

The Shining Star Above The Heaven

#Chapter 11: The Departure - Read The Shining Star Above The Heaven Chapter 11: The Departure

Chapter 11 - The Departure

After their fight, Aldrian and Eleine returned to the village. Aldrian still felt obligated to ask for permission from two people. He arrived at the front of a simple house made of wood with a straw roof. A beautiful garden, neatly arranged with all kinds of fruits and vegetables, adorned the front of the house, with a flow of water from underground passing through the side of the garden, adding to its beauty.

An old man with white hair and a long white beard was leaning on a wooden chair in front of the house. He looked serene, his eyes closed as he seemed to enjoy the tranquility of the village. When Aldrian and Eleine arrived, the old man sensed their presence and opened his eyes.

When he saw Aldrian, he smiled at the boy who seemed to have grown so fast, remembering when he was just a newborn. When Aldrian stood in front of him, the old man spoke to his visitors.

"When the night comes, the stars will shine beautifully. When the sun rises in the sky, the stars lose their light, but in the end, the sun is also a star. What brings you here, young master?"

Aldrian, hearing this old man's nonsense, felt embarrassed and sighed. "Grandpa, don't you think it's embarrassing? Every time I come to you, you always say something like that."

Aldrian knew that his complaint would fall on deaf ears, so he just let the old man have his way.

WeiJun Rivas

Age : 5000 years

Race : Human

Cultivation : Peak Earl

Cultivation technique : The Blessing of Rain

Attack techniques : Water blessing, Giant Waves, Water sprout, Water Needle, The Water's Judgment

Defense techniques : Water Wall, Body of Water

Movement technique : Cloud steps

Supporting technique : Seven firmament fire

Aldrian looked at Wei Rivas's information. What he knew about Old Wei, who was in front of him, was that he was his mother's physician as well as an alchemist. Aldrian had heard that Old Wei was quite amazing in the outside world. A physician and an alchemist are two different branches of knowledge, but they are still connected.

Becoming an alchemist of the lowest tier is not difficult, but nurturing talented ones who can develop into future grandmaster alchemists is challenging. It requires enormous time and resources to train one. But what about someone who is both an alchemist and a physician? It's a rare talent and one of the most sought-after in the entire continent.

"Have a seat, young master," Wei Rivas said.

Aldrian then took a seat in one of the chairs beside Old Wei, while Eleine stood beside him. Just as he was about to tell Old Wei about his plan, the door of the house opened, revealing an old woman. Her white hair bore witness to the passing time, and her clear blue eyes amidst the wrinkles on her face were remnants of her youthful beauty.

Lina Rivas

Age : 4967 years

Race : Human

Cultivation

: Middle Earl

Cultivation technique : The Blessing of Rain

Attack techniques : Water blessing, Giant Waves, Water sprout, Water Needle, The Water's Judgment

Defense techniques : Water Wall, Body of Water

Movement technique : Cloud steps

She was the wife of Old Wei and also a physician like him. She was one of the people who helped his mother give birth to him. Aldrian, seeing her come out of the house, smiled and stood up to show his respect.

"You are still as healthy and beautiful as ever, Grandma."

They were the ones Aldrian considered to be his grandparents in this secret realm. Even though he knew he had grandparents in the outside world, his 12 years of life had been colored by Old Wei and Lina. They were among the people who had accompanied him since his childhood, besides his parents and Eleine.

"Ah, young master, you've surely grown up so much. Look at your sweet talk."

They exchanged pleasantries for a while before Aldrian finally told them about his plan.

"Grandpa, Grandma, I think I need to go to the outside world." He then explained his reasoning, similar to what he had told Eleine first. When the old couple heard his reasoning, they sighed but were not surprised.

"So it comes to this, huh? As I thought, your talent in cultivation is unheard of, so it's natural for you to soon reach a bottleneck." Old Wei said.

"Child, can't you wait until your parents come to pick you up?" Lina said, worry evident in her voice.

"Sigh, I wish I could cultivate in peace, but this bottleneck is bothering me. If I don't try to seek enlightenment, I'm afraid I will develop an inner demon."

When they heard this, they realized it made sense. Inner demons appear when a cultivator's dao heart harbors lingering negative thoughts because each heart can have doubts, traumas, impatience, and chaotic thoughts. They were afraid that Aldrian would develop an inner demon at his young age due to his current bottleneck in cultivation. They didn't want anything to hinder his development and talent, so they finally accepted that it was time for Aldrian to see the outside world.

"I only hope for the best for you, child, but please take care of yourself, even though you have Eleine with you." said Old Wei.

"Child, don't put yourself in danger wherever you go. I hope you can meet your parents in good health and spirits in the future." Lina added.

"Aish, we'll just need to wait here. If Lord Aldrey and Lady Irene return suddenly and you're not here, let me talk to them. Also, the villagers need us." Old Wei said again.

The villagers of this secret realm had no physician before their arrival, so when Wei and Lina first arrived and assessed the situation, the villagers greatly benefited from their services. Aldrian, who was ready to provide more persuasion, was stunned to receive their permission so quickly.

When he tried to reason with Eleine earlier, she had dismissed it as just his excuse to go outside the world. She didn't believe that a 12-year-old boy could reach a bottleneck and need enlightenment. What kind of enlightenment does a 12-year-old boy need? So he had prepared for another round of persuasion, but they had already given their permission. This understanding warmed his heart, so he stood up from the chair and bowed to the old couple in gratitude.

"Thank you for your support and understanding."

Wei Jun and Lina smiled when they saw him like this, feeling as though they were sending off their own child on his first adventure. After receiving their permission, it was finally time for Aldrian to prepare for his departure. He and Eleine returned to their respective homes and started packing, planning to leave the secret realm the next day.

When night came, Aldrian carefully arranged all the items he felt he needed for his journey. On top of his bed lay several things that his parents had left behind for him to use if necessary. There was a sword, a ring, some energy stones, and spare clothes.

He first picked up the sword. It was 80 cm long with beautiful carvings on the scabbard and hilt. On the center of the handguard was a symbol that he didn't recognize. Unsheathing the sword, he marveled at the straight, double-edged sword in all its glory. From the quality it emanated, he felt it was more than sufficient to support him on his journey.

"With this kind of sword, I wonder what kind of family Father and Mother are from?" His curiosity about his parents family reignited at that moment. From the few clues he had gathered from stories he heard over time, he knew their family was not simple.

He then sheathed the sword and put it down to inspect the next item: the ring. This was no ordinary ring, but a spatial ring capable of containing various items. When he inspected it by inserting his sense into it, he discovered a space with the size of 1,000,000 cubic meters. It was a large storage space for a spatial ring, but since he had never seen another spatial ring he assumed it was common outside. If Eleine heard his thoughts, she would cry at his ignorance.

Next, he inspected the energy stones, which formed a small mound on his bed. The stones were the size of pigeon eggs and contained immense energy, making them valuable resources for cultivation. He remembered his father telling him about the spirit stones currency:

Low-level energy stones Middle-level energy stones: 1,000 low-level energy stones
High-level energy stones: 100 middle-level energy stones Peak-level energy stones: 10 high-level energy stones

In front of him were 1,000 high-level energy stones and 10 peak-level energy stones. He hoped this would be enough for his journey. If Eleine knew his thoughts she wouldn't just cry, she would likely smash her head against the wall. With the energy stones he had he could buy a small fortress or build a small sect by himself. Additionally, the energy stones could assist in the cultivation of even grand duke stage or king stage, illustrating just how precious the high and peak-level energy stones were.

Feeling that everything was ready, he gathered all the items into his spatial ring and went to sleep, preparing for the journey that awaited him the next day.

As the sun revealed only half of its body and the morning birds chirped to herald the new day, Aldrian and Eleine stood at the village gate. In front of them were old Wei, Lina, and a few villagers. Aldrian had lived here for 12 years and had formed close bonds with many of the villagers. Seeing them all gathered to send him off touched him deeply, and tears began to brim in his eyes.

"Take care of yourself," said old Wei, his voice steady despite the emotion in his eyes. Lina stood beside him, holding back her own tears.

"I will, Grandpa," Aldrian replied, nodding his head. He looked at Eleine, who gave him nod in return. He then began to walk away, but before he was out of sight, he turned and waved one last time before continuing on until he could no longer be seen.

"When the night comes, the stars will shine beautifully. When the sun rises in the sky, the stars lose their light, but in the end, the sun is also a star."

Old Wei smiled as he watched Aldrian's silhouette disappear, pondering what stories the future held for Aldrian.

Chapter 12 - Outside World

200 kilometers from the village, Aldrian and Eleine stood before a wobbly space. In the center of it, there was a crack in space shaped like a semi-circle. The crack itself was located inside a small cave with a diameter of 3 meters, covered by dense roots, making it easy to miss by a passerby.

Aldrian knew this place because it was within his domain, and sometimes he would come here to comprehend the space energy surrounding it. This helped him enrich his imagination and comprehension to improve his technique concepts. Aldrian could feel the abundant spatial energy and the concept of this spatial crack, which greatly aided him.

After a few moments of admiring the spatial crack before them, Aldrian looked at Eleine.

"Young master, do you have any disguise technique?" Eleine asked.

"Disguise?"

"Yes, young master. I'm sorry, but your red hair will attract attention in the outside world. Just to be safe, you should disguise your face as well," Eleine said. She worried that someone would link her young master to the Flamecrest family. Even though not all red-haired people are from Flamecrest, in the Barisan continent, red hair is a unique color, so it's better to prevent any potential trouble.

Actually, he didn't have any disguise technique, but he didn't panic. With his imagination and comprehension at that exact moment, he created his own disguise technique. Suddenly, his hair turned black, and his handsome face changed into a different handsome face. Eleine, who watched, was satisfied with his disguise. With that, they would have more freedom to move in the outside world. She also used her disguise technique, changing her hair to black and adopting a more plain face to hide her beauty.

"Ready?" he asked.

Eleine just nodded, and they rushed into the spatial crack without hesitation. As they entered, they felt a powerful force pulling them in, causing their senses to become disoriented. All of this happened in a matter of seconds, and before they knew it, they found themselves in a different environment.

They arrived in what appeared to be a huge inner cave. It wasn't completely dark inside because there were some substances that emitted light, resembling fireflies on the ceiling of the cave. The stalactites and stalagmites around them also gave the place an archaic aura. Aldrian and Eleine immediately checked their surroundings with their senses for potential dangers and looked around to better understand where they were.

Eleine, who had experience with spatial journey, still felt uncomfortable. She looked at Aldrian, who had a lower cultivation level, to see how he was handling it. She saw Aldrian frowning as if contemplating something, but she thought he handled the spatial movement quite well.

Often, when people use a spatial crack for the first time, their visual senses become disoriented, and they stagger immediately after emerging from the crack and the worst

they will vomited. So, she thought Aldrian handled it well, perhaps feeling only slight discomfort. Little did she know that his frown was for a different reason.

"My control of the surrounding energy feels heavier, like something is trying to obstruct my control and senses." he thought. He had felt something similar when his domain hadn't yet filled the entire secret realm, but it was much heavier here. Compared to the secret realm, here it felt much more oppressive and for some reason he felt irritated.

"I can still see the energy in the surroundings, but it's much blurrier," he added.

The conclusion is that his abilities connected to sensing and controlling energy are reduced by at least 40%. That's quite significant for him, but he can adapt quickly. Moreover, he thinks it can also serve as training to sharpen his senses outside the domain. Something obstruct him? Then he will just keep pushing.

Once they were sure there was nobody in the vicinity and no dangers were detected, they walked toward the cave passage. Still vigilant and heightening their senses, they continued walking, passing a few curved passages before they saw a light in the distance. When they arrived outside the cave, they were greeted by a row of tall and dense trees. In front of them, the path was covered by tall grass, and the cave entrance was concealed by large tree roots that hid the mouth of the cave.

After taking in the surrounding scenery for a moment, Aldrian and Eleine cautiously walked away from the cave, still with their senses stretched out. The senses of a middle earl stage cultivator can reach 320 km from its epicenter, while a high viscount stage can reach 280 km. But for Aldrian, his senses can reach more than 350 km, a range usually achieved by peak earl stage cultivators! Despite his sense of energy being weakened, his ability to scan the surroundings remained as strong as it was within his domain.

Eleine then jumped onto the tallest tree trunk to get a better view of the area and keep watch from above. Aldrian, seeing this, followed Eleine and also surveyed the scenery from above. What he saw was a vast, flat forest stretching to the horizon. Having grown accustomed to seeing forests in the secret realm, he admired it for a moment, thinking to himself,

"I am in the outside world."

He then took a deep breath and looked in one direction, "The call is coming from that way."

After leaving the secret realm, the sensation of being called became clearer and stronger, but he resisted the urge to rush there immediately.

"Young master, I can recommend some places to visit first to get accustomed to after arriving here," Eleine suggested.

Aldrian listened to Eleine and then asked her, "Do you know what lies in that direction?" as he pointed towards the source of the call.

Eleine looked in the direction Aldrian pointed and then replied, "To be honest I don't know, young master. That is the inner area of the Everlasting Silent Forest, which has never been touched or explored. I advise against going there because it's very dangerous. Forget the inner area; even this part of the forest we are in now has never been ventured into before. Lord Aldrey and Lady Irene only came here by chance due to certain circumstances."

Aldrian listened to Eleine's explanation and could only sigh. It seemed he would have to postpone his journey in that direction.

"But that was before we entered the secret realm. In the Barisan continent, the legend of the Everlasting Silent Forest is well-known, stating that anyone who steps into this forest never returns. At least now we know that they seem to be swallowed by a space crack leading to the secret realm. The exit of the secret realm opening indicates that changes have occurred in this forest over the past few years, so the situation might have changed."

Aldrian felt relieved upon hearing this; it seemed he could head there in the future. At least now he could plan it first, considering the dangers. He decided to prepare himself thoroughly before making the journey.

"So, what do you recommend for this trip?" Aldrian asked.

Eleine looked towards the north and then east. "I recommend we go to the elven territory first. The elves have a good relationship with orthodox cultivators, so we can observe the situation and developments there. For now, information is the most important thing." Eleine replied.

At the moment, their position was in the outer area of the Everlasting Silent Forest, specifically in the northern part of the forest. Eleine wouldn't recommend going to the Doria Empire in the northeast or the Vindas Empire in the north even though they are much closer to minimize the risk of Aldrian encountering issues related to his parents' family. Thus, the elven territory was the most logical choice for now.

"The elven territory," Aldrian murmured, his curiosity piqued. He had never seen other races before. He had only heard stories from his parents about various races in the outside world, such as elves, dwarves, and even beasts with intelligence like humans who could speak and transform into human forms. So when he heard they would go to one of their territories, Aldrian felt a keen interest.

With their destination decided, they descended from the tree and began their journey southeast.

After traveling for a week, they encountered various forms of life, such as animals and beasts with weaker cultivation levels than theirs. They had yet to encounter any humanoid life forms during their journey. For Aldrian, this might have been typical, but for Eleine, it was unusual for this forest.

With the presence of roaming animals and beasts, it indicated that the forest had undergone changes in the past few years. The name Everlasting Silent Forest was not for nothing, any life that entered would be trapped within. The fact that these animals could roam freely suggested that the dangers of the forest might have diminished, or perhaps its status as a forbidden zone had been revoked.

They are currently resting with Eleine keeping watch from a tree branch and Aldrian sitting cross-legged on the ground. He cultivates and continues to train his comprehension even in the middle of his journey. If there are no obstacles, they will reach the elven territory in six months.

A few hours later, they resumed their journey, hoping to encounter some form of life that could provide them with information. As if the sky heard their hearts' desire, a few hours later, they sensed something within their range, and it seemed that whatever it was also sensed them.

Aldrian, who perceived them through his senses, was momentarily stunned because the aura and form of life that appeared in his sense were unlike anything he had seen before. With their high speed, they finally encountered their first humanoid life form.

"Elves." for the first time in his life, Aldrian saw an elf.

Chapter 13 - Elves

"Humans?" one of them said.

There were four of them, two males and two females, looking at Aldrian and Eleine cautiously. What Aldrian saw were human-like figures with golden hair, pointy ears, and beautiful faces, even the males were beautiful. The elves stood alert, ready to respond to the slightest hint of malice with their bows, which seemed to be artifacts capable of shooting powerful arrows. Aldrian could sense the energy flowing from them, he was sure that with a little push, they would instantly unleash their techniques.

Looking at them, Eleine raised her hands to show a peaceful gesture, hoping to prevent any misunderstanding.

"We have no malice, we are just passing by on our way to the Ivory Empire." Eleine said.

Aldrian looked at them with curious eyes. Besides their elf characteristics, they wore the same kind of knight armor with a giant tree symbol in the middle. He then looked at who seemed to be their leader.

Maelis Sylvaris

Age : 3000 years

Race : Elf

Cultivation : Peak Viscount

CultivationTechnique : The World Tree Encompassing the World

AttackTechniques : The Wrath of the Spirit, Wooden Dragon, Earth Spike, Silent Arrow, Homing Arrow

Defencetechniques : Earth Wall.

Supportingtechnique

: Blessing of the Forest

He also glanced at the others information, which was not much different except for their age and lower cultivation levels.

"To the Ivory Empire? What is your purpose? Why did you come from the Everlasting Silent Forest? State your identity!" demanded Maelis.

"My name is Eleine Aster, This is my younger brother, Aldrian Aster. We have no affiliation, we are merely adventurers looking for opportunities. As for why we came from the Everlasting Silent Forest, we lost our way from the Vindas Empire and accidentally entered part of the forest." she answered. She thought it would be safe to use Aster as their surname, as she knew there were no Asters as surname on this continent. After hearing her answer, Maelis contemplated for a moment before he spoke.

"Please follow us to our post not far from here. We will confirm your identity first, if we find no problems, you may continue on your way."

Aldrian and Eleine had no objections to his order, so they followed him for a kilometer to a post with a large white tent surrounded by a two-meter-high wooden fence. There

were a few guards in the vicinity, all at least at the Viscount stage, guarding the tent. Upon arrival, Maelis immediately directed them into the tent, where they were greeted by two elves in the same armor. Aldrian could sense they were much stronger.

"Marquess stage cultivators." he thought as he examined their information.

Eldrin Sylvaris

Age : 13530 years

Race : Elf

Cultivation : High marquess

Cultivationtechnique : The world tree encompassing the world

Attacktechniques : The forest of doom, Root of death, The wrath of the spirit, Wooden dragon, Earth spike, Silent arrow, Homing arrow.

Defensetechnique : Earth Wall, Roots wall

Supporting

technique : Blessing of the forest

ElowenSylvaris

Age : 12853 years

Race : Elf

Cultivation : Middle marquess

Cultivationtechnique : The world tree encompassing the world

AttackTechniques : The forest of doom, Root of death, The wrath of the spirit, Wooden dragon, Earth spike, Silent arrow, Homing arrow.

Defensetechnique : Earth Wall, Roots wall

Supportingtechnique : Blessing of the forest

Aldrian also felt their aura as a Marquess stage cultivator and realized that with their age and cultivation level, they could be considered old by human standards. However, they still possessed a youthful and beautiful appearance along with dense vitality. For humans, a Viscount stage cultivator can live up to 5.000 years, an Earl stage cultivator can live up to 10.000 years, and a Marquess stage cultivator can live up to 15.000 years. But for elves, with their abundant vitality from birth, they can live up to 10.000, 20.000, and 25.000 years respectively for the same stages.

"I wonder how I would fare if I fought against this elf Marquess stage."

Aldrian thought. People would find his thoughts absurd and call him crazy, the Marquess cultivator can kill Viscount cultivator with a slap, but he was truly curious to fight all out against a stronger opponent. Even Eleine didn't push him to use his full power. His way of thinking and personality were also influenced by the incomprehensible visions he had experienced over the years, making him much calmer even when faced with a much higher-level cultivator.

"Sir, they are adventurers who lost their way in the forest. They said they have no affiliation and want to go to the Ivory Empire."

The elf called Eldrin sat on his chair with a white ball artifact on the table in front of him. Aldrian thought it must be some kind of artifact for checking their identity. When he stood before the ball, he could feel the unique concept of it; it was like something that could peek into your true self or, more precisely, into your soul.

"Welcome, we are sorry to disturb your journey, but we only want to check your identity. If we find no problem regarding your identity, you can continue your journey," Eldrin said. "Please touch the ball in front of you and insert your energy to confirm your identity."

Aldrian and Eleine looked at each other before Eleine stepped forward. She touched the ball and inserted her energy into it. The ball suddenly shone with white light before turning blue.

"Orthodox cultivator with Water element," Eldrin said, and another elf noted it down. Aldrian, intrigued by the ball's ability as he watched closely. When it was finally his turn, he looked at the ball for a moment before touching it. When he inserted his energy into the ball and waited for a few seconds, the ball's reaction was—

Nothing.

The ball did not give any reaction whatsoever, the others who saw this were confused by the situation as well. They look at the man and felt that this man's aura was at the High Viscount stage, yet he looked only 12 years old, which seemed unbelievable. A 12-year-old at the Viscount stage? He must be in disguise, and the Marquess elves

were thinking the same. It wasn't unusual for cultivators to hide their identities for various reasons, but they still had to pass this kind of procedure if they had a doubtful origin.

Aldrian, in the middle of the process, was actually thinking about something else.

"It has a formation that functions as a detection device, it penetrates into the dantian and even scans the entire meridian. It even touches my inner self or soul." he thought. Perhaps he could create something similar for his technique. He kept inserting his energy to feel how the ball worked and to comprehend it.

"The elves have someone who comprehended karma and helped to create this artifact." His soul also felt a tingling sensation when he inserted his energy into it.

The others kept waiting, but the ball still showed no reaction. Eldrin started to doubt the ball. "It's not broken, is it?" he thought. But suddenly—

Tck

The sound of glass cracking could be heard.

TckCrack

The ball cracked, and the crack widened with each moment. Eldrin, who saw this, was shocked.

"Wait, sto—" before he finished, the ball emitted a golden light that dazzled everyone in the tent. The light even reached outside the tent and could be seen from a distance of 1 kilometer. And then—

Track

The ball broke into pieces. The elves who watched it happen widened their eyes in shock. Even the ones guarding outside, stunned by the golden light, now rushed into the tent to prevent any accidents. Eleine positioned herself in front of Aldrian, ready to protect him and fight to the death. She knew their chances were almost zero against a Marquess stage cultivator, but she was prepared to sacrifice herself to give her young master time to escape.

"How is that possible! The Orb of Origin is a low heaven artifact made with the help of dwarves, using the stone of the World Tree as material. Even an Emperor stage cultivator can't break it with just their energy!" Eldrin thought.

Eldrin and Elowen looked at Aldrian in astonishment.

"Uhm, young master, miss, please wait here. Due to this unprecedented accident, we need to consult our superiors first." Eldrin said, speaking more respectfully and cautiously. The man who could break the Orb of Origin with his energy was not someone he could afford to offend. Without delay, he rushed outside to bring out an artifact used for long-distance communication and sent a message to his superior somewhere, while Elowen dismissed the anxious guardian elves.

Eleine also released the tension in her body and looked at Aldrian, equally shocked. She knew about the Orb of Origin used by the elves. The Rivas family also had artifacts with similar functions, and Eleine had never heard of anyone breaking a device of that caliber with just their energy. This was yet another surprise regarding her young master's extraordinary abilities.

After a few moments, Eldrin returned to the tent.

"Young master, miss, my superior asked me to bring you to the city of Balin. He wants to meet you."

Eleine was surprised by what Eldrin said because Balin city is the destination they want to reach. The city is quite close to the border of the Ivory Empire and the Everlasting Silent Forest. It is a prosperous city with many commercial activities because it is traversed by the road that surrounds the Everlasting Silent Forest, called the Great Belt Road. This road connects all the territories bordering the forest, allowing them to stay connected with each other.

Aldrian and Eleine found no problems, and since Aldrian felt responsible for the destroyed artifact, he simply followed the elf's arrangements. They exited the tent and walked towards the flat terrain not far from their campsite. There, they encountered a creature Aldrian had never seen before. It was a massive creature, 7 meters tall with a 15-meter wingspan.

"Wyvern," said Eleine as she looked at the creature, which had some kind of seat on its back.

"Yes, miss, we will ride the wyvern to Balin. Please bear with us for the journey ahead, as it will be faster than using a carriage." Eldrin said.

With that, Eldrin and two other elves joined Aldrian and Eleine as their riders and took off towards Balin.

Chapter 14 - Killing Intent

Three wyverns could be seen flying in formation. One flew in front as the leader, while the other two flew behind it on either side, forming a 'V' shape. In front, Eldrin rode his wyvern alone, while Aldrian and Eleine had their own riders on the other wyverns. As they flew, an energy shield protected their bodies from the gusts of wind.

"Sir leader, may I ask you a question?" asked Eleine.

"Eldrin Sylvaris. You can call me Eldrin, miss. And what is it you want to ask?"

"Sylvaris? Are you from the Grand Duchy of Sylvaris?"

"Yes, miss, I'm one of the commanders in the Sylvaris family army."

"So, Sir Eldrin, why did the elves bring their outpost to the Everlasting Silent Forest? Is it true there has been a change in the forest, significant enough to establish an outpost there and even assign a Marquess stage cultivator like yourself?"

Eldrin looked back towards Eleine for a moment before looking forward again.

"It looks like you missed the news from the past few years. Yes, many things have changed in the Everlasting Silent Forest. We still don't know the cause, but some of the people who were trapped in the forest have returned, and the entire forest seems more passive when outsiders set foot in it than before. So, His Majesty the Emperor gave the order to explore this place, and the Sylvaris family got a share of the area here." Eldrin said, looking down towards the vast forest. Eleine continued listening as he went on.

"As for why a Marquess stage cultivator like me was dispatched to this place, it's because of the Devils."

"The Devils?" Eleine unconsciously released her killing intent, and rage could be seen in her eyes. Her rider who was in front of her looked back, feeling goosebumps over his body. Eldrin also glanced at her and then at Aldrian.

"Maybe he is not the Devil." Eldrin thought. He still had doubts about Aldrian's identity because of the earlier incident, but seeing the woman behind him showing such hostility and killing intent just at the mention of the word 'Devil,' he doubted that Aldrian was a Devil cultivator.

"It seems they have their own history." He thought as he looked forward again.

Aldrian also looked at Eleine, he had never seen her this angry until she released her killing intent like this.

"The Devils huh." Of course he knew about the Devils because his parents had told him about them. These were people who sold their virtue to the Devil God in exchange for power, spreading terror and calamity everywhere. When Aldrian asked his father what he should do if he met one, his father's answer was simple and direct.

"Kill them, they are beyond saving."

Aldrian kept his father's words in mind. So when he heard the word "Devil" and looked at Eleine, he was sure they had a history with his family.

"Maybe Father and Mother ended up inside the secret realm because of them."

When he reached that conclusion, he felt a surge of anger and released a bit of his killing intent for the first time. Eldrin in front, suddenly felt chills on his back and sweat formed and dripped down. The others felt the same as the entire atmosphere suddenly became tense and heavy. The wyverns shrieked in panic, especially the one Aldrian was riding. Everyone felt the pressure of the heavenly might that usually comes with a heavenly tribulation, but that was absurd because there was no heavenly tribulation present.

The energy of heaven and earth surrounding them became chaotic and uncontrollable. The formation nearly broke, and they almost fell as the riders struggled to control their wyverns amidst their fear. Stunned by the effect of his killing intent, Aldrian quickly retracted it, and the entire atmosphere returned to normal as if nothing had happened.

"Fuck! That scared the shit out of me! What the hell is with his killing intent?!"

Eldrin's legs felt weak, and sweat still rolled down his face. The killing intent he had just felt was stronger than anything he had ever encountered, even more potent than a King stage cultivator's.

"The wyverns are trained under the pressure of King stage cultivators, and his killing intent can cause panic in them! Are you telling me his killing intent is on par with an Emperor stage? Wait, forget about emperor stage, what is that heavenly might pressure?!"

He didn't dare to look at Aldrian again. To release that kind of dense killing intent, someone had to have been on many battlefields, killed many, and experienced numerous life-and-death situations. He started to doubt if Aldrian was only a Viscount cultivator.

"Nope, he is not a Devil cultivator."

he thought.

Not everyone was afraid though, one of them looked at Aldrian with concern.

"What happened to you?" Eleine thought.

To release that kind of killing intent at his age, she didn't know what he had done when he wasn't under her watch. Aldrian, on the other hand, was surprised by the effect of his killing intent. The visions he had experienced for the past six years had a more severe impact than he had imagined, allowing him to develop his killing intent to this level.

There was a time when Aldrian unconsciously released his killing intent during the horrible experiences in his visions. He almost lost his mind until his parents came to help calm him down and every time they asked Aldrian what happened, he always said that he had a nightmare.

After some time, he finally learned how to control his killing intent, and every time the visions came again, he had become accustomed to receiving them without releasing his intent. He had never released it again until today.

There was an awkward silence after that, so Eleine tried to ease the tension.

"So, what about the Devils again?"

"Oh uh, yes the Devils activity suddenly increased in the past few years since their last big movement 13 years ago, which caused chaos in the territory of the Church 'Eyes of Heaven' We still don't know what they are planning, but some of them have tried to infiltrate various territories including the Everlasting Silent Forest. Marquess stage cultivators are stationed at the outpost just as a precaution to ensure nothing happens," Eldrin answered.

Eleine sighed and fell silent.

"I hope whatever those bastards are planning doesn't endanger the young master." she thought, starting to worry that they had emerged from the secret realm at an unfortunate time.

They continued their journey as usual, but the atmosphere was not as relaxed as before. They flew in silence because of the earlier events that were still weighing heavily on them.

Two months later.

It was afternoon, and the sky was clear with just a few white clouds. The three wyverns with their passengers and riders flew at high speed without hindrance. Over the past two months, the tension had dissipated and the awkward situation was no more. The elves had adapted to Aldrian's presence and they even conversed with him when they had time. They had stopped a few times to rest and ten days ago they had entered the Ivory empire territory, today they finally saw an elongated structure and buildings on the horizon amidst the forest.

As they drew closer and the magnificent city came into view, Aldrian and Eleine marveled at the sight of the large and prosperous city. While Eleine had experienced many big cities, this was Aldrian's first time visiting such a place. Typically, elven cities maintained their culture and nature with structures based on natural elements,

especially trees. But here, they could see a harmonious combination of brick buildings and nature-based structures.

As they approached the tall root wall surrounding the city, Eldrin smiled and looked at Eleine and Aldrian.

"Welcome to Balin City."

Chapter 15 - Balin City

They kept flying through the city even though it was prohibited to fly above it. However, that rule only applied to those without a permit. Eldrin as one of the commanders of the Sylvaris family had the privilege to fly without obstruction.

When the city guards initially wanted to alert them to land, they immediately spotted the Sylvaris family symbol on the wyverns' chests and returned to their posts. The city itself was so vast that one needed to fly higher to see its entirety. It had four gates in each direction, with the busiest road running from north to south and vice versa.

Aldrian and the group approached from the west and flew to the center of the city, where a giant tree with structures beneath it stood. Eldrin landed on the flat land under the tree's shade and was greeted by the elves guarding the area.

"Welcome back, Commander!"

"At ease. Is the mayor in the mansion?"

"Yes, Commander, he is in the mansion, currently talking with a guest."

"A guest?"

"Yes, they said he came from the capital."

"The capital? That's unusual." He thought.

"All right."

Eldrin then walked past them followed by Aldrian and Eleine. Not far from him, Aldrian noticed a beautiful mansion built under the giant tree. The mansion itself was created from the roots of the tree. During their breaks, Eldrin had explained that due to their affinity with the forest and its energy, elves could control the development of the forest and create or recreate structures from it.

Legend said that elves were creatures born under the blessing of the Heavenly Tree of the World. The location of this tree was unknown, but this belief had been passed down for generations. When elves wanted to build a permanent settlement, they prayed for

the blessing of the Heavenly Tree of the World to create a World Tree at the center of their settlement.

It was said to be a token of blessing for their people, the larger the tree, the stronger the blessing, and the stronger the elves would become. However, if they were farther from the World Tree, their power would diminish. It's like—

"A *domain*." Aldrian thought, curious about the World Tree. Now, he stood under one of these World Trees—the World Tree of Balin City. Its shade covered 8 kilometers from the center of the city.

When they reached the front door of the mansion, the doorkeeper immediately opened it for them. Upon entering the mansion, Aldrian was surprised by the sight before him. He had expected the mansion to be full of nature-related elements, given that elves were creatures of nature. Instead, he saw smooth, clean white rock tiles, brick walls, and a beautiful hanging lamp on the ceiling. It resembled a typical luxurious mansion by human standards.

"Surprised?" Eldrin asked, noticing Aldrian's astonishment. Smiling, he thought of Aldrian as a peculiar person, different from his older sister. Unlike Eleine, Aldrian was more ignorant of the outside world. Eleine had mentioned that Aldrian spent most of his time training and cultivating with little knowledge of the world beyond. Eldrin wondered what kind of training Aldrian had undergone to develop such a killing intent but he didn't know and didn't want to know

"We elves have also adapted to human styles of living, It helps make other races comfortable when they stay here, but not all elves have adopted this style though."

Aldrian nodded. That made sense given that humans were the most populous race on the continent with a population of 150 billion, making up 70% of the total population.

Eldrin then brought Aldrian and Eleine to a luxurious VIP room on the second floor. After showing them the room he said, "Please wait here for a moment, my superior will meet you shortly."

"All right, Thank you for accompanying us Sir Eldrin." Eleine said.

"Oh no, it's my job. I hope you enjoy your stay here," he replied with a smile, then excused himself.

Aldrian looked around the room, noting the various pieces of furniture before walking towards the window. He gazed at the vast city outside in silence, still marveling at its enormity. With his new experiences and the time spent on the journey here, he closed his eyes to concentrate and feel more of the energy. This was how he trained himself—with self-comprehension and self-introspection, absorbing every tiny new experience he encountered. It was also how he tried to understand his visions.

I'm tied to the universe

I'm tied to nature

All of this is my own karma

Why I am different is also my destiny

Suddenly, he opened his eyes. A few moments later, he expressed his surprise, but before he could try to comprehend more—

Click.

The door of the room opened, and two handsome elves entered. One wore noble attire, and the other wore a monochrome suit like a butler. Aldrian put aside his surprise to look at them, trying to look the information about them.

Thalion Sylvaris

Age : 62.250 years

Race : Elf

Cultivation : Peak King

Cultivation technique : The world tree encompassing the world

Attack techniques :, The forest of doom, Root of death, The wrath of the spirit, Wooden dragon, Earth spike, Silent arrow, Homing arrow.

Defense technique : Earth wall, Roots wall

Supportingtechnique

: Blessing of the forest

Elthar Evergreen

Age : 81.363 years

Race : Elf

Cultivation : Low Emperor

Cultivation technique : The blessing of the heavenly tree

AttackTechniques : Swamp of the death, The forest of destruction, The wrath of the world tree, The curse of world tree, Wooden dragon, Earth spike, Homing arrow

Defensetechnique : Earth wall, Roots wall, Curse repellent shield

Movement technique : Wind path

Supportingtechnique : Blessing of the forest, Eyes of the Truth

"King stage and Emperor stage!" Aldrian was shocked by their information. He didn't feel any aura or pressure that usually comes with higher cultivation from them. He looked at Eleine, who stood up to show her respect, seemingly clueless about their level. He also noticed one of their surnames.

"Evergreen? From the imperial family?"

The two men smiled at them, and the one in noble attire raised his hand to shake hands.

"I'm sorry to keep you waiting. My name is Livrin Sylvaris, mayor of Balin City." he introduced himself. Eleine took his hand in a handshake, followed by Aldrian. The other elf stood in the corner like a statue, making Aldrian unsure how to react. Eleine was surprised that the mayor himself was receiving them, but it also made her nervous, wondering if something was wrong. She had never met the Balin City mayor in person, but here he was right in front of her.

Aldrian, who already knew their names, was confused by his introduction.

"Why is he hiding his identity? No wonder the energy surrounding them flows in such an orderly manner—the disguise technique, of course." Aldrian thought.

"I heard about what happened at the outpost from Eldrin. I will not ask for compensation for the Orb of Origin, so rest assured." 'Livrin' said.

"And I'm not going to ask your reason for your disguise. I will not only give you permission to settle but also grant you privileges. However, I want you to answer my question truthfully," he said, staring at Aldrian for a moment before returning his gaze to Eleine. Aldrian and Eleine were not surprised that their disguises were seen through by the man in front of them, he was a King stage cultivator and could see and sense more

accurately. They were however, confused by the generous offer but could do nothing but nod.

"How old are you?"

Aldrian and Eleine were stunned by his question. Why ask about their age?

"I'm 150 years old." Eleine said.

"I'm 12 years old." Aldrian said.

Livrin looked at Aldrian, his eyes trembling slightly before asking again.

"What were you doing two months and a week ago?"

Eleine felt more nervous than ever because that was the day they came out of the secret realm. However, given the situation, they had to tell the truth to avoid offending the mayor and making things difficult for them. Her young master's safety was her priority.

"To tell you the truth, at the said time, we had just come out of the secret realm from the Everlasting Silent Forest. We didn't do much and don't know much." Eleine replied.

When 'Livrin' heard her answer, there was a glint in his eyes and in those of the 'butler' before he gave them a smile.

"Okay, thank you for your cooperation and honesty. I'm sorry if we disturbed you, but it was a necessary process. We will provide you with accommodation as compensation during your stay in this city. Please feel free to enjoy Balin City of the Ivory Empire."

'Livrin' made a gesture of 'please' towards the door, which opened to reveal elf maids standing in front of it. Aldrian and Eleine also had questions in their minds.

"Just like that? You are asking our age and what we did? Your compensation? It should be ours since we destroyed your artifact." Aldrian thought.

"Thank you for your generosity Mayor Sylvaris, we appreciate it." Eleine said, bowing, followed by Aldrian. They were then guided to their accommodation by the maids. After they left leaving only the two elves behind, 'Livrin' asked his 'butler'.

"The chances are very likely the signs point to that boy. Even I can't read his karma, and his energy is unlike any other. I don't know how to describe it. Plus, a 12-year-old High Viscount? I have a feeling this continent will be in uproar amidst the rising tensions."

"Even you cannot read him?" 'Livrin' was shocked by the confession of the person in front of him. There was no one who could evade his eyes, which could peek into karma and even look into the glimpse of the future. So it surprised him that someone could not be seen by him, and that someone was a 12-year-old boy no less. It also made him tremble and shocked, 12 years old and a High Viscount? What nonsense is that? He began to lean towards believing that 'he' was the one they were looking for.

"By the way enough with our disguise, your city's mayor is still nervous waiting for us in his room."

"Well we didn't want to agitate our guests so we had to lower our status a bit right?" 'Livrin' and the 'buttlar' face suddenly change shape into another face different from before.

"Well whatever you want grand duke, please keep them safe and serve them to your utmost. I will report this to his majesty first"

"Will do your excellency."

While the two elves talked about their own topic, Aldrian and Eleine walked towards their accommodations with the maids. At this moment, Aldrian focused solely on the screen in front of him, because now he could check the sudden notice from earlier before the mayor came.

Integrating with the world tree of Balin City....10%