

S vs Rebirth 861

Chapter 861 Spirit Grandmaster

"This is..." Noel felt that his body was being filled to the brim. It was to the point that he was suffocating.

However, this was a good sign. This meant the energy was enough to advance to the Spirit Grandmaster Stage.

"Ardagan, Heisk. Get ready to transfer the energy you two have absorbed to the mind. We'll proceed with the Spirit Mind."

After asking the two spirits, Noel felt the Spirit Seal was reacting to his words. They began channeling the energy toward his brain.

When someone absorbed the demon crystal for the first time, they had officially become a Spirit Apprentice. Once their body got used to the Spiritual Energy, they could exert strength beyond a normal person. This was the Spirit Practitioner Stage.

However, Spirit Wielder was even more different. The human body began assimilating with the spirit, allowing them to fully utilize the Spiritual Energy.

That was when the Spirit Master came into place. While their body could release Spiritual Energy, they didn't have the organs to store and channel everything. That was why they condensed the energy into their heart, creating a second heart called Spirit Heart.

This heart allowed them to change their body like that of a Spirit. Now that they had the core of the Spiritual Energy in their body, all they needed next was none other than the one controlling it.

Noel was beginning to form the organ that controlled the Spiritual Energy, the Spirit Mind.

The process was not that much different from when he created the Spirit Heart. He condensed all that energy and wrapped it around his human brain.

The remaining energy continued flowing into that brain and created the remaining outer layer of the Spirit Mind.

Noel could feel a sharp pain all around his brain. After all, the surge of energy was extremely powerful due to the fact that two Spirit Seals were sending the energy simultaneously.

Noel began gritting his teeth, enduring the pain quietly. This was not the time for him to scream or alarm his grandfather.

He persisted for two hours and the outer layer had begun taking the shape. Little by little, he began opening a passage for the rest of the Spiritual Energy to fill up the Spirit Mind.

At first, it felt like blood rushing into his head. But soon, his brain felt warm as Ardagan had planted the seed of his element. This seed would manifest in the Spirit Mind, fully controlling the flame energy.

The warmth was perfect as it made Noel feel relaxed. Unfortunately, that comfort only lasted for an hour before the temperature rose even further. Noel was gasping for air as though the liquid in his head had completely evaporated.

Luckily, before something happened, a cool breeze flowed through his veins and lowered the temperature.

This chilling sensation came from Heisk. The latter appeared to be using her full power in order to lower the temperature.

Heisk had created an opportunity for Noel. By lowering the temperature, he could continue with the next step.

He planted those two seeds in his mind and nurtured them with Spiritual Energy. This way, the pure Spiritual Energy began to be influenced by both sides, creating two sides of opposite elements.

Normally, these opposite elements would clash with each other. But surprisingly, Ardagan controlled his own power and tried to harmonize with Heisk. The harmonization gave the sensation of a whirlpool of two liquids that were being stirred to fuse with each other.

Sadly, the two opposite elements might be able to live in harmony, but they, by no means, could fuse.

As a result, Noel could feel the intermittent temperature during the whole process. While it wasn't as painful, he was certainly uncomfortable.

Noel knew that the absorbing process didn't last for a long time. Breaking through to the Spirit Grandmaster required a lot of time.

Just waiting for the two elements to harmonize alone took at least three hours. Noel had to endure all the uncomfortable feelings for that long.

Even then, it wasn't over. Once the Spirit Mind was established, it would form a connection with the Spirit Heart. Forming one Spirit Vein that would connect both of them.

The vein had to be strengthened by the Fire and Ice energy. After that, the energy all over Noel's body had to be washed anew. Instead of the normal pure energy he usually used, he could only use two types of energy.

In other words, his energy wouldn't match with anyone other than him anymore. This was one of the features that a Spirit Grandmaster had. It was true that having this unique energy would cause them to be unable to help anyone, this also showed the value of Force Control that Old Ru was talking about.

Noel didn't have the pure Spiritual Energy anymore, but he could still use the Force Control to direct the energy within someone's body to heal them.

In addition, by having this new type of energy, his power would be amplified threefold at the very least. It was no wonder Anna could cause such a commotion.

There was such a big difference between the Spirit Grandmaster and Spirit Master.

More importantly, Noel's sense was heightened to a level where he could feel his own veins. It could be said that because the veins had been strengthened by those two elements, he sensed those elements instead of the veins. This was the reason for Spirit Grandmasters being able to recover from their injuries quicker than anyone below that level.

If Anna had reached this level before using the True Spirit Body, the broken veins could easily be sensed and she would control her own energy to patch up those holes herself.

For Noel, who had just finished linking the Spirit Mind and the Spirit Heart, the next process was torture.

By gathering all the pure energy into the Spirit Heart and changing their element through the Spirit Mind before spreading it again, Noel felt like he was dying a few times.

At one time, he felt so dry as though every liquid, including his blood, vanished from his body. At another time, he felt so energetic that he had a hard time focusing on controlling his energy.

More importantly, once the unique energy was released back to the entire body, it was like he was being boiled alive and frozen again and again.

At one point, Noel couldn't even feel a single thing from his body. He didn't know how much time had passed.

All he could do was to make sure that this process didn't cause any injuries or encounter any mishaps.

Noel said once that he needed to become a Spirit Grandmaster before being able to master his Undying Fire.

Now that he had this new energy and sharper senses, Noel could measure the temperature and characteristics of the fire energy that enhanced his body.

By mastering that fire, he also created stability within the Undying Fire, allowing his veins to have the same temperature, amount of energy, and heat.

He registered all that into his Spirit Mind, allowing Heisk's ice to match Ardagan's flame before re-harmonizing them.

In other words, Noel had just experienced the breakthrough two times. By this time, Raincart grew worried, thinking that something must have happened.

Fortunately, he understood the fact that the true nature of two spirits residing in one's body wasn't fully recorded. So, unless Noel showed any signs of failure, he wouldn't stop him.

Approximately forty hours after he began absorbing the Demon Crystals, Noel gradually opened his eyes.

The Spiritual Energy surprisingly changed its attribute when it made contact with his skin.

'So, this is the realm of fusion. By synchronizing the Spirit Mind and the Spirit Heart, the nature of my energy changes to match the unique ability that my spirits have. In my case, it's the ice and fire energy. Thanks to Ardagan and Heisk doing their best to harmonize the two opposite elements, the energy is stable.'

Ardagan also showed his confirmation by sending the completion of his mission.

[Mission: Advancing to the Spirit Grandmaster]

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

[Reward: Spirit Step]

'Spirit Step, huh? By using the explosiveness of my fire element, I can increase my speed to the extreme. That's quite good in battle. I don't know if it can match Anna's speed though.'

'In any case, I have officially become a Spirit Grandmaster. Now, I understand why Spirit Grandmasters can look down upon those who are below them. Dimitri's worries are also justified.'

'I don't know how much time has passed, but it's clear that I took longer than I needed...' Noel rubbed his belly. Even though he was a Spirit Grandmaster, not eating for almost two days surely took a toll on his body.

'Let's just recuperate and understand my current power before continuing the next step.' Noel took a deep breath, calming his excitement down. He rose from the ground, signaling Raincart and the guards that he had finished.

Chapter 862 Ice

"Are you done?" Raincart asked while his eyes were observing Noel from his appearance to the fluctuation of his energy.

"Yes. I have officially become a Spirit Grandmaster, Grandfather." Noel reported while raising both hands. On his right hand flared up the Undying Fire and on his left hand formed an ice crystal.

It looked simple for normal people, but Raincart could clearly see the difference. Noel could actually release his element with such ease. In fact, he used the Spiritual Energy around his body to form it instead of the one within him. This was the characteristic that symbolized the Spirit Grandmaster's strength.

Once Noel reached this stage, he believed that he could kill those Spirit Grandmasters and Spirit Masters who chased after him in just a few rounds. Although there were still some gaps between him and Qiel, he wouldn't be so powerless after this.

"Great. Do you need more time to consolidate your power?"

"Aside from getting a hang of it, I think I can continue to the next part." Noel shook his head.

"Is that so? You're going to absorb the ice element item, right?"

"Indeed." Noel nodded. The ice element was the one that he needed to form a Spirit Link with Ardagan after all.

"Alright then. I will continue watching over you." Raincart nodded before pointing at the side. "But before that, you should be pretty hungry. I'll ask the soldiers to cook you something."

"Yes."

While Raincart asked the soldiers, Noel continued with his meditation. But this time, he tried to control his new power, trying to grow accustomed to the change.

This was the first time he felt so refreshed when controlling his element. It was as if there was nothing that clogged up within his body.

With a single wave of his right hand, Spiritual Energy absorbed his fire energy and fused with it, allowing a fire to light up around his arm.

After moving around for ten minutes, Noel returned to eat with his grandfather. The latter asked a few things because he was worried about him, but after confirming that everything was fine, Raincart dropped the topic.

Although Noel wanted to continue, Raincart suggested he should sleep and condition his body for what was going to come next.

Since he was more experienced as a Spirit Grandmaster than him, Noel agreed.

Before sleeping, there was a peculiar thought entering his mind.

"Now that I think about it, Anna said that we were at the peak of Spirit Grandmaster and was about to become a Spirit Transcendence... Back then, our strength was so high that we could even rival the Spirit Transcendence. Yet, why did I actually get myself killed?"

Noel had the same thought as Anna. He obviously could see what was going on and the relationship between the Third Prince, the Royal Family, and the Supreme Devil Organization.

Yet, even after unraveling the mystery, he chose to do something foolish.

"Maybe there is something more... The moment I realize it, I have come to the conclusion that it's better to start over. No, I don't think I will reach that decision... I mean, I'm not going to give up even if I have a second chance. Even if I have one, I won't give that to anyone else, let alone Anna.

"In the past life, I have Ardagan with me and Anna shouldn't have any memory about her past, right? Yet, Anna could get strong enough to rival my speed with the help of Ardagan... No, that wasn't possible unless... I lowered my speed to match her. But why?

"I was supposed to meet Old Ru when I had broken through to the Spirit Grandmaster... What actually caused such a drastic change in my judgment?"

The more he thought about it, the bigger the mystery had become. However, he knew that the mystery involved him, Anna, the Third Prince, the Royal Family, and the Supreme Devil Organization.

"I don't think I can find any clues with only this much information. At the same time, I'm not planning to go all the way to discover it. I guess I will stick to my original plan and search for clues after becoming a noble." Noel sighed.

In the past, he thought that the Third Prince and the Royal Family were the cause of all this. And the Supreme Devil Organization had forced them to execute his parents. But then, he learned that his parents were still alive.

This became another confusion for Noel. For what reason did they stay alive? With the power they wielded, his parents should have made some sort of move already. Yet, he had never heard anything from them as if the news about them being alive was just a fake.

In other words, if his parents were truly alive, they must be trying to do something big. However, he doubted it as well, considering Anna told him that she had never seen his parents making their appearance. So, if his parents were truly dead, could he actually forgive Anna?

Unfortunately, Noel could only keep this secret for the time being. He had to do something big in order to lure all the big fish out.

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The following day, Noel returned to the field.

Raincart was with him, carrying a chest. After dropping it on the ground, Raincart used his Spiritual Energy to unlock the chest, showing the item within.

The item looked like a crown. However, the crown had a peculiar series of jewels that covered it. This series of jewels was emitting constant fluctuation of energy.

"This is... quite powerful..." Noel frowned. Although the energy it released wasn't comparable to the ice jade he found in the Atracaeca Kingdom, it wasn't that weak either.

"I did my best to request it. This crown is one of the artifacts that the Ice King used in the past. I don't know if you are aware of the Ice King or not, but he was quite formidable. Although he was only a Spirit Grandmaster, he was practically invincible among the Spirit Grandmaster. This item was one of the artifacts that boosted his strength."

"I see. The Royal Family didn't seem to be holding back this time."

"Of course. I guess you could understand their intention."

"Indeed. Well, I might teach her a lot of things, but I will still not differentiate my disciples."

"I'll convey your message." Raincart patted Noel's shoulder. "Be careful."

"Yes, Grandfather." Noel bowed to him politely. After Raincart moved far enough, Noel turned his gaze to this crown. "Heisk."

'I'm ready to absorb it. However, I have noticed that there might be some resistance.'

"Resistance?"

"Yes. Unlike the ice jade we found previously, this one had been used by someone for a long time. The jade remembered how he utilized its strength, so I'll reverse everything and return it back to normal first before absorbing it."

"Some sort of memory effect, I guess." Noel nodded in understanding. "Alright. Shall we begin?"

"Yes. Be careful. The crown might behave unpredictably and harm you."

"Got it." Noel closed his eyes as he began revolving his energy around Heisk's Spirit Seal.

It seemed that the energy coming from the crown reacted to his own energy as it immediately caused a burst of energy, trying to blow Noel's away.

Unfortunately for him, Noel had focused his energy on his feet to counter the burst. But the fluctuation got stronger and stronger to the point where his Spirit Seal glowed brightly. It seemed that Heisk was using all her strength to refine this power.

The clash escalated right away. The energy around them began to freeze, creating a few spiral-shaped ice crystals. Because the clashes happened continuously, more and more ice crystals began to form.

The temperature dropped in an instant, alarming the soldiers.

Raincart frowned. Although the ice wasn't at his level, it was still more powerful than Noel's ice. As one would expect from the Ice King's artifact.

All the people were ready to act if something bad happened.

Heisk alone might have had a hard time, but this time, Heisk had one more spirit to help.

When the energy from the crown started counter-attacking them, Ardagan released his energy.

The black fire began to appear all around Noel and expanded. The intense heat warmed up the temperature and the black fire evaporated the ice crystals in an instant.

Even the ice energy from the jewel felt Ardagan's suppression.

'Amazing.' Noel thought. At one point, he wondered what kind of life the spirits had in their world.

The spirits had amazing control over their strength, yet, they still tried to learn from the humans. It showed that they could still progress even further.

As the one hosting Heisk and Ardagan, Noel wanted to show them that he was a worthy host.

"Heisk, Ardagan. Get ready. We're going to overwhelm it."

After that warning, Noel started his attack. He actually used his Force Control on the crown, messing up the flow of energy within the crown.

Due to that disruption, the crown started losing its power.

Heisk fully understood what she needed to do. She began releasing more power to subdue this ice artifact. Even Ardagan thought that Noel would use his own power to overwhelm the crown, but using Force Control to mess them from the inside was something beyond his expectation.

Yet, Noel actually went one step further.

"This is not over." Noel smirked. His Force Control began to reprogram the flow of Spiritual Energy to match with theirs. This way, Heisk would have an easier time subduing this series of ice jewels.

'Thank you.' Heisk surprisingly thanked Noel. The energy around them began to freeze, creating an ice sphere that isolated Noel from the rest of the world.

Ardagan stopped releasing his strength after noticing that Heisk had gotten an overwhelming advantage and was at the start of absorbing the energy.

All Noel needed to do at this point was wait for Heisk to fully absorb the energy. At the same time, another thought arose in his mind.

"If I can influence an item to this degree after using it for a long time... should I consider creating an artifact for myself? But I have Ardagan for my weapon... so, maybe a utility accessory that can boost my power or armor... no, too restrictive, maybe a coat that has the combination of this type of jewel and runes."

Chapter 863 Heisk

Noel had been meditating for quite a while. In fact, he began to lose track of time because of the chill coming from the ice energy.

The energy was much more violent than Heisk couldn't completely absorb it. The surrounding area had been frozen.

Fortunately, there was a master of ice standing not far from him. Raincart had deemed that the ice energy wasn't enough to cause a problem for Noel, so he decided to let him fully absorb it.

After what felt like a week, Noel could finally open his eyes. But this time, instead of meeting the frozen grass field, he found himself inside his consciousness.

The white space expanded to the horizon with no one in sight.

All of a sudden, a chill breeze brushed his skin, causing Noel to shiver.

"What is this chill?" Noel was quite surprised. On the one hand, he had been with Heisk the whole time, so the chill wouldn't be that much of a problem. On the other hand, Heisk couldn't protect him from the chill anymore, and this breeze had a temperature lower than Heisk's ice.

As soon as he turned around, Noel found a huge cocoon behind him. The cocoon was made of ice and emitted a chilling breeze from time to time.

"What is this? No, is this Heisk?" Noel corrected himself, slightly panicking. This was the first time he saw a Spirit evolving, so he wondered what change Heisk would have.

"Ardagan?" Noel called the other spirit, wanting to understand the situation.

Unfortunately, Ardagan couldn't appear before him or his element would clash with Heisk. It would be detrimental when Heisk was about to evolve.

However, that doubt soon disappeared.

When Noel couldn't find Ardagan anywhere, he decided to take a closer look at the cocoon. He realized that the closer he was, the lower the temperature. And it wasn't the radiation. Instead, it felt like the Spirit Link connected the temperature because the chilling sensation came from within instead of the breeze.

"Heisk..." Noel called her name quietly.

As if responding to his call, the cocoon released another breeze.

Noel couldn't help but smile, knowing that Heisk was fine. But at the same moment, the cocoon began pulsing.

"Hmm?" Noel's heart skipped a beat. He thought responding to him caused this one, so he said, "No need to do anything. Just focus on your evo—"

Before he finished his words, a crack appeared on the cocoon.

Noel's face became pale, thinking everything was his fault. However, that crack became bigger in an instant as a pair of wings pushed through the crack, creating a hole.

The pair of ice wings was similar to Noel's Phoenix Wings. But instead of fire or feathers, it was made completely of ice.

The ice wings started expanding and pushing the cocoon open. The crack spread as more and more shells were broken.

Inside, Noel could see the back of a human. But surprisingly, it was quite small. When the gap widened, he could see the legs and head areas, confirming his suspicion.

It appeared that she had long, light-blue hair, covering her back. Due to her coming out from the back, Noel couldn't capture any of the facial features.

"I'm sorry for taking too long." A gentle and mature voice echoed from the inside as the ice wings began to pull the person out.

Noel was completely dumbstruck by her appearance. As expected, her height was only reached up to his chest. In fact, her wingspan was bigger than her height.

She had a pair of crystalline ice pupils that completely covered the entire eyes. It was clearly not a human's eyes. The eyes dimly glowed as though it was getting filled up with Spiritual Energy.

Despite her stature, her face was mature and devoid of emotion, making her look aloof. Other than those, nothing could differentiate her from a normal human.

"Are you... Heisk?" Noel couldn't help but ask, still not believing the transformation before his eyes.

"I'm sorry for taking too long." Heisk nodded. "Let me introduce myself once again. I am Heisk, a Humanoid Rank Spirit coming from the Ice Fairy Lineage. Thank you for helping me evolve. It appears that you're quite startled by my appearance, but this is how other Humanoid Rank Spirits from my lineage appear."

As far as Noel could remember, Heisk had only been a head-size spirit. Once she evolved to the humanoid rank, her body expanded. It was probably due to her original size that she couldn't expand completely to mimic that of a human.

Either way, it didn't change the fact that Heisk had become a Humanoid Rank Spirit.

"It's nothing. Helping you is also helping me..." Noel replied slowly, still having a hard time calming his heart down.

"I don't think there is any need to mention this, but if you haven't felt it..." Heisk extended both hands toward Noel.

In that instant, Noel could feel a weird sensation, which never happened before. But this weird sensation felt rather familiar.

"This is... Isn't this the usual sensation when you used to touch me? Our link..." Noel frowned.

"Yes. Our link has gotten stronger. Now that I have reached a humanoid rank, although my appearance doesn't look completely like a human, I have become pretty similar. You might haven't noticed this, but my conversion rate has increased to 92 percent. Though, it doesn't matter because Ardagan has increased it to the maximum."

Noel was quite surprised. In the past, Heisk's original conversion rate was 80 percent. Even though after the evolution, she was still lower than Anna's Spirit, albeit it was extremely close. She should be proud since Anna's spirit was already a Humanoid Rank Spirit before she even got him.

"As much as I want to give you my power right now, I'm afraid that I can't do it." Heisk raised two fingers. "Your body might have become a Spirit Grandmaster, but I should wait until you expand our Spirit Link with those pills so that I can give you even stronger power."

"I know. That's my intention. I'm going to form a Spirit Link with Ardagan first before consuming those pills."

"That's the second reason. Because I'm now filled with power, I can help you suppress Ardagan's flame during the linking process. You could say that my evolution is one of the requirements for that Spirit Link. Without my ice suppressing that flame even for a little bit, your body can't handle it and will end up burning away."

"I see. So, you're going to use all this power to help me." Noel nodded in understanding. "Is this why Ardagan is not here?"

"A part of it, yes." Heisk nodded.

"Do you have any suggestions of what we should do next? You understand Spirits more than me, so I want to know your opinion."

"Actually, your plan is already good enough. After giving you a new ability after boosting our link with the awakening pills, I might have to disappear for a while."

"Disappear..." Noel frowned, feeling concerned. But he soon remembered something. "Wait a minute... Is it related to the True Spirit Body?"

"Yes. The Spirit God is delivering his promise and planning to bestow me that chance. I don't know how long, so I want to give you a stronger ability before disappearing."

"I see." Noel contemplated for a moment. He asked, "How about Ardagan?"

"He is preparing for the Spirit Link. Because of his strength, the pain you will receive will be unimaginable."

"I'm prepared for it."

"In that case, there is nothing left for me to say."

"But there is one for me." Noel looked into her eyes with a smile on his face. "Heisk. Congratulations on reaching the Humanoid Rank."

That expressionless face changed as a warm, gratified smile appeared. She politely bowed, saying, "I can't do this alone. Thank you."

"Alright then, I'm going to leave and condition myself to form the Spirit Link. Since Ardagan is occupied, you tell me when you're ready."

"Yes."

Noel closed his eyes again as his consciousness returned.

When he opened his eyes, the ice had begun to disappear and the frozen structure crumbled to the ground.

It was quite uneventful for evolution, but Noel didn't know that waiting for the Awakening Pill before Heisk bestowed him another ability was the right thing to do.

After all, he didn't know what kind of power Anna had after awakening the Spirit Link.

More importantly, this was also the time for Noel to form another Spirit Link. It was clear that Ardagan was superior to Anna's Thunder Berserker Spirit, but what would be the difference between them?

What kind of ability would Ardagan give to Noel after all this was over? What kind of benefits would the Spirit Link and the Awakening Pill have?

He could only find out by linking himself with Ardagan.

Four days after the beginning of his transformation, Noel had set up for another big transformation.

He once again stood in the middle of the field, surrounded by Raincart and the soldiers. However, Noel had warned Raincart that he wanted to create a Spirit Link with his Fire Spirit. Because of its destructive force, the soldiers had to remain on high alert if they didn't want to get injured.

Now that the stage had been set, the Spirit Link between Ardagan and Noel began to form.

Chapter 864 Undying Fire

A moment earlier.

While Noel was meditating, Ardagan actually called him back to the white space.

"This is..." Noel was quite surprised that he was back here again after that long conversation with Heisk.

However, his doubt soon disappeared when Ardagan was floating right in front of him.

"Ardagan... Are you the one calling me here?" Noel asked while looking around, not finding Heisk.

"Yes. I'm here for one last discussion about the Spirit Link."

Noel remained silent, fully knowing that they didn't have much time left.

Ardagan continued, "My Spirit Link is different from Heisk for one big reason. If her Spirit Link allows you to measure temperature as well as heighten your sense of Spiritual Energy, my Spirit Link allows you to fully utilize my fire. Do you know my fire?"

"Yes, Undying Fire."

"What do you think about its origin?"

"If I'm not wrong, it's the element you received from the Spirit God when he created you."

"That's not the entire story. It's true that this Undying Fire is something that I receive from the Spirit God, but this is actually a part of the Spirit God's element."

"What?" Noel widened his eyes. But when he thought about it, it made a lot of sense. The fact that Ardagan received a part of the Spirit God's power explained how Ardagan knew a lot of things about spirits as well as his connection with the Spirit God.

"The Undying Fire's original name is Absolute Flame." Ardagan paused for a moment. "Do you know what it means by absolute?"

Noel had a few answers, but because he was unsure, it was better not to interrupt Ardagan and waste their precious time.

"It means normal can't hold a candle. In the presence of absolute flame, all fire shall kneel."

"!!!" Noel shivered from the words alone. His confident and overbearing tone made him feel like he was being oppressed by that 'absolute.'

"And a part of that absolute flame is concealed within me for one reason. The Absolute Fire is one of the Spirit God's powers, meaning that it will follow him anywhere. That's why he sealed a portion of that power within me, so that it can be used anywhere, anytime. Thus, comes the name Undying Fire.

"I am created in order to host this fire. This is the reason why I want you to define this power yourself. In your mind, what is absolute?"

Noel thought for a few seconds before giving the best answer he got. "Absolute is freedom."

"Freedom?"

"Yes." Noel nodded with a serious expression. "If you have absolute power, no one can stand in your way. If you have absolute authority, you can do everything. If you have that 'absolute,' you will be unrestrained by everything."

"Absolute is freedom," Ardagan muttered the answer as if he was happy with this answer.

"Unfortunately, this is just a part of that absolute. It means that I'm still being restricted by constraints."

"I know. That's why I have defined you." Noel's expression turned grim. Ardagan's fire was Undying Fire, not Absolute Fire. That was why Ardagan was still restrained by the definition Noel had been searching for this whole time.

"That's right. My flame is called Undying Fire. What kind of fire will last for eternity, never to be extinguished?"

"It's a bright flame, while having its own restriction, still continues burning to free itself from the constraints." Noel closed his eyes.

"Whatever that will come to my path, even if it's water and ice..."

"Yeah. I know that you will still continue burning brightly, reducing all those coming into your way to nothing." Noel smiled.

"I, Ardagan, officially recognize Noel Ardagan as my host. His enemies shall be reduced to ashes and his allies shall be embraced by warmth. I shall accompany him until the end of his life as the third Ardagan..." Ardagan released his Spiritual Energy gently.

Noel could feel that the Spiritual Energy was guiding his right hand toward the handle. Without opening his eyes, he grabbed the handle, feeling the connection between the sword and the Spirit Seal.

"Noel Ardagan. As you emphasize freedom, you are also free to do whatever you want with my power. Burning your enemies, turning this world into ashes, or sealing that very flame will be entirely your choice. Are you ready to accept this responsibility?"

"I am not an extraordinary person from the start, I am selfish and made a lot of mistakes. But I promise that I will use your power responsibly and strive to become a better person every day." Noel replied with his genuine feeling. He acknowledged his shortcomings, but it didn't block his path.

"Prepare yourself as you are about to receive the fire that can burn this entire world." Ardagan was satisfied and asked one last question as the trigger. "Call my name, Noel."

Noel took a deep breath and said his name. "I'm ready... Ardagan."

At that moment, Ardagan's Spirit Seal shone brightly. Noel could feel the fiery energy from Ardagan rushing toward his hand.

The black fire started sparking all around his hand before moving toward his arm.

The intensity and amount of fire were increasing rapidly. It felt like his organs were charred, his blood evaporated, and his bones turned to ashes.

Still, Noel had expected this kind of pain beforehand, so he gritted his teeth, trying his best to endure the pain.

Unfortunately, that was just the start. The pain continued increasing as the fire reached his body, stimulating all his veins.

Heisk had spread her power to cool down Noel's body, but the flame was so strong that it almost nullified whatever Heisk did.

When the flame reached his heart, the Spirit Heart began pumping rapidly, circulating all that energy into his entire body.

And by the time it arrived at his Spirit Mind, Noel suddenly screamed out loud.

"Aaaaaaaaaahhhhhh!"

Even though he had prepared for the unimaginable pain, what he got surpassed anything that could come into his mind.

His entire body was melting down. If Noel wanted to imagine the torture in Hell, he would definitely think it surpassed that level of torture.

The moment he lost control of his endurance, the fire erupted from his body. And that action was reflected in reality as well.

"Aaaaahhhh!"

"!!!" Raincart and the soldiers raised their eyebrows. That scream could only come from one person, so their gazes immediately fell on Noel sitting on that field.

Black fire began to leak out of his body, burning everything around him. The grass instantly turned to dust, and the soil lost all its water and became charred.

The temperature increased rapidly as a wave of intense heat rushed in all directions.

"!!!" Raincart and the soldiers had their skin reddened just by being brushed by that heat.

"Impossible. Is he..." Raincart thought about stopping him, worried that Noel couldn't handle it.

However, Heisk began sending forth her icy energy, trying to fight back the fire.

The clash between the hot and cold energy was simply too strong. The Spiritual Energy began to envelop Noel and let him float in the air.

"What kind of Spirit is your Fire Spirit, Noel?" Raincart gasped, not believing what he had just seen. He thought, 'It was normal for a higher level spirit to show this type of phenomenon when forming the Spirit Link. Even I was tortured by an unimaginable pain and froze a whole room when forming my Spirit Link. But this...'"

How could Raincart believe this?

Noel's fire had been slightly suppressed by the ice. Despite that, the flame was still strong enough to burn everything in a twenty-meter radius. Even the soil became ashes and carried by the wind or shock wave formed by the clash of two elements.

If he was forging his Spirit Link in a room like Raincart, let alone the whole room, the entire building would be burned into nothing.

This kind of phenomenon far surpassed Raincart. He didn't know what kind of phenomenon Anna, Noel's rival, caused, but he believed that she had surpassed her.

Still, Raincart couldn't imagine Anna would be able to surpass Noel.

After all, this was just the beginning.

Fully knowing that the phenomenon would become bigger and bigger, Raincart stomped the ground. He poured all of his Spiritual Energy, forming four thick ice walls in all directions, isolating Noel.

His ice would also be beneficial in reducing the temperature to fight back against Noel's fire.

In addition, this would prevent anyone from finding out about this phenomenon. There was no way everyone would sit still if they knew Noel was this extraordinary.

Raincart shouted, "The second and third divisions will be guarding the perimeter. We'll expand the perimeter to a 100-meter radius. Block everyone that dares to come. If they have any problems, they're going to talk to me directly."

"Yes, Sir!" The second and third division captains acknowledged the orders and immediately arranged their troops.

"The first division will stay behind my ice walls and form a barrier. Block the wave from spreading the heat wave to all the surroundings."

Since they were stationed the closest, all soldiers in the first group immediately circled the ice walls while using their shields to block heat waves.

Fortunately, the ice walls were still holding up even though the intense heat had begun melting them down.

Raincart clapped his hands, pouring all the energy he had to maintain the wall. On the one hand, he was excited to see what kind of achievement his grandson would have in the future. On the other hand, he was worried that he couldn't overcome this trial.

There was only one last thought remaining in his mind.

"Keep fighting, Noel."

Chapter 865 Success

Noel gradually opened his eyes, only to be greeted by a pitch darkness. Still, some light managed to enter his eyes, making him realize that he wasn't isolated.

Because he didn't understand the situation, Noel opened his eyes with a serious expression, trying to assess his current situation.

"This place..." Noel muttered. He could see some charred walls and black soil. The smell of burnt had been trapped inside, but surprisingly, he wasn't that much bothered by it.

Despite being burned, there was no smoke produced, so Noel didn't feel anything from the current situation.

Noel tried to check his body's condition by circulating his Spiritual Energy, but as he expected, there was no change except for the new Spirit Link.

"Ardagan, Heisk," Noel called their names in a low voice.

Unfortunately, there wasn't any reply from them. It seemed that the two spirits had worked too hard to forge the Spirit Link.

As a result, he could sense a deep connection with his fire. If before, the fire was something that had been given to him, the current feeling made him think that it had become a part of him.

"I see. The Spirit Link is a kind of direct connection between me and that part of absolute fire. In other words, the current Undying Fire has the characteristic I've set up, but also the intensity of that absolute fire. Although it won't be enough to suppress other flames, it should be enough to influence them. It's no wonder that Ardagan needs me to reach the Spirit Grandmaster Stage first before attempting this."

Noel took a deep breath, calming his heart down. While he had confirmed that everything was alright, he still didn't know where he was.

It appeared that he was sealed in a room with some windows, but looking around, he could only find charred soil and rocks.

As if noticing Noel's movement, someone's voice echoed from above.

"He's got up!"

"?!" Noel was confused and hurriedly raised his head, only to have a blank mind for a few seconds to process everything he saw.

He was actually inside a giant hole. Its size was about three meters in radius and the depth almost reached ten meters. He couldn't help but think he was inside a giant well at this point.

But if he thought about it, he realized that he was the one who created this hole. The charred wall had shown that his flame was burning so fiercely that it reduced everything underneath him into nothing. If he continued, he might not be able to come out.

In fact, he should feel lucky that the ground underneath him didn't contain any water.

As soon as he noticed a movement coming from Noel, Raincart immediately used his ice element to form a ladder and shouted, "Come up! There are a lot of things I want to say."

"Ahahaha..." Noel made a wry smile, never thinking that he would cause all this. Without missing a beat, Noel climbed the hole. Although he could fly with his wings, he decided to take his grandfather's kindness.

After reaching the surface, Raincart said, "Get ready to fill up the hole."

"Yes, Sir." The soldiers seemed to have prepared a lot of dirt to fill up the hole. They must have brought it from the hill nearby so that this hole wouldn't cause any trouble.

Meanwhile, Raincart brought him to another spot while checking his condition.

"Grandfather, I'm alright." Noel felt a bit embarrassed.

"What kind of materials do your clothes have to be able to endure that intense heat?" Raincart asked.

"That one?" Noel couldn't help but laugh due to how ridiculous the question was. "The spirit protected it with a small amount of energy."

"I'm joking." Raincart chuckled. "It seems that you're fine. How do you feel right now? Do you have any weird symptoms or something?"

"No. In fact, I feel amazing right now." Noel smiled. "If I had to fight against those people from the Supreme Devil Organization again, even if I couldn't defeat them, I wouldn't have any problems escaping. I finally understand why Spirit Grandmaster and Spirit Link are the biggest breakthroughs you will have."

"But you have a Spirit Link with your Ice Spirit already, right?"

"Yes. That's allowed me to buy time from them." Noel nodded with a serious expression.

"So, is this everything?"

"I do have one more thing to do." Noel raised one finger. "In my bag, there is a small bottle of pills. Those pills are used to forcefully awaken my spirits and expand my Spirit Link. According to my partner, it can assimilate our body with the spirit to the limit. You can even call it Pseudo True Spirit Body."

"Pseudo? Pills? Are you taking drugs? Do you know that if you are taking weird drugs, you will be in trouble? Have you taken any of it?" Raincart instantly changed his tone like a strict parent.

"Ah, you don't have to worry about it, Grandfather. Do you know Alchemist?"

"Alchemist? That crazy bastard from Zaecuria?" Raincart clenched his fists. "It seems that they are planning to trick my grandson..."

"Not at all. I have made an agreement with a former Royal Alchemist and Anna. This agreement is related to the pill. And I believe Anna has taken the pill." Noel explained.

"What?" Raincart fell silent for a moment. Anna was the most monstrous person among the younger generations in all four kingdoms, he didn't believe that this kind of person would succumb to pressure. After all, there was simply no one who matched her unbelievable strength.

So, taking this pill should only boost his strength.

Even so, Raincart was still worried because he didn't know anything about this pill. "I..."

"I will explain everything later, Grandfather. To summarize everything, this pill is created based on the research related to drugs from the previous civilization. There is no side effect and I'm thinking about making it the specialty of my territory later."

"You do know that you're going to be threading in a dangerous zone, right?"

"I'm well aware. But I still have to get stronger... I'm not trying to become a tyrant or anything, but I just want to get stronger so that I can achieve my goal." Noel smiled.

"Is that so?" Raincart didn't know what to say. On the one hand, he wanted to stop Noel because of the unknown drugs. On the other hand, Noel was adamant about ingesting this drug.

If the drugs had been certified by a kingdom or even multiple kingdoms, he wouldn't have had any problem with Noel taking them.

After some consideration, Raincart stated, "Alright. I will permit it, but I have to warn you first. This drug is unknown."

"Yes, I'm prepared for the consequences. For now, I'm going to wait for my Spirits to recover before continuing." Noel nodded, gratified by his grandfather's concern. In fact, it wasn't a baseless concern. If he didn't know anything about the pill, he wouldn't have taken it as well.

However, Anna had assured him, with her experience and memory, that this pill was safe and would spread in the future. Even she had ingested the pill.

That was why Noel was ready to take this one step forward to prove the pill's efficacy.

Raincart had decided to trust Noel. He was an intelligent kid, and his talent was among the top, so he didn't believe that Noel would fall for low-level temptation. Though, he would definitely stay by his side during the process.

"In any case, let's see what kind of strength you get after forging the Spirit Link." Raincart smirked. "You have also become a Spirit Grandmaster now, so I expect you've become quite strong. Let's see if you have that strength."

"How do you plan to do that?" Noel asked while recounting what he got from Heisk's evolution, advancement, and Spirit Link.

[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]

Spirit Step was a footwork that emphasized speed. It significantly increased Noel's speed, which would be useful in battle, but he was unable to use it if his grandfather wanted to test his strength.

As for the Spirit Link, the Undying Fire Will actually implied the connection between him and the Undying Fire. In other words, it was the aforementioned part of the Absolute Flame.

After inheriting that power, Noel's flame evolved one step further.

As for Heisk's evolution, he didn't get any reward, but he got the continuation of Heisk's mission.

[Mission: True Spirit Body]

[Description: Heisk will receive the blessing of the Spirit God to receive her True Spirit Body.]

[Reward: True Spirit Body: ???]

It seemed that if he decided to follow this mission, it would be the time Heisk disappeared. So, he waited until everything was over before letting Heisk go.

From the wording of the reward, it was clear that the True Spirit Body had a specific name, but he didn't know what it was for the time being.

While he was in deep thought, Noel heard his grandfather's voice. "Just attack me with your fire. I'm quite curious what kind of transformation your fire has after that Spirit Link."

"Is that so?" Noel was also curious about his power. And his grandfather, being stronger than Dimitri, would be a perfect person to test him. "In that case, I will use my phoenix. It has the best firepower."

"Good."

As soon as he heard the agreement, Noel walked away, putting some distance between them. Even the soldiers, who had been working in the field, couldn't help but stop for a moment, wondering what was going to happen.

"Here I go, Grandfather!"

Chapter 866 Fatal Weakness

The soldiers were watching Noel and Raincart standing apart as if they were going to fight.

"What is this? Are they fighting?"

"No way. Sir Raincart is probably trying to test his strength."

"Can he even put up a fight against Sir Raincart?"

"Idiot. Who was the one creating this hole we're filling now?"

"This is getting interesting."

The soldiers became excited as they were also curious about the strength of the person who created such a phenomenon.

Meanwhile, Noel had been closing his eyes, concentrating. This was the first time he used his ability as a Spirit Grandmaster, so he had to be careful.

At the same time, he also wanted to see how far he had gone just by advancing to the Spirit Grandmaster stage and forging the Spirit Link.

Noel took a deep breath before opening his eyes. "Are you ready, Grandfather?"

"Yeah. Just give me your best shot. I will see if that's enough or not."

"Alright." Noel raised his finger. With the connection he got with the Undying Fire, he could concentrate even more energy into his fingertip.

This was his usual way of summoning the Undying Phoenix. In the past, the Undying Phoenix would decimate everything it touched to ashes, so he wondered what kind of difference he would see now.

Noel's Spirit Mind changed the nature of Spiritual Energy within his body, improving its strength. At the same time, the Spirit Link had turned the flame into a part of his body.

With these two empowerment, Noel waved his finger.

Undying Phoenix.

Even before the phoenix was released, the people were already dumbstruck. The fire was so strong that it created a shock wave that carried the intense heat of Noel's flame.

In the instant Noel released his Spiritual Energy, that heat razed everything within one meter radius to the ground. At the same time, the fire in the fingertips formed a black circle connected with a plus inside.

From that symbol, the phoenix emerged.

This time, the phoenix carried everything that Noel had set up previously, including the intense heat and high temperature.

The radiation coming from the phoenix burned everything underneath it. The phoenix was two times bigger, but Noel could see that the strength within that phoenix was three times stronger.

It might be because of the Undying Fire Will, but Noel could feel the phoenix like it was a part of him. As a result, the phoenix flapped its wings, creating intense heat like his other ability, Fire Gale.

In fact, the phoenix looked like it was alive.

"This is..." Noel gasped. If he had complete control over his phoenix, this wasn't an ability anymore. It was a summoning. Most of his fire abilities were related to the Undying Phoenix. Flame Scale, Fire Gale, Undying Fire Feathers, and Phoenix Wings.

If the current phoenix executed all those abilities, it would feel like fighting two people at once.

However, Noel could sense that his Spiritual Energy was draining at a pace he'd never seen before. If he continued this way, he would empty all his energy reserves in just thirty minutes.

The higher the level of the opponent, the longer it would usually take to finish the battle. So, losing everything within thirty minutes was something he couldn't afford no matter how strong the phoenix was.

Even then, Noel wanted to test this potential.

Raincart raised his right hand, summoning four ice pillars to isolate the phoenix. Unfortunately, Noel had control over the phoenix, so the phoenix abruptly stopped instead of hitting the ice wall.

After that, the phoenix soared to the sky, surprising the others.

"!!!" Even Raincart widened his eyes, not expecting to see the phoenix behave that way. In addition, the phoenix flapped its wings.

Raincart instinctively formed another ice pillar to block the heat, but it was hotter than he originally thought as the ice wall rapidly melted.

Then, the phoenix sent forth multiple Fire Feathers to hit the melting ice wall.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Every time the feather hit the wall, it caused an explosion. As the thick wall had been thinned out by the temperature, the explosions were enough to shatter it.

The phoenix flew through that gap and reached Raincart.

"I see. It's quite strong." Raincart smirked. "Let's test its firepower, then."

Without hesitation, Raincart clapped his hand. Right before the Undying Phoenix formed a small ice crystal.

It was just a gentle ice at first, but the closer the phoenix was, the more violent the crystal became.

It started expanding uncontrollably to the point it matched the phoenix's size. I think you should take a look at

"Oh?" Noel raised his eyebrows. His phoenix had a wingspan of five meters. So, it was quite shocking that the ice could expand to that state. More importantly, the energy became more concentrated as it expanded.

It was supposed to be the opposite, so he couldn't understand how his grandfather did it.

When the phoenix and the ice crystal clashed, their energy erupted. The phoenix caused a massive explosion, burning everything, including the ice. On the other hand, the ice released all its energy to massively expand its original size as if trying to freeze the explosion itself.

The clash caused the area to be illuminated by two colors, black and blue.

"..." Noel frowned. The moment the phoenix exploded, he couldn't control his phoenix anymore.

Meanwhile, Raincart was astonished by another thing.

"This phoenix... Did I misjudge it?" Raincart observed the fluctuation of energy and muttered, "The strength of that phoenix should be lower than this... No, my ice should be enough to freeze it. Wait a minute, isn't that..."

Raincart finally understood the real power of the phoenix. The moment the phoenix exploded, it influenced the Spiritual Energy around it and converted it to fire energy, causing the explosion to become stronger and bigger.

"If this continues, it might completely burn my ice... Although it's not my strongest move, it's one of the top in terms of freezing power." Raincart never expected that a new Spirit Grandmaster could achieve this much. However, he also noticed another thing within that explosion: Noel's fatal weakness.

It was because of this very reason that Raincart decided to put an end to this. He clapped his hands one more time.

The explosion suddenly entered the ice crystal as if it were trying to evaporate the ice from the inside.

Noel thought he could win against his grandfather's ability, but that was when Raincart surprised him.

The instant the explosion came in, the ice expanded in all directions, creating a sphere to isolate the fire.

Obviously, the Undying Fire released its full might. If it was so easily frozen, it couldn't be called Absolute Flame.

However, there was a reason why Raincart was unstoppable among Spirit Grandmasters. His ice was also extraordinary. Even if Noel's fire was overwhelmingly powerful, his ice wasn't that far from it.

This time, the ice was the one taking the initiative to attack. Branches with flakes began to appear in all directions, freezing the fire little by little.

The fire tried to fight back, but it was rendered useless by Raincart's skillful control.

After a few seconds, there was no sign of fire anymore and the huge chunk of ice finally dropped to the ground and crumbled into pieces before returning to its original form, the energy.

Noel dropped his jaw in disbelief. Even against Qiel, he was able to stop her to some extent.

Yet, his grandfather managed to overwhelm his fire this easily.

Raincart, on the other hand, turned around and shouted, "What are you doing? The show is over. Go back and fill the hole up!"

"Y-yes Sir!" The soldiers hurriedly returned to their original task.

Meanwhile, Raincart looked at Noel for a moment before shaking his head helplessly. He waved his hand, calling him.

Noel felt that he was too confident in his fire, only to feel disappointed that it didn't match his expectations.

The moment he stood in front of Raincart, the latter said, "You are very good. If it's anyone else, they will have a hard time stopping your phoenix."

"But..." Noel looked down. No matter how much he praised him, it didn't change the fact that his fire was completely suppressed.

"As I said earlier, if it were anyone else, they would have a hard time. I don't know if you have noticed this, but you are weak." Raincart sighed.

"Weak..." The only one who could say that to a person who managed to fight multiple Grandmasters and even stop Qiel would probably be Raincart.

"Yes. However, you don't have to feel disappointed. Knowing your weakness is the same as knowing your way to get stronger. And currently, you have one fatal weakness."

"A fatal weakness?" Noel couldn't find anything like that. His fire and ice were strong. He had runes and other things. Even his swordsmanship was quite good at his level.

"You become this strong way too fast." Raincart's expression turned serious. "Because of that, you're lacking experience and other skills to match your elements."

"But I have fought a lot of people in the past few years, Grandfather." Noel tried to explain that he managed to overcome all those people.

However, Raincart added, "Yes. But that's because they don't know about your elements. What if the enemies research you thoroughly? I know what your flame can do and immediately react to it.

"Your flame is extremely powerful, but because of that, you are extremely reliant on it. What if you put everything into the phoenix's beak before it touches the Ice Crystal?"

"That's..." Noel fell silent. He could easily envision the scene.

With that beak carrying a large amount of energy, it would melt the ice in that single point. That level of control should be enough to create a hole and slip through it. Even Raincart would be pushed back and change his approach.

When Noel was slapped by that reality, he became lost.

"As I said earlier, your elements are powerful. You have a massive repertoire of techniques from sword to Spirit Technique. You also have runes. But because you have all these things, you have lost the very foundation of your ability.

"If I have to call you now, you are not a master of swords, a master of elements, or a master of runes. Instead, I will call you, a master of technique throwers. You don't master them, but throw them in a certain order to overwhelm your enemy. That's all.

"It might work for some time, but the closer you are to the peak, the more you will realize how powerless you are."

Chapter 867 Awakening Pill

"But the closer you are to the peak, the more you realize how powerless you are."

Noel opened his mouth, wanting to refute it. He had done a lot of things and experienced a lot of victories and defeats. But when he was about to say something, he realized that no words came out.

What his grandfather said was not completely baseless. He might have experienced a lot, but it was nowhere near other people.

Anna had raised her strength to that degree within the same amount of time, but unlike him, Anna had the memory and experience of her past life. In other words, her strength and mastery were perfect.

How about him? He indeed had Ardagan, giving him the complete knowledge and the ability to use it. Whether it was rune or Spirit Abilities, the knowledge entered his mind and it could be said that he could use them in an instant.

However, using them and mastering them were two different things. Noel had been convincing himself that he had experienced a lot, thus shaping his foundation.

But from the eyes of a true expert, it was clear that it wasn't enough.

That was why Noel had no words to refute those words. No matter how tough the challenge, Noel didn't have enough to back up his words.

"..." Noel looked down, not being able to say a single word. He was frustrated. Ardagan was a great system and support. But Anna could also use something great in an instant since she had learned it in her previous life. More importantly, she had the experience Noel was currently lacking.

On the one hand, he wondered why the previous Noel handed that chance to Anna. On the other hand, he wasn't so weak that he could only complain about his circumstances.

Noel clenched his fists. His voice was shaking, but his eyes were clear. He stared at his grandfather and asked, "Grandfather. What should I do? No... Please help me."

Noel even lowered his head, begging his grandfather.

Raincart, who showed him his fatal weakness, was actually dumbstruck. His body had been shuddering because of the action Noel had taken.

'He must have experienced a lot of dangers to get this far. But he realized that it was not enough. There is no one who is more frustrated than him because, despite all his efforts to become one of the peerless geniuses that no one could rival, it's not enough.

'What he is lacking is not something that he can't control. After all, he needs time. Despite all that frustration, he could hide it and even lower his head to ask for help. Being able to acknowledge his weakness and work toward it...' Raincart's eyes glazed. He was proud to the point he wanted to cry. 'My grandson is amazing.'

Raincart placed both hands on Noel's shoulders before saying, "Don't lower your head anymore. I know it must be frustrating, and to be honest, I can't do much about it. You can't stay here for a long time, so I can only help you with this one thing... Every day until the day you return to the Muivell Kingdom, you are going to spar with me. This is going to be the hardest sparring you will experience, but I can assure you that I will teach you everything I know. Are you ready for it?"

Noel raised his head as a smile formed on his face. "Yes, I am."

Raincart nodded, satisfied. He said, "In any case, you are going to complete everything you need first. So, condition yourself and finish it. We'll spar after that."

"Yes." Noel nodded furiously as he immediately continued with his current plan.

Noel decided to take a rest for a whole day, waiting for Ardagan and Heisk to recover their power.

Meanwhile, the soldiers continued filling up the hole. Luckily, they had prepared beforehand, so filling it up didn't take too much time, considering most of them were Spirit Masters and Spirit Wielders.

After having enough rest, Noel finally returned to the field that had just been filled up.

Noel started meditating with the soldiers surrounding him. He asked inwardly, "Ardagan, Heisk, are you ready?"

'Yes.'

[Heisk will be the first to absorb. According to the prescription, one pill is enough to stimulate our potential. But because there are two spirits, we don't know if that's enough.]

Noel had an agreement with the two spirits before. This would be the last transformation he would have during his stay in the Greenwood Kingdom. He wanted to see what kind of scenery only Anna could see.

After conditioning himself for one last time, Noel took out the first pill and put it inside his mouth.

The taste was surprisingly sweet. It felt like he had just eaten a candy.

However, it didn't take too long before the pill started to dissolve. According to Anna, the pill was made with a medicine from the previous civilization as a basis. Because the previous civilization didn't have any Spiritual Energy, there was no Spiritual Energy dissolving in his mouth.

Instead, he experienced something he never expected the moment the pill entered his throat.

All of a sudden, a sharp pain struck his chest.

"!!!" Noel wanted to open his eyes, but he had to remain focused. The sharp pain gradually spread all over his chest as though there were a hundred needles penetrating his heart.

'Kh.' Noel gritted his teeth. The pain was different from the one he experienced with Ardagan, but it was excruciating in one way or another.

Because Noel's eyes remained closed, he didn't realize what was happening around his body.

His Spirit Link glowed brightly to the point the light penetrated his clothes, exposing the location of his Spirit Link.

As soon as everyone witnessed the blue light, the temperature dropped. They felt like winter had just come.

The Spiritual Energy within Noel's body started getting violent, especially the icy energy. It was rampaging all over his body, and surprisingly, Ardagan did nothing to balance it.

Instead, it just let Heisk do whatever she wanted, causing the icy energy to leak out of Noel's body.

Due to the rampaging energy, Noel felt like all his organs were punched in all directions. However, he remembered the description Anna told him. To expand his veins, the pill would use the energy within his body to forcefully stretch it.

This was probably what she meant. The veins were being stretched violently and stuck that way because the energy continued for a few hours.

After becoming a Spirit Grandmaster, Noel could sense his veins extremely well. That was why he knew that his Spirit Link was stretched at least two times its original size. It might continue expanding, but if this continued, more and more Spiritual Energy could flow through his body.

It might be because of what was happening to his body, but Ardagan actually spoke to him.

'True Spirit Body is a kind of assimilation between the human body and the spirit body. However, both of us have a different constitution, so using True Spirit Body is just forcefully assimilating the two bodies. There is a time limit.

'With the current expansion, your veins will be closer to the level of spirit's. This will allow us to send you more power, and the assimilation process will become smoother and longer.

'Once this is done, you might be able to imitate us to a certain degree without True Spirit Body.

'This pill is not a miracle pill that can do wonders to your spirit. Instead, its function is to actually transform your body. It could be said that it's allowing the human body to undergo a mutation. Whether it's bad or good, it depends entirely on you.

'You must still remember that in the past, there were demi-humans created by humans. If you mutate too much, you might become like them or, even worse... something unknown. It will be unrecognizable, and you might even lose your identity as a human.

'That's why even though I agree with the existence of this pill, I will have to reassess your body to see whether your human body can undergo another transformation. I don't want my host to lose all his reasons by becoming a monster.'

Noel remained silent, listening to Ardagan in the middle of this pain. It seemed that Ardagan was silent because he was analyzing the pill.

From his explanation, the pill seemed to be one of the ingredients to become something less human. If he wasn't careful, he might become something he didn't wish to.

'I won't, Ardagan. I indeed seek strength, but that won't be the reason to lose myself. You are awakened after listening to my goal... and that hasn't changed.'

Ardagan appeared to be satisfied with the answer. He replied, 'In that case, I only have one last thing to tell you.'

[Mission: Awakening Pill.]

[Description: Ingest 3 Awakening Pills to completely mutate all your spirit veins.]

[Reward: 1 Ice Ability, 1 Fire Ability, and Spirit Transformation (Fire/Ice)]

Upon hearing the mission, Noel couldn't help but smile. "You sure know how to make me fire up."

Chapter 868 Transformation

"Hu..." Noel took a deep breath. It seemed that the pill had stopped transforming his veins as the pain gradually subsided.

As Ardagan said, the pill was transforming his human body instead of the spirit's. But because he had forged the Spirit Link, the veins that had been affected by the Spirit Link would also be transformed, indirectly mutating the connection with the spirit.

However, due to this pill, he noticed that not all veins were connected to Heisk. It might be due to Ardagan, but the veins each spirit had were different despite connecting his entire body.

"Heisk..." Noel called her name, thinking the process had finished.

'Yes. We're almost complete. I will take this time to send you my ability... Because the effect of the pill is more than I originally thought, I have decided to change the ability. I hope you don't mind.'

'I know that you and Ardagan are choosing the best thing for me. I will trust your judgment completely.'

'In that case, I will show you the transformation. Please remember the feeling as this will be the closest form to that of a Spirit.'

After those words, Heisk began circulating her energy.

Noel could feel that the icy energy revolved around crazily. His eyes remained closed, so he didn't know what happened to his body outside.

On the other hand, Raincart and the soldiers couldn't help but drop their jaws, noticing a transformation.

"This is..." Raincart widened his eyes. "The icy energy around him is transforming his body..."

The Spiritual Energy began gushing out of his body. Like Anna, his black hair gradually changed its color, matching the bluish ice. A crown made of ice formed on top of Noel's head, and a pair of wings emerged from his back.

He didn't have the tiny stature or pointed ears like Heisk, but the new appearance was similar to hers.

When Noel raised his eyelids, his black eyes had turned light blue like that of a crystal.

"This is..." Noel looked at his right hand. The power he had in his body had transformed completely. Although there was no change in his vision, his instinct had been sharpened.

As if trying to test the change in his body, Noel waved his hand.

"!!!"

In that instant, a thick layer of ice spread in all directions, covering everything underneath. The ice spread quickly while releasing an intense amount of Spiritual Energy.

In just two seconds, the ice was about to reach the soldiers that encircled him in a meters radius.

The soldiers were releasing their Spiritual Energy, trying to block this wave of icy energy. But before it reached them, another burst of energy shook the field, clashing with Noel's.

As a result, they formed an ice crystal at the very edge, ultimately stopping Noel's energy.

All the soldiers couldn't help but look at the only person who could stop Noel, Raincart.

Raincart was furrowing his eyebrows. As the one who clashed with him, Raincart could feel the ferocity of that energy.

"It seems that rascal has leveled up to a whole new level. To think he forced me to instinctively use my full power just to block it..." Raincart smirked. The more he transformed himself, the more monstrous he became. The soldiers even wondered if they should be here or not.

Meanwhile, Noel believed that his grandfather could stop him. Hence, he took this time to inspect his change, especially the ability he used earlier.

'That's the ability I would like to give you. It's called Frozen Domain. The rest of the information shall be transferred through Ardagan.'

'Thank you, Heisk. Are you going to accept the True Spirit Body after this?' Noel asked.

'Yes. But after Ardagan finishes his transformation.'

'So, the Frozen Domain is an ability to create a domain that has an extremely low temperature. In this domain, I can easily freeze anything. And the only way to use this domain is through this Ice Transformation?'

'Correct. The Ice Transformation is basically using those transformed veins to the very limit, matching my own veins. However, it's going to be a heavy burden for a human, so you shouldn't use it too often. As for the rest of the benefits, Ardagan should explain it to you later.'

'Alright then. Although I'm curious about all this, I should focus on finishing the transformation first.' Noel took a deep breath to recondition himself before ingesting the second pill.

As expected, the second pill dissolved like the first one. However, he didn't feel a single pain coming from Heisk's Spirit Seal. In fact, the icy energy surrounding him had completely disappeared and his transformation had been undone, allowing him to return to his original state.

Just like the first one, Noel could feel the sharp pain coming from Ardagan's Spirit Seal. It might be due to its position, but Noel could feel that the transformation moved in one direction, which was from the right to the left side of the body.

It first spread to his right arm, then moved to his body as well as the brain and lower body, before continuing to the left arm.

However, he noticed something different in the second pill. Even though he had used the same amount of time Heisk required to completely refine his veins, Noel's instinct was telling him it wasn't enough.

'The veins have been transformed, but it's not enough?' Noel frowned, finding it weird. However, he remembered the mission, which required him to ingest the third pill.

Without hesitation, Noel took another pill and put it inside his mouth. At the same time, he asked Ardagan, 'What is happening, Ardagan?'

'Have you forgotten about what kind of spirit I am?'

'Huh?' Noel was confused at first, but a certain idea appeared in the midst of pain. 'Sword...'

'That's right. You already know about the classification of Spirits. The highest-ranked spirit is the humanoid rank, but I am nothing but a sword. I'm different from Heisk and other humanoid spirits.'

'But the first pill still expands my veins like in Heisk's case.'

'That's right. But the second pill is...' Ardagan paused for a moment. In that instant, the energy around his veins started to erupt as if trying to refine the veins once more.

"!!!" Noel didn't know what was going on, but it was clear that something was changing. 'Ardagan... I can feel it, but I'm not sure what it is.'

'I'm transforming your veins like mine. I am a sword and have no veins like you and other spirits. Instead, I have this strand that connects my metal body. It's the strands that you can see within minerals or metals. I'm transforming your veins and crystallizing them.'

'It will make your veins sturdier, which is required if you want to completely use my power. At first, you won't notice, but the more you use my power, the more that fiery energy will harm your body. Reinforcing your veins this way will not only strengthen its endurance but also insulate the heat.

'This way, my power won't bother your body,' Ardagan was fundamentally different. Despite being on the same rank as the humanoid rank spirits, he wasn't one of them. After all, he was a sword created by the Spirit God.

That was why he had to make one extra effort to match Noel.

Still, Noel noticed one problem. "You said that your flame will harm my body, but it won't affect my body as long as these veins are intact. What if I use the True Spirit Body in the future? You are surely going to give me that opportunity, right? Then, does that mean I won't be able to use it?"

'Not necessarily. I will definitely share the True Spirit Body, even though it's not now. I want you to fully master the fire ability and get an understanding of what all this transformation has brought you. Only then your body and mind are ready to receive the True Spirit Body. Before that, you can ask Heisk first.'

Noel fell silent for a moment. This was related to the last mission Ardagan gave him about the Force Awakening. After he progressed to this point, the mission changed slightly and became more detailed. The reward also became clear.

Although Noel felt disappointed that he couldn't get the True Spirit Body despite yearning for one after seeing how powerful it was when Anna used it, Noel had to accept it.

Ardagan had been considerate to him and used everything to ensure his path was smooth. This might be the details that Noel had missed this whole time.

Ardagan had been providing him with all the strength he required to get stronger. That meant the only thing he needed to do was to master it.

That was right. Instead of frantically searching for a stronger ability, he should focus on mastering the current ones. As he took that step forward, Ardagan would create a new path for him.

He finally connected Ardagan, his path, and grandfather. He realized that he had been mistaken the whole time.

During the past few years, he had been asking Ardagan for more strength despite having all those achievements. Whenever he encountered a problem, he had another overwhelming strength that could suppress his enemy. He used his brain to outsmart his enemies.

But he had never done what an expert always did... he never used the overwhelming mastery and control of his technique to fight someone beyond his level. How could he use it without having it?

When that thought appeared in his mind, Noel wanted to laugh.

'Ardagan. I am not a perfect human. I am selfish, have made a lot of mistakes and have wronged you a lot. However, I promise that I will continue to strive forward and correct myself. Will you accompany me on this journey?'

'I am your sword, your spirit, and your supporter. Unless you drop me, I shall remain as your sharpest blade.'

Noel smiled.

Outside, Ardagan began to float in front of Noel as fire gradually formed a chain, connecting Ardagan and Noel's right hand.

Without even opening his eyes, he reached for Ardagan, knowing where he was. The fire that linked the two together started bursting. There was a thin black layer that spread from Ardagan to Noel's right arm, covering his entire upper arm.

This was his transformation. It wasn't that flashy compared to Heisk, but its power was far more destructive.

Noel rotated his blade and stabbed the ground. The fire from the blade spread in all directions, igniting the ground. With just the first burst, he created a huge crater with him in the center. The fire continued rampaging in all directions before Raincart's ice formed, freezing it.

Surprisingly, Raincart had a hard time suppressing this fire as it ended up evaporating together.

Ardagan said, 'This is my Fire Transformation as well as the ability I want to give you, Outburst.'

A smile appeared on Noel's face as he gradually opened his eyes, saying, "I'm counting on you, Partner."

Chapter 869 Recommendations

After testing his new ability, Noel took a deep breath while checking the circulation of his energy. There seemed to be no side effects coming from the pill and he had powered up so much that he looked so weak a few weeks ago. More importantly, Noel had a new goal, which was to master his power.

Seeing that Noel had finished, Raincart signaled the soldiers to remain in their position while he approached Noel to check his condition.

"Grandfather." Noel nodded to Raincart, telling him that everything was alright.

Only then, Raincart let out a sigh of relief. He asked, "Are you done? Is there any change in your body?"

"Yes. There is no side effect. The pill has evolved my Spirit Link, allowing me to assimilate with the spirit one step further. It could be said that the form you saw earlier is the closest one to the True Spirit Body."

Raincart remembered that Noel called it a pseudo True Spirit Body. As someone who also had access to True Spirit Body, Raincart obviously knew the power contained in that ability. After seeing Noel's transformation, he was convinced that there was nothing closer to it.

In other words, the pill was a successful product. If it truly came to the public, it would definitely cause an uproar.

However, there was also one catch. It seemed that the pill was best to be taken after forming a Spirit Link.

On the one hand, it would greatly limit the number of people who would take it. On the other hand, there was a possibility that the humans would be forcing their spirits to form the Spirit Link. Human greed would cause another problem for them. In the future, there was a chance that the spirits would abandon or even go to war against them on top of the current threat, the demons.

Raincart warned Noel, "I don't have anything to say about its efficacy. However, I have to warn you... the pill is a double-edged sword. Use it with caution."

Noel nodded with a serious expression. He had heard about what happened after the pill was spread from Anna. So, this was just a long term plan for him.

"Alright then." Raincart patted Noel's shoulder. "Since you're done, we'll clean up the field and return to the city."

"Yes, Grandfather." Noel was surprised by Raincart's action. Despite having shown such effect, Raincart showed no greed or desire in his eyes. He didn't even mention giving him some pills, even though he knew Noel would definitely give him if he just asked.

His grandfather genuinely cared for him without expecting anything bad. He just wanted Noel to continue to become the pride in his heart.

Noel couldn't help but smile, "Yeah. I'm going to check my current power and condition. I have to trouble you and the knights to handle the rest."

The pair ended up returning to the camp as the soldiers continued in their restoration progress. On the one hand, it felt like they were doing nothing other than hard labor. On the other hand, they had witnessed such power coming from Raincart's grandson. It showed that the Ezenholm Family's glory

would be very long. Even if Noel didn't stay here, he wasn't someone who forgot about Raincart's kindness.

After restoring the field, they returned to the mansion, where Noel spent the rest of his time teaching his students and improving his mastery.

Despite doing nothing but training, Noel was ready to brew another storm in the Muivell Kingdom.

...

Royal Palace.

"Your Majesty." A minister rushed into the throne room, where all the vassals discussed the current situation.

"Hmm?" The king frowned. Although disturbed, he believed his minister didn't cause a commotion for something unimportant. Hence, he asked, "What's wrong?"

"We have a direct letter from the commander as well as the recommendation of a Noble Position."

"If you are just talking about a new noble, then go out. You can handle that matter by yourself!" The king gritted his teeth, never expecting that this guy had the nerve to interrupt him.

"But..." The minister panted a few times before explaining the full story. "According to the letter, he requests Your Majesty to increase his rank to Earl."

"Earl? Is he insane? Even a Vice Captain can only get a baron title! Is he recommending a Captain? But other than the top three, no one is qualified to become an Earl." The king was baffled. How insane the commander had become to recommend someone with that strength.

However, the minister continued, "He is a Captain but from the Demon Hunting Squad."

"Demon Hunting Squad? Igor?" The king frowned. He was aware of the Captain of the Demon Hunting Squad, but the problem was that he was so severely injured that his captain status had dropped so low that there might be a new captain soon. "Is he going to retire as a noble? Even so, how dare he ask for an Earl position!"

"Please wait a minute, Your Majesty." The Sword King raised his hand and asked, "Are you sure it's the Demon Hunting Squad's Captain?"

"Yes, Sir. He is the Demon Hunting Squad's Captain."

"How about his achievements? There should be a lot of achievements he has to prove in order to ask for that position."

"Yes. However, along with the letter, there are a total of eight recommendations. But these eight recommendations...." The minister took a deep breath before announcing, "...are not limited to Demon Banner Army." "I think you should take a look at

"What?!" The Sword King was startled. Normally, the recommendation from the commander was enough to become a noble, but if this person got a recommendation from another reliable source, the situation might change.

"Yes. Five out of the recommendations came from the Demon Banner Army. They are Commander Oscar, Demon Relief Squad's Captain Clara, Demon Beholder Squad's Captain Septa, Demon Adjudicator Squad's Captain Milfa, and Demon Extermination Squad's Captain Shale."

"What?" The other people began to drop their jaws. "Recommending one person is enough to put their entire life and achievement to vouch for him. He can get it from those five?"

"Commander Oscar would surely vouch for his subordinate."

"Then, how about the Demon Relief Squad? Their recent achievement in fighting the Supreme Devil Organization is extraordinary. They are also among the top five squads in the army."

"Meanwhile, Captain Septa is the youngest Captain in history. He rose into that position with his own strength and talent. He even discovered a lot of the Supreme Devil Organization's schemes."

"We can't forget about Demon Adjudicator Squad's Captain Milfa. Even though their ranking is low, it's because their captain has never participated in the ranking competition. It's said that their captain is the student of the best assassin."

"Last but not least, Captain Shale. He is the leader of the top squad in the Demon Banner Army. With strength and wisdom, it is said that he is the most likely to be the next commander."

"Those five people actually recommend him?"

The people were discussing it out loud. They never thought that a mere Demon Hunting Squad's Captain would receive this level of recommendation.

However, one of them noticed something. "You said that there are a total of eight recommendations. Who are the other three?"

"Yes." The minister's expression turned grim. "Two out of three, it came from the Tower Association. They are the Water Lord and the Stone Lord. They requested Your Majesty to grant him the position of an Earl."

"Water Lord? Is he crazy?"

"The Stone Lord was one of the biggest contributors to the recent expedition that brought a lot of wondrous medicine."

"The Water Lord also had a new way of water purification, allowing us to prevent a lot of diseases coming from the water."

"He also got the recommendations from those two? I never thought the Demon Hunting Squad's Captain had that kind of relation with the association."

"I understand. How about the last one?"

"The last one..." The minister's face became pale as he couldn't help but glance at one of the people standing in the room.

The others noticed his gaze and followed it, only to find a member that they never thought would get involved.

"One of the Twelve Arbiters, Fleeting Arbiter, Kevin Stargaze."

Thump!

The room fell silent in an instant. All eyes were locked on Kevin, who nonchalantly stroked his chin while saying, "What's wrong? I'm just helping a friend... I can vouch for his ability and achievement."

"Kevin?" The Sword Arbiter soon noticed who that person was. He hurriedly asked, "Oi. What is that person's achievement as well as his name?"

"His achievement..." The minister took another look at the letter and was dumbfounded when reading it. But because of the increasing pressure, he read it out loud. "He was a former noble. He has been fighting against the Supreme Devil Organization. He was the first to discover the relationship between the organization and the demons.

"He had prevented the full awakening of an Ancient Demon and killed it. He had led the people in the recent expedition and prevented more than a few hundred deaths. He had also stopped the Plant Lord as well as the resurrection of the extinct plant that could seal one's Spiritual Energy.

"There were a lot of minor achievements, but for his crowning achievement... he is the founder of the new power system that is said to be the completed version of Spirit Enchantment."

When they heard that crowning achievement, everyone was dumbfounded; without even hearing his name, everyone knew who it was. There was only one person who dared to call himself the founder of Rune.

Even the king clenched his fists, never expecting that the news about his survival was actually true.

That was also why the moment the minister said its name, it had even more impact.

"His nickname in the Demon Banner Army is ladre. But his actual name is... Noel Ardagan."

Chapter 870 Heated Discussion

Demon Hunting Squad.

Captain Igor was sitting in the middle of his base as his subordinates were questioning his decision.

"Sir. Is it alright for him to use our Demon Hunting Squad like this?"

Igor chuckled. "Have you forgotten that I owe him something? During that little fight?"

Igor reminded them about the little fight they had to test Noel's strength. If the Demon Hunting Squad won, Noel would join the Demon Hunting Squad. But Noel ended up winning, and Igor owed him a favor.

"In fact, I should have thanked him for using that favor. Since I'm going to pass my mantle to someone else soon, it doesn't mean anything to have another captain in between. By allowing him to take my position as the Captain of the Demon Hunting Squad, he can earn a better noble position."

"But what about us? If our squad..."

Before they finished, Igor added, "Of course. There is also a benefit as well. It's like promoting our Demon Hunting Squad. In the end, we're the ones who can say that Noel was once a captain of the Demon Hunting Squad."

"But..."

The people were worried. Igor was the one to allow this to happen. Of course, he could use it as a promotion, but Captain Igor would be recognized as a pushover, considering he just let someone be a captain just for the sake of becoming a noble.

Even if the Demon Hunting Squad would become famous, Igor's name would be filled with infamy. Igor had been helping them from the beginning, so they didn't want to see that happening.

Unfortunately for them, Igor had made a decision. He said with a sad smile, "If my sacrifice can make the Demon Hunting Squad strong again, I don't mind. I have always felt useless after losing this arm of mine, so I'm just glad that I can still use myself to support the squad. I hope that you all can make the squad stronger than ever... and make me proud."

...

Royal Palace.

"His nickname in the Demon Banner Army is ladre. But his actual name is... Noel Ardagan."

"What?!"

"Noel Ardagan?"

"Is he still alive?"

"Isn't he..."

Everyone couldn't help but turn their heads toward Anna. Since this was a royal hearing, ministers and a few Arbiters attended it, including Kevin and Anna.

When she received the gaze, Anna thought, 'As expected, Noel... has succeeded. But since when did he become a Demon Hunting Squad's Captain? Well, the details are not that important...'

Anna looked at her father and said, "To think that you have been aiming for this, Father."

"Ah, did I not tell you about it? The Ardagan Family is my friend. Since I couldn't do anything for him, I would just help his son." Kevin smirked.

The people could see the conflicts between daughter and father.

Kevin shrugged and bowed to the king. "Your Majesty. I believe that we can't stop him from becoming a noble. In addition, he has gained a lot of support from other fractions. If we don't take their suggestion, I believe that this is a direct offense against them."

The king tightened his grip on his throne. If he could, he wanted to tear the letter into pieces, thinking nothing of the Ardagan Family.

Before, he had eliminated the Ardagan Family because they were a thorn in their side. But due to the plea of Luke Ardagan, he only executed his parents and let the son go.

To think that the son, who he thought would die during his training in the Demon Banner Army, would come back again.

Looking at Anna's expression, it was clear that she was shocked to find Noel was still alive. Since Anna and Kevin had friction, it meant that he could fully suppress Kevin. No, Anna might be the one suppressing Kevin.

"Still..." The Sword Arbiter raised his hand. "I don't really care about him being a noble or whatever. But to become a Captain, you need at least to be a Spirit Grandmaster, right? If I'm not wrong, this ladre or Noel Ardagan is only a Spirit Master. Is it possible for the Demon Banner Army to change their rule?"

"Actually, Sir..." The minister rubbed his cheek and explained, "According to their testament, Noel Ardagan has become a Spirit Grandmaster. He will come to the ceremony and prove that he is a Spirit Grandmaster."

"Is that so? Well, I have heard about his deeds recently."

"Ah, I don't think the information you have is accurate," Kevin interjected.

"What do you mean?" The Sword Arbiter frowned, thinking that Noel must have done something else.

"You should have heard that the army is currently dominating the battle against the organization, right?"

"Yes. Did he do something?"

"I've got a letter saying that one of the Devil Saints has died in his hand. He was chased by a group of elites from the organization led by two Devil Saints, Nelfer and Qiel. He managed to escape and kill Nelfer." "I think you should take a look at

"What?!" The Sword Arbiter dropped his jaw. "He killed a Devil Saint? A Devil Saint is similar to the top captains of the Demon Banner Army, right?"

Kevin nodded. "That's why I believe that he has proved himself. It's only right for us to reward such a hero."

"..." The Sword Arbiter might be involved in politics and loyal to the Royal Family, but he was not a blind follower. He considered everything logically and said, "In that case, I have no objection to giving him a noble title. Killing a Devil Saint and creating the Rune is enough to be fair."

"..." The king's expression darkened when the Sword Arbiter stepped back. He never thought that he would be pressured to make Noel a noble.

All of a sudden, Anna's teacher, Josephine, opened her mouth. "I do think that we need to reward a hero. However, I am still concerned about the fact that he is using his alias to gain all that. Can he prove everything? So, I'm wondering whether to reward Noel Ardagan or Captain Iadre."

"!!!" Kevin's body shook as he glared at Josephine. "I don't think there is a problem with having an alias."

"I think Void Arbiter's concern is justified." Anna stepped forward. "If you look at it, Noel Ardagan's element is ice. Yet, from the information, Iadre's element is fire. You should be aware that a person only has a single spirit."

"There is also an occurrence where a person has two elements. It might be rare, but not unprecedented." Kevin's tone became cold even though he was only talking with his daughter.

"That's why I'd like to suggest something." Anna glanced at the king.

"You've my permission. Speak." The king nodded.

"Because we're concerned about his identity. We should reward the Captain..."

"The captain?" The king and the others instantly understood what she meant.

"Anna!" Kevin raised his voice.

"Please calm down, Honored Father. You are in the presence of the king." Anna reprimanded her father before continuing her explanation. "That's right. The official record stated that the captain of the Demon Hunting Squad's Captain is Iadre. Hence, he shall be the one receiving this reward. That includes the fact that he will be given a new territory!"

"!!!" The king smirked.

That was right. Since ladre was the one officially registered as the name, there was no need to give the title to Noel.

After all, if Noel was the one getting the title, he would get the previous Ardagan's territory.

This way, it wouldn't be hard for Noel to rebuild the territory and family to its peak. However, everything would be different if they gave Noel a new territory.

Noel had to build everything from scratch. This would severely delay his progress.

The Sword Arbiter couldn't help but think, 'What a cruel-hearted woman... To think that she is Kevin's daughter... I guess the Royal Family's hand has stretched this far... I'm starting to pity Kevin.'

Anna, on the other hand, continued, "I believe I have a perfect location in mind, Your Majesty."

"Oh? Please tell me about it."

Anna smirked evilly. "How about giving him the new territory in the north? If I'm not wrong, that place is called Lounstein."

"Lounstein? Are you crazy?!" Kevin gritted his teeth.

Even the others couldn't help but shudder. They obviously knew that place.

"I'm merely thinking about the kingdom. If Noel Ardagan's strength is like the reported, then he must be a genius as well. With his strength, he should be able to govern that area well."

"Lounstein is a new plot of land that we manage to acquire after our expansion to the demon territory. That place is still filled with a lot of demons. And not a lot of people are living in that area. Are you trying to kill him? He is a genius that the kingdom should treasure."

"This is our way to treasure him. You're only looking at the bad side. That place is fertile, perfect for a city. Since he is so capable, he should be able to do it." Anna shook her head calmly.

Anna was simply giving the reason for handling the territory. Since it was fertile, a good lord should be able to create a wonderful city there. However, there was also the problem with demons as well as the fact it was at the border. That place would be targeted by demons as well as the organization.

In other words, sending him there was a kind of exiling him in the pretense of rewarding him.

Kevin objected to that idea. However, that was precisely what the king wanted.

If he sent Noel there, he could plot together with the organization to kill Noel Ardagan. And the fact that Anna wanted this to happen, these two geniuses might also destroy each other.

After seeing Anna's strength the other day, he believed Anna would win.

In other words, only the royal family would have this peerless genius and become prosperous.

The king didn't hesitate to declare, "I understand. To reward a hero is my job. We shall hold the ceremony for the ascension of Captain Iadre. He shall be rewarded Luonstein and the title of an Earl."