

S vs Rebirth 851

Chapter 851 Raging Lightning Descend

"What?!" Heirden gasped as he instinctively thickened the layer of rocks that protected his skin to the point where he looked like a golem instead of a human.

After that, he raised both hands, trying to stop Anna's blade.

Anna utilized the momentum as well as the fierce lightning to strike Heirden. She wanted to know how much strength she could muster by this Awakening.

Obviously, the power of the Awakening was not at the same level as the True Spirit Body. But the pill had transformed the Spirit Links, including her veins, to a level where her body could assimilate with the Spirit itself.

When her blade struck Heirden's blade, the Spiritual Energy erupted. The lightning was rampaging on the area, shattering the ground even further. The rampant lightning also bounced toward the barrier.

"!!!" Her father, Kevin, couldn't help but increase the output of his Spiritual Energy as the barrier began to tremble. Kevin looked at his daughter and sucked a cold breath, 'Since when has my daughter become this strong? No, what is she doing the whole time?'

Not only the control but also this transformation. Kevin thought Anna had done something unprecedented.

He was afraid because showing too much would definitely shoot her down. After showing her profound control, the Royal Family might be trying to tie her down. But with this transformation, there was a possibility of the royal family using their influence to suppress her and get whatever they wanted. If they didn't receive it, they would consider Anna's act as treason and carry out the execution.

Still, he hadn't seen Anna's True Spirit Body, so he didn't know how big the gap between this transformation and the True Spirit Body was.

Even the Marshall trembled upon seeing this transformation. In normal cases, he wasn't afraid of anything, considering he was a Spirit Transcendence. The only one who could fight with him equally was Commander Oscar or Alexander.

But from the power of this transformation, he'd got a sense of dread, not because of her power, but because of her potential.

If Anna could completely grow to her fullest potential, there was a chance that her power would be so strong that no one could bind her anymore.

Even the king had to re-evaluate the situation.

Still, the fight had yet to end.

The lightning was shattering the rocks that covered Heirden. Anna had just shown a strength second only to the True Spirit Body.

If their power was equal before, this transformation would have completely overcome the gap.

"Haaa!" Anna roared while releasing all her strength to complete one full swing.

"!!!" Heirden could feel that the rock was beginning to be crushed, and eventually... "Aaaahhhh!"

Heirden screamed out of reflex. Anna managed to complete a full swing. As a result, the rock was completely crushed to the point where his hand was sticking out of the rock.

There was a deep cut wound on his hand. Heirden was clutching his hand, not being able to move his finger. He doubted he could use this hand for at least a few months even after it was healed. The cut was simply too deep.

But... this wasn't enough to make him give up. If he lost this time, his family would be ruined.

"I haven't lost!" Heirden made a clutching motion with his other hand.

The ground suddenly surged out as if they were alive, trying to form a sphere that would completely lock Anna inside.

Anna simply stomped the ground, using that force to scatter her lightning.

The lightning had far surpassed the rock and shattered them into pieces.

But there was a reason why Heirden was one of the twelve Arbiters.

The sphere earlier was just a distraction. When Anna destroyed it, the floor trembled as it shot up to the sky, forming a giant humanoid golem.

Its height was more than eight meters and its fist alone was as big as the arena.

More importantly, the golem joined both hands together and planned to slam the arena, crushing Anna altogether.

Even the audience was terrified. This was one of the reasons why Heirden's rank was pretty high. In fact, each Arbiter had the power to destroy an entire town with ease.

Obviously, Heirden was having a hard time controlling that massive amount of Spiritual Energy. Without it, he wouldn't be able to attach all these rocks and turn it into a giant golem.

Blood started flowing out of his mouth, nose, and eyes. Yet, he still maintained his focus as everything would end with just this attack.

Seeing such a challenge, Anna took a deep breath. Because everyone was so focused on the golem, they didn't notice the excited smile on Anna's face.

The instinct of the berserker had begun influencing her mind, taking this golem as a challenge that needed to be overcome.

She sheathed her blade once again. All her Spiritual Energy was concentrated in one place only: her sword. There was nothing to protect her other than the Reduce Impact Zone. I think you should take a look at

Just by releasing their Spiritual Energy alone, a fighter could exert some pressure. The more they concentrated their energy into one particular spot, the more pressure it brought.

Anna did it before, but because she always shot out the excess energy, it didn't accumulate enough to achieve such a thing.

But this time, she sealed all that energy within the scabbard of her sword.

Instinctively, both the Sword Arbiter and the Marshall had placed their hands on their blade.

The spiritual pressure emitted from Anna's blade was so strong that it deepened the crater.

This would be a deciding clash between Anna and Heirden.

Everyone became tense, preparing for the worst.

"Ah..." Anna suddenly felt something nostalgic. This amount of pressure, Spiritual Energy, and challenge couldn't help but remind her of what had happened in her previous life.

Her soul instinctively recognized this challenge.

"It's been a while since the last time I wielded this much power..." Anna surprisingly closed her eyes for a moment.

There was a scene that flashed in her mind. Noel was standing in front of her.

"This is the day I defeat you. You won't be able to escape anymore." Anna glared at Noel while concentrating her energy on her sword.

"If you can, that is..." Noel raised his hand. A huge flame erupted from the ground like that of a pillar, releasing tremendous heat.

It burned everything, whether it was the soil, the grass, or even her Spiritual Energy. Her lightning fluctuated as if the flame was forcing it to submission.

"Kh." Anna gritted her teeth. She wasn't afraid of this flame, but it didn't change the fact that Noel had clearly shown that if she wanted to defeat him, she would have to do more than that.

Anna fell silent for a moment. Her lightning was overwhelming. She had known that fact, but it still lacked the explosiveness that Noel's fire possessed. To bridge that gap, she had to create an artificial burst.

Whether it was her instinct or her talent, Anna actually sheathed her blade. If she lacked that burst of energy, she had just sealed it and unleashed everything in one go.

"!!!" Even Noel raised his eyebrows, noticing what she was doing.

There was an eerie silence for a few seconds before Anna and Noel leaped at the same time.

Both of them waved their sword diagonally as their abilities erupted. The sky turned white and black for a second.

The black flame was overwhelming the lightning, trying to burn it into nothing. The lightning was rampaging around, stubbornly resisting the fire.

In that split second, both of them had passed each other.

What remained after that clash was shattered, dried ground with everything was reduced to ashes.

"Interesting..." Noel smiled as he involuntarily dropped his sword to the ground. It appeared that his hand had grown so numb that he couldn't even hold his sword.

On the other hand, Anna's hands were shaking uncontrollably. If not for the fact that she switched to both hands to resist Noel's violent attack, her condition would probably be the same as his.

"That's an impressive attack, but that's not enough to defeat me." As Noel said those words, the temperature had dropped, indicating that his ice element could still fight. But Noel simply left that time.

Remembering that scene, Anna couldn't help but smile. Noel had been pushing her to the limit the whole time.

This technique was developed in order to defeat Noel. But in this life, they were fighting together.

'Back then... You are like a mountain standing in my way. Whenever I climb it, I feel like it's never ending. But what if we climb it together? Will I still continue climbing that mountain? No, I think the answer is simpler than that... We will simply destroy the mountain... destroy all the mountains standing on our path.'

Anna gradually opened her eyes. Her expression was tranquil as if the golem didn't have any effect on her.

The lightning suddenly disappeared from everyone's vision as if she had just given up. But this was the calm before the storm. She accumulated all that into this one single slash... a slash not to 'climb' the mountain but to destroy it.

"Raging Lightning Descent."

As she called its name, Anna drew her sword and the entire arena was overwhelmed with blinding white light.

Chapter 852 Conclusion

The blinding light overwhelmed everyone in the arena. The audience covered their eyes with their hands while doing their best to see what was happening.

"What is happening? I can't see anything."

There was a lot of confusion because they had to prepare for the worst. Fortunately, the four Arbiters in charge of the protection were the most reliable.

The Fire Arbiter might be ranked low among the Arbiters, but the Sword Arbiter, Fleeting Arbiter, and Void Arbiter were ranked 1st, 4th, and 5th, respectively.

When the blinding light dimmed down, the audience tried to look at the fighters, wanting to know the result of the battle.

However, what they found could be considered a disappointment. Instead of the conclusion of the match, they saw three people coming into the arena.

The first person was the Sword Arbiter, who cut down the pressure from the energy Anna released. The second one was the Void Arbiter, Anna's teacher. She formed a blue vortex that swallowed the giant stone hands as another vortex appeared nearby, connecting the hands.

Last but not least, the Fleeting Arbiter. He had the most crucial role as he was the fastest among the three.

Kevin appeared in front of Anna and placed his hand on the back of the sword's handle, preventing Anna from releasing that strike fully. But Anna managed to unleash a bit of her blade, causing the Spiritual Energy that had been stored inside to leak. That leak alone caused the blinding light as well as the Sword Arbiter to interfere directly.

"What?!"

"What is happening?"

"The Sword, Void, and Fleeting Arbiters are stopping the match?"

"But who wins in this case?"

"Come on!"

"Why do you have to intervene?"

The audience was disappointed because they couldn't see the conclusion, ignorant of how close they were to losing their lives.

When the people started raging, the Marshall suddenly opened his mouth, announcing with his Spiritual Energy. "I shall explain everything in detail. The Stone Arbiter's golem was strong. If he smashed down, the entire arena would be destroyed. In fact, this entire area might be leveled and everyone would be in danger as the attack would render the barrier useless."

When they heard the first explanation, they thought the winner was clear. The fact that Count Heirden could bypass the barriers made by four Arbiters and multiple Grandmasters meant he far surpassed Anna's strength.

However, the Marshall continued, "But...we have to take a look at the ability that Anna Stargaze was about to release. That dense energy would be unleashed at full force. Just like how the compressed air would explode when it could expand in an instant, her ability is the same."

"The lightning would wreak havoc in the arena. While it won't be able to destroy the barrier completely, there is a high possibility that a hole will appear. The lightning will pass that hole and endanger the audience."

"More importantly, we can't forget the fact that she is using a sword. That sharp energy will cut down the rocks, and the lightning would shatter the remaining rock. With the Stone Arbiter's current condition, there was a high chance of him losing his life."

"Hence, as a Marshall, I have to declare that Anna Stargaze is the winner of this match. The Arbiters are free to refute my explanation."

The Fleeting Arbiter and the Void Arbiter immediately bowed their heads, saying the same thing, "No, Sir. Your explanation is correct."

The Sword Arbiter nodded. "I agree with the Marshall. If this fight happened in the wild, Anna Stargaze, without a doubt, would kill Count Heirden."

"This..."

The people were in complete silence. On the one hand, Marshall's explanation was clear about the result. On the other hand, no one could tell if that was true or not.

However, the last thing that needed to convince them just occurred.

Count Heirden shouted, "I haven't lost. That puny lightning won't be able to kill me! I can still fight!"

There was a desperate action from Count Heirden. His expression showed that he had agreed to the explanation to some extent, but for one reason or another, he refused to accept his loss.

Count Heirden tried to move his golem's body, but the Sword Arbiter drew his sword.

It was just an instant, but all of a sudden, the giant hands were cut as the Void Arbiter changed the blue vortex and sent the giant rocks outside the city.

"That's enough, Stone Arbiter. You have to accept your loss." The Sword Arbiter glared at him. "If you think that's not enough, you may challenge the position again next year."

After the Sword Arbiter's ultimatum, the king finally stood up and declared, "Anna Stargaze has won the challenge and shall become an Arbiter."

Anna sheathed her blade and turned around, walking toward the king with a solemn face. Then, she kneeled on one knee while lowering her head.

"I declare from now on that Anna Stargaze shall be known as Lightning Arbiter. Her official rank shall be determined at a later date."

"According to the tradition, the Stone Arbiter shall retain his title as an Arbiter, but he shall be deprived of his duty. If he wishes to regain his official position, he will be able to challenge another Arbiter next year."

"Anna Stargaze has become an Arbiter at 19 Years Old. She is the youngest Arbiter in Muivell Kingdom's history."

"Oooohhh!" The people were stunned and confused. Although they felt some disappointment that they couldn't see the result of that last clash, the king had declared openly that they had a new Arbiter.

And this new Arbiter was none other than the most talented person in their kingdom. Even the Sword Arbiter, the strongest Arbiter, only became one when he was 26 years old. I think you should take a look at

She managed to break that record by a whole seven years. And no one would be able to break this record anytime soon.

"Amazing."

"She is able to reach this far at that age. How strong will she become in another ten years?"

"I think she has the biggest shot to become a Spirit Transcendence."

"That's right. The Supreme Banner Army has a Spirit Transcendence, Commander Oscar."

"And our Mashall is also a Spirit Transcendence."

"With her, there is a chance that we will have the third Spirit Transcendence."

"When that happens, our kingdom will be considered the strongest among the four kingdoms."

"Uooohhhh!"

"Anna Stargaze."

"Anna Stagaze!!!"

"Lightning Arbiter!"

"Long live the king."

"Long live the kingdom."

The cheers erupted from one spot and the others followed suits, celebrating the appearance of a new Arbiter.

Still, there was one thing that only nobles could see. The common people were oblivious to it, but the fact that Anna managed to become an Arbiter meant that the Stargaze Family currently had two Arbiters.

There were a few families who had two Arbiters in the past. And those families were so strong that no one dared to challenge them.

With that father and daughter pair, the golden age of the Stargaze Family would come soon. Even though Kevin Stargaze was only a marquis, his status might rival that of dukes and duchesses.

Hence, the nobles were thinking about what they could do in this situation. On the one hand, there was a possibility of marrying Anna since there was no news about her engagement. On the other hand, the royal family had been showing their interest in that matter since one year ago.

They also had to consider not to anger Kevin, fully knowing that they would be besieged by two Arbiters.

Amidst the cheers, the king had left the stadium as a security measure. His expression was grim after announcing good news for the kingdom.

In the past, he had been suppressing Kevin Stargaze. Now that Anna stood by his side, if he continued doing that, Anna might take her anger at the royal family. With those two Arbiters, everything could happen, especially if the Third Prince decided to join the fray.

He had to use Josephine to control Anna Stargaze's actions. If he couldn't do it, he'd find a way to kill Anna before she became too big.

That was why he had to leave and arrange the plan as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, Anna finally stood up after receiving her title.

Her father came to her with a smile on his face. "Congratulations, Anna."

"Thank you, Father." Anna bowed with a calm face as if she wasn't that happy receiving it from her father.

When Josephine did the same, Anna put on a smile to show that her affection was for her teacher rather than for her father.

On the other hand, the Sword Arbiter came to Kevin while saying, "Congratulations, Kevin. To think your daughter will be able to reach this stage at that age. I'm really envious. If only my grandsons can even get half of her achievement, I would be satisfied."

"Thank you, Sir. Your grandsons are also talented too, you just don't have to be so harsh to them, Sir."

"Is that so? Though, I prefer a bit harsh, or else, they would be defying me." The Sword Arbiter chuckled, indirectly implying the relationship between Kevin and Anna. "In any case, the kingdom will be noisy for a while, and you will have a lot of things to do."

"Indeed." Kevin nodded. "I hope that you can help me take care of my daughter in the royal court."

"Haha. Is that a signal?"

"I don't restrict her."

"I see. Either way, you should watch out for the next few days. I'm not very sure, but I can feel a strong presence inside the capital not long ago."

Kevin didn't answer him, knowing fully what the Sword Arbiter was saying. There was a possibility that this strong existence was trying to eliminate someone, and since they were on the rise, there was a chance that they would be the target to maintain the kingdom's balance. Kevin bowed to him politely to express his gratitude.

Meanwhile, Anna had left the arena first, following Josephine. Unbeknownst to all of them, appointing Anna as an Arbiter would plunge the kingdom into chaos, not because of her talent, but because of what she planned to do with that position.

Chapter 853 Undying Fire

"That's basically what happened in the Muivell Kingdom." Raincart had finished recounting the information he got from the spies that the Greenwood Kingdom had planted. "I'm sure that other kingdoms have learned about her existence as well. To think she would be that strong, she can use the True Spirit Body as well, no?"

After listening to Anna's story, Noel couldn't help but fall silent. On the one hand, his ice abilities had improved drastically over the past week. On the other hand, it was nowhere near Anna's level.

Noel looked down for a moment, wondering what he should do. While he treated Anna as his ally, she was also his rival. There was no way Noel liked the fact that he was currently weaker.

That silence of his couldn't help but make Raincart a little bit sad. He comforted him by saying, "You don't have to think too much. Your progress is exceptional as well. If the Ardagan Family is still backing you, you would have reached the same level as her."

Noel didn't reply to him, causing Raincart to think that Noel hadn't recovered.

Raincart asked, "That's right. You're planning to reach the Spirit Grandmaster during your stay here, right? From the looks of it, you are already at the peak of Spirit Master. Is there anything troubling you? Although I'm not good with swords or runes, I'm good at elemental spirit. Maybe I can advise you or something."

Noel's eyes lit up as he looked at his grandfather. There was always one thing that stuck in his mind.

Even after learning the secret from Damian, he didn't know how to master his Undying Fire. Yes, he managed to improve his control and its intensity due to Old Ru's training, but he was nowhere mastering it.

"Actually, I have been wondering about something." Noel scratched the back of his head, feeling a bit embarrassed. He thought this was just a simple question, so the fact that he didn't know it made him look ignorant. It reminded him of how he first started.

"What's wrong?" Raincart asked with a serious expression.

That expression startled Noel. It felt like Raincart was telling him that asking any questions was never a dumb action.

Noel felt reassured and decided to share his problem. "I'm confused about my flame. I don't mean to brag, but my flame is strong. It's so strong that I feel like something is missing."

"Continue." Raincart nodded in agreement as he had seen Noel's Undying Fire previously.

"I'm not very sure about this, but..." Noel pointed his palm to the side and started forming his Undying Fire. After that, the flame flared up, releasing an intense heat.

Yet, when it died down, Noel replicated the same thing. Surprisingly, the flame didn't release an intense heat, but it reduced everything to ashes.

"As you can see, I'm kind of confused. On the one hand, I can control the temperature, the heat, and its burning power. On the other hand, I can't relate this flame to the one in nature."

"Because of that, you don't know how to proceed?" Raincart asked a core question, showing that he was listening attentively.

"Yes." Noel explained, "I have asked my spirit, but that's actually the last requirement for me to master my flame."

"So, have you put any thought into it?"

"Yes. If I can control the temperature, I can control the heat. But it's kind of conflicting with the burning power because it can burn everything even without releasing that heat."

"No, I'm not talking about that. What do you think about those three characteristics? No, should I say, what is actually your flame?" Raincart asked.

"Hmm?" Noel tilted his head in confusion. It felt like Raincart was questioning him about the flame characteristic, but at the same time, there seemed to be another profound meaning behind that question.

"What is my flame?" Noel muttered that question while looking down. 'Now that I think about it... why is Ardagan's flame called Undying Fire? How about other things like just Fire? Why does Ardagan specify its name to be Undying Fire?'

Noel fell into deep thought. He had never questioned it.

In Heisk's case, the first ability he got from her was Ice Control. It had evolved a few times, but it didn't change the fact that Heisk considered her ice as normal ice.

There was also another question similar to it. Why would Heisk's control change its name to Spiritual Cold Control? Did it mean Heisk's element was now a Spiritual Ice or Cold? I think you should take a look at

He had never paid attention to the name change and the meaning behind those names. This might be what his grandfather was implying.

'Why Undying Fire? What is Undying in the first place?' Noel tried to recall the meaning of Undying and thought, 'Undying means lasting forever. Wait a minute... Lasting forever?'

Noel's body trembled. 'If the flame lasts forever, doesn't that mean the flame won't be able to change its attribute? If it can burn for thousands of years without me there, what kind of power does it have?'

'If the flame burns everything, will it engulf this world with its power? How about its heat? What kind of impact does it bring? Will the temperature remain the same?'

'If the flame has a low temperature but can burn everything, there will be a lot of implications. For example, I can separate liquid by making one liquid into a vapor. But if the fire temperature is low, the liquid will only evaporate into nothing. In fact, not even the vapor remains.'

'On the other hand, if the fire temperature is high and maintained at that level, it will stay at that level until the end of time. That's the meaning of Undying.'

'In other words, the last requirement to mastering the Undying Fire is not control whatsoever. Instead, it's the identity of the Undying Fire. What kind of Fire do I want?'

Noel came to a realization. It turned out the problem was not an extraordinary challenge like he expected. It was actually the basic thing. He'd gotten the fundamentals wrong.

And the reason why Ardagan didn't say the correct answer was because Ardagan wanted Noel to choose without influencing him in any way.

Ardagan once explained that the spirits resided within the people because they wanted to see how the humans wielded their power, using it as an inspiration.

Ardagan was the same. It wanted to see how Noel wielded him. Even Raincart could see this problem.

Noel stopped responding to his grandfather as he was too engrossed with this new thought. He had to confirm what kind of flame he wanted from Ardagan and set it that way so that the Undying Fire could truly last forever, not change with the passage of time.

Seeing his expression made Raincart feel relieved. Raincart didn't know anything about Noel's talent in Spiritual Energy or his conversion rate. In fact, having two spirits alone was enough to confirm his talent.

However, Raincart could see that Noel's true talent was hidden in his mind. Noel's mind worked differently from normal people's.

It was due to his past. He had been reading so many books in the past. People thought he was lazy, but his father never stopped him.

There was one big reason. When reading those books, Noel's mind would often wonder in his imagination of those books.

That imagination had been trained since he was very young, and Noel wasn't disturbed by how the people described him.

That was why when Noel faced a question, his mind would wander to all kinds of things. And the only thing people needed to do was to leave a single clue to narrow his imagination. He would come up with the answer himself.

This was the hidden intention that his father had when training Noel. In the past, he never asked Noel to learn sword or business. Instead, he only taught him about morale and train of thought. In other words, his imagination.

To think about the problem, come up with a solution, and execute the plan were something that people needed. And Noel could vividly imagine the scenario and the result. He might fail sometimes, like fighting against Laufey or Alexander, but he took that experience for future choices.

This time, Noel had been presented with a problem about his Undying Fire. Would he choose to let the fire burn without any heat? Would the flame lose its burning power in exchange for a natural power from the temperature and heat? Noel had to be the one to discover it.

While Noel was tackling his current problem, Raincart moved away, curious about the disciple Noel took in. It was quite surprising to know that Tristan was a slave, but there must be a quality that Noel wanted from Tristan.

By the time he learned about Tristan's extraordinary memory, he would be so excited that he bothered Noel for days.

But that was for later. Noel was undergoing a transformation to reach the stage Anna stood on. He didn't plan to give the lead to her.

Chapter 854 Progress

In the garden located at the back of the Ezenholm Family, Noel had been meditating for a few hours.

He was fully absorbed in the current problem, which was to determine the power of his flame.

"Hmm?" Raincart, who was watching from a distance, couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows. There was a spark of interest flashed in his gaze, but he contained that curiosity so as to not bother Noel.

The black fire was gushing out of Noel's body. At first, it was a mild fire. There was no heat or whatsoever.

However, the more time passed, the higher the temperature of the fire. They started feeling the intense heat even though they were standing thirty meters away.

Even Raincart had to raise his guard against that fire, but it seemed that he didn't have to worry. Before it grew out of control, the fire temperature gradually decreased.

Noel appeared to be having second thoughts about raising his fire temperature. Of course, it didn't mean that he would completely ignore the temperature.

After some adjustment, the fire seemed to have stopped fluctuating. When the heat brushed Raincart's skin, he could roughly measure its temperature.

Noel actually wanted to maintain the flame's behavior. Since it was the flame, it was obvious that it should have intense heat and high temperature. But the question was, how high?

If he set it too high, the flame would destroy everything and become uncontrollable. Hence, he settled for two and a half times higher than the average flame. This should be enough to overwhelm any fire his opponent might have, even if they were quite extraordinary.

After all, Noel had a few other properties to adjust on.

Since the fire radiated the heat, he wanted to adjust the amount of heat. If the heat was too strong for the current temperature, it would become unstable. In addition, it would burn everything around it.

At the same time, the fire couldn't be without heat. He thought that for an Undying Fire that would last forever, the sufficient heat would be two times more than normal, but he also made an adjustment with the temperature.

This way, he wouldn't accidentally hurt his people when fighting around them. While he was a fighter, he was a lord. So, there was no way he would fight alone in the future.

The flame began to swirl around Noel's body. It looked like the fire was eager to show its power, starting from burning the grass and soil.

However, Noel immediately stopped it with his control because if he wasn't careful, he could easily burn the mansion behind him. It also reflected the possible future after becoming a noble.

While Noel was adjusting his flame, Raincart got a guest.

The guest was a middle-aged man. He had a straight posture and gallant figure.

"So, he is Leysha's son..." The man said, a bit surprised by what he saw from Noel. Even he felt some fear toward that flame. And after hearing about Noel's achievement, he might not be able to win against Noel once he becomes a Spirit Grandmaster.

"Indeed." Raincart nodded proudly. "But don't take it to heart. He is just too irregular. You're already talented enough, and your children have nothing to worry about."

"Thank you, Father." The man turned out to be Raincart's son, the current family head of the Ezenholm Family. "But if I'm not wrong, Leysha also..."

"Yeah. He has inherited his mother's element as well. In other words, he has two Spirits residing within his body. But it's even more surprising because those two spirits have opposite elements."

The man thought for a moment and asked, "Those two elements are in harmony? How?"

"Normally, if two opposite elements reside within a body, they would clash and end up harming its host. However, I could see that the flame, despite overbearing, is the one harmonizing the relationship between the two elements."

"What? Then, the flame is actually lowering its own property in order to match the ice?"

"Yeah."

"But doesn't that mean the flame's full potential hasn't been released yet?" The man gasped.

"Exactly. Yesterday, he asked me whether there is a way to procure an Ice Element Item or herb and a large quantity of Demon Crystals."

"..." The man fell silent as something clicked in his mind. "Father... the reasons for him to request those things... might be for the flame development."

"Yeah. I'm thinking the same thing. If my prediction is correct, that Ice Spirit is trying to increase its power so that the flame can release its full potential. Actually, after he came here last time, I had been researching about the Ardagan Family."

"If the record is correct, Noel actually possessed a similar if not the same spirit as his ancestor. The same spirit that gave birth to the only Spirit King in history." Raincart narrowed his eyes as his expression turned grim.

"What?"

Raincart asked, "Can you... help me procure those things?"

The man fell into deep thought, muttering, "The Demon Crystals are not a problem. Even if those families feel something weird about our large purchase this time, I can fend them off. The problem is the Ice Element item... I think I have to ask an old friend to see if he has any clue or not."

Raincart smiled. It wouldn't be weird if he felt awful after knowing that his nephew was as strong as him. But that assurance from Raincart indirectly implied that no matter how talented Noel was, he didn't belong to the Ezenholm Family. And that was enough.

After some consideration, he stated, "I think it's possible. But I need a few weeks to one month."

"Sure. Thank you." "I think you should take a look at

"He is my nephew, so of course, I will help him."

Raincart patted his shoulder while walking away. He said, "Let's not disturb him. Just put some guards there to make sure that the fire doesn't reach the mansion."

"Where are you going, Father?"

"I'm going to visit another little devil." Raincart waved his hand while walking toward the mansion. That was right. Noel's talent was frightening. But his eyes for talent were similar to his father's.

The reason why the Ardagan Family became the wealthiest family in the Muivell Kingdom was because Luke Ardagan managed to find a lot of excellent subordinates. They became the pillars of the family and made the territory prosperous.

Raincart was heading toward Tristan's room. On the way, he could hear a maid shouting in anger.

"That's not it. Put your hands together and straighten your back before bowing."

Just from those words alone, he knew what was going on. It was the voice of the head maid who was training Sandra on the etiquette required to become a maid.

After a while, he opened the door and found Tristan inside. Now that they had reached the Ezenholm Family, there were a lot of resources that could be used to practice runes.

On the corner of the room were a few bags of Low Level Demon Crystals. Noel wanted Tristan to begin absorbing the crystals to build up his Spiritual Energy reserve even if he hadn't awakened his Spirit.

The runes were a method to fight without the spirit after all.

During the day, Tristan would fully focus on drawing all kinds of arrays from his memory before matching them with the original. This way, he could see which stroke was too thick, too thin, or curved incorrectly.

As a result, there were a few stacks of paper on his tables. Some of them had even dropped, but Tristan had no time to tidy it up yet.

When the door was opened, Tristan's body shook as the last stroke became too long.

Tristan raised his head, wondering who entered the room.

Without hesitation, Tristan stood up and greeted him, "Sir!"

"You don't have to be that stiff." Raincart chuckled. "It seems that you've been busy. How is your progress?"

"I don't want to disappoint Teacher." Tristan made a wry smile. He suddenly remembered that the paper was scattered on the ground and hurriedly said, "I will clean this up immediately."

"It's fine. Just let the maid do it."

"But..." Tristan wanted to reject it. He felt weird asking the maid because the thought of being a slave was still stuck in his mind.

"Your life is about to change, so you have to get used to it. In any case, how is your progress in runes? Do you find anything you don't understand?"

"I'm currently reviewing all the runes I can draw, so not yet."

"How about your Spiritual Energy?"

"I have been absorbing the Spiritual Energy through the method you've taught me. I think I have managed to accumulate it a bit. But Master said I still didn't have enough to form a rune. Once I got enough, I would start creating runes with Spiritual Energy so that I didn't waste all these papers."

"Is that so?" Raincart smiled while taking a glimpse of his works. Tristan's hands weren't that nimble yet, so the stroke felt a bit too stiff. It was bound to create some mistakes.

Still, this kind of progress was far faster than the average person. Once he got the hang of it, he would progress by leaps and bounds.

"If you have any problems, just tell me about it. I'm also quite curious about the runes, so we might have some chats sometime in the future."

"Yes, Sir. I will be very honored."

Raincart patted his head while saying, "Keep up with the good work. Don't disappoint your teacher."

Tristan bowed his head as Raincart left the room.

Surprisingly, a butler had been waiting outside the room.

Raincart said, "Help me tidy up the room."

"Yes, Sir." The butler acknowledged the order, but before coming in, he whispered, "You have a guest, Sir."

"A guest?"

"Yes. The guest is a bit special, so..."

Remembering that his son was helping him to bring the stuff Noel needed, Raincart nodded his head.
"I'll meet the guest."

Chapter 855 After Training

A burning noise echoed in the garden. The fire seemed to be burning the grass, but surprisingly, it didn't spread like a normal fire.

The fire only moved toward a specific area and drew a pattern on the ground.

After the last crisp sound vanished, the guy, who was sitting in the middle of the pattern, opened his eyes.

He was none other than Noel. In the past three days, Noel had been adjusting the characteristics of his flame so that he could define it with precision. It was surprisingly harder than he thought, but Noel could see that the missing part he had felt before was getting filled up.

"As much as I want to continue, I don't think I can focus any further. I have to consider a few other things as well, so let's continue tomorrow." Noel took a glance at the sun's position.

Fortunately, there were still two hours before dusk, so he stood up and gave a nod to the soldiers who had been protecting him the whole time.

After seeing Noel leave the area, the soldiers made sure that there was no more fire before dispersing.

"It's been a while since Anna has become an Arbiter. She should have made some foundation in her new post.

"As for me, I think I still need a few more days to finalize the concept of my flame. After that, I can begin my breakthrough to the Spirit Grandmaster, which shouldn't take more than three days.

"I have to teach Tristan as well. Wait, there is also a Spirit Link and those awakening pills. If I have to sum everything up, I might need another two weeks before completing everything. And another week to help Grandfather. After that, I will return to the Muivell Kingdom and become a noble."

Noel nodded in satisfaction.

Since he had finished his training earlier than he expected, he wondered what he should do.

"Tristan should be in his room reviewing his works. Should I go to Grandfather?" Noel muttered while walking down the garden.

On the way, he heard an energetic voice from the side.

"Oh! Is this it?"

As those words resounded, a fluctuation of Spiritual Energy occurred. This fluctuation was something Noel was familiar with.

'Rune?' Noel raised his eyebrows and turned around. He didn't expect that someone from the Ezenholm Family had practiced a rune.

Still, the Ezenholm Family was famous for producing an exceptional Spirit ian. And with the fact that the author of the rune book was related to the Ezenholm Family, it was obvious that they would ask the people from the house to learn runes.

So, Noel couldn't help but follow the voice, wondering who managed to use the runes. He might be able to teach her a little bit to repay everything that his grandfather had done for him this whole time.

After walking for several meters, he took a sneak peek from behind a tall bush to see who managed to use runes.

The woman appeared to be 16 to 17 years old. She had long, wavy green hair. Surprisingly, there were a few ivy rising around her. Those ivy formed a Strength Blessing Rune.

Noel observed her a bit further. She was wearing a one-piece light blue sundress that reached up to her knees. It was normal for someone of a noble family, making Noel think that this person should be his cousin.

Still, there was one thing that piqued his interest. The ivy was covered in thick energy, and the Strength Blessing Rune, the simplest rune in the book, made the success more convincing.

"But... she is using the plants? Her spirit should be a Plant Spirit." Noel frowned. "The Strength Blessing is the easiest because the thickness in all strokes is basically the same. So, using ivy to form a rune is easy. But that method will cause problems if she attempts more advanced runes."

Suddenly, the ivy was trembling and gently brushed the person's forehead.

"Mhm?" The woman immediately turned around as if she could tell what the ivy was trying to say.

Even Noel was surprised that he was noticed by her. While he didn't erase his presence, he had made sure not to take any actions that would alarm her.

It seemed that her plants could get the help of the ones around them to locate their target.

When their gazes met, Noel made a wry smile while scratching the back of his head. "Sorry. Did I disturb you?"

"No, no. It's my fault for doing it here." The woman smiled gently.

"Is that rune?" Noel asked.

"Yes. I have been into it for a while." The woman grabbed the book on the table and showed it to him. "Do you have any interest in it too?"

"You can consider it that way." Noel nodded and walked slowly. As expected, it was his rune book.

"That's great. I have been doing this by myself, so it would be great to have another person who has the same interest."

"Is that so?" Noel finally arrived at the gazebo. "I'm rather perplexed though."

"Is there anything I can help you with? I don't know much about runes, but please don't hesitate to ask. I'll answer if I can."

Noel paused for a moment, choosing words so as to not hurt this woman's heart. It seemed that she wasn't aware that he was the author of that rune book. But he didn't plan to brag either.

He asked, "Your Spirit... must be a plant type spirit, right? I'm wondering why you chose to create a rune with your ivy?"

"Oh?!" She pointed at her ivy and explained, "That's because I've been controlling my ability for a long time, so I'm more confident in handling it."

To make her point, she waved her hands. The ivy began to spread, grab a few items, and stack them with precision.

She must have used that plant for a few years, he thought. Still, it didn't change the fact that the ivy would have a problem replicating the more advanced runes.

"Yeah. That's what confuses me. I can see that the ivy is creating the runes, and you infuse your Spiritual Energy into the ivy to create the runes. In other words, it's not the ivy that is used to form the rune, but the energy within that ivy."

She was dumbfounded. This was the first time someone managed to see through that trick. "Is there a problem?"

"Ah. I'm not trying to attack you or something." Noel shook his head and raised one finger. "I'm just thinking, what will you do once you become more adept and create more advanced runes? For example, this rune..."

Noel raised his palm and controlled his Spiritual Energy to draw a Muscle Enhancement Rune.

The strokes were delicate, but if one took another look, there were a few strokes that almost touched each other. In other words, if she used the ivy, the ivy had to cross each other as the Spiritual Energy matched its shape.

The contact between the stems would cause a disruption in the flow of energy.

"That's..." The woman didn't have the answer to that problem.

"Of course. I'm not saying your method is wrong. Look." Noel started infusing his ice element to freeze the Spiritual Energy. This way, his ice would create the same rune. However, it couldn't be activated because the Spiritual Energy had been frozen. "At first glance, you won't be able to activate the rune this way. But if you look at it from another perspective, don't you think that this ice can be used for training?"

"Hmm?" The woman was confused, but upon looking at the pattern again, she understood his words. "So, you're saying that the ice or plants can form the rune. Well, I can see that it's very effective for practice, especially drawing. But ultimately, the Spiritual Energy will be the one forming the rune?"

"Yes. I have thought about the possibility of using my ability to form a rune, but the more advanced runes are stopping me from that. So, I chose to get used to the original method as soon as possible." Noel nodded.

"I see. I have never thought about that." The woman nodded in agreement. "You're very knowledgeable about runes?"

"Is that so?" Noel smiled humbly.

"Yeah. You seem to be only one or two years older than me. But this is the first time someone has given me this suggestion."

"Well, I've been researching runes for a while, but I don't think my skill is that high." Noel chuckled.

"If I'm not wrong, the rune you created earlier is the Muscle Enhancement Rune, right?"

"Yes."

"You're definitely more skilled than me." The woman's eyes flashed as she couldn't help but ask, "If you don't mind, can I ask you a few questions about runes?"

"Sure. I'll give you the answer if I know about it."

Without hesitation, the woman began talking about runes and showed the problem in her understanding.

Noel took his time to learn about her mastery and offered some explanations for her problem.

She was shocked because Noel felt like a teacher who taught her everything about runes. There was nothing she could refute in his explanation.

Without them realizing it, the sky had turned orange. It was time for them to stop.

Since the woman was a part of the Ezenholm Family, he thought that they would meet again. Hence, Noel stood up and said, "I guess we'll have to stop here."

"Eh?!" Her body trembled as her eyes looked watery. She was reluctant to end their conversation here.

But Noel only said, "I have other things to do. Well, we can meet again at this place tomorrow, around the same time."

"Ah!" She realized that she had been rude earlier. She hurriedly nodded her head, agreeing to the meeting. "I'll definitely be here tomorrow!"

"Then, see you tomorrow...ehm..." Noel had just realized that he hadn't asked the other party's name this whole time.

"Maria. You can call me Maria." She immediately introduced himself to spare Noel from the awkwardness.

"See you tomorrow, Maria." Noel waved his hand and just walked away.

Maria was silent for a while before realizing something important. "Ah. I haven't asked his name either. I was too engrossed in the topic... Never mind, I'll meet him again tomorrow."

Chapter 856 A Sly Pair

"How is your training going?" Raincart asked while walking down the hallway with Noel the next day.

Noel thought for a moment and said, "I should be able to complete my training and do the rest in two weeks."

"I see. Tristan is doing well, and I'll be monitoring his study for now. So, you don't have to worry about him for now."

"Thank you." Noel nodded. His grandfather had been helping him this whole time. Even during the previous stay, he instructed him on a few tricks for controlling his ability. And he could make a breakthrough soon because of his advice.

So, he felt indebted to him. Noel raised one finger, asking, "Grandfather. Do you mind if I teach someone the rune?"

"Come on. Are you thinking of owing me something? It's fine for a grandson to rely on his grandfather. Besides, you're a responsible young man, so there's no need to feel that way." Raincart chuckled while patting Noel's head.

"Well, if I teach someone runes, it will definitely be useful for the Ezenholm Family. Even if you don't want me to thank you in any way, how about accepting it for the sake of mother and father? I feel like they have owed you a lot."

Raincart smiled gratified. He could see that Noel had grown up right. Of course, he didn't have any intention of receiving the gift, but it seemed that Noel would be adamant about it.

So, Raincart said, "Alright. You can do whatever you want."

"Actually, I saw a talented person in the family yesterday. She had a good understanding of runes and progressed very quickly. It's just..." Noel stopped abruptly as if contemplating something.

"Is there something wrong with her?"

"Yeah." Noel nodded with a serious expression before asking with a worried tone. "Do I have a cousin called Maria?"

"..." Raincart became speechless in that instant.

And that reaction was what Noel needed. He said, "While I haven't eaten with the entire family this whole time, I'm still keeping track of the people inside this family. It's just... this is the first time I've seen her..."

Noel had expressed his suspicion. Even Raincart could see that Noel would have no trouble in seeing through his lies either.

Raincart let out a long sigh, saying, "No. You don't have a cousin called Maria."

"Then, who is she?" Noel frowned, feeling something weird about the whole situation.

"Her real name is Livia."

"Livia? Which Livia?" Noel tilted her head in confusion, but after seeing Raincart's troubled face, something clicked in his mind. "Wait a minute... Are you talking about Livia De Greenwood?"

Raincart nodded his head helplessly.

"Don't tell me..." Noel clicked his tongue, annoyed.

But Raincart added, "No. She is not aware of your identity or any of this scheme. After His Majesty heard about your disciple, he sent her to this family in order to become your disciple. She is extremely talented and can learn a lot from you. This means she will become the leading rune master in the kingdom."

"Still..." Noel wanted to rebuke him, but he suddenly fell silent as though there was another idea flashed in his mind.

"I think taking her as your disciple is not that bad either. I mean, I taught the current king, so it wouldn't be weird if my grandson did the same to a royal princess. Besides, there are several advantages you can get."

It appeared that Raincart wasn't aware of this scheme until the princess arrived at his family. But after thinking about it, Raincart deemed that there were things that could be taken advantage of.

Noel asked, "Is there any condition?"

"It's actually at your discretion. As long as she is safe, everything is fine."

Noel asked, "That means I can demand a lot of things from him?"

"Yes. He won't interfere with your teaching. I believe you can see through his intentions..."

"Let her become my disciple and learn runes from me directly. He should be able to see the potential from Damian's result alone, so following me for a few years will give a far bigger result than that. And there is a possibility that he is trying to make her close to me so that I can fall for her or something."

"You're truly my grandson." Raincart nodded in agreement.

"Still, there should be a tuition fee, right?" Noel smirked. I think you should take a look at

Raincart's serious expression turned into a sly face. He said, "Don't worry. I'm going to extort him for you. You can get all the demon crystals you need to break through to Spirit Grandmaster, including that ice element item. Of course, I will definitely add a lot more crystals for your soldiers."

The serious conversation earlier had turned into a cunning conversation between two sly foxes.

Noel added, "But I still have a condition. I am still going to ask her to do everything and I even want to create a rune school in my territory."

"You don't have to worry about that. Just say that it's for her training and everything is settled. Don't forget that she is known to be extremely smart. She is also a team leader in the Royal ian Bureau. Her control over her element should be higher than you. There are also several achievements under her belt. As a person alone, she is talented enough to help you manage the territory. And she is only 17 years old."

"Still, she has to go back to marry, no? It's her royal duty."

"Actually, you don't have to care about that. His Majesty has considered her to be more useful to let her do whatever she wants instead of burying her under the political marriage."

"Well, if she can achieve all that when she is only 17 years old, her achievement would be boundless when she is older." Noel agreed with Raincart and the king's opinion. "Still, it's annoying to talk to her politely."

"Say her name again..." Raincart shook his head.

"Livia... no, Maria?" Noel raised his eyebrows, finally understanding why she had given that false name.

"That's right. What you're going to bring is Maria, not Livia De Greenwood. You can treat her the same."

"I see." Noel fell into deep thought. On the one hand, he was a bit annoyed that the king decided to employ this move. On the other hand, he could see a lot of benefits by taking her as his disciple.

Raincart raised one finger, "Actually, there is one more reason why I want you to accept."

"Mhm?" Noel was confused. He tried to come up with an answer, but he couldn't find any other reasons.

However, Raincart was an old noble. He had more experience than him as a lord. So, Raincart said, "The Atracaeca Kingdom's second prince had gone too far. How dare he extorted my grandson with that opportunity!"

Raincart's eyes were emitting killing intent as if he was ready to skin him alive. He added, "Noel, don't forget that you will be a noble. I can see that you have integrity. After hearing your story, I know that you will be trusted since you always deliver your promise. However, if you just let them extort you without paying any consequences, you will be looked down upon. My grandson is not a pushover."

Noel's body couldn't help but tremble. Raincart's tone was strict yet protective. Even if the other party was a prince, Raincart wasn't afraid. This shows how much Raincart cared for Noel.

Even Noel reconsidered his approach. Just like Raincart said, if this matter was known to other nobles. They would simply pull off their trade after he delivered his side of the agreement. His strength could somehow scare them, but it didn't change the fact that he looked like a pushover.

And Raincart didn't want Noel to be looked down on by everyone. With his experience as the head of the Ezenholm Family, he explained, "By taking the second princess of the Greenwood Kingdom, you are showing to the Atracaeca Kingdom that they have lost their chance.

"In other words, you can give those tips and tricks about runes to the second prince, but you can also give a letter of dissatisfaction to their Grand Protector. Just tell him that he is disappointed and only took a slave from his country as his disciple instead of any important people. And Her Highness Livia is that living proof. You should be able to see what kind of thing will happen in that country, right?"

Noel shivered just from that thought alone. In a battle, he was smart and experienced. But Raincart was a veteran in a political battle.

After doing those two things, the Grand Protector would unleash his anger toward the second prince. After all, Tristan had proven to be more trustworthy than their second prince. Meanwhile, the Greenwood Kingdom had a better approach and ended up with their second princess becoming Noel's disciple.

Tristan wouldn't go back to the Atracaeca Kingdom, while Livia would still give a lot of knowledge and information even if she didn't return. Their second prince simply chose a box of gold in front of him compared to the numerous diamonds he could get along the way. It was clear who was smarter and better.

"But won't that cause an international problem... Wait a minute..." Noel stopped talking. "The second princess is going to prevent that from happening?"

"That's right. With Her Highness Livia being your disciple, if the second prince or the Atracaeca Kingdom decided to attack you out of spite, not only the Muivell Kingdom, but the Greenwood Kingdom will also stop them."

"I see." Noel agreed with this solution, but he noticed one more hidden intention. "Don't you think the Zaecuria Kingdom will see all this?"

"Exactly. They don't want to follow the Atracaeca Kingdom's move and decide to approach you with a peaceful method. You can simply promise them related stuff to your rune schools, which allows you to

gain a lot of resources from the Zaecuria Kingdom. This will prove to be useful for your development, right?"

"Indeed. I have to fight the royal family and the Supreme Devil Organization so I can get all the support I need just by taking her as my disciple. And with that big movement, other nobles won't be able to look down on me as well. If the organization is trying to harm Livia, the Greenwood Kingdom will wreak havoc."

Noel had learned a lot from this brief exchange alone. This was the first time he learned anything related to politics from an experienced figure. Even his father only told him philosophy.

While strength might indeed be the most important factor in a duel, sometimes, they could avoid all kinds of problems just by taking a step back. They wouldn't be seen as a tyrant who shut people's mouths with their strength as well.

After a brief consideration, Noel whispered something to Raincart. The latter considered Noel's suggestions and whispered another thing.

It seemed that they were satisfied with that arrangement as both of them gave a thumbs up with a sly smile on their faces. It was clear that they were truly blood related.

Chapter 857 Accepting Another One

Two hours before dusk, Livia or, as she introduced herself, Maria was waiting for the mysterious person that taught her yesterday.

There were two books sitting on the table this time. One of them was the Rune Book that Noel wrote while the other one was her notebook.

"Mhm, mhmmm..." She was humming heavily while reading the rune book. "I wonder how the author can write all these things? While it looks like the Spirit Enchantments are the downgraded versions of runes, it's still impossible to find all these completed runes.

"There are a lot of runes that have to be researched first, including the ones without any records from the Spirit Enchantment.

"It's a completely new area. But it appears that the runes want everyone to be able to fight against their opponent without relying on the spirit.

"While the spirits play a big part in one's power, if there is a rune master, who can form runes, at fast speed, they would be able to contend against them.

"Of course, from what I can see, the rune power is only limited to Spirit Practitioner... No, Spirit Wielder. It doesn't have anything stronger to harm a Spirit Master or above."

All of a sudden, a gentle voice echoed in her ears. "That's not true."

"!!!" Livia widened her eyes in surprise. This time, Noel had moved so fast that her plants couldn't detect him.

"Sorry if I startle you." Noel chuckled before raising a finger. "But I don't lie about that. There are stronger runes. Because all these runes are the basic form..."

"Huh?" The shock turned into confusion. How could Noel know about such a thing? Even the Greenwood Kingdom needed a lot of research before they could prove that theory.

Noel sat down on the opposite side and asked, "Since you're in this house, you're my cousin, right? To thank my grandfather, I want to teach someone from this family about runes."

"Thank your grandfather? Cousin?" Livia made a wry smile. She almost forgot that before coming here, her father asked her to act as a part of the Ezenholm Family and stay for a while.

Although she didn't know why he wanted her to act that way, she still had to follow his instructions. She nodded her head, saying, "Yes."

"So, I'll be teaching you about runes during my stay here." Noel smiled before forming a Rune Blast. "This is what I mean by those runes are the basic form."

"!!!" Livia widened her eyes in shock when she saw the rune on Noel's hand. She rose from her seat just so that she could lean forward to take a closer look. 'What is this rune? It's far more complicated than the ones in the book.'

When she traced the strokes on each rune, she said, "This is... It consists of at least fifty more lines than the runes in the book. The Spiritual Energy contained in each line is also twice, if not three times stronger.

"With each line that strong, the power that it can exert is at least a hundred times greater than the basic runes. It's possible to harm a Spirit Master or even a Spirit Grandmaster with this rune."

As one would expect from the second princess, her reputation was truly well deserved. She managed to assess the runes in just a short time. While her talent was different from Tristan's, her talent still suited the runes.

Noel nodded his head and continued with the explanation. "The Spirit Enchantment is only one of the uses of the runes. There are several other ways to utilize the runes. For example, you can form the runes like this and apply it, right? And there are things that can be summoned and controlled by using runes like this..."

Noel changed his rune into Rune Sword. As a result, a sword created by pure Spiritual Energy floated above the rune. It began flying around as if it was alive.

Livia couldn't believe what she saw. She had never thought that the runes could be used like this. Even Damian didn't tell her anything about this type of rune.

"How do you know about all this... Wait... that's a foolish question." Livia couldn't believe it, but the proof was right before her eyes. There was no one who understood the runes other than the author of the rune book himself.

He had shown her all the hints contained in those advanced runes and knowledge. There was no need to introduce himself. Livia shivered, recalling all the questions she had yesterday. While the questions weren't that weird, her eagerness somehow made her embarrassed.

She said, "I... apologize for my rudeness yesterday... Noe... Mr. Noel Ardagan."

"Really? Hasn't Noel Ardagan died in the Muivell Kingdom?" Noel chuckled.

"That's what has been known, but they haven't received any report about your body, meaning that there is no proof. Damian's got a lot of important knowledge just by following a man called Iadre. And with the relationship between the Ardagan Family and the Ezenholm Family, it's no wonder you call Sir Raincart, your grandfather. If I link everything, it won't be hard to deduce that you're the real Noel Ardagan."

"Sir Raincart?" Noel squinted his eyes, judging Livia. If she wanted to show that she was a part of the Ezenholm Family, she shouldn't have addressed him that way.

But Livia actually placed her hand on her chest while saying with a calm tone. "Yes. I wasn't aware of the reason why I sent it here. But after knowing that the real Noel Ardagan is currently staying in this mansion, everything is clear. I believe it is rude for me to hide my identity anymore."

"Despite the fact that you will have the chance to become my student and learn a lot of things about runes as Maria?" Noel asked, slightly impressed by her action.

"If I continue as Maria, I might be able to get all that. However, as soon as you find out, not only you but the Ezenholm Family will dislike the royal family."

"Then, does that mean you're going to leave right now and just step away from this opportunity?" Noel asked another question.

Livia shook her head. "After realizing my father's intention, I don't think I can back away."

"You should know that I've made an agreement with the Greenwood Kingdom previously. And our relationship is just a mere business partnership."

"Yes. However, I believe that taking me in will prove to be advantageous to your position."

Livia and Noel stared at each other. The former tried to explain the reason despite fully knowing that Noel wanted to accept her. On the other hand, Noel was questioning her despite already agreeing to the arrangement.

"So, are you planning to force your way to become my student? A royalty becoming the student of a commoner?" Noel smirked. This was a tricky question.

However, Livia actually went beyond Noel's imagination.

"I believe that words alone won't be sufficed..." Livia suddenly lowered her head and stated, "Please let me become your student, Mr. Noel."

"!!!" Noel was dumbfounded. A noble had their dignity to maintain, so they couldn't bow to the commoners easily. However, the royalty was even stricter about this. After all, the royalty carried the pride of the entire kingdom.

If they lowered their heads easily, the entire kingdom would become a laughing stock.

Yet, the second princess, who had a lot of achievements and represented the kingdom far better than some princes or princesses, actually lowered her head to plead to Noel to take her in.

This showed enough of her determination.

She stripped away her pride and lowered herself down to the very bottom just to become Noel's disciple. It was a hard thing to do even for a noble, let alone a princess.

Noel could finally see the real reasons for the second princess' achievements.

He raised one finger, "Even if I'm planning to become a noble, I'm still a commoner. Don't you think your action is a bit excessive?"

"If my action can let my kingdom prosper, I won't hesitate to do it. But... I would be lying if I said I don't have any interest in it either." Livia took a deep breath and expressed her real intention. "Why do we have to be bound by our social stratification when our home is threatened? Why do humans have to fight against each other when we have one common enemy?"

"Pride, greed, lust, or whatever. It can be used as a reason, but while we're fighting among ourselves, the demons are still going to hunt us. The nobles can wield their power and wealth to assemble a lot of people to protect them. The royalty can escape easily with the power they have. But the common people can only accept their death if the demons attack us with their full force right now!

"If lowering my pride or even sacrificing my life is the only price, I think it's pretty cheap. That's why..." Livia lowered her head again. "Please accept me as your disciple. I wish no more than the common people to have the power to fend for themselves."

Noel was amazed by her speech. This was the first time he found someone who directed their attention not on the people, but on the demons. As she said, the demons were their common enemy.

Noel naturally knew this, but he was still a human. He asked, "Are you trying to force me to accept you for the sake of morality? If morality could be used on everything, the royal family wouldn't have executed my parents."

"I'm aware. I will do my best to satisfy all your conditions."

"All my conditions?" Noel squinted his eyes while scanning her body.

Livia understood that gaze, but she didn't have any change of expression. "Yes. Please put any conditions."

"..." Even Noel was speechless about this determination. Unless he directly rejected her... no, even if he rejected her, she would continue pestering him in the future. It seemed that the most dangerous thing was not the royal family's scheme but to actually meet her in person. It was because she was this kind of person that the king was convinced that his plan would succeed.

'I guess I haven't learned enough about people's characters.' Noel could only sigh at his mistake while adding, "Fine. I will accept you as my student. I'm planning to open a rune school as soon as I become a noble anyway. However, I have several conditions for you to fulfill."

"I understand. Please state them. I'll do my best to satisfy all of it."

"I'll just write it down."

In the past, Noel had been showing his determination, plan, and courage to get people's approval like Dimitri, Harley, or other pillars of the Ardagan Family. But this was the first time he was moved by someone's determination.

Chapter 858 Reaction

In the Greenwood Kingdom's royal palace, an old man bowed his head while saying, "Your Majesty. We've got the news from Raincart. Noel Ardagan has agreed to take Her Highness Livia as his student. Just like his other student, he will impart all kinds of knowledge about runes."

Upon hearing it, the king couldn't help but clench his fist while smiling. "Finally."

"Still, are you sure about this, Your Majesty? Her Highness Livia is a bright child and her talent is extraordinary."

"What are you saying? Are you thinking that sending her to him would only bury her talents?" The king frowned.

"No... that's not what I mean..." The old man could only scratch the back of his head, not knowing what to say. He believed that Livia was still too big for Noel to handle. In addition, staying with Noel would be extremely dangerous to the point there was a chance that her status as a princess alone wouldn't be enough to protect her.

The king asked, "Do you know that a princess and a prince, a thousand years ago, left their homeland and encountered a legend in the making? Back then, they simply didn't want to get involved with the throne war. That was the greatest loss of the Greenwood Kingdom. Do you know why?"

"..." The old man obviously didn't have a record of such a thing. Only the royal family would be able to read that record.

That was why the king said, "The princess married the strongest man alive in history. At the same time, her achievement wouldn't be lost to the likes of our Royal Guard Captain. Had she returned to the kingdom, no one would dare to say if she suddenly sat on the throne."

"..." The old man looked down, but he soon remembered that the king mentioned one more person.

"And the prince... who was known to be useless at that time... he ended up becoming the Sword Saint."

"The Sword Saint?" The old man dropped his jaw to the ground. Unlike the princess, the name of the Sword Saint had spread in all kingdoms.

It was said the Sword Saint was so strong that not a single city could withstand his slash. Even if they erected a hundred-meter tall wall, he would simply split it like cutting a hill. In terms of his achievement in the way of the sword, if he said he was the second, no one dared to claim they were first.

The name of the Sword Saint had become the inspiration of many sword users. And to think that such a person was connected to the Greenwood Kingdom's royal family was simply unbelievable.

But there was one detail that he managed to pick up. With such a strong brother and sister, why would they not return and create a golden age in the Greenwood Kingdom?

The answer was as simple as marriage. Why would the princess return to her country when she could just stay peacefully with the strongest man alive? The Sword Saint would follow the suit.

The king explained, "I know that you're worried. But sometimes, if we don't take the risk, we won't be able to achieve a greater height. Just like those researchers, people think they are foolish for studying an impossible thing. But when they succeed, they call them pioneers."

The old man lowered his head. "I apologize for being rude earlier, Your Majesty. It seems that I'm still lacking as your minister."

"People make mistakes. Anyway, Did Raincart say other things?"

"Yes. He stated a few conditions."

"Hoh? Tell me."

"First, he wants a tuition fee. It appears that he is requesting a massive amount of Demon Crystals and an Ice Element Item. I can understand about the Demon Crystals since it has a higher worth compared to gold, but the ice element item..." The minister thought that Raincart planned to use this to satisfy the people in his family.

However, the king recalled the information that was sent by the border general. And with the information about Noel being ladre, it was clear that Noel was the one who requested it.

"I don't mind. The second princess is studying a new power system that can revolutionize the entire world, so we will pay the tuition fee no matter how high it is."

"Understood. As for the second condition... he requests the Princess to follow her teacher to the Muivell Kingdom. She has to abide by his instruction for the sake of studying."

"It's not a problem. In fact, I don't mind if she brings home a kid or two." The king nonchalantly said before adding, "There should be a lot of requests, right? Just say the important ones and send the rest to me later for me to review."

"Yes, Your Majesty. The third request is that she will receive the same treatment as his first student." The minister thought it was absurd to treat the princess the same as a commoner, but only the king knew that the boy was actually a slave.

If what Damian said about Noel was correct, this was the most important condition. That was also the reason why he sent Livia under the name of Maria. He nodded in approval. "I don't mind. As long as he doesn't forbid her from sending the letters home."

"Then, I think this is the most important one. She will learn from him for five years before she can return home. Of course, his teacher will provide some level of security, but he also needs us to protect her in one way or another. But it doesn't mention that she can't send a letter."

"I see. I don't mind that condition." The king nodded but was a bit hesitant. Five years were quite long after all.

"There are a few more conditions, but I think they are minor. And last but not least, in exchange for all those conditions, her teacher will teach her everything about runes, including numerous new runes as well as a few rune systems like Rune Engineering, Rune Spell, and Rune Body."

"Rune Engineering... If I'm not wrong, it's that moving runes. As for Rune Spell... it's embedding a rune onto something that can be used by normal people, right?" The king frowned, forgetting about all the details.

"Yes, Your Majesty. And the Rune Body is the new system that Damian brought, albeit incomplete. Normal people could activate these runes like a part of their bodies."

"From the current information alone, the Rune Engineering can be used to automate a few workshops or even help with moving parts. There is a chance that we can finally fly in the sky... As for the Rune Spell, there would be an entirely new legion where these people use runes instead of their elements. It is like having another legion of Spirit ians, but without the needs of spirits. And lastly, the Rune Body will be useful for the fighters out there."

The king fell into deep thought. Those three systems alone were already worth the wait. If they managed to gain all that knowledge, the Greenwood Kingdom would become the leading kingdom in rune development.

"That's right, Your Majesty. He stated that his new place would be in a location where the cooperation between them could progress smoothly."

"The new location? Where is it?" The king asked.

"It's located in a new region near the border. Its location is only a hundred kilometers from our border, so about 3-5 days if we go slowly."

"The location... is near the border..." The king furrowed his eyebrows, not understanding Noel's intention.

However, the minister had learned from his mistake and considered the risk. He said with an unsure tone, "Your Majesty... I am assuming that he is talking about the border. It would be troublesome if we crossed the border, but with his location, shouldn't it be easy for him to leave the Muivell Kingdom and enter the demon territory?"

"!!!" The king gasped. "Then, we can simply stay around that area and do the transaction there. This will give another layer of protection for the second princess as well as ensuring more cooperation in the future."

"Yes, Your Majesty."

"Good, good. It seems that I'm still underestimating this brat." The king took a deep breath, having a hard time to calm down his excitement.

"But... Can he actually get that territory? I mean, in the tradition of the Muivell Kingdom, I don't think he can choose his territory."

"While it's true that he can't choose his territory, have you forgotten that his family was once the wealthiest family in the kingdom?"

"!!!" The minister understood what he meant. It seemed that the Ardagan Family's influence was still quite strong, that they could influence the royal court.

The king rose from his seat and waved his hand, ordering, "We'll accept his request unconditionally. Also, form a new legion that will handle this new route."

"Who is the leader of this new legion, Your Majesty?"

The king thought for a moment and answered without hesitation, "Damian."

Chapter 859 Preparation

"That's perfect." Tristan said out loud while pointing at the drawing Livia had just created.

"Is that so?" Livia smiled. "I have never thought that your memory would be this extraordinary. We'll be learning from the same teacher, so I'm happy to meet you."

"Did Teacher accept you too?"

"Yes. What is your name?"

"I'm Tristan."

"I'm Livia. Since we've done our homework, should we visit him?"

"I want to do that, but Teacher is doing his best to get stronger. I'm afraid that I will be in his way if I interrupt him." Tristan shook his head helplessly.

"We're not going to disturb him. We just visit him and see him from afar. If he is free, then we will come to him. How about that?"

"I think we can do that..." Tristan nodded in agreement. This was the first time he had finished his homework this fast, so he didn't know what to do with his spare time.

Tristan and Livia ended up visiting the garden to see Noel's progress. He had been practicing in the same place, so it didn't take too long for them to discover him.

However, they were stopped by the guards more than thirty meters away.

"I'm sorry, you can't visit this area."

Tristan and Livia were confused. But their doubt was answered soon as the heat emanating from Noel brushed their skin.

"!!!" Both of them trembled as they exchanged looks, asking the same thing. "Did you smell it?"

Their attention soon shifted to the figure sitting far away from them. It looked like a simple meditation, but the entire ground had been burned to a crisp.

There was no grass or flower that remained standing after that heat wave. Occasionally, a black fire flared up and soon disappeared.

Those flares shot out a heat wave so strong that most of the guards had taken off their helmets as they couldn't withstand the heat. The only thing stopping them was their huge shield that blocked the airflow.

All the guards around Noel had been on high alert, stopping Noel from getting out of hand.

While they were doing their best to block Noel's power, the latter felt the calmest during his stay with the Ezenholm Family.

When he opened his eyes, he realized that his consciousness had traveled back to meet his spirits.

"Ardagan..." Noel muttered, finding Ardagan floating above him. Instead of saying anything, a blue screen popped out.

[Mission: Advancing to the Spirit Grandmaster]

[Description: After mastering the Undying Fire, it's time to become the Spirit Grandmaster.]

[Reward: Spirit Step]

[Mission: Forging Spirit Link]

[Description: Once becoming a Grandmaster, Ardagan is fulfilling its promise.]

[Reward: Undying Fire Will]

[Mission: Force Awakening]

[Description: Once creating a Spirit Link, it's time to upgrade the Spirit Link by the Force Awakening Pills.]

[Reward: ???]

Noel was startled to find three missions at once. On the one hand, two missions only gave one skill each. On the other hand, he knew that Spirit Grandmaster was a major breakthrough, so that reward must be extraordinary. There was even one '???' reward.

"Arda—" Noel tried to call him, but his vision turned dark again as his consciousness returned.

"Haa...?" Noel gasped for air, waking up from his meditation. He looked around and noticed that the guards had been standing far from their usual position while staring at him in fear.

Perplexed, Noel tried to figure out the situation and noticed something changed drastically.

His meditation spot had turned into a crater not because of force but because the ground underneath him had been burned into nothing. Even so, he could see the destruction expanded far more than he originally expected. I think you should take a look at

Seeing the guards' conditions could give him the gist of the situation of what had truly happened.

"Did I do all this?" Noel muttered while glancing at the guard leader, who had been talking to him in the past few days.

With a wry smile, he approached Noel and explained, "I apologize, Sir. It's just the heat coming from you is too much for us to handle. I'm afraid that we have to require some Ice Element Spirit if it's going to be much worse."

"I see." Noel thought for a moment and asked, "Is my grandfather here?"

"Sir Raincart has been away since yesterday. He is supposed to come back today, but we don't have a specific schedule."

"Understood. I'll stop for today and wait until my grandfather returns before continuing this."

"Thank you for your consideration."

Noel nodded before noticing that both Tristan and Livia were visiting him. He waved his hand to the guard leader and walked to his students. "What's wrong with you two? Since when are you so free?"

"We've completed our homework earlier. So, we visit you, wondering if there is anything you want us to do." Livia explained since she was the one suggesting Tristan to visit Noel.

"Well..." Noel contemplated for a moment. "I think I'll be leaving for a few days. So, I'll give you a lot of work to the point you can't complete it in a week. So, prepare for it."

"..." Livia and Tristan were speechless. On the one hand, they wanted to do a lot of things to master the runes. On the other hand, the way Noel worded it sounded like he truly meant it. In fact, it might be an understatement.

Before he could say more, a guard and Raincart had rushed to the garden, worried that Noel's fire would become even more uncontrollable and that it would harm nearby people.

"Noel!" Raincart shouted before realizing that Noel had stopped and nothing really happened.

"Grandfather? You've come back." Noel greeted him with an innocent expression.

"I thought you were going to burn the entire house." Raincart let out a sigh of relief while asking, "Are you done?"

"Yes. I'm thinking about waiting for the Demon Crystal to break through to Spirit Grandmaster. I have kind of mastered my fire, but I need to become a Spirit Grandmaster to fully grasp that concept. Also, as soon as I become a Spirit Grandmaster, I'm going to absorb the ice element item before forging a Spirit Link with my fire spirit. If everything is set up correctly, I can awaken my Spirit Link and evolve it even further."

"Then I have good news for you." Raincart smirked. "The royal family has accepted the condition. They are still escorting all those things, but if you're aiming for the Spirit Grandmaster, the Ezenholm Family can give those Demon Crystals first. If you feel bad about it, we can deduct it from what you've got."

"I see. How long do I have to wait?" Noel asked.

"Since the message arrives after one day, they should arrive in another three days."

"I can absorb the required Demon Crystals in a flash, but breaking through will require more than one day. In that case, I'll teach Tristan and Livia for the next two days."

"Got it. Do you need anything? Considering you've caused this much scene just by mastering your ability, I'm afraid that you're going to burn my house down when becoming a Grandmaster."

"Ahaha, you're exaggerating. Well, if you don't mind, I want a spacious place to break through. If possible, there is nothing I can burn there."

"How about the plain not far from our territory? I will be going with you to freeze everything extraordinary while trying not to disturb you."

"The entire process might take an entire week, you know."

"Yeah. I don't mind. I have nothing to do anyway." Raincart shrugged. "Though, I hope you give me a scene that I will never forget. Don't disappoint me."

"You know how to create pressure." Noel chuckled. "I just hope that it's not going to be too big that I can't leave this country."

"That's true." Raincart nodded in agreement. After seeing Noel's fire and ice, Raincart realized that while the ice was doing its best to improve, the fire had yet to reveal its true nature.

According to his estimation, Noel had only exerted twenty to thirty percent of the fire's ability. If becoming a Spirit Grandmaster allowed him to tap that remaining seventy percent, he was afraid that he would become uncontrollable.

That was why he decided to accompany him this time. He was the only one who had the power to prevent anything bad from happening.

'Anna Stargaze has shocked the world by harnessing that level of power, and my grandson is no less than her. I'm afraid that he will show me something so unbelievable that I can't prevent it. More importantly, there is a possibility that the fire element will dominate the entire system and completely devour the ice spirit. While it shows the strength of the fire spirit, it won't have any good effect on Noel's body.

Meanwhile, Noel turned to Tristan and Livia. "There you have it. Since I can't teach you for a while, I'll cram everything on you for the next two days. So, don't expect any sleep."

"Yes." Tristan and Livia replied while straightening their backs.

Unbeknownst to them, Noel would surpass even the wildest dream of Raincart.

Chapter 860 Advancing to Grandmaster Part I

"Have you noted everything?" Noel asked with a smile.

"Yes." Tristan and Livia answered at the same time.

"Then, I'll leave for a bit. Make sure to do everything before I return." Noel waved his hand while walking away.

Raincart, who was next to him, nodded in approval as they exchanged looks before accelerating. With their speed, horse or carriage was far too slow, especially for a small distance.

Even though Noel was a Spirit Master, he could easily keep up with his grandfather's speed.

There were already a few guards standing by, ready to spread out upon seeing Noel and Raincart.

"I will be waiting nearby. If you're done, return to the camp in the southeast. You can sleep, eat, or anything. If you have any injuries, inform me straight away. There are enough Demon Crystals to break through, so once you've reached the Grandmaster level, consolidate your strength before absorbing the ice element item. It should arrive by tomorrow."

"Understood." Noel nodded with a serious expression. When he broke through to the Spirit Master, he required a whole night to consolidate his strength. So, he expected that it would be much longer.

Even Ardagan was ready for the breakthrough.

After saying everything he wanted, Raincart finally stopped and waited with the soldiers. Meanwhile, Noel continued forward and found a lot of Demon Crystals lying on the ground. This was the necessary amount to break through. In fact, he believed that there were more than he originally stated. It seemed that his grandfather was worried that it wasn't enough.

"Thanks, Grandfather." Noel smiled.

Before attempting the breakthrough, Noel checked his status through Ardagan.

Name: Noel Ardagan

Job: Rune Swordsman

Weapon: Ardagan Sword

Main Medal: Demon Hunter Medal, Elite Medal

Honor Point: 120 Pts

Skill Point: 5 Pts

Status: Stamina +5.1%, Constitution +5.1%, Sword Mastery +4.3%, Spiritual Energy +4.5%, Rune Mastery +4.0%

Low Quality Crystal - 4580/5000

Mid Quality Crystal - 2102/3000

Advanced Quality Crystal - 350/1500

Peak Quality Crystal - 38/600

Superior Quality Crystal - 2/300

"It's not bad. In this advancement, I'm going to max out the Low Quality and Mid Quality ones. Since my limit is twice that of normal people and my conversion rate is at maximum, my Advanced and Peak Quality are still on the low side."

As he said, Noel had been absorbing a lot of Low Quality and Mid Quality Demon Crystals but still managed to reach Spirit Master. Even Anna had ingested more Advanced Quality and Peak Quality Crystals to become a Spirit Grandmaster.

This was the biggest advantage Noel had. If Noel continued at this pace and fully filled the Advanced and Peak Quality Crystals, he could easily surpass a Spirit Transcendence. By filling more Superior Crystals, he would reach the legendary Spirit King Stage.

However, finding a Superior Quality Crystal was easier said than done. Unless one ventured deep into the demon territory, they would hardly find any. And once they entered, they had to prepare to lay down their life.

That was why the Spirit King Stage was just a legend, let alone with not a perfect conversion rate.

Now that he had checked the amount, Noel tried to calculate the distance between him and the Spirit Grandmaster Stage.

"Hmm..." Noel glanced at the amount of crystals. "I guess I should absorb everything except for the excess Low and Mid Level Crystals. Normally, people wouldn't attempt such a thing because that excess energy can't be used properly. But I have two spirits as well as runes, so that excess energy is something I need."

After making sure everything had been prepared, Noel asked his spirits, "Are you ready, guys?"

[We're ready.]

Seeing Ardagan's notification put his mind at ease. He sat down next to the pile of crystals while grabbing some of them.

He began circulating his energy around the Spirit Seal and started sucking the energy from the crystals through those Spirit Seals.

Noel could feel the surge of energy that rushed through his veins, filling him up. Heisk's Spirit Seal got contaminated by the Spirit Link, turning the pure Spiritual Energy into Ice Spiritual Energy.

That cold energy rushed and spread all over his body, chilling him. No one could withstand that surge of energy without resting since it felt like the entire body was being frozen from the inside.

Fortunately, Noel wasn't an ordinary expert. All of a sudden, a fiery energy burst out and warmed his entire body. The intense heat met with the extreme cold, neutralizing each other.

While that clash of energy was pure torture, this was enough to balance everything out inside Noel's body, allowing him to continue for a long time.

The eruption of that energy felt like dry ice. It was extremely cold, but when it was touched, the coldness turned into a sharp pain as though one was burned. Yet, Noel remained calm.

The absorbing process went relatively calm, considering Noel had just to absorb and refine them.

Even Raincart wasn't too worried during this phase as he only asked someone to monitor Noel's situation.

Raincart, on the other hand, was handling a few things, such as what would happen if Noel's energy burst caused a problem. He had to prepare the soldiers well to avoid unnecessary trouble.

Noel might have lost his parents, even if it was only a scheme and they were still hiding somewhere. However, it didn't change the fact that he had lost the love and care he had received the whole time.

Due to that loss, Noel matured. He changed the way of life and pursued the ultimate strength.

But that path was extremely lonely. If Anna wasn't there, revenge would have clouded his mind. There was a high possibility that Noel would attempt something reckless just to fulfill his revenge.

So, Anna might be the greatest blessing he had in the past. However, Noel was aware he was personally responsible for Anna's interference. If he didn't ask Old Ru and use that power to turn back time, Anna wouldn't be there.

Of course, Anna had only told him about the alternate world, not about the regression part. But after seeing Old Ru, it was easy to deduce this part.

At the same time, there was one more fortune he got after losing his parents. It was his grandfather.

Because of the 'death' of his parents, Raincart became more concerned about Noel's situation. Noel fully understood that Raincart wouldn't support him this much if he didn't have this kind of talent. But Raincart would still give a considerable amount of support even if he couldn't awaken his spirits.

So, his grandfather was similar to Anna in his heart.

Hence, Noel had only one thought when attempting this breakthrough. He wanted to make sure that his grandfather was proud of him. That was probably the best thing to repay for his kindness.

Noel took a deep breath every few crystals. In just an hour, he managed to absorb 200 Low Level Crystals. If this continued, he should be able to fill up all the space for the Low Level Crystals in one more hour.

Although the absorption speed would be slower for the Mid Level Crystals, this speed was beyond anyone's imagination.

Even the soldier, who observed Noel from afar, notified Raincart of his concern. "Sir. It appears that he is ingesting those crystals at high speed..."

"Hmm? Is there something wrong? His conversion rate should be extremely high, so I'm not that worried." Raincart tilted his head in confusion.

"But he is at two hundred crystals per hour. Are you sure about this?"

"He what?" Raincart rushed to the front and checked the fluctuation of energy in Noel's body. To his surprise, the energy looked extremely stable. "What? Even I could only handle fifty crystals per hour. How did he do that?"

Raincart wanted to stop him, but because there was no anomaly, he could only watch for the time being. "Monitor him closely. If there is an unstable fluctuation coming out of his body, inform me and get ready to intercept."

"Understood, Sir."

The people began to raise their guards, seeing something unprecedented. The only reason why Noel could reach this speed was the two spirits in his body, the two opposite elements inside his body that supported each other instead of clashing.

Noel continued filling up his quota. After another hour, Noel picked up his last Low Level Crystal. Out of curiosity, he also grabbed another crystal. It was said that when the limit was reached, the energy absorbed from it would simply leak out of his body.

And he confirmed it after the first try. As soon as he filled up all the spots for his Low Level Crystals, he instantly felt full. It was hard to describe the sensation, but he knew that there was no more room for it. So, when he tried another one, the absorption was a bit chaotic.

Ultimately, Noel dropped that crystal, abandoning his thought for it.

After that, he continued with the Mid Level Crystals. As expected, the soldiers and his grandfather were shocked by his speed once again. It was clear that Noel's method was far better than any of them.

So, Raincart warned them not to disclose the information and continued observing Noel.