SORCERER'S HANDBOOK

Chapter 631: An Unspoken Understanding

It was botched, but not completely. Igor entered the hidden Sanctuary within the Temporal Cage, contemplating his next move.
Had Silver Lantern perished, he could simply reveal the truth. After all, with her gone, people would at most sigh over it, and even if they speculated about her plans, they could never learn the truth-unless, by some chance, they discovered her Sorcerer's Handbook in the Virtual Realm. Otherwise, Silver Lantern would merely die as a 'complex-minded' villain.
Their sole duty was to leave behind fragments of words after Senlo turned into a living hell, so others would know there once was a great Kingdom that spanned four divine erasordinary people could only achieve so much.
But Silver Lantern was not dead.
Not only had she escaped, but she had also destroyed key clues, making it impossible for others to unlock the third "Link of Truth." Thus, in their eyes, Silver Lantern remained a murderous natural disaster-neither understandable nor supportable by them.

It's impossible for people to empathize with a monster.
Moreover, following the recent bloody battle, they could only feel disgust, fear, and hatred towards Silver Lantern. Chikara, Gwen, and Raven, Igor noticed, even Harvey had a gloomy expression. The necromancer was silently biting his nails, muttering about making 'skull cups' and 'giving intestines to Alice as snacks.'
This was why Igor had not stopped Silver Lantern from destroying the clues. Since she was still alive, let her continue living as a demonic monster, enduring hatred and wreaking havoc on all.
After all, to her, everything was just a delusion.
However
Igor frowned slightly as he looked at the shimmering golden "Link of Truth" on the third Fog Wall.
Could it be that Silver Lantern truly intended to trap them here forever? If not for Igor's own effort in solving the last puzzle, they would have no chance to pass through the Fog Wall and the only way to leave the Dead City would be beyond it.
But, the Con Artist still had one final solution: simply explain the deduction process to Ashe and the others.

Now that Silver Lantern had completely fallen out with Ashe, whether she was good or bad, it no longer mattered to him. From the moment Silver Lantern severely injured Ashe, they were clear of each other, returning to being strangers.
Even if Ashe knew the secret, he might only feel slight regret, but as years passed, he'd realize it was just a boring delusion. Nevertheless, it was better than being trapped in the Sanctuary for thirty thousand years.
Unless there really was no other way, Igor did not want to reveal it.
Honestly, the Con Artist was not the kind who liked to make others look good; on the contrary, he preferred to ruin others' meticulous plans. Seeing others helplessly rage in frustration was one of the few pleasures in his life that never bored him.
What could be more interesting than breaking someone's defenses?
So, Igor never thought that a chaotic Con Artist like him would one day help an enemy like Silver Lantern, reach an unspoken understanding with her, and together conceal a secret sealed within the Dead City.
Silver Lantern was like a lonely gardener, nurturing a beautiful flower that was planted in another country, in someone else's garden. Although she had the chance to pluck it, she let it continue to live in a clean and beautiful garden, looking at it from across a country.
Even though she herself had nothing left.

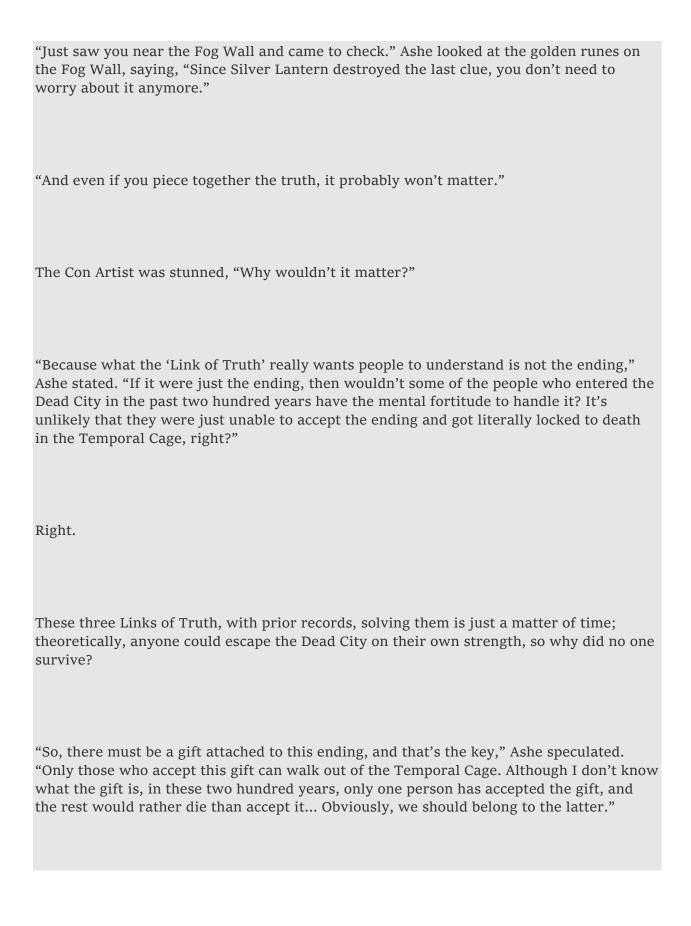


"But we are not the kin of a Gray Fox Sorcerer."
Chikara broke the truth, "Many of the Gray Fox Ruins require citizenship to enter; if you don't have citizenship, it could even trigger a security mechanism against enemies. To them, only Gray Fox citizens are considered their own kin. If there is any way, it must be triggered by someone with citizenship Ah! If a Gray Fox citizen came to rescue me, I'd even be willing to be his chair!"
Moments later, Ashe sat on the orc's back, staring at the Transcendent card in his hand.
If he could successfully perform Divine Hosting, he could use the citizenship from the Transcendent Demi-God era, which had already helped him overcome many obstacles; he guessed it would work here as well.
"There's a delay in Divine Hosting, and since this is remote Divine Hosting," Ashe pondered, "Normally, it's a second at its fastest, three seconds at its slowest. If now one second really equals one year, then we should prepare to live here for one to three years.
Compared to the terrifying scale of thirty thousand years, being trapped for three years was acceptable to everyone. Moreover, the thought of suddenly having three years of undisturbed free time made everyone's spirits lift.
Raven stated, "Once I heal from my injuries, I can use this time to hone my battle skills thoroughly. These past two months of running around gave me many insights, just needing time to settle."

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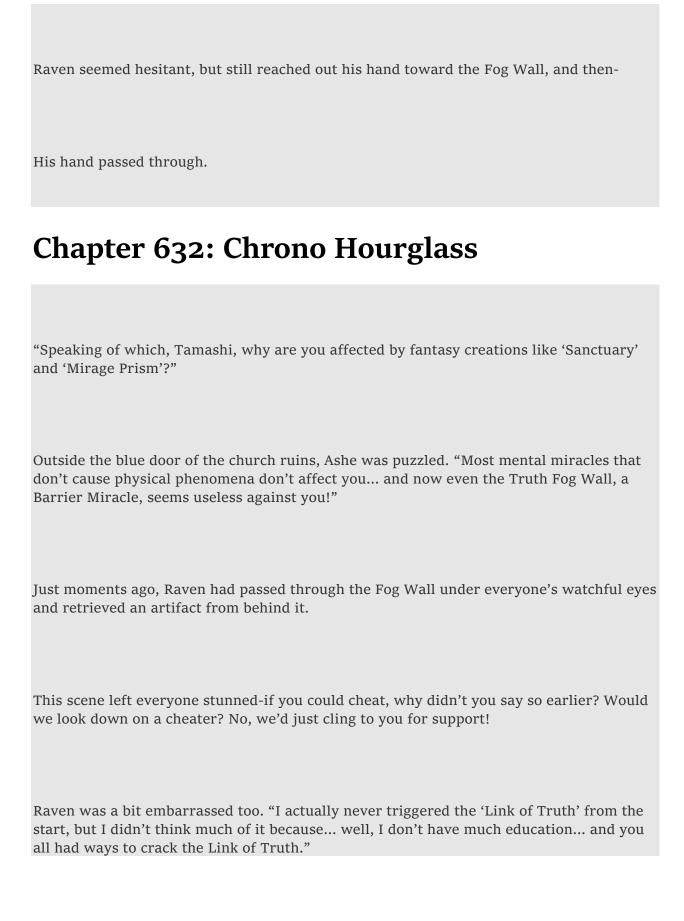
"Although there are no materials here, three years is enough for me to properly fix up Alice," the necromancer said. "I can also try to unlock the 'Blood Corpse King'."
Chikara also expressed his excitement, "With such a long time, I can completely fuse my fire spell with the Spatial Sect. I tell you, I have a fantastic Adventure idea-by enraging others, making them burn in their own anger! Sounds awesome, right? Now I just need a Mental Sanctuary to help"
Gwen remained silent, and Igor looked at Ashe, who was resting his chin in his hand in distress, "Three years Although I also want to spend some time organizing the battle system, three years is too long! It hasn't even been three years since I became a sorcerer!"
As Ashe spoke, Igor and Harvey were somewhat indifferent, but Chikara, Gwen, and even Raven looked at the Cult Leader with surprise.
"Mr. Ashe, you became a Sanctuary in less than three years?"
Chikara was stunned, "One level per year? Excuse my boldness, but is Heath a surname of a Divine Sovereign? Or is the rumor true that you're a bastard of the Virtual Realm? By the way, Mr. Ashe, are you comfortable sitting? I can adjust the comfort of the back, if you find it too hard, please tell me, I suddenly discovered I have a talent for being a chair!"
Ashe suddenly understood the situation of the sword Princess in the academy.

If you knew I was just an ordinary person half a year ago, would you immediately shift your faith from the Four Pillars and Raven Annihilation to Ashe Igor thought cynically, approaching the Fog Wall while they were chatting, and quietly reached out his hand.
He needed to confirm whether he could pass through the Fog Wall. If he could, then this was an escape route if 'citizenship' was ineffective. If not-
Igor's pupils dilated as he saw his hand stopped by the Fog Wall, a drop of cold sweat rolling down his forehead.
He had already deciphered the third "Link of Truth," so why couldn't he pass through the Fog Wall?
Could his deduction be wrong? Was it impossible without the key clue destroyed by Silver Lantern? But-
"Igor."
The Con Artist turned his head to see Ashe approaching him, "What's up?"



Igor struggled to control his facial expression, casually responding to Ashe.
That's it.
No wonder no one has gotten out of the Dead City.
No wonder Silver Lantern destroyed key information!
Because the ending isn't important, what's important is the world-saving measure reflected by the ending-world destruction!
Only those who are willing to accept this mission, even seeing it as a life goal, can leave the Sanctuary! Because she chose to face the challenge instead of seeking refuge!
This isn't just the muttering of a delusional teenager or a fanciful daydream, but a belief that one must sincerely accept and strive for from now on. It's too normal that no one could accept this task in over two hundred years; the weak can't bear such a responsibility, and the strong can't accept such a life.
If it was something selfish like ruling the world, it might be manageable, but destroying the world is completely self-sacrificial, benefiting no one, and even requires sacrificing one's entire life. Silver Lantern's acceptance only proves she's a madwoman! She's insane

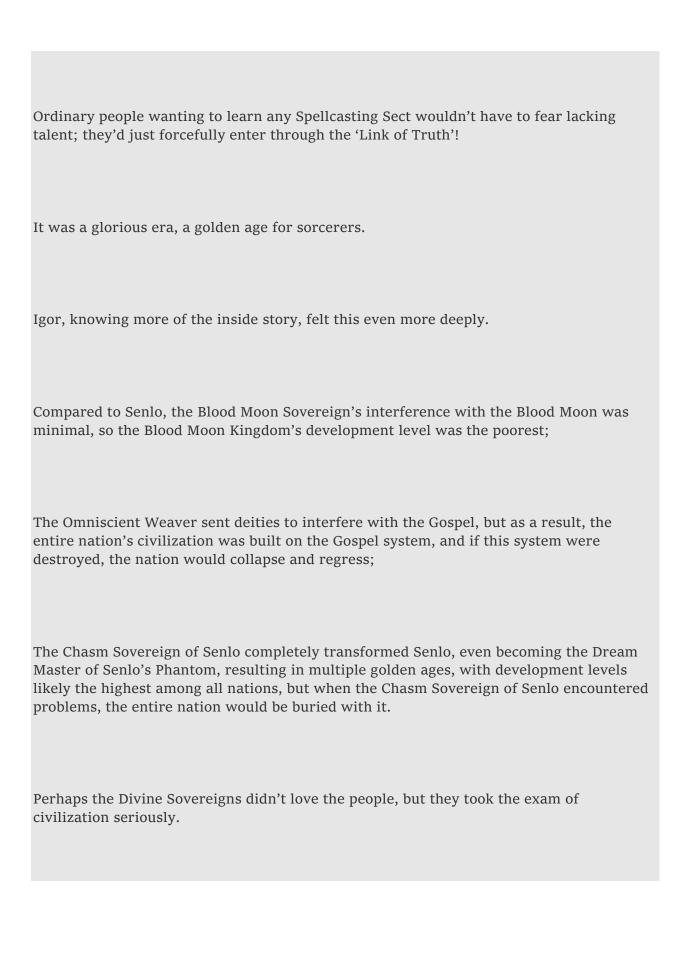
Igor didn't know when Silver Lantern last entered the Dead City, but undoubtedly, she was the only successor who passed the Gray Fox Sorcerer's test, and from that moment, she began walking the path of the world-destroying Silver Lantern!
In a daze, he seemed to see that scene: a young Temple nun climbing out of the pit of the Dead City, before dawn, under a dark sky, the lethal Choking Green tightly wrapped around her neck but unable to taint her at all. She was tripped by stones on the ground but quickly stood up again, her entire being bathed in darkness, yet her eyes were brighter and more profound than all of Senlo's people.
This once-in-two-hundred-years will, due to the mechanism of the Idealistic Senlo, could even subtly influence her reality. Besides her extraordinary talent, she would encounter many Adventures, even if she didn't leave home, people would voluntarily offer her assistance Those who opposed her would face setbacks, and those she targeted would suffer misfortune and folly
She wouldn't hesitate to kill, because her life was more important than everyone else's; to protect herself, she would eliminate all threats, since this was her mission after all She would start wars, defect from cults, and prepare to execute her brutal, insane plan
Considering this, Igor felt fortunate that he couldn't pass through the Fog Wall: If he could, it meant he would also have to accept this mission!
It's better to discuss with Ashe how to spend these three years
As Igor was about to leave, he saw Raven slowly approaching the Fog Wall. The Con Artis was puzzled, because Raven, being illiterate, hadn't even participated in the intelligence search, only responsible for peripheral security.



'It was only just now that I realized, since I hadn't triggered the 'Link of Truth,' maybe The Fog Wall wouldn't work on me either? I didn't expect I'd pass right through."
Tamashi Raven Annihilation, as a virtual realm insulator, couldn't become a sorcerer despite his talent and wasn't affected by most spirits, so he had to manually heal himself, something even Chikara knew. But no one expected Raven's immunity to spirit influence would prove effective in such a situation.
Γhat's why Ashe had this question-why is Raven sometimes affected and sometimes not?
'Because of the level of fantasy," Igor speculated. "'Sanctuary' and 'Mirage Prism' are already Idealistic creations, where spirits probably just serve as ambiance, and can't have much effect."
'The more fantastical the creation, the less Raven can resist; the closer to reality the miracle, the less effective it is against Raven."
Regarding Tamashi's characteristics, everyone could only guess, unable to confirm, as it concerned not just him but his interaction with the world of Senlo. Comparatively, everyone was more interested in what he brought out from behind the Fog Wall.
Actually, he didn't bring anything out, just had a faintly glowing hourglass icon on the back of his hand.
According to him, there was a giant hourglass behind the Fog Wall, and upon seeing it, he felt a warmth on his hand, which resulted in the icon. When Ashe and the others saw

Raven's hourglass, they too felt a warmth on their hands and gained hourglass tattoosthis alone made them realize it was definitely a super fantasy creation.
The 'replicating upon sight' characteristic is generally applied in combat scenarios, like as auxiliary means for diseases, curses, and other negative statuses. Applying this characteristic to ordinary artifacts is something only Idealistic Senlo would do so extravagantly.
Upon acquiring the hourglass icon, they also received information about this one-time artifact.
"Sanctuary: Chrono Hourglass: Usable 1/1"
"Effect: Upon activation, body time stops flowing, spirit body becomes dormant, awakening only after 12 hours. During hourglass activation, immunity to all harm is granted, and after the hourglass empties, immunity to all external influences for the next 600 seconds is provided, with spirit body clearing all negative statuses to restore absolute health."
Ashe exchanged glances with Igor and Harvey, eyes filled with surprise.
This artifact not only meant they could escape the Dead City's Temporal Cage-besides 'awakening with 600 seconds of immunity to all external influences,' merely sleeping for 12 hours would allow them to escape the Dead City's night.

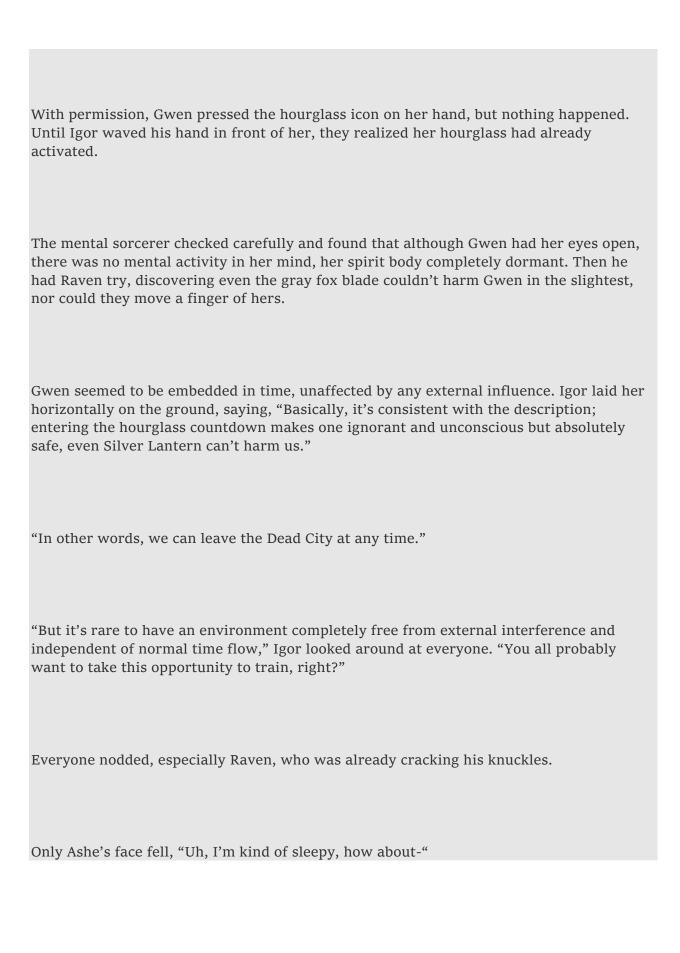
More importantly, 'spirit body clearing all negative statuses to restore absolute health'!
Damaged souls and crippled bodies could be fully restored!
No wonder Gray Fox sorcerers had such a high probability of becoming legends; even if they drowned in the Virtual Realm, were eaten by Blade Fish Dragons, or crushed by the heroic soul legion, they could use these Idealistic creations to quickly recover soul injuries, clocking in for work in the Virtual Realm every night, refusing the Virtual Realm's malicious leave-of course, if they could create Idealistic creations without limit, they'd prioritize making tools to aid their cultivation and learning!
Gray Fox sorcerers weren't brainless; regardless of their beliefs and ideals, they knew the higher their strength, the closer they'd get to their goals. And they understood their Idealistic creations only worked in 'reality'; the Virtual Realm wouldn't acknowledge their randomly created private server artifacts.
Thus, the correct approach for Gray Fox sorcerers was to use Idealistic creations to offset their disadvantages in the Virtual Realm and their innate shortcomings!
Hence the existence of the 'Link of Truth' for forced knowledge comprehension and the 'Sanctuary: Chrono Hourglass' for soul injury repair!
Ashe and the others were just two hundred years late; had they arrived during the peak of the Gray Fox Divine Era, they might have seen the 'Ritual of Prohibited Synchronization of Wind, Flower, Snow, and Moon Sauna Room,' 'Golden Flow Swimming Pool,' 'Blade Fish Dragon Fighting Arena,' and other fantasy facilities aiding sorcerers in exploring the Virtual Realm.



However, for Ashe and the others, the fantasy healing effect of the 'Chrono Hourglass' meant they could lift the Blood Seed curse even if they didn't kill Silver Lantern.
After nearly two months of a long pursuit, they finally achieved half their goal.
"Besides the Chrono Hourglass, what else was behind the Fog Wall?" Igor asked.
Raven shook his head. "Nothing, just a giant hourglass. And I've tried many methods, using all my strength, but couldn't take the hourglass down. However"
He paused, "There were some words floating beside the hourglass."
"What words?" Ashe asked, then immediately realized, "Can you transcribe those words?"
Raven fell silent; although everyone couldn't see his expression, they could imagine the embarrassment under his mask.
He squatted down, scribbling on the floor.
Igor looked over and saw a crooked, bizarre symbol that didn't correspond to any text. Feeling something, he asked, "Do all words appear to be crawling to you?"

Raven nodded lightly.
No wonder!
Igor had long wondered why a combat genius like Raven was illiterate; the Raven Annihilation Cult wasn't without basic education, and Raven's combat talent proved his intelligence was high, making literacy seem easy for him.
Even if he didn't recognize complex text, he should know basic numbers, right? But he couldn't even understand numbers!
It turns out Raven's illiteracy wasn't due to external reasons but because he had severe reading difficulties!
Igor had previously browsed related symptoms, and it was said that people with this condition could understand simple patterns but couldn't read any text with information content. To them, text wasn't a dead object that could be easily recognized but a living that crawled!
Do those afflicted also face the Virtual Realm's disdain? Igor didn't know. After all, unless one's talent was so high that 'not being a sorcerer is unreasonable,' no one would find it strange for a person with reading difficulties to not become a sorcerer.

As for whether Raven was truly disliked by the Virtual Realm, no one was sure; perhaps sorcerers just wanted to find a reason for Raven's anomaly, as they couldn't accept being crushed by a 'normal person.' Especially those sorcerers beaten by Raven, they couldn't accept losing to a mortal.
Thus arose the rumors of the 'virtual realm insulator, Raven Annihilation Berserker.'
Igor even suspected that Tamashi was initially just an ordinary person unable to become a sorcerer due to reading difficulties, but as rumors spread, he gradually gained effects like 'immune to spirits,' truly becoming an insulator-in the Idealistic Senlo world, the people's sanctification or demonization of him was enough to become his source of power.
But this meant they couldn't know the message behind the Fog Wall unless Ashe obtained citizenship to check it, yet not only Ashe, they might not be willing to stay here for three years.
"However, we should first test the effect of the 'Chrono Hourglass'"
Always cautious, Igor naturally wouldn't fully trust this fantasy creation, so he looked at the outsiders in the team: Gwen and Chikara.
The orc scratched his head, having already slid to his knees, naturally prepared to do the dirty work. But Gwen raised her hand, "I'll be the first to test it."
"Alright."

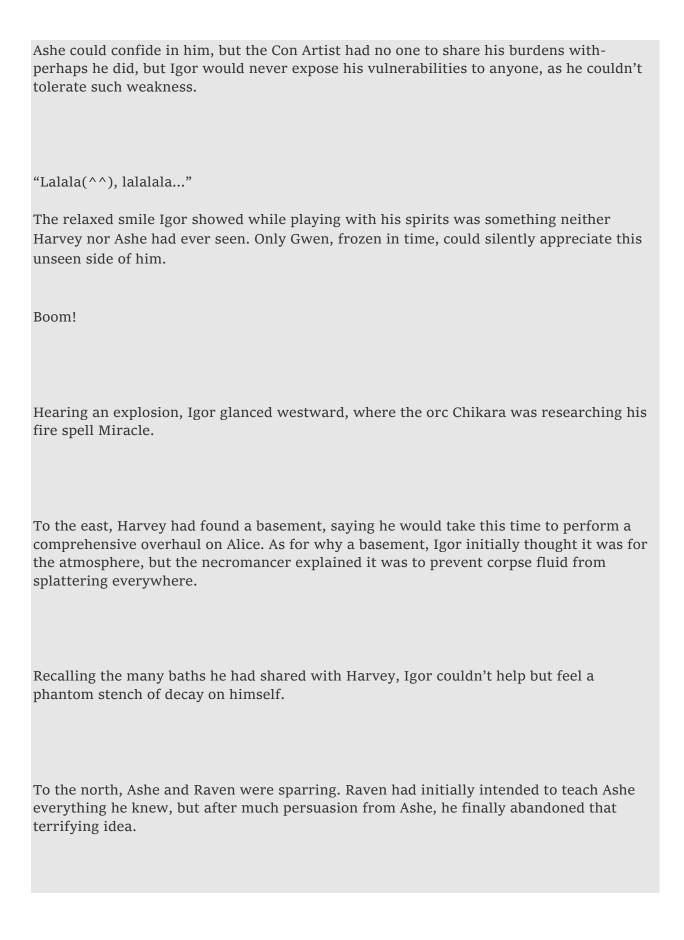


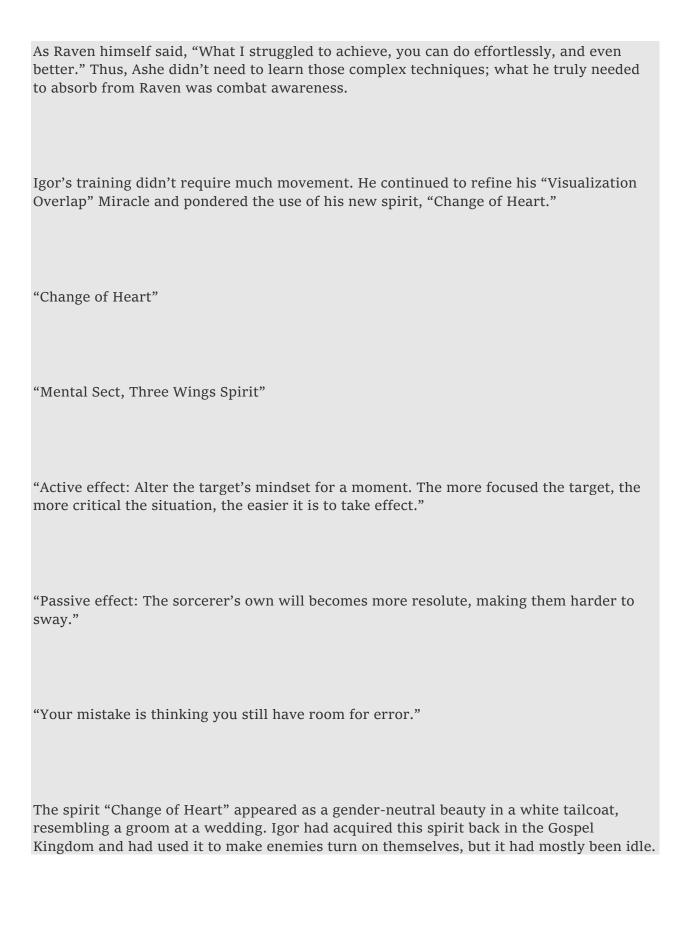


Chapter 633: Leaving Senlo

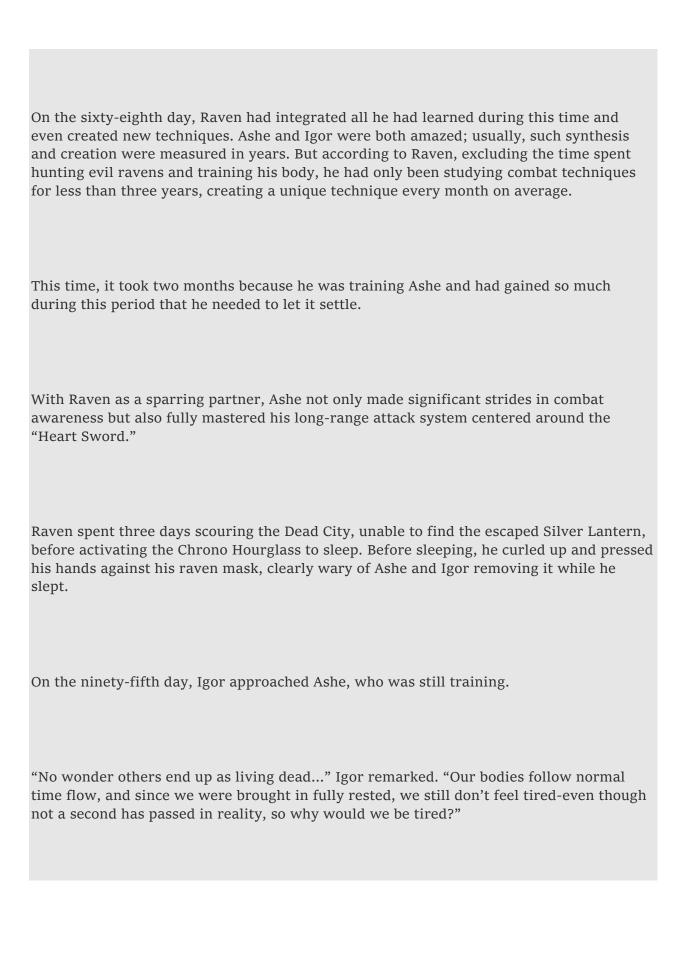
Chapter 633: Leaving Senlo

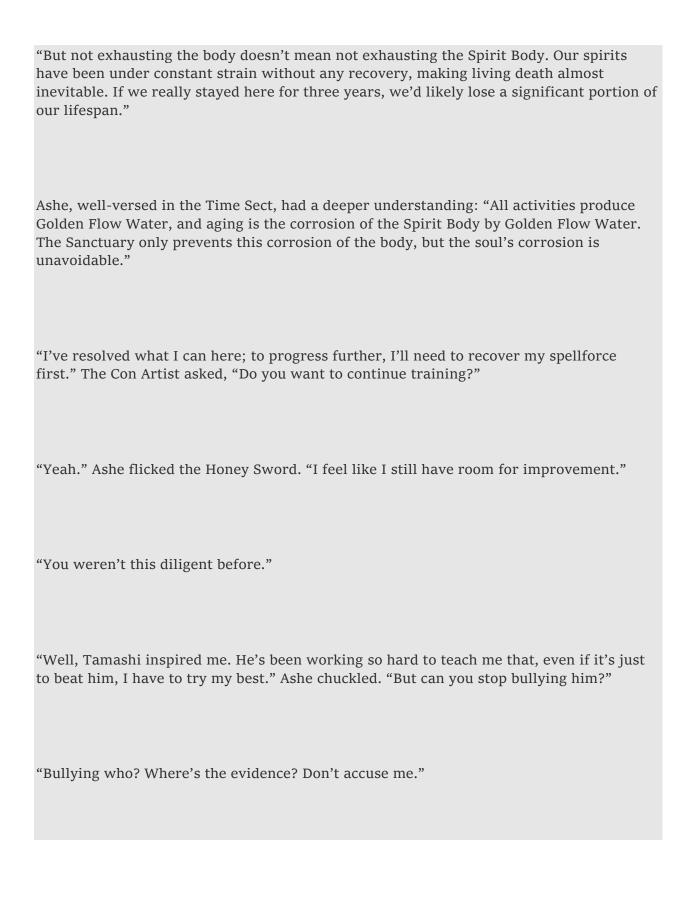
In the Dead City, everyone trained around the ruins of the church.
Igor placed Gwen on a nearby high platform to observe if the Chrono Hourglass had any other effects.
Then he summoned his spirits, gently teasing, playing, and feeding them with gold and silver coins.
The Spirit Relationship is a rather ambiguous field. While it might seem useful, spirits will serve you as long as you expend spellforce, even if they dislike you. However, if you run out of spellforce, a good relationship with your spirits might prompt them to help you by triggering Spirit Resonance.
Most sorcerers prefer to maintain a good relationship with their spirits, as they often accompany them for years, if not decades. Even without deliberate efforts, such prolonged companionship can foster trust.
Igor, having benefited from Spirit Resonance during his time in Shattered Lake Prison, paid particular attention to this aspect. Even he couldn't wear a mask all the time; only when facing his innocent spirits could he truly let his guard down.
Playing with spirits and soaking in a bath were his only outlets for stress relief.

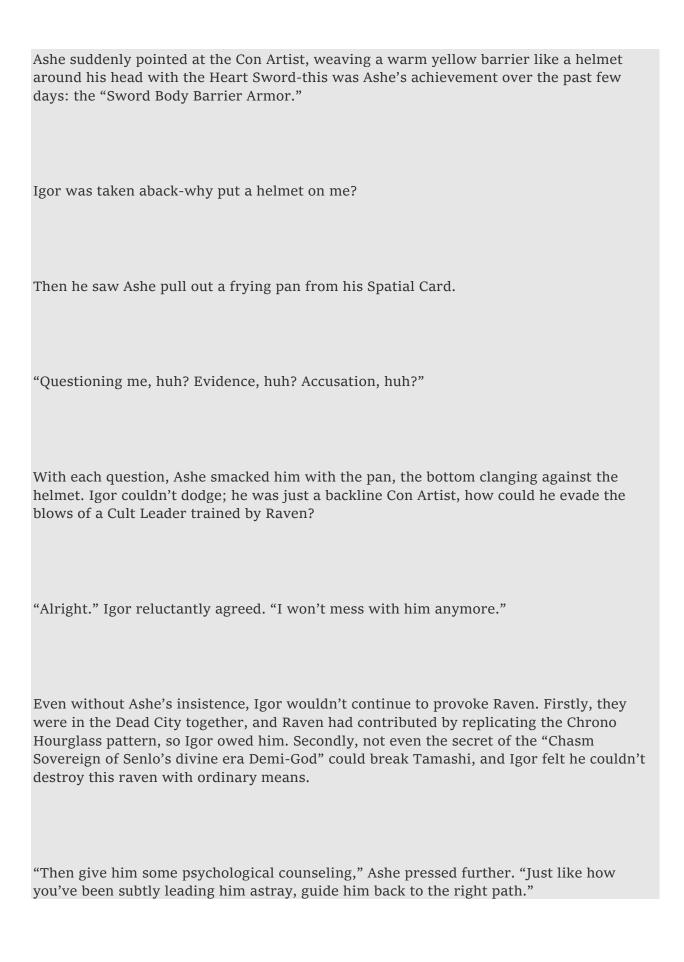




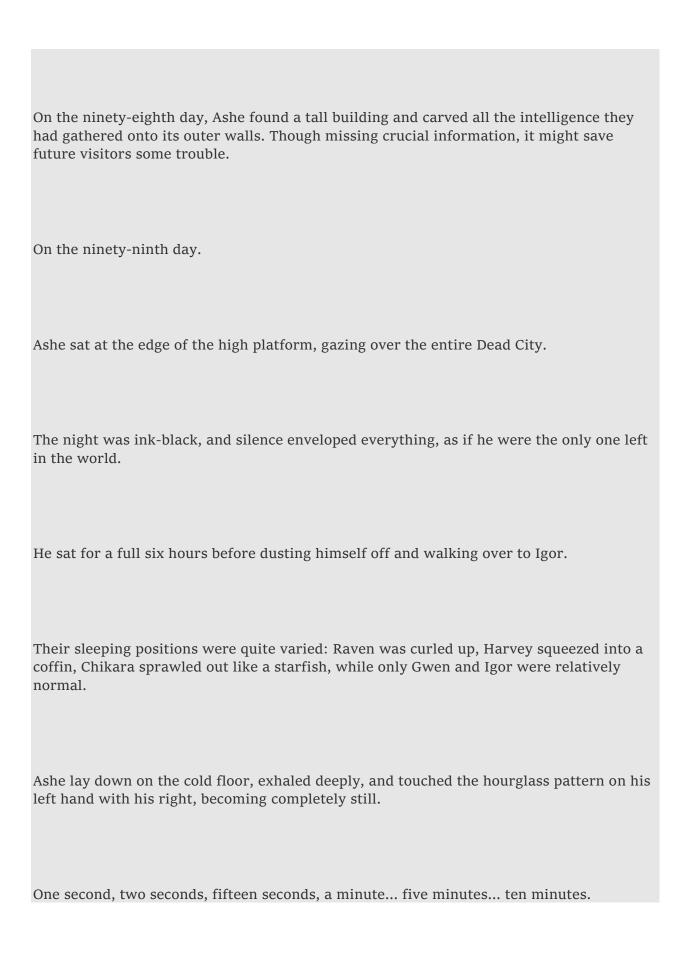
This spirit couldn't penetrate a Sanctuary.
For targets below Sanctuary level, Igor could simply use offensive Miracles, and he often didn't need to act himself, letting Harvey and Ashe do the dirty work. Against Sanctuary sorcerers, "Change of Heart" was ineffective since it couldn't breach a Sanctuary.
However, after witnessing Silver Lantern's series of "chaos Miracles," Igor had a vague inspiration. Perhaps this spirit wasn't meant for offense but for defense RANÕBEŝ
After 12 hours, Gwen hadn't awakened, leaving Igor with no doubts about the Chrono Hourglass's effect.
He retrieved a coat from his Spatial Card and draped it over Gwen, continuing his Miracle research.
On the fifteenth day, Chikara, the extrovert extraordinaire, ran out of topics to discuss with the others. With no progress in his Miracles and his spellforce depleted, he couldn't bear it any longer and activated the Chrono Hourglass to sleep.
On the thirty-second day, Harvey emerged from the basement, completely drained of spellforce. He brought out a coffin, squeezed in with Alice, and closed the lid, warning Igor not to sit on it.



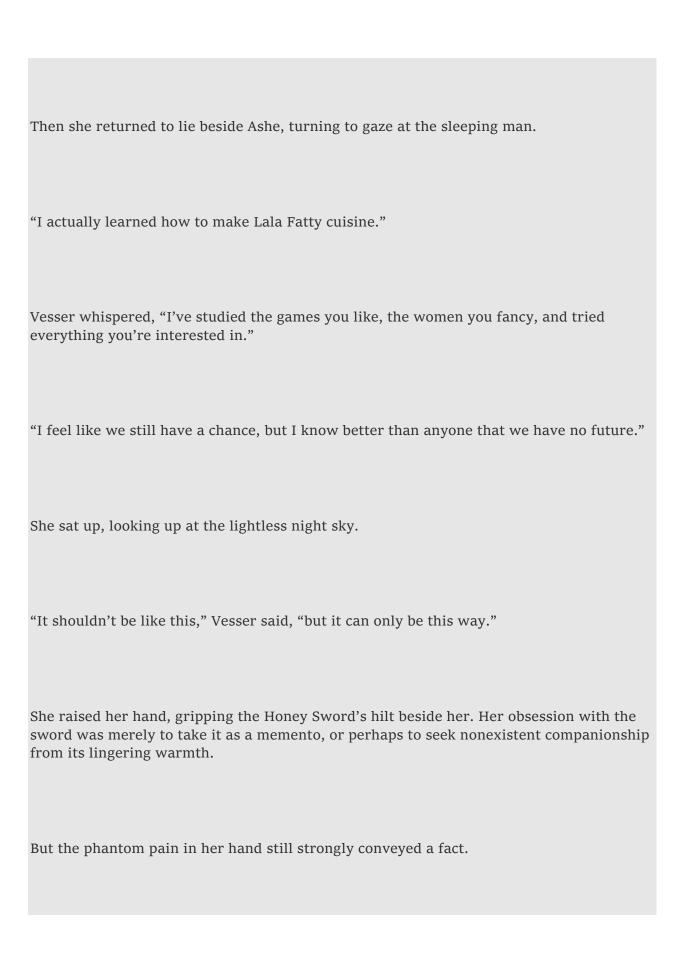


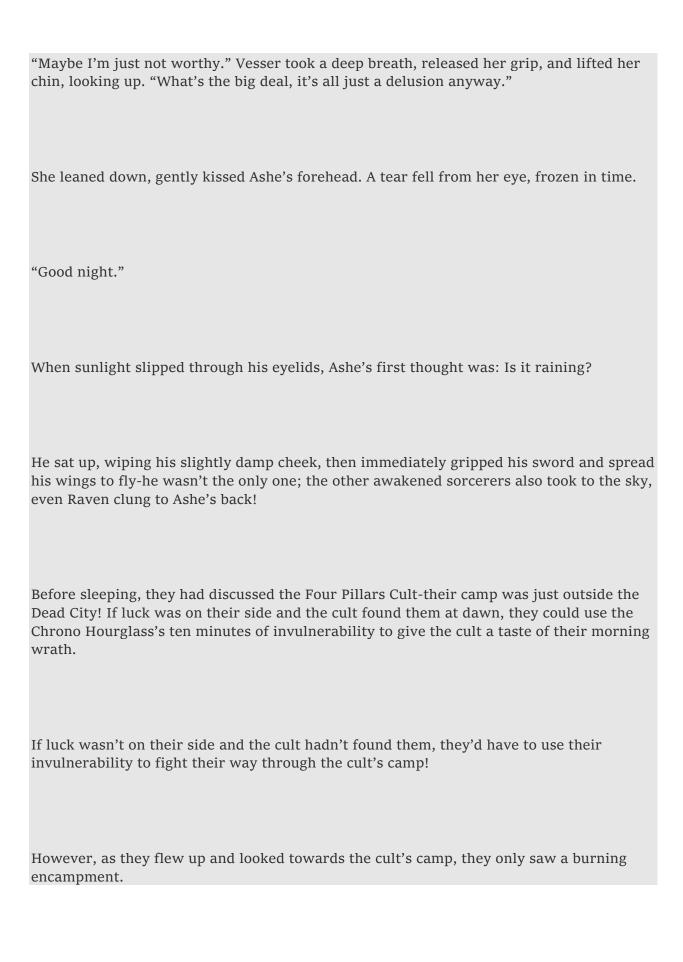


"I don't train birds." Igor replied. "If the raven has psychological issues, let him eat more corpses."
Seeing Ashe raise the frying pan again, Igor rolled his eyes. "You think I'm brushing you off? Tamashi is naturally strong-willed; he might have already recovered. His lapse was likely due to the sudden influx of information Let him kill more bad guys, and he'll naturally find his life's meaning in the slaughter."
Ashe thought that made sense and put away the frying pan. "Well good night."
Igor glanced at him.
"Get some rest, good night."
Once Igor lay down, Ashe began training on the high platform where they slept.
On the ninety-sixth day, Ashe practiced swordsmanship.
On the ninety-seventh day, Ashe parkoured across rooftops, training his agility.



At the ten-minute mark, Ashe suddenly spread his wings and flew up, quickly surveying all the surrounding buildings. After circling once, he returned to the platform, stretched, and lay down.
After a moment of daze, he drew the Honey Sword and placed it beside him, then activated the Chrono Hourglass, letting his Spirit Body fall into slumber.
Half an hour later, Vesser cautiously climbed the tower, peeking to check the situation. Even knowing no one would wake from external forces, she tiptoed over to Ashe.
She studied Ashe's sleeping face intently, perhaps for the first time observing him up close. His lips were a bit thin, his nose a bit high, his eyelashes a bit long, his eyebrows untrimmed just an ordinary person. Strange, he was just an ordinary person, so why
She glanced at the Honey Sword beside Ashe, reached out to touch the hilt, then recoiled as if shocked. Though her right hand had healed, touching the sword brought Raven's voice back to her mind, making her hand ache faintly.
You're not worthy.
Vesser stood and found Raven, stomping on his head a few times, even knowing it was pointless.





Harvey stared at the camp for five seconds, using some Reconnaissance Miracle, and said, "No living people there, but plenty of corpses."
Everyone fell silent, knowing whose handiwork it was.
"Igor, Harvey." Ashe suddenly asked, "How do you feel?"
The two were taken aback, then realized what he meant, and after sensing carefully, they said, "The Blood Seed curse is gone." "Same here."
"That's good." Ashe sighed in relief. "The only issue left is my Half Tactile Sense identity In that case"
"Let's find a way to leave Senlo."
Chapter 634: Dance of Swords and Dragons (1)

Chapter 634: Dance of Swords and Dragons ① Stars Kingdom, Swordflower College.

As night draped over the land, stars twinkled above, and the school's grand field was adorned with lights and decorations. The stage was graced by a masked songstress pouring her heart into her performance, accompanied by a music sorcerer. The central area was a starlit dance floor, surrounded by open-air bars and buffet tables. Students in elegant attire, wearing masks, mingled, danced, chatted, played, or indulged in food, their youthful energy filling the school with the rhythm of flowing music.

July and August marked the self-study summer vacation for universities, as well as the season for various intercollegiate entertainment events. Trajectory College's "Fantasy Summer Frenzy," Fangzhou University's "Crimson Theater," Truth College's "Great Debate," and Phantom Music University's "Campus Idol" were all events designed to let students unwind, concentrated within these two months.

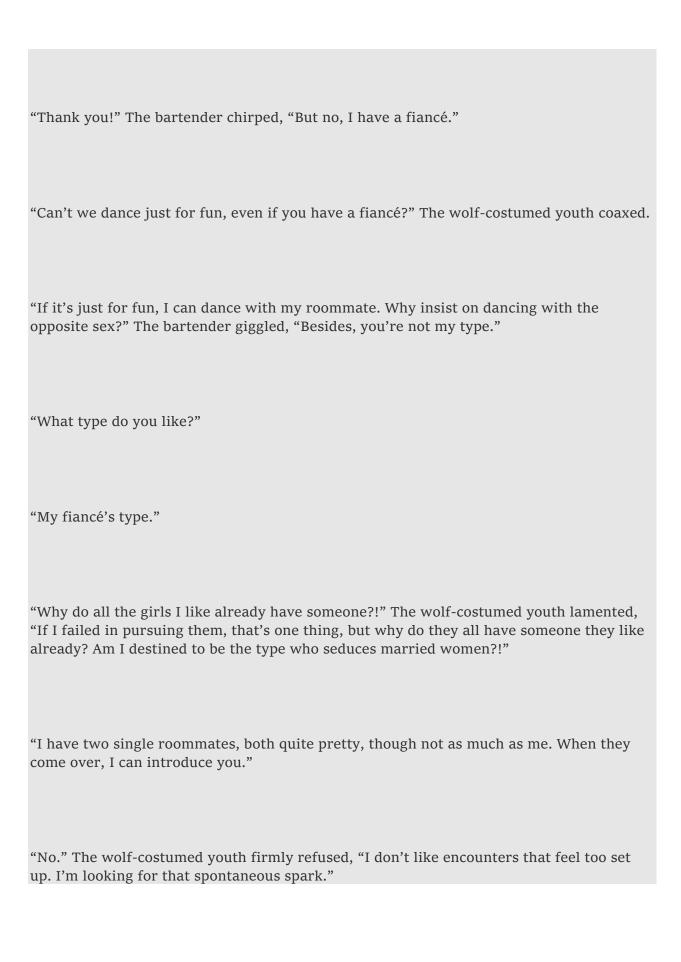
Among these, the most anticipated was Swordflower College's "Dance of Swords and Dragons" Masquerade Ball!

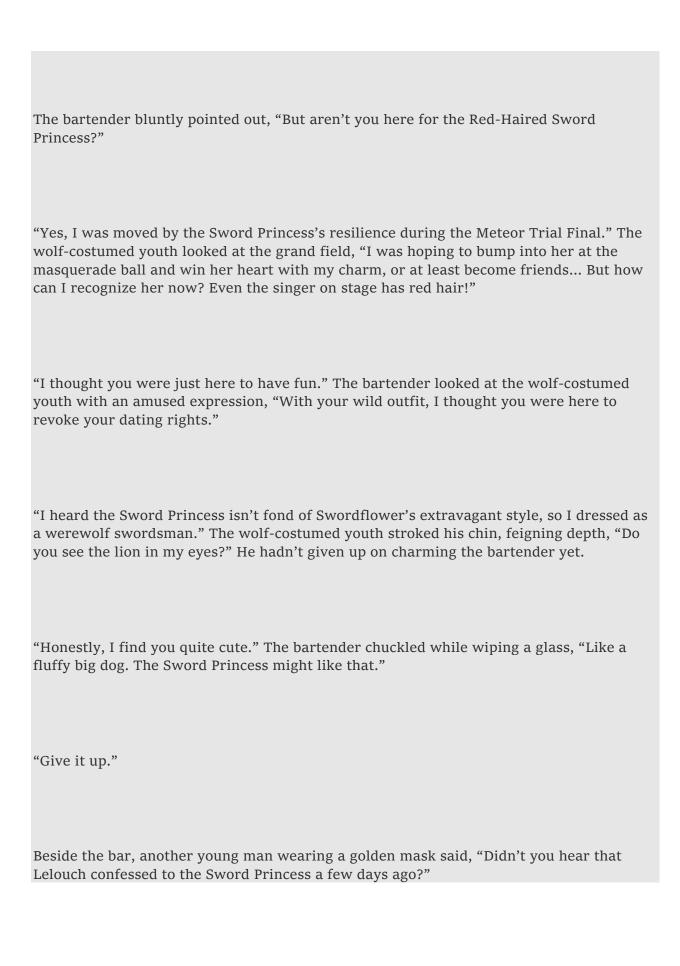
These events were open to all university students, and Swordflower College was renowned for its students' exceptional looks and affluent backgrounds, with a strong romantic atmosphere on campus. Every year, the masquerade ball attracted countless students from other schools, hoping to turn a new page in their youthful love stories. Even students from Truth College were no exception-in fact, the rate of cross-college couples between Truth College and Swordflower College was significantly higher than those within Truth College itself.

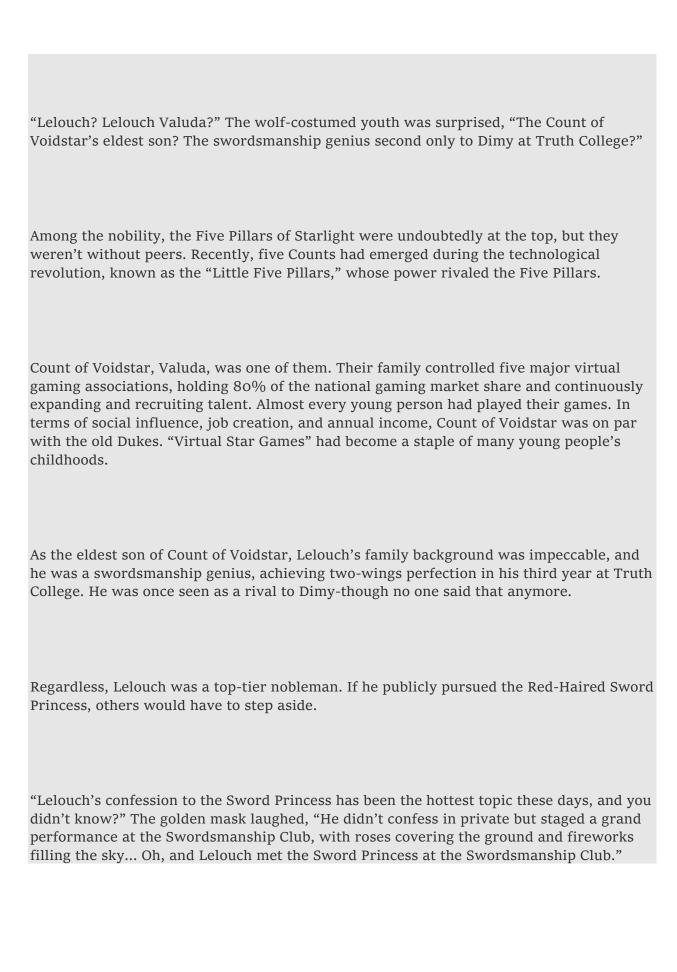
While some students were determined to "focus on studies and not on romance," the lack of classes in July and August often led to a lapse in discipline. The approaching masquerade ball would inevitably raise the love fever among university students across Galaxia. Even those who could effortlessly solve math problems might find themselves swept up in the tide of youthful affection.

Many students from Truth College, known for their strict family upbringing and dedication to spellcasting, found themselves unwittingly charmed by outsiders at the masquerade ball, leading to lifelong commitments, regardless of gender.
According to completely unreliable statistics, the number of couples successfully matched at the masquerade ball each year reached four figures. Even though 70% of them would break up within a month, it was enough to excite the love-struck youths.
However, even though Swordflower students anticipated the ball's popularity, they were still surprised by the sheer number of attendees, as if half of Galaxia's university students had squeezed in.
As for why there were so many people this year, everyone knew the reason.
"Why are there so many redheads?"
Outside the dance floor, a wolf-costumed youth was bewildered.
Among the three girls passing by, one had dyed red hair. Though there were various shades like pink, wine, and crimson, and different styles like short, medium, layered, and ponytails, the number of red-haired girls was overwhelming!
"That's normal, young man."

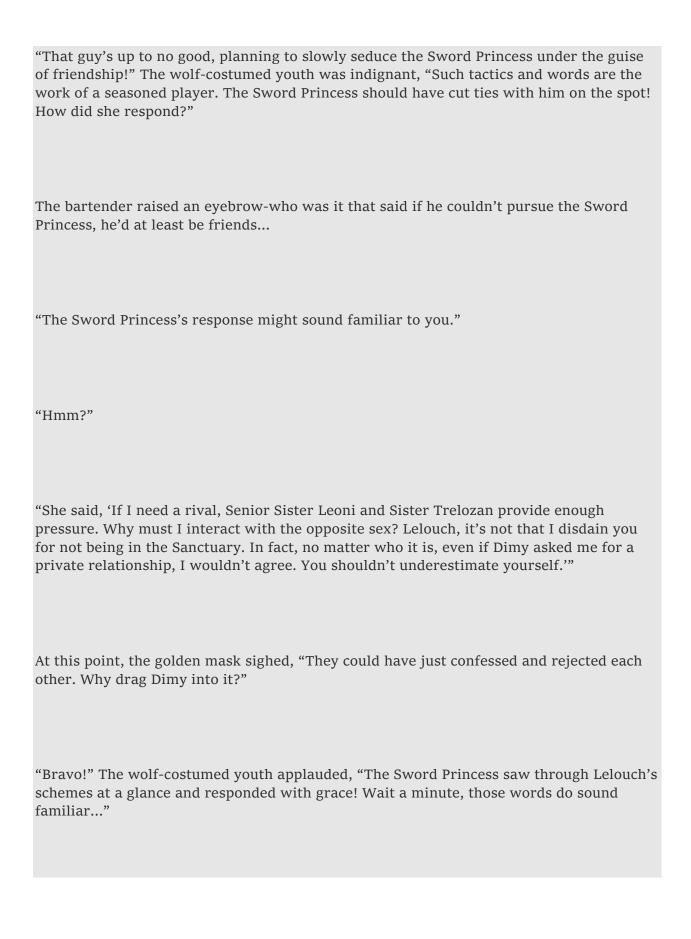
At the bar, a female bartender was mixing drinks with flair, laughing as she said, "When 'Blade of Shifting Time' aired, at least eight out of ten young women in Galaxia styled their hair like Delarose. Now that the Red-Haired Sword Princess has shone in the Meteor Trial, it's no surprise everyone's following the trend and dyeing their hair red."
The wolf-costumed youth glanced over and noticed the bartender had also highlighted a strand of red in her hair. Resigned, he accepted the cocktail. "But with so many red-haired girls, I can't even tell if the Sword Princess is right in front of me Ugh!"
He took a sip of the cocktail and found it unbearably sour. He wanted to complain but held back his anger, considering the bartender was quite cute. "I asked for a Holiday Storm. What is this?"
"Oh, sorry, sorry." The bartender pulled out a notebook. "Let me see No wonder, I mixed it up and accidentally added bitter vinegar. I'll make you the correct one while looking at my notes."
"Are you learning on the spot?!"
"There are too many people tonight, and I was pulled in for a part-time job at the last minute." The bartender muttered, "Blame it on me failing my finals"
The wolf-costumed youth blinked, suddenly finding the bartender quite adorable. Her cheeks were chubby and rosy like red apples, hitting his sweet spot perfectly. He cleared his throat and said in a magnetic voice, "Then, my lovely lady, may I invite you for a dance later?"

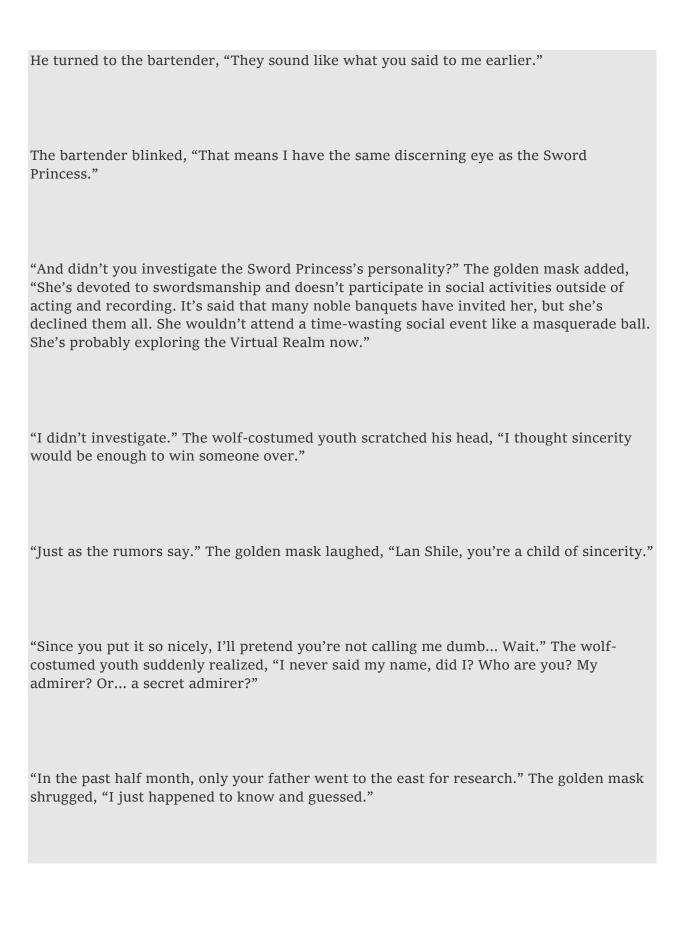




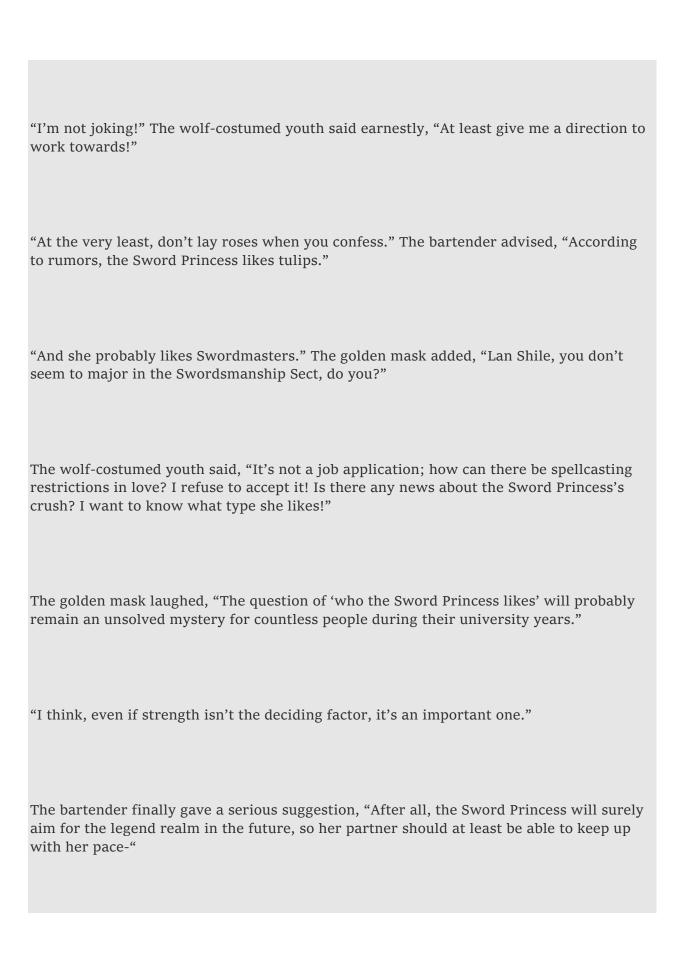


During summer vacation, battle sorcerers often didn't train in isolation but participated in clubs for competition and sparring. Lower-level clubs might just be a few students renting a classroom, while higher-level clubs were usually led by professors.
A club attended by both the Sword Princess and Lelouch had to be the highest level, not even needing a name. Only the weak would take pride in saying, "I'm a member of XX club" or "I'm in the same club as XX." For these genius sorcerers, clubs were just ordinary places for sparring and training.
"I didn't know! I spent the first half of the month in the eastern countryside with my old man, who said it was to broaden my horizons, but I just fed mosquitoes for half a month. only got back yesterday, so I have no idea what's been happening in Galaxia!" The wolfcostumed youth wailed, "The Sword Princess didn't accept, did she? My Sword Princess-"
"She didn't."
"Thank goodness."
"But Lelouch said, 'I know you have someone in your heart, but even if we can't be a couple, we can be friends. I may not be your first good friend, but I hope to be your most important, the one who can help you the most. The path of swordsmanship is long and lonely; we can compete and learn from each other. Although I'm not as strong as Dimy now, I'll catch up soon.'"





The wolf-costumed youth made a sound of surprise, "You actually follow my old man? That's creepy. Are you a prophecy sorcerer? How else would you know so much about Lelouch's confession to the Sword Princess?"
The golden mask replied, "Because I was there watching."
"I can vouch for that." The bartender giggled, "I was one of the roses on the ground."
The wolf-costumed youth took a sip of the newly mixed cocktail. Though it wasn't great, he endured it.
Before him were the myriad men and women hunting each other in the dance floor, and in his ears was the gentle, enduring song. After pondering for a long time, he turned to them and asked, "How can I make the Sword Princess like me?"
The bartender seriously asked, "If I knew the answer, what price could I sell it for?"
The golden mask thought for a moment, "Probably something equivalent to the property of a Four-winged Spirit."
"That much!" The bartender looked at the wolf-costumed youth, "Can you pay a deposit first?"



"Aiming for legend? Is she even worthy?"
Everyone turned to see two people passing by the bar, a tall man wearing a Black Tiger Mask and a petite woman wearing a Butterfly Mask. The speaker was the Butterfly Mask.
The golden mask smiled faintly, "Are you questioning the value of 'half-year Sanctuary'?"
"It's precisely because she's a half-year Sanctuary." The Butterfly Mask said bluntly, "She lacks combat experience and spellcasting accumulation. She's just an empty vase with levels."
"She could climb to the Distant Sky Domain through cheating, but can she ascend Ruby Mountain?"
Chapter 635: Dance of Swords and Dragons 2

In recent days, despite Sonya's low profile, rumors about her have inevitably spread and fermented.

Rebirth theories, heritage theories, talent theories-various hypotheses have emerged, yet no one believes that Sonya reached the Sanctuary through normal cultivation.

Half a year!
Even for a genius sorcerer, achieving a silver full-winged status in half a year is not guaranteed!
Though direct action is impossible, the prophecy sorcerers, Truth sorcerers, and fate sorcerers of the Stars have all attempted to uncover Sonya's hidden secrets. Moreover, reasonable probing within the rules has never ceased.
"The Sea of Knowledge can be navigated by Whirlpool, the Time Continent by Movement Miracle, but the Distant Sky Domain offers no shortcuts or cheats," Butterfly Mask said coldly. "Someone like her, with insufficient strength and a false reputation, probably can't even break a Phantom and will forever be stuck in the Distant Sky Domain!"
The bartender, polishing a glass, muttered, "Insulting our Swordflower at Swordflower College, she may not have strength, but she certainly lacks manners"
Butterfly Mask's eyes turned cold, and with a casual flick of her finger towards the bartender, the air stirred. She didn't even use spellforce, yet with a mere resonance of spirit, she could carve a small wind blade in the air, leaving a cut on the bartender's chubby cheek-
Smack.

The Wolf Costumed Youth swatted it away like a mosquito, dispersing the forming wind blade with his bare hand.
He turned to stare at Butterfly Mask and Black Tiger Mask, pondering, "Trying to stir up trouble to draw out the sword Princess?"
Golden Mask was somewhat surprised-though Lan Shile was simple and kind-hearted, he was remarkably quick-witted when faced with malice, which explained the rumors that Count Stardust intended to elevate him, the third son, as his heir.
Black Tiger Mask remained silent, while Butterfly Mask said, "I just want that coward who avoids battles to relinquish the honor that doesn't belong to her-The First Swordmaster Under the Stars."
At first glance, this title seems overly arrogant, especially since there are legendary sorcerers above. Isn't it a slap in the face for a sanctuary sorcerer to claim this title?
However, this title is specifically prepared for the champion of the Meteor Trial, requiring the champion to be a Swordmaster and to have widespread public support.
Among these three points, the last is actually the hardest. For instance, Dimy has already won the Meteor Trial once, but his status as a Duke's son means that public jealousy and admiration are equally weighted.
Simply put, it's expected for Dimy to win the championship, and not winning would be disgraceful.

However, Sonya is different. Her background as a village girl from an agricultural town has become the key to her skyrocketing popularity. What could resonate more with the public than a grassroots success story? Coupled with such a legendary experience, the public doesn't care about the vast difference between 'Sanctuary' and 'Legend,' and they directly bestow the honor of 'The First Swordmaster Under the Stars' upon her.

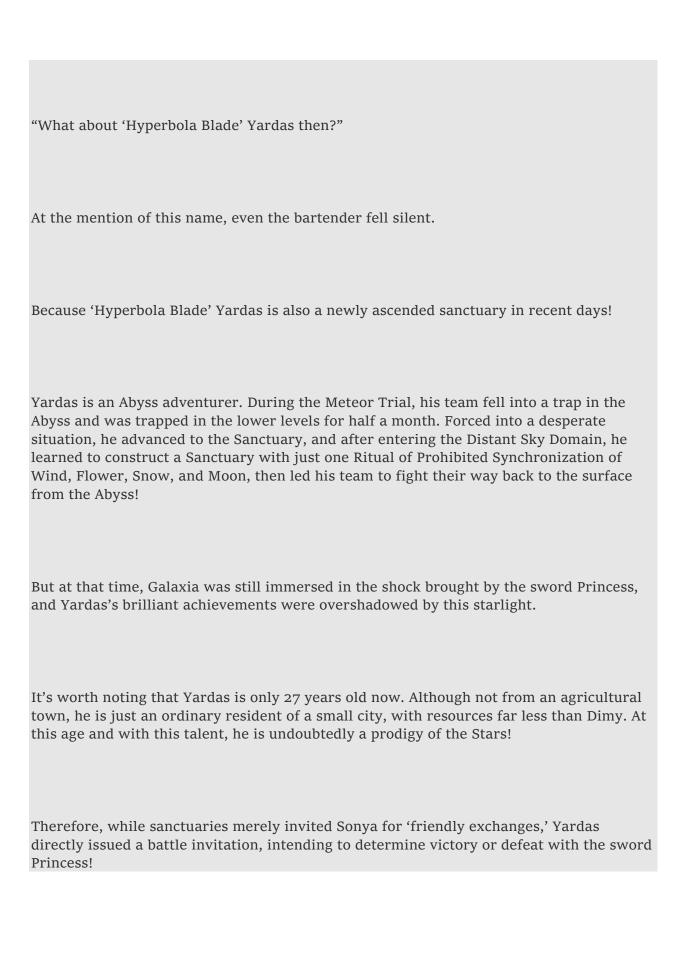
With the entertainment media fanning the flames, Sonya's fame is about to overshadow the top ten sword saints. Perhaps legendary sorcerers don't care, but many Swordmasters find it hard to accept-especially the sanctuaries who see through Sonya's facade.

"The sword Princess's swordsmanship realm isn't even at the sanctuary level, not even touching the golden level ceiling," Butterfly Mask said coldly. "If Dimy hadn't been serious from the start, the sword Princess would have lost long ago."

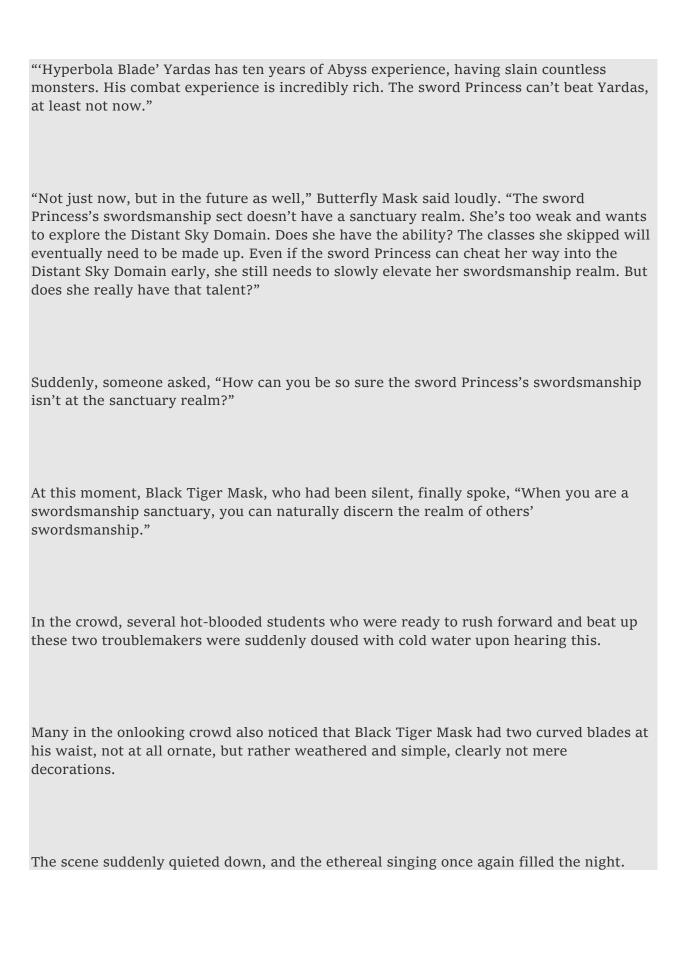
Golden Mask chuckled, "No need to embellish Dimy like that. The sword Princess's original Miracles are still quite tricky. Rather than saying Dimy wasn't serious at the start, it's more like he was gathering intelligence."

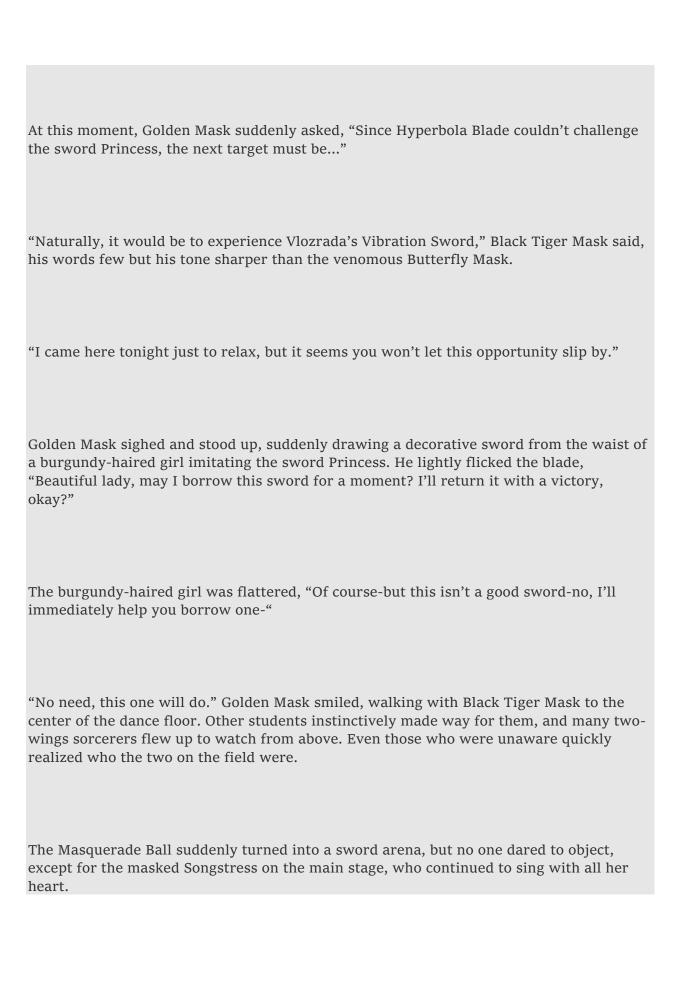
Butterfly Mask continued, "The sword Princess has refused all sanctuary challenges these days, which is the best proof. She reached the Distant Sky Domain, but with her insufficient strength, she finds it even harder to benefit from virtual realm exploration. Once she clashes with other sanctuaries, everyone will easily see how undeserving she is of her reputation."

The bartender retorted, "Those challenging her are shameless! The sword Princess just ascended to the Sanctuary a few days ago. How could she agree to spar with those old-timers who've been in the Sanctuary for years or even decades? That's just asking for a beating!"

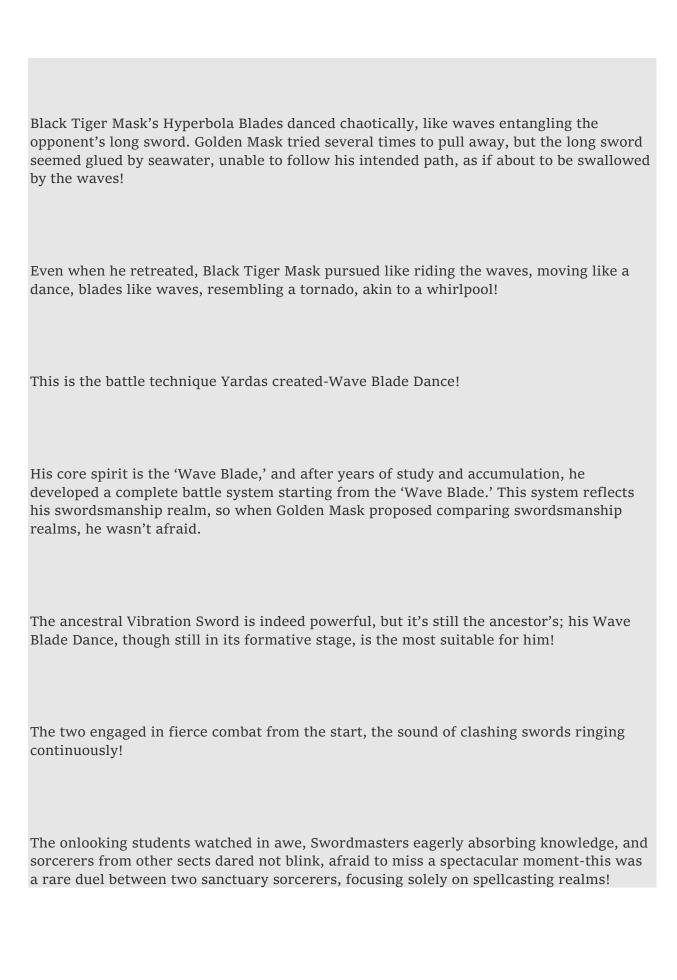


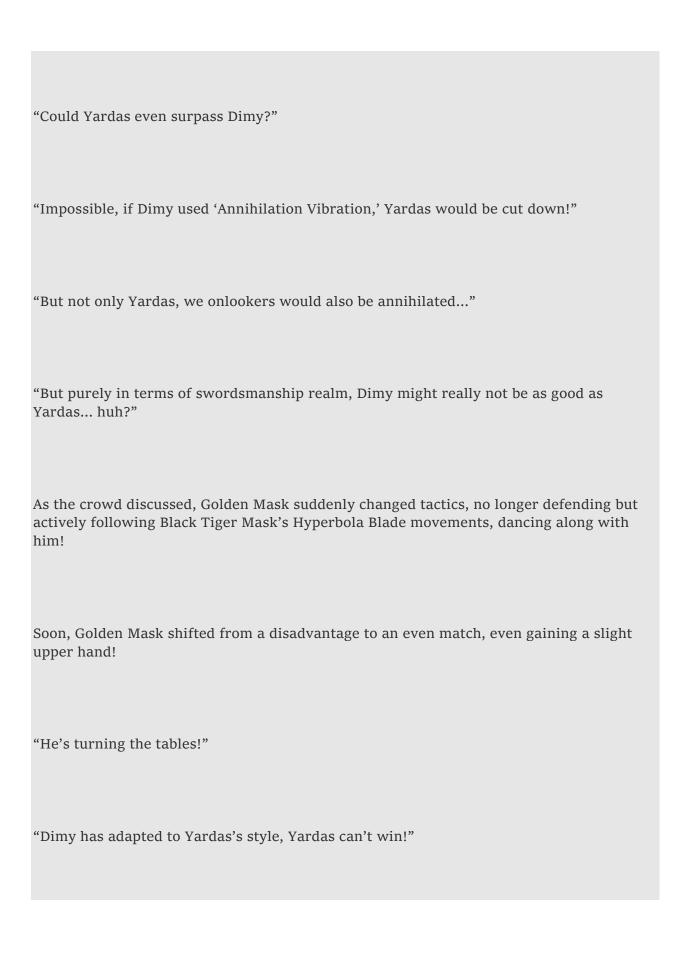
However, Sonya refused all exchanges and remained in school to cultivate and study.
With repeated refusals, naturally, rumors of 'the sword Princess being all show,' 'the sword Princess exhausting her potential at the Sanctuary,' and 'a vase sword saint' began to circulate.
While they were arguing at the bar, a crowd gathered nearby, with some supporting the sword Princess and others mocking her. As the voices grew louder, they even drowned out the music from the stage, and the students in the dance floor curiously looked over.
"The sword Princess is busy consolidating her strength. It's only natural she doesn't accept challenges. Those old sanctuaries just want to suppress her!"
"Oh, then why doesn't she accept Yardas's challenge? If the sword Princess is truly that talented, how could Yardas, who just ascended to the Sanctuary a few days ago, be her match?"
"Actually, if she were to fight Dimy again, the sword Princess might not win, especially since Dimy now knows her trump cards"
"Ridiculous, hiding trump cards is a tactic. Why don't you ask Dimy to hide 'Annihilation Vibration' until the last moment to catch the sword Princess off guard?"





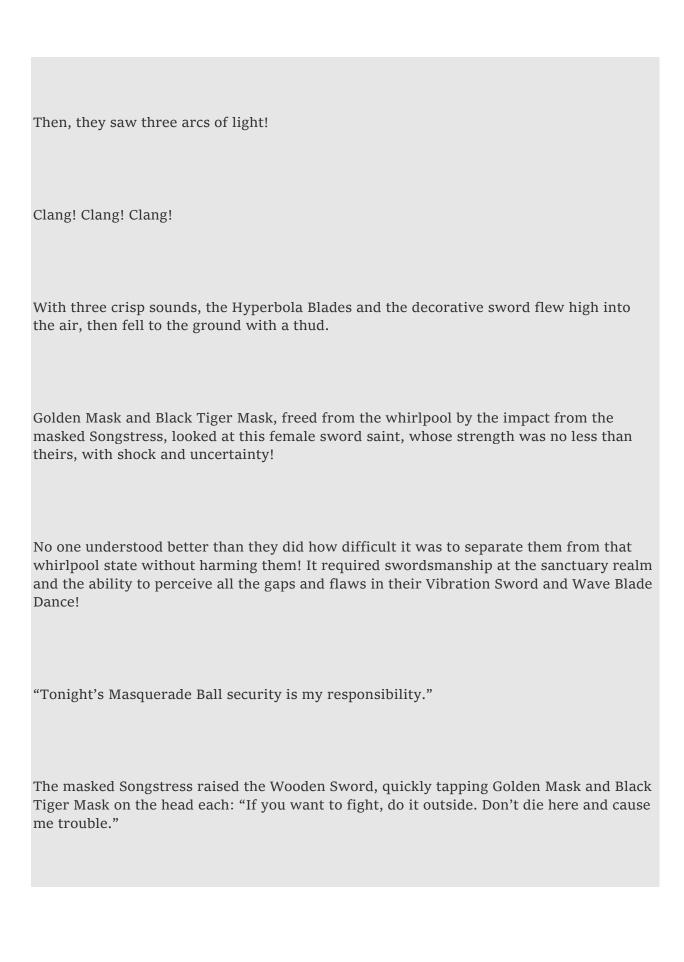
"My Rainbow spellforce is greater than yours. Going all out would be unfair to you, and this isn't a battlefield. Let's not use spirits or sanctuaries," Golden Mask said. "Just swordsmanship."
Black Tiger Mask nodded, drawing his Hyperbola Blades, "Let's determine the superior."
The two exchanged a glance, and after a brief silence, they collided like two phantoms.
Even without spirits, their physical prowess was top-notch!
Clang!
A violent tremor traveled from the blade to Black Tiger Mask's wrist, spreading to his internal organs, even reaching his pituitary gland!
Vlozrada's Vibration Sword, even without spirits, is a top-tier combat technique. Under the sanctuary realm's enhancement, the Vibration Sword can emit shockwaves through mere contact!
However, my time in the Abyss was not in vain.





"But Yardas hasn't lost, Dimy still can't escape his Hyperbola Blades!"
"They're not using spirits, yet their fight is more intense than if they were!"
"Is this the sword saint's grace"
"No wonder Therave didn't dare to challenge, the gap is indeed too large"
While the onlooking students marveled, unaware that the two in the battle circle couldn't stop.
The essence of the Wave Blade Dance is to create a whirlpool to entangle the enemy. When Golden Mask actively entered the whirlpool and moved with the flow, it meant the whirlpool would spin faster and faster until neither could control it, requiring someone to be seriously injured to end it!
Although they could use spirits or sanctuaries to escape this 'sword whirlpool,' that would be equivalent to admitting defeat. They'd rather be seriously injured than break the combat rules!
As they were caught in this dance of death, the masked Songstress on the main stage sang the final note, accompanied by the band's music, the lingering sound drifting into the night sky.

Below the stage, only the bartender and two female students applauded.
Then the bartender took a sword bag from under the bar and ran over from the periphery tossing it to the masked Songstress on the main stage. The Songstress nodded in thanks, drew a Wooden Sword from the bag, jumped off the stage, and walked straight towards the two who were struggling to extricate themselves.
"Hey, that's dangerous over there!"
"Those are two sword sanctuaries fighting, is she trying to mediate?"
"Is she crazy, doesn't she see her own strength?"
"Wait, she's holding a Wooden Sword…"
"She's actually holding a Wooden Sword, while they're using real swords Wooden Sword?"
At this moment, Golden Mask and Black Tiger Mask also noticed the masked Songstress approaching them, but they had no energy left to protect her, only able to warn her with their eyes to leave quickly-



With that, she walked towards the bar, and the onlooking students instinctively made way for her. She picked up a cocktail from the bar and took a sip, but the next second, she spat it all over the bartender's face.
"Even if it's bad, you didn't have to spit it all over me!?"
"Sorry, I didn't expect to taste something rancid in a cocktail maybe you should consider studying the Toxic spell sect?"
The crowd watched them leave the dance floor in a daze, many blushing, wishing they could hide underground-they had just been clamoring that the sword Princess was far inferior to Dimy and Yardas, but the next second, the sword Princess single-handedly subdued two sword saints!
Would you dare to interfere in a duel between two sword saints?
Could you knock the swords out of a sword saint's hands?
Could you tap a sword saint on the head without them reacting?
At this moment, all those rumors of 'vase sword saint,' 'sword Princess not at sanctuary realm' were utterly dispelled!

The Wolf Costumed Youth murmured, "That was so cool"
Golden Mask removed his mask, revealing a handsome face with golden hair, and said, "In just over a month, she's caught up, maybe even surpassed me. were to fight the Meteor Trial again, I wouldn't be confident of winning."
Black Tiger Mask revealed a cold and determined face. Three scars ran across his left cheek, as if scratched by claws. He asked, 'Is it her?"
"Who else?" Dimy said, "Do you still want to challenges shook his head, "No, I'm going back."
"Going back where?"
"The Aby Without looking back, Hyperbola Blade left, "I will surpass you."
After changing out costume, Sonya planned to train a bit more at the training ground, but on the way she saw a silver luxury car waiting.
"You're here again," the Stretch Paw Club check out the Masquerade Ball? Your brother is fighting there."

Felix in the car seemed to have blocked out news about Dimy, saying directly, "Sword Princess, we can help you."
Sonya decisively refused: "I don't need help."
"Is that so?" Felix said softly, "What a pity, I heard you're researching how to time travel across with that."
Chapter 636: The Stars Taboo
Sonya's pupils contracted sharply.

She remained silent for a moment, then sat in the back seat of the car, saying, "You really

unnoticed female student, nor just a two-wings sorcerer with decent results in the Meteor

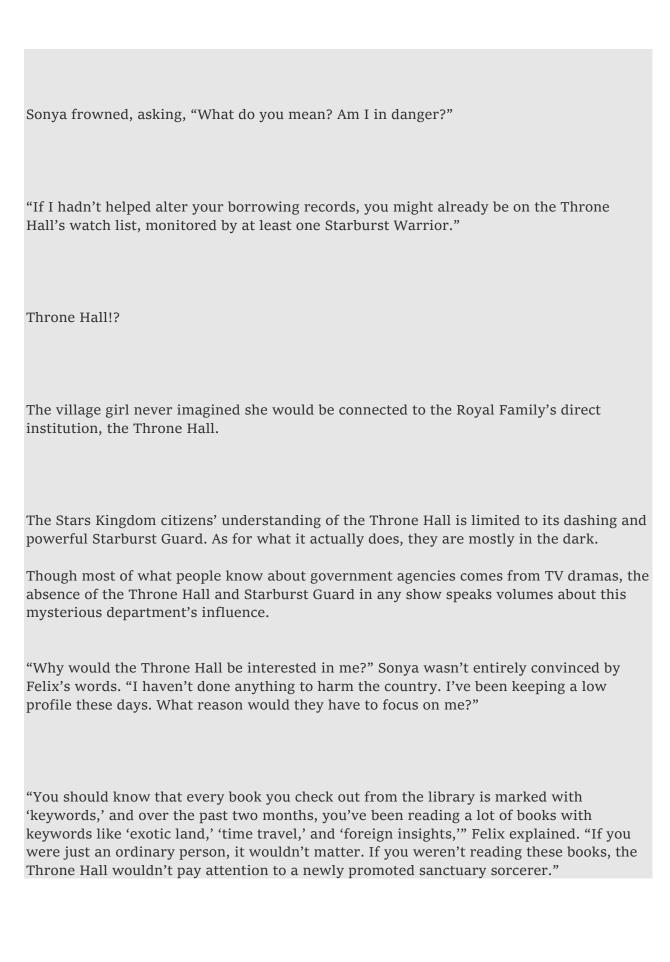
"You haven't adjusted to your change in status," Felix said. "You're no longer that

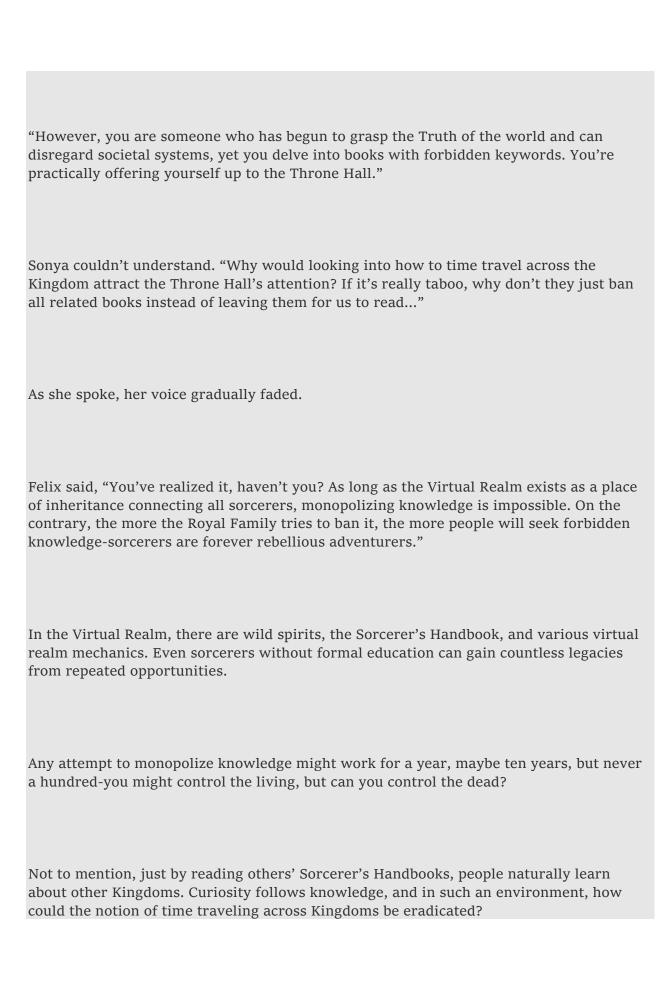
"What you like, what flowers you prefer, where you've been, whom you've met-every move you make is under the spotlight. Every action of yours will be scrutinized for hidden meanings, and yet you dare to openly seek ways to time travel across the Kingdom... You

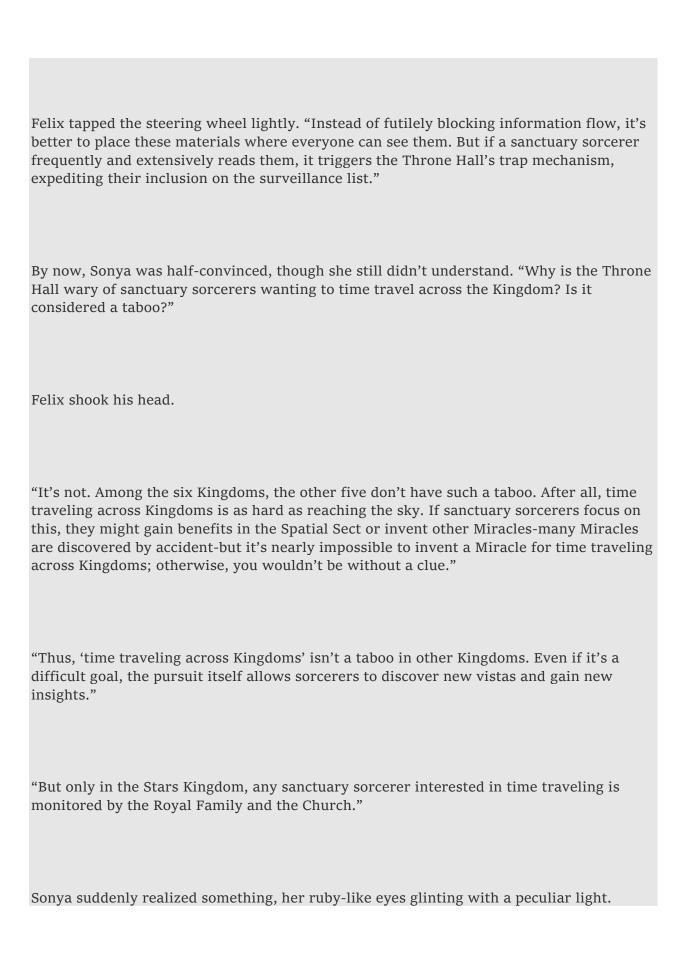
do keep an eye on me."

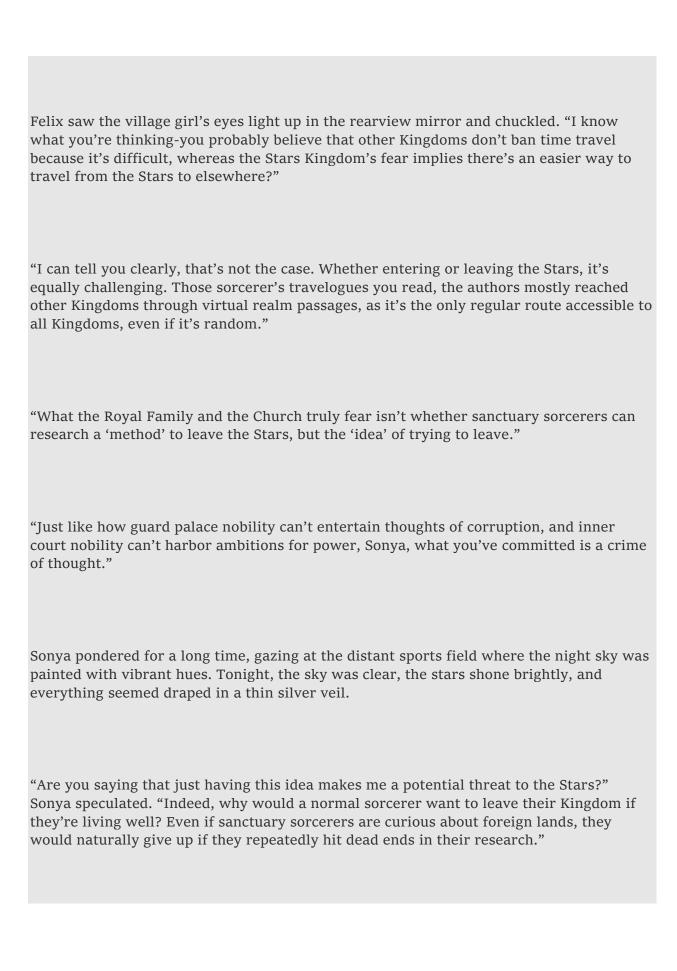
should value your life more."

Trial... You're a sanctuary sorcerer with secrets."









"If I'm determined to research time traveling methods, the Throne Hall would see me as dissatisfied with the Stars? They might even think I'm disloyal and only want to move to another Kingdom?"
However, Felix didn't answer directly but asked, "So, can I still offer some help to the stretching paw sword saint?"
Felix's implication was clear-what he just shared was free public content, but the next part would be VIP, requiring payment.
Sonya still wanted to get it for free. "You're just a two-wings sorcerer. How do I know if what you say is true?"
"I don't actually know if it's true."
Felix admitted, "I'm just a sorcerer who hasn't even entered the Distant Sky Domain. Even if I'm interested in time traveling across Kingdoms, the Throne Hall wouldn't care about me."
"But my intelligence source is a mutual aid group, where there are quite a few sanctuary sorcerers. Some of them have been monitored by the Throne Hall for researching how to time travel across Kingdoms, and they barely have any personal freedom, almost like being under house arrest."

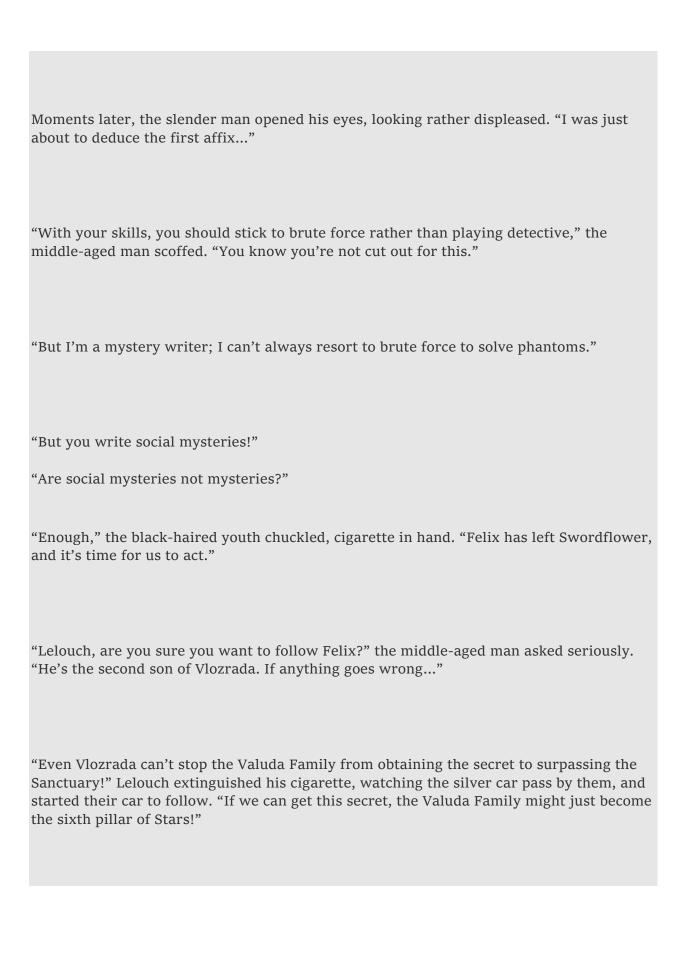
"You can choose not to believe me and continue your research, but my help ends here. Next time you look for books with 'time travel' keywords, you'll have to find a way to erase your borrowing traces."
Sonya finally understood why Felix was so confident-if his previous temptations were "join us and gain something," this time his condition was "if you don't join us, you'll lose something!"
As long as Sonya continued to seek ways to time travel across Kingdoms from within the Stars Kingdom, she would inevitably attract the Throne Hall's attention, and possibly face suppression, warnings, and house arrest!
Felix's timing was also quite clever, just as Sonya had nearly finished going through the Forest Library and Flower Library at Swordflower College and was about to seek more information from other university libraries.
Although Sonya could try to hide her tracks, she lacked experience in this area, making exposure highly risky, and she wasn't mentally prepared.
Essentially, Sonya was still a cautious village girl, avoiding anything illegal or criminal. The worst thing she'd ever done was pretend to accidentally stomp on someone's foot with high heels and exploit a system loophole to take unlimited hot showers in the dorm.
The thought of possibly offending the Royal Family and the Church made Sonya nervouswhat right did a little sword Princess like her have to do that?

It's not that she didn't dare, but merely "researching time travel methods" and becoming an enemy of the Stars felt as absurd as killing someone over a debate about whether to dip Lala Fatty in vinegar!
From another perspective, Felix's offer wasn't particularly compelling. Normally, people would choose to abandon researching time travel methods to avoid being targeted by the Throne Hall. Why would anyone join them just to continue their research?
But Felix was confident, though without any apparent reason, that the matter of "time traveling across Kingdoms" was extremely important to Sonya!
That's why she had gathered so much intelligence on time traveling across Kingdoms in advance, to present Sonya with an offer she couldn't refuse!
Sonya finally asked, "Do you have a method for time traveling across Kingdoms?"
"Not currently, because it's not our main project, but we do have quite a bit of information, definitely secrets you wouldn't find even if you turned the entire Galaxia library upside down," Felix said. "And there are many sorcerers skilled in the Spatial Sect Collaborating with them is better than wandering blindly."
"Even if there's no breakthrough, we have ways to find virtual realm passages. Though these passages are random, many appear each year. No matter where you want to go, if you're patient, you'll eventually get there."

Felix finally revealed her trump card: besides resources, she offered a guaranteed fallback!
If Sonya wanted to delve into researching time travel methods, Felix had the connections and research resources. If Sonya simply wanted to achieve her goal, Felix had a surefire fallback method!
As long as time traveling across Kingdoms was an unyielding goal for Sonya, she couldn't refuse Felix's offer!
Sonya pressed her lips tightly together, and only when the laughter from the sports field overflowed again did she ask, "Who are you people, really? Don't give me that 'sorcerer mutual aid group' line."
"Before you join, I can't say, but I can give you a glimpse of our foundation"
Felix bit the white glove with her fingers, pulling it off to reveal her fair-skinned, slender left hand, and-
The horrifying circular hole in her left palm.
Felix covered her eye with her left hand, and through the circular hole, Sonya could see her eye. This bizarre composition gave the village girl a strong sense of awe, like admiring a masterpiece painting or a marvelously crafted sculpture!

Huh!?
Sonya suddenly realized she couldn't move, and her spellforce had completely stalled!
Chapter 637: Pursuit
Chapter 637: Pursuit
"She got into Felix's car? Is Felix leaving Swordflower now?"
Outside Swordflower College, a young man with black hair and dressed in purple listened intently to his subordinate's report from within a nondescript matte black car.
"It seems tonight is the night. After days of waiting, we finally have something."
He exhaled a cloud of smoke, drawing a cigarette from a metallic case, and took a slow drag. The smoke was expelled through the car's ventilation system as he spoke, "Uncle Veille, could you call Uncle Koruno?"

The middle-aged man in the back seat nodded and nudged the slender man beside him, who had his eyes closed.

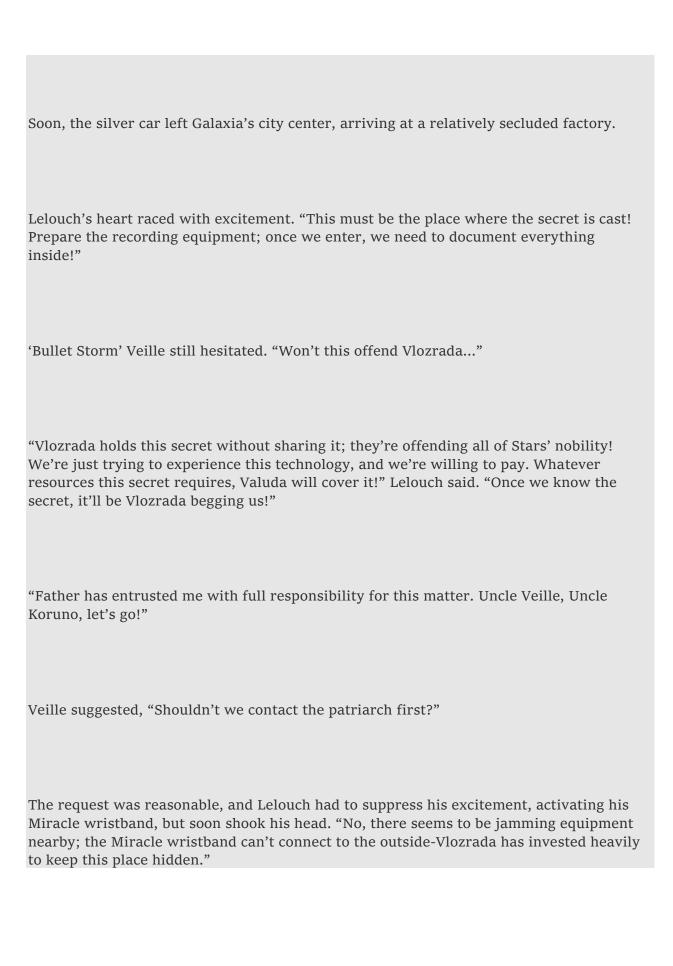


Inside the car were Lelouch Valuda, and the sanctuary sorcerers 'Bullet Storm' Veille and
'Ashen' Koruno!
Veille was Lelouch's uncle, the gunmanship sanctuary of the Valuda Family; Koruno, on the other hand, had been accepted into the Valuda Family, becoming the son-in-law of the Count of Voidstar and a wind spell sanctuary!
The Valuda Family had only these two sanctuaries, and their days spent in this car were not without ulterior motives-they aimed to steal the secret of the sword Princess's half-year sanctuary upgrade!
To achieve this, Lelouch had joined the swordsmanship club, spending over half a month trying to get close to the sword Princess, but he couldn't break through the social barrier. In the end, he attempted a bold move by confessing, hoping to change their relationship, but the sword Princess was as cold as stone, refusing even a friendship card.
However, besides direct attempts, the Valuda Family had other plans. As the wealthiest new noble family, Lelouch spared no expense, using his pursuit of the sword Princess as a cover to bribe almost every student within 500 meters of her, all to uncover her detailed schedule and deduce the secret method she used for rapid upgrades.
As the investigation deepened, a suspicious figure came into view: Felix Vlozrada.
If Felix was merely pestering Sonya, Lelouch might have thought he was also pursuing the sword Princess. But the problem was, Felix rarely met with Sonya. Often, Sonya would leave the Forest Library, and Felix would enter shortly after, their schedules mirroring each other with a slight time gap.

And this wasn't just a coincidence for a day or two; it was a routine that lasted over a month!
If anything, Felix seemed more like a stalker, but the question was, how could the second son of Vlozrada be reduced to merely stalking a girl from afar? Moreover, Felix's reputation for being a playboy was well-known, even to Lelouch.
As for whether Felix was also trying to steal the sword Princess's secret method, it was unlikely-if the secret method was something she could access daily, it would have been discovered the night the Meteor Trial ended!
Thus, there was only one possibility: Felix and Sonya were communicating secretly!
Lelouch didn't know their exact method of communication, but he didn't need to. He just needed to know that Felix was also aware of the secret method!
Thinking back, the reason no one could find the sword Princess's secret method was likely because the secret wasn't with her; she was merely the result of the secret.
The true holder of the secret was probably Felix!

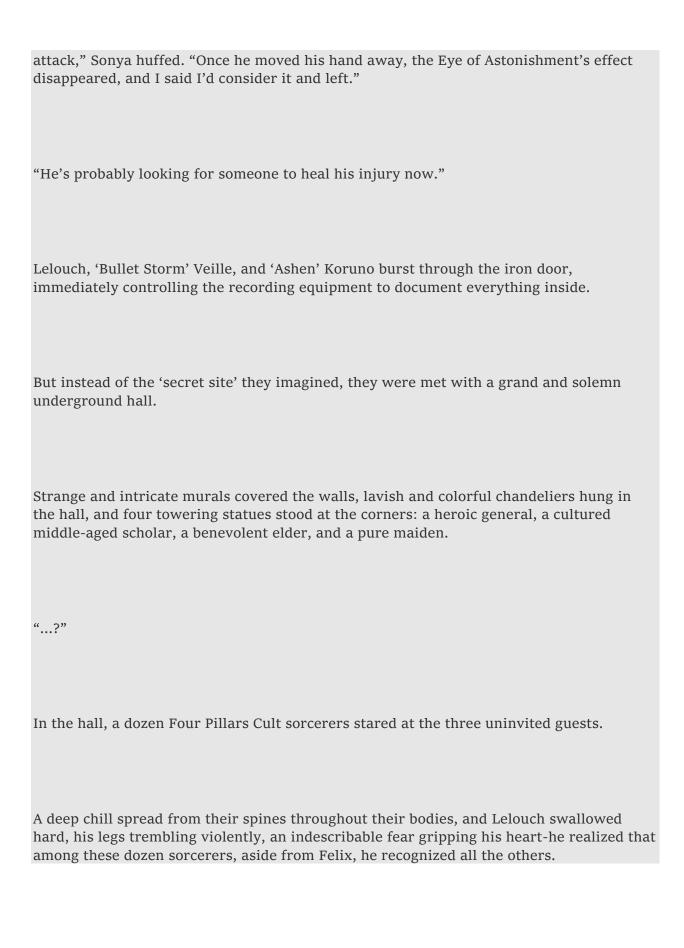
Was it an adventure from the Virtual Realm? Or the latest research result from Vlozrada?
Regardless, the Valuda Family had to get a piece of the pie!
For this reason, 'Bullet Storm' Veille and 'Ashen' Koruno had spent six days and nights with Lelouch at Swordflower College, waiting for an opportunity!
Among the newly risen nobility, the Count of Voidstar was already at the level of the Five Pillars in various aspects, but the family only had two sanctuary sorcerers, making it impossible to compare with the Five Pillars. However, the cultivation of high-tier sorcerers wasn't a matter of ten or twenty years, but nearly a hundred years of generational inheritance. The suddenly wealthy Valuda Family couldn't accept such a long return period.
They wanted to recruit sanctuaries, but most sanctuaries cared little for gold and silver, valuing spellcasting inheritance more, such as Vlozrada's Vibration Swordsmanship.
But the Valuda Family had no spellcasting inheritance!
Thus, upon learning of the sword Princess's 'half-year sanctuary,' they tried every means to win her over. They heard she admired Delarose, so they spent money on Delarose's new play, reserving a role for the sword Princess, hoping to corrupt her with wealth.
Yet the sword Princess refused the collaboration!

There were many other attempts, but the sword Princess never responded to any overtures.
Lelouch's attempt to get close to the sword Princess was out of desperation. He despised the sword Princess's village girl roots, feeling that even as a sanctuary sorcerer, her speech and demeanor carried an inescapable cheapness.
In small towns, he might play around occasionally, just for a change of pace, and to give those pretty village girls dreaming of marrying into nobility in Galaxia a fantasy. In a way, it was a good deed. But if he were to marry the sword Princess, he would feel ashamed.
So getting the secret from Felix was the best outcome; the sword Princess was merely a lucky beneficiary of the secret, and without it, she was nothing.
I'll make you regret the day you rejected my goodwill at the swordsmanship club!
Lelouch's face was cold as he trailed the silver car, unafraid of being exposed, because 'Ashen' Koruno had already cast the Miracle "Night's Concealment," raising a wind that could hide all things.
With the added effect of the night, they and the car blended seamlessly into the darkness invisible even to reconnaissance Miracles.



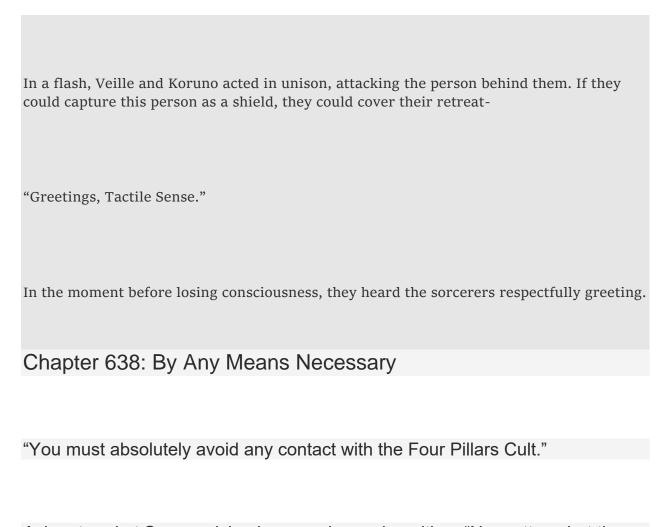
"Wait, jamming equipment can often detect all signals in the area; they might have already noticed uninvited guests. We can't wait any longer!"
Veille and Koruno exchanged glances and nodded, decisively following Lelouch into the factory. They cast Miracles, revealing Felix's path after leaving the car, and soon found a hidden underground passage!
They arrived at an iron door, exchanged glances, activated all recording equipment, and then broke through the door!
The secret must be inside!
Virtual Realm, Distant Sky Domain, dream phantom.
"A hole in the left hand large enough to hold an eye, rendering the observed unable to move This is the Four Pillars Cult's 'Eye of Astonishment'!"
Cult Leader Ashe provided official confirmation. "Your classmate is a member of the Four Pillars Cult!"

Sonya nodded. "You mentioned before that you were controlled by the Eye of Astonishment, and I immediately remembered."
Deya asked nervously, "Sword Princess, you didn't join them, did you? They're all bad people!"
"Of course not," Sonya shook her head. "Although Felix's offer was tempting, the Four Pillars Cult you encountered were all ruthless scoundrels. Am I supposed to believe I just happened to meet a good one? Instead of gambling on that luck, I'd rather bet on someone suddenly becoming devoted and passionate."
Ashe scratched his head.
Vesser suddenly spoke, "You were immobilized and unable to use spellforce; couldn't you be taken away?"
"Yes, I thought I might be taken," Sonya said. "But I'm not without means of resistance Hey!"
A valiant female swordsman spirit appeared in her palm, the Vibration Sword.
"The moment I was immobilized, the Vibration Sword jumped out and stabbed Felix. The injury was quite serious, but I didn't apologize. He was the one who launched a surprise



Moreover, Felix was the weakest among them.
The others were either famous figures he often saw in the news or top-tier sorcerers even his father, the Count of Voidstar, had to curry favor with!
Felix was covering her eye, blood continuously flowing from it.
Tonight was the Four Pillars Cult's regular gathering, and she had hoped to persuade Sonya this time, conveniently bringing her to formally join the cult.
Unexpectedly, Sonya still refused, and Felix ended up being wounded by Sonya's spirit. Felix didn't bother seeking a healer; after all, any uncle or aunt here could easily heal her eye.
But
"I'm sorry," Felix apologized sincerely. "I seem to have led them here."
"It's alright; this place blocks all external signals," a nearby female sorcerer healed Felix's eye with a gentle touch. "We can still salvage this."

These renowned and amiable sorcerers outside looked at Lelouch and his companions with increasingly cold, ruthless, and sinister gazes.
Veille and Koruno immediately raised their Sanctuaries, but the barrier that could defend against anything offered little comfort. They dared not turn their backs on these people, only cautiously retreating, trying to exit the underground hall.
Lelouch trembled, hiding within the Sanctuary, and Veille and Koruno were pale, sweating profusely, their hearts pounding!
They realized they might have uncovered a monumental secret.
But there was still hope; they were sanctuary sorcerers, tactical weapons, and wouldn't die easily here-
"Oh? We have guests tonight."
Someone arrived behind them!
And it was only one person!



Ashe stared at Sonya, giving her a serious admonition, "No matter what they offer, do not be swayed. The true strength of the Four Pillars Cult lies not in their violence or resources, but in their ideology-a seductively sweet abyss of corruption."

Ashe had always thought the Four Pillars Cult was up to no good; why else would so many fools believe in them? However, after witnessing the Cult's rapid growth during his visit to the Senlo Kingdom, he realized that the fool was none other than himself.

The 'bravery', 'rage', and 'bloodlust' of the Lord of Myriad Glories are actually a rebellion against pain. He does not ask you to win people over with virtue or reason, to consider the greater good, or to mind societal norms. Instead, his

creed is simple: kill the family of anyone who wrongs you and vent until you feel satisfied-after all, who hasn't felt oppressed or thought about breaking free from their chains?

The 'curiosity', 'knowledge', and 'thought' of the Lord of Wind, Rain, and Snow represent the purest 'desire to explore' that every child possesses. He does not curb your thirst for knowledge, whether you're curious about what happens if a ceiling fan falls, what it feels like to jump from a building, what it feels like to scoop out an eyeball, or what happens if you lock a group of people in a basement with aphrodisiacs... No experiment is too taboo.

The 'life' of the Eternal Fiery Heart and the 'joy' of the Dreaming Free Spirit are even easier to understand. Who doesn't want to live without sickness or death, indulging in their desires, forever happy?

The doctrines of the Four Pillars Cult are not evil at all; every word directly targets the deepest desires of the human heart. Thus, Ashe knew that no one could resist the Four Pillars Cult because they genuinely have your best interests at heart.

Ashe was frightened when he heard that the Four Pillars Cult had tried to persuade the Sword Princess multiple times. Besides the Lord of Wind, Rain, and Snow, the 'rebellion' of the Lord of Myriad Glories, the 'life' of the Eternal Fiery Heart, and the 'joy' of the Dreaming Free Spirit were deadly temptations for her!

She was just the type to take things personally, vain and proud!

This realization made him understand why her classmate Felix had tried to persuade her multiple times-it was indeed a wise choice, considering how

easily she could fall into their trap!

Upon hearing Ashe's concern, Sonya rolled her eyes, "The seductively sweet abyss of corruption... No wonder you used to be the leader of the Four Pillars Cult."

Ashe blinked, unable to see how she made that connection.

He became a bit anxious, "I'm not joking. If you underestimate them-"

"How could I underestimate those who have caused you so much suffering?"

Sonya snorted, "Don't worry, I won't let Felix get close to me again, but that doesn't mean they'll just give up... However, as long as I'm in Swordflower College, even if they have plans, they can't do much to me. Besides, Felix doesn't know that I've seen through them. If I keep an eye out, I might just be able to expose them."

Ashe wanted to say something, but found himself at a loss for words-after all, evasion isn't a solution. If you're always on the defensive, how can you ever really be safe? If you wish for a peaceful life, your best bet would be to eliminate all those who threaten it, not live in perpetual vigilance and unrest.

When the Sword Princess ascended to the sanctuary, she was bound to face more challenges and storms. The Four Pillars Cult, the Stars Kingdom, the nobility... In this world, the greater your power, the greater the risks. If you want to stand at the summit, you must be wary of falling off the cliff.

In the Senlo Kingdom's divine era, there were no conflicts of interest, and society was advanced and benevolent. Everyone had access to the best education and resources, but the price was the surrender of your ideological freedom.

Although Ashe wanted to advise the Sword Princess not to take risks or attempt to confront the Four Pillars Cult, he really had no right to say so-he himself didn't want to take risks, but since traversing to this world, he hadn't had a single day of peace.

Fate is never gentle; one can only find temporary refuge. The only true path forward is to face difficulties head-on.

"Well, then I'll be waiting for you to avenge me," was all Ashe could finally say.

"Who said I'm targeting them for you?" Sonya stuck out her tongue and made a face, "And I'm just going to keep an eye out, at most anonymously report them. I'm not going to put myself in danger... I really value my own safety."

Vesser spoke up, "But if what they say is true, then you, Sword Princess, can't continue looking for ways to traverse nations."

At this, Sonya's expression darkened, and she nodded, "Felix has no reason to lie about this, although I don't know why the Stars Kingdom would be wary of it, but I really can't investigate further. Moreover, not even the mysterious

Four Pillars Cult has a method for traversing nations, so no matter how much I search, it's unlikely I'll find anything."

Traversing nations undoubtedly requires a mastery of space, but with Sonya's own Spatial Sect only at the silver realm, she couldn't create her own Spatial Miracle. Hence, she had been hoping to find an existing method.

This was precisely why Sonya so decisively rejected the Four Pillars Cult-they didn't even have a ready-made solution, expecting her to figure it out herself!

I came here to copy homework, and you're telling me to do it myself?

Vesser looked at Ashe, "Observer, didn't you go to the Thousand Island Lake controlled by the Bronze Law Cult the day before yesterday, in pursuit of the gray fox heritage that might traverse space? Did you find anything?"

Ashe shook his head, "Forget it, we hadn't searched long before the Four Pillars Cult showed up. Their followers even leaked our information, making the Bronze Law Cult think we were with the Four Pillars... If we hadn't voluntarily left, it might have turned into a fight."

It had been half a month since that night in Dead City.

Ashe and his group had stopped pursuing the Silver Lantern and had lost interest in entangling with the Four Pillars Cult, focusing solely on tracing the heritage that could traverse nations. However, the Mercury Trojan Horse had

no intention of letting them go-having completely turned against them, she was now unchecked.

Without capturing these two Half Tactile Senses, she could never rest easy.

Ashe and his group had barely escaped the sphere of influence of the Four Pillars Cult, but the Cult had also begun a major campaign, aggressively invading the Qinyi Alliance.

At first, Ashe thought this was the last madness of the Mercury Trojan Horse. After all, the Four Pillars Cult was down to a few sanctuary sorcerers and didn't even have enough people to defend themselves-weren't they courting death by attacking?

However, the result was a complete shock to them-within half a month, several sanctuary sorcerers had defected from their sects to join the Four Pillars Cult, including a legendary sorcerer from the War Temple!

That was one of only three legends in all of Senlo, the leader of the War Temple, even hailed as the strongest combat force in Senlo!

Almost overnight, the Four Pillars Cult had swallowed the War Temple, its overall combat power now surpassing the Qinyi Alliance. It was then that the Qinyi Alliance realized they needed to unite or be crushed. They began sending out divine hosts to resist the Four Pillars Cult, and even the Transcendent Cult, which usually stayed underground, started activating their production machines to support the front line.

Back in Dead City, Igor had anticipated that a holy war would soon break out in Senlo, but they all thought it would be the Qinyi Alliance crusading against a weakened Four Pillars Cult. Now, it seemed more like a unification war led by the Four Pillars Cult!

In this world war scenario, Ashe and his group, being 'faithless', had entered the Thousand Island Lake controlled by the Bronze Law Cult. No matter how they explained themselves, the Bronze Law Cult wouldn't risk keeping them, especially since followers of the Four Pillars Cult had slandered them.

If they hadn't voluntarily left, the Bronze Law Cult might even have let their divine hosts kill them.

The war of faith had intensified, and there was no room for any centrists to survive.

"However, the gray fox heritage of the Bronze Law Cult is probably just a large-scale teleportation device," Ashe remarked, "It has nothing to do with traversing nations."

Unlike the heritage in Black Robe Town, Blind Town, or Dead City, which affected everyone, the gray fox heritage at Thousand Island Lake was controlled by the Bronze Law Cult and only worked for their sorcerers. They didn't know its exact name, so they called it "No Measure."

Within the influence of "No Measure", any sorcerer with No Measure privileges could teleport freely, with no cooldown time, no energy consumption, a mere thought, and the world had no bounds.

The day their identities were exposed, suddenly hundreds of sorcerers surrounded them. If they hadn't immediately raised their sanctuaries, they would likely have been overwhelmed by countless spellcasting miracles.

Ashe strongly suspected that this heritage was the top-tier version of the Gray Fox sorcerers' transportation tool-after all, zero commute time definitely increases the happiness of the working class.

"There are so many magical gray fox heritages, you're sure to find one," Vesser comforted, "Now that you mention the Qinyi Alliance and the Four Pillars Cult are fighting, they'll surely bring out their treasured gray fox heritages, and maybe then some clues will emerge."

Ashe smiled bitterly, his hopes not really high.

If the divine era of Senlo were a proper advanced civilization, that would be one thing, but the problem was that it was a civilization built on an idealistic world, a private server of a civilization!

Not to mention whether the Gray Fox sorcerers had studied traversing nations, even if they had, it would probably be ineffective. After all, the fantasy creations of traversing nations, like online artifacts, require a spatial channel to be established between Senlo and other nations.

And those absurd fantasy creations from Senlo only worked within Senlo!

While there might be exceptions, the chances were too slim, less likely than relying on virtual realm passages.

Deya remained silent, her expression quite downcast. Ashe wanting to traverse nations was naturally something she strongly supported, wishing he could return to the Gospel tomorrow. But when she asked the deities of the Gospel how to traverse nations, she only got one answer-under divine intervention, only the Virtual Realm.

Unless it was a divine intervention, to traverse nations, one must go through the Virtual Realm!

The Witch had also asked the Gospel deities if they could help with the traversal, but the Gospel could only provide one solution: it could search for virtual realm passages leading to specific nations. As for when this passage would appear, that depended on when the Virtual Realm leaked.

But this solution could only help her travel from the Gospel to Senlo, not help Ashe return from Senlo, unless she could provide precise coordinates of the virtual realm passage, and Ashe managed to reach it before the passage dissipated.

More importantly, virtual realm passages have level restrictions.

Like the Level 2 virtual realm passage from Blood Moon to the Gospel that only allowed two-wings sorcerers to enter, which was why White-haired

Hunter Gerard, already a sanctuary sorcerer at the time, couldn't chase into the passage.

In other words, for Deya to help Ashe return, she would have to wait for a Level 3 virtual realm passage that connected the Gospel to Senlo. According to the statistical data from the Gospel deities, in the past hundred years, there had only been seven Level 3 or higher virtual realm passages, and only one of those led to Senlo.

A once-in-a-century chance.

Unless Deya was willing to Fast Forward 100 years, there was no hope of getting help from the Gospel deities.

"Alright, alright," sensing the somber mood of the group, Ashe chuckled, "No need to be so pessimistic. Even if we can't find a way to traverse nations, it doesn't matter. As long as we increase our strength, we'll eventually find a way."

"Our Rainbow Virtual Wings are already half-condensed. The current task is to fully condense them as soon as possible and then find a way to sneak into Ruby Mountain. Maybe becoming a legendary sorcerer will give us a way?"

In any case, increasing their strength was definitely the right choice. And now with the great war in Senlo imminent, instead of how to leave the nation, Ashe might first need to think about how to stay alive.

"Sword Princess, you better keep a low profile recently. If something happens to you in reality and you can't come to the Virtual Realm, I'm definitely blaming you if I can't ascend to legend."

Sonya pouted, "You have more than just me as a teammate, why blame only me?"

"Because I don't like reasoning either, so I'll just blame you," Ashe snorted.

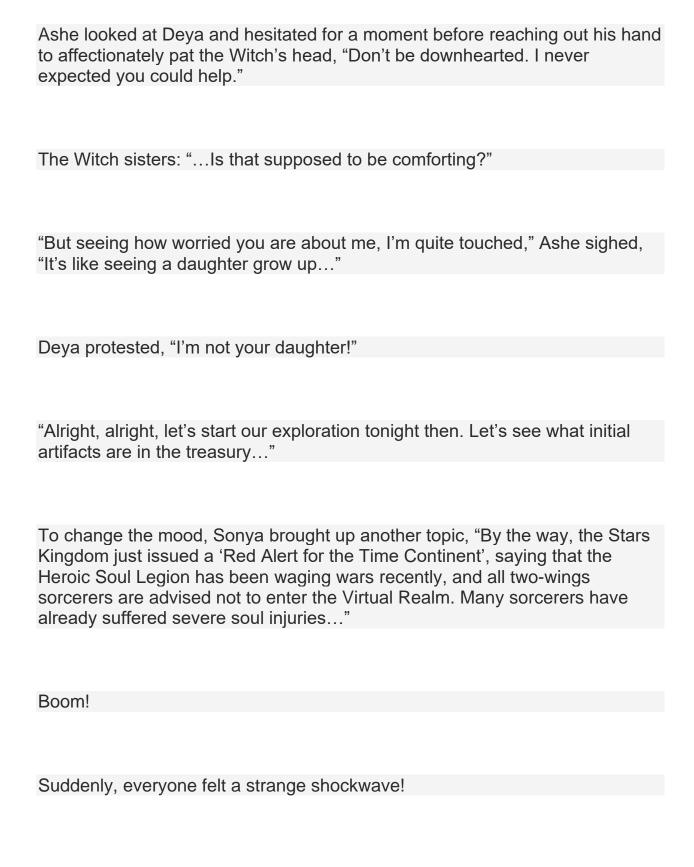
Then he turned to Vesser, "Thanks for your help these past few days."

Vesser had been helping them gather various pieces of intelligence and proposing possibilities for traversing nations. Ashe felt quite apologetic since this was his personal matter. It was one thing to trouble the Sword Princess and the Witch, but it was another to bother the new team member Vesser.

"It's okay, I've also gained a lot from being in this team. Helping the team leader is my duty," Vesser said calmly.

Ashe replied, "If you have any troubles, you can tell us too. Although we can't help you in reality, we can think of solutions together."

Vesser smiled faintly, "Alright."



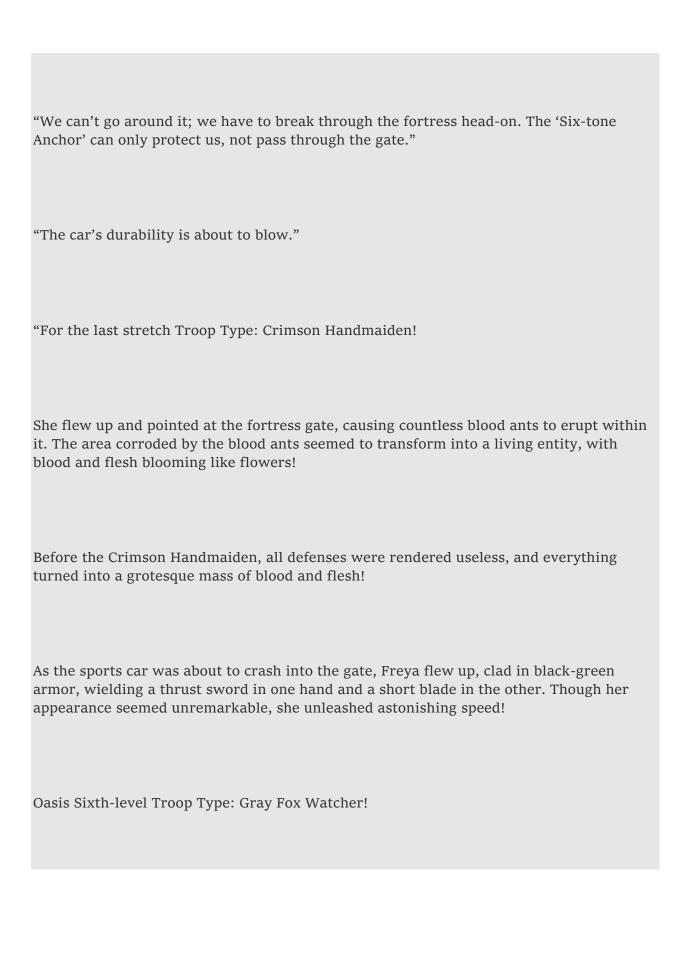
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The entire Virtual Realm was trembling!

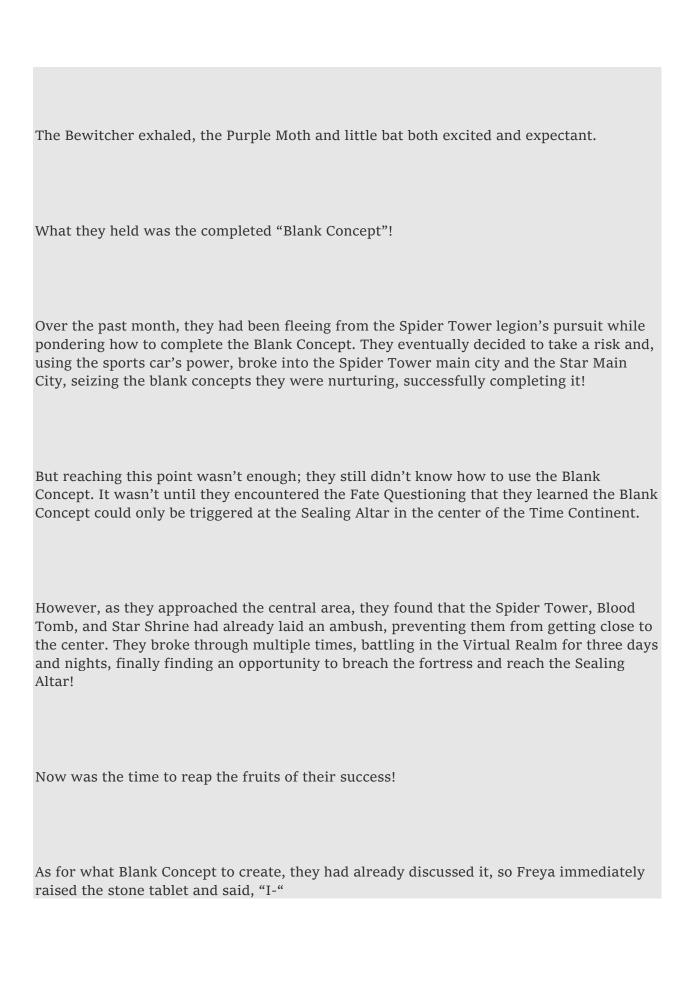
Chapter 639: What Just Happened?

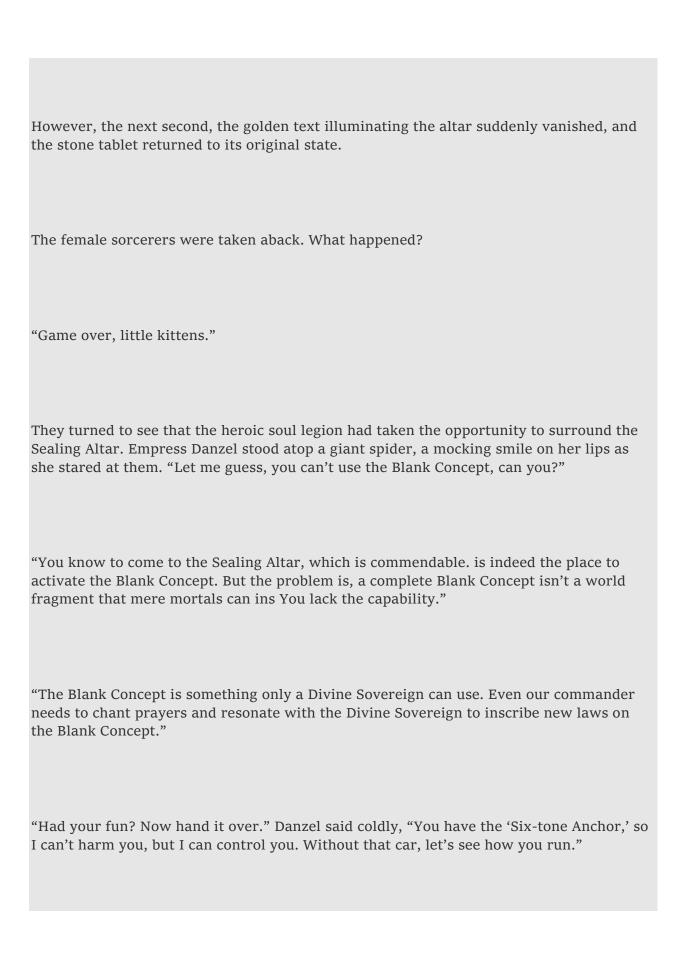
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Chapter 639: What Just Happened?
Virtual Realm, Time Continent.
Within the Time Continent, there exists a well-known mysterious area-the Inner Circle of the Continent!
Any sorcerer aware of the White Bull's circular path along the continent's edge would quickly realize a crucial point: if they could stick to the inner circle of the White Bull's trajectory, they could keep pace with the White Bull with minimal effort!
There might even be a central point, an "eternal zone" where the Golden Flow can influence no matter where the White Bull goes!
However, no sorcerer has ever reached this area because the closer they get to the Inner Circle, the more likely they are to encounter the heroic soul legion.

The heroic soul legion also knows that following the inner circle is the shortest route, so how could they not heavily guard it? Even if a sorcerer is lucky enough to slip through the legion's patrols, they can't reach the core area-because the core is surrounded by six fortified checkpoints.
That's right, each faction guards one checkpoint, and even though they might fight each other fiercely, these six adjoining fortresses coexist peacefully to protect the secret within.
And today, with the hum of an engine, a sports car arrived at the fortress.
Compared to the towering fortress, the sports car seemed as insignificant as an ant.
Behind the sports car was a massive heroic soul legion. Humanoid troops stomped the ground, beast-like troops charged unrestrained, and flying troops blocked the golden rain, shaking the earth and dimming the sky!
Not only was there the Spider Tower coalition led by Empress Danzel, but also the Star Shrine legion and the Blood Moon legion. Though belonging to three different factions, they all pursued the sports car like a tidal wave engulfing everything in their path!
The overwhelming killing intent was palpable, and the virtual realm creatures along the way either died of fright or collapsed, barely able to flee. A regular army could crush one's spirit, let alone an army of virtual realm creatures with armed troop types. With passive mental traits like 'intimidation,' 'fear,' 'nightmare,' and 'chaos,' even a two-wings sorcerer would be left in a daze, let alone virtual realm creatures.
Yet, the three female sorcerers in the sports car remained unfazed-after being chased down over a dozen times, anyone would be as calm as they were.

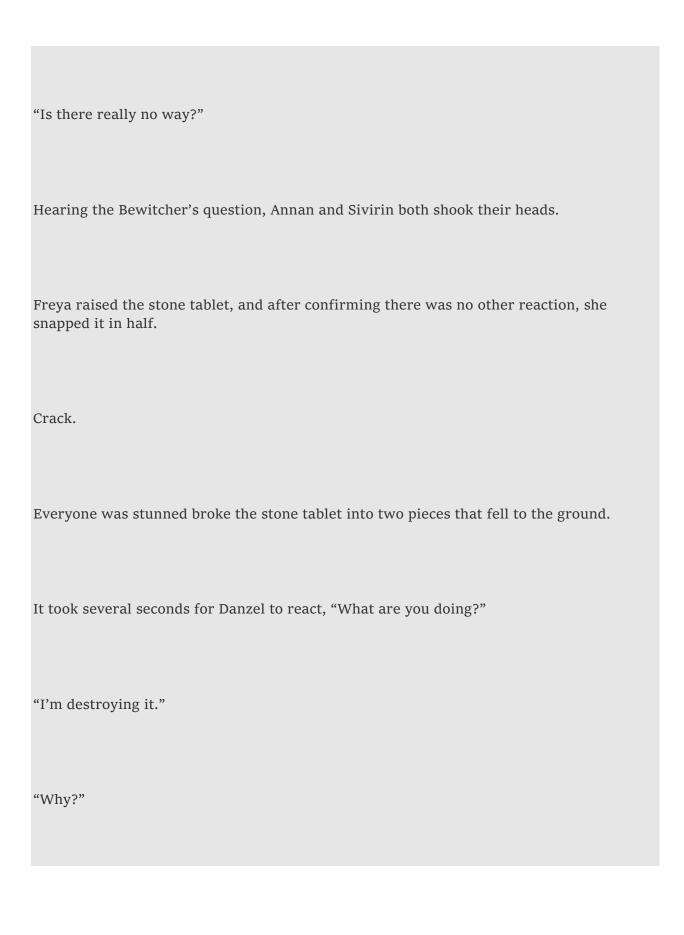


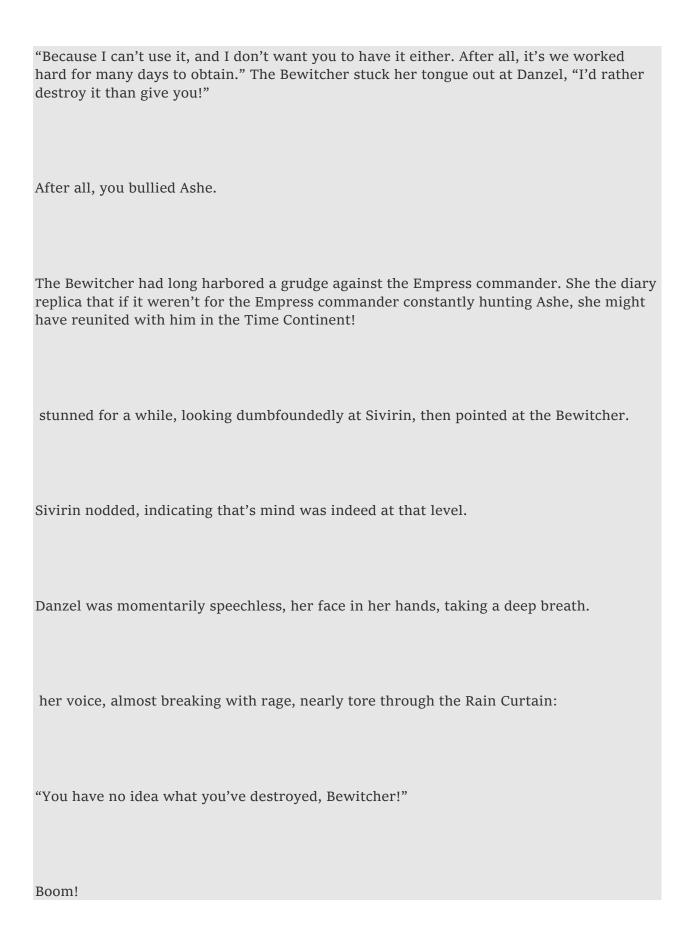
The Bewitcher danced in the air, her thrust sword and short blade weaving a deadly spiral, her body almost becoming a blur as she drilled a bloody hole through the flesh-like gate!
Among all Sixth-level Troop Types, the Gray Fox Watcher had the highest instantaneous single-target burst!
Through the coordination of different Sixth-level Troop Types, the seemingly impregnabl fortress was torn apart like paper!
Freya and her companions immediately spread their Twin Wings and flew through the opening. They instantly armed the "Six-tone Anchor" to evade all damage, arriving at the most mysterious eternal zone of the Time Continent-the Sealing Altar, a place jointly sealed by the six major factions!
Though called an altar, it was merely a stacked high-rise tower, appearing simple and primitive. They flew to the top of the altar, and though there was no guidance, when Freya took out an irregular blank stone tablet, the entire altar suddenly glowed, enveloping it in a golden light!
Upon closer inspection, the golden light was composed of golden text, piercing through the Virtual Realm, connecting heaven and earth! They reflected on the stone tablet, transforming into a dazzling stream of information!
"We've finally reached this point"





The sky and earth, countless troops watched menacingly, ready to engulf them in the next second. Without the sports car, Freya and her companions had no chance of breaking through. Even if the "Six-tone Anchor" could protect them, their bodies could still be restrained by collisions and friction, keeping them under control.
The Purple Moth's eyes darted to the Blood Tomb legion and Star Shrine legion beside them, but Danzel added, "Don't bother looking. The Star Shrine and Blood Tomb hate you even more. We've temporarily allied until you give up the Blank Concept."
Sivirin exhaled softly, sitting limply on the altar. Annan swayed, realizing they were out of options.
If they could use the Blank Concept, it would all be worth it, but who knew the usage threshold was at the Divine Sovereign level?
Perhaps the Empress commander was deceiving them, but the fact remained that they couldn't use the Blank Concept!
There was nothing more they could do.
Days of effort had been in vain.
They risked their lives with no bitterly cruel.





Suddenly, the Sealing Altar erupted with a golden text screen once more, but this time it was even more intense, piercing the Virtual Realm like a tangible force, scattering the Reverse Golden Rain!
In the Sea of Knowledge, Lois, who had finally slain the Blade Fish Dragon to avenge her previous defeat, felt something and looked up, seeing the white mist covering the sea suddenly blown away by a fierce wind.
In the distance, a dazzling golden pillar pierced the sea from the sky, dyeing the murky waters with a sacred hue.
"What just happened?"
In the Distant Sky Domain, Ashe and his companions found their initial Phantom suddenly shattered, and all the Phantoms in sight were breaking apart. They could even vaguely see figures floating far away in the air.
Then, a massive golden Phantom appeared, visible to everyone as a golden pillar shot out from both ends, seemingly fixed in the Distant Sky Domain.
"What just happened?"

At Ruby Mountain, the Trojan Horse was observing this ultimate destination longed for by countless sorcerers through the perspective of a legendary sorcerer. She rarely possessed others' explore the Virtual Realm, but a legendary sorcerer was worth the exception.

Suddenly, the mountain, entirely constructed of ruby, surged with countless texts, forming flowing golden chains. Yet, they didn't overshadow the ruby's brilliance; instead, they complemented each other, stirring the hearts of legendary sorcerers like a burst of inspiration!

"What just happened?"

Chapter 640: Angelic Heritage

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When a friend achieves something you could never dream of reaching, there are two possible reactions: The first is indifference. You neither envy nor aspire to it, treating it as distant news unrelated to you, continuing your peaceful life. The second is excitement/jealousy/desire. Whether the emotions are positive or negative, you no longer want to continue your past peaceful life but instead strive to climb closer to your friend!

Lois was initially the first type, but after summoning her spirit, she gradually leaned towards the second. From a wealthy young lady who only 'knew a bit' about swimming and had never even killed a Lala Fatty, she now dared to battle Blade Fish Dragons in the sea. This shows how much virtual realm exploration can hone a person.

This is the allure of the Virtual Realm.

Whether you are a noble above all beings or a wandering lower-level refugee in reality, in the Virtual Realm, you are alone. No help, no equipment, the only one you can rely on is yourself.
Noble children, pampered from a young age and learning step by step, might lose heart after being killed by Blade Fish Dragons a few times, resigning to a life of idleness, unwilling to enter the Virtual Realm. Meanwhile, lower-level sorcerers, who have honed their skills for survival and naturally summoned new spirits, can navigate the Virtual Realm like fish in water, gradually sailing thousands of miles, glimpsing the path to truth and power.
Lois had prepared herself for hardship, but when she actively embraced the challenges of the Virtual Realm, she found it wasn't so daunting. From someone who had never fought, she became adept at fleeing and fighting; someone who always maintained elegance and cleanliness learned to roll in the dirt; someone who was afraid to walk alone at night could now stay vigilant at all times.
Gradually, Lois began to understand why, at gatherings, even those with noble titles and successful careers, if they were sorcerers, the prefix before their names was always the same.
Now, Lois rarely attends parties, but if she were to introduce herself to strangers, rather than as the daughter of a business association president or a Swordflower College student, she would prefer to say-
Water sorcerer Lois.

So, when she saw the white mist once again envelop the Sea of Knowledge, but with strange golden chains appearing in the sea, Lois didn't hesitate or retreat but dove in to see what was happening.
Though diving deep into the Sea of Knowledge is a dead end, swimming for a few minutes isn't a problem.
The Sea of Knowledge was originally pitch black and invisible, but now with the surrounding water, sweeping her inside. Lois was dumbfounded, instinctively holding onto the golden chain as she was carried through countless sea regions by the water flow!
Virtual realm mechanics-Whirlpool?!
Lois was both surprised and delighted. It was indeed a Whirlpool, and she could clearly feel her silver spellforce rapidly increasing. This was indeed the special mechanism that silver sorcerers most desired to encounter, the Whirlpool!
When Lois finally stopped, she found her silver spellforce had increased by three feathers equivalent to a month's worth of exploration effort! Though not much, it was free spellforce, and not everyone could achieve a silver full-winged state in a month like Sonya!
But Lois was more puzzled. If she wasn't mistaken, the Whirlpool was clearly caused by her Riptide spirit, but she had never heard of a Riptide spirit having such an effect-if it could create Whirlpools, water spells would surely become the most important basic education for the Stars people.

At this point, Lois realized she had arrived at another place. She stood on muddy ground, covered by a layer of clear seawater, with the ground extending forward. Even the white mist couldn't obscure this road, and she couldn't see its end!
Though it was her first time seeing it, Lois, who had scored full marks in the "Overview of the Sea of Knowledge" course, recognized it at a glance: "This is-the Great Road!?"
The Sea of Knowledge has many unique mechanisms: Whirlpools, Sea Waterfalls, the Great Road, Sky Bubbles. Except for the Whirlpool, which benefits sorcerers, the other mechanisms, though rare, don't offer much help to them.
"Why did the Whirlpool bring me to the Great Road?" Lois was full of questions.
Whoosh.
A spirit suddenly emerged from the water on the ground, resembling a shark but appearing gentle. Soon, the surrounding water enveloped it, and as it continued to grow stronger, it transformed into a three-meter-tall humanoid water monster!
Lois stepped back in fright, only then realizing she was still holding the golden chain! The chain suddenly contracted, tightly wrapping around her arm, and a stream of information flowed into her mind-

"Any water sorcerer can challenge the Trial of the Great Road and accept my Lake Angel's heritage."
"As long as you have a water spell spirit, you can reach the Great Road through the Whirlpool; on the Great Road, only water spell spirits can take effect. Each sorcerer can only trigger the Whirlpool once through their water spell spirit. Only by passing the Trial can you gain more opportunities to trigger the Whirlpool."
As the humanoid water monster approached, Lois snapped back to reality-
The Lake Angel's heritage!?
A heritage surpassing legendary sorcerers, second only to the Divine Sovereign!?
Time Continent.
"This is the end"
Furious, Danzel ordered the Spider Tower legion to engulf the Sealing Altar. Though killing the three Bewitchers was pointless, she had no reason not to eliminate the culprits who disrupted this Appointation War!

Annan spread her wings and said to the other two, "Let's find a way to fly out and locate the Golden Flow."
With the protection of the Six-tone Anchor, the heroic soul legion couldn't harm them, but if they were cornered, Danzel could trap them in a static domain, turning them into a painting-frozen time is the end of all things.
Their only escape was to find the Golden Flow, where even the heroic soul legion couldn't enter, to safely exit the Virtual Realm and leave the danger behind!
Unfortunately, Ashe's diary updates too slowly, and the Gospel chapter is much longer than the Blood Moon chapter. He hasn't yet written about the truth of the Rainbow Tail, or Annan and the others could attempt to find the Rainbow Tail to ascend to the Sanctuary.
Just then, the Sealing Altar suddenly rumbled and rose from the ground! The three were shaken to the ground, watching as they ascended higher and higher, witnessing a grand, colossal city emerging from the earth, stretching far into the distance!
This city was larger than any main city of the Six Nations! The Reverse Golden Rain acted as energy, flowing into every groove and crystal of the city until it was fully illuminated!
A moat formed by the Golden Flow surrounded this giant city!

"I can smell the stench of those Blood Moon and Stars scum!"
With this voice full of anger, the minds of the three Bewitchers went blank-their spirits huddled together within their souls, their consciousness nearly shattered by this ancient pressure!
Simultaneously, an arc of light spread from the Sealing Altar, instantly obliterating all surrounding heroic soul legions. Countless armed troop types vanished in the arc of light! Only high-ranking commanders like Danzel managed to shield themselves with hundreds of layers of armor, barely withstanding the arc, merely being blown away!
The six fortresses sealing the central area also crumbled and disintegrated under the arc of light, turning to dust!
A golden and silver phantom appeared above the Sealing Altar, with five silver virtual wings and an obviously attached golden fake wing. Its appearance was indistinct, and most peculiarly, it was like an upside-down figure, with its head facing the ground and feet touching the sky.
"Return, my companions, my comrades, my followers, my citizens!"
With its proclamation, countless figures gradually appeared in the once-dead, empty gian city beneath the Bewitchers' feet. Without exception, they stood straight, saluting, facing the upside-down phantom, their cheers echoing throughout the Time Continent: "Endless Time!"

"Endless Time, but our time has passed," the upside-down phantom said. "I didn't expect my arrangements to be forcibly drawn out by the Virtual Realm so be it."
It gently clapped its hands, its voice resonating across the Time Continent: "I am Klo, the King of Time, holding the supreme authority of the Time Continent!"
"The Virtual Realm heritage is open, the Eternal City reappears. Any time sorcerer can cross the moat and enter the Eternal City to undergo the Trial of Death!"
"If you wish to obtain my ultimate heritage, come before me then."
The upside-down phantom suddenly noticed that there were already three sorcerers on the Sealing Altar before it. Annan and Freya huddled together, trembling, while Sivirin had turned into a little bat, hiding in their embrace.
After a brief silence, it added, "You must at least obtain ten ordinary heritages in the Eternal City to gain my ultimate heritage."
That rule was definitely added on the fly-if not for her teeth chattering in fear, Freya would have almost blurted it out.