

## **S vs Rebirth 911**

### Chapter 911 Fighting Together Again

"So, what's going on with this town? Is there a problem that will require us to visit?" Anna asked.

"Yeah. The city has three major problems right now. First of all, before the building of our city, it was the only fort that withstood the incoming attacks from the demons." Noel explained.

"Their walls are destroyed and the buildings are still in repair, something like that?"

"I don't know the extent of the damage, but it will definitely need our attention. In the end, this city will change its role to become the hub that connects the main city with the rest of the kingdom after all."

"Fair enough." Anna nodded. "How about the second problem?"

"Food and water supplies. According to the information, the city has been selling demon crystals in exchange for supplies. The food can still be taken from the demon meats, but they don't have any farmland due to the continuous onslaught."

"Water problems shouldn't be a problem, right? We have a river and can redirect it to them."

"No. The river is actually not that far from them, so they can utilize it if they want. It's just that the city is not suitable for water wells. I've heard that they don't have any in that city. I'm not sure about the reason though."

"Is that so? That's rather concerning. Even if we can relieve the water problem, it won't be sustainable."

"Indeed. That's why I'm thinking about connecting the river. If we solve this problem not carefully, they might haunt us and force us to go out of the main city to help them again in the future."

Anna thought for a moment, wondering if Noel had implemented something in the past. Anna being Anna, her memory was a bit fuzzy since she was only focused on the main city.

"Say! The fact that it's a fort means there should be a lot of soldiers stationed there, right?" Anna asked.

"Indeed. Unlike us, who only have elite soldiers, this fort has about five to six hundred normal soldiers. That's why they have been able to fend off demons the whole time."

"If that's the case, why don't we use runes to help these people? I mean, they have a constant supply of Demon Crystals, right? If that's the case, we can use the rune to direct the water."

"Rune, huh..." Noel looked down. Instead of selling Demon Crystals and buying water, it would be more effective to use the Demon Crystals to supply the rune's energy. The rest of the Demon Crystals could be sold to improve the city.

Now that he thought about it, since this place was going to be the gate to reach the main city, he could improve the city with runes. This way, the people who entered his territory could see the wonders of runes firsthand and had their opinions increased when they reached the main city.

What Anna found was just a small detail in her memory, but for Noel, it was a big opportunity.

"That's right. We can set up a few runes later." Noel nodded. "But we will need to see the city's condition first before deciding which runes we can set up."

"That's settled."

"Then, the last problem would be their current condition. I mean, the people's characters. Because it has been a border city this whole time, the people there are a rough bunch. So, we will need a lot of people to improve the city, especially to maintain the connection with the main city as well as nearby villages. There are other problems with those villages, but that can wait for a bit."

"Should we just use force to make them submit?" Anna frowned. "But that's not your style."

"For now, we'll be improving the city. We don't know much about them, so it's better to learn first." Noel turned to Grandell. "I will need you and the others to set up a few things later."

"Understood, Sir. We'll be ready anytime." Grandell knew that even though they were soldiers, with Noel and Anna's strength, they weren't necessarily needed. So, they would definitely be used in a different way.

Their destination was called Stain City. When Noel first heard that name, he wondered if the person who named that city was in the right mind or not. He learned that it was to reflect the condition, which was stained by the demon's blood.

The city was two days away by horse, which was normal since this city was slightly near the edge of their territory. Noel planned to create two more cities in the east and west, but that would be for later.

Once they reached the city, he was surprised to find the condition of Stain City.

The city wall was already half-destroyed. There were numerous cracks and they seemed to be going to collapse any time soon. The blood had a red stain that was so thick that it showed the number of demons and people that had died in this place.

However, Noel still noticed a few people standing on top of the city wall as if they didn't care about their own safety. No, they might simply have no choice.

To Noel's surprise, the people from the city didn't seem to notice their arrival, which was odd since it was a clear day with infinite visibility.

All of a sudden, Anna opened her mouth. "Hmm, I sense danger."

Noel couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows while glancing to the left. A few flying demons were heading toward the city. Because of the tall grass, they had a hard time seeing the demons on the ground, but it was clear that the people from the city wall could see them.

"Number?" Noel asked while furrowing his eyebrows. It seemed that those soldiers were focusing on the demons.

"Approximately sixty to seventy demons. I can feel one Peak Level Demon, but that's all." Anna pulled out her sword. "I guess both of us are going to deal with them."

"Yeah. It's been a while since we last fought together." Noel ordered Grandell, "You and the rest will set up the base near the wall in case a demon slips past us. Also, establish contact with the people on the wall and inform them about our arrival."

.com "Understood, Sir." Grandell wanted to suggest the other way around since it was the soldiers job to kill the demons, but Noel and Anna's strength was simply too overwhelming, so it shouldn't be that dangerous for their lord.

"Alright. Here we go. Superior Speed!" Anna snapped her fingers as a big rune appeared underneath them. Instead of themselves, Anna actually boosted their horses.

After filling the surge of energy, the horses suddenly sped up far faster than any horses one would ever see.

Obviously, their movement was noticed when they were closing in on the people on the wall.

"Who are they?"

"Two people?"

"What are they doing?"

"Don't tell me they are going to fight all those demons by themselves?"

The soldiers were confused, thinking they were just going to die. However, Noel and Anna begged to differ.

"Hoho! It's been a while since I've been riding at this speed!" Anna smirked while gathering her energy for the sword.

"Really?" Noel also did the same. He used the Sword Transmutation.

Ardagan sucked a lot of energy from Noel. This energy was already close to what Dimitri showed him in the past.

He still remembered the time Dimitri helped Clara defeat her opponent from afar.

"Huu..." Noel recalled the way Dimitri held the sword and unleashed his power before swinging downward.

In that instant, the energy ran through the ground and traveled one hundred meters in just one second, slicing a few demons on its path.

"Tsk. It's still weaker than the one Dimitri released back then." Noel clicked his tongue.

"You seriously compared yourself to him?" Anna was taken aback before shaking her head helplessly. She started placing her feet on the saddle as if she were about to stand up on top of a horse. "Anyway, I need your platform rune to handle those flying demons."

"Alright." Noel pointed his palm toward the demon. A total of ten runes appeared in the air, starting from a staircase to a few random runes around the flying demons.

As soon as she saw the path, Anna jumped into the platform rune and took off into the sky. She calculated the path to kill all these demons before landing on top of the rune in the middle of the demon group.

She struck the Platform Rune with her sword, sending forth lightning sparks in all directions.

The demons were alarmed and hurriedly flew away, but two of them were too close to her and got electrocuted. Still, the attack also destroyed the Platform Rune, so she jumped onto another rune before falling.

After that, she coated her sword with lightning and started jumping from one rune to another, slashing the demons one by one.

Meanwhile, Noel was about to reach the demons, so he formed an ice lotus above his head.

The petals flew toward the area in the demon's path and actually bloomed into an ice crystal. They lined up and created a wall.

The demons hurriedly stopped to avoid the walls, but because of the distance, some of them didn't manage to stop in time. As a result, they hit the ice crystals, which had pointy tips. They ended up getting heavily injured or dying.

In the air, Anna couldn't help but notice the difference in Noel's ability.

'His ability looks more versatile. Instead of hitting the enemies directly, he creates a wall that can both kill enemies and stop their charge. In that case...' Anna shot out a lightning strike at the ground, which surprisingly shattered the ice crystals.

"!!!" Noel was startled. At first, it looked like Anna was just messing with him. But to Noel, he could see what Anna was planning to do.

He formed a few more Platform Runes so that she could go down safely. After that, he halted his horse before jumping forward.

The demons had to stop because their path was blocked earlier, but once the path was clear, the demons would definitely continue forward. As a result, those demons stepped on their comrades' bodies and those who didn't die earlier ultimately got their end because of this.

After that, Noel stood on their path with a pair of phoenix wings on his back. With a single flap of his wings, the scorching heat gale passed the demon's bodies.

If they were stronger or their skin was thicker, they would be able to resist that heat. But most of the demons fell to the ground, unable to continue. After that, multiple feathers fell on top of them and blasted them.

Yes, Noel actually released the Undying Fire Feathers alongside the Fire Gale. But the former was used after he stopped the enemies.

His control and the way he utilized his abilities were far different compared to a few months ago. He had to thank his grandfather for teaching such a precious lesson.

"Mooo!" While Noel was satisfied with his performance, the Peak Level Demon suddenly rushed forward and tried to hit Noel with its horn.

If Noel was alone, he might have to stop this charge. But Anna was with him this time.

All of a sudden, an extremely long sword fell on top of the bull and precisely sliced its neck.

Noel only glanced to the side, finding Anna smiling brightly as if she had done a great job. Though, Noel still had to use his Spiritual Barrier Rune to stop the bull's momentum.

And Anna also had her sword fall to the ground as she was struggling to hold it still.

"Why does the sword have an increase in weight even though it's being extended by rune? Ugh, I hate gravity." Anna complained. She finally used the rune that had been embedded in her sword.

Noel chuckled while looking at the remaining demons. "Time to clean up."

Chapter 912 City's Problems

The soldiers on the wall couldn't help but drop their jaws to the ground. They thought that they would have to fight hard against all these demons, but the scene before them was completely beyond their imagination.

"What?"

"Sixty to seventy demons have just died?"

.com "How do they find the monsters easily?"

"Those grasses are pretty tall, aren't they?"

Even the captain, who led the soldiers, was frozen in his place. All of a sudden, someone climbed on top of the wall and said, "That's the lord of Lounstein and his wife, Noel Ardagan and Anna Stargaze!"

"Who are you?!" The captain was alarmed, but soon processed that name. He had heard about a new lord that would govern this territory, but he thought that it would be hard because this place was dangerous and the town hadn't been built yet.

To think that the lord and his wife would come to this place not long after arriving at their new territory, it felt like they were trying to ask for their help if not for the fact that they eliminated all the demons easily.

The captain regained his composure soon and hurriedly ordered his subordinates. "Open the gate!"

Just like that, Noel and Anna easily entered the city. They didn't bother gouging out the demon crystals, thinking it could be treated as a gift to the city.

The captain bowed his head and introduced himself. "I'm the captain of the city garrison, Hansen. Thank you for helping us, Lord Earl."

Noel glanced at the city's condition, which turned out to be more awful than he originally thought. The demons must have passed the gaps between the wall and caused a lot of destruction.



There were a lot of crushed buildings and those who remained standing were definitely damaged. When he looked deeper into the city, it didn't seem to be that good either. While most of the building remained intact, the living conditions were harsh.

A lot of the people seemed to have lost hope. Even the soldiers' conditions reflected the current situation. While they didn't seem to be malnourished, they were clearly showing signs of dehydration.

The problem wouldn't be food, but the water.

After getting enough information, Noel skipped all the pleasantries and asked, "Where is the mayor of this city? Does he know about all the problems the city has?"

"Y-yes, Sir! The mayor is in the middle of the city. Let me guide you." Captain Hansen extended his hand, asking Noel to follow him.

"Grandell. Bring your men and survey the city. Report to me about everything you can find later."

"Understood." Grandell acknowledged the order and signaled his men to begin.

"Should I look around as well?" Anna asked.

"No. You're going with me for now. Didn't you ask me to teach you about this kind of stuff? It will be a perfect opportunity."

"Alright then."

Captain Hansen brought Noel and Anna to the heart of the city. As expected, the people were staring at them as if they were a rare animal. But more importantly, their gaze seemed to have lost a lot of hope.

The lord of the territory had visited them, so they should gain a bit of hope, but the fact that they didn't react that much showed how worse the living condition was.

Even Noel might not be able to handle everything right away.

It didn't take too long to reach the city's mansion. However, he doubted that this place could be called a mansion. While it was a typical two-story building, it wasn't that wide. At best, it looked like three small houses aligned together.

"In that case, I'd like to ask you to wait—" Hansen was stopped by a single wave of Noel's hand as the latter demanded, "No. Let's go directly to the mayor's office. He should be in the office, right?"

"Y-yes." Hansen didn't know the previous question was a test. If the mayor wasn't in his office, trying to deal with this situation, he would be unfit as a mayor.

As soon as they reached the office, they could find a thin man in his forties.

"Hansen? Who are they?" The mayor furrowed his eyebrows, not recognizing Noel and Anna despite their reputation.

"They are the lord and the mistress of Lounstein."

"!!!" Obviously, the mayor had heard about the new governor. Once Hansen introduced them, he instantly remembered all the information and greeted them. "Lord Noel Ardagan, Miss Anna Stargaze. I'm honored to have your presence here."

"You can skip the pleasantries. I'm here to fix some problems in the city, so I need you to tell me everything."

"Everything?" The mayor scratched the back of his head, looking hesitant.

"What's wrong? Are you trying to hide something from me?" Noel squinted his eyes, pressuring him.

"No, Sir. It's just that... there are too many problems that I don't know where to start." The mayor shook his head helplessly. "I'm too useless, Sir. Please punish me."

"That's enough. Give me the major problems first." Noel turned to the captain and said, "You too. Tell me everything from your perspective."

"In that case..." The mayor gave a gesture to ask Noel to sit on his seat before bringing a few documents. "There are a total of five major problems the city is currently facing. The first two are the most urgent."

Noel skimmed the documents the mayor presented while Anna read a few other documents.

"The water and the demon activity, huh..." Noel frowned.

"Yes, Sir." The mayor nodded with a sad face.

"Are you still bringing the water from the river? And why does this town not have any water well? You should have the fund, right?" Noel asked.

"That's actually the problem, Sir. We do have water well. In fact, they say that the water underneath this city has a quite large quantity to the point we won't be able to drain it all for hundreds of years since it's connected to the river."

"Then..." Noel frowned. "What's the problem?" "I think you should take a look at lights.com"

"The problem is that while it has a large quantity of water, it won't go up. The well doesn't have enough pressure and it's also deeper than normal. We can't create such a deep well and try to use a bucket to bring it up."

Noel finally understood the problem. "So, the well has a small diameter, and despite the depth, it doesn't have a lot of pressure? Have you used a pump?"

"Yes. It's too deep even for the pump."

Noel thought for a moment before asking, "How about the demons?"

"Actually, this is related to the water problem. Because we have to fetch our water from the river, we have to send our team and bring back anything we can. But due to the increase of demon activity, a lot of people have lost their lives. We've been rationing our water for the past few days."

"The past few days?" Noel noticed something important.

"Yes. The increase in demon activity only began recently."

Noel turned to Anna, who seemed to have realized it as well. This problem must be created by someone. And the only people that had the ability to control demons was the Supreme Devil Organization.

It seemed that they had been trying to lure them out of the city, thinking the mayor would ask for help.

Noel pinched the bridge of his nose before asking Anna. "What do you think?"

"Should we just clear up the river? I can lead a team there." Anna suggested.

The captain's eyes lit up. He had witnessed Anna's strength, so if she truly helped them, they would definitely be able to clear the river and bring back a lot of water.

However, Noel actually shook his head as if he rejected the idea, which dampened the captain's hope again.

Noel said, "The main problem is the water. If there are no people going to the river, then it won't be a problem anymore. So, all we have to do is solve the water problem."

What Noel said wasn't wrong, but the mayor couldn't think of any way to solve it. And that was where the rune came in.

"Ah! You're going to use the runes?"

"Yeah." Noel nodded. "I can come up with a few arrangements, but I don't know if they are sustainable or not."

"Is that true? Can you really resolve the problem?" The mayor widened his eyes in shock. The problem had been plaguing the city ever since its creation, so he never thought that there would be someone who could solve the problem.

"I have to inspect the well and other things first before creating a plan. For the next few days, I can supply the water for the town, so it should give us more room to create a concrete plan."

"Thank you, Sir." The mayor couldn't contain his smile. It seemed that he was trustworthy and thought about the people first.

Noel asked, "What about other problems?"

"There are three more problems that have to be solved as soon as possible. They are the wall, the building, and the hygiene."

Noel thought for a moment while Anna asked, "If there's enough water, we can improve the hygiene slightly, right?"

"Yes, Miss. We don't even have enough to drink, let alone washing ourselves and other things. I'm afraid that even if you bring water from outside, they might get attacked by the demons."

"You don't have to worry about the water. And who has been profiting from the water this whole time?"

"That's..." The mayor hesitated. It seemed that the other party was also a noble or a merchant with that much influence.

"Just say it. I will take care of the rest."

"It's Lord Alba. His city is near the river and there are not a lot of demons over there. So, he brings us the water."

"And with a high price, right?" Noel squinted his eyes.

"What do you mean?" Anna was the one who asked.

"It's pretty simple. Water itself is not expensive. So, with the city's profit from the Demon Crystals, it should be able to buy a lot of water to the point it can somewhat solve the water problem. But because of the current condition, he must be increasing the price for all kinds of reasons."

"So, he takes advantage of this city's condition to jack up his price?" Anna looked annoyed as if she wanted to go there right away and beat him up.

"Yeah, basically." Noel turned to the mayor. "You don't have to purchase the water from him. Or do you have any contract with him?"

"Yes, Sir. We have been paying him every month and the contract lasts for another three months." The mayor nodded.

Noel thought for a moment. "Then, you don't have to pay him anymore."

"But if we breach the contract, we have to pay six times the number we agreed upon." The mayor panicked. Not everything could be solved with strength or reputation after all.

"No, you don't have to worry about that. Because of his city location, he shouldn't have the need to create water wells. It means his only source of water is the river. My city is planning to build a dam, so we'll be redirecting the river and filling it. It's not that we'll be breaking the contract, but he is the one who can't fulfill the agreement."

"Ah?!" Anna seemed to have found out another reason why Noel built a dam. It was truly a weapon.

"Of course, this city won't be able to utilize the river as well, but the water well should cover the problem if we succeed. Meanwhile, Count Alba has no choice but to start digging well. It will cost a lot of money and he also has to figure out how to fulfill the contract. If he dares not to pay for the contract breach, I'll personally make my move." Noel explained before turning to the mayor. "With that money as well as the money that you were supposed to use for water should be enough to improve the wall, right?"

"We definitely can repair the wall." The mayor assured him.

"For the building, we can only do it later, so just put up some emergency buildings with the remaining resources to make it look like we're trying to solve the problem. Once the city stabilizes, we will bring more resources for the construction. At the very least, it's still early summer, so we should have enough time."

"Understood, Sir." The mayor never thought that Noel would be able to solve the problems just by listening to them once. It seemed that Noel's reputation was well deserved. Lounstein finally had a good lord that could govern the territory well.

Noel stood up and said, "Alright. Let's inspect the wells first."

Chapter 913 Experiment

The mayor guided him to the first well, located not far from the mayor's mansion. As expected, the well was so deep that he could barely see the bottom. There was indeed water and he didn't know how deep it was, but the pump wouldn't be effective.

Even Anna confirmed that there was water below.

"This is the well. What do you think, my lord?" The mayor asked after seeing Noel's concerned face.

"How is it, Noel?" Anna asked. "The rune should be enough, but I'm not sure I understand the mechanism."

"Indeed." Noel nodded while looking down, pondering.

The mayor was surprised to hear that the rune was capable of solving the issue. If that was the case, the city could finally get enough supply of water.

A few citizens couldn't help but stop when they saw the mayor and the captain were escorting two people personally. It was clear that their identities were far more important than them.

The fact that they inspected the well meant that the mayor was trying to do something to solve the water problem.

Some of the bystanders decided to watch what the mayor planned to do while the others seemed to continue their lives without any hope. Though, they still talked about it, which ended up bringing more people.

"Can you get me the blood of the Advanced Level Demon... No, the Peak Level Demon we killed earlier?" Noel asked the captain.

"I don't mind, but for—! Never mind. Let me bring you the corpse." The captain didn't continue his question, believing that he should act as a soldier who didn't question his superior when the latter tried to save the town. He hurriedly departed to the gate to fetch the corpse.

Noel turned to the mayor. "I need a bucket... as big as possible."

"I understand!" The mayor rushed back to the mansion excitedly. This was the first good news he had heard for a while.

But surprisingly, the one that came back first was the captain, who was clearly sprinting the whole time. He carried the large corpse on his back before putting it down for everyone to see.

"This is the corpse."



Noel nodded and pulled out his sword, slicing the skin before using his Spiritual Energy to let the blood flow out and gather them into a single spot. After that, Noel removed the skin as it was the foundation of the rune.

Not long after, there was a commotion coming from the mansion.

"Mayor. Please let me do it."

"Ah, give way! Give way! I'm bringing an important item." The mayor pushed through the crowd with a bucket almost as big as his body. "Sir."

The mayor put down the bucket while panting. Noel couldn't help but chuckle seeing his energetic self and excitement even though he was so frail that he looked like he was going to collapse at any moment.

"Alright. Everything is ready." Noel winked at Anna to protect him before announcing, "Alright. Move away from me for a bit."

The captain and the mayor stepped back a few times until Noel snapped his finger.

All of a sudden, a lotus appeared above Noel's head, alarming everyone. However, the petals soon fell down and hit the ground around Noel, creating a series of ice crystals that blocked the view of everyone.

He had to hide the method of drawing the runes after all.

Afterward, Noel began to let the blood flow out of his Spiritual Energy as he used his finger to redirect the blood and draw a Enhance Forward Rune on the skin. Of course, he used the water from the Water Bottle the system provided him to clean the skin before drawing the rune.

After he completed the rune, Noel turned to the bucket and asked Ardagan to buy a few Water Gallons to fill the big bucket.

The moment he confirmed that everything was ready, Noel placed the Enhance Forward Rune into the water. Once it reached the bottom, Noel began pouring his Spiritual Energy, activating the rune.

In that instant, the water suddenly got pushed by an unknown force that blasted the water into the air.

Boom!

"!!!" Everyone was startled by the noise, but soon they found a fountain coming from the inside of the ice barrier.

"That's..." The mayor gasped, wondering where Noel got that water. But if that could be used to supply the water, the city might reach its new peak.

Meanwhile, Noel nodded his head with satisfaction. "The height is not enough, but the hole is small, so all that energy will be concentrated into a single spot and launch the water into the air. Since the well will be filled up constantly, it should be able to create a constant supply of water."

However, he had to think about the way to put this rune down the well, including the activation.

"Hmm. Can the Low Level or Mid Level Crystals be used? I don't think they are strong enough. So, I guess I need an Advanced Level one. The captain should be strong enough to handle a Peak Level Demon, so the supply for Advanced Level Demon Crystals shouldn't be a problem."

Noel then butchered the demon to retrieve the crystal it had. After that, he drew the Energy Gathering Rune on another skin and the Spiritual Energy Dispersion Rune on the other.

He stacked the Enhance Forward Rune with the Energy Gathering Rune while covering the Demon Crystal with the Spiritual Energy Dispersion Rune.

This way, the Spiritual Energy Dispersion Rune would release the energy from the Demon Crystal and the Energy Gathering Rune would catch that energy and supply it to the Enhance Forward Rune. It was still a rough concept, but it should work, Noel thought.

After that, he tossed all of them inside the bucket and another spurt of water occurred again. It was smaller than before, but this was enough for the entire concept.

Since he didn't know if this was enough to raise the water to the surface or not, Noel created another set of runes.

"Done." Noel smiled, satisfied with his work. He then snapped his finger again, causing the ice to disappear.

The people were confused as to how Noel managed to get all that water. In fact, they thought it was a waste to use such a precious resource for his research.

However, Noel ignored them for a bit and asked the mayor, "Do you have a rope, a long one that can reach the bottom of the well."

"Let me bring it to you." The mayor nodded his head and rushed into the mansion before coming back with the rope. I think you should take a look at [lights.com](https://lights.com)

Noel then tied the demon crystal and the runes together before lowering it to the well.

The people were watching with anticipation, realizing that Noel wanted to use that experiment to release the water that was stuck inside the well.

Noel lowered it carefully so that they didn't suddenly drop and get stuck in the well. Once it reached the water level, the water instantly got pushed upward with a significant force that was enough to reach the surface.

It wasn't as big as the one they witnessed earlier, but the well suddenly turned into a small fountain.

"That's... Water!"

"Water!"

The people became crazy, showing how desperate they were about water.

Even the mayor and the captain couldn't believe what they were witnessing. It only took Noel a few minutes to settle one of the biggest problems that had been plaguing this city for a long time.

Noel suddenly pulled the rune back as the water dropped once again, stopping the people's excitement. He checked the rune and made sure that it wasn't ruined by all that water.

"My lord..." The mayor looked at Noel in panic, thinking something went wrong.

"Don't worry. The experiment is successful, but there are a few things that need to be fixed first." Noel pointed at the well and said, "Because this is fueled with Peak Level Demon Crystal, it wouldn't be sustainable.

"So, I need your blacksmith to create a rod that can allow us to bring the mechanism back to the surface to replace the Demon Crystal with a new one. Since it has to be powered by Advanced Level Demon Crystal, it will need two of these inside.

"Also, we need a giant water storage so that we only need to activate it to fill that tank instead of letting this rune run all the time. As long as we turn a few wells into this, the water problem should be solved."

The mayor was stunned while the rest only cared about the last sentence. If they could get unlimited amounts of water, there was nothing to be afraid of anymore.

The mayor hurriedly shouted, "Hurry up, someone get Blacksmith Joe here!"

"I... I will!"

"No, I will!"

A few people hurriedly ran toward the blacksmith. Noel and Anna could clearly feel their excitement to get the water as soon as possible.

Noel then asked another question. "Is there any building we can use to distribute the water? Unfortunately, we have to wait for the mechanism to complete first for security reasons. It will be bad if the well is clogged up because someone cut the rope, right? Anyway, I have another supply of water, so we can use it first and distribute water to everyone."

"In... in that case, you can use that building. It was our garrison's storage, but because of the prolonged battle, it was almost empty. So, we could take the rest out and use it to store water." The captain pointed at a two-story building not far from the mansion.

"In that case, we'll use it as the distribution point." Noel nodded in agreement before turning back to the citizens with a gentle smile. "Nice to meet you, everyone. I'm the new appointed lord of Lounstein, Noel Ardagan.

"I can't promise you that it will be done in an instant, but I can assure you that there will only be improvement from now on. So, please go back and spread the words. Tell the people around you to bring their buckets to receive water in that building. Don't worry, I can fill all your buckets to the brim, so don't hesitate to come."

The people were amazed by what Noel said. If he said those words before proving his experiment, none of the citizens would believe him.

However, the fact that he could create a miracle like that, he might be able to improve this city.

Some people couldn't help but fall to their knees as if greeting their new lord. Those few people inspired the others as one by one began to kneel, thanking their new lord. Even Anna was in awe, realizing that he was born to be a lord.

"Thank you. Now, hurry up and go! Spread the words!" Noel waved his hand while adding to the mayor, "I need a few people to help me with the distribution."

"Y-yes, Sir!" The mayor was still having a hard time to regain his composure while the captain hurriedly guided Noel.

As soon as they reached the building, Noel asked the captain to remain on the outside while he inspected the building.

"You are truly good with your speech." Anna smirked. "And what's with that waiting? You just want to use this opportunity to farm more honor points, right?"

"You are not wrong, but you should feel suspicious about the demon's activity, right?"

"So, you're thinking that there might be a spy from the organization among the citizens?"

"I don't know, but there is a possibility." Noel nodded. "Anyway, help me clear this first floor. Your control is better than mine."

"Fine." Anna spread her Spiritual Energy and all the items inside the storage began to float. After that, they flew toward the exit as Anna threw them away.

After that, Noel exchanged a water tank from the shop and summoned it. The tank contained about one thousand liters of water, which surprised even Anna. "Where the hell did you get this?"

"Ask Ardagan, not me." Noel shrugged. "Use the water to clean this place by the way. Also, use the remaining water to create a container outside this building. Make sure no one can see the inside."

Anna followed Noel's instruction. She took out the water from the water tank and washed away all the dirt that had been piling up inside the storage. After that, she used the remaining water to create a giant cube that would contain all the water. Noel's job was to freeze it.

"But won't the ice get frozen inside?"

"I got a Temperature Control ability from the Ice Pearl we found in that lake." Noel chuckled while summoning a few more water tanks and stacked them up together.

"That lake? Ah, the one where we found the Ancient Demon Tree?" Anna remembered the first joint operation they had in the past. After seeing the other water tanks, she began controlling the water to create a pipe that connected them to the main container outside.

With this, all the water began to flow out and fill the main container.

"I'll be discussing things with the blacksmith, so call me if I need to replace the water tank with a new one later." Noel smirked. "Alright. Time to distribute the water."

Chapter 914 Development

"Here you go!" Anna smiled.

"Can we get all this water?" One of the citizens, who got his bucket filled to the brim, gasped. Since he had brought two buckets, the first one could be used to cook and drink while the other one could be used to wipe his body. Before this, he could only get a half bucket which was not enough for his family to drink.

Anna shook her head and corrected him, "You can come back if you think it's not enough."

The others couldn't help but listen to it as well. They realized that this was the help they had been waiting for. And once the water problem was solved, they wouldn't have any more worries.

Some of the people couldn't help but tear up.

When Anna saw their joy, it reminded her of the stark contrast of what happened in her previous life. Back then, the only thing she could bring was sorrow and death.

And with Noel in this life, she brought happiness and hope. There was a funny feeling in her heart that somehow made it hard for her to contain her smile. In the past, she had only watched how Noel solved their trouble one after another, but never directly participated in it. This feeling made her a bit addicted. It was no wonder why Noel continued to help people. It wasn't just for Honor Points.

"Thank you, Thank you, Young Lady." The guy thanked Anna profusely.

Anna waved her hand and said, "You're welcome."

Her actions made a great impact on people's hearts. She was also extremely beautiful, so some of them couldn't help but idolize her.

This was also one of the reasons Noel's mother helped Luke when solving problems. She also built her reputation as the kind lady of the Ardagan Family.

Though, Anna never realized it.

While Anna, helped by more than fifteen people, continued distributing the water, Noel was talking with the blacksmith.

"That's the plan. What do you think?" Noel asked.

The blacksmith was a muscular man. There were some burn marks on his arms and his hands were rough. However, he gave an aura of an expert, so Noel believed that he could give him a satisfactory response.

"If you can get enough water to that place, then we can create a rod through the same hole. The pipe will be planted right on the bottom, so even if they tried to destroy the entire structure, the pipe would remain. We could just replace it if that ever happened.

"As for the storage system, we have to think about the size. Providing the entire city with water requires a considerable amount of water, especially if we can't pump up the water to the surface at all times. How many wells are you planning to transform, my lord?"

"How many wells does this city have?"



"Ah!" The middle-aged man thought for a moment. "If we use all 16 wells as storages, we can downsize the storage significantly. In fact, what do you think about the main storage system, Sir?"

"Elaborate."

"It's basically a single big storage that will supply the water to the entire city. Instead of turning all the wells into this, we can just use one or two wells to fill up that main storage and distribute it to other storages that would be placed in different parts of the city."

"So, you are going to divide the city into a few different segments and distribute them from the main storage?" Noel asked for confirmation.

"Yes. We can even treat the rain water in this main storage. And if there is indeed an accident, we will still have the main storage as an emergency water supply. It won't last long, but it should be enough for us to ask for help from the main city and return with the solution." The blacksmith explained.

"What do you think?" Noel turned to the mayor. He knew the city more than him, so if it was impossible to construct it, then he would have to reject the idea.

"I think it's plausible. The current state of the city is horrible, but if we manage to restore the wall and rebuild the city, we can create that system. So, the progress can be done gradually. Besides, we can close down the deeper hole and turn the well into storage, reducing the cost." The mayor nodded in agreement.

"If I were to agree with this development, what do you require?" Noel turned to the blacksmith.

"If you have the technology to direct the water, then we can create a pipe system underneath the city. If we just create the main storage at a slightly elevated area, we would definitely be able to fill up the storage naturally. So, we need to redirect the original resources to maintain the water level on other wells, which means the main storage has to be operated at all times."

"That shouldn't be a problem cost wise." Noel nodded. "But how many wells do we need to transform to be able to supply the water constantly?"

"I think two wells should be enough. The current city only needs a single well, but if we want to rebuild the entire city, then two would be needed."

"Then, add two more wells for back up." Noel thought for a moment before asking, "That's right. What if you expand that pipe system underneath the city?"

"What do you mean, Sir?"

"The water flows from the high elevation to the lower one due to differential pressure, right? What if we create two different levels? For example, the main storage will be on the highest level, the second stage storage would be on the level below it, and lastly, we would create another pipe system and create a storage to the people's houses? This means, the last one would be at ground level."

"This..." The blacksmith gasped. His imagination expanded when Noel presented this idea. If they could do it, it meant there was no need for the people to get more water from the facility anymore. They could simply get an unlimited supply of water right from their house. It would definitely revolutionize the city.

Even the mayor dropped his jaw to the ground. The project was ambitious, but the concept was very clear.

"I need to calculate the height for that. No, it's already outside the expertise. We need to find someone who is educated enough to handle all the calculations." The blacksmith shook his head.

"Well, the main city is in early development, so I think I can implement this idea in the main city as well so I don't have to reconstruct anything later. And your city is in the beginning of reconstruction, so the cost is far less than a fully developed city. There are other ideas, but let's solve this problem first, shall we?" Noel smiled.

The mayor thought for a moment and said, "During my early days, I had such a contact. How about I ask him to do the calculation? He is an eccentric man, but he is exceptionally gifted."

"If there is someone like that, send him to the main city to talk with the main architect of the Ardagan Family. They can discuss the plan there." Noel nodded.

"Yes, Sir." The mayor nodded furiously. He was just having a headache, thinking about how to deal with the water problem. But Noel actually gave a solution and an idea to revolutionize the city. This lord was like a blessing to Lounstein.

"Then, we should build the main storage and additional storages first. We can easily reconstruct them if the calculation is slightly missed, right?" Noel turned back to the blacksmith..

"Yes, Sir. Give me...just one day. I will deliver the blueprints tomorrow and we'll immediately begin the construction. Also, the rod will also be ready tomorrow. I'll ask my disciples to build them." The blacksmith raised two fingers. "Mayor... I think we need about two hundred people to build this as soon as possible."

"Two hundred? It's impossible to employ all of them right away."

"Then, how many can we employ right now?" Noel asked.

"At most one hundred people. Our money is currently not enough because we have just paid for water two days ago."

"In that case, employ all one hundred people right away and focus on the main storage first. The citizens won't have any problem in going there to get some water right now. I will send you an additional fund from the main city later and we'll begin the second development." Noel nodded.

"Understood." The mayor nodded with a serious expression.

"Also, make sure that you retrieve the lands from the people who are leaving this city at a low price. We'll then construct that land later and sell it to the people at a higher price. This should be enough to get the money to maintain the city." Noel gave his plan.. As expected of a merchant's son, while he never went to an intense education about trading, he was still able to think of a simple plan to gain some profits.

"In that case, I will work right away. Mayor, please gather all the people as well as the necessary materials to build it. We can use bricks as the main material." The blacksmith explained.

"Alright." The mayor nodded with excitement. The blacksmith seemed to know that it would be hard to get wood in this situation, so he changed it to bricks, which they had plenty of.

Before Noel gave another instruction, Anna's voice resounded from behind. "Noel. We're about to run out of water."

"Alright!" Noel automatically responded before giving his last instruction to the mayor, "During the recruitment, just tell them that we're going to build the storage for an unlimited supply of water for the entire city. There should be a lot of people going to apply. Choose the best among them so that we can complete the construction as quickly as possible."

"Understood." The mayor acknowledged the order without hesitation, albeit Anna called him again. "Noel!"

"I'm coming." Noel shouted back while patting the mayor's shoulder. His gentle smile was telling him that he would definitely solve all the trouble the city had and bring it to its golden age.

The mayor couldn't contain his smile. This was the biggest hope he would ever have. Without them realizing it, the mayor had sworn in his heart that he would recognize Noel as his only lord and served him until he died.

Unfortunately, he didn't have time to be sentimental as he hurriedly followed the instructions and created the recruitment post.

Meanwhile, Noel was participating in the water distribution directly to bond a bit with the citizens. They didn't know what kind of surprise Noel had for them.

Chapter 915 Teaching Anna

On the plaza, a crowd of people were gathering as they seemed to have an announcement to make.

"The lord is planning to employ one hundred men to build a main water storage for an unlimited supply of water for the city. You will be paid seventy cooper coins per day."

Instead of seventy cooper coins, the people were actually more interested in what they were building. The people had suffered from this water problem for a long time to the point where they had grown accustomed to it.

So, the moment they heard that they would be able to get an unlimited amount of water, they couldn't help but look at each other, extremely interested in it.

"I am 21 years old, Roy. How do I sign up for the job?"

"Wait. I am..."

"I..."

They immediately flocked the people from the mayor office, trying to become a part of it. As Noel predicted, it didn't take too long to get all the workers. That was why he wanted the best people so that the construction could be finished faster.

After distributing enough water, Noel left everything to the rest. Anna seemed to be accompanying him as they were going to meet with Grandell.

"Sir!" Grandell placed his hand on his chest.

"How is the city?"

"It's awful, Sir. There are a lot of buildings that can collapse at any time. The area near the wall is destroyed. The west wall suffers the most damage and needs to be prioritized. While the morale has not completely plummeted, they don't have any high hope either."

"After receiving the water, they gain a bit of hope, but it's not enough. I'm not sure about the spies, but I can guard one important place." Grandell reported.

"I see." Noel thought for a moment and asked Anna, "What do you think?"

"Since you're going to send some funds from the main city, it should be enough to repair the west wall while completing the current project. It's just... if the enemies dare to sabotage it, we would be in trouble. Our funds are already limited, so we have to be careful." Anna explained.

Noel nodded in agreement before saying, "Grandell. Your job now is to protect the main storage construction. Also, spread the soldiers to check the people's improvement like their morale, hope, and other things. The better they are, the quicker we can finish this project. I'm not sure about how long we will stay here, but we might remain here for about one or two weeks before moving around to check the nearby villages."

"Understood, Sir." Grandell hurried back to inform his subordinates.

Meanwhile, Noel turned to Anna and raised one finger. "There is something you're missing."

"Something?"

"Yes. Do you remember all my preparations before coming here? Think about it again. There are two things that will allow us to safely improve this territory."

"Hmm?" Anna contemplated, recalling every single thing. This was the time Noel tried to teach her about governing the territory. After a while, Anna thought of something. "Is it Duke Lorelei?"

"He is indeed one of them. Why do you think I brought the duke here?"

"If he arrives here, no one will dare to attack this territory or they will just invoke the duke's wrath. That should include everything that happens inside the city."

"I will give you forty points for that."

"Huh?" Anna never expected that her answer would receive only forty points, meaning that she had missed the most important part.

"Think about it. The duke is impartial most of the time, right? He loves to see young talents bloom, right?"

"Indeed."

"What if that sprout is not a talented young man but a revolutionary idea where the entire kingdom could benefit?"

"An idea? Wait a minute!" Anna gasped, finally understanding Noel's goal in inviting the duke. "The duke would be so impressed with the change of the city where runes are incorporated into society. After seeing such a wonderful concept, he will definitely think highly of you."

"And with that, there is a chance that the duke will ask you to incorporate such a thing into his own territory. There you go, a cooperation with Duke Lorelei."lights

"Exactly." Noel nodded with a smile. Anna was originally smart, but she just had a hard time connecting the dots in politics. It must be because she was never introduced to politics in her previous life. So, Noel only had to give one clue after another to provoke her mind.

"But Noel, don't you think this is a bit too reckless? While we get the cooperation, the duke will be in a tight spot, no?"

"Certainly. The people will think that the duke is angry and try to take us down. Even if we can't do anything, we would be too injured to progress for a few months. That's why there is one thing that will create an opportunity for the duke and us. That is the second letter."

"The second letter? Do you mean Khalid?" Anna abruptly stopped as though she had come to another realization. "That's right. Khalid might not be a healer, but he is an alchemist. He should know a bit of medicine and we should be able to recover from our injuries in no time."

"What do you think will happen if the duke beat us up?"

"The spies in the city will definitely think that the duke has done his job. And with the duke's cooperation, we should be able to find the spies and eliminate them, stopping any further leaks of information."

"Then, without the spies, what will happen?" Noel continued asking one question after another.

"In that case, the duke will be grateful and won't oppose the idea of having a lot of sparring with us during his stay here. In exchange, he will be able to see the rune project. And we should be able to gain an additional fund since the duke will be paying us to install it in his territory. This way, the duke won't be held accountable and people will think we can't do anything for a while, which is a perfect opportunity to get stronger."

"Whose spies are hiding inside the city?"

"The Supreme Devil Organization, the Royal Family, and the Third Prince?"

"What will happen to them?"

"The Supreme Devil Organization believed that they had achieved their original objective. And as long as we acted that way, we could get stronger and surprise them when they attacked."

"The Royal Family will ignore us for a while and let the Supreme Devil Organization take care of the situation. Lastly, the Third Prince... I'm not sure. Maybe he will visit us to confirm it? You are supposed to have a 'good' relationship with him after all."

Noel was satisfied with her answer. While she still missed a few more possibilities, she was definitely on the right path.



"Don't you remember there is one more person that can check us?"

"My teacher?!" Anna fell silent, remembering that in the past her teacher joined hands with the Third Prince to kill them together. When she thought about it, she noticed something. "Wait a minute. The set up on the current storage..."

"It seems that you've realized it." Noel smirked. "Since the spies can't see anything inside the storage, they will have to speculate. None of us have a Space Element, allowing us to get all those water. Even my ice won't be enough to cover all that water. But even if they still think it's possible, that idea will be destroyed once I'm beaten up by the duke while the water supply still continues."

"You actually want to make people believe that someone is helping you to get all that water. And with that amount of water, there is only one person who might actually help you." Anna gasped. Noel actually tried to make people suspect her teacher.

Even if they trusted her, they still had to consider the possibility. After all, people like the Water Lord might be able to do it, but he was still in his territory. Only the Void Arbiter could teleport from one place to another, including opening the portal to fetch the water.

Meanwhile, the truth was that Noel used Ardagan to supply the water.

Noel warped his hand on her shoulder while saying with a smile. "See? You can already speculate my plan with enough clues. It's just that you are not used to connecting things up properly and thinking about all kinds of possibilities. So, I'll keep asking you all this stuff until your mind gets used to thinking of all possibilities."

"Hehe..." Anna couldn't contain her smile. In the past, Noel often said she was naive or a fool. But it wasn't true. With enough training, she would be able to reach Noel's level.

This praise truly meant a lot for her.

"How about I cook your favorite meal for dinner?"

"Really?" Noel was taken aback as he immediately turned around. "Wait a minute. I have to bring back the meat."

"Haha. Look at you so excited even though you can cook as good as I am."

"Having to cook for myself and having someone make it for me are two different things!" Noel harrumphed and took off.

Anna couldn't even react and only smiled at his enthusiasm. This was a life she could never imagine in her previous life.

'I wonder if Noel gave me the rebirth opportunity to let me experience this kind of life? No, did he think that I would fall in love with him in this life?' Anna thought, still wondering about the reason for this second chance. 'I hope that this can last forever.'

Chapter 916 Another Invention

"Move it that way!"

"Create a wall in this spot."

The blacksmith was presenting the blueprint while asking the professional to lead the people to build the design.

"How is it?" The blacksmith asked.

"It's simple, so we should be able to build it as quickly as possible with all these people."

"Good. I will report to the mayor about this before working on other things." The blacksmith nodded and walked away.

After Noel's arrival, the city had gradually stood up on their feet again. However, it didn't change the fact that only the water problem was going to be solved soon. They still had to face other problems.

That was why Noel and Anna discussed it again with the mayor.

"So, we're going to talk about the wall, the building, and the hygiene." Noel asked, "What do you have to say?"

"First of all, the wall has been standing there for almost five years. However, the current condition is too much for the wall to bear a huge wave of demons. We are lucky that only less than a hundred demons come at a time, but even then, it's quite perilous. We'll lose people and the wall will be damaged further." The mayor explained the problem in detail.

"While the long term solution has been discussed yesterday, we indeed have to repair the wall, especially the west one." Noel thought for a moment before asking Anna. "What do you think?"

"You told me earlier that you had sent the request to the main city and they would definitely bring it to us. However, it would be hard for them to send the funds here, don't you think? The Supreme Devil Organization might attack them midway and seize the fund." Anna raised another concern.

"You don't have to worry about that. Even though I say fund, it will come in the form of materials." Noel shook his head, implying that he had another idea.

"Materials? Ah, so you're sending people to buy the materials using that fund, so the materials will come to us from the opposite side?" Anna nodded in understanding. "In that case, we can use that material to repair the west wall. But they will realize it sooner or later and might intercept the material."

"Indeed. The only thing that won't be attacked is the thing coming from a different country." Noel nodded. "So, with that amount of material, the west wall can be repaired. Also, the money for employing more workers will come from the same direction."

"You're using that source of income?" Anna noticed that Noel planned to ask the brothel to give them money. In exchange, he would refund that money later.

"Yes. So, with that, what do you think we can do with runes to speed up the progress?" Noel asked.

Anna thought for a moment and said, "Why don't we use something to transport the items? Mayor, the work requires a lot of manpower, right? What are their jobs specifically?"

"I have to bring the professional to answer that question." The mayor didn't know about the details as he was the one who gave the order, not the one taking care of it.

"During my stay in the Demon Relief Squad, there are basically four kinds of tasks. The first one would be the one handling the placement to build a perfect wall. The second one would be the one procuring materials. The other two are the transporter and supervisor. Now that I think about it..." Noel fell silent as though he was on the verge of coming up with something.

Anna turned to the mayor and changed her question. "If we can automate them, do you think we can change those people to Demon Crystal? Instead of paying people for that job, we use the fund to buy Demon Crystal."

"That depends on the number of workers you're going to replace. If it's going to take only one or two people, then it won't cover the cost. And what kind of Demon Crystal do you plan to use? The Advanced Level again?" The mayor asked.

"No." Noel was the one who answered that question. "I think I've got an idea."

Anna smiled as though she had expected this.

"I'm thinking about creating a rune that can bring people up and down." Noel smirked, feeling confident about it. "Mayor. Bringing material to a certain height is hard, right?"

"I'm not an expert, but I do see that people have to carry the materials on their back and use the stairs. Or we could just bring them by using a pulley."

"Then, how about having someone... No, a platform that can move up and down? This way, the platform can carry humans or materials to a certain level. Then, if they need to go down, we can just bring them back down." Noel explained before asking for a pencil and a paper.

The platform was a circle and it contained two runes on it. After that he put down the materials or humans and created a diagram on how it worked.

"This is..." The mayor fell silent for a moment. "From my perspective, it would definitely be amazing to have."

"But will it be safe? I mean, how are normal people going to maintain their balance? And when are they going to stop?" Anna asked, seeing a few problems with the design.

"Now that I think about it..." When Noel thought about it, an image flashed in his mind. It was the image of the mysterious facility Noel visited in the Atracaeca Kingdom. That huge hole in the middle of the facility must be something like this. They created a skeleton to ensure its safety.

So, Noel changed the design a bit by creating the skeleton that stretched from the bottom to a certain level. He even turned the circle into a square and sealed its four corners with the beams.

"I think this will be it." Noel pointed at the four beams on each edge. "These beams will be the one stabilizing the platform when it is being pushed up by the rune. In fact, we could use the top platform to pull it up instead of pushing it down. And by making a slanted floor, we could make the center of gravity remain in the center."

"That's a good idea. It definitely stops the risk of getting swayed." Anna agreed with the idea. "But what about the ceiling? I mean, is it going to launch this guy or the materials into the air?"

"I have thought about it. The problem is the output of the rune. The water requires a lot of force to propel the water upward, but this one doesn't need such a force. In fact, it can't be that fast since the things inside it would carry the momentum. That's why I'm thinking about using the Low Level Demon Crystal!"

"Ah?!" Anna finally understood the concept. "So, that's how it is. The Low Level Demon Crystal won't be strong enough to launch this guy. And if we plant this structure to the ground, in addition to its weight, the platform wouldn't be able to push the entire structure, creating a certain ceiling. We can even create the platform to be like a cage so that even if they are swinging, they will still follow the same path."

"Exactly. I still need to test this, but I think the possibility exists. This is a structure that can only be used with a Low Level Demon Crystal. I don't know the efficiency, so we have to test it first." Noel nodded. "Mayor. Do you have some time to go out? I also need that professional to check the design."lights

"Understood." The mayor nodded furiously.

"In that case, I will go to the blacksmith to ask for the platform. I will leave the rest to you, Mayor." Noel rose from his seat and took his leave. But before he could open the door, someone actually knocked on the door.

When Noel opened it, it turned out to be the blacksmith he wanted to find.

"M-my lord!" The blacksmith panicked, thinking he had disturbed Noel.

But Noel actually grabbed him and said, "I need your help with something! Are you free?"

"I...I am free." The blacksmith nodded his head. He was just going to report the progress to the mayor, but Noel's matter took priority, considering he must have come up with another amazing invention.

The mayor nodded his head as if telling him there was nothing more important than Noel's matter and asked him to follow him.

"I understand, my lord. Do you need anything?" The blacksmith asked.

"I need to borrow a metal plate to test something. If it works, I might need you to create a cage with a slanted floor that leans to the center." Noel explained.

"We do have the metal plate in the workshop."

"Alright. Let's go!"

Without hesitation, Noel dragged him to the workshop as Anna followed Noel with a smile. Even though Noel always wanted a person to lead the research of rune applications, he was probably the only person who could do it. He was just too occupied with the matter regarding the territory that he didn't have enough time to do it personally.

As soon as they reached the workshop, the blacksmith took out a metal plate. But because it was just a random plate, it was a rectangle instead of a square. "This is the only thing we have."

"It's fine." Noel put the plate down outside the workshop. He pointed at the plate and looked at Anna first. "I think this size is enough, right?"

"Yes."

"Then, on the right, I will draw the Enhance Forward Rune facing up while I turn it the other way around on the left side. With this, depending on which one we power up, it can move up and down. But I'm worried that because of the nature of Spiritual Energy, the other rune will absorb a certain amount of energy that will cause the platform to be unstable."

"Can't it be solved by just putting the Energy Dispersion Rune in the middle? It will deflect the Spiritual Energy. And because it's still moving, the Spiritual Energy will remain on that level and not be picked up by the other rune."

"So, I need to connect the Gathering Rune to both the Enhance Forward Rune and Dispersion Rune... That's brilliant." Noel's eyes brightened as they finally found the perfect concept.

"What are you going to make, my lord?" The blacksmith asked, confused.

"Anna will tell you about it. I want to test the stability of this plate and see if it's possible for a normal person to use it or not," said Noel while stepping on the plate.

Anna agreed and watched Noel powering up the plate with the Enhance Forward Rune pointing upward.

Once he poured his energy, the plate started to rise.

"Woah!" Noel shifted his balance a bit. It felt like he was stepping on a platform that was standing on top of a pointy tip. If he lost his balance a bit, he would definitely fall down. "As expected, the supporting beams are needed."

As soon as Noel passed the tallest building, he looked around. It didn't really amaze him since he could just use his wings to do something like this, but he thought of another concept. What if they fought using this type of rune? Would people be able to fly?

That thought caused Noel to change the rune from Enhance Forward Rune to Floating Rune. This way, the plate didn't continue rising but float to a certain level.

"Anna. I'm going to test something for a bit." Noel shouted while creating another rune behind him. It turned out to be the Enhance Forward Rune.

He actually pushed the floating plate forward, causing him to speed up. However, he didn't count on the air friction, which caused him to slightly lean forward. It ultimately launched him first from all that momentum.

"Woooah!"

The blacksmith panicked, thinking Noel would go down. But he soon reappeared with his wings and returned to the plate. "That doesn't work. Maybe I should raise the front a bit to resist the air friction while balancing my momentum?"

As soon as he did it, the platform actually moved like a surfboard. He leaned his body to the side and it still continued forward. The air pressure hitting the plate was the one changing its direction.

"This actually work?" Noel couldn't believe it. He was actually 'flying' in the air without wings.



Anna couldn't help but drop her jaw. This was something she had never seen in her previous life. It seemed that Noel would definitely surpass the invention of his previous life.

"Noel! I want to try it too. It looks fun! You have your wings, so let me fly!"

"No way. I can't let you risk your life like this. This is extremely dangerous, so just wait there!"

Anna's eyebrows twitched. Despite mentioning the danger, his excitement was easily visible from the ground. He was surfing in the air and its movement was quite fast, which would definitely be something interesting to play with. That was why Anna said, "You might be able to make me believe it's dangerous if not for that grin! Stop grinning and change with me!"

Chapter 917 Adjustment

"I think this is enough for the test." Noel said while looking at the structure. Because it was only a trial, they didn't make the steel structure to support it yet. However, the blacksmith gave insight and the design on how they should use their power.

There were four main beams and an 'X' pattern of lock that stretched from the bottom to the top. This way, the four main beams would be locked in place.

In addition, the plate had truly become a cage. While it wasn't fully covered, it was still safe enough as the human body would have a hard time passing through the bars.

It was being pulled from the cage's ceiling where the Enhance Forward Rune was set up.

To pull this off, Anna was the first one to volunteer to test it out. After all, the one who created all the cage and the structure was Noel and Anna. She used the water to create them while Noel froze them. So, Noel remained on the ground to ensure that he properly controlled his power so that the ice wasn't undone.

After stepping inside, Anna closed the cage's door and waved to Noel. "Alright. I'm going."

"Yes. There should be a slot at the ceiling. You should be able to reach it and just insert the Demon Crystal there."

"Alright." Anna nodded with a serious expression and found the socket where she put the Demon Crystal.

The Spiritual Energy from the Demon Crystal then activated the Enhance Forward Rune and dragged the ceiling upward. But because it was a cage, the platform underneath Anna's feet also got pulled.

Slowly but surely, Anna was moving up.

"This is..." The mayor, the blacksmith, and the construction professional the town had couldn't help but gasp. It was true that the speed wasn't something extraordinary, but it was still far faster compared to a normal human's speed. After all, it brought them straight up unlike stairs. It was like an automatic ladder.

And the platform was big enough to hold two or three grown men. They could even put materials inside, meaning that they could easily bring it up and down depending on their need.

With the structure, they could also change its height depending on their need.

They tested it near the wall so that the wind didn't really sway the structure, but it also made the entire project visible to the normal citizens.

"Hey, what's that?!"

"Something is going up the wall?"

"No. That's a cage?"

"Wait. Someone is inside! It's... the young miss that is always accompanying the earl!"

"What?!"

The people couldn't help but become curious. Some of them even came closer to take a look.

Meanwhile, Anna could see a lot of people from up there. The wall was twelve meters high, so the structure went all the way to the very top of the wall.

She could see the town and it was a scenery that she could never forget. The horizon felt like it was expanding continuously as she went up further and further. It gave her a different feeling from when she flew or jumped into the sky.

This was something that all people could experience in the future. And it only needed a simple structure and a Demon Crystal.

"Wow..." Anna gasped in amusement. It only took her about twenty seconds to reach the top. And more importantly, she didn't even use any of her stamina or power to reach this place, meaning those who had reached the top would be at their peak state.

As soon as Anna reached the top, the soldiers protecting the wall were taken aback. They never expected that someone would go up here. They thought something was going to happen when Noel created this structure, but they didn't expect that the structure could carry them up like this.

"This is amazing." Anna smiled, looking at the soldiers. The latter didn't know how to reply to her, considering the sight was just too shocking.

Before going down, Anna checked the platform first and realized that the entire structure wasn't being lifted by the platform. If it was a Mid Level Demon Crystal, it might be able to bring it up a bit or at least jolt the entire structure, which made it unsafe. But this structure only needed a Low Level Demon Crystal... No, it could be said that this thing could only work with a Low Level Crystal.

Anna waved her hand with a smile as if bidding her goodbye. But once she was about to go down, she noticed something was wrong. If she activated the Enhance Forward Rune to go down, it would fall with the help of gravity.

Hence, she had to do one more thing. She created the Floating Rune. This way, the structure would resist the gravity and the Enhance Forward Rune would bring it down bit by bit.

Noel noticed the fluctuation of Spiritual Energy, so he hurriedly flew into the sky to check on her.

"Are you alright? Is there something wrong?" Noel asked with a worried expression.lights

"If I take off the demon crystal up here and put it down here, won't the platform just fall down?" Anna pointed at the socket on the ceiling and the platform.

"Now that I think about it... So, you're using the Floating Rune to resist that power?"

"Indeed. We might need two Demon Crystal so that we could activate the bottom rune first before pulling out the crystal above us." Anna explained.

"No. I think it's fine if we create a lock or something. The mechanism that will lock this entire cage on this place as we activate the second one. But it will definitely be hard to unlock it since it was pushed down by the rune... Hmmm..." Noel frowned, thinking about something.

"How about creating three separate runes? Up, down, and floating rune? Of course, it's fine to create that mechanism. So, in order to activate it, we need to activate the Floating Rune first before unlocking the platform. Only after that would we insert the demon crystal for the Enhance Forward Rune."

"That could work. But because people are unfamiliar with it, we might need a person who specializes in operating this thing. At least until the people get used to this thing."

"Yes. I think that's fine." Anna nodded in agreement.

After that, Noel stepped on the platform and said, "Let's go down together then."

Anna maintained the Floating Rune before inserting the Demon Crystal in the socket underneath them.

The platform moved down slowly as the Floating Rune resisted the gravity. And Anna suggested that they had to activate the Floating Rune all the time so that even if they went up, there would be a safety rune to stop the incident.

Noel definitely agreed since an incident would cause the citizens to not believe them anymore.

After reaching the bottom, Noel explained the idea to the blacksmith, wondering if he could create the entire structure.

Surprisingly, the blacksmith didn't think it was that hard. But they indeed needed a bit more time to ensure it worked perfectly.

The one who understood the construction was truly amazed by this invention. Repairing the wall would definitely become far easier and faster.

"So, how is it, Mayor?" Noel asked.

"I will definitely assist you in anything you want to do, my lord. Not only did you fix the water problem, but you also gave a solution to repair the wall. I believe that the city would become a wonderful city under your leadership." The mayor politely bowed his head.

Noel smiled, "In any case, these are just the tools to solve the problem. And we haven't fixed them yet, so we need to work hard until everything is over."

"So, do we need to add more runes in other places?" Anna asked.

"I'm not sure. While I don't mind creating more runes, we have to make sure that it won't burden this city too much."

"That's also a problem. I guess we can't be too greedy." Anna agreed with Noel.

"But it doesn't hurt if we take a look at other problems. Even if they are not major, just improving the convenience would definitely be big for the city." Noel turned to the mayor. "Let's return to the office and we'll begin inspecting other things."

"Understood, Sir." The mayor nodded furiously as he led them back to the mansion.

Meanwhile, the blacksmith and the construction engineer couldn't help but exchange looks.

"What kind of lord do we get?"

"I don't know. All I know is that he is definitely a good man that will bring Lounstein to its golden age. I've heard a lot of weird rumors, but I hope that he can continue ruling this territory."

"Agreed. All these ideas are revolutionary, so we might see a city that is unique to any place that everyone has seen before."

What they didn't realize was that this city was also a place for Noel to experiment all kinds of things. When the people from other territories, Duke Lorelei, or even envoys from other countries arrived at this place, they would be amazed and realize the possibility Noel had.

It would improve their opinion. For now, they didn't know the method of embedding the rune, so it was fine. But they would definitely seek out that information to steal the technology.

Fortunately, Noel could sit back for the time being, considering the Sword Arbiter would fend off all the problems for a while. So, he was rushing a few things so that he could show all this to the Sword Arbiter.

Chapter 918 Shocked

A few days later.

An old man had finally arrived at Loustein, and the first city he encountered was the half-destroyed city.

"Seriously? This is the city?" The Sword Arbiter couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows. "There are indeed some activities on the wall, but I don't think this city will last long. Let's check it out, shall we?"

The Sword Arbiter surprisingly walked to the city from the front even though his power was enough to sneak inside without being noticed.

Duke Lorelei was wearing a white military uniform and a big mantle hanging from his shoulders. There was a big Lorelei Family's crest on that mantle, so his appearance confused the soldiers a bit.

When the soldiers started to gather, Duke Lorelei stated out loud, "Open up soldiers! I am Evan Lorelei, the Duke of Lorelei. I hereby order you to open your gate."

"!!!" The soldiers panicked when they heard about the old man's status. However, they didn't receive any warning or see any carriage, so they were a bit skeptical about the old man's identity. There was a chance that he was lying.

Seeing the wariness of the soldiers, Duke Lorelei took out a badge and skillfully threw it up. The momentum was just enough to reach the top of the wall, allowing one of the soldiers to catch it.

It was the Arbiter Insignia as a symbol of their status. It caught the captain's attention, considering Noel had told him that a few important people were going to visit, but Noel didn't tell him who they were.

It appeared one of them was Duke Lorelei. So, the captain hurriedly opened the gate while making his way down to formally greet Duke Lorelei.

As soon as the gate was up, the captain politely placed his hand on his chest. "Good morning, Duke Lorelei. I am the captain of Luna City, Hansen. It's a pleasure to meet you. Lord Earl has informed me about your arrival, so I have to inform him first about your arrival."

"That's fine. I'm here just to look around." The Duke nonchalantly shrugged his shoulders. It seemed that because he had stepped down from his position, he really didn't bother to keep his image. "Why don't you introduce this city while your subordinates inform him about my arrival?"

"I understand, Sir." Hansen nodded in agreement and signaled his soldier to rush to the mayor's mansion. Meanwhile, Hansen extended his hand and politely said, "This way, Sir."

Evan couldn't help but look at the wall and say, "The city doesn't look that good."

"We are in the middle of rebuilding the city, Sir. We apologize for showing you such a disgraceful thing." Hansen bowed, but his tone was filled with hope as though he implied the condition of the city was going to be something in the past soon.

Evan was amused because it hadn't been that long for Noel to take over this territory, but it seemed that he had gained the trust of the people living in this land.

It was at that time that he noticed something different. He saw a carriage with a lot of rubble on the inside. But the carriage didn't have a horse or anything to pull it. Instead, they only had a steering wheel that actually controlled the movement of the front wheels. The back wheels just followed the movement.

Its speed wasn't that fast, but it was clearly faster than a horse pulling it.

"What is that?!" Duke Lorelei gasped in shock. "I can sense the Spiritual Energy fluctuation coming from that thing, but how does it move without being pulled?"

"That's... the first automatic carriage. I can't disclose any information about its mechanic, but I can say that the Lord is using the rune to make it possible. And the one who is steering it is the number one coachman this town has. He is still training and getting used to it." Hansen explained.

The concept wasn't that big of a deal. Noel just used the Enhance Forward Rune to make it push forward. Since there was gravity that would make the carriage remain on the ground, the wheels would be the ones doing everything. In other words, Noel had just changed the horse to Enhance Forward Rune.



Ever since Noel had come into this city, he had been creating one invention after another. Of course, he only tried everything before thinking which one would be the best for the city without burdening the cost.

Since the automatic carriage only required an Enhance Forward Rune, it only needed one Low Level Demon Crystal and a manual brake to operate it, which was pretty cost-effective.

And that alone was enough to shock Duke Lorelei.

Horses were quite hard to produce, especially high-quality ones. So, if they could actually change the horses to the Demon Crystals, there would be nothing better.

"It seems that the Earl is doing a lot of things in this city." Duke Lorelei furrowed his eyebrows.

"Yes, Sir."

"It seems that you have a lot of things to show me." Duke Lorelei smiled excitedly, wondering what kind of surprise he would get from this city.

"Unfortunately, I have to remind you that I can't disclose any secrets of the city. The only thing I can say is the one showing on the surface."

"That's fine. So, show me everything." Duke Lorelei nodded without hesitation.

"Then, this—" Before Hansen could continue, Duke Lorelei noticed the platform that could go up the wall without any mechanism due to his sharp vision.

"Wait. What is that thing?! The one that can go up the wall?!" Duke Lorelei asked.

Even Hansen could barely see it. "Do you mean the one hanging on the wall, Sir?"

"Yes, that one."

"That is called Rune Elevator. As its name implies, it's a device that allows you to reach an elevation that you want. Currently, it's used to bring a few workers up the wall along with the materials. We're currently fixing the west wall." Hansen explained.

"What? How does that work?"

"I can't say anything other than Runes." Hansen shook his head.

"..." Duke Lorelei was speechless. These two alone would definitely stir up the entire kingdom. In fact, if Noel actually sold these innovations, he would without a doubt become the richest man in the world, surpassing his father who only reached the kingdom's level. "I'm more and more curious about this city. He must want to use this city as his base of operation..."

"Ah, I'm sorry, Sir. We are just the gate to Lounstein. We are not the main city of this territory."lights

"Huh? Seriously?" Duke Lorelei was confused, but if all these revolutionary things were implemented not in the main city, what kind of wondrous technology would the main city have?

Instead of jealousy, Duke Lorelei could see the future. Of course, once the method was known, there would be a lot of people making their own creations. But for the time being, Noel would be able to monopolize them for a bit.

If he wanted to be ahead of the others, he had to find a way to procure these things and might be able to ask for the secret from Noel.

"I guess my retirement will be a very exciting one." Duke Lorelei pointed at the front. "Alright. Let's continue and show me more!"

Unfortunately, due to their limited time, Noel only made a total of five inventions. The first three were the water storage, the Rune Elevator, and the Automatic Carriage.

Hence, the first place that the captain brought him was none other than the water storage.

After the early completion of the main storage, they had begun operating the main water storage, meaning that a lot of people would line up to get their portion of water.

"This is... Are you in trouble or something?" Duke Lorelei asked Hansen about the people who lined up in front of a building while carrying a bucket.

"Ah, that's just our water facility. It's still in the early stages and I don't know how they are going to continue, but the lord said that he wants to create a water storage system where every single building in this city has an unlimited amount of water without the need to go out to fetch some water."

"What? An unlimited amount of water without the need to step out of the house?" The Duke didn't manage the house anymore, but when he was the family head, he remembered that the maid would come out to get a lot of water for daily use. If what Hansen said was true, then it would definitely create a city like none other.

The people didn't have to waste their time getting water anymore, and they could spend that time doing something.

When various conveniences had been improved, there would be a time when an ordinary family didn't have to do unnecessary things and spent that time to improve themselves. The kids might not need to help their parents and could go to school and do other things.

As someone who placed his bet on future generations, even if he couldn't see it, he could envision the wonderful land of the future.

At the current stage, ordinary children would have a hard time going to school, but if they could focus there. It meant that there would be a lot of smart people in this territory.

"This is crazy." Duke Lorelei sucked a cold breath. In fact, Noel should have isolated this territory first so that they couldn't study these inventions and even steal them from him.

It seemed that the soldiers had informed Noel. There was someone coming in their direction at a fast speed.

Duke Lorelei couldn't help but raise his guard. His hand was already on his sword's handle, ready to cut this insolent person.

But Hansen actually bowed his head to greet the person.

That action made the Duke calm down and observe what was actually happening. The person who came to him was none other than Anna. And she was actually floating a few centimeters above the ground.

When the duke looked down, he found a plate that made it happen, including the runes that were embedded on it.

As soon as she was about to reach him, she stopped and deactivated the plate before greeting the duke.

"I apologize for such unladylike behavior because I'm in a hurry."

Instead of Anna, the Duke's eyes were fixated on the board. "What is this... What is exactly happening? Did you just fly... no float? But that speed is quite fast."

"Ah, this? It's just a floating board. It's faster, more convenient, and exciting to move by using this board, so I'm using it to go around the city. Because of the state of the city, we have to move around so much after all." Anna explained.

"Ah!" Duke Lorelei had just realized that he was extremely rude. Even though they hadn't married each other, there was no one as close as Anna to being the lady of Lounstein. So, he hurriedly apologized, "Excuse me for my behavior earlier. I see, so you are here, Anna Stargaze."

"Yes, Sir. He is currently occupied with another project, so I came here to greet you. I can lead you if you want to meet him, but I apologize if it takes some time." Anna smiled while nodding her head to Hansen as if telling him that she would take care of this.

Hansen saluted Duke Lorelei before leaving them. Meanwhile, the Duke nodded his head while saying, "If you don't mind guiding this old man..."

Anna noticed that the Duke was looking at the board. Noel made it first so that both of them could fly together with this board, but it seemed that Noel had this thought in mind.

Without hesitation, Anna offered, "Certainly. Would you like to test this, Sir?"

"Can I?"

"Of course. But because it's mainly for personal use, I hope that you can maintain your balance."

"Don't worry about that." The duke excitedly stepped on the plate, followed by Anna.

After checking if he was ready, Anna began infusing the Spiritual Energy into the plate, but she had to start it slowly since she brought the duke.

He was quite excited to see himself floating, but he soon regained his composure and coughed a few times. To start the conversation, he asked Anna, "I heard that you're planning to give an unlimited supply of water to everyone in the city without taking a step out of their house. How is that possible?"

Duke Lorelei didn't know that he would get the shock of his life when Anna answered him.

"We just used Runes, Sir. The initial investment might be big, but to maintain it... it shouldn't cost more than 50 Advanced Demon Crystals a month."

"50... what?!" Duke Lorelei lost his balance due to the shock, causing him to fall off the plate. Falling on his butt was the least of his worries, as the most important thing was what he heard earlier. "You what?!"

Duke Lorelei didn't realize that Anna was actually smiling inside her heart. Everything was truly going according to their plan.

## Chapter 919 Inventions

"You what?!" Duke Lorelei gasped in shock, thinking, 'When I was still the acting head, if I'm not wrong, to provide enough water from the territory, I would spend about 200 gold coins a month. A single Advanced Level Demon Crystal cost me about five gold coins each.'

'So, needing only 250 gold coins a month to maintain an unlimited supply of water is simply ridiculous. It's not about providing 'enough supply' but 'unlimited supply.' And by doing so, the people don't need to fetch water from a certain facility anymore.'

'The initial investment is big, but I also need to create a facility to do that. So, the difference might not be as I expected. More importantly, the people would definitely be satisfied, which would cause the city to bloom with people. The taxes you can get from the city alone will surpass the operation cost.'

Duke Lorelei wasn't the only person who was shocked. Even Anna was dumbfounded, but for a different reason.

The duke she knew would always be calm and collected. He was a cool guy who could cut down on his enemies easily. Yet, the same dignified duke was falling on his butt out of shock.

She might never get a chance to witness something like this again for the rest of her life.

Duke Lorelei realized that his appearance was a mess, so he hurriedly regained his composure and coughed a few times. "I apologize for showing you such behaviors."

"What are you talking about? The duke just lost his balance because of this unusual plate and recovered quickly." Anna smiled while gesturing to him to stand on the plate again.

Duke Lorelei embarrassedly stepped on the plate and said, "Are you... really telling the truth?"

"Of course." Anna pointed at the well. The well actually had a black rod sticking out and it was covered with a wooden pipe that flowed through the storage facility. "If you see that pipe over there, that's the pipe that holds the power of the runes.

"Normally, the pump would require people to operate it, right? The rune can be activated as long as there is a Demon Crystal. So, the Rune is the one shooting up the water before it was flowing down the storage.

"We simply redesigned the storage facility so that the entire city can receive that unlimited supply of water. It's as simple as that." Anna explained.

"That's..." The Sword Arbiter nodded. He obviously understood that the pump could be operated 24 hours a day, but it would still take too much manpower. And if the entire city used it, there was no way a few people's strengths were enough.

But it would be different if it were run automatically by the rune.

"Do you know where I can purchase it? No, how do I ask for one to be constructed in my place?" Duke Lorelei asked. He wanted to purchase the rod only so he could construct the rest of the facility himself. But there was no way they would accept it, so he corrected himself and tried to hire them.

Anna chuckled. "I don't have the authority to take care of the problem."

"It's your father, right? I have been your father's good friend since you were young. And—"

Anna stopped him by saying, "I can't help you with that, Duke Lorelei. Even if you bring my dad, the only thing I can do is propose it to Noel. So, I think it's better if you talk with Noel personally. We're heading to him after all."

"Ah!" Duke Lorelei felt his age had been catching up to him causing passed on him to be unable to maintain his composure. He sighed, "I'm stupefied. No, you have truly shocked me. Still... I don't think this city is that clean, right? Aren't you worried that they are just going to steal it from you?"

"The method is still not passed to anyone other than me. Perhaps, his students will learn it too. But that's all for the time being. Even if they bring it, unless they can implant that rune, it will be impossible." She shook her head as her eyes turned cold. "And if they are blatantly using our creations, it just gives us the reason to attack them. I think you and several other nobles will be jealous."

"..." Duke Lorelei couldn't help feeling overwhelmed. It seemed that these two youngsters had seen through him. "In that case, I will talk to him personally. Since you don't seem to be able to tell me about all the important stuff, how about explaining to me about the other creations?"

"Certainly. What do you want to know?"

"That automatic carriage!"

"Ah!" Anna thought for a moment. "It has a similar principle to a carriage, but we just use a rune to drive it forward instead of a horse. And we make the front wheels steerable. Still, the current design is not extremely cost-effective. The more luggage it takes, the more it will burn energy."

"Well... How much does it cost?"

"If you operate it for... what? A hundred kilometers or something, you will need 10 Low Level Demon Crystals. That's without luggage. If you have a full amount, then the speed will decrease and the consumption will be about 30 to 40 Low Level Demon Crystals. But it should still be a bit faster than a horse."

"!!!" Duke Lorelei widened his eyes in shock. He couldn't believe it. "10 Low Level Crystals only cost us about twenty silver coins. The cost is indeed quite high, but horses are extremely precious. It costs us sixty to seventy gold coins just to raise a good horse."

"If we use them to pull the carriage, there is a chance that they might suffer injury and other things, increasing the cost. They also need to eat, rest, and do other things."

"Meanwhile, your 'not' efficient design can cut that cost and even continue the journey tirelessly. If we just calculate the speed of the horse alone, you could travel at least twice as much without a break, let



alone at a speed higher than that. And I don't know how much luggage you're talking about, but we need two or three horses to pull something heavy. Do you understand the concept?"

"There, there...." Anna waved her hand, asking Duke Lorelei to calm down.

Duke Lorelei took a deep breath and asked, "Still, it's dangerous to use that thing inside the town, right?"

"Yes, but not really."lights

"What do you mean? If they are traveling at such speed, won't it be troublesome if they crash into people?"

"I know you're worried, but please take a look at this." Anna formed a Spiritual Energy Dispersion Rune with her right hand and poured her Spiritual Energy from another hand. Surprisingly, the Spiritual Energy couldn't pass through the rune.

"This is..." Duke Lorelei thought for a moment. "Are you saying that you use this thing to cut the power supply? Then, it will be like the horses are stopping."

"Of course, we modify it a bit to be safer, but you get the general idea." Anna nodded. "This way, it's still quite dangerous, but it is more controllable than you originally thought."

"This is amazing." Duke Lorelei sucked a cold breath. He then pointed at the plate they were driving. "How about this?"

"Sorry, but I can't tell you anything about this. It's rather special, you see."

"I see..." Duke Lorelei seemed to have understood the general idea of what Noel planned to do in this city. He asked, "Do you still need some funds to build your territory?"

"Please talk to Noel about it."

"Tsk." Duke Lorelei wanted to insert such a thing so that Anna would slip up, but it didn't work. He ended up changing his question to, "How about that one on the wall?"

"It's as simple as carrying people or things up and down, which would make construction far easier. It only costs you about one or two Low Level Demon Crystals every day. I guess it depends on how much you rely on it."

The duke never thought that Noel would be able to achieve all this in just a few weeks after his arrival here. But it showed how much potential Noel carried. Losing these two youngsters would cause a huge setback. At the same time, the Greenwood Kingdom would have known about this through their second princess.

With the financial power and influence of the Greenwood Kingdom, there was no doubt that Noel would get everything he wanted from them.

Hence, it was clear why Noel actually invited him to this place. There was something that he could get from him—something that the Greenwood Kingdom couldn't give him.

Duke Lorelei's face turned serious. Talking to Noel would definitely change his life, so he had to be prepared. That was why before meeting Noel, he asked, "Do you have any other inventions that I haven't seen yet?"

Anna looked like she was considering it. It seemed that this next invention was something important, so it would be hard to show it to an outsider.

"If you can show me, I can promise you something." Duke Lorelei raised his offer, wondering how important it was.

However, Anna actually smiled after he promised such a thing. The duke instantly realized that he had been had.

Anna pointed at a few light poles on the street and said, "I was just thinking about how I could show you since it can only be seen during the night."

The duke's eyebrows twitched, but he didn't say anything because he was curious about the invention.

Anna then brought him to a small pillar in the middle of the plaza as if it were a mark of something.

She took out a Low Level Crystal and placed it on top of the pillar. The rune underneath the pillar was activated, and it turned out to be the same rune Anna formed earlier, the Spiritual Energy Dispersion Rune.

This rune dispersed the energy of the Demon Crystal and spread it into the air. And the light poles caught the energy with the help of the Energy Gathering Rune to activate a low level Light Rune.

Noel hadn't mastered this rune, so it was actually Anna's invention. The Light Rune helped her so much in her previous life since it provided a small light amidst the darkness. She didn't have the Moon Blessing in her previous life after all.

And these lights were shared among all the poles, illuminating the road. But because the sun was still up, they could barely notice the light.

However, this was enough to shock Duke Lorelei.

"What? Can you illuminate the street? Normally, you need to pour oil into them and light them up. Because it's so costly, we can only do it on the main street. But with this method, you can actually light up the entire city. Do you know that the street will be much safer during the night, which will increase the activity?" Duke Lorelei sucked a cold breath. There was a curfew to reduce the crime rate in most of the territory, but if there was no need to think of such a curfew, the citizens could use that time to do something else and increase the economy again.

Anna added, "You forget about something. We can actually use this to provide light to establishments or even normal people's houses. Even if we charge them money for the service, they will gladly pay it for such a thing, don't you think?"

"A shining city during the night..." Duke Lorelei could picture such a thing.

"Though, we have to design it properly." Anna shrugged. "That's all for the time being. We want to continue working on this, but we simply don't have time. Noel has appointed me to be the head of the research team, so we just need to find the correct people."

Duke Lorelei's eyes brightened as he grabbed her shoulder and demanded, "Take me to him right now!"

Chapter 920 Persuading Duke Lorelei

"Noel!" Anna called Noel from a distance while waving her hand. Noel turned out to be working among the people, supervising the place where they could build the second stage storage.

Noel stopped for a moment and turned around, finding Anna and Evan approaching him. Despite Evan's calm expression, his walking speed was faster than normal, indicating that he was eager to know about the runes.

Anna seemed to have done her job of luring him.

Noel gestured to the person next to him to take care of the job while he met these two.

"Welcome to my city, Duke Lorelei." Noel smiled.

"It's truly a surprising city. I guess you have managed to accomplish your first objective, eh? To think that Earl Ardagan has surpassed his father." Evan made a forced smile, showing that he was slightly annoyed that he actually fell for Noel's plan.

"Hahaha. Let's leave it at that." Noel didn't explicitly acknowledge it, so Evan didn't lose his face. He asked, "So, what does Duke Lorelei want with me?"

"Did you seriously ask that question? You were the one who invited me." Evan's eyebrows twitched. "You should be the one mentioning your intention first."

"Is that so? Then, I guess it's fine to disclose it. How about having a cup of tea a few times?"

"..." Evan paused for a moment. What Noel was trying to say was that he wanted to fight against him a couple of times. The number of fights indicated that this was a spar as well as the time for him to train.

Before replying to his invitation, Evan looked around and said, "Let's talk somewhere else."

"Of course. There is an empty building over there." Noel pointed at the half-destroyed building not far away from them.

As soon as the duke agreed, they moved to that building to prevent anyone from listening to them.

"I don't really mind fighting you two, but you should know that I can't hold back for a certain reason, right?" Duke Lorelei squinted his eyes, warning him that the fight wouldn't go according to plan.

"Of course. But that's only the first fight. We have a countermeasure about it." Noel explained.

"The first fight?" Evan pondered for a moment. The first fight was the most important, considering the result would be reported directly by the spies. If those people knew that Duke Lorelei had injured Noel and Anna badly enough, they would definitely feel relieved.

From the second fight onward, it seemed that Noel had a different plan in a way that the spies couldn't kill them. No, it could be said that it was Noel's invitation to eliminate the spies.

In other words, Noel wanted the spies to report about the result of the first fight before getting exterminated. With that, no one would be able to report about Noel and Anna's current condition.

"So, if I were to agree to killing all those spies, what would you give me in return?" Evan asked. Getting suspected by the Royal Family or the Supreme Devil Organization would be annoying, so he had to get something in return.

But when he thought he had seen through Noel, the latter actually corrected the thought in his mind.

"Who says I'm going to kill them? The spies are useful because they will report everything to the people behind them."

"Huh? You don't want me to kill them?" Evan was startled. These inventions would be too great to be passed on. And if they knew that Noel and Anna were severely injured, they might take that chance to steal them. Of course, that would wait until he left since it was clear that the duke would be interested in them as well.

That was why not killing the spies was a questionable move.

Noel raised a finger. "Yes. With our injuries, the next battles will only count as training by yourself, isn't it? No one dares to spy on you after all."

"..." What Noel said made sense. After that confirmation, if the duke made a huge scene, it would just look like he was trying to annoy Noel under the pretense of training. But it also meant that their next fight wouldn't be as big as the first one. He didn't care about Noel's aim in that spar. Instead, he focused on what he could get from it. "Suppose we fight like that. In that case, what are you going to do with the spies? I don't want them to take those inventions."

"Sooner or later, people all around the world will know about these inventions. So, it's fine if they spread the word for us. More and more nobles will know about it and give us another source of income." Noel shrugged.

"But you have to be able to protect them before you can say that." Evan warned him.

"Of course. But we are not going to be the ones who protect those inventions." Noel shook his head.

That reply alone was enough for Evan to realize Noel's intention. "So, you're planning to use me. With my interest, there is no way those people would steal it directly. However, you're forgetting something. You need something that can keep me here for a long time... And it's not like you're going to stay here when your territory is going to be attacked, right?"

Noel smirked. The duke wasn't wrong. Noel didn't plan to stay in this city for a long time, so without him, the duke would lose his interest soon.

"Duke Lorelei. What do you think about studying those inventions yourself? I have a Rune Book with me that you can use as a reference. If you can understand three out of those five inventions, I will let you visit the main city and place your order for those three. What do you think?!"

"!!!" Evan widened his eyes in shock. Noel actually allowed him to take a close look at these inventions. While he couldn't replicate it, he could understand the concept.

That process alone would take a few months to complete, which meant Noel would get a free protector for this city. And the moment he headed to the main city, this place would have recovered to such an extent that it wouldn't collapse so easily.

The information about these inventions would spread, which would benefit the Ardagan Family greatly. In exchange, he could be the first person to order it.

No, Evan almost missed one detail. To place an order, he could just send a letter to Noel. Yet, Noel actually invited him to the main city.

That was right. If this city had all these inventions, what would the main city have? The thought alone was enough to pique his excitement, fully knowing that Noel's city would be the first city where all the conveniences had been improved by runes. There was a chance that the things he could order were beyond these five inventions.

But the main city was still lacking in population and if they planned to supply people, it would be easy for them to be infiltrated. That was why before anyone sent a spy, they were planning to have a migration first and with a stricter requirement. He should be able to impose an information blackout for a few months using this method.

With more and more people becoming interested in Noel's main city, they would resort to bribes or any other method in order to get an entry. There would even be the Rune Academy. When that one-year period had passed, it would be difficult to crush Noel's main city.

That was why he might be the first noble to be granted entry to his city, allowing him to be prioritized.

And to get all that, he had to fall for Noel's plan.

Before that, he had to confirm two things. "Tell me about these two. How many people do you plan to bring to your city?"

"The migration is divided into three stages. The first one is in progress but will take a bit longer. There will be about two to three thousand people. The second one will be in five to six months; the amount is close to the first stage. The last stage will be right before the opening of the city. In total, we will have fifteen thousand people in this city."

Duke Lorelei nodded and asked the second question. "Your student is the second princess of the Greenwood Kingdom, right?"

"If you are worried about that, I don't have any intention of teaching her the method just yet. So, in three to four months, I think? After all, she is just barely starting to learn about runes, unlike this one. " Noel pointed at Anna.

It would be weird for Anna to know about all kinds of runes all of a sudden. So, Noel just wanted to reinforce the thought of her learning from Noel since the time they were together in the Demon Banner Army. This way, Anna had several years to learn from Noel, even if they were separated most of the time.

And a lot of people would ask the duke about Anna's knowledge and he would confirm it based on this statement, removing any possibility of them knowing the fact that she regressed.

In addition, this would guarantee that even though Livia was his student, the Greenwood Kingdom's priority would be lower than his. Of course, he had to complete his own objective within three to four months.

Duke Lorelei fell into deep thought. On the one hand, he had planned to remain in the Stargaze Family for a long time. On the other hand, he didn't expect that he would end up being the guardian of these two kids.

Duke Lorelei raised three fingers. "Alright. I can agree to becoming the guardian of this city, but I have three conditions."



"Please." Noel nodded, knowing this would happen.

"First, I want a written statement that my orders will be prioritized."

"That is if your orders are within reason."

"Don't worry. I'm not going to make it hard for you. But you should know that my action will cause me to be suspected by the Supreme Devil Organization as well as the Royal Family. Hence, I want you to promise me that you won't attack the Lorelei Family in the future."

"As long as they remain neutral, I won't do anything. I can promise that for as long as I am alive." Noel agreed without hesitation. He emphasized it with his life because he knew that Duke Lorelei wouldn't really live for much longer. At best, he would still be alive for another ten years, but by that time, he was almost one hundred years old. With all the injuries he suffered in his entire life, there was no way his body could sustain them for that long.

With this guarantee, Evan felt at ease. He added, "Last but not least, I don't want you to forget that humanity's true enemy."

"!!!" Noel was quite surprised by the third condition. It actually implied that no matter how angry he was towards the Royal Family, he wanted him to at least not destroy the kingdom because, ultimately, the demons were their true enemies.

If he never heard his ancestor's story, he might disagree with this. But after knowing how much disaster the demons had brought, he knew that the world was much bigger than he thought.

That was right. His ancestor was on the run for several years. That fact alone showed how big the world was. Instead of focusing his anger on the small Muivell Kingdom, he was much more interested in the bigger world.

In fact, he had originally thought about this. When the needs of Demon Crystals increased, it would be time for humanity to actively hunt those demons.

His great ancestor had stopped the demons from invading this place, so while it might not be him, his descendant might be able to stop the demons so that they didn't come to this world anymore.

That would only happen in hundreds, if not thousands, of years in the future. By that time, he hoped that the world had found another source of power that could make the civilization flourish just like the previous civilization managed to do all that without Spiritual Energy.

Hence, Noel smiled at the third condition, saying, "Definitely. Just like how the sky expands to the horizon, just like how the people of the Zaecuria Kingdom can't explore the vastness of the sea... I would never turn myself into a tiger in a cage."

Noel indirectly implied that he would be strong enough to resist anything in this kingdom. But instead of holing himself and focusing on this kingdom to the point where he became a tyrant, he would rather be free and embark on a new journey.

"Alright. I agree to become the guardian of this city. Still, even if this place is safe, you should worry about your main city."

Noel pointed at the plate they were using earlier and said, "Why do you think this plate is not enough to protect my territory?"

Duke Lorelei was surprised at first, considering Anna couldn't say anything about the plate for a certain reason. And it turned out that the reason was for military use.

After realizing its true meaning, Duke Lorelei laughed out loud while saying, "Hahaha. It seems that Kevin has found an amazing son-in-law to the point where I want to snatch him for myself if I have a granddaughter. Hahahaha!"