

The Shining Star Above The Heaven

#Chapter 81: 90

The Aftermath - Read The Shining Star Above The Heaven Chapter 81: The Aftermath

Chapter 81: The Aftermath

Aldrian hadn't expected such a question. He looked at the elf who had accompanied him for most of his time in the Ivory Empire. He already considered Sylphia a friend, part of his family, someone he cared for. They often talked about their adventures and experiences, but never about women.

He was at a loss for how to answer. Did he like that type of woman? Aldrian knew what she meant—she must be referring to Arin. From the outside, Arin's clothes might resemble something a prostitute would wear, but he never judged someone based on appearances. Now, with Sylphia's question, was she asking if he liked women who wore scanty clothes?

He is also human, a man, and he hasn't reached the point where he sees worldly lust as nothing more than flowing water, he'd be lying if he said he had no reaction when seeing a woman like that. Did he like it? Of course! For him, it's just another way to give his eyes some enjoyment.

But restraint and self-control were crucial. He didn't want to be ruled by his own lust, didn't want to become a slave to his desires. He had to remain in control.

Sylphia blushed after asking the question. She didn't know why, but seeing the way Arin dressed and interacted with Aldrian had made her wonder. Did Aldrian like that style of clothing? She wasn't naive—she knew men often enjoyed seeing women dressed provocatively for their own entertainment. She simply wanted to know if Aldrian felt the same way.

Aldrian coughed and looked at Sylphia.

"Well, if you're asking if I like women like Miss Arin's type, I have to say I don't judge people by their appearance. I need to know what kind of person someone is before I can decide if I like them or not. Maybe her style of dress isn't appropriate for some, but I'm more interested in who Miss Arin is as a person—her personality, her morality, and so on. Not the way she dresses." He finally gave his answer, though it was a diplomatic one.

"So, if someone dresses like a harlot, you can still not like them if they're not good people by your standards? And also vice versa?" Sylphia asked, her curiosity growing.

"Of course," Aldrian replied, sipping his tea.

"Hmm, I see. Then do you prefer a good woman in revealing clothes, or a good woman in more appropriate attire?"

Aldrian almost choked for the second time. He could tell Sylphia was digging for more precise information about his preferences, but this level of detail? He hesitated, then decided to read her thoughts. Though it felt inappropriate and he disliked breaching her privacy, he needed to understand why she was suddenly asking such specific questions.

When he reached her mind, he was stunned for a moment before retracting his technique. Aldrian smiled and looked at Sylphia with a gentle expression.

"I like them all," he said calmly. "If a woman wants to wear loose clothes, that's fine. If she prefers something more appropriate, that's fine too. But here's the thing: I may not seem like it, but I'm quite possessive. I prefer a woman who knows how to present herself respectfully in public. When we're alone, though, she can wear whatever she wants. That's just my opinion."

Sylphia listened closely as Aldrian continued.

"But Sylphia, you don't have to be anyone else. You're perfect as you are. I'll like whatever you wear, even—"

Before he could finish, Sylphia's face turned bright red with embarrassment. She quickly stood up and stomped her foot.

"Aldrian, you scoundrel! I didn't ask if you like the way I dress!" she shouted, too flustered to meet his gaze. With a swift movement technique, she dashed away from the scene.

When he read her mind, he found that Sylphia was curious about his preferences and wanted to try to make him more comfortable and closer to her. He smiled at her effort to make him happy, but on the other hand, this could lead to something else.

He wondered if Emperor Ladwin and Empress Elaria knew their daughter could be so forward with him. This could easily turn into something serious, but he sighed and decided to let nature take its course. For now, he would enjoy the time he had to relax more freely.

After their meeting, Arin wasted no time in informing her sect, and soon enough, the news reached the other two great sects. The events in Dual Horns Peak City were too significant to stay confined.

When the sect's higher ups learned what Aldrian had done and the conditions he had set, they immediately agreed to the first two terms. As for the last two, they wanted to meet with Aldrian personally to either negotiate or make a final decision.

When Arin heard that, she release sigh of relief, fortunately they don't instantly reject his demand. Sometimes they are quite stubborn if it's the matter of their pride as the demonic cultivator and will not let anyone even threaten even an ounce of their kind.

That very same day, envoys from the three great sects arrived in the city. They publicly declared the Yu family innocent, while branding the city lord's manor as guilty for collaborating with the devils. They also announced that the city lord's manor, in league with the devils, had orchestrated the Yu family massacre.

When the people of the city heard this, it caused an uproar. The city lord's manor, which many had never suspected of being involved with devils, was revealed to be the true betrayer. Many citizens had long found the circumstances surrounding the Yu family massacre suspicious, and now their doubts were confirmed—raising even louder voices of protest throughout the city.

At the same time, the three great sects launched a purge operation to cleanse the city of any remaining devils. This operation caused further shock, as most of the citizens had no idea that devils had been hiding among them all along.

With all the actions taken by the three great sects, many people began to believe that the destruction of the western peak the previous night was also their doing. It was no surprise, given that the expert responsible was powerful enough to slay a middle Emperor-stage beast and obliterate an entire mountain.

These events marked the second day of Aldrian's stay in the city, which had now been set ablaze with action. As for Aldrian, he decided to take a leisurely stroll to enjoy what he couldn't the day before. While walking through the city, he observed various attractions and occasionally saw the ongoing purges carried out by the three great sects.

While wandering through the outer district, where many people bustled by, Aldrian's attention was drawn to a man was stabbed to death and pinned to the wall of a building. Upon closer inspection, Aldrian raised an eyebrow in recognition—it was Commander Jin. It seemed his fate had been sealed. This wasn't the first such scene Aldrian had come across; similar executions were scattered throughout the city.

He didn't dwell on it, nor was he concerned about the remaining devils within the city. With the power of the three great sects and the information he had provided, Aldrian was confident that the city would soon be rid of them.

On the third day, the envoys informed Arin that they wished to meet with Aldrian. They decided to extend a formal invitation to Aldrian as a special guest at the upcoming

tripartite meeting between the three great sects, which would be held the following week.

The meeting was directly connected to the devil infiltration and the recent events in Dual Horns Peak City. They decided to hold the meeting at the Thorny Flower Garden, considering it was much closer.

Arin, of course, happily escorted them to the Yu family manor. When they arrived at the Yu family manor, they noticed the family's sign had already been restored to its place on the front gate, signaling their name had been cleared. From inside the manor, they could hear the cheerful sounds of children playing, a stark contrast to the somber atmosphere that had loomed just days before.

Upon entering, they found that the Yu family manor had mostly been restored to its former state. Although a few areas still needed repairs, the overall structure was functional again. The envoys were then led to the same pavilion where Aldrian had previously met with Arin.

Aldrian, as the host, was already waiting for them in his new red-black robe, which he had bought the day before. He chose to follow the local custom by wearing a robe instead of the noble clothes typically used by northern noble families.

The envoys, like everyone who saw him for the first time, were shocked by how young he looked. They had also heard that he was only at the Earl stage, which they found hard to believe. Who would accept such a claim?

The envoys who came this time were no joke; all of them were at the low Emperor stage and held high standing in their respective sects. With that in mind, they finally met the man who had caused all this uproar.

Chapter 82: The Envoys of the Three Great Sects

"The elders have taken a long journey. Please, have a seat," Aldrian said, cupping his hands in greeting as he stood to face the envoys from the three great sects.

After they sat, the envoys once again inspected Aldrian. Arin, who had escorted them, quickly stepped forward to stand beside him.

"Young master, these esteemed elders are from the three great sects and have been sent to negotiate with you regarding your other conditions," Arin introduced.

"This is Elder Shin Seok-Jun from the Piercing Heaven Sect."

"This is Elder Han Dong-Hoon from the Black Dragon Pavilion."

"And this is Elder Lee Seo-Yeon from the Thorny Flower Garden."

"It's still quite surprising that from now on, anyone arriving at the teleportation station will see a single peak instead of two." One of them suddenly said, his voice deep, he was a bulky man with explosive muscles, his face fierce. Even though he wasn't deliberately releasing his cultivation, his aura remained terrifying.

"Han Dong-Hoon, Oh? This is my first time seeing someone who specializes in body cultivation." Aldrian thought.

When a cultivator wants to strengthen their body, making it so strong that it can't be broken by any technique, and focuses on techniques within their body, then a cultivation technique that leans toward body cultivation will be more precise.

When a cultivator wants to rely on their deepened comprehension of the laws and focuses on techniques outside of the body, then a cultivation technique that leans toward inner cultivation will be more precise.

Why use the word "leaning" between these two types of cultivation techniques?

Every cultivation method nurtures both the body's interior and exterior. The difference lies in how each technique "leans" towards either the inner or outer part, depending on the creator's intentions for the cultivation path.

The cultivation technique that leans toward body cultivation grants the cultivator a stronger body than those who practice techniques focused on inner cultivation. Their techniques and the laws they comprehend are primarily dependent on the properties and strength of their bodies. In contrast, inner cultivation relies more on the surrounding energy and the cultivator's middle dantian.

The man standing before Aldrian was a perfect example. Aldrian could sense his energy flowing differently from others—coursing through every pore, with his body containing explosive power, ready to be unleashed if needed. The fact that Aldrian had only just met a body cultivator now was evidence of how rare such cultivators were compared to their inner cultivation counterparts.

"Every action has consequences," Aldrian said. "The destruction of the western peak was the result of their treacherous deeds. Even if the mountain hadn't been destroyed, the city lord's manor would have been leveled by someone else, due to their bad karma."

"Bold words," Han Dong-Hoon replied, the tension rising. "But did you have to destroy the entire mountain without regard for how the demonic cult would react? You're certainly audacious."

It was clear that the envoys were dissatisfied with how Aldrian had handled the situation. Without consulting them, he had barged into the city lord's manor, leading to the destruction of one of their iconic landmarks. His third and fourth conditions added

fuel to the fire. He was asking for their support in any action he took within demon territory? To the envoys, this felt like a slap in the face, as if they couldn't control the devil problem themselves.

Moreover, Aldrian's condition that he would act accordingly if demons disturbed him during his stay in their territory felt like a second slap. They worried that his actions could lead to the same kind of destruction that had befallen the western peak. What if he offended a high-ranking demon? To them, it seemed like Aldrian didn't consider the demons to be a threat at all.

The other two envoys remained silent. While they were grateful for Aldrian's efforts in uncovering the devils, they couldn't help but feel bypassed and slighted by his actions.

Aldrian looked directly at Elder Han Dong-Hoon.

"Tell me, Elder, if a middle Emperor stage Black Rock Snake appeared in the city, with devils plotting chaos throughout, what would you do?" he asked.

Han Dong-Hoon, puzzled by the sudden question, still answered. "Of course, I would smash them to pieces," he said, clenching his fist.

"Now, if devils much stronger than you appeared and endangered your group, would you immediately retaliate, or would you need to report it to local authorities?"

"I'd kill them first! The rest can—" He abruptly stopped, realizing what Aldrian was getting at.

"I don't care about anything else. If they come at me and my allies with ill intent, I'll retaliate with equal or greater force. Isn't that the demonic cultivators' way? As long as you have the strength, you have the right to act by your own rules. And this is my rule." Aldrian's aura flared, golden energy swirling around him.

He resonated with his domain, causing the air and space to tremble, creating the illusion of a wobbling, distorted reality. The surrounding energy froze in place, as if it were obeying orders from Heaven itself.

The envoys felt a cold chill run down their spines.

"This young man is truly only at the Earl stage—even at the low Earl stage! But what is this display of power?"

They struggled to control the surrounding energy, which felt as if it were being drawn by some unseen force, making it feel like they had regressed to the Viscount stage, where their mastery of energy was far inferior to their Emperor stage abilities.

Aldrian observed their reactions. This was his way of showing that he wouldn't be swayed by their will. He knew their pride as demonic cultivators and as members of the three great sects had bloated over time. Even though they understood the kind of power he could wield, they still believed their sects could do the same under the right circumstances.

Aldrian needed to display his strength to remind them that he wouldn't be easily manipulated. If they wanted to flaunt the power of the three great demonic sects, he would show them the might of his domain—a power they were unaware of.

The only thought lingering in their minds now was, *"This man is dangerous. We'll have to treat him carefully."*

When Aldrian finally retracted his aura and energy, the atmosphere returned to its calm serenity. But the envoys' hearts continued to tremble from what they had just witnessed.

"He can halt the energy without any formation at all! What kind of ability is this?"

"That golden energy... it's suppressing mine, even if just a little. I've never felt and saw anything like that. Could his energy be on a higher level or something?"

"His aura... what kind of aura is that? It makes me want to worship him! Could he be stronger than our sect leader?!"

The three envoys each arrived at a synchronized conclusion: they needed to respect Aldrian's opinions and regard him as a peer, if not more.

"Now that we're on the same page, can we agree that my actions were justified? We have a bigger issue than just a destroyed 'icon,' don't we?" Aldrian began, his voice calm.

The youngest of the envoys, his expression softening, cupped his hands respectfully. His face was handsome and unblemished, like white jade. A beautifully engraved spear was strapped across his back. "Apologies for his words. Elder Han Dong-Hoon can be hot-headed. I hope you'll forgive his offense," he said, his tone measured and diplomatic.

Aldrian studied him for a moment.

"This one's wiser than Han Dong-Hoon," he thought.

"Elder Shin Seok-Jun, there's no need to worry, I'm not offended by Elder Han Dong-Hoon. I just wanted to make my point clear so we can better understand each other for the negotiation ahead." Aldrian replied.

"Now that we've had our introductions, let's get straight to the point, Young Master Aldrian," Elder Shin Seok-Jun began. "Regarding your third and fourth demands, could you be more specific about your intended actions in the demon territory? We need a clearer understanding of what you plan to do."

"We can accept the third condition, if at least you coordinate with us in the future. We don't want any more surprises within our territory, and I hope you understand that. As for the fourth condition, what kind of trouble would a demonic cultivator cause for you to retaliate? We can't control every individual within the demonic cult. If someone offends you and you destroy their power, it could weaken the overall strength of our demonic cult."

Aldrian nodded, understanding their concerns, though he believed some of the problems could be avoided if they put in the effort.

"I can give the demonic cult a heads-up if I happen to encounter devils, but I can't guarantee that I'll follow your direction if immediate action is necessary—like in the case of the Black Rock Snake," Aldrian replied.

"As for demons that might disturb me, that's your responsibility. If they don't bother me, that's enough. But I won't tolerate another incident like the Skull of Dual Horns," he added.

Chapter 83: The Result of the Negotiation

"The case of the Skull of Dual Horns is proof that troubles will come to me and escalate into something more. Fortunately, it led me to the devils, but if it had led me to the demon's power, I'd still beat them down if they came my way," Aldrian emphasized.

From another perspective, it might seem like Aldrian was looking for trouble when he killed everyone from the Skull of Dual Horns, but he was simply ensuring there were no loose ends that could harm Yu Fenglian. At the same time, he was also satisfying his own selfish desire to eliminate those thugs.

Even though his encounter with those demonic cultivators was because of Yu Fenglian. In the end, that run-in with Yu Fenglian bore fruit, allowing him to uncover the devils' plot in Dual Horns Peak City. If more demonic cultivators approached him like that, he would gladly entertain them—it was just one way to pass the time, even if they came from a major clan.

The envoys knew exactly what he was referring to. They were also aware that the Skull of Dual Horns had been under their surveillance. They knew that the city authorities had shady dealings with that group of thugs. However, they didn't interfere because it wasn't within their jurisdiction, and it wasn't in their interest.

Yet, when they chose to ignore the situation and later encountered someone like Aldrian, all they could do was conduct damage control after the destruction of the city lord's manor.

If they had known the Skull of Dual Horns would lead them to the devils, they would have gladly eliminated them earlier. Now that Aldrian had already dealt with the issue for them, all they could do was negotiate the terms of his demands.

"Like I already told Miss Arin, regardless of how this negotiation turns out, I'll still hand over the city lord and the devil that accompanied him. I have no use for them. I didn't kill them as a gesture of goodwill, so you can judge them yourselves," Aldrian said.

"You know that my group and I will be staying in demon territory for a while, and if any problems arise during that time, I'll deal with them accordingly. Even if the three great sects choose not to support me, at the very least, don't stand in my way," he added.

The envoys seriously weighed the pros and cons of Aldrian's future actions. It was a struggle between their pride and allowing an outsider to roam unhindered. They knew they couldn't take advantage of the situation—they had no bargaining chips left against Aldrian.

Finally, they sighed. They really had no choice but to support him. Better to make him an ally than an enemy, especially in these uncertain times, when reducing friction with other factions was crucial.

Aldrian sensed the envoys exchanging voice transmissions before they turned to him.

"Alright," Shin Seok-Jun said, "the three great sects will agree to your other conditions, with the understanding that if we find your actions to be unjustified provocations against the demonic cultivators in the demon territory, we will no longer consider you worthy of our support. In such a case, we would have no choice but to treat you as an enemy."

Aldrian smiled at them. "Of course. You don't have to worry about me stirring up trouble for no reason. I'm not looking for trouble at all."

The envoys sighed in relief when they finally reached an agreement.

"By the way, what's going to happen to this city now that it's lost its city lord and the city guards are under scrutiny because of the devils?" Aldrian asked.

"Since this city isn't under any major sect and has a special status, we've decided that the new leader will be selected by a vote from our three great sects. We'll choose the new city lord as soon as possible because it wouldn't be good to leave this city—one of our strategic territories—headless for too long," one of the envoys explained.

"Can I make a suggestion?" Aldrian inquired.

"What are you suggesting, young master?" the envoy asked curiously.

"Let the new city lord establish their residence at the foot of the mountain, and leave the eastern peak as a cultivation sanctuary, just like it is now. It would be better if the city lord's seat is closer to the city, so they can easily oversee and manage it. This way, the city lord will also be under easier watch and control by the great sects."

Aldrian paused before continuing, "Also, I recommend the Yu family be responsible for the reconstruction and the transition to the new city lord. You could say the Yu family will support and sponsor the new leadership. With their involvement, I believe the transition process will go smoothly."

Everyone present, including Xin Haotian and the others watching the negotiation from afar, was stunned. They had been following the course of the negotiation the entire time, but Aldrian's recommendation truly took them by surprise.

Aldrian then looked toward Xin Haotian's group and gestured with his hand, signaling someone to come forward. His gaze was clearly directed at Yu Ruomei, who was standing among them. She was stunned and speechless—why had the Yu family been brought up? What construction? What transition? She was utterly confused, but still, she stepped forward and approached the place of negotiation.

She really never in the present of the three great sects so she is nervous when she is finally in front of them. The envoys waiting for Aldrian to continue,

Having never been in the presence of the three great sects before, Yu Ruomei felt nervous as she stood before them, while the envoys waited for Aldrian to continue.

"This is the matriarch of the Yu family," Aldrian said, gesturing toward her. "You're aware that her family was a victim of the previous city lord. Now that their name has been cleared of all slander, I suggest giving this project to the Yu family. It will give them a fresh start and help them rebuild."

"If the young master suggests it, I have no objections. We can help the Yu family regain their footing. All of their family's business holdings, which were confiscated under the city lord's rule, will be returned first. Then we can begin the reconstruction process," Shin Seok-Jun agreed.

Yu Ruomei felt like she was dreaming. Without saying a word, fortune had suddenly fallen upon her and her family. Was this Heaven's way of compensating her for the misfortunes of the last three years? She glanced at Aldrian from the side, feeling deeply grateful. She wondered if she would ever truly be able to repay him for all that he had done for her and her son.

"Also," Aldrian continued, turning to elder Lee Seo-Yeon, "I'd like to borrow Miss Arin to help me reunite the children I freed with their families. I think her expertise in intelligence gathering would be invaluable in helping us bring them home."

Elder Lee Seo-Yeon, the only woman among the envoys, stood out in her tightly-fitted red and white robe—a striking combination of rose and jasmine. Her serene, beautiful face was partially concealed by a transparent veil, but her sharp green eyes were visible. The sword at her waist indicated she was a sword cultivator.

Throughout the negotiation, elder Lee Seo-Yeon had remained silent, like an ice. The closest she came to expressing any emotion was when Aldrian had displayed his power earlier.

"You may use Arin as your assistant," she said, her voice soft yet devoid of expression.

Aldrian nodded and turned to Arin, who bowed to him in acknowledgment. With everything now settled, he had some free time until the next week. They spent the rest of the hour discussing any details that had been overlooked earlier and finalizing a few more points.

After an hour, they concluded their discussion and the negotiation was complete.

"One last thing," Shin Seok-Jun said, cupping his hands respectfully. "The three great sects officially invite Young Master Aldrian to attend our meeting, which will be held in the Thorny Flower Garden next week. We hope that Young Master can join us and share some of your expertise and experience."

"And also this is a personal invitation from our sect master." Shin Seok-Jun added through voice transmission.

Aldrian raised an eyebrow. The sect master of the Piercing Heaven Sect inviting him personally? That was reason enough to attend.

"Thank you for the invitation. I will surely come next week," Aldrian replied, returning the gesture of cupping his hands as a sign of respect.

With that, the three envoys excused themselves and left the Yu family manor. Once it was just Aldrian's trusted circle, Yu Ruomei didn't hesitate to kowtow before him.

"Thank you for the opportunity you've given me, Young Master. I really don't know how I'll ever repay you," she said, her eyes moist with emotion. She tried to remain strong, but the situation was overwhelming. Her family, once destroyed, now had a chance to rise again.

Chapter 84: Another Vision?

"Aish, I've already told you not to worry about that. I promised you I'd help rebuild the Yu family."

Aldrian waved his hand, considering this a fulfillment of his promise. Yu Ruomei stood up and looked at him, feeling lucky to have a son like Yu Fenglian, who brought her fortune in the form of Aldrian. She glanced at Xin Haotian and the others approaching, then excused herself, not wanting to disturb them.

"So, are we going to attend the meeting?" Eleine asked as they drew closer.

"Yes, I'd feel bad if I refused the invitation, especially since the sect master of the Piercing Heaven Sect personally invited me."

The others were stunned.

"That man invited you? That's surprising," Xin Haotian said.

"Do you know him?"

"I've only seen him twice, both times when the demonic cult held a banquet at the temple of the Heavenly Demon in the core of the Piercing Heaven Sect. What I can say is that he is a man with the highest attainment in demonic arts, and his pride as a demonic cultivator is immense. He's also a true fanatic of the Heavenly Demon. You could say he's a true demonic cultivator in every sense."

The man with the highest attainment and pride? Now Aldrian wondered what could make the sect master of the Piercing Heaven Sect invite him. Was this just a setup to catch him off guard and finish him off after the chaos he'd caused? Based on Xin Haotian's description, Aldrian was growing more curious about their meeting.

"We'll see what happens," Aldrian said.

He continued talking with his group for a while before heading to visit Yu Fenglian. The nine-year-old boy was playing with his peers in one of the manor's courtyards. He smiled more often now, like any child his age should. The other children, ranging from five to nine years old, had also gathered to play. When Aldrian arrived, they all crowded around him.

"Big brother, why did you come?"

"Are you going to play with us?"

"Tell us a story!"

Their cheerful voices made Aldrian smile. He was glad he had let Yu Fenglian bump into him that day. These were children who had fallen victim to the cruel reality of the cultivation world, and the environment of demonic cultivators had only made things harsher for them than in orthodox cultivation. Aldrian mingled with them for a moment before pulling Yu Fenglian aside for a private talk.

"Yu Fenglian, how are you doing?"

"It's good. My condition is much better than a few days ago, thanks to you, young master."

"Good. Now that you'll be the young master of the Yu family, it's your responsibility to continue your family's legacy. I hope to see you stand tall—for yourself, your mother, and your family."

Yu Fenglian's eyes trembled before he quickly bowed.

"I'll do my best to uphold my family's legacy. This is also my way of repaying you for giving my family a second chance."

"Good." Aldrian ruffled Yu Fenglian's hair.

With the young boy named as the successor and the support of the three great sects, Aldrian could now rest assured, knowing the Yu family would be able to stand on their own. When he made a promise, he always made sure to fulfill it to the fullest. With nothing more to do for the Yu family, Aldrian decided to visit a specific place. After everything that had happened since his arrival in the demonic territory, he chose to make this city his first domain.

Using his teleportation, Aldrian swiftly arrived at the Eastern Peak, where a cultivation sanctuary under the control of city lord's manor was located. After the manor's destruction, this sanctuary had fallen under the control of the three great sects.

At the top of the Eastern Peak, Aldrian noticed guards from the sects stationed at various points. Investigations were still ongoing, and the sects were keeping the place under close scrutiny. Aldrian, however, didn't concern himself with them. With a simple teleportation, he entered the inner part of the sanctuary, effortlessly evading the guards. Thanks to his stealth and movement techniques, even cultivators at the duke stage would struggle to detect him. Besides, he doubted the sects had deployed anyone at the grand duke stage here.

He was now inside a vast pavilion exuded an abundance of heaven and earth energy. With such richness, even cultivators at the duke stage would find their cultivation greatly enhanced—a fact that would drive most cultivators mad with desire. Aldrian continued walking toward the source of the energy, where it felt the strongest.

He stopped at a giant red door marked with complex sealing formations. From its appearance, it seemed the three great sects had yet to open it. After inspecting the seals, Aldrian guessed that the formation master they had brought couldn't break the seals, and they were likely waiting for someone of a higher level. Without much effort, Aldrian began to decipher the formation by disturbing the flow of energy, and after a while, he successfully broke the seal.

As the door opened, a giant pond came into view. The water within shimmered, rich with not only heaven and earth energy but also thick demonic energy, elemental forces, and even the laws of nature themselves. Any demonic cultivator who trained here would see their cultivation speed increase drastically, and they would find it easier to comprehend elements and laws.

Beside the giant pond stood a giant altar, identical in shape to the one in the Yu family manor. It was an altar of the Heavenly Demon. This sanctuary was in fact a temple of the Heavenly Demon.

Aldrian gazed at the scene with a serene expression. Not a trace of greed crossed his face. If he were an ordinary cultivator, he might have been tempted to train here day and night to speed up his cultivation. Even as a non-demonic cultivator, he could still benefit from the richness of the heaven and earth energy in this place. But due to his unique nature, his cultivation couldn't be hastened in the usual ways.

He had tried everything before. He had consumed spiritual herbs, from the lowest to the highest grade. He had taken various pills meant to aid cultivation. He had cultivated energy in sanctuaries like the Shrine of the Heavenly Tree. But nothing had worked—none of it had any effect on him.

The only way for Aldrian to advance his cultivation was by expanding his domain. The larger his domain, the stronger his cultivation grew, and as his cultivation grew, his domain would naturally expand. His true reason for being here was the same as others who sought to speed up their cultivation—except that his goal was to claim the entire city as his new domain.

Sensing the center of the energy concentration, he realized it lay in the middle of the pond. Without hesitation, he stripped down to his inner pants and waded into the pond, which was shallower than it appeared, reaching only to his waist. He stopped in the center, standing still with only his upper body visible, the water reflecting his rippling abs.

Over time, Aldrian's understanding of the laws of karma had deepened, allowing him to better grasp the intricacies of his domain. His domain could cover an entire region if he reclaimed the highest karma-gathering point in that place. Such points were where the faith of the people concentrated—essentially the center of their belief.

This was an evolution of the hypothesis he had formed back in the Forest of Despair. At that time, he speculated that if he built his domain around a place like the Heavenly Tree, then the tree's area of blessing would naturally fall under his domain. That theory had proven true, as the blessed region indeed became part of his domain. After spending time cultivating inside the Shrine of the Heavenly Tree, he began to notice the intricacies and details of how his domain was formed, and it all seemed tied to karma.

In this city, the people's faith gathered at this very location, rather than with the city lord. It was clear that this place was sacred to the inhabitants. Every city in the demonic territory had a temple dedicated to the Heavenly Demon, where demonic cultivators worshipped.

Aldrian closed his eyes, calming his mind and attuning himself to nature and the universe. He repeated the lines he had already memorized by heart, allowing himself to fully immerse in their meaning. He stood in stillness, focused, when suddenly his surroundings began to shift.

Aldrian opened his eyes, and the world around him had changed. He now found himself in the midst of destruction—buildings ablaze, the sky a dark crimson, and corpses strewn across the ground.

A sense of déjà vu washed over him, as some of his previous visions had shown similar scenes. Though momentarily stunned, Aldrian quickly recognized what was happening.

"It's just like when I picked up that strange leaf in Balin... another vision."

As he stood there, taking in the devastation, he noticed a lone figure amidst the carnage—a man, battered and wounded, as though he had just survived a great battle. Despite the injuries, the man appeared unbothered, gazing solemnly at the sky. His aura remained unshaken, and Aldrian felt a familiar sensation as he watched him. For reasons he couldn't explain, his heart ached at the sight of this man.

He waited, anticipating what might happen next. Then suddenly, the young man turned, looked directly at him and smiled, revealing his handsome face and striking red eyes.

"Finally," the man said.

And just like that, Aldrian found himself back in the Temple of the Heavenly Demon.

Chapter 85: The Shadow That Lurks, How His Mother Fares (R-18)

Aldrian was still trying to make sense of the vision. He didn't glance at the screen showing the integration of his domain with the city, instead, his mind was consumed by the vision he'd just experienced. The handsome young man, bravely facing something ominous, stirred a deep ache within him, filling him with anger.

He took a moment to calm himself, trying to rein in the fury building inside. The visions always seemed to affect him deeply, which annoyed him, but he knew they were crucial clues to the origin of his powers.

"Finally, huh," he muttered.

If he combined this experience with all the others, it seemed his power also had some connection to demonic cultivators—or perhaps even the Heavenly Demon—since the vision only appeared when he cultivated in the Temple of the Heavenly Demon. He didn't recognize the young man in the vision, yet he felt an odd sense of familiarity with him.

Everyone in the vision he had experienced looked relieved when they gazed at him. Back at the Shrine of the Heavenly Tree, he had a vision where he was adored, respected, even worshipped by the masses.

His curiosity surged, compelling him to uncover more about his powers and his true identity. He inspected the altar for a moment. From the outside, it appeared nearly identical to the one in the Yu family manor, with the only difference being the amount of karma tied to it.

After deciding there was nothing more to see, he chose to leave. He didn't want to be caught by the three great sects for barging into their sacred place. Drying his pants with fire, he donned his robe before exiting the room and closing the door behind him. He fixed the seal formation and teleported outside, continuing to teleport until he reached the foot of the mountain.

Without stopping, he teleported into the midst of the bustling city crowd, choosing to walk among the people. He enjoyed taking a stroll now that he'd accomplished what he set out to do for the day.

In the unknown place,

The atmosphere was dark and gloomy. In the center of the room, a large silhouette sat with a lazy posture, one hand propping up his head while the other rested on the buttocks of a beautiful woman. She moved rhythmically, her body offering him pleasure as his manhood remained buried inside her. Her moans echoed through the vast space, filling the room with an erotic sound.

The man's face occasionally expressed pleasure, and his hand sometimes fondled her breasts. Amidst their carnal dance, a silhouette suddenly appeared behind him. The shadow remained silent as it observed the erotic scene before it.

After several moments, the man let out a satisfied sigh as he released his seed into the woman's body. She collapsed to the floor beside him, her face blank, as though in some hypnotic trance.

Only once the man was finished did the shadow finally speak.

"The devils in the demon territory report that they will lay low for now. They're in danger of being discovered by the three great sects and the entire demonic power. The source is from Dual Peak Horns City—the devils there have all vanished."

A heavy silence followed the shadow's report, the atmosphere growing still and chilling.

"The demon territory, huh. Is it that swordmaster again?" the man asked.

"No," the shadow replied. "From our intelligence, nothing like the swordmaster who caused a ruckus in the Ivory Empire has appeared in the demon territory."

"Hmm, are the demons truly capable of uncovering our cover in Dual Peak Horns City? It's a surprising development. At this rate, our plans for the continent might be jeopardized." Despite his words, there was no hint of worry in his tone; in fact, he sounded almost amused.

"What about Barius? Any news from him?"

"He's still investigating in the Ivory Empire. So far, there's no concentrated location for the swordmaster, but his latest report is... interesting."

"Oh? Tell me."

"Apparently, the Evergreen family has received a special guest. What's strange is that the guests are a young man and woman, one at the Viscount stage of cultivation and the other at the Earl stage. We don't know yet what makes them special, but the imperial family has granted them permission to stay in Evergreen City, even within the imperial palace."

The man pondered for a moment before addressing the shadow.

"Interesting. Special guests at that stage—are they from a prominent family or clan?"

"For now, we haven't found any descendants matching their description. We're still investigating and will keep an eye on them."

"Good. Keep me informed of any developments."

"Yes, my lord," the shadow replied before disappearing.

The man was left deep in thought.

"It's strange," he muttered to himself. "Unknown elements keep appearing in our plans. Could this be a sign of the approaching prophecy? Is this the same man I couldn't track last time?"

After a while, he simply shrugged and looked at the woman on the floor. He picked up her body and, without hesitation, inserted his little brother into her pleasure hole from behind. He then pounded her with vigor with a look of pleasure on his face, as the sounds of slapping and moaning continued to resonate throughout the room.

In the capital of the Rivas Grand Duchy, the Rivas family manor stands grandly as a symbol of the guardians of the north within the Doria Empire. The might of the Rivas family is undisputed, both within the empire and beyond its borders.

They consistently produce offspring who astound the people of the empire. One notable example is the sole child of Grand Duke Rivas—known as the Blizzard Witch, a title she earned during the battle between the devils and the Rivas family 50 years ago.

With her skilled and powerful techniques, she can conjure snowstorms and ice to obliterate many devils. She became one of the devils' primary targets, and when news of her disappearance spread, the Doria Empire mourned the loss of one of its brightest gems—one of the greatest in its history.

That's why, her sudden reappearance brought immense joy and relief to the people of the empire.

Inside the vast Rivas family manor, one section of the manor contains an expansive training field, reserved for the family's members to hone their skills. At this moment, several family members sit and watch a woman on the field, unleashing powerful attacks on her opponent.

Frozen Petal

The woman finishes her movement with precision, her technique incapacitating her opponent, rendering him unable to continue the fight. She then cancels her technique and slightly bows her head.

"Thank you for the guidance," she says, her soft voice and beautiful face as refreshing as a gentle breeze. Her long black hair and blue eyes add to her captivating beauty, enchanting anyone who gazes upon her, regardless of gender.

Her opponent grimaces in pain but manages a smile.

"No, my lady, I should be thanking you. You really gave me a good beating," he says with a small laugh. The onlookers, watching the end of the fight, are filled with amazement.

"As expected of Lady Irene," one remarks. "She's already able to defeat General Vizaro. She's grown even stronger in such a short time."

"She just had a breakthrough to the middle Duke stage, but she can already defeat General Vizaro, who's at the High Duke stage."

"She's truly a prodigy. Lady Irene is worthy of her great reputation," murmured the onlookers.

Irene, however, paid no attention to their voices. Her expression remained serene, but she smiled when her gaze fell on her father.

"You've done an excellent job. Your power is growing at an astonishing rate. At this pace, it won't be long before you can replace this old man," her father said with pride.

"No, Father. I'm still far from your level. I need to work harder," she replied modestly. Thanks to her time trapped in the secret realm, which was rich in the energy of heaven and earth, she had been able to cultivate at an accelerated pace—even though she had to take care of Aldrian while there.

She had returned to the Rivas family because she needed to check on them. The devils increasing activity had worried her and Aldrey enough that they finally decided to leave the secret realm to report the threats in their territories.

She felt terrible for leaving Aldrian behind in the secret realm, but there was no other choice. If they had continued hiding there, they would remain ignorant of the outside world. The prophecy from the Heavenly Direction Church also weighed heavily on their minds.

They didn't know if the chaos would eventually reach the secret realm, so warning their families and preventing the problem from escalating was essential. It had been three years since she last saw Aldrian, and she missed him dearly. She also hadn't seen Aldrey since they left the secret realm, their families' rivalry was well known, after all.

"Good, good. Now, take a rest. I'll ask—" her father's words were cut short as a butler approached, bowing respectfully.

"My lord, the young master of the Loraz family is here."

Chapter 86: Irene's Problem

Hearing the name, Irene felt an annoyance stir inside her heart. The name clung to her like a leech ever since her return. The Loraz family, located to the south of the Rivas Grand Duchy, was their neighboring noble family and one of the closest allies of the Rivas family. Duke Loraz had been a friend of Grand Duke Rivas since their academy days, and their friendship had endured as they took control of their respective families.

Grand Duke Rivas could sense his daughter's displeasure and could only sigh. Her cold personality and distant demeanor made her someone who could be admired but never easily approached. He knew the young master of the Loraz family had taken an interest in her. However, despite the close ties between their families, as her father, he prioritized his daughter's wishes.

"Where is he?" the grand duke asked.

"He is in the guest room with his knight," a servant replied.

"Alright, I'll be there shortly," Grand Duke Rivas said, glancing at his daughter.

"My dear, do you want to meet him? This is the second time this month that he's come here, and he asked about you."

"No, Father. I need to cultivate and strengthen my foundation. I had a breakthrough not long ago, so I'll pass," Irene said, her voice flat and emotionless, in stark contrast to how she had spoken with her father earlier. Without waiting for him to respond, Irene turned and began walking back to her room.

Before she could enter the main building, she heard a commotion. Her curiosity didn't last long as she saw a handsome man walking toward her with a knight by his side. The maids were trying to persuade him to wait, but he ignored them and continued walking.

His steps finally stopped when he saw Irene. He gave her his best smile, but she simply turned her face away. Undeterred, he walked closer to her.

"I'm sorry, my lady, he doesn't want to wait in the guest room," one of the maids said.

"It's fine. You can return to your work," Irene replied, her face expressionless. The maids bowed to her before returning to their posts. Grand Duke Rivas also felt displeased at the man's behavior in his manor. If not for the close relationship between their families, he would have already struck him.

"Good afternoon, Grand Duke Rivas. It's good to see you again. I apologize for my persistence, but if I had waited any longer, I feared I'd return home empty-handed once more," the man said, bowing. He was a handsome man with a tall stature and sharp

features. His short blonde hair and blue eyes radiated charisma, drawing people toward him.

He was dressed in luxurious golden and white noble attire, adorned with small diamonds. In every respect, he was a man many ladies desired. This was Dalwin Loraz, the young master of the Loraz family.

"Look, young master Dalwin has come again. He's really persistent."

"Of course! Our young lady is one of a kind. No man can resist her charm. I wonder who will be the lucky one to win her heart. So many have already asked for her hand."

Grand Duke Rivas glanced at Irene and Dalwin before interrupting him.

"Young master Dalwin, I understand you are eager to meet with Irene, but I hope you will not cause a commotion. This is the Rivas family manor, and there are rules here that must be followed."

"Yes, I know, and I apologize. That's why I've brought a token of compensation for Grand Duke Rivas," Dalwin said as he took out a small, beautifully carved box. He opened it, and immediately, the energy of heaven and earth surged from it.

The sudden wave of energy shocked everyone present, including Grand Duke Rivas. Inside the box was a pill with four distinct colors on its surface.

"This is the Four Elements Pill, which grants its user the comprehension of the earth, air, water, and fire elements. Even a king-stage cultivator would gain tremendous benefits from it. I was fortunate to acquire this at an auction in Tania. It was crafted by none other than Grandmaster Alchemist Marco Villares of the Alchemist Association."

The crowd, including Grand Duke Rivas, was even more stunned upon hearing the pill's creator. Grandmaster Marco was one of the top three alchemists on the continent. His pills were so valuable they could spark chaos, with many noble families fighting over them. Even a grand duke's household would be forced to compete for such a treasure.

Irene raised her eyebrows but had a different thought in mind.

"I could give this pill to Aldrian, it would benefit him greatly," she mused. Her son, whom she was immensely proud of, could wield multiple elements. With his diverse abilities, he needed many resources, and the pill in front of her was one of the finest resources he could use.

She missed him deeply. She couldn't visit the secret realm at the moment, knowing that her father would immediately forbid her from entering the Everlasting Silent Forest. Although the forest had changed recently, she was still being watched closely by her family to protect her from the devils and prevent a repeat of the last incident.

The problem was that if she accepted the pill, Dalwin's ego would inflate even further, and his persistence would likely grow. She had the urge to smack him on the head and take the pill without his interference.

Grand Duke Rivas coughed and sent Irene a voice transmission.

"My dear, let Dalwin speak with you this once. He's brought such a valuable gift; it would be highly inappropriate to ignore him again. I understand your feelings, but please, for me, can you bear it just this once? For your father?"

Irene looked at her father for a moment before sighing.

"Fine, but you have to give me that pill."

"Good. I'll give it to you later," the grand duke responded.

Though the pill would benefit him as a king-stage cultivator, he believed it was better suited for Irene due to her exceptional talent. It could deepen her comprehension, and perhaps when she reached the grand duke stage, she might even control more elements—who knew?

"Hm, young master Dalwin is certainly thoughtful. I'll accept your compensation," Grand Duke Rivas said, taking the box and closing it, halting the surge of energy. The onlookers were still in shock that Dalwin had offered such a valuable pill as a gift. It was clear he was serious about his intentions toward Irene.

Irene, however, ignored him and continued walking. Dalwin followed her inside, and as he did, his gaze lingered on her slender figure from behind. His eyes gleamed with undisguised desire. All his efforts to win Irene's favor were not only driven by attraction but also by ambition. If he could marry into the Rivas family, his status and influence in the empire would skyrocket.

"Young master, if you still wish to keep your eyes, I suggest you stop looking at me like that," Irene's cold voice suddenly echoed. She stopped in her tracks and glanced back. Dalwin froze as he met her gaze—those blue eyes filled with killing intent.

He abruptly stopped, raising his hands in a placating gesture. His knight, already tense, readied his hand on his sword. Unbeknownst to them, the Rivas family's guardians, hidden in the shadows, had also prepared to intervene should anything happen to Irene.

"I apologize if I offended you, but Irene, I hope you can see my sincerity. You must know why I keep returning and wanting to see you," Dalwin said, trying to soften the tension.

"That's the same reason all those other men come here. What makes you any different from them?" Irene's words were sharp and unfiltered, not caring Dalwin's status.

His knight clenched his fists, veins bulging on his forehead. He wanted to shout at Irene for belittling the Loraz family, but he knew better than to speak out against the grand duke's daughter. He held his tongue.

Dalwin, too, suppressed his anger, though his smile became stiff. "Don't you think comparing me to those men is a bit ridiculous, Irene? Sure, some may hold similar status, but the bond between our families, built over thousands of years, makes me closer to you than any of them."

"Quite confident, young master, but in my eyes, you're no different from the rest. Perhaps you should set aside these thoughts and focus on your cultivation. We are cultivators, seeking enlightenment, power, and achievement. We shouldn't be distracted by such trivial matters, don't you think?"

"I still appreciate the gift you brought for our family, but I hope you won't disturb me with any more unnecessary visits. Now, if you'll excuse me," Irene said, her face emotionless as she turned and continued walking.

Dalwin stood there, watching her silhouette grow smaller and farther away.

"What an ice beauty. She's really difficult to approach, but that's fine. For now, this is enough, I can wait. Ah, Irene, Irene... You'll soon realize how different I am, and you will be mine." He smiled to himself before turning and walking in the opposite direction.

One week later...

In the Yu family manor, Aldrian stood before the Divine Iron. He touched the massive 'rock,' making it disappear into his storage ring. Today, he would continue his journey to his next destination—the Thorny Flower Garden.

Chapter 87: The Thorny Flower Garden

Yu Ruomei and Yu Fenglian stood side by side, watching Aldrian's group now prepared to continue their journey. The Yu family manor was slowly regaining its vigor, standing stronger each day. With these two direct bloodline members remaining, it remains to be seen whether they can sustain the momentum and rise to their former glory. However, Aldrian believes they will ascend even higher than before.

Many people passed by within the manor, they were new recruits who had passed the test and volunteered to join the Yu family, though they would serve as outer members. The support from the three great sects had also made Yu Ruomei's efforts to rebuild and restructure the family much easier.

No noble families dared to obstruct the Yu family's resurrection, not even their past rivals or enemies. With everything in order and the Yu family on the right path, it was finally time for Aldrian and his group to continue their journey.

Though it was still early morning, Aldrian and his group stood outside the Yu family manor. The meeting with the three great sects was set for tonight, but Aldrian wanted to visit the Thorny Flower Garden first.

Yu Ruomei and Yu Fenglian's eyes moistened as they bid Aldrian farewell.

"Take care, young master, and have a safe journey."

"Young master, will I be able to meet you again?" Yu Fenglian asked.

Aldrian smiled at them and replied to Yu Fenglian,

"Of course you will. When the time is right, and I have some free time, I'll visit the Yu family manor."

Hearing this, Yu Fenglian smiled, determined that by the next time they met, he would have become a more reliable person.

"Goodbye, at least for now. When I hear of the Yu family again, I hope it will have reached even greater heights." Aldrian and the others cupped their hands, a gesture returned by Yu Ruomei and Yu Fenglian.

The mother and son watched the silhouettes of the four figures as they walked further away, leaving behind their mark on the city.

Aldrian and his group then made their way to the teleportation station, completing the usual procedures before their number was finally called. Just before stepping into the teleportation portal, Aldrian glanced back at the distant, solitary peak.

It was a strange feeling as he recalled his first arrival. When he had first emerged from this portal, two mighty mountains had pierced the sky with their twin peaks. But now, only one peak remained. Sooner or later, he thought, this city might have to change its name.

He smiled and stepped into the teleportation portal.

The Thorny Flower Garden was a sect located on the western side of demon territory, bordering the Dwarven kingdom, Forgeheart Kingdom. It could be considered the sole behemoth of the western region, as its vast domain nearly covered the entire area.

Even a small portion of its territory bordered the Buddhist sect, and no other power in the region could rival it.

As soon as Aldrian and his group stepped out of the teleportation station, they were met with the familiar bustle of a plaza. Aldrian glanced around and noted that this place wasn't much different from Dual Horns Peak City, except for the absence of the twin peaks. The only mountains in sight were the distant ranges far away.

According to Xin Haotian, despite being visible from here, those mountains were a six month journey away by horse. Beyond them lay the Forgeheart Kingdom, their next destination. But for now, they needed to find an inn for their stay. They were currently in the city of Blooming Flower, the nearest city to the Thorny Flower Garden sect.

The sect itself was still a few hours travel away, situated atop a vast forested hill outside the city's border, a secluded spot, undisturbed by the city's noise and activity.

After some searching, they finally found the best inn in the city and booked four rooms, one for each of them. Once settled, Aldrian decided to explore the city accompanied by Sylphia and Eleine. Xin Haotian, however, preferred to stay behind at the inn.

The three strolled through the city, unconcerned with their destination, simply following wherever their feet led them. Along the streets, Aldrian noticed many women wearing the same uniform—red and white robes with an insignia on their chests.

"They must be disciples of the Thorny Flower Garden," Aldrian thought.

The Thorny Flower Garden was known throughout the world for accepting only female disciples. Legend had it that their founder hailed from 'Outside' the continent and had established the Thorny Flower Garden as a safe haven for women, particularly in the brutal world of demonic cultivation.

Yes, demonic cultivation is harsher and even crueler by orthodox cultivation standards, but that doesn't mean female demonic cultivators should be discredited by others. Those who look down on female demons will taste the sting of a thorn from a beautiful flower. That's what the founder of the Thorny Flower Garden believed.

A belief that had become the very essence of the sect's way of life. The fate of women in the cultivation world could sometimes be worse than death, especially within demon territory, where demonic cultivators were wilder and more brutal. The women here had no choice but to stand up for themselves, or they would forever be at the mercy of others.

Aldrian was truly amazed by their determination to thrive in such a harsh environment. He couldn't help but think that the founder of the Thorny Flower Garden was not only a powerful cultivator but also possessed a selfless nature—something quite rare among demonic cultivators, where strength and competition ruled.

Her ideals seemed more fitting for orthodox cultivation, leaving Aldrian to wonder why she had chosen to remain a demonic cultivator within demon territory. He set the question aside for now, choosing instead to enjoy the stroll with the two girls.

Inside a three story restaurant, on the topmost floor where the most luxurious room was located, four disciples from the Thorny Flower Garden were gathered. They all wore the familiar red and white robes of their sect, though one of them had a distinguishing feature—black color between the red and white, marking her rank above the others.

The group seemed cheerful as they chatted about their daily lives and the latest rumors that had reached their ears.

"This evening, it seems there's a big event happening at our sect, though the elders are trying to keep it under wraps," one of them said.

"It's true," another chimed in. "I overheard some elders at my pavilion mentioning that there will be a meeting between the three great sects tonight, hosted at our sect."

The other two gasped, but the last disciple—who had been silent throughout—remained uninterested. Her beautiful red eyes gazed out of the window, taking in the scenery. Her long white hair flowed like snow in the breeze, and her serene expression complemented her flawless, unblemished face.

"Really? Why is there suddenly a tripartite meeting?" one asked, clearly surprised.

"I'm not sure, but it seems to be connected to what happened in Dual Horns Peak City."

"That makes sense. The incident in Dual Horns Peak was shocking. How could we have been caught off guard by devil infiltration?"

"What if the devils have found their way into our sect too?" one of them speculated, her voice hushed with concern.

"No way! If there were devils in our sect, we would've already discovered them, right? Senior Sister Ji-Min?" one of them asked, turning to the quiet disciple.

Senior Sister Ji-Min, still looking out the window, finally spoke. "I'm not sure about devils infiltrating our sect, but what's certain is that the incident in Dual Horns Peak has shaken the three great sects. This meeting is also to invite someone important."

"Someone? Who is it?" one of the disciples asked eagerly.

"I don't know," Ji-Min replied calmly. "I only heard rumors from one of my master's closest aides."

The conversation continued, with the disciples often breaking into laughter, their light-hearted banter filling the room. Ji-Min, however, remained distant, answering only when asked, her detached demeanor typical of her personality. Her juniors didn't mind; they had grown accustomed to Senior Sister Ji-Min's cold, indifferent nature, her beauty and aloofness often reminding them of the classic cold beauty from many old stories.

As Ji-Min gazed out the window, her attention suddenly shifted to the bustling road below. Her red eyes trembled as she spotted something unusual.

"What is that?" she thought, her heartbeat quickening.

Her eyes locked onto something she had never seen before. Without hesitation, she bolted from the room, leaving her junior sisters in stunned. They barely had time to react as Ji-Min raced out of the restaurant, chasing after whatever had caught her attention.

Meanwhile, Aldrian, still enjoying his stroll with Eleine and Sylphia, suddenly sensed someone running behind him. He quickly realized it was a woman, but though she seemed to be heading toward him, he chose to ignore it, assuming she might just run past. Just as he thought she would, she suddenly shouted.

"Wait!"

Chapter 88: Baek Ji-Min

Aldrian looked at the white-haired beauty before him, someone he didn't recognize. From her robe, it was clear she was a disciple of the Thorny Flower Garden. The red, black, and white colors indicated that she was a core disciple.

He waited for her to speak, but all he saw were her trembling eyes fixed on him. When Aldrian gazed into those red eyes, a sense of familiarity struck him—he recalled the vision of a man he had in the temple of the Heavenly Demon in Dual Peak Horns City.

He wasn't sure what to make of this. Was this some kind of fate? Not long after seeing those eyes on that man, now another pair had appeared? He knew there were many with red eyes, but the ones this woman and that man possessed had a distinct feeling. It was as if those eyes could see through to his secrets.

Eleine and Sylphia were also puzzled by the unknown woman. Did Aldrian know her? But when they looked at Aldrian's expression, they realized he didn't. So why had this woman called out to them?

"Do you know us, miss?" Aldrian asked, breaking the silence. Since she hadn't spoken, he decided to ask first.

"I'm sorry for calling you," she said, "but may I know your name?"

"Why do you want my name?" Aldrian asked, studying her for a moment.

Baek Ji-Min

Age : 127 years

Race : Human

Cultivation : Low Earl

Cultivation technique : The Heavenly Demon's Flower Scripture

Attack techniques : White fire of eternal ice, Abyss of trapped souls, Tornado of eternal ice, Freezing fire

Defense technique : Earth barrier, Fire burst

Movement technique : Flower petal

Supporting technique : Heavenly Demon eye's of the truth, Heavenly demon's flower blooming

Aldrian was astonished when he read the name of her cultivation technique. The title *Heavenly Demon* was sacred in the lives of demonic cultivators—so sacred that it couldn't be used carelessly. Anyone who dared to use the name of the *Heavenly Demon* was said to bear a great destiny, one that could easily cost them their life.

If someone couldn't prove themselves worthy of the Heavenly Demon's name, they were as good as dead. Aldrian couldn't fathom who would have dared to create such a technique or how the woman in front of him had managed to cultivate it. Was the Thorny Flower Garden insane enough to allow a disciple to practice something so dangerous?

He dismissed the thought. Surely, the Thorny Flower Garden knew better than to risk inviting disaster by endorsing a technique tied to such a powerful destiny. He reasoned that they must be avoiding something that could lead to their downfall.

That left one possibility: the woman before him was the only one cultivating this technique. But how had she acquired it? He had no idea. He wanted to ask, but doubted she would reveal such a secret. After all, her cultivation technique was no ordinary one.

"Senior sister!" A group of women hurriedly chased after her. Her junior sisters had no idea why she had suddenly run outside, but when they saw the young man and the two women standing in front of her, they looked confused.

"Did senior sister chase after him? What's so special about him?" they wondered.

Baek Ji-Min looked at her juniors and sighed. She couldn't explain what she had seen—it was something personal to her. All she could do was glance at Aldrian and bow slightly.

"I apologize for disturbing you. I don't mean any harm, but due to certain circumstances, I had to chase after you. If you don't mind, could we speak in private?" she asked, her voice calm yet earnest.

Her junior sisters were shocked. They had never seen their cold and distant senior sister be so direct, especially with a man. And she didn't even seem to know him! What kind of situation was this?

They inspected Aldrian once more. He was quite young, and while he could be considered handsome, his appearance wasn't something that would make someone adore him blindly. They couldn't sense his cultivation since he didn't exude any visible aura or energy, but given his age, they assumed it must be lower than theirs. Besides, he already had two women by his side. Why would their senior sister want to talk to him privately?

Baek Ji-Min, however, didn't care what they thought. Her focus was solely on explaining things to Aldrian.

As for Aldrian himself, he could read her intent clearly. He sensed that she genuinely wanted to talk and didn't harbor any ill will, at least for now.

What Aldrian didn't know was that Sylphia, standing beside him, was frowning as she looked at the white-haired beauty. The woman's slender, perfectly proportioned body, her large yet balanced bosom, and her snow-white hair contrasted by striking red eyes created a rare beauty—one that seemed otherworldly. Sylphia narrowed her eyes and glanced at Aldrian's expression, but all she saw was his serene face, devoid of any visible reaction.

She then smiled and returned her gaze to the woman. Yes, the woman before him was undoubtedly a rare beauty, but just as Aldrian had often said, he had remarkable self-control. His face betrayed no desire or attraction.

Meanwhile, Eleine smiled at the interaction, amused. Her young master truly had good fortune with women. And this was while he was still in disguise. If anyone saw his real face, she had no doubt women would line up across the city just for a chance to meet

him. If they knew who his parents were, the entire continent—especially in the Doria and Vindas Empires—would be thrown into an uproar.

"Is that so?" Aldrian replied calmly. "I'm also curious about why you came to me, but I'm currently in the middle of a stroll with my family. Can we postpone our conversation? Perhaps we'll even meet later tonight."

Baek Ji-Min sighed, understanding his rejection. It made sense—she had approached him suddenly, asking for his name like a stalker. As for meeting later tonight, she assumed it was just an excuse to turn her down. She had already returned to the sect, how could he enter the Thorny Flower Garden? Tonight was also the meeting of the three great sects.

Her junior sisters, on the other hand, were stunned by Aldrian's response. How could he reject their senior sister? With her beauty, countless men would be eager to talk to her, yet he had turned her down. He truly was a rare one!

"Believe me, I need to speak with you. I saw something, and I need your information."

Baek Ji-Min sent Aldrian a voice transmission.

"Sure, you can meet me at the Plum Blossom Tower, but not tonight—I have business to attend to," Aldrian replied. He planned to visit her sect tonight, so he doubted she would need to come out to meet him; there was a good chance he could meet her inside her sect instead.

Baek Ji-Min was stunned. That easy? She glanced at the two women beside him. Although they wore hoods, their beauty was evident. Was it because of them that he had outright rejected her verbally, but not in the voice transmission? Were they part of his harem? She didn't know and didn't care. All she needed was confirmation about what she had seen in him.

"That's unfortunate. Perhaps another time, then," Baek Ji-Min said, cupping her hands towards Aldrian. Without saying anything more, she turned and walked away, pretending to leave empty-handed.

Her junior sisters glanced back and forth between Aldrian and Baek Ji-Min before following their senior sister.

As for Aldrian, he simply smiled—until Sylphia's voice broke through his thoughts.

"You like that woman, huh? Smiling even after she's gone."

Without losing his smile, Aldrian looked into Sylphia's eyes. "What do you think?"

Sylphia pouted at his teasing. He never missed a chance to poke fun at her.

"Forget it."

"No, I'm just puzzled, wondering what she saw in me. She only wanted to ask something, but I'm not sure what it is. Well, I'm also curious about what's on her mind," Aldrian explained.

"What she saw in you?" Sylphia asked, confused. Aldrian then told them about the voice transmission.

"Do whatever you want," Sylphia replied.

"Yes, your highness," Aldrian answered with a smile.

"Eleine, don't you think your little brother is becoming more daring by the day?" Sylphia teased.

Their jokes and banter continued as they walked, the time passing quickly. Before they realized it, afternoon had already arrived, and the time for the meeting was approaching. To avoid being late to the Thorny Flower Garden, they knew they needed to leave now.

They returned to their inn to prepare, and after changing into fresh robes, Aldrian and his group were ready for their trip to the Thorny Flower Garden.

As they stepped outside the inn, a man in a carriage suddenly approached them.

"Are you Mister Aldrian?" the man asked.

"Yes, I am," Aldrian confirmed.

"The Thorny Flower Garden has requested that I escort you and your companions to the sect. Please step into the carriage."

After they climbed into the carriage, the driver urged the Silver horned horse forward, navigating through the city's streets toward their destination, the Thorny Flower Garden.

Chapter 89: The Meeting Started

The Flower Garden's forest served as the gateway to the Thorny Flower Garden. At this moment, Aldrian was traveling along a dirt road through the forest. The silent, dark atmosphere, amplified by the setting sun, gave the path an eerie feeling. The horned horses galloped at full speed, yet the carriage remained steady, a testament to its remarkable engineering.

The journey was peaceful, without any hindrance. Even as the road gradually ascended, the horses maintained their pace. The sect, located atop the hills and surrounded by high cliffs, gave the impression of a hidden retreat.

As they neared the sect, Aldrian passed through a field of flowers. He could see various types of flowers in bloom, and their fragrance filled the air, tickling his nostrils. Both Eleine and Sylphia enjoyed the scenery, especially Sylphia, who had a fondness for plants. The fresh scent of the flowers provided a refreshing experience and eased their minds.

A few moments later, they arrived at the front gate, but to their surprise, the coachman bypassed it, leading them to another side of the sect.

"We have to disembark on the other side, so as not to attract the attention of the disciples," the coachman explained.

They finally understood, and this arrangement was also good for maintaining secrecy. Not too far from a high cliff, there was another gate, quite ordinary, with no one guarding it but they stopped there. After they exited the carriage, the door opened to reveal a beautiful woman looking at them with a serene expression.

Aldrian recognized the woman immediately, so he smiled and walked closer.

"It's nice to see you again, Elder Lee Seo-Yeon," he greeted, cupping his hands. The elder returned his gesture.

"Welcome to the Thorny Flower Garden, Young Master Aldrian, and esteemed guests. Please, come in. We've prepared all the necessary accommodations, and the meeting will begin once all participants have arrived," she said, gesturing for them to enter.

Aldrian then made his way to his room. Along the path, he admired the beautiful scenery, with towering cliffs surrounding the sect. The Thorny Flower Garden was vast, spanning six square kilometers, including the cliffs.

The buildings of the sect were scattered, some located atop the cliffs, while the main hall where the sect leader and elders usually gathered was nestled at the base of the cliffs, flanked by rock formations.

After Aldrian reached his room, a spacious chamber with a large bed, tables, chairs, and other furnishings, he sat in one of the chairs and began to initiate his failsafe plan. With his low Earl stage cultivation, he could create a domain spanning two kilometers outside the center of faith gathering, enough to cover almost all of the Thorny Flower Garden. And for now, that was sufficient.

Half an hour later, a knock on the door, followed by a voice asking him to be ready, indicated that the meeting would soon begin. Without delay, Aldrian left the room and

walked toward the meeting location. As the main guest of the evening, it was obvious that he had to attend, though the presence of others was optional.

However, Xin Haotian, Eleine, and Sylphia decided to accompany him. They were escorted to the meeting room, and when Aldrian arrived, it was already filled with the voices of several people. The room was large, with a giant long table at the center and many chairs arranged around it.

As soon as the people inside noticed the newcomers, the room fell silent. Most of them were astonished to see the young man who had reportedly uncovered the devils' plot in the Dual Peak Horns city. There were nine people present, but three of them stood out with the most formidable presences.

Even while seated, their sheer presence made the atmosphere heavy and stifling. When Aldrian entered, the three of them looked at him with interest. Aldrian, however, glanced at them only briefly before taking his designated seat. He had been given a seat in the middle, opposite the others, while Xin Haotian and the rest chose to stand at the side, observing the meeting.

Sylphia frowned at the arrangement. From her perspective, this wasn't an ordinary meeting—it felt more like a trial, with Aldrian seated in the middle, distanced from the others, as though he were being judged for his actions. Aldrian, however, remained unconcerned, calmly waiting for the meeting to begin.

"Now that we are all here, let's begin our emergency meeting," said the person sitting at the center of the table. She was a beautiful woman radiating authority, the kind that naturally demanded obedience from others. Her presence embodied a mature beauty, combined with the aura of a true leader.

"Baek Ha-Yoon, the sect master of the Thorny Flower Garden," Aldrian thought to himself.

"Wait, Baek? The same as that girl from earlier? Is she her daughter or something?"

Before Aldrian could think further, the Thorny Flower Garden's sect master spoke again, breaking his train of thought.

"Before we dive deeper into our discussion, I want to extend a warm welcome to our special guest, the one who successfully uncovered the devils' devious plot, Young Master Aldrian."

Aldrian looked at Baek Ha-Yoon and smiled. "Sect Master Baek is exaggerating. It was merely my duty as a cultivator to prevent the devils from spreading misery and destruction."

"Your actions in Dual Peak Horns were truly inspiring," Sect Master Baek replied. "Even some of our sect members, though they still don't know who you are to this day, were moved by what you did. That was no simple duty. Even when the three great sects joined forces, we couldn't fully grasp the devils plan, until you became involved."

"Let's just say fate brought me to the devils, and they reaped what they sowed. But what they harvested this time was divine judgment," Aldrian said with a smile.

"So, are you saying you were sent by Heaven or something like that?" one of the three leaders chimed in suddenly. Aldrian turned his gaze toward him.

"Kang Doo-Hoon, the leader of the Black Dragon Pavilion," he thought.

"If fate brought me to the devils, you could say that," Aldrian replied calmly.

"No wonder you made such bold demands in your negotiations. You think of yourself as Heaven's messenger, huh? You expect us to agree to your terms, let you do whatever you want, and still have our support? And if we refuse, you don't care, is that it? You don't even seem to acknowledge the three great sects!" Kang Doo-Hoon's voice grew sharper, his aura focusing directly on Aldrian as he attempted to intimidate him.

"If someone like you keeps appearing, our demonic cult will become a laughingstock!"

Xin Haotian remained wary from his position, ready to take the girls outside if things turned for the worse. As for Aldrian, he believed this monster could handle the situation on his own. From the sword intent in Balin to the events in Dual Peak Horns City, Aldrian's power had grown significantly. Besides, Aldrian was the special guest of this meeting, so Xin Haotian didn't need to involve himself in their conflict.

Sylphia and Eleine, on the other hand, had been tense ever since they entered the room. The presence of the three leaders made them deeply uncomfortable. Their oppressive auras were overwhelming for those unaccustomed to standing before such high-ranking demons. Now, with Kang Doo-Hoon intentionally exuding his aura, the two women felt their bodies weaken, the pressure almost unbearable.

Suddenly, their bodies were enveloped in a warm, golden energy, making them feel comfortable and at ease. Sylphia and Eleine exchanged glances before looking toward Aldrian, who was calmly transferring his energy from his seat. They then shifted their gaze toward Kang Doo-Hoon, whose face had twisted into an ugly scowl.

"You can question me all you like, but don't disturb them. You're making my friends uncomfortable." Aldrian said.

The others in the room, apart from Aldrian's group, were astonished. They watched as Aldrian easily dispersed the intimidating aura, lifting the oppressive pressure without

breaking a sweat. They could sense his cultivation level, Low Earl stage. But the energy he was wielding was unlike anything they had encountered before.

Though it carried the essence of an Earl, its suppressive properties were unique. Their own energy within their dantian reacted to it, though only as a subtle, tingling sensation.

After spending so much time in demon territory, Aldrian had reached a clear conclusion, he had to assert his dominance if he wanted these demonic cultivators to listen to him. He couldn't afford to show weakness, nor could he let them trample over him. Now, he no longer hesitated to reveal a part of his power—better to establish his authority than let them push him around.

His pride refused to let others look down on him, and something deep within him stirred uncomfortably at the thought. Aldrian knew that if he let this feeling get the better of him, it could lead to trouble and disaster, not only for him but for those he cared about.

With a long, deliberate breath, he tried to suppress that burning pride, grounding himself once more.

"I apologize for my insolence, but let's continue, I trust the esteemed leader of the Black Dragon Pavilion will refrain from involving my companions in my own arrogance." Aldrian said calmly.

His words were polite, yet the way the others now regarded him had changed. Their expressions grew solemn.

They had heard the reports from their envoys about Aldrian's absurd abilities and the strange energy he wielded, but hearing about it and experiencing it firsthand were entirely different matters. Now that they could feel their own energy reacting to his, it became clearer. They were thinking about this term, the similar situation but not entirely the same, which had only occurred among the beast races, and that was...

Bloodline suppression.

It was the same situation when the beasts with higher level bloodlines imposed on those with lesser ones. Could it be that Aldrian's golden energy held a higher level than the energy cultivators had known since ancient times?

Chapter 90: The Blind Faith in the Heavenly Demon

The bloodline suppression

Among the beast race, unlike humans, beasts follow a far stricter hierarchy. Their ancestry traces back to the primordial era, with divine beasts as their ancestors. Each generation of beasts is ranked based on the purity and level of their bloodline, which determines their status within the hierarchy.

This is common knowledge. However, for someone's energy to actually suppress theirs, even causing their energy to react to its mere presence? That was unheard of. No historical record mentioned such an event—where a higher-level energy could exert suppression simply by its presence. They didn't even know such a thing as 'higher-level' energy existed, and yet, it was happening now.

Aldrian was only at the Low Earl stage, yet his energy caused an unsettling reaction, a tingling sensation they couldn't ignore. This wasn't something trivial. None of those present were below the Low Emperor stage, and the sect leaders had even reached the High Emperor stage, for the Heavenly Demon's sake! If Aldrian reached the King stage or, worse, the Emperor stage, wouldn't that mean he could enslave them with just a word?

The thought sent a chill through their hearts, even Kang Doo-Hoon's mind started weighing whether he should eliminate this young man. The tension grew thick—except for one man who seemed more curious than alarmed, the same man who had remained silent from the start.

Aldrian looked at the man before him, the sect leader of the Piercing Heaven Sect, Ryu Hyuk-Jae. This was the man who had personally invited him. While Aldrian didn't fully understand his intentions, one thing was certain—Ryu Hyuk-Jae was the strongest living human he had encountered so far.

Though his cultivation was at the High Emperor stage, the thick aura and demonic energy flowing in his body made it clear that his breakthrough to the Peak Emperor stage was not far off. Aldrian watched as Ryu Hyuk-Jae finally opened his mouth to speak.

"To be honest, I'm surprised, though it might not seem like it, my heart trembles at the thought that energy suppression could exist within the human race. This could mark the beginning of a new era of cultivation." Ryu Hyuk-Jae said.

Kang Doo-Hoon interjected, "Ryu Hyuk-Jae, are you still calm after witnessing that? With that kind of power, if he decides to misuse his suppression ability, there's even a possibility that the human race could be enslaved by him!"

"You're only focusing on the negative potential," Ryu Hyuk-Jae responded. "I'm thinking about the good he could bring—to us, to the demonic cult. What if, for example, we befriended him?"

Kang Doo-Hoon was stunned. What had happened to this man? Ryu Hyuk-Jae, known for his high pride and as a staunch demonic cultivator, would normally strike down a young man like Aldrian for his arrogance—especially with power that could pose a threat to the demonic cult.

What was this man thinking, taking such a soft approach? Had he taken the wrong medicine or something? Sect Master Baek Ha-Yoon was equally puzzled by Ryu Hyuk-Jae's uncharacteristic behavior in this situation. It suddenly dawned on them both—hadn't he been too quiet this whole time? The Ryu Hyuk-Jae they knew would have already demonstrated his might by now.

Aldrian, too, was curious. From the stories he'd heard while gathering information about the three great sects, the sect master of the Piercing Heaven Sect was known to be a proud man, a true demonic cultivator in every sense.

But now, standing in front of him, what Aldrian saw was a man with a broad mind, someone who didn't jump to conclusions and was cautious in his actions. Had he missed something?

Aldrian tried to read Ryu Hyuk-Jae's mind, but the moment his technique made contact with the man's body, he sensed a thin barrier blocking him. He could break through it if he wanted to, but doing so would alert the sect master, and he knew exactly what it was.

"Karma laws."

What Aldrian sensed reminded him of his encounter with Elthar Evergreen, the Imperial Teacher of the Ivory Empire.

"It seems I'll need to upgrade my mind-reading technique for someone who comprehends karma." Aldrian thought.

"Befriend him? Are you serious, Ryu Hyuk-Jae? We don't even know who this man is or what kind of person he might be. Even though his energy is different, he's still an orthodox cultivator. What if he's already at a point where we can't stop him? What if he wants to harm the demonic cult? We'll only be left with regret!" Kang Doo-Hoon angrily replied.

"Like I said, you're too focused on the possibility that he might be dangerous. I don't blame you, it's a valid concern. But I believe he can be trusted to become an ally of the demonic cult," Ryu Hyuk-Jae responded calmly.

"And what makes you so sure, Sect Leader Ryu?" Baek Ha-Yoon now asked.

"The temple of the Heavenly Demon within the Piercing Heaven Sect has given a sign," Ryu Hyuk-Jae replied.

"A sign?" both of them asked in unison.

"The Heavenly Demon's scripture is trembling."

The others gasped in shock.

"Is that true?"

Aldrian tilted his head in confusion. What was this Heavenly Demon's scripture? His mind wandered back to Baek Ji-Min's cultivation technique, the Heavenly Demon's Flower Scripture. Could the Piercing Heaven Sect have something similar? Many questions surfaced, but he remained quiet, continuing to listen to their conversation.

"I'm serious. The Heavenly Demon's scripture trembled before my eyes," Ryu Hyuk-Jae continued. "Last week, while I was meditating in the temple, the scripture shook and gave me a brief vision."

"A vision?" Kang Doo-Hoon asked, intrigued.

"Yes. As you know, no one has ever been able to fully comprehend the Heavenly Demon's scripture. I was trying to comprehend it, as usual, but this time was different. Suddenly, I received a vague hint, blurry at the time—a bright golden light from the sky."

"I was confused by what I saw then, and not long after, news of the chaos in Dual Peak Horns City reached me. I began connecting the dots with the information I gathered, particularly about how this man solved the devil problem in Dual Peak Horns. That's when I decided to invite him and try to investigate him myself."

"Two days later, the Heavenly Demon's scripture trembled again, much stronger this time and giving me another hint—the silhouette of a man. I didn't want to jump to conclusions then, but now I'm almost certain all of this is connected by karma. That's why I'm here—to see the man who solved the devil problem and possesses this unknown golden energy. I believe all of this is the will of the Heavenly Demon!" Ryu Hyuk-Jae said, awe evident in his voice.

Aldrian, who had been listening, was stunned.

"So, if my guess is correct, the man in my vision must be the Heavenly Demon. And through the connection of his karma to the scripture and the temple of the Heavenly Demon, he was able to give a hint of my presence?"

His power's origin is connected to the Heavenly Tree of the world, and to the Heavenly Demon as well. Aldrian couldn't help but think that whoever had wielded this power in the past must have been almighty in their own right and respected by many great powerhouses.

"But this Sect Master of the Piercing Heaven Sect is really taking a gamble, putting his faith in me just because he received hints from the Heavenly Demon's scripture. He already believes I'm the one from his vision. Like people say, the Sect Master of the Piercing Heaven Sect is truly a fanatic when it comes to the Heavenly Demon."

Aldrian glanced at the sect masters arguing among themselves. He understood their concerns; trusting an outsider, especially one who wasn't a demonic cultivator, was a reckless and possibly suicidal move. It only highlighted how much faith Sect Master Ryu Hyuk-Jae had in the Heavenly Demon, fully and without reservation.

"How about this?" Ryu Hyuk-Jae interrupted. "I will personally guarantee his presence in Demon Territory. If my decision proves wrong and he harms the demonic cultivators' future or threatens our survival, I will step down from my position as sect leader and have my cultivation crippled."

The others, including Aldrian, were shocked.

"He's truly a madman! He's the epitome of a demonic cultivator with blind faith in the Heavenly Demon!" Aldrian thought.

If Aldrian had ill intentions, Ryu Hyuk-Jae would be throwing away his glorious life. Crippling his cultivation would make him vulnerable and reduce his lifespan to that of a normal mortal. Aldrian doubted the sect master would live long after that.

"You're really a madman! Completely crazy!" Kang Doo-Hoon exclaimed.

"Well, many people call me that," Ryu Hyuk-Jae responded with a casual shrug.

"How about I make a vow in the name of the Heavenly Demon to help you all relax?" he added.

"No, you don't have to! The vow of the Heavenly Demon isn't something to be taken lightly! Ugh, fine... I won't intervene this time," Kang Doo-Hoon grumbled, scratching his head in frustration. He knew that if anything happened to the Sect Master of the Piercing Heaven Sect, it would spell disaster for Demon Territory.

With the prophecy from the Heavenly Direction Church already putting all the powers on the continent in a "wait-and-see" position, losing one of their main powerhouses would be catastrophic.

"Good. Now, I believe I've found the right person to comprehend the Heavenly Demon's scripture. We can finally complete the Three Scriptures of the Heavenly Demon," Ryu Hyuk-Jae said with a smile.

Aldrian, hearing the term "the Three Scriptures of the Heavenly Demon," raised his brows in curiosity.

"Is this what I think it is?" he wondered.