would influence the royal family.

The royal family still believed that Anna still hated them after all. So, if she managed to become an Arbiter, even the king had to consider her opinion seriously.

Although they were still a bit doubtful of Anna, they had to put their trust in her because Noel believed so. In addition, Dimitri told them about the relationship between Anna and Noel, making them understand why there was such trust between them.

It was surprising, but Douglas, Balott, and Charlotte had agreed to rebuild the Ardagan Family.

Balott was a middle-aged man who had been working around as a freelancer, giving advice to a lot of merchants. When Noel visited him with Douglas and Dimitri, it took him an instant to immediately recognize Noel as the master of the family.

However, due to his job, he had to remain in that city for a while. After all, it would become troublesome if he suddenly disappeared and incurred the wrath of all those merchants.

Luke was his mentor, so Balott understood how the merchants worked. Instead of following Noel, Balott decided to remain and gather some money for the initial fund.

On the other hand, Charlotte had a hard time keeping up with them due to her age. Charlotte was already in her late fifties. Unlike the others, she didn't train her body at all.

Hence, she had agreed on three things with Noel. The first one was how she was going to the new territory. Because of the distance and danger, Charlotte decided to go with Douglas.

She needed a carriage, so everything was prepared according to her will and Noel gave all the necessary money for their travel.

The second promise was about how she agreed to train a successor. After learning about Rose, she had no qualms. Rose had exceptional eyes, which would allow her to take a good look at the surroundings. Rose also had the power and ability to protect herself.

As long as she trained under her, Rose would definitely become Noel's left hand, handling all the matters within the territory.

Charlotte turned out to be someone who had been working for his grandfather. But unlike his father, his grandfather was a bit lacking in terms of talent. Although he governed the territory fine, it was also his fault that the Royal Family got some advantages against them.

When Luke took over the family, he consolidated the power of the Ardagan Family and grew it to the point where the Ardagan Family was considered the wealthiest family in the kingdom. In addition, their span of influence was so wide that a lot of nobles feared them.

Only those who were backed by the kings would dare to fight against the Ardagan Family, like the Count and Marquis, whom Noel had exterminated previously.

Of course, due to the hole that his grandfather made, Luke was forced to make a decision that changed the course of the family. To avoid creating more holes where the Royal Family could control them, Luke decided to destroy the Ardagan Family and let Noel build anew.

This turned out to be the real reason why the Ardagan Family had to be destroyed. Noel never thought that his father had been preparing for this so that the Ardagan Family could remain strong.

His father might not have any plans to go against the Royal Family, but it didn't mean that he would let the Royal Family decide their life and death.

Of course, there were several other factors that reinforced the course of the family, such as Laufey Ardagan, the state of the family, the Royal Family, and other smaller problems.

Unfortunately, when Noel asked about the 'hole' she was talking about, Charlotte claimed that she didn't know anything about it. She only relayed what Luke told her back then. It seemed that only his parents knew about the 'hole' that made the foundation of the Ardagan Family brittle. I think you should take a look at

Last but not least, Charlotte discussed the matter of the pillars. Charlotte wasn't that against reassembling the former pillars. In fact, they could easily rebuild the family by gathering them.

However, it wouldn't be Noel's power. Noel was simply gathering what Luke had in the past. If he wanted to truly create the new Ardagan Family, Noel needed new pillars under his command.

They could be like Rose where the old pillars taught them and let them succeed in their position. Or Noel could find other people to fill in the new spots.

Only in this way would Noel's family could look like the new Ardagan Family.

Noel agreed with her. Unlike Dimitri, who had been watching how he fought against the challenge in front of him, the others didn't have any knowledge or information about Noel. They only knew that Noel was the successor of the Ardagan Family. And it only came from Dimitri's existence.

In other words, the reason why they followed Noel this time was not because of himself. This weak bond would eat him sooner or later.

He acknowledged the fact that he had been focusing on his strength but never tried finding the people that would become his vassals later.

When Noel thought about it, he couldn't help but think of a few people.

The Master Blacksmith was one of the strongest people that would join his rank. He thought about asking him to become one of the pillars, but he reconsidered it after learning from Charlotte.

He thought about giving his children a chance to learn from Balott since they were a merchant.

There were also matters regarding runes, which could become a new pillar. Noel also remembered the group of women he had saved back then. They could learn from Douglas.

After thinking about all his encounters, Noel couldn't help but wonder who actually had joined him in the alternate world. At that time, Noel refused to hear it from Anna because it would just influence his decision. But this thought made him curious. Of course, if he wanted to replace the pillars, he would need a lot of people.

Fortunately, Anna claimed that Noel managed to make a strong family that could stand in the midst of the chaos that would soon plunge the kingdom.

Noel was thankful for Charlotte's insight. Despite a brief meeting between them, Noel had learned a lot about how to govern his territory and manage his family. It was no wonder why Charlotte became the Overseer of the family.

Unfortunately, Noel couldn't stay too long in the kingdom since he didn't want to let Laufey catch him.

He could only give money to Charlotte and let her arrange anything she needed, Noel finally bid farewell to Charlotte and Douglas before heading straight to the kingdom in their south: Atrecaeca Kingdom.

Muivell Kingdom, Greenwood Kingdom, Atrecaeca Kingdom, and Zaecuria Kingdom were the four kingdoms that governed humanity.

Muivell Kingdom was known for its military might from the Tower Association, the Arbiters, and the Demon Banner Army. The Greenwood Kingdom focused on their research on the Spirit and Spiritual Energy, allowing them to become the leading Spirit ian. Their knowledge was said to surpass the Tower Association.

Zaecuria Kingdom was located in the southeast of the Muivell Kingdom. It was said that this kingdom had water that stretched to the horizon, which was called the ocean or sea. They were more advanced than the rest because they focused on taking advantage of the weird natural resources. That was why a new profession like Alchemist was born.

The one Noel was planning to visit was the Atrecaeca Kingdom. This Kingdom had a different landscape than the rest.

A huge portion of the kingdom was actually covered in sand called desert. Most of the people were situated further south, where the temperature was the lowest and fit for vegetation.

However, some were still living in the middle of the kingdom. It was said that due to the harshest conditions, the people in this kingdom were more robust than the ones in the Muivell Kingdom.

With a lot of exotic animals, they fought together with a beast. This way, they were known for their unusual way and toughness. If the Muivell Kingdom and the Atrecaeca Kingdom ever clashed, no one knew who would be the winner.

And Noel was planning to go to this kingdom to search for the fateful person.

Chapter 804 Supreme Devil Organization

There was a huge cave in the northern part of the Muivell Kingdom.

It was a limestone cave that seemed to have been cleared up to make a clear floor and ceiling.

A giant hall was constructed inside the cave. It looked like a box with a length of at least thirty meters. There were even multiple floors inside.

However, there was a smaller box that was constructed on the opposite side. The box took up ten percent of the hall's overall size. Its sides were covered with solid walls, while the one facing the hall was covered with a solid wall and curtain so that someone could enter and talk from behind the quilt.

Outside the box stood two people. The first one was an old lady with long white hair. She looked calm and dignified, but her eyes were so sharp that it felt like she was looking at her prey.

The second one was a muscular man in his forties. His size was similar to Igor, but his body was naturally exuding killing intent. He had a confident face, showing that he could tackle all problems.

However, his confident smile disappeared the moment another man similar to him entered the room.

"!!!" The guy suddenly turned around, finding the same muscular old man that ambushed Noel and the other groups.

Yes, he was the strongest Devil Saint, who was said to have become the Spirit Transcendence, Alexander Brighthammer.

"To think you would be coming here..." The guy tried to strike up a conversation, but he still felt pressured by Alexander's gaze alone.

Alexander looked at both of them until he was a few meters away from the box. He then knelt down. "Long live the Supreme Devil."

"Thank you for your hard work. It's thanks to you that we can kill two captains and injure that Oscar." A voice suddenly resounded from behind the curtain. The voice was deep, but the tone was flat and devoid of all emotion.

"It's for the sake of the organization." Alexander shook his head calmly, showing that he was just fulfilling his duty.

"It seems that all of you have gathered here."

The moment they heard those words, the muscular guy and the old lady walked toward Alexander and knelt next to him.

"Please wait." Alexander stopped him.

"Alexander." The old lady furrowed her eyebrows as she didn't tolerate any disrespect toward the one behind the curtain.

Alexander ignored her and explained his reasons. "I know that you're going to discuss the so-called Noel Ardagan. So, I think there is one more person that should have come."

"..." The person behind the curtain didn't answer him immediately. However, the old lady snorted, correcting Alexander. "Do you mean the one who has failed to capture a kid multiple times?"

"The Supreme Devil hasn't spoken. It's also not your turn to speak, Qiel." Alexander pressured her back. "Besides, if we're planning to talk about that kid, we should get him to speak about everything. He might have failed multiple times, but you can't deny his talent as he might be able to become another Spirit Transcendence among the Devil Saints."

"That's enough." The man stopped their fight and said, "That's true. After all, he has been the one following him the most. Although I'm a bit reluctant to see him, he can enter as well."

"In that case, please forgive my rudeness." Alexander immediately stood up and turned around, calling the name out loud. "Laufey. You may enter."

The moment his name was called, Laufey entered the room with his head hung low. He had failed multiple times and cost the lives of a lot of Devil Bishops, so he couldn't be forgiven easily.

His expression was calm, but he didn't appear to show his dignity. He immediately fell onto his knees behind Alexander. "Long live the Supreme Devil."

"As you might already know, we will be discussing how to get that kid, Noel Ardagan, into this place." The Supreme Devil looked at Laufey from behind the curtains. "So, what do you have for us, Laufey?"

"I believe that we have to apprehend him right away." Laufey didn't hesitate to show the urgency. "It would be a problem to create an international issue since the other kingdom might mobilize their force to help the Demon Banner Army to suppress us."

"However, I believe I have told you about the secret of the Ardagan Family. According to my spy, his conversion rate is far below Anna Stargaze. Yet, why could he keep up with her progress? That's where I finally believe the secret that I've stolen from the Ardagan Family."

"Noel Stargaze has received the inheritance of his ancestor, the only Spirit King ever known in the Muivell Kingdom's history."

"I thought that the Spirit King's inheritance and record were left behind in those books. So, I had been trying to steal those books while I was a member of the Ardagan Family. But it turned out the true inheritance was the sword."

"Unfortunately, the moment he was recognized by the sword was the time Dimitri joined the Ardagan Family. I couldn't steal the sword and was forced to flee."

"With his current speed, it is not impossible for him to become a Spirit Grandmaster within one year from now. When that time comes, it's going to be hard to capture him. Hence, I suggest we capture him now."

"With the inheritance of a Spirit King, we would be able to produce a lot of Spirit Transcendence, and Your Excellency, the Supreme Devil, might be able to become a Spirit King yourself." I think you should take a look at

Laufey ended his explanation with a temptation.

Alexander had a grim expression. He knew that the Supreme Devil was a rare talent as well. It wouldn't be weird for him to become a Spirit Transcendence sooner or later. And if he truly received whatever Noel had, he might be able to become a Spirit King in his lifetime.

"His words are tempting. What do you think, Qiel?" The Supreme Devil asked the old lady.

"I believe that we need to apprehend him quickly." Qiel actually agreed to Laufey, but she added, "But... Laufey won't be the one doing it. He has failed multiple times."

"Then, who do you think will be ordered to go? Are you suggesting Alexander?"

Alexander hurriedly replied, "If I'm ordered, I will immediately go after him. Even if I have to ignore all the captains in the Demon Banner Army, I will definitely catch him."

"No." Qiel shook her head. "While Alexander can do it, he is still occupied with the commander of the army. Hence, he can't do it or we can't predict how the Demon Banner Army will react."

"Then, who will go?"

"Please let me be the one to capture him." The muscular man suddenly raised his voice. "I will definitely capture him."

"I don't think Nelfer is suitable for this. There is a chance that he is already approaching the Atrecaeca Kingdom. It would be troublesome if he ended up massacring the people over there and caused international dispute." Qiel paused for a moment. "Hence, I shall go this time."

The Supreme Devil paused for a moment as if contemplating her suggestion carefully. However, Laufey and Nelfer showed their unwillingness. Laufey obviously wanted to get the first benefit, while Nelfer might be rough but extremely loyal to the Supreme Devil. He just wanted to contribute.

Alexander, on the other hand, added another point to consider. "I encountered him once when we were trying to inflict serious damage to the Demon Banner Army. I thought that he was just a weak person that I could easily capture after dealing with those captains."

"But my opinion changed when I saw Dimitri use his True Spirit Body without hesitation. The other two captains seemed to hold him in high regard as well. I also found out that he had made all kinds of escape routes."

"So, I looked into his deeds. It appeared he was the one who had caused a lot of our failed attempts in the past like killing the Water Lord, the Demon Farm, and other things. And with his current strength, he could be said to be the combination of Qiel and Nelfer. With Dimitri by his side, it wouldn't be wise to approach him without preparations."

Qiel and Nelfer were surprised that Noel got such high praise for Alexander. Even the Supreme Devil paused for a moment and asked, "How about Anna Stargaze, his nemesis?"

"She seemed to be preparing to become an arbiter. The king over there is planning to observe whether she can be a pawn or not. There is a chance that the king will use her to lure out Noel Ardagan and kill him." Qiel replied.

"Should we eliminate Anna Stargaze as well? Her talent is also no joke since she could keep up with Noel, who had the Spirit King's inheritance." Nelfer asked.

"Taking care of her would be problematic since we would directly provoke the Arbiters." Qiel shook her head. "We should capture Noel first and end the conflict with the army before moving to her. We are also spreading our influence in the royal court. Two Arbiters are about to be on our side."

The Supreme Devil didn't answer them immediately. Seeing Noel's ability and the complicated conflict in the Muivell Kingdom, he couldn't easily send his subordinates and ended up weakening the organization itself.

"In that case, Qiel will be chasing after Noel."

"Understood." Qiel lowered her head, but soon she was startled when the Supreme Devil added, "And bring Nelfer with you."

"What?!" Qiel looked unwilling because she knew how hard to work with Nelfer.

"Nelfer will be following your every command. If he doesn't, you may report it to me."

When she heard the condition, she reluctantly agreed. "I understand."

"Remember. Use the method with the least loss. Even if we can't capture him now, there is another chance. If my prediction is correct, he will be rebuilding the Ardagan Family soon."

"!!!" Qiel could see what the Supreme Devil was planning. "Even if we can't capture him now, we can attack the new Ardagan Family. With a bigger target, it would be easier to lure him out."

"That's right. Alexander will maintain the conflict with the Demon Banner Army. And Laufey, you are going to help the Third Prince in his plan. We will use him to distract the Royal Family. Besides, he was the one taking care of Noel during his time in the army, right? Use him to get all the information about Noel Ardagan. And you could tell him to force Noel to do something where we can trap them."

"I've received your order." Alexander nodded without hesitation while Laufey lowered his head. "I shall not disappoint you."

Qiel and Nelfer exchanged looks before lowering their heads to show they had understood their assignment.

"All of you are dismissed."

Chapter 805 New Adventure

Meanwhile, on the southern part of the Muivell Kingdom, Noel and Dimitri were walking with their backs drenched. They didn't meet any mishaps on the way, so they didn't appear to be rushing.

However, once they were near the border, the temperature had increased drastically.

"I thought that I had prepared for the temperature, but this is much hotter than I imagined." Noel sighed. He had covered his entire body with thin clothes. Even his head was covered with a shawl to avoid direct sunlight.

Dimitri wore similar clothing and said, "This is not everything, Master. If we continue this way and reach the Atrecaeca Kingdom, it will be much hotter."

"Are you serious? The breeze that has been brushing our skin right now is already hot air." Noel frowned. Although he could shield himself from the heat, Dimitri had suggested not excessively using it because they would need their Spiritual Energy in the dangerous zone.

They hadn't reached the desert area, but they could see that less and less trees were around.

Dimitri saw a city in the distance and pointed in its direction, saying, "Master. That's the city, which is supposed to be the border."

"Then, we're going to enter the kingdom illegally."

"If we don't do that, we will be in great trouble since we're leaving our trail around."

"Alright then. I'm counting on you." Noel nodded in agreement.

Dimitri placed his hand on Noel's shoulder as he waved his hand. His shadow seemed to be following his hand and started to come out of the ground, forming a half-sphere to cover them.

After that, the sphere shrank until it reached the ground again, leaving only a black circle behind. The black circle suddenly moved at a fast speed. Unless they were searching for it, it was practically impossible to find this black circle.

They moved past the city pretty easily. There were multiple guards standing on the city wall, but none of them noticed their movement.

With this, they safely crossed the border and reached another kingdom.

As one would expect from the border, there was another city from the Atrecaeca Kingdom's side that watched over the area. Dimitri continued using his ability to hide them while slipping past them.

As soon as the cities disappeared into the horizon, Dimitri finally released his ability, allowing them to return to the surface.

"Ha..." Noel let out a sigh, his face was a bit pale. "I don't really like entering that shadow."

Dimitri chuckled. He knew that Noel could only see the darkness inside. And with him floating around, his senses would be confused, causing motion sickness.

Unlike Dimitri, who could get all the feeling from the shadow, Noel definitely felt awful when entering the shadow.

"In any case, we have entered the Atrecaeca Kingdom peacefully." Dimitri pointed forward. "Please take a look at that, Master."

"Hmm?" Noel squinted his eyes. The scenery changed so much that they couldn't see any trees anymore. They could see some roads ahead, but it was soon devoured by the presence of sand. And beyond that point, they couldn't see anything other than sand. "So, this is the famous desert..."

"Yes." Dimitri took out the map and said, "According to the map, we have to cross this desert for three days before we can encounter a city. Or we can loop around this place since the border is a bit suitable for living. We should encounter multiple cities."

"How are our supplies?" Noel asked.

"I have prepared enough for a week. But I think it will be troublesome for the water supply since this is hotter than I originally thought." Dimitri explained.

"Unfortunately, I can't melt my ice." Noel sighed. He had tried it in the past for survival. But because the ice was made of Spiritual Energy, it returned to its original form when it melted. "Well, we can cool down with the ice, which should take care of a bit of the heat problem."

"Yes, but we can't use our Spiritual Energy easily. While I know that looping around is the best action, it will take a lot of time. In addition, Old Ru told us to go south, so while we might encounter a lot of people while looping around, we may not be able to find our objective."

"Indeed. But the desert is quite dangerous as well, right?"

"Yes. The desert is said to be hot during the day and becomes extremely cold during the night. In addition, because of the harsh living conditions, the demons are rarely exterminated in this area. They can even hide underneath the sand."

"I can take care of the one underneath the sand." Noel had his Demon Hunter Medal, so it wouldn't be a problem.

"In that case, we could go there immediately. We don't have a lot of time in any case."

"Wait a minute." Noel stopped him and called Ardagan inwardly, 'Ardagan. Don't you think this is a perfect time for a mission?'

Noel had gotten quite strong in the previous training session. He had even absorbed a lot of crystals, allowing him to be around the peak of Spirit Master.

[While you might have become this strong, your Spiritual Energy Reserve is only enough for one or two more missions. After all, I have been preparing for your career advancement.]I think you should take a look at

'I see.' Noel remembered the Career Advancement, which required him to master a lot of runes. Although he had a lot of Skill Points to spare, he couldn't immediately raise their levels and advance to the new path. After all, he saved Skill Points so that he could use them to tackle any problems that he couldn't handle. If he didn't have any Skill Points to use, he would be in trouble soon enough.

So, Noel only fulfilled half of the condition while saving the rest of the Skill Points. It seemed that the burden of career advancement was higher than he expected.

'It seems that I can only solve that problem by breaking through to the Spirit Grandmaster, no?'

[You're correct. However, if there is an unprecedented situation, I might give you a mission.]

'Huh? You can see what's going to happen in the future, no? Why can't you just give me the mission like usual?'

[You should have learned about the concept of time.]

'Is it because something is fated to happen and something might change... I see. Places won't change, but people will. Every time there is a mission about the mission, it's either too vague because the people might leave a certain place or it's extremely detailed because that person is bound to remain in that place.'

Noel had come to a realization. He asked another question. 'In that case, do you mind giving me a mission to meet that fateful person?'

Ardagan didn't reply to him immediately. It seemed he was pondering the pros and cons. While it would give Noel some clues about this person, Ardagan didn't want to do something that would influence Noel's opinion about that person.

After a minute, Ardagan rejected the request.

[Unfortunately, I couldn't give you any mission about that fateful person. But I could give you another mission related to Heisk. Do you want it?]

'I want it.' Noel answered without hesitation.

[Mission: Heisk's Evolution.]

[Description: There is a mystical ice crystal underneath Ricoral City. The crystal will resonate with the Ocean Pearl Necklace and be extremely beneficial for Heisk's Evolution.]

[Reward: ???]

'It seems that you don't know what Heisk will get from this. But this is good enough.' Noel nodded in understanding. He took out the Ocean Pearl Necklace that he had been wearing this whole time.

He got this necklace from the Third Prince. It was said that the necklace could boost ice element spirit ability.

Although it worked, the boost wasn't as big as he expected. Even Heisk couldn't absorb it, saying it was incomplete.

Since there was a mission like this, it seemed that he had to make a trip to this so-called Ricoral City. With this mystical ice crystal, Heisk could take one step further.

"Dimitri. Is there any city called Ricoral on the map?" Noel asked.

"Wait a minute." Dimitri scanned the map and said, "I've found it. About a week from the next city, there is a place called Ricoral City."

"That's good. That will be our first destination."

"Understood." Dimitri didn't know the details, but it seemed that the living spirit guided him into that place.

Before leaving, Noel asked another thing. 'Ardagan. I have one last question for you. Though, I just want to confirm this... We're going to form Spirit Link as soon as I become a Spirit Grandmaster, right?'

[Yes. I've promised you. However, if you would listen to this small request of mine, please master your foundation. Listen to your surroundings and you will be able to do it.]

'Master my foundation.' Noel knew the foundation he was talking about. Damian had taught him about the secret of Spirit Grandmasters, so he tried to master his ability. But what he wanted to master was actually the control of his Undying Fire, which was the very foundation of his fire element.

Still, Ardagan's last sentence piqued his interest.

'Listen to your surroundings and you will be able to do it...' Noel didn't think he was talking about Dimitri. And it would be a long time before he could find another companion. So, he believed Ardagan was talking about the environment.

This was the clue that Ardagan had given him.

'I understand. Thank you for the advice.' Noel took a deep breath before signaling to Dimitri. "Let's go."

"Yes."

Noel and Dimitri began to cross the place called the desert.

Chapter 806 Slaves

Southern Part of the Atrecaeca Kingdom.

A young man was standing in the middle of the plaza. He had short brown hair and a pair of black eyes. His gaze was hollow, but it felt like he was observing something.

He was wearing ragged clothes that covered his upper body to his knees. His body was full of dirt and his skin was extremely tanned. Despite the intense heat, he wasn't sweating.

There was a handcuff made of metal that was attached by a big chain on his wrists and ankles.

When he looked at the plaza, his focus was glued to a book that someone was reading ten meters away from him.

He oddly looked at it as if he was interested in it.

Unfortunately for him, he was distracted by a whip that struck his back.

The sound produced by the strike was so loud that it made people know that it was a perfect strike.

The young man suddenly dropped to his knees while screaming, "Aaaahhhh!"

"This disobedient slave." A middle-aged man, who whipped him, walked to him and grabbed his hair. His expression was filled with anger and frustration.

"Aaaahhhh!" The man kept screaming in pain as he struggled to get up. However, the middle-aged man was dragging him by his hair as if he was treating him like an object.

He was brought to the group of people who wore similar clothing to him. After reaching the group, the middle-aged man kicked him from behind so that the ragged young man fell near them. As a result, those who witnessed such cruelty couldn't help but fear the consequences they would face if they didn't follow this middle-aged man's words.

The young man was struggling to get up as the pain spread all over his body.

The middle-aged man snorted. "Get up and follow me."

To avoid the consequences, the young man had no choice but to endure the pain. He stood up even with tears in his eyes as he continued walking with the rest.

Two hours later.

They had reached a certain place and the chained people were divided into a few prison cells. They were locked behind bars, not for those who were guilty, but for those who were enslaved.

The young man was locked with a middle-aged man and a young girl.

"Are you alright?" The young girl came to him, observing his condition. She could see several wounds on his body, making her think that he was going to die soon.

The young man looked at the girl for a moment but chose not to say anything.

The middle-aged man, on the other hand, warned her, "It's better if you don't associate yourself with him. It's not his first time disobeying the merchant. If you follow him, there is a chance that the merchant will be doing the same to you."

"..." The young girl gasped, not knowing what to say. On the one hand, she was scared of pain. On the other hand, she didn't want to see the man in front of her die.

The young man only turned his body around so that he didn't need to see the woman.

Yet, the girl actually approached him and tried to wipe the wound.

"Ouch!" The young man was startled by the sudden jolt of pain as he turned around, shouting, "What are you doing?"

The girl said with a smile. "Helping you doesn't mean following you, right?"

"..." The young man opened his mouth in surprise. He wanted to say something, but the words stuck in his mouth. This might be the first time that someone tried to associate with him.

He was known as eccentric from a long time ago, but to think that she would be doing something like this.

"Whatever." The boy snorted, acting as if he didn't care about her treatment. He thought that she would lose interest if he kept being mean.

Unfortunately for him, that never happened.

Several days had passed and the boy kept getting beaten due to his own interest. The girl always tried to treat his wounds despite having trouble herself.

However, he also noticed something from her. He actually found three scratch wounds on her lower arms. It appeared that the merchant harmed her as well.

On the one hand, the boy had told her to avoid him so that she didn't have to suffer. On the other hand, he felt bad because the girl's intention was good and yet, she was being punished for it.

After two weeks, the girl's complexion had become paler. Yet, she didn't stop doing the things she had always done. I think you should take a look at

The boy couldn't help but ask, "Why are you doing all this? You should have just stayed away from me and you will be fine."

The girl smiled weakly. "If I tell you that I want to die, what will you do?"

"Huh?" The boy was shocked to hear something like that from the girl's mouth. "What do you mean? Why do you want to die?"

"We have been enslaved for various reasons. Usually, the male will become either a meat shield for the soldiers or a slave for the mine. On the other hand, the female will become either s*x slaves or a toy for the rich. I haven't been sold yet, so why don't I do this and die in the process? This way, I only have to suffer for a while instead of for a lifetime."

Her reason was surprising. Even the boy couldn't believe what she was saying.

She could say a lot of lies such as she was doing it because of her heart or whatever reason that could change him. But this honest explanation moved the boy's heart.

The boy never realized that this would be his turning point.

Sadly, their fate had been sealed. The condition became worse and worse. Even though he was wounded, he still had a better vitality than the girls. So, he should still be able to last for a while or until he gets a new owner.

On the other hand, the girl's complexion became worse by the day. Her body had become weak and it seemed that she was going to die sooner or later.

Seeing the girl sitting down quietly on the corner as if she didn't want to trouble the others, the boy couldn't help but move next to her.

"What are you doing..." The girl asked weakly.

He didn't let out a word. He couldn't say anything even though he felt indebted. There was nothing he could do to help her this time.

Sadly, their misfortunes had yet to end. When the boy was about to lament his actions, an explosion occurred.

Boom!

The explosion was so big that it also hit the room they were in.

"What?!" The situation became chaotic. The shock wave knocked everyone back, the explosion destroyed a portion of the wall and ceiling and the rubbles was scattered around.

"Kh..." The boy was thrown to the other side of his cell, only to be stopped by the bars.

He didn't know what was happening, but when he opened his eyes to see what was going on, the sight was something that he couldn't forget.

The girl was lying in front of him. She might not have been crushed by the rubble, but it was clear that some smaller ones hit her.

Her head, her hands, and her waist were bleeding.

"What is this..." The guy gasped when he realized that she had been unconscious. If this continued, the girl would definitely die.

He wanted to help her, but he didn't know what to do. However, he could see that due to the explosion, there was a hole in the room and the bars that locked him got hit by one of the big rubbles, causing it to bend. The hole made from it was big enough for them to leave.

However, there was a dilemma. In their country, a slave would be treated the same as livestock.

Due to the harsh living conditions, people often sold themselves as slaves for various reasons. If they were found to be running away, they wouldn't be accepted anywhere. In fact, there was a high chance that they would be apprehended by the guards and they would face bigger trouble.

On the one hand, the only way for him to save the girl was to leave this place and find a doctor. On the other hand, if he went to the doctor, they might die either way.

The guy gritted his teeth, wondering what he should do. When he took another look at the room, he realized that some of the slaves had been trying to escape as they didn't want to be buried in this place.

There were also a lot of cracks around the building, showing that it would collapse any time soon.

Those conditions only reinforced the will to live for the boy. He looked at the girl and started lifting her up with all his power.

He felt indebted to the girl. No matter what he needed to do, he was going to save her.

Unfortunately, they were just young slaves. They could only run away from the place, the city, or any place they could see, as the chains and clothes would identify them as slaves. They had to run as far as they could.

But eventually, the boy reached his limit as he was too exhausted to even maintain his consciousness.

Unbeknownst to him, not long after he fell unconscious, two shadows appeared, covering him from the sun.

Chapter 807 Slavery System

A moment ago.

"This heat is truly extreme." Noel sighed while walking in the desert.

"We are about to reach the first destination, Master." Dimitri pointed forward. "According to the map, the city should be in sight within the next few minutes."

"Is that so? Well, that's good. We have to restock our supplies as well."

"Agreed." Dimitri understood the harsh condition of the Atrecaeca Kingdom. During the day, it was so hot that even he, a Spirit Grandmaster, would have a hard time if he was exposed for a very long time. During the night, the cold was chilling enough to kill them in their sleep if they came without any preparation.

To think the people in this kingdom could withstand such harsh conditions, Dimitri and Noel were impressed.

However, they found something strange. They could see black smoke rising in the direction where they were supposed to go.

"Dimitri. Is that?" Noel pointed at the smoke while frowning.

Dimitri nodded his head, indicating his agreement. But the black smoke showed something different and much more ominous. He was afraid that this black smoke would actually get in the way since it meant that the city they were planning to visit was in trouble.

"In any case, let's head over there and check what's going on." Noel decided. In the end, they couldn't ignore their supplies, so even if they didn't want to go, they had to.

Of course, Dimitri and Noel didn't hasten their speed. They continued at the same pace, hoping that the situation was under control by the time they got there.

Unexpectedly, they found another thing that concerned them.

"Is that..." Noel gasped, seeing two bodies lying on the sand. It seemed that they had fallen unconscious.

"I don't see any presence nearby. I don't think it's a trap. Maybe the citizens are fleeing the town?" Dimitri examined the area, making sure that this wasn't a trap laid by the Atrecaeca Kingdom or the Supreme Devil Organization.

"Alright." Noel thought for a moment and said, "Is this what Old Ru means by fateful person?"

"I am not sure. After all, we haven't gone that far." Dimitri shook his head.

"Still, should we help them or something? We have entered this country illegally, you know."

"For now, let's check them first."

Noel and Dimitri agreed. They approached the two bodies and noticed that they were severely injured.

However, what piqued his interest was the fact that they had big iron bracelets on their wrists and ankles.

"This is..." Dimitri examined the two bodies and said, "I'm afraid that they are slaves, Master."

"Slaves? As in that kind of slave?" This was the first time Noel heard about slaves.

"In the Muivell Kingdom, there is no slavery. Although some are forced to do something they don't want to, there is no term for their type of labor. On the other hand, the Atrecaeca Kingdom has slavery.

"Due to the harsh living conditions, it won't be weird if someone sells their family members for some money or resources. In addition, the population growth in this place is extremely high. A single woman can actually give birth to more than five children easily and a lot of them are giving birth more than that in order to ensure the continuation of the family."

"What? Are you serious? Five or more children from a single wife?" Noel gasped. In the Muivell Kingdom, it was normal for them to have two children. Three was a bit too much for a single person, but he rarely heard more than five children from a single woman. That was why the information shocked him.

"Of course, the fatality rate is also high in this country. You could say that a lot of children are born so that the strongest can survive. Something like that."

"I see." Noel nodded with a solemn face.

"While slavery can't enter the Muivell Kingdom, which doesn't adopt such a system, it has been introduced to its neighboring country as well. There are four types of slaves: Combat, Worker, Mate, and Specialize."

Noel suddenly raised his hand and asked, "Before you continue with the explanation, should we help them first?"

Instead of answering him, Dimitri gave another explanation. "The slaves have lost all their rights. The fact that they are here means they have escaped from their owner. I don't know if they already have an owner or are still under a slave merchant. Either way, they might be captured or killed even if they return. In other words, it's up to your choice if you want to let them die or not, Master." "I think you should take a look at

Noel looked at these two. On the one hand, he pitied them because he could see the determination of them escaping from the town. On the other hand, he didn't want to cause more problems on their trip this time.

Hence, Noel had to consider the pros and cons before making a decision.

Whether it was fortunate or unfortunate, Noel remembered how he was so helpless in the past, hoping someone could take him in to sweep away his sadness after his parents' execution.

In the end, Noel decided, "Let's help them and bring them a bit away from here. There is also a chance that they are the ones Old Ru mentioned. Even if they are not, we can use their knowledge about this kingdom or just hand them to the authorities later."

"Understood." Dimitri immediately covered them with his shadow so that the heat didn't kill them. "But how do we heal them?"

"I can use my Force Control to stimulate their natural recovery. It's up to their will if they are going to survive or not."

After receiving his answer, Noel and Dimitri moved away from the location, bringing the two far away from the town.

Dimitri erected a tent so that the heat wouldn't reach them while Noel used his Force Control to spread his Spiritual Energy into their body, invoking their natural recovery.

Of course, he also washed away all their wounds and bodies since it seemed that the slaves didn't even wash their bodies.

Since slaves had been deprived of their rights, Noel didn't care about their genders anymore.

After taking care of their wounds, Noel asked, "Can you continue with your explanation?"

"Understood." Dimitri raised four fingers. "The Combat Slave usually consists of strong men and women like war prisoners or poor fighters. Worker Slaves are the most common people as they can be anything, including children."

"Mate slaves can also be male or female. Unlike the Muivell Kingdom, you can basically have a lot of lovers if you want. I mean, it's normal for men to have several wives in the Muivell Kingdom, but in this place, the idea of women having multiple husbands isn't that weird. After all, having multiple wives or husbands could create connections and fighters for the family, leading to a higher chance of survival."

"Last but not least, the Specialize type. This one is similar to the Worker type, but instead of labor intensive, this Specialize type is good at other things with brain or power. For example, they understand business, manage a family, or even do research. Because this kingdom emphasizes strength, people like them are important. Among all slaves, they are probably the most well-treated ones."

"I see. Since we're talking about someone who can be my disciple, they might be in the Specialized type if they are slaves, right?"

"Indeed. Of course, we need money to buy slaves."

"The currency?"

"Because strength reigns supreme on this land, they love Demon Crystals more than gold. Ten Low Demon Crystals are equal to one Mid Demon Crystals. The rate is the same for the upper level."

Noel noticed something off. "Now that I think about it, how do you know if one is a slave or not? I mean, they surely have chains or whatsoever to bind them, but Combat Slaves are strong, right? They can simply destroy it."

"Yes. You might have noticed it already when washing their bodies. They have a similar tattoo on their back."

"Ah! Is that a mark?"

"Yeah. Though, there is also a possibility of remaking that mark with something else after escaping. I heard some slaves returned a few years later and took revenge on their previous owners. Basically, this kingdom is chaotic."

Noel didn't expect that the Atrecaeca Kingdom was this different. While the concept of slavery was understandable, he never thought that they would be treated like toys, tools, or even objects. This was something he had never known before, but for the Atrecaeca Kingdom, this was the norm.

"Well, I'm still planning to go further south for that Ricoral City and their capital, hoping that I meet another person. The only question is whether to bring them or not." Noel glanced at the two slaves, indicating that they would be a burden.

Unfortunately, they couldn't be saints who helped people just because they pitied them. Bringing them would slow down their progress or even cause a conflict, so Noel had to consider it carefully.

"That's up to you, Master. If you want, we can test whether they are useful or not. Whether it's knowledge, power, or anything... If they aren't useful, you can either turn them in or let them go. Either way, it won't affect us. Though, I hope they will wake up soon since we can't wait too long."

"Yeah. Let's do that." Noel agreed with Dimitri and chose to wait. "One day. If they can't wake up, then we'll just leave them here."

"Understood." Even though it was cold, Dimitri agreed because they had no other choice.

Chapter 808 Tristan

Pant!

Pant!

A young man ran slowly while carrying a girl on his back. His face expressed his desperation

"Please help her!"

He kept shouting, but the people were only staring at him, not planning to do anything.

The young man couldn't forget their disgusted faces as if they were thinking of him as dirt to society.

"Please..." He made eye contact with another person, but that person looked at him with contempt. He even shouted, "There is a slave running away here!"

The young man panicked. He didn't mind if he got beat up by the guards and lost his life, but he couldn't endanger the girl on his back any longer. If the guards caught them, the girl would definitely lose her life.

"Ha..."

"Ha..."

He kept running in the same direction until he couldn't see buildings anymore. Even so, he continued because the guards could easily catch up to them and kill them.

His feet didn't stop even a second for another hour until he eventually became too weak to move and fell to the blanket of sand.

"No... I still have to go... I can't..." The young man thought while tearing up. He didn't want to give up. He wanted to save the girl. Unfortunately, he couldn't do it.

"Aaahhhh!" All of a sudden, the guy shouted and rose. It seemed that he was in a tent or something. He looked around and noticed that the girl was right next to him. Her breathing seemed to have stabilized and her injury had closed.

"You..." The young man teared up. On the one hand, he felt glad to see the girl alive. On the other hand, he didn't know what was happening to them.

All of a sudden, a voice came from the outside as two men opened the tent.

"Oh, it seems that you've woken up. That's good." The younger one smiled at him.

The young man panicked, not knowing what these two men were planning to do. He hurriedly spread his left arm as if trying to protect the girl.

"You don't have to act like that. No one is going to snatch her from you... Though, your fate will be decided by yourself." Noel smiled and said, "Try to remember everything first. I'll wait for you outside in five minutes."

Noel just chose to let him be so that the young man could regain his composure. Dimitri, on the other hand, stood next to the tent to make sure they didn't do anything stupid.

The young man was stunned by Noel's action. His accent didn't seem to be coming from this kingdom.

When he looked at the girl beside him, he realized that this was probably his chance. He also noticed that his chains hadn't been removed yet, showing that he didn't plan to mess with the authorities. In other words, if he wanted to get this place alive, he had to convince Noel.

It only took him three minutes before coming out of the tent.

"Oh." Noel looked at this unknown young man walking toward him. But before he reached Noel, the young man suddenly fell onto his knees and placed his hand on the ground. "Please. You can do whatever you want to me. Just please... let the girl go."

Dimitri raised his eyebrows, not expecting such a request. With their facial features, they didn't seem to be siblings. So, it was clear that the reason why the young man did this was because of their relationship between slaves.

However, he didn't know what happened between them to the point where the young man would sacrifice his life. Of course, he had to consider the fact that they were slaves.

Noel maintained his silence for a moment, causing the young man to panic.

"You may take my life as you please. I can even do everything you want as long as you let her go."

Noel replied, "Even if I let her go, she won't be able to do anything. Just like her, you are just a slave."

"I..." The young man couldn't refute Noel's words. A slave didn't have any rights in the first place, so what made him think he could negotiate with Noel? That was why the slave said, "I have a good memory..."

"Hoh?" Noel narrowed his eyes. He had learned the four types of slaves. But from the looks of it, this young man was in the worker category. If he actually had a good memory that could be useful, he might become the Specialized type.

"I remember..." The young man began to draw something on the sand. His hand was shaking because of his fear and anxiety, but his face was determined to finish it.

Unexpectedly, Noel was surprised by the drawing. He would never think that the young man was actually drawing a rune. It wasn't completed and his technique was messy, so it wouldn't work, especially since the young man didn't have Spiritual Energy.

However, the fact that he could draw a rune alone was enough to pique his interest. Of course, the book could be easily acquired since he spread it in that way. If the slave merchant used the book to educate the slave and turn them into the Specialized type, the young man's existence was not impossible. He had spread the knowledge for almost a year, so this kind of thing was bound to happen.

So, Noel asked, "Your name?"

"Tr—Tristan." The young man introduced himself.

"I will have to consider the risk first. So, how about telling me how you learned about this and what happened in that city?"

"..." The young man looked hesitant, but since he had no other choice, he told Noel everything.

The reason why he was beaten up badly was not because of the explosion. Instead, he had been defying the slave merchant because he kept standing in a certain place whenever he had the chance.

It turned out he had been planning to use his good memory to become a Specialized Type slave by looking at the rune book that ordinary people had. He memorized the rune at every chance he'd got.

This was the result of his culmination. Unfortunately, the young man also didn't know what happened to the city as he escaped frantically.

With how the townspeople were not leaving the city in panic, it was clear that demons weren't the cause. It must be an internal conflict or something and could be resolved pretty quickly.

After listening to his story, Dimitri couldn't help but come to him, whispering, "Master. Don't you think..."

Noel shook his head. "I can't say for sure. Either way, I'm planning to go to that city and the one beyond it just in case."

"I understand." Dimitri stepped back and noticed the tent was moving. "It seems that the other kid has woken up." I think you should take a look at

Tristan's body shook as he hurriedly turned his head around. It seemed that the girl was more important than Noel.

From his story, Noel could also understand why Tristan protected her.

So, Noel said, "Check her condition. If she is already strong enough, bring her here."

"Yes."

Tristan wanted to say something, but Dimitri arrived at the tent in an instant. He took a glance at the young girl and used his Spiritual Energy to bring her.

The girl didn't seem to be fighting as if she had resigned to her fate. However, she was also shocked to find Tristan kneeling to Noel.

"Please... Don't hurt her." Tristan kept begging Noel, thinking they could easily kill her.

Noel thought for a moment and said, "That depends on your action."

"What do you want me to do?" Tristan asked without hesitation.

"I'll give you a test." Noel smirked while raising two fingers. "If you pass, I can remove those chains and bring you away. And if you impress me, I don't mind bringing you away from this country and employing you or even more. At the very least, you will lead a better life there."

Noel had given enough information to Tristan. It seemed that he was also aware that Noel was a noble. On the one hand, he was tempted to leave this damned country. On the other hand, he was worried about the girl.

"I..." Tristan was hesitant. "What will happen to her?"

"Of course. You can bring her too. I can probably employ her as a maid and not mistreat her."

Noel's offer was like a devil's temptation. Other than his words, Noel couldn't guarantee anything.

However, a slave didn't have any rights to begin with. This was probably the best thing he could get from a stranger.

"Don't accept it, Tristan. Just kill me and let him go!" The girl said, trying to stop him.

But those words of hers made him steel his resolve.

"I will do it."

"Alright. The test is..." Noel raised his hand and formed a rune. He pointed the rune at a stone and activated it.

Suddenly, the rune shot Spiritual Energy and shattered the rock completely.

"This is your test. Prove to me that you have a good memory by recreating the rune on the sand."

"!!!" Both Tristan and the girl gasped. They were shocked that Noel could use the rune to destroy a big rock in the distance. It showed his strength as well.

"Do you need to see the rune one more time?" Noel asked.

"No. One time is enough." Tristan shook his head. He immediately started drawing from what he could see.

Of course, he started slowly and carefully because he didn't want to make any mistakes. Sometimes, he even stopped as if trying to recount the exact detail from his memory.

After five minutes, Tristan completed his drawing. Even Dimitri was quite shocked by the result.

Tristan could actually draw a rune with a single glance. Of course, Tristan didn't know anything about the depth of the stroke and the size of the line since he didn't have any basic knowledge about runes.

But achieving this level alone was already enough to impress Noel.

With this memory alone, it was enough for people to want him to be their disciple, especially for runes that relied on memory and skill.

After completing the rune, Tristan looked at Noel with a hopeful look.

However, Noel didn't give his answer immediately.

"Master... Don't you want a disciple? I think his talent is enough." Dimitri suddenly interjected.

"A disciple?" The girl was shocked while Tristan's body trembled. If Tristan actually became Noel's disciple, their status would be elevated even if they went to another country.

However, Noel still looked at the rune as if contemplating his choice carefully.

"While I do need a disciple, he doesn't have a Spiritual Energy, doesn't have a basic foundation for Spirit, and even the will to work for it." Noel shook his head helplessly. "I'm in a rush, so nurturing one will take a long time."

All of a sudden, Tristan refuted him. "I have the will. Even if I have to die, I will definitely work hard. I will definitely reach your expectations."

Noel looked at him with a calm look before saying, "I'm still planning to go around the kingdom. You may follow me. During that course of time, I'll give you several tests. If you succeed, I'll take you in as my disciple."

"Understood..." Tristan paused because he didn't know what he should call him.

"Right? I haven't introduced myself." Noel smiled playfully. "I am Noel Ardagan. Nice to meet you."

"Understood, Sir Noel... Noel..." Tristan seemed to remember something. It felt like he had seen Noel's name somewhere.

The rune that Noel showed earlier reminded him of the book, especially the cover of the book that stated the author's name. Yes, the author of the book was also called Noel Ardagan.

Tristan suddenly raised his head and dropped his jaw. "The author of the book?"

No one would expect that a slave like him would actually meet the author of the famous rune book, let alone consider him to be his disciple.

Chapter 809 Plan

The girl introduced herself as Sandra. Her situation was similar to Tristan, who was sold by their parents for the sake of some money so that their family could survive.

And they promised that they would follow Noel on his trip until they returned with him to the Muivell Kingdom.

However, before they continued their journey, Noel showed them three problems they had to discuss first.

"First of all. We are still going to the city to restock our supplies. Since we have two more mouths to feed, we have to get more supply than necessary. Hence, Tristan will go with me to resupply." Noel pointed at Tristan instead of Dimitri.

"Huh?" Dimitri frowned. "Master. If you want to resupply, then I will go with you."

"No. It's better for you to stay here and protect Sandra. I'm planning to check the condition in the city as well."

"But..." Dimitri contemplated. He had several reasons to stop him, but he only mentioned the most important one. "Although Tristan can go, he might be recognized as a slave. If someone recognizes him, you'll be in trouble without a doubt."

That was right. If the slave merchant or the townspeople recognized him, they would definitely bring Tristan back and cause some trouble for Noel.

"That's easy." Noel waved his hand to Tristan, asking him to come over. Once Tristan stood in front of him, Noel grabbed the chains and iron bracelets before pouring his Spiritual Energy.

With the skill Old Ru taught him, Noel enveloped the outer layer of the iron bracelet while maintaining the Spiritual Energy so that it didn't burn Tristan's skin. In just three seconds, everything melted into nothing.

Instead of cutting it or breaking it apart, Noel actually melted it. After that, he took off his masquerade, showing his true appearance.

Tristan and Sandra gasped because they never thought that Noel wasn't that much older than them. Yet, he was already this strong. And with the fact that Noel was the author of the rune book, Tristan knew that following him wasn't a mistake.

Before they could say anything, Noel put the masquerade on Tristan, changing the color of his hair and eyes.

With this, Tristan shouldn't be recognizable from those two alone, which caused the people to doubt it.

"This should be fine, right?" Noel asked.

Dimitri couldn't say a single thing. On the one hand, he was worried about Noel, who had to take off his masquerade. On the other hand, this wasn't the Muivell Kingdom, so no one should recognize him.

Ultimately, Dimitri nodded his head, showing his approval.

Seeing how Tristan was going to do all the work, Sandra felt empty. She had been trying to die this whole time without abandoning her humanity, but she was swept away by the situation earlier and ended up agreeing to become Noel's worker.

She didn't know what they should do from this point on.

"I..." Sandra suddenly opened her mouth and begged Noel. "Please let me do something too."

Noel and Tristan turned to her. Tristan objected, "No, you don't have to do anything. Just let me do the rest. This time, I'm the one going to take care of you."

Sandra wanted to refute him, but Noel asked, "Even if I want to ask you, can you do anything? Do you have any special qualities?"

"That's..." Sandra couldn't answer that question. She was just a normal person.

Tristan smiled. "In the past few weeks, you have been the one taking care of me. You give me a reason not to give up and continue to live on. So, please..."

Sandra looked unwilling, but she had no choice but to agree.

Seeing Sandra's face, Dimitri couldn't help but ask, "How about I train her to be a maid? The Ardagan Family has three levels of maids and butlers: Outer, Inner, and Personal. The Outer is a normal maid who handles all the gardens and chores. The Inner Level is those who have at least basic knowledge and skill, including martial arts. They are usually placed around the mansion so that they can help the family in case of emergency. The personal maid is like a combat maid. Not only do you need all kinds of skills, but you also need high combat prowess to protect your master. I am your Personal Butler assigned by your father, Master."

"Hoh?" This was the first time he heard about it. As expected, he only learned the surface of how to manage a family. By creating a lot of layers, it would be hard to shake the family. "If she learns from you, it means that she is going to learn martial arts, etiquette, and all kinds of chores, right?"

"Yes. I'm planning to train her to be at least an Inner Maid."

Obviously, Tristan didn't like this idea. When Noel saw his expression, he added, "That means if Tristan can't complete my test, she should gain some skills so that she can survive. After all, we have to leave them behind, right?"

"!!!" Tristan fell silent after hearing those words. Noel was telling him that even if he failed, they would be able to do something and continue to live on together. Knowing that, he somehow stopped himself from showing an objection. I think you should take a look at

"I will do it. Please let me do it." Sandra lowered her head.

"How is that, Dimitri?"

"I will do my best. Though, I won't be showing any mercy, especially since they are already a bit too old for training. I have to pick up the pace."

"Alright. You teach them about that basic stuff. After you're done with Tristan, I'll continue with the lesson about runes." Noel looked at Tristan. "Remember this. If you can't even keep up with the training, let alone give you a test, I won't even bother to teach you about runes."

"I understand." Tristan was aware that he was still a slave even if Noel had burned away everything. Noel was already gracious enough to show enough compassion by promising to teach him the runes. If he somehow managed to become the disciple of the author of the rune book, he would be able to turn his life around.

"Alright. Since we've reached an agreement, I'm going to tell you about the second and third problems. Rune has become a vital point of a great change that will occur in all kingdoms soon. So, I, the author, will most likely get targeted, including both of you. I'm going to protect my people, but you should be aware that your life will be in danger if you remain beside me."

"Last but not least, you two have become another variable in my journey. Know that my order considers your safety as well. If you can't follow my order, don't blame me for being a bit merciless." Noel squinted his eyes.

Sandra and Tristan felt chills down their spine despite the hotness of the desert. They weren't adept in this matter because they didn't even have a basic education, so they didn't understand what Noel was saying. But it was clear that Noel was serious about it.

"Then... let's go." Noel stood up and raised his hood.

Dimitri took a set of clothes and a coat and put it on Tristan. With the new clothes, hood, and masquerade, Tristan shouldn't look like a slave at first glance.

Luckily, due to the situation in the desert, if they used high walls to protect their city, the heat would get trapped inside. Hence, there was no city gate or whatsoever.

Noel and Tristan could easily enter the city. As they expected, even after the chaos from earlier, the city didn't seem to be affected.

Noel asked, "Guide me to the place you escaped from."

Tristan was slightly shocked that Noel wanted to go to that place. He thought Noel wanted to hand him away, which scared him. However, Tristan remembered Noel's words earlier and decided to lead him.

Once they reached that place, they saw a crowd surrounding the area.

"Hmm?" Noel frowned. Since he couldn't see it from here, Noel dragged Tristan to an alley.

The building in this city had a similar structure. They were using box shapes that stretched upward.

But because of it, Noel could easily step on the roof. So, he just grabbed Tristan's waist and used the rune to toss him into the roof.

Tristan was surprised that rune could be used this way. But Noel told him to stay here as he walked to the edge of the roof to check what was going on.

He saw numerous people lying on the ground. They seemed to have died, but what concerned Noel was the fact that they had similar clothing as Tristan's earlier.

It was clear they were slaves. And more and more bodies were dragged from the collapsed building.

No one seemed to have survived. Tristan's choice to escape might not be wrong.

However, he also noticed that a fat middle-aged man was clutching his head while shouting, "No. Why did this happen? I lost all my slaves."

"..." Noel frowned. He knew that the middle-aged man was the slave merchant that owned Tristan earlier. But he didn't like how he treated those people like an object even though Dimitri had taught him about this country's slavery system.

Unfortunately, Noel could only remain silent in this different ideology.

Since nothing important could be gained, Noel returned to Tristan and asked, "Do you have anything you want to do to that guy?"

Tristan shook his head. For him, escaping from the slave merchant was already enough.

"Alright then. Let's go around the town to resupply and gather some information. Try to remember the layout of the city, listen to the people's words, and see if there is anything weird."

"Understood."

Chapter 810 Parade

Noel and Tristan continued wandering around the city. As a future lord, he gathered information about the town like its economy and politics.

"Here you go." Noel handed a few coins to the seller while grabbing a huge bag that contained their supply.

Of course, Noel had thought about using the Honor Points to procure water and hunting demons for food, but he was a bit skeptical about the idea.

On the one hand, losing some Honor Points gave a lot of convenience. On the other hand, he didn't want to waste too many Honor Points, especially with the fact that the two kids were here.

He wanted to get accustomed to the fact that they might have no water to drink. He would definitely use his Honor Points in an emergency though.

Due to his policy, he understood the supply problem the kingdom had. According to the locals, the kingdom had a problem with both water supply and food.

While their border wasn't as good as the Muivell Kingdom so that the demons could roam in their kingdom and become the source of food, it was still hard to hunt one.

Drinking water was also a problem because rain only came every now and then, so most of their water supply came from either other cities or underground.

Those two necessities were a bit expensive in this area. So, Noel learned how they handled the problem and ran a city.

The situation might not apply to the Muivell Kingdom, but if a drought or famine hit his territory, he could use their method to get by. This was the reason why Noel didn't bring a lot of stuff and used his system to his advantage. He wanted to procure everything from this kingdom and ask things while he was at it.

After procuring their supplies, Noel looked at Tristan, who was wearing his clothes.

"Is there something wrong, Master?" Tristan asked. The 'master' in his mouth was like a slave calling its owner instead of a disciple calling its teacher. Tristan was aware of his position. He hadn't become Noel's disciple, so it was only right for him to address him this way.

"We still don't have any clothes for you and Sandra. Let's get some and continue the journey."

"I don't mind if I only need to wear that ragged clothes." Tristan politely rejected, not wanting to burden Noel even further.

"The living conditions are extreme in the desert, I don't want you to get frozen during the night. If you are sick whatsoever, it will also burden me. So, we're going to get some clothes for both of you." Noel continued walking, ignoring his concern. He added, "If you want to repay me, you can do it by completing my tests."

Tristan raised his eyebrows, surprised. It seemed that Noel had some expectations of him. In order to turn his life around, Tristan swore that he would definitely become Noel's disciple.

The two continued to walk to the clothing store.

However, they suddenly heard a rumbling sound coming from the side, followed by a lot of cheers.

"Ooohhh!"

"Sir Ramirez."

It was a bit far away from them, but it seemed that the cheers were moving in their direction.

When other people heard about those cheers, they came out of their buildings and tried to find the so-called Ramirez.

Even the store in front of him suddenly opened its door as a few employees came out to take a sneak peek.

"Ah?! A customer?" An employee stopped for a moment, recognizing Noel and Tristan. However, seeing their clothes that didn't seem to be coming from this kingdom, the employee asked, "I apologize, Sir. Do you mind waiting for a bit?"

"Is there a celebration or something?" Noel asked.

"You must be a tourist." An employee smiled and extended her hand to the side, explaining, "The city protector must have come back. I don't know if you are aware of it, but the city protector is the most respected person in this city. He leads his army to hunt a lot of demons to feed the citizens. Thanks to him and the team, we have no food problem."

"Is that so? Now I'm curious about him." Noel nodded in understanding. "Is he coming back every day?"

"No. He usually organizes twice a month. They bring a lot of demons back. If you wait for a bit, you will see a long train of demon corpses."

"Oh? In that case, I'll wait here and see the process. Will there be a problem if I am from another kingdom?" Noel asked.

"Of course not. There are a lot of tourists and Sir Ramirez doesn't have any problem with foreigners. So, you will be fine." I think you should take a look at

"In that case, I'll watch it and enter the store after it's over."

"Thank you for your understanding, Good Sir." The employee smiled. It seemed that the parade was a big deal, considering they respected him so much.

Even normal customers came out to take a peek at this Ramirez.

Curious, Noel stood next to the store with Tristan beside him. He asked in a low voice, "Do you know anything?"

"Yes. Each city usually has its own protector. You have to be strong and capable of leading an army to hunt the food. In exchange, you become the most respected person in this city. You will get money from the tax people pay, you get the fame not only in the city you protect but also in another city, and you can easily get any woman you want. Sometimes, they don't mind becoming a concubine, but sometimes, it causes a conflict and strength will overrule everything."

"I see." Noel squinted his eyes as the cheers were about to reach his place. Noel waited for the so-called Ramirez to appear.

Before that person appeared, it seemed that Ardagan had managed to capture him first by using the Affection Medal.

Name: Ramirez

Affection: Neutral (0/100)

Description: He doesn't know you.

After the information, Ramirez finally appeared in the corner of his vision.

He looked like a man in his early thirties. He had curly black hair and a robust body. His eyes were sharp but gentle.

The one that stood out from him was the sword that he used. The sword curved so much that it was almost a crescent. The handle and the scabbard were coated with gold with a lot of shining gems.

He didn't seem to have any armor. His clothes were very loose and thin, exposing a good portion of his body.

Noel squinted his eyes, trying to measure his ability.

As he expected, this person was only a Spirit Master. What piqued Noel's interest was the middle-aged man next to him. He looked more reserved and calm, but Noel could see that he was a Spirit Grandmaster.

If Noel had to fight them, he could easily defeat this Ramirez and have a hard time against this old man. Behind them were a lot of carts carrying a mountain of demon corpses. Surprisingly, the ones that pushed the carts were humans. If he looked at their attire, he was sure they were slaves. They all looked exhausted, but nobody paid them any attention.

He could understand that these demons could be used to feed the entire city for a while. Noel hardly encountered any demons on his way to this place, so it seemed that this group was the one exterminating them.

'I wonder if I can use this kind of system too? Well, the soldiers will definitely hunt some demons. But how should I distribute the Demon Crystals and the meat?' Noel frowned and asked Tristan. "How do you distribute all those things?"

"There is another building for that. Usually, they share it over a period of time and a person from the family will line up. If they find out that there are two members of one family lining up, then you will be punished."

"That's for the meat. How about the Demon Crystals?"

"They are usually distributed to the army. They are the ones keeping the town safe, so it's only right for them to get stronger."

Noel contemplated for a moment. 'The soldiers can probably do that, but I think I should get a portion of the Demon Crystals for additional funds or another way to reward them. Since I'm near the border, there will be a lot of demons around, which means the meat will be abundant. Should I sell their corpses as well? But bringing all their corpses is going to be a challenge. Unlike this place, we don't have slaves or even terrain. Should I pay people to do the rough job? But will it cover the cost? If it's too long, the meat will rot as well. This is hard.'

Noel kept encountering a lot of questions as he couldn't help but ask, "Is there any way to preserve meat? I mean, they're doing it twice a month, right? It means the meat has to last for about two weeks."

"Yes. They do have a preservation method. But I'm afraid I don't know the method."

"I see. Where can I find the method? Is it available to the public?"

"I believe they are secret methods to each city and only the protector knows about it. It's a kind of liquid that prevents the meat from rotting." Tristan pointed at the corpse. "Right now, there is no mixture yet. But once they process it, we usually get meat with some sort of powders. Not only can it preserve the meat longer, but it also tastes better."

Noel became more curious about it. He thought about it until the parade was over and the store finally opened again.