

The Shining Star Above The Heaven

Chapter 26 - One Slash 2

The Hydra is one of the most powerful magical beasts since ancient times. Legends say they are among the ancient divine beasts under the command of the ancient dragon god. According to legend, they have nine heads, their size enough to cover the sky, and the power to destroy the world with a single stomp. The one that appeared before Aldrian, though it only had three heads, was still a Hydra nonetheless. Its power was beyond what its cultivation level suggested.

Despite all the horror and legend surrounding the Hydra, Aldrian did not despair. Even though the Hydra in front of him was nearly ready to unleash its extraordinary attack, Aldrian closed his eyes and entered a state of deep comprehension. Inside his mind and senses, he could feel the entire energy within the domain and the power he could harness. He poured his concepts into his comprehension, focusing on the power he hoped to achieve with each attack of the technique he was creating.

"The attack must be enough to defeat the three-headed Hydra with Mid King stage cultivation. No, that's not right. The attack must be able to cut through whatever is in front of me, to bypass everything it touches, an attack infused with my will," he shaped his technique in his mind.

"There is nothing that can escape my will," he thought, pouring his mind into the technique. He touched his sword hilt and slowly began to unsheathe it. Unbeknownst to him, with each centimeter he drew his sword, phenomena began occurring throughout Balin City.

At this exact moment, Livrin was almost at Aldrian's location.

"Damn it! That Hydra is at Mid King Stage. I need to give my all if I want to contain that beast, and even then, there's no guarantee I can defeat it. Those devil bastards can summon a Hydra with that kind of power." Livrin almost wanted to scream in frustration at how the devils had this kind of trump card. If that beast were summoned inside Balin, he couldn't imagine the destruction it would cause.

He started to regret giving Aldrian the chance to face the dukes, but now was not the time for regrets, and he began to plan a contingency. Suddenly, he felt something from the sword at his waist. It started to vibrate and shake, and without his control, it unsheathed itself and floated, pointing in Aldrian's direction. He stopped moving and looked in that direction.

"This is Sword Will!" Livrin trembled. But that wasn't the end of it. He sensed a sudden huge concentration of energy and a strange aura at Aldrian's location. He looked at the

World Tree as he heard the rustling sound of its leaves. The World Tree seemed joyous as energy from the entire city began pouring in one direction. The entire populous city was stunned when this strange phenomenon occurred, with all the swords in the city trembling, unsheathing themselves, and pointing toward Aldrian.

Back at Aldrian's location, he had almost fully unsheathed his sword. The Hydra, with its intelligence, sensed something wrong with this puny human. The strange energy and aura exuding from the tiny human felt intimidating. The devils who tried to return to the city also stopped to look at him. They felt the sudden pressure and couldn't move, even the duke-stage devils felt heavy.

"What the hell is this?"

"The pressure is like being in the presence of a heavenly tribulation!"

"Move!" All the devils forced themselves to move, feeling trepidation as Aldrian was just moments away from unleashing his technique.

"Hurry, kill that man! Don't let him unsheathe his sword!" Arman screamed to the Hydra. He, who felt victory within his grasp, was horrified by the strange aura and pressure Aldrian exuded, akin to a divine presence. Sensing the danger if Aldrian successfully struck with his sword, the Hydra unleashed fire from its mouths. Black beams of fire shot toward Aldrian at incredible speed. Aldrian opened his eyes and, in a split second, with a shift of his will, teleported all the devils into the air behind the Hydra.

"One sword slash to end the past, present and future. 'The Slash of The End'" And it happened, He unleashed his technique, and with one slash the dark night instantly brightened with golden energy. The space in front of the slash collapsed, opening fissures along its track. The slash cut through the incoming black fire horizontally, all the way to the giant body of the Hydra. It sliced the Hydra in half right under the base of its neck.

The slash's energy continued until it obliterated the hundred thousand devils behind it into nothingness, leaving no time for them to scream or despair. The energy kept traveling, cutting through the tip of a mountain 700 kilometers north of Aldrian, causing it to collapse, and continued beyond the horizon.

At an unknown place, an old man sat cross-legged on top of a cliff, his shoulder-length hair blowing in the night wind. From afar, a large city could be seen, its lights creating a beautiful scene beneath the dark sky. He wore casual clothes and kept his aura hidden to avoid alerting any nearby presences.

The surrounding silence added to the serenity, accompanied only by the sound of the wind. Suddenly, he opened his eyes and looked up at the sky, his eyes trembling at

what he saw. The golden energy had split the clouds in half towards the horizon, with residual energy and aura still lingering in the air. He stood up and looked at the track the energy had passed, stretching beyond his perception.

A shadow suddenly appeared behind him, bowing.

"Did you feel that?" the old man asked.

"Yes, the tremendous energy and aura, and the strongest sword will I have ever seen," the shadow answered.

"I have met all kinds of swordmasters on this continent, but I have never felt this kind of sword will. I suddenly feel inferior in front of this technique. Even from here, I can sense the conviction and comprehension of the person who unleashed it. Maybe it's already above a Heaven grade technique," the old man said, still trembling. If what he said is true, then it will mark the birth of a legend because the continent has not seen a divine technique in a long time. He looked towards the horizon to the south and then to the north, where the energy slash had traveled.

"I order you to find this swordmaster. Perhaps we can invite them for guidance, this is a rare opportunity."

"As you wish," the shadow replied before disappearing. The old man continued gazing at the night sky, observing the aftermath of the cut.

At another unknown place, a man in a conical hat walked alone in the grassland. He stopped and looked at the sword on his waist, which trembled for a split second. He gazed in one direction, his eyes serene and showing no reaction.

"The one who can comprehend sword intent understands the true power of the sword and becomes one with the sword he wields. The one who comprehends sword will can imbue his own will into his sword intent," he mumbled to himself.

"The will of a swordmaster can be simple, yet it is difficult to materialize into sword will. You must truly comprehend the energy, the sword, and the concept of the technique," he continued, speaking to himself. He changed his direction, heading towards the source of the disturbance.

In the city of Balin, everyone stared in awe at the enormous energy slash that had split the Hydra and the distant mountain. The clouds in the sky were also split into two, showcasing the immense power of the slash unleashed from outside the city. The

cracks in space slowly began to mend themselves, closing the void visible to the naked eye.

The people of the city gasped, with some even prostrating in the direction of the slash's source, especially those closer to Aldrian. They felt as though divine judgment had arrived and were grateful to be alive. The Hydra lay limp and unmoving, its legendary regeneration halted—a sign that the slash had destroyed its beast core, the source of its life.

Livrin, who now close enough to see Aldrian clearly, stared at him as if he were a monster. His eyes shifted to the Hydra and then to the space behind it, where there used to be hundreds of thousands of devils. The scene of the hundreds of thousands of devil cultivators being suddenly teleported from the ground into midair and then obliterated by the slash was seared into his memory.

Aldrian looked at the aftermath of his technique and sighed. "If I hadn't directed my technique into the air, I'm afraid it would have cut through the entire landscape across its path." He examined his sword, noticing a tiny crack.

"The sword given by Father is truly admirable to have withstood this technique," he thought. Considering the scale of the technique he had just unleashed, the sword had held up well. He planned to find a good workshop to repair his sword or perhaps even improve it.

He sheathed his sword and looked at the unmoving Hydra before spreading his senses to the surrounding area to check for anomalies. Once he was sure there was nothing odd, he disappeared, leaving behind the aftermath of the great battle that would forever be etched in the minds of the people of Balin.

Chapter 27 - Pay a Visit to Norman

The night was still in its early phase, the moon not yet at her prime position in the sky. At this moment, the entire population of Balin stood outside their houses, looking at the direction of the battle. Some began approaching the scene and the Hydra's corpse. Even though the Hydra was dead, its residual aura still terrified them.

Despite that, many came closer to the corpse in hopes of seeing the powerhouse who killed it or perhaps appealing to their magnanimous heart for a piece of the Hydra's body. After all, many parts of its body could be useful for various purposes.

In front of the big building of Golden Swan Commerce, Norman stood, looking in the direction of the battle. He stared blankly, with only one thought in his mind, *"Are the devils fighting someone who can unleash that kind of slash? Who is that? Is it the elf emperor himself? But he is not a sword cultivator!"*

He began to panic. When the devils suddenly disappeared, he thought they had gone somewhere. Even when all the devils inside the Golden Swan Commerce tower vanished, he let it slide. But upon seeing the massive Hydra and the oddity of the situation, he realized that the devils had been in a fight and someone had discovered their operation.

"I have to get rid of our involvement with the devils." he thought. With this in mind, he rushed back to his room on the top floor. When he arrived and opened the door without hesitation, he was stunned to see another person already sitting in his seat, reading a book. A boy with black hair and a handsome face, with a laid-back expression, sat with one leg crossed over the other.

It was undoubtedly Aldrian. After defeating the Hydra, he had teleported there to look for evidence of Golden Swan Commerce's involvement. In a short time, he had already found the book he was looking for and was reading the part he wanted to know.

"The logbook!" Norman didn't care about the other's identity. He instantly rushed to seize the book from Aldrian's hands, his Marquess stage aura booming. Using his movement technique and fastest speed, he tried to grab the book. But before he could, his movement slowed, and his technique canceled on its own, causing him to be shocked. His body became heavy, and he dropped to the ground. He gritted his teeth and looked at the boy in front of him.

"He can control gravity! Gravity laws!" Norman screamed in his head.

"When I saw the devils in this city, I wondered how they could come here undetected. When I saw them gathered in your building and learned who you are, something came to my mind. And when I read the logbook, I understood." Aldrian said as he stood and walked toward Norman.

"No wonder the devils could quickly establish their foundation here. There is a legal entity helping them infiltrate this place." Aldrian then summarized what he read from the book.

"For the past three years, three packages of energy stones have arrived every two weeks. Sometimes, they were followed by sets of equipment to create artifacts. The energy stones were used as camouflage for the devils to infiltrate the city through the Golden Swan Commerce caravan. Nobody would be suspicious of the energy stones, and the reputation of Golden Swan Commerce made the checking process more lenient. So, you could bypass the orb of origin. My guess is you helped the devils with some kind of artifact to hide their devilish aura and souls."

Aldrian stopped to look into Norman's eyes for a moment before continuing.

"The sets of equipment to create artifacts aren't unusual, but you also included black rock. Black rock is one of the materials that can withstand devil energy. For devil

cultivators, it's a main ingredient for creating artifacts or altars, especially summoning artifact, because summoning artifact can only summon living beings, and you have to create the artifact from scratch." He stopped and looked at Norman again.

Even though Norman tried not to show it, his heart was already beating fast, and his mind was in chaos. As for how Aldrian knew about the material and its characteristics, he suddenly remembered one of his visions and felt the experience as if the knowledge was already ingrained in his brain.

"How did he know?! No, I must deny everything," Norman thought. But then he heard the boy in front of him say, "Deny everything, huh? It looks like I'm correct in my deduction." Norman trembled. "You can read my mind?!" he said with difficulty.

"Read your mind? Well, I can know your intent too if I want." Aldrian answered. He touched Norman's forehead and then said, "Look into my eyes." Norman was forced to look into Aldrian's eyes, and his vision began to blur. Aldrian then took out an information crystal that he had asked from Livrin before their operation started from his storage ring and placed it in front of Norman.

"Who are you?"

"I'm Norman Harris, the branch leader of Golden Swan Commerce in Balin."

"Do you know about the devils' existence who infiltrated Balin city?"

"Yes, I know."

"Does the headquarters of Golden Swan Commerce know about the devils' operation here?"

"Yes, they know, or at least the Harris family knows about it. I don't know about the others."

"Good." Aldrian then stopped his technique and released Norman, making him gasp in horror. He had answered those questions with his own awareness, unable to resist.

"Who are you really?! How do you do that? Why didn't the seal inside my head trigger?!"

"Well, there's no harm in telling you, but do you think I will just reveal it? Even if I tell you, you'll forget the next moment. I've already gotten what I wanted to know. After this, you will forget our conversation and do what you would normally do in this situation." Aldrian kept touching Norman's forehead and maintained the position for a few minutes before disappearing, leaving Norman unconscious.

Aldrian didn't teleport back to the mayor's mansion instantly but first stopped by the top of the world tree and sat cross-legged on one of its branches. He did it as if it were his

own home and not a sacred place of the elves. If the elves saw Aldrian casually sitting on top of one of the highest tree branches, they could charge him with blasphemy against the world tree. From here, he could see the entire city from end to end, with the glittering lights of buildings all over the city at night. However, he hadn't come here to enjoy the scenery.

"This incident will spread to many places, and from the way I see it, the devils' infiltration isn't specific to Balin but extends to other strategic cities within the Ivory Empire. With this situation, they will have to be more careful with their operations or even stop them for a while. The Evergreen family will know the situation and act according to what they find." He started thinking about his next move.

"I left Norman alone because if I act against him now, Golden Swan Commerce could use it to corner the elves by claiming they were falsely accused of colluding with the devils. Now that I have evidence and know their weaknesses, I can give it to the elves and let them act accordingly." He felt that the problem of devils in Balin could be considered resolved, leaving only Golden Swan Commerce as a lingering threat.

"As my gain, I acquired a few techniques to test, such as hypnosis and memory erasure. The battle with those devils taught me important lessons and gave me valuable experience. Thanks to them, I was able to create 'The Slash of The End,' even though it's still incomplete." He smiled, thinking about what he had gained from tonight's operation. His mind was already forming new techniques and comprehensions, leaving him satisfied with the result.

Then suddenly, Aldrian said to no one in particular, "To what do I owe this beautiful lady's visit in this place? You don't have to hide, I've sensed you since you first looked at me."

Aldrian waited for a moment before the silhouette of a woman appeared from behind one of the tree trunks.

Chapter 28 - The Balin World Tree's Spirit

A woman in a green dress came into Aldrian's view. Her beautiful face and golden hair were illuminated by the moon, adding to the beauty of the scenery in front of him. She had a slender body and proportionate bosom that could make men drool even at a glance. Her pointy ears looked like those of an elf, and anyone seeing her would think she was one. But Aldrian knew she was not.

The Balin World Tree's Spirit

Race : World Tree (Spirit)

Age : 2,760,000 years (The world tree), 650,000 years (Spirit)

Cultivation : High Emperor

Techniques : The Blessing of the World Tree, the whip of her root already enough to destroy everything.

While Aldrian looked at the woman, the woman, or rather the spirit, also looked at Aldrian to assess the human in front of her.

"It should be I who says that." the woman thought when Aldrian came to her real body and sat on one of its branches. She didn't dare to show herself and just watched him from afar. When she felt her area of blessing fusing with some kind of existence, she was alarmed and wanted to check. But before she could do that, she suddenly felt comfortable, as if she were coming back home, like she was under the shade and protection of the Heavenly Tree of the world.

That was until she saw the leaf that suddenly appeared from nowhere, and after he picked it up, she felt something inside her soul. Her instinct and deep within her soul told her that his existence was someone she should respect in the highest regard and that his presence here was a sign that he was ready to 'return.' Return from what? She doesn't know, inside her memory, there was a song that had been there since her birth, and she felt the urge to sing it, but in his presence, she didn't dare to make a ruckus. She had never felt anything like it before, so it confused her, and she didn't know what to make of it.

When she saw him battle the devils and the power he exuded, she knew he was an existence not to be taken lightly, even though he appeared to be only a viscount stage cultivator on the surface. When she finally stood in front of him, she felt an urge to avoid looking into his eyes and to prostrate herself, but she didn't want to make him uncomfortable in their first meeting. So, to make up for it, she just lowered her head to avoid looking into his eyes. The energy and aura surrounding Aldrian made her feel attracted to him, as if his energy was a natural supplement for her development, and she felt she needed to embrace it.

Aldrian who waiting for the lady to speak, saw that she seemed anxious. He smiled because he had already read her mind. He had tried to test his technique on her and succeeded, but that made him feel worse, so he decided to start his introduction.

"I'm sorry if I disturbed you somehow. I just wanted to stop by here to clear my mind. My name is Aldrian Aster. May I know who this lady is, standing on one of the highest points of the world tree?" Although he already knew her origin, he still needed to ask her. Without looking at him, she answered.

"If anyone should apologize, it should be me. I'm sorry to disturb you, young master Aldrian. I am the spirit of this world tree, honored by your presence here." Her answer made Aldrian stunned.

"Honored? Why do you think that? Isn't this our first time meeting? And moreover, you don't know me." Aldrian asked.

"Yes, but your presence triggered something inside my soul, opening a new feeling within me, like a program that was already there without my knowledge."

"Triggered something, huh? So, what do you think I am?"

"You are an existence I should respect, even worship. I'm not exaggerating. Your energy and aura are so pure and holy that I doubt you are really human and not some higher being. I have no doubt that your energy will help my development to a higher level without bottleneck." She answered.

Aldrian pondered for a moment. He looked at the screen, now called one of his Eye of the Heaven abilities. He then touched his upper abdomen, right on his dantian, where his energy was stored.

"Is this also a clue to my uniqueness and its origin?" he thought.

Sometimes, he still questioned why he was different from others. That kind of thinking grew stronger after he ventured into the outside world from the secret realm. He knew his ability was absurd and there was no way that kind of ability was common outside. Call him arrogant, but he felt that way after he met the devils. There was no way that, at his cultivation level, he could defeat enemies with stronger cultivation by not just one realm but multiple realms!

"Let's think about it. I can comprehend anything quickly and easily. I feel like there is no bottleneck for my cultivation, and it's different too. I don't have to cultivate in seclusion and follow the cultivation technique. I can sense all things and feel like I control them. Also, the domain ability is like a cheat ability, and this lady said she wants to worship me in my presence. What is this power? What am I?" Aldrian sighed and stopped thinking. He felt he was touching the fundamental mysteries of his power origin and himself, so close yet so far.

The spirit lady, waiting for his response, heard his voice.

"You don't have to avoid looking at my face, miss spirit. It's uncomfortable for me if you have to avoid my eyes when we are talking."

She lifted her head to look into his blue eyes, mesmerized by them from this close distance.

"You know, miss, may I know your name? I feel bad calling you only miss spirit," Aldrian said.

"I don't have a name. Since I was born, I have lived alone here and seldom contacted other world trees. Most of the time, I give blessings to those elves who consider me a holy place. They also haven't given me a name." She answered.

"Hmm, then if it's not rude, can I give you a name so I can call you comfortably?"

"It would be an honor to receive a name from you."

"Then how about I call you Olivia? I think it's a good name." Aldrian suggested. She, who got the name suggestion, smiled and felt happy inside, lowering her head in response.

"Then my name shall be Olivia from now on." Aldrian looked at Olivia with a satisfied smile but then turned his gaze to the screen.

Olivia (The Balin World Tree's Spirit)

Race : The World Tree

Age : 2,760,000 years (The world tree), 650,000 years (Olivia)

Cultivation : High Emperor

Technique : The Blessing of the World Tree, The whip of her root already enough to destroy everything

The information change was a first for him, but he was not surprised and considered it a matter of course. It confirmed that this ability showed the live information of the person he saw.

"Then, Miss Olivia, if it's not rude, may I ask for some of your time? It's not been long since I arrived in the Ivory Empire, and precisely in Balin. I only have Eleine as my guardian to talk to, and I don't have any friends here. So can you be my friend to talk to for now? Can you tell me stories or whatever information I might need to note? It's good to have more information for my future journey." Aldrian said.

"Of course, I will tell you anything you want, young master, and don't consider this as you burdening me. It's also my happiness to talk to someone and not be alone." They sat comfortably and started to talk about many things. The moonlight and glittering stars

accompanied their conversation. Sometimes their giggles and laughter could be heard, but of course, no one else was around to hear them.

Aldrian was also not worried about the aftermath of the devils hunt operation. He believed Livrin would take care of it, and he had already told Eleine not to worry. Perhaps because Olivia had lived for so long, she knew many things, and Aldrian was continually amazed by her knowledge. They kept talking, not caring about the time, and before they knew it, the sun was already preparing to show itself from the east. Aldrian looked at the sunrise and smiled before turning to Olivia.

"It's been a pleasure talking with you about so many things, Miss Olivia. It's been very helpful to me, and I'm very grateful to you," Aldrian said.

"Oh no, the pleasure is mine. Talking to you is my pride and honor. You can visit me anytime if you need something, and I will try to help you as much as I can."

"Then I will head back to the mayor's mansion first. I need to see if there is any new information." With that, he teleported back to his room in the mayor's mansion. Olivia just stood there, looking at the place where Aldrian had disappeared.

"It was indeed a nice conversation." She smiled while fixing her hair behind her ears. She closed her eyes and relaxed her body to enjoy the morning wind.

Chapter 29 - The Return of The Imperial Envoy

In his room, Aldrian sat on his bed with his head resting on the headboard. He straightened his legs and closed his eyes. His conversation with Olivia had been fruitful, providing him with many pieces of information and clues. He took out the odd leaf he had found on the street the night before yesterday and looked at it.

"Now I have confirmed that the woman in my vision when I picked this leaf is also a spirit, and if I have to guess, she is also a spirit of a world tree. Her language is the same as Olivia's, but which world tree? That giant world tree that is so high I can't sense the top? From the way she spoke, she also knows me." he pondered.

"Also, the one who made the artifact to hide the devils' energy must be a blacksmith master who is at least at the Emperor stage, to elude even Olivia. There are a few of them, but they have a similarity, they are from the Dwarf race and located in the Forgeheart Kingdom, the kingdom of the dwarves." There are many blacksmith masters throughout the continent, but only a few of them are at the Emperor stage and can make artifacts that can elude the senses of an Emperor stage being like Olivia. Olivia suspected a few of them, but they were all from the Kingdom of the Dwarves, the Forgeheart Kingdom.

"And one of them has been missing for twelve years. The one who is missing can be most suspected for now, but whoever it is that made those artifacts, if we catch him, we can cripple the devils' plans significantly."

Aldrian's mind kept working, and before he knew it, he had already fallen asleep in the same position. His mind and mental faculties had been working nonstop for two days. With many comprehensions and things in his mind at the same time, it could be dangerous for others because they could develop inner demons, but he didn't know it. Well, because he couldn't feel it. His mind just rested for itself to remind Aldrian that he also needed a rest.

In one part of Balin city, there was a place that was always bustling with activity and people passing by. Almost the entire city of Balin was like that, but this place was special. It was located not far from the mayor's mansion and still under the shade of the world tree. The place was like a plaza, but it wasn't because in the center of it there were five structures shaped like giant standing circles with complex formations under them.

In the center of the circles, the space was wobbly and had a light blue color like a curtain, and usually many people could be seen coming out or entering it. For many, this was an essential thing on this continent, and that was the teleportation station. The size of the continent was so big that most people who lived here would never have a chance to travel across the entire continent in their lifetime. The existence of the teleportation station significantly helped the mobilization of people and goods throughout the continent.

But the teleportation station had its downside. Due to the complexity of the formation and the need for this device to operate 24 hours a day, it required a huge amount of energy and strict maintenance by formation masters and forge masters. The energy itself could be supplied by energy stones, each person who used the teleportation service had to pay a certain amount of energy stones. The further your destination, the more expensive the fare.

At this moment, the place that should be bustling with a crowd of people was eerily quiet, with many soldiers from Balin patrolling the area. The accident last night was a shocking event, and news of it had already started to spread to the closest cities, towns, and even villages. The mayor of Balin had given orders for the teleportation station to reduce its operations and to more strictly check every person coming out of the teleportation station. He felt the devils would quickly catch wind of their failure, so he was preparing for their next move in Balin.

The elven soldiers of Balin formed lines in front of one of the teleportation devices, like they were in some kind of ceremony, with Livrin standing at the front. Suddenly, a few people in knight armor with golden tree symbol on their chest plates emerged from the

wobbly space, followed by two others. If Aldrian saw them, he would recognize them instantly by their names.

"Attention!" Livrin shouted when he saw those two elves.

"At ease, mayor Livrin. I already received your report. Let's take a look at the site first," said one of the elves with silver hair. He was Grand Duke Thalion Sylvaris, his voice sounding solemn. When he heard the report that devils had infiltrated Balin and summoned a Hydra, he jumped from his cultivation session and rushed to prepare an army in Sylvaris city, the capital of Sylvaris Grand Duchy.

He feared he might be too late because a mid-king stage Hydra was too much for Balin. However, he was shocked to hear that the problem had already been solved by the same boy he had met the previous day. He instantly reported the situation to the imperial family, who were also shocked. The imperial teacher who heard it volunteered to look into the situation.

Without much delay, they rushed to the Hydra corpse, now guarded by Balin city soldiers. The place still attracted many curious onlookers from various races who wanted to see the rare beast and the remnants of the devils, of which nothing remained. When Livrin's entourage arrived, there was still a crowd of people surrounding the line made by the soldiers.

Thalion and the imperial teacher Elthar, looked solemnly at the corpse and the destruction caused by Aldrian's battle. From the lingering aura that still remained, they could imagine the technique Aldrian had unleashed.

"Amazing! I have never seen this kind of sword technique. Even the remaining aura of the sword here can give sword cultivators enlightenment and new comprehension," Elthar said. His words were not false, as among the crowd, there were a few sword cultivators meditating to comprehend the remnants of Aldrian's sword will. Even at that moment, across the path of slash energy, some sword cultivators meditated to deepen their comprehension. The sharp aura could be felt so strongly that others felt like their bodies were being slashed many times if they got too close.

Thalion and Elthar then looked at the distant mountain 500 kilometers away, noting how its peak had collapsed, creating a flat land full of sword will remnants. Even from that distance, they could feel the same power emanating from this place, and the remnant energy kept traveling to the sky, extending beyond their sense and perception. Elthar closed his eyes to try to feel the sword will, but what he sensed from the remnants was a complex technique with many comprehensions fused into one.

"Yes, he must be the one! There is no way an ordinary Viscount stage cultivator could unleash this kind of technique." Unlike others who doubted Aldrian's cultivation level, Thalion firmly believed Aldrian was still at the Viscount stage, and he had his own reasons for that belief.

They inspected the area for a few minutes before Elthar turned to Livrin.

"Where is that boy? I mean, where is that esteemed person right now?" Elthar asked.

"He has not yet returned to the mansion this morning, but his older sister said we need not worry because he will come back on his own. Let me check right now." Livrin then took out a communication device and contacted the mayor's mansion. After a few moments, he seemed surprised and relayed the information.

"He is already in his room now, but I think he is resting."

"Good, don't disturb him. I want to talk to him later. For now, let's investigate the devils in Balin. Where are the devil prisoners?" Elthar asked.

"They are in the city's dungeon. We have already sealed their cultivation and taken away their means of escape. Thanks to young master Aldrian's accurate information, we successfully captured those devils without fail."

"Nice. I really want to punish them for daring to infiltrate my territory," Grand Duke Sylvaris said. Truthfully, he felt it was also his negligence not to realize the devils' scheme in such a strategic place like Balin, which was under his grand duchy. He could already imagine how it might be used against him by the Grand Duke Maelis faction. He felt humiliated and enraged that they had almost fallen into the devils' plot and wanted to torture the devils for this. They then moved to the city's dungeon, where Balin's authorities usually held criminals.

Meanwhile, Aldrian was still resting in his room, oblivious to all the events happening outside. When he finally opened his eyes, it was already noon.

Chapter 30 - Conversation With The Imperial Teacher 1

Aldrian stared at the ceiling for a moment and sighed.

"It looks like I was so tired that I fell asleep." He scratched his head and stood up to stretch his body.

"But it's also good for me, I feel so much refreshed after a good sleep." He walked towards the balcony of his room to look at the scenery outside. The wind greeted his face as he stood outside, gazing at Balin. He spread his sense to his domain to assess the situation in the entire city. The city had already come to grips with what happened last night, and many talks and rumors were already spreading everywhere.

Some said the devils tried to seize Balin because they found hidden treasure there. Others claimed the great cultivator who defeated the hydra was one of the ten great swordmasters of the continent. Even rumors of orthodox and unorthodox cultivators being in cahoots with the devils circulated. Such rumors colored conversations since

last night, continuing to grow. Despite this, the Balin authorities remained silent, only instructing people to continue their usual activities and reassuring them that the devil problem had been solved.

Aldrian could hear some of these conversations and found them amusing. He also noticed people trying to comprehend his sword will remnant, hoping they wouldn't hurt themselves trying to understand it. The remnant contained many of his comprehensions of energy and laws and also a simple yet difficult-to-materialize concept.

Knock knock

He heard a knock on his room door and turned to look at it before moving to open it. When he opened it, he saw a maid bowing and said to Aldrian,

"Young master, sorry if I'm disturbing you, but there is a gue—"

"There's no need to tell him. I'm the one who wants to talk to him, so I should be the one to come." The elf with golden hair and a short beard suddenly interrupted. The maid, who was about to report something, was shocked and bowed her head. Aldrian, seeing her reaction, was also stunned when he recognized the information of the elf in front of him.

"He is Elthar Evergreen without disguise?" he thought. But he cupped his hands to show respect.

"May I know who this mister is?" Aldrian asked.

"Ah yes, this is our first 'real' meeting after all. Let me introduce myself. I'm Elthar Evergreen, an envoy from the Evergreen imperial family. You can call me whatever you feel comfortable with."

Aldrian pretended to be shocked and instantly bowed his head. "This one feels humbled by your presence. I don't dare recklessly call your name, your excellency. I don't think I deserve such an honor from the Evergreen imperial family. If there is something you need, please tell me. I will try to fulfill it."

"Hahaha, no, no. It is we who should be grateful to you. Because of you, we prevented a major disaster that could have befallen this city. So, I represent the Evergreen imperial family, especially his majesty the emperor, to show our gratitude to you, little Aldrian. May I call you that?"

"Of course, you can call me whatever you want. It's just my duty to prevent the worst from happening, especially when it involves the devils. I feel it's my responsibility as a good cultivator, your excellency."

"What a humble young man you are. Strong and with an upright character, you embody the qualities a cultivator should have. Sigh, I wish those nobles had the same character as you." Elthar lamented. Aldrian, hearing his lament, remained silent.

"By the way, little Aldrian, can you accompany me for a walk?"

"Of course, your excellency." Aldrian said, glancing at Eleine, who had come out of her room and stood behind him.

"It's okay, older sis. I will be fine on my own."

"It must be Miss Eleine. You don't have to worry, Miss Eleine. I just want to borrow little Aldrian for a while and have a conversation with him." Elthar said with a smile, then started walking away, followed by Aldrian. Eleine watched them leave, lost in her thoughts.

"Isn't that the imperial teacher of the Evergreen imperial family? I don't think this is a small matter. Maybe the devil incident really shocked the imperial family. But why did the imperial teacher himself come?" She couldn't fathom the real situation but thought the presence of the imperial teacher was too much.

Aldrian and Elthar arrived at the garden behind the mansion. When there were only two of them, they sat on chairs facing each other with a small table in between. Elthar started the conversation.

"What do you think of the Ivory Empire?"

"I think I can't really answer that question because I haven't yet ventured through the entire Ivory Empire. But from my experience in Balin, even though it's not all rainbows in this city, the situation is peaceful, and many enjoy it."

"Yes, despite some shortcomings, peace is maintained, and the elves can live their lives here without disturbance or discrimination. In some places on this continent, elves can be hunted by others."

"That is horrible and unfortunate."

"Yes, despite our race's nature to lean more towards peace, the world is still filled with some bad seeds. So, we need the strength to protect our race from them. But on the other hand, because of them, we have strong bonds between family members and a greater appreciation for family, especially for elves whose population is not as large as humans." Elthar said, looking at Aldrian.

"If you don't mind me asking, where are your parents, or who are your parents, little Aldrian?" Elthar asked.

"My parents left me when I was a little child, leaving me and my older sister. So, I don't know where they are. As for who they are, I don't really know them, but I think they were just ordinary cultivators." Aldrian answered, lying through his teeth without batting an eye. However, Aldrian also felt a little truth in his answer. He really didn't know much about his parents' families. He only knew their names but not their family names, which didn't help because many had similar names. Whenever he tried to ask about their families, they always dodged the question with something else, so he let them be.

"I will learn about them now that I'm outside." he thought.

"I'm sorry if I made you remember an unpleasant memory," Elthar said.

"No, it's okay. That is already in the past."

"Then, what are your plans for the future?"

"As for now, I plan to venture out into the continent, wandering many places to widen my knowledge and view, so I don't have any specific purpose." Aldrian answered.

"That is also a good plan, to experience new things and broaden your perspective. But, little Aldrian, just for the Ivory Empire, you will need a long time to gain full experiences in all areas because its territory is so vast."

"That is true."

"So, I have a proposal for you. How about we provide all the necessary accommodations for you and your older sister to stay, and all your needs while you experience our empire?" Elthar suggested.

Aldrian, hearing the proposal, felt confused. *"Why is the imperial family being so accommodating towards us? It's also the same here in the mayor's mansion—ah, I see. Since the beginning, our preferential treatment is because of the imperial family, but why are they so concerned about us?"* he thought. He then tried to read the imperial teacher's mind and saw something strange. There was some kind of barrier surrounding Elthar's body, and Aldrian knew what it was.

"This is karma laws. He created a karma barrier to prevent unwanted karma from touching him." This was new to Aldrian and showed how profound Elthar's comprehension of karma laws was. He could try to breach the barrier, but it would alert Elthar, so he refrained from doing so.

"Is he the one elf who comprehends karma?" Without showing any of this on his face, he answered Elthar's proposal.

"It is an honor to receive such treatment from the imperial family, but may I know what the catch is? I know that with this kind of treatment, the imperial family wants something from us in return."

"Such a young man with a smart and mature demeanor. I really like you, little Aldrian. Yes, we need something from you."

"If it is within my power, I will help." Aldrian answered.

"Oh, it's nothing grand. We just need you to stay in the Ivory Empire's capital, Evergreen City, or at least within our empire's territory, for as long as possible."