

## **S vs Rebirth 831**

### Chapter 831 Battle Of Wits

"Hmm?!" Qiel narrowed her eyes when she noticed another movement from the ruin's direction. "Wait, isn't that..."

Legolaz had first split the group into two. The first group entered the ruin with him while the second group maintained the security of the area.

The second group hadn't made any other moves, showing that they were waiting for Legolaz. Additionally, since a few hours had passed, the sky had begun to turn dark. Dimitri would become even more powerful during the dark. It was true that the brighter the light, the darker the shadow. But when it was dark, it would be hard to differentiate the shadow, making him able to blend in.

That was why Qiel had to be careful during the nighttime. It was clear that Dimitri was planning to make a run for it.

Qiel drew her bow, aiming at the ruin. Although she didn't plan to destroy the ruin, she would definitely shoot if Noel was there. Even Dimitri would have a hard time protecting Noel in this siege.

But this was the exact reason why any variable might ruin her plan.

And the first group that Legolaz brought in earlier began to emerge from the ruin. They were actually taking out a lot of frozen statues. Those figures had been covered in a thick layer of ice.

"Huh?" Qiel's body trembled. She had clashed with Dimitri a few times in the past. Dimitri might be clever, but not this clever.

She instantly saw through the trick that had transpired inside the ruin. The fact that the people brought out those fragile frozen people meant she couldn't shoot at the ruin.

While she could shoot a non-lethal arrow and just use shock waves to blow away normal people without killing them, she was practically a cannon. A single shot from her would produce an impact that would shatter the fragile ice statues.

If she truly shot them, it was the same as picking a fight against the Atracaeca Kingdom.

"Kh." Qiel gritted her teeth, realizing that Noel must be the one who thought about this plan. It seemed that the report of him outsmarting Laufey was not a lie. Ultimately, Qiel lowered her bow while keeping on the lookout.

She might not be able to shoot, but she could still order the people to move.

"You guys get ready. The moment I find a single trace of that little brat, you're going to chase after him."

The Devil Bishops and Devil Inspectors nodded their heads furiously.

More and more ice statues were brought out from the ruin. Obviously, the ice statues piqued everyone's interest, so they ended up surrounding the first group, trying to get a look at these statues.

The more crowded it became, the harder Qiel could find Noel and Dimitri. This was basically the battle of wits between Qiel and Noel.

Not long after, Ramuer came out and shouted, "I am the second son of the Grand Protector, Ramuer. We have found a trace of the previous civilization. Hence, I'm going to order all of you to carry everything to the nearest city. We'll use the temperature of the night to maintain their condition until we reach the city. Get ready to move out!"

Ramuer's order shocked everyone, but the night in the desert was extremely cold. So, it was indeed perfect to maintain the ice. It was probably the reason why Noel negotiated with Ramuer at dusk. He wanted to give the reason for Ramuer to come out during the night.

"This is getting trickier than I expected. That little brat is smarter than reported. Are they going to use the group to escape?" After seeing the current situation, Qiel felt like Noel's plan wasn't so simple. "No,

they don't seem to be using them to escape. If that's the case, the future Ardagan Family will bear the wrath of the Atracaeca Kingdom as well. After all, those ice statues are valuable resources. They must be planning to escape through this confusion or..."

When Qiel thought about it, she saw a fluctuation of energy.

"!!!" Qiel's eyes not only could see from far away, but she could also see the flow of Spiritual Energy. And currently, there was a change in the middle of the crowd. "It must be Dimitri."

Without hesitation, Qiel aimed her bow at the crowd. She was waiting patiently, fully knowing that Dimitri would leave the crowd and make a run for it.

"The town is in the south. I'm currently in the west, and Nelfer is waiting for them in the east. The ruin might not be big, but they still have to loop around if they want to go to the north." Qiel smirked. She had positioned perfectly, limiting Noel and Dimitri's movement.

As she expected, Dimitri suddenly launched himself to the east.

"There he is!" Qiel could see the shadow that used the darkness to cover its presence, moving in Nelfer's direction. She thought she managed to read Dimitri completely and aimed at him, ready to support Nelfer.

However, Dimitri's ability didn't allow her to see whether he brought Noel with him or not. There was a chance that Noel was hiding among the crowd or even staying in the ruin to wait for them to pass.

While she was still thinking, Dimitri made an abrupt change. He suddenly stopped and changed his direction to the south.

"What? He suddenly shifts his direction to the town. Did he notice Nelfer and change his direction? Or..." Qiel gasped, thinking of another possibility. "That little brat might be with him and he figured out my plan and changed his approach."

Dimitri couldn't unleash his full speed in the shadow form, but that was enough to make him hard to be found.

Even Nelfer wouldn't notice him changing direction.

Unfortunately for him, Qiel wouldn't allow him to escape.

"You might have surprised me, but you haven't exceeded my imagination," Qiel smirked and released her bow. She had to shoot him before Dimitri left her range.

The arrow flew like a cannon. But because the arrow was made of light, it left a trail in the darkness, startling the crowd.

Before the crowd could react, the arrow had reached its direction. But since the distance was extremely far away, there was a small window of time that allowed Dimitri to avoid the arrow.

Boom!

The arrow exploded, startling everyone.

However, the shadow managed to avoid the arrow, albeit barely. The effect was shown when the shadow stopped for a moment as if it was trying to get its stability.

After that, the shadow continued on its way before Qiel released another shot.

"As expected, you could avoid that." Qiel clicked her tongue, but her annoyed expression soon turned into a smile as she said, "But... that shot is not to hit you, Dimitri."

As she said those words, the shadow that had just left Qiel's firing range came to a halt. A figure suddenly fell from the sky and punched the sand.

Bam!

The punch was so strong that it caused an eruption. All the sand on the surface was kicked up, including the shadow.

Due to the change in the terrain, the shadow had to revert to its original form.

"Do you think you can get away?" The one who knocked the sand was none other than Nelfer. That was right, the arrow that Qiel shot earlier was not to hit Dimitri but to alert Nelfer.

Now that Nelfer had stood in front of Dimitri, he would be able to stop him.

But surprisingly, Dimitri came out alone.

"Eh?!" Qiel was stunned. She had expected that Noel would be Dimitri due to that abrupt change in direction. But he was nowhere to be seen. "Wait a minute. Is he using Dimitri as a distraction?"

Qiel became hesitant, trying to figure out what Noel was thinking.

Meanwhile, Dimitri ended up releasing all his Spiritual Energy as the shadow began to leak out from his body.

With a gaze filled with killing intent, he stated with a cold tone. "I'm getting annoyed. If you think you can stop me from leaving, then try it!"

Nelfer smirked as he also released his Spiritual Energy, not planning to lose against Dimitri.

While those two were about to clash, Qiel was actually panicking.

"If Dimitri is only a decoy, that little brat must be trying to do something." Qiel hurriedly returned her gaze to the crowd, trying to locate Noel. But because the crowd was stunned and more and more people came out, it was impossible to locate him.

So, Qiel shouted, "You guys immediately go to that crowd and try to find Noel Ardagan. Even if he can disguise his appearance, you can still find him among the Spirit Masters."

The group acknowledged the order. But before they left, Qiel suddenly stopped them. "Wait."

The group became confused, but Qiel seemed to be coming up with another plan.

"It's impossible to escape by himself from me. So, there are only two possibilities. He can disguise himself as one of those people or use the building to fool all of us..."

Qiel gasped, seeing through Noel's plan. She corrected her order, "Split into two groups. The first group will search for him in that crowd, while the second group will investigate the ruin. Check every corner and wall to see if he is drilling the hole and escaping from underneath the sand."

This time, the group left and divided themselves.

As one would expect from Qiel, the strategist of the Supreme Devil Organization, she could see through Noel's plan, who wanted to escape by using the sand as his cover. However, would Noel be easy to catch? Or would Noel outsmart an opponent like her this time?"

Chapter 832 Escape

"!!!" Legolaz felt the incoming people and turned his head around. However, the operation was so swift that the entire group entered the crowd, trying to mingle with them so that they were hard to find. He cursed them inwardly, 'Damn it. The Supreme Devil Organization... I'm going to make you pay.'

Legolaz tried to search for them but to no avail. He didn't realize that the first group had begun their investigation, trying to find Noel among the people. The second group had sneaked inside the building, trying to find any proof that Noel would use the sand to escape.

Unbeknownst to them, no matter how hard they tried to find him, it would be impossible to find Noel.

Qiel, who observed the entire scene, couldn't help but furrow her eyebrows. Dimitri was already outside her range, but she was still able to see Dimitri clashing with Nelfer.

It seemed that Dimitri was planning to leave this place. But there was no way someone loyal like Dimitri would leave his lord just like that.

"Still, why is Dimitri leaving? Is he going to find reinforcement? But no one in that town has the ability to stop us." Qiel turned to the ruin. "Is he still there? But with his intellect, he should be able to see himself being captured. No, he might be waiting to ambush us. He should know that we will have to split up the group. But I have told them to avoid a direct conflict, and if they find anything, the first priority would be to regroup."

On the one hand, Qiel had prepared the best plan she could afford. On the other hand, she couldn't see through Noel's plan yet.

Unbeknownst to her, Noel was already outside the ruin. In fact, he was already near the town.

The town was quite peaceful. Not far from it, a person's head emerged from the sand with a box covering its entire face. That was the only way to prevent the sand from entering his nose, ears, mouth, or eyes.

This person was none other than Noel.

He hurriedly pulled himself out while looking back.

Qiel might be able to see the fluctuation of Spiritual Energy with her eyes, but it was impossible to find Noel.

After all, Noel had actually been submerged. That was right. The moment the crowd formed, Noel sneaked out of the ruin and immediately buried himself in the sand.

As for how he moved underneath the sand, it was his Rune Body. When Dimitri asked previously, Noel pointed at his body, specifically at the Enhance Forward Rune.

Noel had actually used that rune to propel himself. He changed direction by employing the trick that he learned from Damian, where he could launch himself in any direction depending on the direction he pointed at.

As a result, he was moving underneath Dimitri the whole time.

When Nelfer appeared in front of Dimitri and smashed the ground, Noel was actually underneath both of them.

pandasnovel.com Dimitri then released his full power to make everyone think he was trying to escape. Meanwhile, the real reason was to actually cover the entire area with his Spiritual Energy, confusing both Nelfer and Qiel.

Nelfer would be overwhelmed and his focus would remain on Dimitri. On the other hand, Qiel wouldn't be able to find Noel's fluctuation of Spiritual Energy when using the Enhance Forward Rune in that situation. By the time Noel left the area, Qiel wouldn't be able to sense him anymore.

In other words, the key factor in Noel's escape was none other than Dimitri. Everything was a distraction.

As for Dimitri, there was no way Qiel and Nelfer were enough to defeat him. Additionally, Qiel was still hesitant to attack Dimitri because she was focusing on Noel.

"Still..." Noel coughed up blood.

He was indeed below Nelfer and Dimitri earlier. And Nelfer's powerful strike hit him as well.



He had been enduring it, but he couldn't contain it anymore.

While wiping the blood on his mouth, Noel assessed his current condition. "There is no broken bone fortunately. There is some bleeding, but I should be able to repair it with Force Control."

Noel smiled. While circulating his Spiritual Energy, he headed straight to the inn where Tristan and Sandra were hiding.

"Tristan!"

Upon hearing his teacher's voice, Tristan hurriedly opened the door, finding his injured master.

"Master!" Tristan panicked, not knowing what to do.

"We don't have time. The enemies have located us."

"Are we going to leave this place?"

"Yes. But you and Sandra will have to go alone. I have to distract them away so that they don't find both of you."

"But..." Tristan was thankful for Noel's kindness the whole time. So, he would never think about abandoning Noel.

However, Noel added, "This is my order. You two are to go to this city within two weeks."

Noel took out the map and pointed at the location while handing them money and some Demon Crystals. "You should have seen how I entered the city where we first met, so use that experience to reach your destination. Don't take risks and go to this town first and use escorts to reach the next destination. Understood?"

"But how about you, Master?" Tristan asked with a pale expression.

"I have my own plan, so you don't have to worry about me. In fact, you should worry about yourself because your roles will be crucial." Noel moved to the table and wrote down a letter. "I want you to send this letter as well. The address and everything have been written down." "I think you should take a look at

"Are we going right now, Master?" Tristan asked.

"Of course not. The night is extremely cold and treacherous. That's why you will go after the sun is up. In fact, you will receive another instruction and we'll use them to escape. I have given you separate instructions in the letter. That's all. You have to think about how to survive yourself. This is another test from me. Are you ready?"

Tristan clenched his fists. The current situation had shown how dangerous it was to follow Noel.

If he succeeded, he would be able to become Noel's disciple and an important figure in this field. No one would dare to look down on him even if he was a former slave. If he failed, he would die, which should have happened if he hadn't met Noel in the first place.

Tristan looked at Sandra first, who seemed to be determined to change her life. He said, "We will do it. We'll certainly not disappoint you, Master."

"Good." Noel nodded in approval. "Then, I have to go now. Remember, the situation will be dangerous."

"Yes, Master." Tristan nodded with a serious expression. "I'm sorry that I can only be a burden right now."

Hearing Tristan's words couldn't help but put a smile on Noel's face. He patted Tristan's head while saying, "The next lesson will be hard."

After saying those words, Noel left the inn and erased his trace before heading out of the city and to the south, where the Atrcaeca Kingdom's capital was.

Meanwhile, Tristan clenched his fists. Noel might word it that way, but he was actually indirectly telling him that he wished Tristan would become his disciple. The word 'next' indicated it.

He swore that he wouldn't disappoint his master.

On the other hand, Dimitri had been fighting Nelfer the whole time.

Clink!

Clink!

Clink!

A series of clicking sounds echoed in the area as Dimitri struck Nelfer multiple times.

Nelfer was panting. As Qiel said, fighting Dimitri was hard. In fact, the darkness empowered Dimitri even further.

His entire body was covered with wounds. Despite having a body of steel, Dimitri managed to pierce his body. If this continued, Dimitri would be able to kill him sooner or later.

Unfortunately, Dimitri didn't have much time anymore. Qiel would become restless, so she would definitely come here and hunt him down.

That was why after inflicting some damage on Nelfer, he formed his escape route.

The moment Qiel moved from her location, Dimitri instantly turned around and escaped to the south.

"No, you can't escape from me!"

Nelfer chased after him, but Dimitri was extremely swift. It didn't take too long before they saw the town where Tristan and Sandra were.

"Huh?!" Nelfer gasped while a few light arrows fell down in front of Dimitri, causing a series of explosions.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Dimitri launched himself to avoid the blast before continuing his way to the town.

"Stop!" Nelfer used his steel body to ignore the blast and caught up to Dimitri.

However, Dimitri actually struck him while asking, "Are you really going to destroy a city?"

Nelfer's body trembled. He personally wouldn't mind razing the entire city to the ground, but Qiel had reminded him over and over again that they shouldn't make this kingdom their enemy.

That hesitation allowed Dimitri to escape once more and ultimately enter the city.

"Kh." Nelfer was shocked and wanted to catch up, but Qiel's voice echoed from the side. "Stop, Nelfer."

"Qiel." Nelfer glared at her. "Are we going to let him escape like that?"

"Do you think you will be able to kill Dimitri inside the town? He is the most dangerous when he is among the people." Qiel was also annoyed, feeling like she had been played thoroughly by Noel and Dimitri. "There is a chance that little brat has escaped to the town. I don't know the exact method, but that brat must have gone away. We will need more people to find them. I have sent a message to Group D and E. We'll monitor the town for the time being."

#### Chapter 833 Hidden Message

"How is the situation?" Nelfer asked while looking at the city from the roof of one of the buildings.

"We can't find him yet." Qiel shook her head. "It's practically impossible to find him in the city."

"We should have just led our people inside and checked every single person." Nelfer harrumphed.

"This is why you are not the leader of this expedition. You would definitely die in Dimitri's hand." Qiel snorted. Just from his words alone, she could imagine Nelfer bringing all his subordinates inside the city.

When they traveled inside the city, a person suddenly moved alongside them. In just a split second, there was a fluctuation of energy as a blade sent one head flying.

After noticing that change, Nelfer and the others turned around, albeit finding nothing. After that, Nelfer became angry and tried to search for Dimitri. But they didn't realize that Dimitri was still among the crowd.

Dimitri attacked them once again, killing another person. Out of anger, Nelfer tried to chase after Dimitri and turned in a junction, only to find Dimitri disappear among the crowd. At that time, Dimitri would take out another person.

Eventually, Nelfer's subordinates would die in Dimitri's hands. Even Nelfer would definitely die if he wasn't careful. As a result, a single person managed to weaken the Supreme Devil Organization.

Dimitri would definitely use guerilla warfare to his advantage.

Just thinking about it gave her a headache. Qiel bit her lips, wanting to berate Nelfer. But since she was the one leading this operation, she had to remain calm. It was impossible to find Dimitri without casualties.

However, there was one thing that confused her.

"Is Dimitri hiding in this place to kill us? No, wait. If we wait here for too long, the Supreme Devil Organization will have trouble. After all, we're still fighting against the Demon Banner Army openly."

With two Devil Saints away from the organization, it was clear that the Supreme Devil Organization would be at a huge disadvantage. It seemed that Noel had seen through their condition and knew they couldn't do this in a prolonged time.

"Wait a minute. Is he going to hide here forever? No, if we're talking about Noel Ardagan, I don't think he has that much time either."

The sun was already up, so the people began to come out of their houses to do their daily activities. However, as one would expect, the plaza was actually surrounded by people as they displayed a few ice statues while trying to resurrect the others.

It was clear that they were trying to showcase the result of the expedition. This would increase the second prince's reputation.

However, the second prince and Legolaz had yet to complete their expedition. It was true that they had gotten the most important things, but the ruins were still full of treasure.

So, they were still assembling people to do another exploration.

And among the crowd, Qiel could actually find another Spirit Grandmaster.

"Huh?" Qiel narrowed her eyes. "Is that Dimitri?"

Nelfer tilted his head in confusion. But Qiel actually pointed at a certain person who was actually another Spirit Grandmaster among the people.

"We have investigated the city before going to the ruin, right?" Nelfer asked.

"Yeah. And the result is that no one other than the Great Protector was a Spirit Grandmaster."

"..." Nelfer fell silent before moving to the edge of the roof. "I'm going."

"Wait, Nelfer. The fact that he is openly showing himself means that there might be a trap." Qiel tried to stop him, but Nelfer added, "If that's the case, I will fall into his trap."

Just like Qiel said, the moment he said those words, Dimitri suddenly disappeared. However, the fluctuation continued to the south as if it was trying to leave the city.

"!!!" Qiel widened her eyes in shock. She hadn't processed the change yet, but the other party had made a move. "This is bad."

"You can stay here. Try to find a Spirit Master in the town. Since Dimitri is trying to leave the town, you should be able to explore the city and find the fluctuation of a Spirit Master, right?" Nelfer asked. "I'll keep Dimitri outside the city."

"Alright." Qiel could only agree, not being able to think of another plan better than that. She never expected she would have this much trouble just to capture Noel. It seemed the reason why Laufey couldn't capture him previously was because of this.

And if she ended up failing like Laufey, the next time they tried to capture Noel would be extremely hard.

After seeing Dimitri leaving the city, Qiel hurriedly signaled the rest of the group to begin their search. They had to find all the Spirit Masters inside the town and make sure no Spirit Masters left the town. Even if they had to leave, they needed to be inspected.

While the Supreme Devil Organization was searching for Noel, who had already gone, the second prince and Legolaz chose to fulfill the promise to Noel, which was to give a letter to the designated person.

However, before they sent it, they checked the content. It was morally wrong, but it didn't matter because they were suspicious of Noel and wondered who were the ones connected to him.

When they opened the letter, they couldn't help but be surprised by its content. It looked like a parting message from Noel, but he actually gave him a few runes.

"This is... rune, right?" Legolaz asked. I think you should take a look at

"Yeah. However, I'm not sure what this rune is. Who is this person to be able to get a rune from the author of the rune book?" Ramuer frowned.

"Do you want me to investigate them?" Legolaz asked.

"Currently, we have no manpower because of those frozen statues. For the time being, copy the runes on this letter and send the letter to this person. After that, just put one or two people around that area to make sure that person doesn't leave. After dealing with these frozen statues, we will begin the investigation about that person."

"Understood." Legolaz nodded and took the letter.

As he ordered, Legolaz asked someone to copy the rune before giving the letter to another subordinate to deliver.

...

A few minutes later, Legolaz's subordinate had arrived at a certain inn where Tristan and Sandra were.

He knocked on the door, which happened to be opened by Tristan.



"Is there something wrong?" Tristan asked.

The other party took a glance at the room that didn't seem to have another person other than Tristan. So, he handed the letter while saying, "This is given to you."

"Oh? Thanks?" Tristan looked confused while receiving the letter and checked the sender before politely bowing his head. "Thank you."

Seeing his reaction, it was clear that Tristan was connected to Noel Ardagan. After confirming it, he left Tristan alone and went downstairs, where his comrade stayed.

"How is it?"

"I have delivered the letter. It's true that he is related to him."

"Then, should we wait here?"

"He has seen my face, so I will wait outside. You can stay here and make sure that person doesn't leave the inn."

"Alright."

The two split up as the one delivering the letter was watching the inn from the outside.

pandasnovel.com Meanwhile, Tristan was happy that he finally got the letter Noel was talking about. Sandra suddenly came out from her hiding spot, which was under the bed.

"Is it alright now?" Sandra asked. "And what does it say?"

"Hmm..." Tristan opened the letter and read it.

"Can you even read it?" Sandra asked.

"Of course." Tristan nodded with a serious expression. This was the part where Tristan's extraordinary memory showed its might. Dimitri had been teaching him language, manners, and other necessities.

However, everything related to memory, like language, could easily be absorbed by Tristan. Although his reading ability wasn't at the level of someone who had read for a long time, he could easily recognize words that were usually spoken.

He read it with a low tone so that Sandra could hear it as well. "Tristan. I'm sorry that I can't go with you anymore because of a problem. Although it's only for a brief period, I'll be leaving. Because I can't fulfill my side of the agreement, you can take this rune as compensation."

"Huh? Is that all? Master Noel said that he has given us the instructions in the letter, right?" Sandra asked, feeling confused. She couldn't understand the words or even the runes, so she only listened to what Tristan said.

Unexpectedly, Tristan suddenly fell silent when he saw the runes.

"This is..." Tristan seemed to have noticed something. "This rune is supposed to be the Chain Bind Rune... But there are a few strokes that are different... This one is the Muscle Enhancement Rune, and just like the previous one..."

Tristan suddenly understood what Noel said about the instruction.

"M...o...v...e..." Tristan could actually find four characters that joined together to create the word 'move' in the Chain Bind Rune. Tristan could remember the exact details of the Chain Bind Rune, so it was easy to find the difference. In fact, Noel had been teaching him by spotting the difference between runes and correcting all the mistakes.

It turned out Noel had given the instruction inside the runes. Others would be able to find it out sooner or later, but only Tristan could see through the hidden messages in an instant. This was truly the message Noel left behind.

"Sorry, Sandra. Please give me some time, I have to decipher Master's secret message."

"I understand." Sandra didn't understand the secret message, but it seemed that Noel had trusted Tristan that much, which was something to be happy about.

Just like Qiel, Noel was planning to outsmart the second prince and Legolaz through this letter in order for Tristan and Sandra to leave the city safely.

#### Chapter 834 Escaping The Town

"Hmm?" One of Legolaz's subordinates, who remained inside the inn, was watching the stairs calmly. His partner had described Tristan's appearance, so as long as he could see him from here, it should be enough.

Still, it seemed that Tristan didn't plan to go out. In fact, there wasn't a single person coming down for the time being. Considering the time, it was normal to have no activities around their lodging.

But waiting for an unspecified period of time made him a bit bored.

Whether it was fortunate or unfortunate, there was something that piqued his interest. One of the tenants actually went down. This tenant had long brown hair and a pair of black eyes. Her skin was also tanned, but she was too tall to be called a kid.

In addition, she was a female, unlike Tristan, and wore a masquerade. She covered her body with a coat as if not planning to let the sun burn her skin.

The guy looked at her for a moment before shrugging his shoulders. He thought Tristan, but it was clear that the other party was a woman. Hence, he didn't even bother to check her.

The woman walked gracefully to the outside and met another man. However, his partner should have seen this woman inside.

Thinking that the woman was actually another customer, that guy simply ignored her.

Hence, the woman walked away with a calm expression. After a few hundred meters, she turned around and headed to a small alley.

The woman hid behind a bunch of barrels where she uncovered her body.

It turned out the woman was made of two people. There was a guy who had been carrying her and her hands were holding a cup each, gently forming her curves under the coat.

As soon as they thought it was safe, they finally revealed their true appearances. Yes, they were none other than Sandra and Tristan.

This was one of Noel's instructions.

"How is it?" Sandra asked.

"It's perfect. For now, we'll go to the north gate and leave this city through the expedition according to Master's words." Tristan nodded with a serious expression.

What made the woman look like a mature one was the size. Tristan made up the height while a backpack made up their general body line, causing Sandra to look like a mature woman.

They stored the coat inside the backpack while saying, "Let's go. I'll carry the bag for now. You will act as a lady who is employing me as your slave."

"Alright." Sandra agreed with the arrangement. They hurriedly sneaked around and headed to the north of the city, where a lot of people assembled.

Sandra continued using the masquerade to change her appearance while giving the air of a more refined lady.

Meanwhile, Tristan was following right behind her. Because of their clothes, no one thought they were slaves.

It didn't take too long for them to reach the assembly where they were gathering the second wave of the expedition to investigate the ruin.

Tristan and Sandra casually blended among them as if they were parts of them.

Unbeknownst to them, there was a middle-aged man who was suddenly walking behind them. The man glared at them for a bit before moving away.

If they were stronger, they would have noticed the man and the fact that he was scanning their ability.

Unfortunately for him, the two kids were completely normal.

As a result, they managed to blend in well without anyone suspecting them.

After another two hours, they finally went on the expedition, heading straight to the ruin. Due to the combined efforts in the previous subjugation, there wasn't a single demon appearing on their way, allowing all of them to reach the ruin without any casualties.

The group immediately ordered the people to enter the ruin and investigate them, trying to extract everything they could find.

Following the plan, Sandra looped around the building and sneaked out with Tristan, leaving the city and the ruin with no one suspecting them.

Their plan was to head to the nearest city according to Noel's instruction.

Still, Noel had asked them to move to the north for a bit even after they couldn't see the ruin or the city anymore. After that, they turned around and headed east.

"We are safe, right?" Sandra asked.

"Yeah. If I remember correctly, there should be a few people staring at us. Luckily, we have managed to fool them." Tristan let out a sigh of relief. He couldn't help but recall the message he deciphered from the letter.

"Move north for 5 km, turn east. Head to Leoppe Town."

This was one of the instructions that Noel had given them in the letter. There were other instructions that had been left, but this was the first step. Of course, the night Noel visited, he also told them something else.

"In the morning, I'm sure that there will be someone delivering my letter. It contains my instructions in order to reach the rendezvous point. But when you receive the letter, I only want Tristan to open the door while Sandra hides somewhere in the room."

"After that, Tristan will carry Sandra as she wears the masquerade. Use the coat to cover your look and act as casually as possible as if you don't know anything. Once you come out, find a quiet alley to become two people again and head to the north. There will be an assembly for the expedition, and since the demons have been exterminated, it should be pretty safe."

"Once you reach the ruin, follow the route I've left behind in the letter. Understood?"

When recalling the plan, Tristan couldn't help but smile. "It seems that Master is extremely smart. How can he predict all this even though we only have a limited amount of time to meet?"

"That's true. But aren't you going to become his student?" Sandra smirked.

"Right? I'm feeling blessed and I'll definitely not disappoint him." Tristan clenched his fists. "We have enough food and water to reach the next destination as well as money to hire escorts to our real destination. Can your body keep up?"

"I have long since recovered. I can handle this much. In fact, I will help you carry the bag along the way."

"Sure. Let's go."

Both Tristan and Sandra continued their journey. They might not be sure about it, but they had escaped from Legolaz and the Supreme Devil Organization.

With their disguise, they easily fooled Legolaz's subordinates. And when someone from the Supreme Devil Organization checked them, they were only kids without proper strength. Hence, they wouldn't be Noel, considering they were also two people and the boy didn't have anything that covered his face.

...

Still, no matter how hard Noel tried to fool them, they were bound to notice sooner or later. After all, even if the kids didn't need to go out, they still needed to eat.

So, Legolaz's subordinate felt a bit weird when he found the kid remained in his room even after the day was almost over.

Ultimately, he decided to make a direct approach and try to find Tristan in the room through the window. But to his surprise, there wasn't any trace of Tristan left inside the room.

He was completely shocked because he didn't see Tristan coming out, but the kid miraculously disappeared.

Without hesitation, they reported to Legolaz. The news soon reached the second prince's ears, who immediately ordered to search the town.

Even though they had limited manpower, they had to find Tristan, considering he was the only person who was trustworthy enough to get the runes from the author himself.

As a result of Tristan's disappearance, Ramuer also doubted the letter and asked it to be checked.

The mobilization of their forces in order to find Tristan ended up alerting the Supreme Devil Organization, who was still looking for any trace of Noel inside the town.

Standing on top of the roof, Qiel asked her subordinate, who had just appeared next to her. "What's wrong? Why are they mobilizing their troops? Did something happen to those frozen figures?"

"No. It seems they are searching for a kid. We don't know the real identity of that kid yet."

Qiel looked down, contemplating. "What kind of kid could make them mobilize their troops? Is it that brat?"

After a moment, Qiel ordered him, "Bring Azak and Nezka here. I'll infiltrate the Great Protector's building and find out about the identity of that person and the reason."

Her subordinate disappeared, carrying her order.

Qiel later found out about Tristan and Noel's relationship with him. However, it was too late. The so-called Tristan had gone too far and they didn't know where Noel would send him.

And since Tristan could become a burden, Qiel thought Tristan was sent to the Muivell Kingdom directly. As a result, she sent two subordinates to track Tristan, thinning her group even further.

Meanwhile, Qiel remembered the direction Dimitri went and Nelfer was still chasing after him without fighting him. He perfectly knew that Nelfer would die if he was reckless.

In that instant, he finally realized what Noel planned to do. He had been trying to divide their group, wanting to eliminate Nelfer before fighting back.

Qiel panicked and immediately assembled her subordinates before chasing after Nelfer.

It turned out her prediction was correct. They had brought a total of fifty people into this kingdom that was split into two groups. Nelfer had brought one group that was tasked to investigate another city.



But when they reached Nelfer, he found Nelfer badly injured. Eight people had died under Dimitri, while two were heavily injured.

It was a complete defeat.

Qiel's face became pale, finally understanding the threat Noel possessed.

#### Chapter 835 Defeat

"Kh!" Qiel gritted her teeth, staring at the defeated Nelfer.

Nelfer looked guilty as he looked down, not daring to make eye contact with Qiel.

"Did you enter the city?" Qiel asked a question that she already knew the answer to. She had told him not to enter the city, but Nelfer was stubborn and overconfident.

As a result, Dimitri employed guerrilla warfare and killed the people from the organization one by one. Even Nelfer had a hard time fighting against Dimitri.

There was one more problem. Nelfer couldn't destroy the town because it would cause the Atracaeca Kingdom to deploy its troops to subjugate the organization.

Nelfer ultimately retreated from the town, but by the time he exited the town, five Spirit Master and three Spirit Grandmasters had died. The other two were still alive, but they were no longer able to join the fight.

In other words, it was a complete defeat.

Qiel stomped the ground and shouted in anger, "Can you even follow my order? Do you know that Noel and Dimitri have escaped to the south? And by this time, there is no telling where they are heading right

now. If they reach the capital and make a deal with this kingdom, it will become extremely hard to capture him."

Nelfer couldn't say anything. He had indeed made a grave mistake, thinking he could somehow drag Dimitri out.

Instead, Nelfer remembered what happened not long ago.

During the day when they clashed with Dimitri, the group that was going to help him had finally arrived.

Seeing the incoming reinforcement, Dimitri turned around and headed straight to the south, finding a town not far from their location. He had run for quite a while after all, so he had expected this.

"Sir. He is going to enter the town!" One of them reported out loud. "We can't enter this town anymore."

"Are you scared?" Nelfer roared and pointed at the town. "We'll enter the town. Once I get a hold of Dimitri, I will toss him out and we'll fight him again outside the town."

"But Sir, the order was..."

"Shut up! Right now, I'm in charge. Follow my order, not Qiel!"

The people wanted to say something, but Nelfer was a Devil Saint. They couldn't do anything against him.

Hence, they ended up following him inside.

Once they entered the town, Nelfer became confused. He looked at the face of the passerby but didn't find Dimitri.

The town was quite bustling with people, so it was quite hard to look around.

However, Nelfer continued leading his people to go deeper into the town.

After five minutes of walking, they didn't find Dimitri's presence, making them think they had been tricked.

Nelfer said, "Two of you. Go to the roof and find any trace of Dimitri."

They were staring at each other as though they didn't want to do it. However, Nelfer had been glaring at them, so in the end, two people volunteered.

Once they leaped to the top of the building, they scanned the area. It didn't take too long for them to notice the fluctuation of Spirit Grandmaster's energy.

"Sir." One of them pointed to the east, informing Nelfer.

Nelfer hurriedly led the rest in that direction, but in that instant, the fluctuation disappeared.

"Huh?" They were confused, trying to find Dimitri. "Where is—Gah!"

Before he could say anything, a sharp pain jolted his body. The moment he lowered his head, he saw a blade piercing his heart. A black rope suddenly wrapped his mouth, making him unable to let out a scream.

The other person who came with him experienced the same thing.

Before they knew it, Dimitri had appeared behind them and killed them. What could they, Spirit Masters, do against the best assassin?

Dimitri just let them fall on the roof before disappearing again. Meanwhile, Nelfer was advancing at a fast speed, not wanting to lose track of Dimitri.

His subordinates followed him without hesitation, but because of the pace, they had a hard time scanning their surroundings.

Suddenly, someone passed them and a black blade appeared, stabbing one of them to death. The black rope appeared again, gagging his mouth.

However, his position was behind them, so without any sound, the person had disappeared. All that was left behind was the fluctuation of Spiritual Energy.

Sadly for them, the moment they turned around, they couldn't find their comrade anymore. I think you should take a look at

"Where is he?"

"He is among us?"

παπdαsNovel.com All the people began to fear Dimitri while Nelfer raised his eyebrows, confused. He hurriedly checked the two people who were supposed to be on the roof and noticed how they were gone.

But that distraction had given another opportunity to Dimitri, allowing him to kill yet another Spirit Master.

"What is this? When did he appear?" One of them gasped, not knowing what happened. Dimitri felt like a ghost. Every time he appeared, one person would be gone without a sound.

Even though the heat from the sun was intense, they could feel chills down their spine. A certain thought appeared in their minds.

'I will be next.'

Nelfer gnashed his teeth. The situation didn't develop like how he predicted it.

Obviously, Nelfer had prepared a few sacrifices to draw Dimitri out. By using his speed and strength, he should be able to react to Dimitri's actions and catch him in one way or another.

But once Nelfer's anger started rising, Dimitri disappeared. Just like the Supreme Devil Organization, he didn't plan to involve the Atracaeca Kingdom in their conflict. While it would surely cause a huge problem for the organization, the Ardagan Family would be dragged in as well.

Hence, Dimitri disappeared for a moment, waiting for Nelfer to calm down.

After that, he continued eliminating Nelfer's subordinates until Nelfer thought it was enough and decided to escape the city.

This time, Dimitri went on the offensive and attacked Nelfer with all his strength, injuring him and the remaining subordinates.

But Dimitri had spent a lot of Spiritual Energy as well. Seeing that the sun was about to set, instead of continuing the fight and utilizing the darkness to kill him, Dimitri actually retreated.

Still, the damage had been delivered. And Qiel had to see all this.

"Argh!" Qiel roared in anger. It was already hard to chase Noel and Dimitri normally but to think that Nelfer would be this injured.

Qiel was wondering whether they should cancel the pursuit or not. The situation wasn't looking good. If they continued, there was a chance that Dimitri would unleash his full attack on them.

But after talking big, there was no way they could fall empty-handed.

Qiel recalled the time she infiltrated the second prince's chamber. She said, "We will change our target. It appears that Noel Ardagan and Dimitri have made contact with someone in this country.

"I'm not sure of the exact details, but this person is important enough to be given the runes. If I'm not wrong, the person is a boy, so I don't think he can go that far. Hence, we will change our objective. Instead of going after Noel Ardagan, we will head after this guy."

Nelfer finally raised his head and asked, "But is this guy really important?"

"Just think about it; the boy shouldn't have Spirit yet, but he is important enough to know about runes. I'm assuming that this boy is somehow related to him... I'm assuming he is his student. If we can capture this boy, we should be able to lure him out. At the very least, we can somehow learn his position."

"Let's just admit it first that Noel Ardagan is a formidable opponent. Even in this situation, he manages to split us up and deal this much damage. Hence, we will treat him as the top target of the organization."

"I will forget about your mistakes for the time being and I'll handle everything. Use that time to recover and prepare for another fight with Dimitri."

"I understand." After his mistake, he didn't dare to refute her anymore. "But where will we go? Is it the south?"

"No. I'm assuming that they are not going to the capital."

"But Dimitri..."

"That's just a distraction. If you think about it, the only way for that boy to escape is through the opposite direction."

"Then, he is heading straight to the Muivell Kingdom?"

"This is why..." Qiel looked at him with a sigh. She added, "Obviously not. They are heading east... but the Ardagan Family should have no connection there, so they won't have anything to stop us. But it'll be a different case if we look at the north."

"The Greenwood Kingdom?"

"Yes. I'm assuming that Noel Ardagan is planning to escape from us through the Greenwood Kingdom, utilizing the power of the Ezenholm Family..."

"Ezenholm Family... Isn't it his grandfather..."

"Yeah. The former court ian, Raincart. If that person joins hands with Dimitri, we will definitely be the ones to die. So, we have to chase after him before reaching the Greenwood Kingdom's territory. So, hurry up and tend the wounded. I'll only give you fifteen minutes before moving again."

Nelfer took a deep breath before nodding his head. He was determined to fix his mistakes.

Chapter 836 Another Plan

The next day.

Noel and Dimitri had finally regrouped.

"Master. I don't think they are chasing me." Dimitri reported while looking back. They were a few kilometers outside the city as Noel had chosen this place as a strategic rendezvous point.

"I know." Noel nodded with a serious expression. "If my prediction is not wrong, then they are going to come after Tristan and Sandra."

"Are you planning to use them to escape, Master?" Dimitri asked, thinking if Tristan and Sandra would be sacrificed.

However, Noel immediately shook his head while pointing northeast. Dimitri agreed, and they decided to start running.

"Looking back at how the Supreme Devil Organization defeated me two times, I finally know that they are an organization that emphasizes strength. The fact that you heavily injured Nelfer is enough to slow them down."

"Shouldn't I kill Nelfer?"

"After depleting all that energy, can you kill Nelfer within an hour?"

"If I use my True Spirit Body, I should be able to."

"But after that, you'll become vulnerable. What will we do against Qiel?"

"That's true. If I don't use my True Spirit Body, then I will probably need a lot more time because I can't have too many injuries to handle Qiel afterward."

"Exactly. And Qiel shouldn't leave Nelfer for too long, knowing that you are more than capable of killing Nelfer. Hence, it's better for you to retreat before she comes."

"Then, shouldn't they chase after us?"

"No. Qiel should have stayed in that city for a bit more and noticed the movement of Legolaz and the others. With that, she will suspect something and change her plan from chasing after us to Tristan and Sandra."



"But it will be hard even for her to bypass Legolaz and the second prince, giving us a bit more time. By that time, Tristan and Sandra should have reached the next city and hired an escort to another city."

Dimitri looked down and asked, "If that's the case, shouldn't Qiel have figured out our path?"

"Yeah. However, she doesn't know the exact place. In other words, she will try to spread her force in order to find us. The problem is whether we should divide our group again or not."

"Although I don't really want to say it, Tristan and Sandra are more like a burden right now." Dimitri agreed.

"In any way, they will surely blockade the east, especially around the border to the Greenwood Kingdom. They should have sent a lot of people to maintain the border of the Muivell Kingdom." Noel raised one finger. "That's why we only have one solution?"

"Entering another country to loop around them?" Dimitri was thinking about the fourth country, but Noel said, "The fact that you can think of that plan means Qiel would have seen through that plan as well. Hence, our solution is to break through."

παΠdαsNovel.com "But with Tristan and Sandra, we will definitely have a hard time."

"We'll confuse them. Qiel should have realized by now that I'm not a mere guy who can be underestimated after our battle of wits not long ago. Hence, she will definitely become even more careful with my every movement. That's why if we throw a bait, she will bite it."

"Bait..." Dimitri wondered what the bait was. Tristan and Sandra weren't considered ones according to their conversation. And he would definitely oppose if Noel wanted to be the bait himself. If he became the bait, Noel and the others would be exposed to danger. In other words, the bait didn't come from someone. And there was one thing that he could think of. "Wait a minute. Our destination..."

"Exactly. That's the bait. And I have left another trump card. As long as we can reach the border, we will be safe or so what should happen." Noel sighed. "In any case, time is the essence."

"So that they won't have enough time to react to our plan?"

"No. So Nelfer doesn't have enough time to recover." Noel shook his head. "I can somehow fight against their Devil Bishops, but those two Devil Saints are the problems. Hence, killing him would be ideal, but since that is not possible, heavily injuring him is enough."

"Without his full power, Nelfer shouldn't be able to aid Qiel that much. That should leave some burden on you, right?"

"Yes. The injury I gave him is not something that can be easily recovered. Even if he still comes at us, I can defeat him."

"Hence, I want you to utilize the runes on your body to defeat Nelfer within the shortest amount of time while stopping Qiel's arrows. Do you think it's possible?"

"If I can use the Rune Body, it'll be hard but not impossible." Dimitri finally understood why Noel was contemplating whether he should ask Tristan and Sandra to go by themselves or not. Fighting Qiel and Nelfer simultaneously would take everything from him, meaning Noel and the others would be exposed to that kind of danger.

Considering the enemy number, it wouldn't be weird if Noel got surrounded by at least five Spirit Grandmasters and more than ten Spirit Masters.

He had to fight against them while protecting Tristan and Sandra.

After contemplating his choice for a while, Noel finally made a decision. "In any way, we should regroup with Tristan and Sandra first."

"Understood." I think you should take a look at

Dimitri and Noel sped up. According to their calculation, Tristan and Sandra would have reached their destination one day prior to their arrival.

Meanwhile, Qiel and Nelfer had been moving east, establishing the information network to capture Noel.

As Noel predicted, Qiel had blocked the border to the Zaecuria Kingdom so that Noel couldn't loop around and enter the Greenwood Kingdom through it.

There was a possibility that Noel would return directly to the Muivell Kingdom. Hence, she had ordered an attack around the southern base of the Demon Banner Army. As a result, the tension would rise and the chaos would make their people find Noel easier.

All she had to take care of was the small border that linked the Atracaeca Kingdom and the Greenwood Kingdom.

Since Nelfer and Qiel didn't take a detour and went straight to that little gap, specifically the town that protected the border, they arrived far earlier than Noel and Dimitri.

Qiel was still heavily injured because he used most of his Spiritual Energy to speed up instead of recover, but this speed would buy him some time.

Unfortunately for them, Noel didn't plan to let Nelfer rest.

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Two days later.

Noel and Dimitri had finally reached their destination, a small town called Caidence.

Dimitri immediately checked the town and reported to Noel, who was waiting outside the town.

"I have checked the town. I'm not sure about the spies, but I have found Tristan and Sandra. Should we enter?"

"Yeah." Noel nodded with a serious expression.

Dimitri led Noel into the town, specifically the inn, where he spotted Tristan and Sandra.

Knock!

Knock!

It took them a while to open the door because Sandra had to dress up again, showing that they were still in disguise.

However, the moment Sandra confirmed their identity, she called out aloud, "Master!"

After that, Tristan opened the robe, confirming their identities. The people they had waited for so long had finally arrived.

"You two have worked hard." Noel smiled.

"Not at all. If not for your instruction, we wouldn't be able to do anything." Tristan replied.

"In any case, we don't have a lot of time left. So, I will be quick." Noel entered the room and closed the door. He glanced at Dimitri, who immediately scouted the area.

Tristan and Sandra immediately stopped talking.

"I'm afraid that I have to ask you to go by yourself again," said Noel with a grim expression. "And it will be very taxing because you can't take off your disguise."

Instead of getting disappointed or thinking about the hardship, Tristan looked at what was going to happen and asked, "Where should we go?"

That determination put a smile on Noel's face as he took out the map, pointing at the border town. "This one. Once you reach this place, I want you to wait until the third day when the sun is directly above your head before leaving the town. That's where we will meet each other again, but it will be extremely dangerous. If we can reach the Greenwood Kingdom, we should be safe."

"I understand." Tristan agreed without hesitation.

While Noel was talking, Dimitri returned and reported, "Master. I haven't found any spies yet, but the people are a bit more cautious. It seems that Legolaz is using his influence to find us."

Noel nodded as though he had expected it. "Well, he must have made another agreement with the Supreme Devil Organization like even if the organization fails to capture me, they will have Tristan in their custody."

Tristan never thought that he would be targeted like this. But considering his relationship with Noel, it was a visible sign of how his status had changed.

Tristan said, "Are there any other instructions, Master?"

"I'll give you the details." Noel began explaining his plans to escape this kingdom.

#### Chapter 837 Final Battle

While Noel and the others were discussing their escape plan, the people from the town were actually the soldiers of the kingdom and had been witnessing their entry. By utilizing Legolaz's influence, these undercover soldiers had sighted Noel and Dimitri.

Because the town was near the border, they had stationed another Spirit Grandmaster, who happened to be another Great Protector.

However, the other party didn't know anything about Noel and Dimitri as Legolaz had hidden this information. All he knew was that Noel and Dimitri had entered the town. Even with Dimitri's power, it

was impossible to avoid his detection unless they were planning to loop around the city instead of entering it.

Whether it was fortunate or unfortunate, the Great Protector only put them on surveillance and told the information to Legolaz. He didn't dare to take on Dimitri or something, considering they came in peace.

It didn't take too long for Legolaz to receive the information. Obviously, since they had made an agreement with the Supreme Devil Organization, they shared the information with Qiel.

"They have spotted them." One of Qiel's subordinates entered the room where Qiel and Nelfer were staying and discussing their next plan.

"Where is it?" Qiel asked.

The subordinate approached her and pointed at the city near the border of the Zaecuria Kingdom.

"!!!" Qiel opened her mouth in shock as she hurriedly stood up and asked, "Are you serious?"

"Y-Yes!" He panicked, not knowing what to say as he only delivered the information.

"What's wrong?" Nelfer, who was busy recovering, ended up asking.

Qiel didn't answer immediately. Instead, she fell into deep thought. 'The city is near the border. They still need to cross another city to reach the Zaecuria Kingdom, but is this really their plan?'

'That Noel Ardagan should have known about my intelligence after our battle. And I have predicted that they are using the Zaecuria Kingdom to loop around and seek refuge in the Greenwood Kingdom.'

'But if he is that smart, then I don't think he will follow this plan, fully knowing that I can see through his plan. We need more information. There are at least four possibilities. First, he will continue with this plan and escape to the Zaecuria Kingdom. Second, he will use this as bait before using the gap to break through.'

'The third one is the most troublesome. He will move back, confusing us. This way, he can move in all directions around the kingdom, making us search for him. But considering we have Legolaz's agreement, we can somehow find them even if it requires more time.'

'The last option would be going to the opposite border. Yes, there is a chance that he is going deep inside and heading to the border where the people won't know him. In other words, he will use the demon territory to escape from any form of surveillance. And we're currently in the southern part of the region. It will only take three more days to reach the border and loop around to enter the Zaecuria Kingdom through the demon territory. But will he do it while protecting the kid that Legolaz wanted?'

Qiel's expression turned grim. Each possibility would require a lot of manpower. Additionally, they were fighting against time.

"Tell Legolaz that they might use the southern border to escape to the Demon Territory. He should stop them there. Also, since he is spotted in that area, there is a chance that the kid he is searching for is in that town."

"As for us, we will hold him back on the border of the Zaecuria Kingdom, preventing him from reaching this country," Qiel ordered.

"Understood." Her subordinate acknowledged the order and immediately disappeared to pass the message.

Meanwhile, Nelfer asked, "I'm not sure about this, but what about the small gap that leads directly to the Greenwood Kingdom? Won't this be exposed if we mobilize our people?"

"This is because of you." Qiel gritted her teeth. "Do you know that because of your condition, you won't be able to stop them?"

Nelfer didn't say anything. After that defeat, he felt like he had lost the right to stop her. If he wasn't reckless, he could stand in that gap and stop Dimitri until Qiel arrived and flanked them from both sides.

But with this condition, Nelfer could only stop Dimitri for a few minutes. It was definitely not enough for Qiel.

That was why Qiel had to improvise and said, "You and I will stay together. If we create this gap, he will definitely take it. In other words, as soon as he begins to move, we'll head directly to this area and ambush them. This is the only way to stop them. He wants to outsmart me? I will outsmart his outsmarting."

Nelfer saw the confidence on Qiel's face, so he immediately nodded his head, showing his agreement.

"We'll be moving now," added Qiel while looking at Nelfer's condition.

"Alright." Nelfer had also understood the fact that Noel wouldn't give him time to recover.

...

All involved parties began to move.

As expected, Legolaz stationed the troops in the south, preventing Noel from crossing. However, this place was the most unlikely place Noel would go and since he couldn't openly show his cards because it would mean harming Noel, he agreed to guard this area. The person he wanted was Tristan after all, so Noel couldn't do much to him.

Meanwhile, Qiel and Nelfer brought their group to the border of the Zaecuria Kingdom, waiting for Noel. If he truly used the Zaecuria Kingdom to loop around, then they would have a big clash here.

Noel would surely avoid it and go for the small border that was linked directly to the Greenwood Kingdom. Hence, Qiel and Nelfer stationed themselves on the edge of the border so that they could immediately return when necessary. They only had a few elites under their command as the rest were spreading across the border.



A shadow suddenly moved away from the city. A normal person would have a hard time spotting it, but there was a middle-aged man standing on top of the city's tallest building who witnessed the shadow. He was the Great Protector that governed this town.

"It seems that they have gone." He muttered in a low voice. "I have agreed to inform Legolaz about their arrival and departure, but he doesn't give me anything to search for that kid, so I don't care. I'll just inform him about that shadow."

Even Great Protectors didn't think of each other as their allies. They were rivals since being a Great Protector meant having a shot to become a Grand Protector. Only because Legolaz promised him a hefty reward that he agreed to monitor Dimitri and Noel. He didn't have any interest in looking for Tristan.

Meanwhile, there was a woman walking in the town. The woman had covered her entire body with a coat, but she didn't hide her hair inside the hood. Instead, she let the wind blow her hair as if she was trying to show that she was a woman.

Yes, she was Sandra, and the one who became her leg was Tristan. This was the reason why Noel wanted Sandra to hide. He wanted people to know only about Tristan, allowing Sandra to easily move around.

She examined the entire city while thinking, 'It seems that there is no effort in searching for us. However, we can't let our guard down. According to Master, leaving the city is not that much of a problem, but escaping from the border city is the problem.'

She took a long breath to calm her down as she signaled Tristan to move to the left, entering a building.

The building looked like a tavern. There were a lot of people eating inside and the booze smell was quite strong.

Sandra maintained her calm expression as she headed to the staff at the counter. She asked, "Border City."

The staff looked at her as though he was examining her. After a moment, he said, "Three Thousand Low Grade Demon Crystals."

"I need a trusted escort party."

"..." The staff seemed to be doubting her, but Sandra suddenly took out a bag filled with Demon Crystals. But instead of Low Grade, it contained Mid Grade and even Advanced Grade Crystals.

As soon as he saw that, the staff changed his words. Instead of saying the price, he offered a group. "Welbelfon Mercenary Group. Their captain is a Spirit Master and there are a few Spirit Wielders."

"Good. Arrange the party." Sandra nodded.

"Let me guide you to the waiting room," the staff politely extended his hand, guiding them to a separate room. Since Sandra seemed wealthy, he better treated her well, hoping for tips.

Sandra agreed and walked to the room where there were two long chairs for discussion. Sandra sat on one side while asking Tristan, "Are you alright?"

They couldn't expose their identity, meaning Tristan couldn't get a breather and had to stay in this awkward position while Sandra was sitting.

"Yes. This is nothing compared to the treatment in that place."

Sandra silently agreed, remembering their time with the slave merchant. She also knew that all the related parties should have taken their positions and the final battle to decide their fate had begun.

Chapter 838 Final Approach

In the border town, Sandra and Tristan were packing their luggage, ready for their ultimate trip. Sandra couldn't help but take a look at the sky, saying, "It's about to start, Tristan."

"Yeah. I'm sorry that because of me, you have to go through such a dangerous situation." Tristan nodded while putting the clothes inside his bag.

"Why are you saying it like that?" Sandra shook her head. "When I was sold to the slave merchant, I knew that my fate had been sealed. I would either go to the brothel or become a toy of a rich person. It was so awful that I wanted to die before he even got a chance to sell me. That stopped when I saw you..."

Sandra recalled their memory with the slave merchant. "I saw you continuously looking at something. I couldn't help but wonder why you would do something like that even though you would end up getting beaten every day. When we finally met Master, that was the time I realized that you had never given up. Unlike me, who resigned to my fate, you were trying to become stronger so that you could live a better life."

"That's—" Tristan wanted to say that he could do that because of her, who kept treating his injury.

However, Sandra continued, "When I saw you doing everything to save me, I felt like I should also do something. Unlike you, who have the goal of becoming a great person as Master's disciple, I don't know what I want to do in the future."

Tristan suddenly walked to her and grabbed her hand.

"Eh?" Sandra was startled, but she soon found Tristan's solemn face.

"Don't say that. If you don't know, then keep walking forward. We will survive this and live a long life. I'm sure that you can think of what you want to do even if it's not now."

Facing Tristan's sincere feelings, Sandra couldn't help but smile, saying, "Yes. It seems that I have become too sentimental. Let's continue packing our luggage. We have to reach the edge of the town in one hour."

Tristan nodded with a serious expression. For Tristan, Sandra's help was something like a miracle. Without her, he might have died or been severely injured to the point he could only wait for his death. On the other hand, Tristan had been an inspiration for Sandra.

Without them realizing it, they had both leaned on each other.

And to grasp their future, they had to follow Noel's plan.

Not far from the town, Noel and Dimitri were running in the middle of the desert. The sun was about to reach the top of their head, symbolizing the start of their plan.

"What is the situation?" Noel asked while scanning the area.

"I still haven't found them. However, it's true that it's too quiet here. Considering they are mobilizing two Devil Saints, they should have brought a big group of elites. Even if they spread them, some should be hidden around this place." Dimitri contemplated and asked, "Master. I think it's better if I use my True Spirit Body. This is the last sprint, right?"

"No. I don't allow you to do that." Noel shook his head. "You should know that I'm planning to reach the Spirit Grandmaster Stage either during my stay in the Greenwood Kingdom or upon my return to the Muivell Kingdom before becoming a noble. Meanwhile, you have to go straight to gather all the workers in the Muivell Kingdom. If you are injured because of the True Spirit Body, will you have enough time? The people we need are many, you know."

Dimitri couldn't say anything back. Even he had to use his full power to roam the entire kingdom, gathering those workers. He didn't know whether he would have enough time to gather those people before Noel became a noble.

After a moment, Dimitri said, "I understand. But if push comes to shove, I'll release my True Spirit Body."

"I know. If my prediction is correct, the moment we reach the border, we will be fine." Noel glanced to the horizon. "And if my calculation is not wrong, the enemies will be appearing soon."

"Well, we are only two hours away from the Greenwood Kingdom. In one and a half hours, we should be able to see the border city. They probably stationed a few people inside that city." Dimitri agreed.

"Yes. That's when they are going to attack. So, get ready." Noel took a deep breath. He began circulating his Spiritual Energy.

He had been conserving his energy this whole time so that he could use every bit of it during the brief clash. But since they were about to approach the border, they had to become a bit more cautious.

"I'll be moving around to scout the area." Dimitri nodded.

"Go."

In that instant, Dimitri disappeared. He seemed to have sped up and moved a bit farther away from Noel. I think you should take a look at

Meanwhile, the Supreme Devil Organization had moved according to Noel's words.

Qiel and Nelfer had stationed themselves at the edge of the border so that they could rush back to intercept Noel before reaching the Greenwood Kingdom.

Obviously, she could see a signal that would launch into the sky from the border town from this place. This would give her the time to react.

On the other hand, Nelfer remained on the ground, trying to recover even just a little bit.

While waiting, Qiel narrowed her eyes, staring at the border. Different kingdoms definitely had different borders.

Between the Atracaeca Kingdom and the Zaecuria Kingdom stood a lot of poles in an interval, stretching over the horizon. They had been connected with a few ropes to mark their area. If one crossed the rope, they would have entered the Zaecuria Kingdom.

Obviously, it was impossible to secure every inch of their border. Even in this place, she didn't find a single soldier. It might look easy to cross the border, but there was a giant town not far from the border, which should act as the military base to secure the border.

The Atracaeca Kingdom also had a border town, but because this place was at the very corner, the border actually crossed over three countries. The border town where Tristan and Sandra stayed was connected with the Muivell Kingdom and the Greenwood Kingdom. Meanwhile, there was another border town slightly south of the area.

With this kind of terrain, it would be impossible for Noel to cross over this way, leaving him no choice but to go to the gap they had created. This was Qiel's trap.

She turned around, staring at the border that linked to the Greenwood Kingdom. Instead of poles, there wasn't a single thing that stopped them from entering the Greenwood Kingdom.

The area was still filled with sand, but the desert should be ending not far from that border and that was where the Greenwood Kingdom's border town was.

Obviously, she noticed the slight few bricks that were placed around the lines, marking their territory. If Noel managed to cross over those bricks, it meant he had entered the Greenwood Kingdom.

However, she couldn't find any suspicious thing that was hidden around the border.

'Did I miscalculate? He should have known that crossing the border is only temporary. If he can't reach the border town, it will be impossible for him to get any protection.' Qiel scanned the area, finding no abnormalities. She thought Noel was prepared to fight them until they reached the town.

It was a bit foolish, considering Noel should have foreseen his capture unless he had another trump card.

'I see. It seems that Noel Ardagan is going to use everything to reach that town. We have a bit more time, but I'm afraid Dimitri...' Qiel glanced at Nelfer on the ground and said, "I'm going to tell you this. There is a chance that Dimitri will use the True Spirit Body. If that happens, the first thing you need to do is to survive and not use your True Spirit Body."

"Huh?" Nelfer woke up, confused. "Why? If I don't use my True Spirit Body, I won't be able to defeat him."

"Dimitri would definitely inform the Demon Banner Army about your condition. So, if we return, we will be targeted by the Demon Banner Army. Even our force won't last long. Hence, heavy injury is fine, but we have to keep the True Spirit Body our trump card if we want to return. If we stay here, the Demon Banner Army will use that time to launch a full-scale attack."

"I understand." Nelfer nodded in understanding. "I won't be reckless anymore. But how long do you need to capture that brat?"

"I'm not sure. He must have hidden a few trump cards, so I'll target the others to defeat him. Your team will sweep them and capture him."

"Got it."

As they discussed their last approach, a huge red light flew into the sky.

The light suddenly exploded like a firework, producing a loud sound that alarmed Qiel and Nelfer.

"!!!" Both of them knew because this was the signal their subordinates would send if they spotted Noel and Dimitri. In other words, the final chase had just begun.

"Move out!"

Chapter 839 Win

Noel was running by himself when he was already near the city. Unfortunately, this was the only thing he could do.

At first, he thought about looping around the town. Unfortunately, the north side where the Muivell Kingdom was had been protected strictly not by this kingdom but by the Muivell Kingdom. If a future noble was spotted like this, there would be a lot of problems.

On the other side, Qiel and Nelfer were watching the area closely. Hence, the only thing he could do was to stay in close proximity to the city to avoid their detections.

However, it also meant that the city could spot him, especially people from a tall building.

When he was about to pass the city, a light flew into the sky.

Noel glanced at the light and the origin, fully knowing that the person who released that signal would be someone from that organization.

Noel remained calm as though he had predicted all of it. In fact, Noel didn't do anything special. He just maintained his pace, trying to conserve his energy.

That signal alarmed not only Qiel and Noel but also Tristan and Sandra.

"!!!" Sandra widened her eyes in shock and hurriedly said, "Tristan. That signal... Did you hear it?"

Sandra hurriedly moved to a quiet place and Tristan finally replied, "Yes. I could hear it. Considering the time, it must be the signal of Master."

"So, should we start running?" Sandra asked while looking at the sun's position. There were about another fifteen minutes before the promised time.

Tristan also took a peek at the position and said, "No. We will follow Master's instructions strictly. We will leave the town after the sun is directly above our heads."

"All right then."

Sandra and Tristan didn't know anything about the real purpose of that plan. However, Tristan had promised Noel that he would follow his plan from word to word.



Without them realizing it, they had escaped another scheme from the Supreme Devil Organization.

By sending that signal, the Supreme Devil Organization could startle Tristan, the person Legolaz was searching for. Since he wouldn't be with Noel and only a little child, he would panic and leave the town.

This way, it would be easy to spot him and capture him for Legolaz.

And that task was given to the person who sent the signal earlier. When he shot the signal, he was scanning the area, watching closely to see if there was someone leaving the town.

But there was no one who left the town. The people were just shocked by the signal, and the authorities had turned a blind eye to this one.

"There is no one? I should wait for a bit. That kid shouldn't be that powerful, so he can't run fast. So, he might be running around the town to escape."

Ultimately, he was waiting for Tristan and Sandra, wondering if the kids were actually in this town or not.

...

Meanwhile, Noel kept his eyes on the south direction, knowing that the enemies would definitely come from that direction. Even Dimitri had blended himself into the surroundings, ready to intercept the enemies. As Noel ordered, he had to defeat Nelfer in the shortest period of time.

There was an eerie silence for a whole ten minutes, and Noel was about to completely cross over the city.

However, he soon felt an incredible fluctuation of Spiritual Energy coming straight at him.

He instinctively used his Enhance Forward Rune on his body to launch himself forward.

Boom!

An explosion occurred right at his original position. If he hadn't used the rune earlier, he would definitely have been hit by that explosion. He knew that it was Qiel's arrow.

Still, it gave away Qiel's location.

He hurriedly read the track of the arrow and raised his head, albeit a bit hard because Qiel was hiding behind a sand hill.

'Are you serious?' Noel clicked his tongue, never expecting that Qiel would be this skilled. It turned out Qiel's arrow, which was made of Spiritual Energy, could curve in the air.

Another three arrows suddenly flew into the sky, trying to cut Noel's path.

"Tsk. As expected of a Devil Saint, their intensity is far different from a Superior Demon..." Noel took a deep breath. It seemed that he had to reveal everything in order to stay alive.

He remembered the conversation he had with Heisk after absorbing the energy from the ice jade.

As promised, three days after the necklace absorbed the ice jade, Noel received a notification from Ardagan.

[Mission: Heisk's Evolution II.]

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

[Reward: Ice Burst, Snow Shield, Cold Empowerment, Eternal Frozen, Frost Control Upgrade ]

[Frost Control has been upgraded to Spiritual Cold Control.]

'There are so many abilities coming.' Noel was quite surprised that he got four Spirit Abilities in addition to his Frost Control being upgraded. 'Yet, Heisk hasn't evolved to the humanoid rank? I can't help but wonder how strong you will become once you reach that rank.'

'I have to thank you for that opportunity. Although I haven't reached the humanoid rank, I'm not far from it. As long as there is another ice element item, I can definitely evolve. It doesn't need to be as powerful as the ice jade earlier.'

'I see. Still, with the information I have received from Ardagan, it seems that these five rewards will be extremely useful for me.' Noel smiled.

'I'm glad that I can help you. Please use my ability.'

After recalling that brief conversation, Noel's Spiritual Energy erupted. When he looked at the incoming arrows, Noel looked calm as though he had confidence in stopping those arrows. Unlike Ardagan's Undying Flame, Heisk's ice was tangible. The addition of physical form added another layer of protection. I think you should take a look at

"Snow Shield."

"Ice Mirror."

With a single wave of his hand, Noel formed three giant snowflakes right at the arrow's trajectory.

Qiel seemed to have sensed it as the arrow was trying to curve, but the snowflake was too big and the arrow ended up hitting the edge of the snowflake.

Normally, the arrow could shoot through Noel's ice mirrors. Unless he lined up all the ice mirrors, it was impossible to stop a single arrow.

But these snowflakes were different and Qiel noticed it too. The moment the arrows hit the snowflakes, they erupted.

The snowflake released a huge ice crystal, but the Spiritual Energy inside the arrow still continued moving forward, trying to break apart the ice crystal.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

As one would expect from a Devil Saint's attack, the arrows still managed to break the ice crystal apart, albeit losing most of its Spiritual Energy.

As a result, a few ice mirrors appeared on its way and stopped it completely.

"!!!" Qiel, on the other side of the sandhill, widened her eyes in shock. "What?"

Qiel was completely shocked because Noel could actually stop her attack easily. It wasn't like the previous one where he stopped an arrow with all ice mirrors but still got hit by the momentum and explosion.

On top of that, Noel was still a Spirit Master. Even if he was close to Spirit Grandmaster, he was still far from her level.

This was the first time she saw someone like Noel.

"Ardagan Family, what is their true identity? I think I have to ask Laufey about the Ardagan Family." Qiel's expression turned grim.

Before she could shoot another arrow, a shadow moved toward her, ready to strike.

However, Nelfer jumped into the sky and stomped the ground with his full weight, causing the ground to tremble and the sand to be kicked up.

Dimitri was forced to revert to his original form.

"You have gotten too predictable, former assassin!" Nelfer smirked.

Dimitri didn't answer him. Instead, he swung his shadow sword as Nelfer opened his hand, trying to grab it. He had coated his entire arm with Spiritual Energy to make his arm like steel.

And surprisingly, despite knowing his blade would be caught, Dimitri continued his swing.

Clink!

As a result, Nelfer managed to grab Dimitri's blade. After that, Nelfer used his other hand to punch Dimitri. "Die!"

Unexpectedly, Dimitri let go of his sword, startling Nelfer. Instead, he pulled both arms and tried to push Nelfer's other hand. Even if its power wasn't as high as the hand that caught his blade, Dimitri wouldn't be able to stop that punch... in a normal way, that is.

"Huh?!"

On the left hand, Dimitri exerted the power of his rune, which was the Spiritual Energy Dispersion Rune. On his right hand, Dimitri used the Rune Blast. Last but not least, he strengthened his body with the Reduce Impact Rune.

When they were about to clash, the Spiritual Energy Dispersion Rune caused the energy around Nelfer's arm to scatter.

Without the boost of the Spiritual Energy, Dimitri punched Nelfer's arm with the help of the Rune Blast.

Bam!

"What?!" Nelfer was completely shocked as that punch ended up knocking his body back, causing his balance to tilt.

Using that chance, Dimitri moved toward Qiel.

"No, you bastard! I won't let you!" Nelfer hurriedly stomped the ground and tried to catch up, preventing Dimitri from interfering with Qiel.

Qiel was startled and tried to fight back, but Dimitri couldn't help but smile at Qiel.

"!!!" Qiel instantly understood his meaning. Dimitri's target was never her. "N—"

Before she could say anything, Dimitri had stopped his momentum by using the Enhance Forward Rune but backward. That sudden stop was not possible physically, but that was why Nelfer and Qiel would be shocked.

Nelfer didn't predict such a thing and saw Dimitri turning around with both arms coated with shadow. Even his own shadow had turned into blades.

In a single instant, Dimitri waved his hands as all the blades hidden in the shadow slashed Nelfer, inflicting a lot of wounds on the body with the most critical one being the huge wound on his chest.

"Gaaaahhh!" Nelfer screamed. He just promised he wouldn't mess up, but Dimitri almost killed him in the first round.

As if knowing the signal, Noel suddenly sped up with his Enhance Forward Rune.

"!!!" Qiel gritted her teeth as she was forced to choose between helping Nelfer or pursuing Noel.

Noel and Dimitri couldn't help but smile. In the past two clashes, they were the defeated. However, today, they plan to win.

Chapter 840 Stronger

"Gaahhhh!"

"!!!" Noel could hear the scream coming from the other side of the sandhill. That was the signal from Dimitri. Without hesitation, he circulated his Spiritual Energy to the Enhance Forward Rune and launched himself forward.

That action obviously didn't escape Qiel's surveillance.

"He is speeding up now?" She hurriedly turned around, trying to aim the bow at the sky to make it curve again. But she was hesitant to shoot it.

After all, the brief moment she required to form the next arrow would expose her vulnerable state. And Dimitri was someone strong enough to exploit all that.

Additionally, a half-baked arrow wouldn't be able to break through Noel's defense. She could finally see what their plan was.

It seemed that Noel was confident in stopping her arrows. Even if she pursued him directly, it would mean that Nelfer would be in danger.

All of a sudden, another explosion echoed from behind her. It was Nelfer's punch that struck the ground, causing Dimitri to flee to the left.

"Nelfer?!" Qiel widened her eyes in surprise.

"Go. I will definitely stop him here." Nelfer shouted, showing his determination in his gaze.

In that split second, Qiel had to make a decision. Helping Nelfer would mean Noel escaping, and Dimitri wasn't so weak that they could defeat him. On the other hand, if it took too long, Nelfer would definitely die in Dimitri's hands. In the worst case scenario, Nelfer dies and she fails to capture Noel.

This would definitely be a big blow to the organization. And Noel would definitely be hailed as a hero from the Demon Banner Army, which would be smooth sailing to become a noble. In other words, this was Noel's real plan.

Qiel gritted her teeth and hurriedly shot a few arrows into the air. One arrow flew upward and exploded in the sky, creating a blast that could be seen from far away. In that instant, a few Spirit Masters and Grandmasters from another position started moving toward the signal.

At the same time, the remaining arrows curved and approached Noel.

Noel waved his hand, sending forth the Snow Shield and Ice Mirror to stop the incoming arrows.

While running, Noel couldn't help but glance at the sun, measuring the time and the distance he needed to cross to reach the Greenwood Kingdom.

"The sun is almost on top of my head. I'm not sure how many more minutes for the sun to be directly above our heads. But Tristan should know about it." Noel recalled Tristan's speed and muttered, "I can cross the border easily, but I have to stop the enemies for Tristan and Sandra."

"..." Obviously, the person, who had been observing the city, noticed Noel's movement as well. He couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows, wondering what Noel planned to do.

"He doesn't glance at this town even once... it seems he is not worried about this city. Is it because the other target is not within this city? If that's the case, is he hiding that kid in another city and rescuing him later, or did he tell him to go straight to the Muivell Kingdom?"

He might be the scout, but he was also an observer, making sure he took note of Noel's every action. This way, he could get some information.



However, Noel didn't leave any clues in his actions, making him doubtful. Still, he had to follow orders and remained in the city.

Different from him, Noel didn't bother to look at the city because he had complete confidence in Tristan. His memory was his biggest talent and weapon.

Hence, all he had to do was create an opportunity.

Noel continued on his way. As he was about to completely pass the city, he noticed a few more arrows as well as a cloud of dust in the distance.

"Reinforcement... Qiel is going to capture me seriously, which means..." Noel glanced at the original location where the scream came from. "...she has left Nelfer behind. I'm counting on you, Dimitri."

He waved his hands again, freezing the arrows.

But the moment the ice crystals formed in order to reduce the energy within the arrow, a powerful shot was released, directly blasting all the ice crystals. As a result, the arrows were freed from the ice crystals without too much loss in their energy. They pierced through the ice mirrors and continued flying toward Noel.

"Seriously?" Noel didn't expect that Qiel would launch that explosive arrow just to save the other arrows. That explosive arrow was the one she used to inform other people from the organization. To think it could be used that way. I think you should take a look at

Noel let out cold air from his body as he clapped his hands. The cold air came in the form of a mist, bursting in all directions.

This was one of the techniques Heisk had learned after absorbing the energy from the ice jade, Ice Burst.

The arrow entered the ice mist and froze the energy itself.

"!!!" Qiel was surprised when her energy was frozen. "What? He could actually affect the Spiritual Energy itself?"

There was a reason why Qiel was so shocked. Normally, the Spiritual Energy within a Spirit Ability was so violent that they ended up striking it down as a Spirit Ability instead of pure Spiritual Energy.

There was a big difference between Spiritual Energy and Spirit Ability. Spiritual Energy was the pure form of energy, while the latter was a condensation of that energy by using the human's body as well as infusing their element.

The Spiritual Energy had already existed before the Spirit Ability, but the Spirit Ability couldn't lose its fuel, Spiritual Energy. In other words, when Noel froze the Spiritual Energy, the remaining element and condensation couldn't release their might as there was nothing to fuel them anymore.

The frozen Spiritual Energy was covered in a thick layer of ice and dropped to the ground before it burst, breaking apart the ice crystal and returning to the air.

Of course, Noel had been able to do it the whole time with his Undying Fire. In fact, this was the unique ability of the Undying Fire and why it was so fierce.

However, due to the influence of Ardagan on Heisk, it seemed that Heisk had created this technique, which was not possible normally.

After witnessing that power, Noel couldn't help but smile. Still, using ice mist in the middle of a desert was bound to lose its might almost immediately. The temperature of the desert made the ice mist warm, causing it to turn into normal water droplets and fall to the ground.

During that time, Noel could also feel a surge of power coming from the coldness. It seemed that the ice mist also allowed him to activate the Cold Empowerment.

As the name implied, the Cold Empowerment would strengthen his body in the cold temperature. It was similar to the Empowerment Rune to the point where he wondered if the runes were created by using Spirit Abilities as a basis so that normal people could use Spirit Abilities as well.

Unfortunately, he didn't have much time to think about it as the cloud of dust was about to reach him. Additionally, for the first time since the ambush, Qiel had finally revealed her location. She was standing atop the sandhill, aiming her bow at him.

"Tsk." Noel could see how serious Qiel was.

The arrow flew like lightning, carrying a tremendous amount of energy.

Noel waved his hand, shooting out a black phoenix from his finger.

The Undying Phoenix soared to the sky and engulfed the arrow. However, the latter was so fast that it managed to pierce through the phoenix in a split second.

This was one of the reasons why Noel didn't want to use his fire against Qiel. It was true that if his ability exploded and engulfed the arrow, it would burn the Spiritual Energy completely.

However, Qiel's arrow had so much speed that it was hard to time it right. That was why he preferred using his Ice Mirror.

But the sliver of Undying Fire that stuck on the arrow kept gnawing the Spiritual Energy, weakening the arrow.

This arrow was much more powerful than what she had released the entire time. It seemed that Qiel had known that a normal means couldn't defeat Noel. Hence, she treated him as a killing target and used this lethal arrow, fully knowing that Noel might still survive from a few arrows.

"Khkh..." Noel had a hard time. The Undying Fire didn't burn enough, so he added the Snow Shield and stacked all the Ice Mirrors.

Boom!

There was a huge explosion at the impact and all his ice was shattered into pieces. Fortunately, the arrow had lost most of its energy. Noel struck his blade at the arrow with the help of Spirit Weaponry and split it in half.

"Seriously? It took everything just to stop a single arrow?" Noel was confident he could win if he had to fight one or two normal Spirit Grandmasters. But that was the exact reason why Noel could clearly see the gap between a normal Spirit Grandmaster and a peak Spirit Grandmaster like Qiel.

The battle might be far harder than the one in his imagination.