

The Shining Star Above The Heaven

Chapter 50 - Talk With The Archbishop 3

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Aldrian was also stunned but remained silent.

"Isn't that the same as the end of the church's legacy? What happened?" Princess Sylphia asked.

"We actually don't know the cause. How could we? That's something only the heavens themselves would know. The lack of purity and its continued deterioration have already endangered our church. Some of us even believe that the heavens have abandoned us. Now you see how dire our situation is," Archbishop Ravin said.

Aldrian finally understood how grim the church's situation was. A religious group like the followers of the Heavenly Direction Church built their foundation on their belief in the mighty heavens. But what happens if the followers start doubting their foundation? What if the deterioration of their holy energy is because the heavens have abandoned them?

Their power would collapse. Many of their followers would develop inner demons, going mad as those inner demons took control. The church's legacy, which has existed for millions of years, would be cut off.

This situation was also alarming because of the prophecy about the continent and the possibility that the devils were the source of the threat. All of this made the church anxious and impatient, desperate for their messiah to appear as soon as possible.

"Do you know the prophecy we shared with the continent's powerhouses 14 years ago?" Archbishop Ravin asked.

"The darkness shrouds heaven and earth, the horror of death follows behind it, the peace of the land is no more, and neither life nor death can escape from it," Aldrian recited.

"Yes, and as you know, darkness is often associated with the devils. We suspect it has something to do with them. We only shared this prophecy with those who wield power, like emperors and high-ranking nobles, to avoid causing chaos among the populace and to avoid alerting the enemy."

Aldrian nodded. He also suspected that the devils were planning something for the future.

"We've already prepared for the unexpected, but it's not optimal. Our power isn't what it used to be. Things have worsened in recent years, and the foreign element in our holy energy has truly tainted it. At times, our holy energy can't even fully repel devil energy because of this."

"Then what is my role in your prophecy? What does my golden energy have to do with it?" Aldrian asked.

"This is where you, Sir Aldrian, might play a crucial role. We received another prophecy after the phenomenon 12 years ago that we've never shared with non-members. Even those below the rank of bishop don't know this. Our Saintess received a revelation that said, 'The light will descend, and at that time, the darkness will tremble, and the light will shine upon the land. Those who do not follow the light will perish.'" Archbishop Ravin looked at Aldrian intently.

"You, with the purest holy energy and its immense power, appeared suddenly when we were in the midst of confusion and uncertainty. Your existence might be a sign that the heavens have not abandoned us."

Aldrian began to connect the dots.

"The sudden appearance of someone like me would boost their morale and faith in what's to come. The emergence of the purest holy energy would be seen as a sign that the prophecy of the light is their messiah. They'll find salvation, and the church can maintain its existence."

"Now that I've explained all of this, you understand how important your existence is to us. There may be a chance for our holy energy to be purified as it once was, or perhaps even for our holy energy to become like yours," Archbishop Ravin said.

"What an optimistic thought," Aldrian mused.

"Then, what do you want me to do? You don't expect me to become your leader or something like that, right?" The entire church delegation nearly choked at Aldrian's joke. Asking him to be the Pope? Normally, they would be furious at someone for joking about such a position, but they knew the person in front of them was not someone they could afford to offend.

"You jest, Sir Aldrian. We simply wish to ask you to come to our headquarters in our main territory and demonstrate your abilities to the believers. What we need right now is a morale boost for our followers. We must quell their anxiety and prevent them from being consumed by doubt. The members of the church

will surely be thrilled if they see someone possessing holy energy with such purity and strength—something never seen before," answered Archbishop Ravin.

"So, I'm to reveal myself at the headquarters, and eventually, the entire continent will know of my existence?" Aldrian asked.

"Yes, we'll arrange it so that you come at our invitation, under the pretense that we found you through guidance from the heavens. This will prevent any members who aren't yet aware of your identity from questioning your legitimacy. The person with the purest holy energy will demonstrate his capabilities. It will also serve as a deterrent to the devils, should they become aware of your existence."

Aldrian began to ponder the situation, unaware of the anxious expression on Eleine's face behind him.

"The church's main territory borders the Vindas Empire, the Doria Empire, and even the territories of the Grand Duchy of Rivas and the Grand Duchy of Flamecrest. I'm afraid that if Young Master Aldrey or Lady Irene catches wind of this, they might follow us," she thought.

If news come out that the church has invited someone with the purest and strongest holy energy—energy that surpasses even that of high-ranking members or the Pope—she feared it would cause immense trouble for Aldrian.

The information would undoubtedly reach Irene and Aldrey, and since their families have connections to the church, they would seek out the person in question. Even with their disguises, Eleine couldn't underestimate the instinct of parents. And then there was Aldrian himself. With his intelligence and resourcefulness, he could easily discover the origin of his parents and pursue them.

She could only imagine what would happen if Aldrian's existence were revealed to his family. Given the capabilities and personalities of Aldrian and his parents, she feared it would lead to chaos between the two grand duchies—and possibly even the two empires.

While Eleine was thinking about how to convince Aldrian to decline the church's invitation, Aldrian's thoughts were elsewhere.

"If the church's plan is to make my appearance known across the continent, that will cause me problems," Aldrian mused. *"Even now, many are still searching for the person who defeated the hydra, and if someone with the purest holy energy suddenly appears, it will create another sensation. Not to*

mention, if they realize it's the same person who defeated the hydra, the devils will be alarmed about my presence. It's still too early for them to know I exist." He sighed deeply.

Eleine was about to send a voice transmission to him, but Aldrian spoke first.

"It's not that I don't want to help, but I have my own circumstances. The way you're planning to announce my appearance will only bring me trouble. It's like painting a target on my back. I don't want to be in the limelight right now—"

"You don't want to be in the limelight? If that's the case, then we can discuss further—"

"Let me finish," Aldrian interrupted with a sigh. "I also have an agreement with the Evergreen imperial family, so I'll need to inform them about this matter. They'll have their own perspective on it, and you'll also need to discuss it with them."

When the delegation heard this, they realized the situation was more complicated than they had anticipated. From the way Aldrian spoke, it seemed that the Ivory Empire also had an interest in this 'young man' and would likely support him. Archbishop Ravin felt a wave of frustration; dealing with the Evergreen family would be tricky, but they still needed Aldrian to come to their headquarters and demonstrate his golden energy and capabilities.

As Aldrian waited for their decision, he sensed an intense gaze fixed on him, like a hawk watching its prey. He turned to find the source of the stare and met the piercing blue eyes of a handsome young-looking man.

Arthur Maximilian

Age : 36.264 years

Race

: Human

Cultivation : Peak King

Cultivation technique : Heavenly Light Enveloping The World

Attack techniques : Sword's Judgment, Guardian Angel, Heavenly Slash, Heavenly Stab, The Heavenly Sword of Destruction.

Defense technique : The Light of Guardian

Supporting techniques : Heavenly Aura, Heaven's Blessing

"He's quite 'young' to be at the Peak King stage. He must be a talented genius," Aldrian thought to himself.

"Do you have something to say to me, knight of the church?" Aldrian asked, catching everyone off guard. The others turned to look at Arthur, the one Aldrian had addressed.

"I'm just here as a guardian. I don't deserve to give my opinion," Arthur replied.

"Is that so? Then why, after all this discussion, do I still sense your doubt about me?" Aldrian's voice was calm but probing.

Arthur was stunned. Could this 'boy' read his thoughts? He remained silent for a moment before finally speaking.

"To tell you the truth, I'm not entirely convinced that you're the one who defeated the hydra. Even though you possess the purest holy energy, the sword will I sensed at that site was complex in comprehension yet rooted in a simple concept—truly remarkable for producing such a slash technique. But you... I really can't see how you did it. I've tried repeatedly to see your true self, but all I see is a Viscount stage boy with some tricks."

Archbishop Ravin and the others from the church were shocked by Arthur's bold words. The Archbishop hurriedly began to apologize, "Sir Aldrian, I'm sorry about Art—" He stopped abruptly as Aldrian raised his hand, signaling for him to stop. Aldrian continued to look at Arthur, a smile appearing on his face for the first time during this meeting.

"So, what does Sir Knight want to do since you don't believe this 'Viscount stage boy' could have created that sword will? Do you have a suggestion?" Aldrian asked.

Arthur held Aldrian's gaze, unflinching.

"Fight me."