

## **S vs Rebirth 821**

### Chapter 821 Running

Cling!

Cling!

Cling!

A series of clicking sounds echoed in the area. Nelfer had parried all sorts of attacks from Dimitri.

"Hahaha. As expected, an assassin instantly becomes weak the moment your existence is exposed. I guess that's all to the so-called best assassin." Nelfer laughed out loud, his tone was filled with confidence.

Dimitri maintained his poker face. It was true that he was worried about Noel, but he couldn't do much because of this guy.

However, he was trying to understand Noel's needs and intentions. If necessary, he would be using his True Spirit Body. Though, that also meant a direct provocation to Qiel, causing him to use the same thing. He didn't know if Nelfer had it or not, but if he fought against both of them in that condition, they would definitely kill him and Noel.

Dimitri waved his blade upward.

Nelfer felt the fluctuation of Spiritual Energy from below. He jumped backward as spikes emerged from his shadow, almost piercing his body.

After that, Dimitri charged forth and swung diagonally.

Seeing Dimitri plan to attack Qiel, Nelfer stomped the ground, kicking up the sand.

The sand blinded Dimitri for a split second. Nelfer used that opportunity to reach him and punched him from behind the sand.

"!!!" Dimitri blocked the punch with his blade, but it was strong enough to the point where he got pushed back. If not for him twisting his body to the side, he would have been blown away.

He could see why Nelfer became one of the Devil Saints.

Yet, despite being pressured like this, Dimitri remained calm. As long as Qiel had yet to lower her bow, it meant that Noel was still fighting.

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Noel saw that Qiel had cleared the area, allowing the people from the Supreme Devil Organization to surround him.

Because the arrow was like a cannon, Legolaz would notice the situation even if he didn't want it.

"What?!" Legolaz frowned. "Who are they? Are they chasing that guy? But it's true that this ladre is overwhelmingly talented. I guess they're trying to kill him to eliminate someone they can't control..."

Legolaz was wondering what he should do. On the one hand, helping Noel here would allow him to gain Noel's favor. There was even a chance to recruit him. On the other hand, he could see that his pursuers were stronger than him. If he recklessly chose to side with him, they might eliminate him and the second prince.

But these people should also know that they had offended him as well as caused great havoc in the Atrecaeca Kingdom. The kingdom would surely retaliate in any kind.

Ultimately, Legolaz decided to wait and see. If the situation was in his favor, he would definitely take advantage of it.

Noel also noticed how he couldn't get any help from other people. In fact, Qiel had done her best to avoid harming the people from the Atrecaeca Kingdom to lessen the conflict.

Several Spirit Masters approached him from the side. Noel raised his left hand. The fire rose and formed a giant hand. He slapped all of them, including the spiritual abilities they released. The fire overpowered the spiritual abilities, forcing the enemies to retreat.

Though, there was another reason why Noel used this kind of attack. Using the phoenix might not be that apparent considering he didn't look like he was summoning it, but he wanted to openly show everyone that he had a fire element on top of his ice element.

The second prince and Legolaz involuntarily found that fact after seeing the giant hand.

"What?! He has two elements?" Legolaz gasped.

Ramuer contemplated, "If he truly has two elements, which is not the norm..."

They were reconsidering their actions. Normally, people wouldn't like to get involved in someone's matter, but it would be different if the reward was big enough.

The two elements Noel possessed certainly tempted them.

Unfortunately, they couldn't make their decision rashly. There was no guarantee that Noel would join their side even if they helped him.

After watching this situation, Noel might have to change his plan.

'It seems that I can't manipulate them yet. In that case, I'll create a gap before rushing to the ruin.'

Noel took a glimpse of the pattern in the distance. It seemed that it was about to blast him again.

Hence, Noel raised his hand and formed a big ice lotus in the air.

Someone like Qiel obviously wouldn't allow Noel to do anything. Without hesitation, she released her arrow, shooting down the lotus.

Boom!

The explosion sent a chilling wave in all directions. The petals shattered into small ice particles.

The Devil Bishops and Devil Inspectors around him hesitated for a second. The small ice particles might be another way for Noel to attack them. So they couldn't be rash.

Noel took advantage of that hesitation. He rushed toward the northwest.

"!!!" They were startled for a second before chasing after him, not letting him run away.

As for Qiel, she noticed Noel's intention when seeing it from afar.

"Huh? That brat..." Qiel furrowed her eyebrows. She realized that Noel was taking advantage of both the Peak Level Demons and people to cover himself. "He notices that I'm trying not to harm other people?"

Qiel was amazed by Noel's eyesight. If they were on the same side, she would definitely nurture someone like him.

If he continuously hid among the people, the Supreme Devil Organization would definitely be more hesitant to harm him. But Qiel noticed something ridiculous from the direction he was going.

"Wait a minute..." Qiel squinted her eyes. Noel was actually approaching Legolaz and the Superior Demon, making her think that he was planning to strike a deal with Legolaz. It would be troublesome if he did that, so Qiel aimed at him again and released a few strikes.

"!!!" Noel raised his head and saw another opportunity.

Instead of getting scared of the arrow, he used the Split Step as well as the Enhance Forward Rune in his body simultaneously.

The Split Step caused him to split into two, confusing the people that chased him on the ground. The Enhance Forward Rune boosted his speed, allowing him to slip past the arrows before they hit the ground.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

The arrows reached the ground and exploded. But because of their angle, the shock wave produced was mostly directly forward.

For Noel, who managed to slip past the impact zone, the shock wave wasn't enough to cause him to fall. But for the people from the organization who were behind him, the shock wave hit them at full force, causing them to stop. Some of them were even blown away.

A few people from the Atrecaeca Kingdom were also hit by the blast, causing confusion among them.

"What is this?"

"Did someone attack us?"

"Did they not know that we're fighting against demons?"

They were searching for the people responsible, resulting in the people from the organization on the ground becoming a bit hesitant in their movement.

Noel smirked and was about to reach the lizard.

Sadly for him, Qiel had adjusted her aim and released one last strike before Noel could reach Legolaz. It was slightly above Legolaz and the lizard and would explode in front of Noel even if he used his full speed.

However, that didn't matter anymore. Noel couldn't help but smirk because his plan worked.

When the arrow was about to reach him, the sand lizard suddenly flapped its tail.

Bam!

The wave created from the tail dispersed the energy from the arrow, causing it to disappear before hitting Noel.

"!!!" Qiel was surprised that a Superior Demon could do that. And this was the reason why Noel would actually come to this place.

Because of the power of that arrow, the lizard knew which direction he should go. He basically perceived Qiel to be more dangerous than Legolaz.

In that instant, the lizard turned around and located Qiel before rushing toward her.

"That freaking bastard. He made me shoot the arrow so that the lizard would chase after me?" Qiel gritted her teeth, finally understanding why Laufey could be defeated by Noel.

With this, Qiel had to fight against the Superior Demon with that unique ability. Meanwhile, Dimitri could focus on dealing with Nelfer.

As for Noel, he only needed to take care of the remaining Supreme Devil Organization members. Of course, there was a chance that more members would be hidden elsewhere. And if it took a long time, Qiel would defeat the lizard first and help them.

Hence, Noel made a decision not to go to Legolaz. Instead, he shifted his direction to the ruin.

That was right. He ran past all the people and demons and used his Ice Lotus to break apart the defense made by the Mid Level Demons.

He emerged from the encirclement and headed straight to the ruin.

"Not good. He is planning to hide inside." Qiel obviously wouldn't destroy the ruin. Not only might there be a lot of demons inside that would chase after her, but she would definitely make an enemy of this country. It wouldn't be beneficial to the organization.

So, the only way to solve the problem was to shoot down Noel before he could enter the ruin.

She aimed at him. But before she could release her arrow, the lizard arrived in front of her, flapping its tail.

In that instant, all the Spiritual Energy around her bow dispersed, including the arrow.

After that, the lizard opened its mouth, ready to swallow Qiel.

But Qiel jumped into the air and tried to find Noel. It turned out Noel used that gap to close his distance to the ruin. Even if she formed her bow and shot another arrow, she would be too late as Noel would have hidden himself behind the ruin before entering it.

Dimitri couldn't help but smile after seeing this situation, thinking as one would expect from his Master.

## Chapter 822 Underground

"What are we going to do?" The people from the Supreme Devil Organization panicked when they saw Noel leaving the battlefield and heading straight to the ruin.

Not only the people from the organization but Legolaz were also shocked to find Noel's movement.

"Is he going to enter the ruin by himself?" Legolaz gritted his teeth. On the one hand, he understood that Noel was forced to do so because he was attacked by these mysterious people. On the other hand, he couldn't allow Noel to enter the ruin.

After all, there was a chance that Noel would be taking what they wanted from this ruin. Still, he couldn't rule out the possibility that numerous demons would emerge from the ruin if he opened it recklessly.

Obviously, Noel understood that fact as well, considering the previous ruin he explored had multiple Superior Demons inside.

If he wasn't careful, he might lose his life inside the ruin instead. However, this was the only safe place.

He didn't plan to get captured by the Supreme Devil Organization, so he opened this door filled with possibilities.

"Stop!" Legolaz shouted.

Noel didn't wait for him. Since it was impossible to open it manually, he had to strike the door with all his power, blasting the door.

The ruin itself was a small cube building, which didn't seem to hold a lot of things. There was a thick metal door blocking his way. Noel could see a few weird mechanisms around the door, which he didn't understand.



If he studied this mechanism first, the organization would capture him. Hence, he placed his hand on the door and released his Undying Fire.

The fire flared up and enveloped the entire door. Noel, of course, skillfully controlled the ability so that it only melted the door. The Undying Fire showed its might by melting the door at a rapid rate.

The people from the organization had left the encirclement and were about to stop him. With his left hand controlling the fire, his right hand summoned forth multiple ice blocks.

"!!!" The Spirit Masters stopped while the Spirit Grandmasters broke apart the Ice Mirrors, not bothering to stop. But that was enough because Noel only wanted to cover their eyes for a second.

When the Spirit Grandmasters went through, they saw Noel forming two runes. The first one was the Rune Strike.

Noel shot out a concentrated Spiritual Energy into the Rune Strike. The rune then absorbed it before splitting them up into multiple strikes.

Each Spirit Grandmaster had to stop two of the strikes, forcing them to stop because of this weird ability. They also understood that Noel was the author of the rune book. It was clear that he understood runes more than they did. And if they were careless of him, Noel could form a rune so unique that they didn't know how to handle and kill them.

But that small hesitation had given Noel enough time to melt the door.

Noel activated his Moon Blessing as the darkness inside lit up. He could see several important things inside. There was a small hole that had been covered with glasses on the opposite side of the room. On the left side, Noel found a big table and a weird gate that didn't lead anywhere. On the right side, there were a few suits hanging. The suits were white and would reach the knees. It looked like the white coat that the healer usually wore.

Without hesitation, Noel knew where he had to go. Since there was a hole, there must be a way.

He formed an Ice Lotus above his head and let the petals drop right in front of the gate while Noel entered the ruin. He stomped the glass, breaking it apart. Meanwhile, the petals formed ice crystals, blocking the entrance.

Noel saw multiple doors inside the hole. All of them were closed with a thick metal door.

"Ten meters?" Noel frowned. He saw four doors before reaching the bottom. He didn't know if they were connected or not, so he jumped down while maintaining his Phoenix Wings.

Since it would be troublesome if the enemies knew where he was hiding, Noel extended his fire from all his limbs. The left hand burned the first door, the right hand ignited the second door, the right foot injected the fire on the third door, and the left foot shot out fire at the fourth door.

All four doors were being burned at a rapid rate. But surprisingly, Noel didn't sense a single demon inside the facility. Even the Demon Hunter Medal didn't pick up anything.

What he searched for in this location was an item that allowed Heisk to evolve. So, it should be an item made of Spiritual Energy.

This wasn't something that the previous civilization had, considering all the legends about that civilization stated that they didn't have to use any Spiritual Energy.

So, it was supposed to be impossible for it to occur naturally. Yet, he could feel the cold temperature inside the building, unlike the hotness of the desert. Additionally, there was a dense Spiritual Energy that enveloped the entire building. I think you should take a look at

There was only one possible explanation for all these phenomena. There was a mutation of normal items from the past civilization due to the influence of Spiritual Energy.

Noel took a deep breath, choosing to go to the third door because he didn't want his move to be that predictable.

After entering the third floor, he was quite shocked by the sight.

"Hmm?!" Noel looked left and right, seeing a monotonous sight. The room itself was spacious. They could easily cram a thousand people inside. Yet, Noel could only see a total of a hundred long tables getting lined up in this place. There were numerous chairs, but not a single person left a trace there.

The entire room was clean, and there was no sign of destruction. It looked like it had been abandoned, but there wasn't any sign of demons or normal animals like bugs or insects.

There was a long counter on the opposite side of the room. Without hesitation, Noel went straight to the counter to see if he could hide behind it, but he noticed that there were a lot of empty trays.

If he looked at the number of tables and this counter, he could see what kind of room this place was.

"Don't tell me, this is the previous civilization's dining hall?" Noel frowned. "A few hundred people can easily come here to eat. And..."

Noel noticed another door not far from the counter. It had a thin vertical window on the door, so he could take a peek inside. As expected, he could see a few cooking utensils.

He determined that this place was the dining hall.

Bam!

Before his ice shattered on the surface, he could hear a loud bang, followed by a shout that echoed through the vertical tunnel earlier.

"Who are you people?!"

It seemed that Legolaz was angry. Even though he was only a single Spirit Grandmaster while the enemies had four, they wouldn't be able to defeat him easily, and the news would definitely reach the

Grand Protector's ears, causing a fuss between the two countries. So, the Supreme Devil Organization couldn't handle this easily, giving more time for Noel.

Noel used this opportunity to scan the entire room. Aside from the door that led to the vertical tunnel, Noel saw a few other doors. Since he knew he had to move up and down to confuse the enemies before killing them, he decided to inspect every single door.

The first door also had a thin window on it. When Noel took a peek, he found a lot of boxes. Most items had been decomposed, but he could see some rotten things that hadn't been decomposed yet. He wondered how it could be that way, but he just thought it was the wonder of the previous civilization. Since this place looked like storage, he moved on to another door.

pandasnovel.com This time, there wasn't a gap to peek inside, so Noel tried to open it, which surprisingly wasn't locked.

"!!!" Noel covered his body with Spiritual Energy while opening the door, ready to block any kind of attack.

He was shocked to find staircases leading both up and down. It seemed that all floors were connected not just by that vertical tunnel but also by these stairs.

"If that's the case... I will be found out sooner or later. Should I go down instead?"

After carefully considering his actions, Noel decided to go down, which surprisingly didn't end with only a single floor. Yes, he saw only four floors, but surprisingly, when he reached the fourth floor, he saw another stair leading deeper underground.

"Seriously?" Noel hesitated. He wondered why the fifth floor didn't exist in the vertical tunnel. "Should I really enter?"

On the one hand, Noel was hesitating because there might be another conspiracy. There was also a chance that the enemies used this ruin to bury him underneath. On the other hand, he knew that the enemies would be doing their best to capture him and they would definitely enter this place sooner or later.

Since he had no other choice, Noel decided to go down to the fifth floor, only to find another floor beneath the current one.

Noel now had to face a dilemma, wondering how many floors this underground facility had. The deeper he went, the more eerie the feeling. Even Noel wasn't prone to negative feelings that this facility was hiding something important, and it might kill him in a way he knew nothing about.

There was only one way to do this. He believed in Ardagan's Undying Fire which was said to be able to expel anything bad from his body. After covering his body with fire, he chose to descend even further.

#### Chapter 823 Decision

"Should we enter?" One of the Devil Bishops asked. Now that Noel had sealed himself inside, there was a chance that he would come out again. Additionally, there would be a problem if Noel somehow outsmarted them and took a few of them down before making a run for it.

They were concerned about the endless possibilities inside, especially since they saw how Noel defeated a Spirit Master easily. If they were careless, even a Devil Bishop would fall in his hands.

"If we do that, we'll—" Before he finished his words, he and the others felt an incoming presence. They jumped back out of reflex as that person smashed the ground so hard that it trembled for a second.

"Who are you people?" The man who shouted at them was none other than Legolaz. It was true that he was a Spirit Grandmaster like the four Devil Bishops. But it didn't change the fact that this was his territory. People from the Supreme Devil Organization couldn't run rampant if they wanted to stay here.

"..." The people from the organizations couldn't help but exchange looks, wondering what they should do. The situation had just become even more complicated.

On the one hand, it would be troublesome if Legolaz reported their transgression. On the other hand, Legolaz had yet to know about their identities. If they could hide it, they could get away with it. However, they had heard about Noel's wits. There was no way that person wouldn't give away their identity.

"If you're not going to talk, then..." Legolaz released all his Spiritual Energy, ready to fight them.

However, another fluctuation of Spiritual Energy occurred from the side as a soft, aged voice echoed in their ears.

"Please cease your action, Mr. Great Protector. We come from the same place as the one we're chasing right now. As long as you can give him away to us, we'll definitely be grateful. There is no need to cause a bloodbath in this place."

"!!!" Legolaz's body shivered when sensing her energy. He couldn't help but raise his head, seeing Qiel standing on top of the ruin. 'When did she come? No, looking at that bow, she is most likely the one shooting that powerful strike.'

"Before you complain to us, I have made sure to aim my strike at an open space. I believe there are no casualties on your side from my strike. We would like to have your cooperation. We assure you that we won't harm any of your people and will be gone as soon as we capture that person."

Legolaz narrowed his eyes before asking, "Who are you people?"

"Unfortunately, we cannot answer your question."

"You do know that you are currently stepping on Atrecaeca's soil."

"I believe that is a little insignificant unless you're planning to force us to exterminate all living witnesses in this place." Qiel started releasing her Spiritual Energy. Her Spiritual Energy far surpassed a normal Spirit Grandmaster, including Legolaz.

The only person who could stop her was Dimitri. But he was stopped by Nelfer, whose strength wasn't losing to Dimitri.

In other words, if Qiel wanted it, she could probably eliminate all of them. Legolaz and the second prince would definitely die. It was true that there would be an investigation, but Legolaz would prioritize the

second prince's safety, considering he wanted him to become the next Grand Protector. It would be useless if the kingdom would avenge him, but he was already dead in their hands.

Legolaz fell silent, considering his current option. He would feel ashamed to let people from a different kingdom force him to retreat to his own country. At the same time, it would be troublesome if they died.

Legolaz's status was higher than the prince's in some cases. And he would only lower his head to the second prince because he recognized him as a successor of the Grand Protector, nothing else.

So, he was the one making this hard decision.

Legolaz said, "We are also aiming to explore this ruin. We can't fully trust you in this matter. There is a chance that you're plundering what we want from this place."

"We can assure you that we won't take a single thing from this place."

"I can't trust you. You can't even give away your identity, so there's no way it's possible. Hence, I have to accompany you. If I see you or your subordinates stealing something from the ruin, then the deal is off. Even if I have to die, I'm going to make you and whatever organization you're coming from pay its price."

Qiel squinted her eyes. It would be troublesome if he was there when Noel shouted out their identities. But if they didn't comply, the situation would be troublesome. They might have to kill all the people to hide their tracks. If they let any of them escape, there was a chance they would inform the kingdom and bring forth a lot of reinforcements.

When that happened, a huge war would come. The Demon Banner Army was already troublesome enough, so if the Atrecaeca Kingdom would add to their problems... Qiel couldn't imagine all the problems. In addition, Noel could also show his status as the author of the Rune Book, persuading them.

"..." Qiel was carefully considering everything. After a moment, Qiel said, "Alright. We won't be entering the ruin so that it won't cause any trouble to your side."

"!!!" Legolaz widened his eyes in surprise, not expecting this kind of answer. He thought Qiel would comply, but it seemed that they were more passive than he originally thought.

After considering the situation, Legolaz said, "Alright. If I see you inside, then I will have to report this to the kingdom."

He had to leave behind a few people to protect the ruin, making sure they didn't destroy the ruin from the outside.

Obviously, Qiel's decision also confused the people in the organization. After all, if they didn't come back, they wouldn't be able to capture Noel.

But Qiel had already waved her hand and said, "Move out."

In that instant, Qiel disappeared, followed by her subordinates.

Legolaz was hesitant, but he still had to go down. When he looked at the glasses that covered a hole, he knew whatever he was searching for was hidden underneath them.

After the negotiation, Legolaz finally returned to the battlefield, clearing up all the demons around.

Of course, he was curious about the Superior Demon that stopped Qiel, but surprisingly, the Demon had died tragically. Its entire body was flattened after being shot by that powerful arrow multiple times.

He had some trouble fighting against the Superior Demon, yet, Qiel managed to defeat it within a few minutes. It was clear that the opponents weren't as simple as people thought.

If they did clash, all these people wouldn't last for more than thirty minutes.

It felt like he had made a good decision this time. Though, he was also curious about the identity of that person.



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While Legolaz was fighting the remaining demons, he didn't move too far from the ruin. At the very least, he could maintain the entrance in the corner of his vision, making sure that no one sneaked inside without his knowledge. Qiel was his priority, considering the old woman managed to appear without him feeling it.

Legolaz informed the second prince about the situation and came to the exact conclusion. They didn't want to interfere too much with their chase, but they were curious about Noel's true identity.

While he was taking care of the demons, Qiel and her group moved away from the location.

They all didn't dare to say anything, considering Qiel was the brain of the organization. However, it didn't change the fact that Qiel had made a questionable decision. It would be troublesome if they couldn't capture Noel when he was trapped inside.

And it seemed that Nelfer had noticed it. After several minutes, his clash with Dimitri had stopped as Nelfer came to Qiel while gritting his teeth.

"Old hag. I think I need an explanation!"

Qiel stood with a poker face, raising her head as Nelfer stood right before her. He was glaring at her, showing his anger.

Qiel simply said, "It's the only way for now."

"Are you serious? He is now trapped inside! We should chase and capture him right away. Even if he does anything, I can stop Dimitri while you ultimately capture him."

"You should know it would be troublesome if you fought Dimitri inside that place. And you better not underestimate Dimitri. He still has his True Spirit Body. If the entire ruin collapses, only Dimitri might be able to survive."

"Still, are you saying that we should let him get away?"

"I told you earlier. We can't destroy the ruin. There is also a chance that our target is hiding within the shadow thanks to Dimitri. That's why we'll be waiting for him here, making sure that he is not escaping through all kinds of ways, including the shadow. We are here not because we aren't capturing him. Instead, we stay here because we'll be waiting for him to come out. You should know that a ruin from the previous civilization can't be entered rashly, so the only way for him to leave that building is through the main door."

"..." Nelfer fell silent, looking at Qiel as if he wasn't convinced.

"Don't worry. I have another plan. We'll execute it later. But for now, stay here and watch out for Dimitri and any fluctuation of energy. We can't let him escape from the ruin."

"Fine. You will be the one responsible for this matter." Nelfer clicked his tongue.

Chapter 824 Experiment?

Clack!

Clack!

Clack!

Footsteps echoed in a dark room.

"I wonder how deep this ruin was created?" Noel muttered while looking around. He had gone down for another four levels. The deeper he got, the lower the temperature.

Even Noel became more wary of the dangers lurking beneath him.

"Should I prepare a few more traps?" Noel looked down, contemplating. On the one hand, it would decrease his speed. On the other hand, it could help him a lot if there was indeed a hidden danger on the bottom floor.

"The temperature, the Spiritual Energy..."

After he went down to the ninth floor, Noel finally decided to open the room to prepare some traps. Not only was the hidden danger underneath him, but the Supreme Devil Organization would also come for him from the surface. Hence, this trap would be proved to be useful in case of emergency.

When Noel opened the room, he was startled by the interior of the room. Inside, he could see numerous tables lining up just like the dining hall he found earlier.

However, Noel felt weird because he found a familiar device on each table. He first found this device in the previous expedition that explored a hospital from the previous civilization.

"What is this?" Noel went to one of them, looking at it carefully.

The device had a big layer of screen. He knocked it gently and heard the clicking sound, allowing him to determine the materials used to build it.

"As expected, it's glass as well... If I'm looking at it..." Noel paused and grabbed a chair. Even in his noble house, a chair that could move was a rare commodity. After all, it was enough for the carriage to have it, not their house.

When he sat down, the chair moved slightly, which startled him.

"Oh?" Noel adjusted himself easily and started rolling the wheels beneath the chair forward. Eventually, he reached the table where his head was at the same level as the big screen. "As expected, this is how they work."

Noel looked to the side, finding a lot of mysterious thin sticks. This was what piqued his interest in the previous civilization.

"Right? It was said that this thing could write better..." Noel took off the lid and found a piece of paper on the table, trying to write on it. But as expected, after more than a thousand years, the pen couldn't be used anymore.

Then, his eyes moved to the big box underneath the table. The box was completely black and there didn't seem to be anything interesting. But he noticed a few cables that were attached to this box, linking it to the screen and a few others.

Noel slightly raised his head, noticing the rolling thin wooden plate under the table. He found this weird-looking box with numerous characters on it.

"What is this? Tab? Q? W? E? R?" Noel couldn't understand the sequence, but it was clear that this thing was attached to the mechanism. "Now that I think about it..."

Noel put his hand on top of it and started touching the keys. He realized that the position was natural.

"I see. Is this how the people of the past worked?" Noel asked. He had just learned how a normal office worker did their job in front of the computer.

"Still, is there any way to activate it?" Noel frowned. "Besides, I haven't smelled anything, including blood. In this huge ruin, why do we find not a single corpse? There don't seem to be any demons feasting upon them as well. If there is one, there should be some blood traces. It's weird."

Noel rose from his seat and looked around. Unfortunately, there was nothing suspicious inside the room. And there were only two things that piqued his interest, the pen and the chair.

He put two pens in his pocket for 'research' purposes while bringing all the moving chairs toward the stair. The people would be confused with the chairs as well and he hoped someone would try it and ended up rolling to the stair, injuring themselves from falling.

After that, Noel proceeded to the tenth floor. This time, the floor showed him another weird layout. Instead, he found multiple weird machines scattered in the area.

"What is this place?" Noel frowned. When looking at the layout, he felt this wasn't a place to work. Just by looking at the bright color of the wall as well as the layout of these machines, Noel could feel the joy crawling into his heart.

"Is this not a working place? But..." Noel arrived at a table. It had a robust body and green-colored surface. He noticed a few balls scattered on the table with two long sticks lying down. "Are these spears?"

Noel asked himself. Noel couldn't determine the building, unlike the hospital in the previous civilization. This ruin was so bizarre that he couldn't understand what it was.

On one floor, it was a place for eating. On another floor, it was a fun place. And another one, it was filled with a place where they worked.

"What is this building, to begin with? I have never thought you could build something like this underground. And surprisingly, it could last for more than a thousand years. The wall manages to withstand the sand for a thousand years. This is a miracle."

Noel had seen numerous giant buildings, but all of them were on the surface. So, this place was more mysterious than he originally thought.

After a while, he continued to the next floor, and on this floor, he could finally determine what kind of place this was.

The moment he opened the eleventh floor, he was greeted by a sight he could never forget.

"What in the world..." Noel dropped his jaws to the ground.

On this floor stood tall ten giant cylinders. Each cylinder contained a blue-colored translucent liquid. If that was all, Noel would think it was just where they stored their water.

But surprisingly, there was a demon inside each cylinder. The cylinders were already inactive and the demons had died, so there was no sign of them getting destroyed.

"What is this? What kind of thing are they building?" Noel's face became pale.

"If I remember correctly, the previous civilization had no demons looming around the world, right? Then, how could they build something like this? Or is this during the transition?"

Noel fell into deep thought. What Noel meant by transition was the time when the world fell into chaos after the demons appeared in this world.

There was a possibility of the previous civilization building this entire ruin after their appearance, trying to understand the demons so that they could fight back. That was the only explanation in Noel's head.

Noel approached the tubes carefully, staring at the demons. The first demon he saw seemed to be a Wolf Demon. It wasn't supposed to be found in this place, so they must have captured it somewhere far away and brought it here.

"Now that I think about it, it's true that the demon meat won't rot easily, but to capture a wolf from this place requires at least two weeks from this place. And they can actually preserve the demon for a thousand years? What is the method?"

Noel fell silent. It was true that the experiment was troubling him. But he had always wanted the method to preserve the meat so that he could use it for his territory.

While moving through those tubes, Noel examined the room, wondering what had happened. Just like the other rooms, there was no trace of a living being in this place. There were supposed to be people who took care of this experiment, but there were no remains.

"Still, it doesn't change the fact that the previous civilization was amazing. Being able to create a giant ruin underneath the ground alone is impossible with our current technology." Noel looked around. "And this place is extremely cool. In fact, it's already similar to the temperature of the mountain peak. If I go down even further, there is a chance that the temperature will be at freezing point."

Noel was a bit hesitant to explore this ruin. While there was no danger yet, the condition had become more extreme and ridiculous.

"Still, creating this ruin should take a lot of time or even decades. If I'm not wrong, the transition period only lasted for two years. Did this building operate after the transition period? But if that was the case, shouldn't the Atracaeca Kingdom have a record of whatever they were doing, considering those people would join hands with the founder of the Atracaeca Kingdom?"

Noel pinched the bridge of his nose, pondering. He could draw a lot of conclusions, but there might be a few things he missed, causing his conclusion to be not accurate.

The ruin was indeed mysterious even though the purpose was clear. But the only way to find it was to continue forward. He was trying to find any records left behind in this place to learn about it.

Unfortunately, he couldn't find a single log book, making it extremely weird.

Although he wanted to learn more from this place, he had to continue because the answer could lie beneath this floor.

He wondered what kind of thing he would find on the next floor.

Chapter 825 Demi-Human

"Are all of you ready?" Legolaz checked the condition of his people.

After fighting against the demons, they set up a camp around the ruin. He divided the people into two groups.

He and the second prince would lead the first group and advance into the ruin while the second group remained on the surface, making sure nothing went wrong. Legolaz was a bit concerned about the mysterious organization that came after Noel.

After some thought, Legolaz realized that Noel was already aware that he was chased by them and still chose to join. It looked like Noel was trying to involve them in his problem, but at the same time, this was a kind of opportunity.

Noel had a shocking talent, so it was also an opportunity if they wanted to rope him in. In fact, Noel looked like he had the talent to become a Grand Protector in the future. But as the teacher of the second prince, he was a bit skeptical about it.

Legolaz glanced at the Ramuer as though he wanted to explain it to them.

"We are ready," Ramuer confirmed while sheathing his sword. Since they had to climb down, they couldn't wield their sword easily.

Legolaz then raised his hand and poured his Spiritual Energy into the air. Suddenly, the sand rose into the air and gathered around the entrance.

With a single wave of his hand, the sand flowed like water, filling up the hole.

"There are four floors underneath the ground. We have to be careful since there might be a hidden danger. We'll go to the first floor first and investigate the area before continuing to the second floor and so on." Legolaz explained.

"How about that guy?" Ramuer asked, mentioning Noel. Since Noel had hidden inside the ruin, there was a chance that he was ready to fight against them.

"Unless he is proven to have stolen our objective, we won't attack him. With his strength, it's hard to capture him, and fighting underground is extremely dangerous since the entire building can collapse. So, we'll prioritize negotiation."

"Alright." Ramuer agreed. If they were trapped like that, there was a big chance they would die, so it would be better to do this peacefully. "Still, will there be a problem with those mysterious people?"



"I'm also skeptical about them, but their strength is overwhelming. If they want to kill us, we won't be able to escape. So, I don't think they will be destroying this building. Their original intention seems to be capturing that guy. Hence, we'll proceed with the assumption that they won't make a big move. Just make sure that you look around because they might be infiltrating the ruin."

"Got it. Let's go then." Ramuer nodded.

Both of them were leading the team. They could see a thick black rope attached to the top of the ceiling. It seemed that this was the way for the people to go down in the previous civilization.

Hence, Legolaz grabbed the rope and started sliding down carefully. He examined the entire area with the sand scattered on the first floor.

After he confirmed it was safe, Legolaz waved his hand, telling them to go down before he jumped into the first floor.

Like Noel, they didn't find a single person inside. Even the trace of the people from the previous civilizations was nowhere to be seen.

While they were confused, Noel was actually shocked to the point he dropped to his butt.

"What in the world is this?" Noel gasped in disbelief. His heart was filled with fear and anxiety.

The sight was like none other. In fact, he could only think of this as something that wasn't supposed to exist.

After all, the floor below the one filled with demon corpses was actually filled with humans.

Yes, on the next floor, there were a lot of tubes like the previous one, but instead of demon corpses, it was human.

Noel didn't know if he could even call them human.

On the nearest tube, the human seemed to have mutated. His right hand was big and robust, but the skin was completely black. The palm had the same pattern as a dog, but instead of nails, it was more accurate to consider them claws.

And that was only the right hand. His left foot was so big and covered by black fur, making it look like a black bear's foot.

On the next tube, he saw a human with a pair of fox ears. They still retained their human ears, making them have a total of four ears. In addition, his entire body was hairy like that of an ape.

All other humans also had a similar body but with different animals. Noel couldn't believe it with his own eyes.

In fact, there were two thoughts that appeared in his mind.

"Now that I think about it, they look like Demi-human, right?" Noel fell silent, remembering Old Ru.

Old Ru might look extremely similar to that of a human, but that was because he had cast away his shell. His grandson was the one looking like a combination of an animal and a human.

"Don't tell me, it's the laboratory where they are born? But I don't think the Atrecaeca Kingdom is the only one having this... There should be a lot of laboratories like this scattered in other kingdoms. Due to the nature of their research, it's long abandoned and hidden from the naked eyes."

Noel believed that there were similar underground ruins scattered in the area. They produced the early demi-human.

"Still, if I'm not wrong, the demi-human retaliates and finally leaves the human territory, migrating to a new place and creating a new kingdom. And Old Ru hails from this place."

Noel fell into deep thought. There was a big implication of finding this ruin. First of all, the information alone would definitely scare people because there was a chance that these demi-humans would come again and wreak havoc in their territory like what happened a thousand years ago.

"That's right. I think everything matches perfectly."

Noel recalled all the information he had gotten so far.

"In other words, the chronology is like this... First, the demons appeared in this world, introducing Spiritual Energy. They destroyed the previous civilization, cornering them. My ancestor was also fleeing to this place and fighting back."

"However, there should be a lot of people who were smart enough at that time. They created some ruins, probably like this laboratory and anything else."

"While they were researching, my ancestor roamed around the place and helped the creation of the Muivell Kingdom."

"Whether it was fortunate or unfortunate, not long after the creation of the kingdom, these people succeeded in creating a combination of humans and animals."

"There was no record of how they were treated, but they should be quite powerful. Fearing the retaliation of these demi-humans, the humans decided to expel them so that they wouldn't harm all four kingdoms."

"To avoid it happening again, all the people working on this project had to be eliminated so that they wouldn't make something like this anymore. I'm not sure if they destroyed the ruins or not, but at least one of them survived."

"Meanwhile, my ancestor helped the migration of these demi-humans and eventually allowed them to settle down in a new land far from here. After that, nothing happened between them anymore."

Noel thought he had guessed it correctly. And the remainder of the story was similar to what was written in their history.

"In the previous life, Old Ru's grandson ended up following me back to the human kingdom. It must be shocking to this kingdom, but it would cause a lot of controversy as well. He would be in danger and might even learn this information and the ruin. I couldn't imagine what kind of reaction he would have."

Noel felt a headache thinking about that possibility anymore. It seemed that he had made a correct choice in not bringing him here.

"In any case, I got a good grasp of what this ruin is. It's just... I don't know how far these people could go. And there doesn't seem to be any record in this place..." Noel looked around. He hadn't found a single book in this place. It seemed they had at least erased the written record. Without it, the people of this generation would have trouble replicating what they did.

"Will the people of the Atrecaeca Kingdom kill me because of witnessing something like this? I could fight them, but it would be troublesome if they worked together with the Supreme Devil Organization."

Noel was afraid that in order to keep this a secret, Legolaz would make a deal with the Supreme Devil Organization to capture him. They could simply lure him out and let the organization do the rest. While it was true that he had Dimitri, it was still impossible to stop two Devil Saints unless Dimitri used his True Spirit Body.

But the moment he used it, Dimitri would be weakened, giving them a chance to capture him. So, he didn't know what he should do in this situation.

"It seems that my plan has to be changed again after seeing this ruin." Noel glanced at the stair that led him to the lower level. "I have to inspect the entire ruin before I can figure out what I should do."

With that thought in mind, Noel immediately headed down to discover the rest of the ruin. He had to be fast and careful if he wanted to survive. At the same time, he was also worried because he had to bring Tristan and Sandra out of this place as well.

Chapter 826 Bottom Floor

Noel continued to the next floor.

He found something slightly different on this floor. Instead of all the tubes with demon corpses, he actually found a lot of big machines. He didn't understand their function.

Next to the door were two big machines: one was a big cylinder-shaped machine, and the other was a cube. There were a few more complicated machines scattered in the room. However, they did have one thing in common. All of them were not active.

Considering this facility was a thousand years old buildings, there was no way the energy source could still provide them.

There was one more thing that piqued his interest.

"It's getting cold here." Noel measured the temperature with his bare skin. If not for the fact that he had both ice and fire spirits, he would have trouble adjusting to it.

He could only think of one possible reason. "It seems that I'm about to reach the bottom floor. I wonder what will await me."

Noel still didn't sense a single demon lying nearby. Since the ones he had found were dead, the Demon Hunter Medal didn't pick it up. So, if there was really another demon lying in the ambush, they should have died.

"Still, it's quite surprising that even with a facility like this, they don't install any booby traps." Noel looked around. After confirming that he couldn't find a single record, Noel continued to the next floor.

The temperature decreased even further. This time, the floor was filled with a lot of items. He could recognize some because it was a part of his job when he was with the Demon Relief Squad.

Noel easily recognized the room as storage. There were many shelves storing all kinds of items. Unfortunately, he couldn't find anything useful. Hence, Noel left the floor, heading to the next one.

And in this place, he finally saw the end of the stairs.

"Hmm?" Noel examined the stair. Since there were no more stairs, the area was turned into small storage. There was nothing suspicious among the items, so Noel headed to the door leading to the last room.

But when he held the door handle, he noticed it was so cold that even his hand almost got frozen.

"Ouch." Noel instinctively took out his hand and looked at his hand. There was no frostbite, but the fact that this item could somehow freeze him.

"I guess I should expect this level of power from an item that can almost evolve Heisk to a Humanoid Rank." Noel smirked, feeling challenged. Since there was no demon inside the room, he focused his energy on his fire element to fight against the cold.

"I don't know if this will work, but..." Noel took a deep breath and started pushing the handle down, only to find it stuck. As one would expect, the door was completely frozen.

He could destroy the door with brute force, but it would create a lot of noise. So, he wrapped the entire door with his Undying Fire. Instead of pouring too much to melt it, he only used enough Spiritual Energy to warm up the door until all the ice melted.

The process took five minutes, showing how powerful the ice was. But he finally could open the door.

\*Fwoosh!\*

A chilling breeze instantly escaped the room, brushing his skin.

"!!!" The coldness was so extreme that Noel instinctively poured more Spiritual Energy into his fire. This was the first time he had experienced this extreme cold. "What's wrong with this item?"

Noel gritted his teeth. If not for his Undying Flame, he would definitely get frozen just from the temperature alone.

But as soon as he adjusted himself to the temperature, he raised his head and found what had actually transpired inside this place.

"What?!" Noel gasped out loud. He couldn't believe it. On the opposite side of the room, he could see a lot of humans getting frozen.

Noel had realized where all the people in this area were. It turned out they had been hiding here this whole time.

However, he could only see a hundred humans on the opposite side. Considering the size of the room he had seen so far, he suspected that the rest were hiding behind the wall next to him.

Gulping down, he entered the room, seeking out the truth. I think you should take a look at

To his surprise, the room wasn't as big as the rest despite it being at the bottom of the building. Additionally, the spot where he expected to find the other humans that maintained this giant structure was actually filled by other species.

Yes, he could actually find demons and demi-humans getting frozen in this place. The demons seemed to be made of desert animals. They looked like they were trying to run to the left side of the room, but they ended up getting frozen.

On his left stood a few statues made of frozen demi-humans. They were looking angry as if they wanted to kill the humans in front of them.

Some of the demi-humans looked perfect like Old Ru, but some others had grotesque physiques like the ones he found on the upper floor. He realized that they were the failed creation.

Noel scanned the room, especially the demons. It seemed that they were trying to grasp something.

When he followed their vision, he found a small floating gem. The gem was like a blue jade. It was polished cleanly, but it didn't let out any light, making it hard to find if there was no clue. In fact, Noel couldn't find any trace of its Spiritual Energy as if it had been completely exhausted.

"What is this? Is this crystal the thing that I've been looking for this whole time?" Noel frowned. He entered the room carefully as the cold started attacking him, trying to freeze him like the others in this room.

Noel also scanned the room. There was one thing that didn't make sense.

Why would the humans and the demi-humans be placed against each other? They looked like they were arguing before getting frozen. Why would their number be low, not matching the size of this building? Lastly, why did the demons stay in that place?

At first, he suspected that 'something' had moved the demi-humans and the humans in this place. But when he looked at the demons, he wondered if that something truly existed. If that was the case, that something would have organized them.

Hence, his theory might be incorrect. In addition, he couldn't find a single answer to their number problem.

This building had a total of fifteen floors. Each floor had a size that could easily fit a hundred people. However, there was no way only a hundred people could maintain this building. They should have other staff to clean, cook, and do other necessities.

Hence, he believed that the number should have been at least two to three hundred people.

"Why does the number not match up? And the fact that not a single person remains on other floors..." Noel fell silent while walking toward the humans.

Although he wanted to grasp the ice jade right away, he shouldn't do it rashly. The way it froze the entire room showed him that this jade was extremely powerful. If he grabbed it casually, he might get harmed even with the Undying Fire protection.



Noel tried to examine each human and muttered, "Are they still alive? No, I guess. After all, I couldn't pick a single presence from the demons even with the medal."

"Still, these humans look rather unfamiliar..." Noel realized that their features were different from his or even the people from the Atrecaeca Kingdom.

After the Spiritual Energy filled the world, humans also began to evolve, especially with the help of the spirits. It was said that the natural color of hair in the previous civilization was only white, black, blond, red, and brown. But after the dark period, humans evolved, and the genes gradually changed to match the Spiritual Energy, including their hair and eye color.

Every single of these people had the same black hair. Their eyes were round, and their eyebrows were a bit thicker than normal people.

"Still, other than the facial features... I don't think there is any difference?" Noel looked up and down. He examined their bodies thoroughly, whether they were males or females. "Their skin color is similar to mine. But their facial features are different. I'm not sure, but I guess we have changed in the course of one thousand years."

Since he couldn't find anything from the human bodies, he began to switch to the demi-humans. Although some of them had a gross-looking mutation, he still examined them.

But Noel abruptly stopped in one of them. "Wait a minute... Isn't this..."

Noel sucked a cold breath and looked at the piece of clothing that a single of them actually had.

A part of it had been torn away, but the one that was still hanging got frozen, showing something that he could never believe.

What he saw was actually a piece of the white coat that the humans had. He raised his head, looking at the person's face.

"Don't tell me... They are conducting their experiments on the workers?"

Upon that finding, Noel realized why the number didn't match. It turned out the number was perfect all along. However, he had to count all the demi-humans and all those experimental subjects on the upper floor.

Chapter 827 A Negotiation?

"All these are the workers of the building?" Noel gasped and took a step back, looking around once again. When he thought about it, there were a few people who didn't have the mutation on their faces.

As he predicted, their features were extremely similar to the real humans on the other side of the room. In other words, they conducted their experiments on themselves.

"What is going on here?" Noel furrowed his eyebrows. He never thought that these people would be so indifferent and ruthless.

The reason why these demi-humans showed such anger toward these humans was because of this.

"But there is one more concerning problem..." Noel had noticed one most important matter. "The fact that all of them are staying here means they have been gathered by a certain person."

That was the only explanation for why all these people would even come here. However, when he turned his head around to the location of the blue jade, he didn't find any trace of humans. In other words, there was no one who gathered them to freeze them.

It was most likely that this person actually froze everyone on all those floors and brought them all here.

"That's right. This is the only possibility. It's quite hard to gather every single one of them in this place. So, he must have done it one by one. After he succeeded, he must have stolen all the secret books and records about the experiment before running away from this place."

"If this is the case, then that person must have gone somewhere. But whether it was fortunate or unfortunate, there didn't seem to have any change around the four kingdoms. This place was built one thousand years ago, so there should be a leak somewhere in time. There was no way a place could hide its secret for a thousand years if we are realistically speaking."

"Then, does that mean the one who did steal these records was actually a demi-human?" Noel couldn't see any other culprits where the information didn't leak. There was also a chance that it was a human and he died in an unknown place, guarding that secret with his death.

However, that didn't matter to him for the time being. The problem was that this person left behind this blue jade in this place.

"If my theory is correct, the moment Heisk absorbs this jade, the ice will gradually melt." Noel was considering the repercussions of his action.

Since that person froze the people from each floor and there was no trace of it being frozen anymore, it was clear that the ice would melt when the jade disappeared from this place.

Noel frowned. "If I take this jade, what will happen to the bodies that have been freed from the ice?"

On the one hand, he had made sure that taking the jade was possible without any traps the previous civilization had. On the other hand, he encountered another problem that couldn't be tread lightly.

"No, I shouldn't think of it that way. If I'm not wrong, I should have done the same in that alternate world according to Anna. So, the people from the Atrecaeca Kingdom would have found out about these bodies as well. The problem is that I didn't ask for more details about it from Anna."

Noel simply didn't expect that he would encounter this problem. If only he had asked whether this finding would cause a shock to the country or not, he could make his decision easier.

"What should I do now?" Noel looked around. If something bad happened by taking away the jade, he would have become the enemy of the Atracaeca Kingdom.

After some thought, Noel decided to sit down, meditating. His consciousness gradually shifted to another place where Ardagan and Heisk stood in front of him.

"Ardagan, Heisk." Noel nodded to the.

"Greetings." Heisk nodded while Ardagan asked, "Do you have something to ask?"

"You should have seen what I've witnessed. So, I will just go to the point. Is there a way to absorb the jade without causing the ice to melt? Will there be a problem with Heisk's breakthrough if I do that?"

Ardagan fell silent while Heisk said, "I can confirm that I won't have any problem. It's just that I will be a bit farther from the evolution process. Though, I'm not sure if it's possible or not."

"You can't only absorb a portion of it?" Noel furrowed his eyebrows.

"No. I can absorb only a portion of its energy, but I don't know if it'll be strong enough to continue freezing these people or not. Besides, because I have to control the absorption rate, I will require a lot of time."

"Now that I think about it, the original plan is to take the jade away and let you absorb it, right?"

"Yes. In that case, I can simply disappear for a bit to absorb it. But since we have to do it in this place, then you will be stuck here for a long time."

"How long?"

Heisk calculated the amount of energy and answered, "Approximately three days."

"Three days, huh?" Noel had to consider Tristan and Sandra, the movement of the Atrecaeca Kingdom, and the Supreme Devil Organization. So, staying here for three days definitely complicated things.

"That is the only way if you only want to absorb the energy from the jade. Heisk should be able to stop when the temperature almost increases to the freezing point. I don't know how much energy she has taken until that point though." Ardagan added and Heisk confirmed it with a nod.

Three days was enough time for Legolaz to reach this place while being careful. It was also enough for the Supreme Devil Organization to create traps and plans to ambush him.

Either way, it would prove to be fatal if he continued to stay in this location for a prolonged time.

"I think you are too good." Ardagan suddenly spoke. "It's true that you have to consider others after taking something, but in this place, you need the ability to escape and utilize what you've gained. If you can't, then it's useless."

Ardagan was urging him to plunder everything since this chance didn't come so often. In fact, this was what most people would do. If they got the blue jade and went away with it, they could get all the benefits they wanted. Meanwhile, those who were around the area would suffer in their place.

Even if he cared about them, no one would care about him. So, it was useless to consider it properly.

Heisk seemed to agree with him. Noel was too smart for his own good. If he was a little dumber, he wouldn't have seen through the potential harm that his action might cause. And he wouldn't have to face this kind of problem.

Yet, the situation had forced him to consider it.

However, Ardagan's words actually provided some clues to Noel.

"The people to handle the potential calamity..." Noel fell silent. He abruptly smiled, "That's right!"

The two spirits were confused by the sudden mood change.

"Wait a bit, you two. I have to do something." Noel suddenly disappeared as his consciousness returned to his real body.

He suddenly rose from the floor and climbed the stairs.

He went all the way to the fourth floor where Legolaz set up a camp. When he felt the aura of Spirit Grandmasters behind the door, Noel opened it, alarming everyone.

Bang!

"!!!" The people raised their weapons, including Legolaz, ready to fight against the demons. However, Noel was the one that surprised them.

Without hesitation, Legolaz charged forward. He had to capture Noel to understand the situation and his identity. After all, he caused him to be threatened by that mysterious group.

Noel didn't move a single step even though he was confronted by Legolaz. In fact, Legolaz should be the one to stop.

He sensed the aura of Spirit Grandmasters. That was right, there must be another Spirit Grandmaster besides Legolaz.

And in that instant, Legolaz's shadow suddenly rose and restrained his hands, upper body, and legs, stopping his movement.

At the same time, a mysterious figure emerged from Ramuer's shadow with a blade right in front of its neck.

"It's better to stop doing something reckless, Grand Protector."

"!!!" Legolaz abruptly stopped. He didn't even struggle because the voice came in the direction of the second prince. When he turned around, he saw a mysterious person holding his second prince hostage.

It was clear that if Noel wanted to fight, he couldn't defeat Noel easily. At that time, this mysterious person would have sliced off the second prince's neck before helping Noel.

"Who are you?!" Legolaz gritted his teeth, annoyed by the fact that he got involved in their power struggle.

But this was the question that Noel had been waiting for.

"Let me formally introduce myself. My name is Noel Ardagan." Noel politely nodded to them.

"Noel Ardagan?" Both Legolaz and Ramuer recognized that name. "The author of the rune book?"

"That's right." Noel smirked. "And I'm here to negotiate with you. Will you lower your weapons and hear me out?"

#### Chapter 828 Reaching An Agreement

Legolaz furrowed his eyebrows, still not believing that the person in front of them was the one who created the rune book.

However, Ramuer suddenly spoke out even with Dimitri's blade on his neck. He asked out loud, "Can you prove your identity?"

Noel grinned and raised his hand. In that instant, a rune formed in front of him. It was the basic Strength Blessing Rune, directed to both Legolaz and Ramuer. In that instant, both of them could feel the surge of strength. Although it was quite good, it wouldn't be enough to defeat Noel and Dimitri.

"..." Legolaz fell silent since he could feel the effect of that rune.

"Is that Strength Blessing Rune?" Ramuer examined the effect and the rune's appearance. He was more knowledgeable than Legolaz in the rune because of his position as the second prince.

"Correct." Noel nodded without hesitation. Dimitri didn't know why Noel actually exposed himself like this, but it seemed that he was planning to use these people to escape from this place.

"Still, that doesn't prove your identity. After the rune book is spread, there are already a lot of people learning it. It won't be strange if they manage to use it, especially with the fact that you come from the Muivell Kingdom, the original country of Noel Ardagan."

"I guess so." Noel smirked. "Well, the Greenwood Kingdom is easier to talk to. But I guess I'll show you something even more interesting."

"More interesting?" Ramuer narrowed his eyes.

Noel took out a coin and showed it to them. After that, he tossed the coin into the air and embedded an Enhance Forward Rune on it.

In that instant, the coin flew straight to Legolaz, which he caught easily.

Still, Legolaz felt the impact of the coin. Because the coin didn't have the shape for killing and the weight to crush, it wasn't much to a Spirit Grandmaster like him. But if Noel imbued that power into a sword or something, it would definitely be fatal.

In fact, they could use it in one way or another to suppress the demons.

This was Rune Engineering. He programmed a certain movement into an object.

The Greenwood Kingdom had learned about this through the exchange, but there was no deal about keeping this a secret. So, he could use this as a negotiation piece.

"..." Legolaz had never seen this kind of application. He couldn't help but look back to Ramuer, who was as shocked as him.



A genius might be able to do something like this, but the creator would certainly be a genius himself. Even if Noel turned out to be fake, they could still benefit from him.

After contemplating for a moment, Ramuer said, "Lower your weapons, this is my order as the second prince."

"..." The people were confused, but when they saw Legolaz also sheathed his weapon, the others chose to lower their weapons.

Dimitri then disappeared, returning back to Noel's side.

Ramuer stood next to Legolaz and said, "I don't think this is an appropriate place to negotiate."

Noel nodded and walked to the door he had emerged from earlier and invited them in.

Seeing Ramuer entering it, Legolaz followed suit and was surprised that there was a stair behind this door.

"To think there is a stair leading down in this place..." Ramuer examined the small room that only had endless stairs.

Noel didn't say anything and continued moving to the next floor before opening the door again, showing that this would be a better place to talk.

Although Ramuer and Legolaz were curious about how deep the building was, they still followed Noel.

"So, what do you want to propose, Mr. Noel?" Ramuer asked. "Since you are in danger from the attack, let's skip all the pleasantries."

"Thank you." Noel nodded. "They should have predicted when letting all of you alive that their identities will be exposed. So, let me just reveal their identity. They are from the Supreme Devil Organization."

"Supreme Devil Organization? The Muivell Kingdom's most notorious organization?" Ramuer looked surprised, while Legolaz felt a bit skeptical about their identity. After all, even if they learned about their identity, what could they do?

The Supreme Devil Organization brought powerful people. And it would be hard to survive under their onslaught. While they could report the organization to the Grand Protector, they had to survive first.

Legolaz said, "If you're planning to use us to survive, I will have to let you know that we don't have enough people to guarantee your safety."

"Well, that's fair enough. The enemies have two Devil Saints. Their strength is at the Peak Spirit Grandmaster. The muscular one has a body of steel, and the woman is the best sniper in the world." Dimitri confirmed their identities, showing how powerful the enemies were.

"I was chased by four Spirit Grandmasters and six Spirit Masters. While I could somehow fight them, I'm not sure if I could defeat them." Noel nodded in agreement.

Ramuer made a wry smile. It was already amazing to fight four Spirit Grandmasters as a Spirit Master, but Noel had considered the possibility of him winning against them.

"So, what do you want, Mr. Noel?" Ramuer reminded him of the first question.

"Alright. I have two demands." Noel raised two fingers. "One, I want you to bring a message to a certain place. Second, I want to take the thing this ruin has."

"The second one is impossible. That's the exact reason why we come here!" Legolaz stopped him while glaring.

However, Noel added, "The item that you want to take is actually irrelevant to the creation of an oasis. It is an ice element item that can strengthen an Ice Spirit. It's more beneficial for me to take it since both of your spirits don't have that element. It can't create an oasis."

"Huh?" Legolaz thought he was bluffing, but Ramuer stopped him while asking, "So, you're telling us that we come in vain?"

"Not necessarily. There are people from the previous civilizations, including the demi-humans underneath us. If I take away the item, the freezing will be undone."

Ramuer looked down for a moment and said, "From the previous civilization? Haven't they died? No, wait... Did they..."

Legolaz asked, "Are you going to trust him?"

"It's just... There is one thing that piques my interest. We've learned how to preserve meat, right?"

"Yes."

"There is one method that can actually stop the time of that living being. If we're talking about ice, it must be that method."

"!!!" Legolaz raised his eyebrows. He obviously knew what Ramuer was talking about. He was talking about Cryonics, where the human remains were frozen and stored at a low temperature with the speculative hope that resurrection was possible in the future.

Considering there was an item that had been releasing its energy for a thousand years to solve that problem, it was possible. And Noel even mentioned demi-humans.

"Still, don't you think that we can simply get that from you without this agreement? That's our original objective after all?"

"Indeed. But do you think I will let you?" Noel's eyes became cold. However, the tension didn't rise as Ramuer simply shrugged his shoulders. "Alright. But what are you going to offer us? You should be aware that you're currently standing in Atrecaeca Kingdom's soil."

"I know. In exchange for those two conditions, I will offer you the Rune Engineering Method. You could basically say that this is the advanced method of the basic rune. Rune Engineering can program a certain movement into an object. I'm sure you can see how useful it is for the Atracaeca Kingdom."

"Movement..." Ramuer contemplated for a moment. "Are you sure you're not asking us to protect you?"

"I'm not planning to bring the Atracaeca Kingdom to my conflict."

Ramuer and Noel stared at each other for a while before Ramuer added, "Seeing your current condition, I don't think you will be able to write another book right now. How can we know that you will survive and give us the book?"

"You can only believe in me." Noel shook his head.

"If you die, we will get nothing." Ramuer raised one finger. "Hence, you, the creator of that book, should know a better method to learn runes, right?"

"!!!" Noel raised his eyebrows before falling into deep thought. It seemed that Ramuer was planning to take advantage of the situation. But that was enough because he could see what would happen.

"Fine. I'll give you the method."

"Good. We have a deal." Ramuer glanced at Legolaz as if telling him to stand down. Since Ramuer had agreed to it, Legolaz had no choice but to comply.

"I will bring you to the bottom floor to confirm everything. Make sure you wrap yourself in warm clothes since it's going to be cold."

Ramuer nodded and decided to go back with Legolaz.

When they were away, Legolaz asked, "Are you sure about this?"

"Of course. I don't think he can survive their onslaught with only two people. And it's not like that organization dares to touch us. So, it's better we get something first. Besides, he indirectly implied that he had a connection to the Greenwood Kingdom, right? We could simply strike another deal with them instead of him. And once we leave this place, we can mobilize the army. Also, aren't you curious about the message he wants us to pass?"

Ramuer had calculated that there were numerous methods that he could take advantage of. Unbeknownst to him, his own action was the reason why Noel didn't plan to make another agreement with the Atracaeca Kingdom.

Chapter 829 Absorbing

"Master. Are you alright with that condition? They are trying to squeeze us dry." Dimitri asked while looking at the back as if staring at the lingering Ramuer and Legolaz figures.

"It's fine." Noel nodded.

"But even if we get their cooperation, we haven't got their protection, right? It doesn't change the fact that we're surrounded by the Supreme Devil Organization." Dimitri recalled the information from the past and continued, "If my prediction is correct, that old hag is planning to infiltrate this place soon. She is not the type that will wait for us passively."

"That's why speed is the essence here. How long do you think we have left?"

Dimitri briefly calculated. "Three hours at worst."

"That's enough." Noel immediately brought a few papers with him and wrote down all he wanted to say.

Dimitri asked, "Are you going to send the message to them?"

"Yeah. Tristan and Sandra have to go alone." Noel nodded. The message was simple, but Noel had actually drawn a few runes on the paper, telling Tristan to study it. Dimitri felt something was off when Noel actually told Tristan not to think about him anymore.

However, Noel had made his decision, so he chose to believe it. Although Noel was still young, he had a talent for war as someone whose ancestor was the great general of the Muivell Kingdom. With every win and defeat, Noel grew to become an even better general.

Hence, he thought Noel had another message that he wanted to convey in this letter, and only Tristan could see it.

"How are we planning to escape from the Supreme Devil Organization? Although I hate to admit it, without the True Spirit Body, I can't kill that gorilla in an instant. Even though I'm an assassin, it's impossible unless I can weaken him first. And you will be chased by the other elites, including Qiel."

Noel had thought about it when he was on the bottom floor. He pointed at his body and said, "I have a way."

"The Rune Body?"

"Yeah. If it's necessary, I don't want you to unleash your True Spirit Body. While it's true that we're in a dire situation, it doesn't change the fact that it's still salvageable. I'm not that weak guy anymore."

"Then, where are we supposed to regroup? Since I'm going to focus on that steel guy, we'll be separated, right?"

"Yeah. We will be meeting with Tristan and Sandra in the town northeast of this place called Elk City."

"I understand. But I won't be that far away from you so that I can help you in case something bad happens. I'm ready to use the True Spirit Body anytime."

"I know." Noel examined his writing for a moment. After he was sure that it had conveyed everything he wanted, Noel began writing the secret to learn the rune effectively. Although he knew that Ramuer was taking advantage of the situation to extort him, he didn't plan to break his promise. He was a man of integrity after all.

After one hour, Ramuer and Legolaz returned with thick clothes.

Noel handed him the letter with the location of the inn to Ramuer. "This is the letter."

"Don't worry. I will definitely deliver the letter." Ramuer smiled while adding inwardly, 'Of course, I'm not saying that I won't look at it first.'

παΠdαsNovel.com Noel then handed a second piece of paper and said, "This is the secret to learning the rune faster. Or at least, this is what I've used to improve myself."

To have the secret from the creator himself was a big achievement. Even if Noel didn't survive, he still won big.

"If you don't mind, I have a little request." Noel raised one finger and continued, "Since I'm going to dispel the cold, it means that your men can get all those frozen people out. This ruin can be investigated fully at a later date, so I hope that you can bring those people out right away since we don't know what will happen to them when the ice melts."

Noel looked like he was concerned about those people's lives as a proper human being. And Ramuer didn't see anything more to it, so he agreed, "Sure. I'm glad that you are a good person."

Legolaz also couldn't see what Noel wanted. He thought Noel was simply too good of a man and this was the reason why they could take advantage of him.

They didn't realize that Noel allowed them to take advantage of him so that they would think of him that way. This was Noel's plan in using them.

After reaching an agreement, Noel said, "Let's go. I'll guide you to the bottom floor. After you've confirmed everything, I'll get the ice element item and you can then send people inside."

Those four started going to the bottom floor. He didn't plan to let them see the tubes of the experiments since it wasn't necessary. And the quicker the Supreme Devil Organization left, the safer their progress would be.

Hence, Ramuer and Legolaz didn't bother to check the other floors, thinking Noel had inspected them.

Once they reached the bottom floor, Noel warned, "Please stand back. It's going to be extremely cold." "I think you should take a look at

Both of them could feel the cold leaking from the door, so they immediately covered their bodies with Spiritual Energy while maintaining a proper distance.

When Noel opened the door, the ice cold breeze hit them. If they weren't wearing thick clothes, they would have experienced frostbite. Normal people would have been frozen to death, they thought.

"I see. So, this is the ice item." Ramuer narrowed his eyes. "It's no wonder that it can freeze them for so long."

Ramuer and Legolaz could take a glimpse of those frozen humans inside like Noel when he first came. Ramuer, who was also knowledgeable in preservation, confirmed that if those people were alive before getting frozen, they could still be resurrected.

With a nod from Ramuer, Legolaz smirked, wondering how much contribution he would make if he managed to bring back the extraordinary people from the past civilization.

After their bodies adjusted to the temperature, they entered the room and found the ice jade floating in the air.

Noel said, "As per the agreement, I will be taking this. Once it's been absorbed the ice energy will dissipate and the temperature of the room will increase. You'll immediately bring these people back to the surface for treatment."

'We don't have anyone important in our ranks that uses ice elements. Looking at this ice jade, it's clear that it won't form an oasis. So, we've got a good deal since we can get the secret of runes for it.' Ramuer thought. He nodded with a smile, saying, "Yes. We'll fulfill our side of the agreement."



Noel then moved toward the ice element, telling Heisk inwardly, 'Get ready.'

Once he stood in front of the ice element, Noel took out the Ocean Pearl Necklace he got from the Third Prince. As the mission described, the Ocean Pearl Necklace resonated with the ice jade.

The necklace began to emit Spiritual Energy and dimly shone. The ice jade also released a burst of Spiritual Energy, followed by flowing Spiritual Energy that seemed to be moving toward the necklace.

'Ardagan. What is this ice jade and necklace?'

[The Ocean Pearl Necklace is created from a pearl that resides at the bottom of the ocean. Not only was the pressure huge, but the temperature was also cold. However, no matter how cold it was, it didn't reach the freezing point. And this ice jade is the trigger to fully activate its ability.]

'The Third Prince said that the Ocean Pearl Necklace is good for an ice element user, but it turns out to be incomplete. It needs to be activated by a powerful ice element to show its true might?'

[Yes. And Heisk will feed on it. You'll understand the rest in the reward.]

As Ardagan said those words, the Ocean Pearl Necklace continued absorbing the energy from the ice jade.

Ramuer and Legolaz could feel the temperature increase rapidly as more and more energy was absorbed.

The one controlling the Ocean Pearl Necklace was Heisk. Since Noel wanted to suck everything, she maintained the fastest speed and warned Noel, "I'll be done in three minutes and seal the energy."

'Go on,' Noel replied. Heisk's Spirit Link and Spirit Seal were flickering as Noel poured more and more energy so that Heisk could maintain this pace.

After three minutes, Noel could barely feel any Spiritual Energy left from the ice jade. The light from it also began to flicker and the temperature had increased to a bit below freezing. While it was still cold, there was no doubt that the ice would disappear sooner or later.

After a few more seconds, the energy was finally sucked completely. And Noel poured the energy into his necklace, allowing Heisk to completely trap the energy inside the necklace.

It was at this time Ardagan showed the mission.

[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: Ocean Pearl Necklace]

[Mission: Heisk's Evolution II.]

[Description: Heisk will proceed to absorb the energy that has been stored inside the necklace (3 days).]

[Reward: ???]

'I guess Ardagan doesn't plan to tell me everything. Well, I hope that you are satisfied with this for now, Heisk.' Noel turned around and said to Legolaz and Ramuer, "I'm done."

Chapter 830 The Calm Before The Storm

"I'm done."

Ramuer and Legolaz were still in a state of shock. They had just witnessed something incredible.

Normally, if one absorbed an item like this, their entire body would be influenced. In Noel's case, he would be frozen, or at the very least, a few frostbite would appear on his body.

But that didn't happen. They could see that Noel was using his Spiritual Energy to absorb it, so he must have been influenced in one way or another.

The reason why he wasn't affected must be because of that necklace. Still, a normal necklace wouldn't be able to withstand the power of the ice jade. From the Spiritual Energy it exuded alone, the ice jade was far too extraordinary for a necklace that didn't look mystical at all.

Yet, the necklace was able to contain that power and seal the power within it.

"..." Ramuer and Legolaz suddenly felt a glare coming from behind. It was none other than Dimitri.

That was a warning from Dimitri, telling them not to be controlled by their greed. If they thought about getting that necklace and taking back their words, he would kill them here even if it meant fighting against the Atracaeca Kingdom.

Ramuer made a wry smile, saying, "Congratulations."

Noel nodded with a calm expression even though he saw the greed in their eyes. He said, "The temperature has increased significantly. We should get moving right away."

"That's right." Ramuer glanced at Legolaz.

Legolaz acknowledged the order and waved his hands. The sand started flowing into the room and carried a few people.

"Legolaz will bring a few people right away and send the rest of the people down later. Getting all these people can be done within one hour, so rest assured." Ramuer explained.

Noel agreed with him and immediately climbed to the higher floor again, ready to launch his next plan.

Meanwhile, Legolaz showed the people about the frozen people. He asked a few strong Spirit Wielders and Masters to help him carry all these people so that they could be brought back to the kingdom. Since they had to carry them more than ten floors, only Spirit Wielders or above could do it with their abilities.

Ramuer stayed above, organizing the rest of the people while preparing to bring them outside. After all, they had to go through that small tunnel to go outside.

The process was very quick and Noel didn't have to take too long. While waiting, Noel asked his spirits, 'How is it?'

[Heisk is in the middle of absorbing it. While you can still wield her power, she won't be able to respond to you.]

'How about you, Ardagan? I think this is the first time I've asked this. Do you feel anything when Heisk absorbs something and vice versa? You both are residing within my body after all.'

[You don't have to worry about us. We are in a separate realm, so we won't be affected at all. Only when you visit us do we go to that one realm to match your consciousness.]

'I see. There are a lot of things I don't know about Spirits.' Noel might have done a lot to know the spirits from their ranks to their abilities.

But he had never questioned the environment. Unfortunately, he didn't have time to explore all that.

He only asked, 'I have one important question for you, Ardagan. If I somehow die without an heir, what will happen to you? If I'm not wrong, you are related to the Ardagan Family, right?'

[Yes. While I have consciousness and anyone can actually wield me if I allow it, the Spirit God has tasked me to protect the bloodline. But if there is no more in your family's bloodline, I will be taken back to the Spirit World.]

'I see. Since you're directly connected to the Spirit God, will that affect the other spirits in this world?'

[Not at all. I'm just one among many spirits. Humans have survived for countless millennia, so they will be able to survive even without me. Though, I wish that you can continue to survive.]

Noel fell silent and couldn't help but ask, 'Why did you choose me? I was lazy. In fact, my father looked like a better fit to be your host. After all, the Spirit Conversion Rate doesn't apply to you since you can boost the other spirit's Conversion Rate.'

[If you manage to synchronize with my True Spirit Body, I will tell you the answer.]

Noel made a wry smile. 'You know what? You've always told me like this a lot of times... like I'm not strong enough to handle the truth. No, I admit that I'm not strong enough, but it shouldn't affect my progress, right? After all, knowing oneself can allow you to progress even further.'

[It's not like that. While there are times that the truth will bring danger to you, you don't have to be strong enough to know the truth. What I want you to know is that you have a quality that you haven't seen.]

'So, you're telling me that you will tell me about it after being able to use the True Spirit Body?'

[Something like that.]

Noel sighed. 'Alright. Sometimes, I wish that you could be more open. I know that I might not be the best host to learn about you and other spirits, but sometimes, I won't know if you don't tell me about it.'

[I will remember that. I also sincerely wish for that day to come.]

Noel smiled, hoping the same. He took a deep breath and checked the progress.

Legolaz seemed to have extracted about two hundred fifty bodies. The people were also shocked to see demi-humans, but they could only follow orders since Legolaz and the second prince were the ones overseeing this matter.

Since they were about to finish, Noel said to Dimitri, "You can use your shadow to leave, right?"

"Yes. But Qiel should be able to see through it."

"How far do we have to go until she is unable to find you?"

"If I'm not wrong, her range of vision is about two kilometers."

"Are you confident going like that for two kilometers before anyone catches up?"

Dimitri looked down, contemplating. "Considering Qiel's weapon, she should be a bit far away as well. If I move in the opposite direction, I should be able to do that."

"No. Don't go in the opposite direction. Pretty sure that she will station that other Devil Saint in that place."

Dimitri changed this plan immediately. "In that case, I will change my direction depending on their position."

"Yeah. But there is one more thing. This is probably the only way we can fool them and move away." Noel waved his hand, asking Dimitri to move closer.

Dimitri lowered his head as Noel whispered his plan in his ear.

The plan shocked Dimitri a bit, not expecting this kind of plan. But it might actually work since Qiel would be focused on him. Even if he had to fight against both Qiel and Nelfer, Dimitri had enough strength to escape without using the True Spirit Body.

And it seemed that Noel had also planned another route for Tristan and Sandra. He didn't know how long this could work, but he knew this was their chance.

...

While Dimitri and Noel discussed their strategy, Qiel, Nelfer, and the rest of the group had been observing the ruin from a distance.

"This is too hot. Are we still going to wait here? Why don't we just crush the building or even infiltrate that place? I know that the ones leading the expedition are somewhat special, but we can somehow capture our target without harming them, right? After all, we have two Devil Saints and several Devil Bishops and Devil Inspectors."

"You are underestimating them too much. Dimitri might have a hard time breaking your defense, but that Noel is not ordinary either. I shot him once, but he looked fine after blocking it. While it's not a lethal arrow, it contains all Spiritual Energy I could put into my arrow. In other words, his strength is like a Spirit Grandmaster... perhaps even stronger than the Devil Bishops we've brought here. So, we will have to wait for a period of time so that they almost forget about us before infiltrating the ruins."

"Hoh?" Nelfer raised his eyebrows. "He could have that strength while he is only a Spirit Master? What will happen once he reaches Spirit Grandmaster or even gains the True Spirit Body?"

"That's how it is. If we let him grow, it'll become troublesome. And I heard he is planning to rebuild the Ardagan Family... There is a chance that he will reassemble all the powerhouses. So, it won't be easy to fight the Ardagan Family as well."

"I heard about it. While the Royal Family and two Duke Families that contained strong Arbiters were hard to fight, the most annoying one was the Ardagan Family."

"That's why we have to succeed in this mission. If not, the hurdle will increase drastically the next time we try this thing again."

"Got it. I'll do my best to stop Dimitri. Unless he can chop me, he won't be able to bother you and the rest."

Qiel nodded in agreement before noticing something. Her eyes started shining again as if she had seen something.

"You should go into your position," Qiel ordered.

"What's wrong?" Nelfer asked.

"I saw Dimitri looking around. He must be searching for our position. I thought we had to infiltrate the ruins once they forgot about us, but it seemed that we could capture them directly."

"Hehe. I'm getting fired up." Nelfer smirked before disappearing from the area.