

The Ancient Genes

Volume 1

Chapter 1 - Gift from a God

One day I received the biggest shock of my life. I still remember that day very clearly. Each and every detail as if they were etched in my very soul.

13th November, 3031 of Mana Calendar. The day when everything changed.

My awakening ceremony.

Standing in the awakening hall, with numerous gazes on me. I march forward with strong steps and a confident expression on my face.

Reaching the steps to the stage, I look back to see my father and mother giving me a thumbs up along with my little sister who seemed to be imitating their action.

Giving them a smile, I join the queue on the stage and wait for my turn along with my childhood buddy Mark , a skinny guy with glasses , a pure Otaku.

‘ Hey Mark , which element do you think I will awaken ? ‘. I ask with a smile.

‘ Who knows, you might awaken a super strong element after all your parents are among few of the strongest mages on the continent ‘.

Mark replies while adjusting his glasses, an action that he always perform before going on a rampage.

‘ And stop asking such questions, do you want me to sing a song on the potential that you have inherited through your parent’s genes,

you lucky bastard. Who in this continent haven't heard their name. Your father, Sir Zackmen, also known as the Holy Devil and his epic fight with ten thousand Mana Beasts at the valley of death, the wielder of one of the rarest elements, the light element. Your Mom, Lady Lithiya, also known as the Beast Tamer, a wielder with very high affinity with nature magic. Even her tales of ach-

' Stop! Stop! , see that guy, awakened the water element '. I divert his attention towards the guy taking the test.

' Hm... never thought he would awaken water element with his temperament. But, the light of the crystal is dim, he doesn't have a strong affinity with his element '. He replies.

' Next, Mark Zatch '

We hear a voice, and Mark steps up for his test.

I see sweat on his forehead from nervousness.

To be frank, I don't have much expectations from him. It's not that I look down on him or anything, it's the same reason, he gave me a while ago. His parents are common people with weaker element and less affinity. It is very rare to see a person with such background awaken a strong element and the opposite of it, a person with strong background awakening a weak element is even more rare.

I luu vaq nifhare val ozuqgiare vfirt mr ovu hzwlofi frt fl uknuhout, f taq wuiimj iaevo diflvul ar ovu hzwlofi.

Two stream of tears slid down Mark's face. I feel a pain seeing his expression, I step forward to grab him, but before I could do so, I hear a voice.

' Next, Max Edwinson '

Mark rubs his eyes with one hand and gives me a thumbs up with other, while trying to stretch out a smile on his face.

Walking towards the crystal, I stretch my hand out and a blinding light shines. I feel a power surging within me.

But before, I could figure out anything, I hear a soft and cute voice.

‘ Brother wake up ! ‘

I look towards the instructor beside the crystal and he speaks again in a soft and cute voice.

‘ Brother wake up ! ‘

Suddenly, I feel something hit my chest and the pain overwhelms me, I groan in pain and my eyes open. I find myself on the bed with my little 5 year old sister kneeling me on the chest.

‘ Lilly, what are you doing get off of me. ‘ I shout in anger due to pain.

‘ Mom, asked me to wake you up, I tried everything....to....w..wake...y...you...up..but..you didn’t ‘ . She starts stuttering as tears fill her eyes.

‘ No! No! , Your brother is wrong for shouting here, its not Lilly’s fault, Lilly’s a good girl ‘ . I pet her on head and try coaxing her to stop her tears.

‘ Lilly, why don’t you go down stairs, now that I am up, I need to get fresh ‘ . With that, I lift Lilly up from the bed and put her on the floor.

Seeing, Lilly walk out, I let out a groan touching my chest. Ah! It really hurts.

I turn my head in order to stretch but in doing so, my gaze falls on the time on the wall clock. I rub my eyes in order to confirm. After

realising that I wasn't seeing things, I couldn't help but curse in my mind.

Damn, I get off of my bed and run towards my bathroom with a towel. I can't be late for the awakening ceremony.

In this continent of Mistellin where magic reigns supreme, the awakening ceremony is one of the most important parts in a person's life. It is the time when legends are born.

The 31st century of the Mana calendar is said to be at its peak right now. Stronger than ever. Both, in terms of Magic and in terms of technology.

After getting ready, I walk down stairs, I have breakfast with my family and then we set out towards my school for the awakening ceremony.

Rufhvare ovu fjcure huzuqmrw vfii frt immcare fzmprt, I duui f lurlu md tubf sp. Lmmcare fzmprt f gao, I dart ovu lhuru suzw dfqaiatz jaov qw tzufq.

I meet up with Mark. Remembering his expression from my dream, I think whether I should stop him from participating in the ceremony. But realising, that he needed to face the truth, I hold my urges.

And the scene continues to follow my dream. But something odd happens, When I ask Max ' Hey Mark, which element do you think will I awaken '.

The reply this time was a bit different and I started feeling uneasy for some reason ' Who knows you might awaken a super strong element or....you might not even awaken at all'. He says the first part normally, while he rolls his eyes in the second part and then he goes on his rampage and the scene continues.

Although his answer was a bit different, I didn't take it seriously, after all, it was only a dream and there is no way a person won't awaken anything, even the animals in this continent has an elemental affinity of varying degree.

' Next , Mark Zatch'

I hear the instructor's voice, and a sadness fill my eyes. I send Mark away with a complicated feeling, not knowing what to do.

While I am busy in my thoughts, on how to console Mark, a blinding fiery red light flashes, drawing my gaze towards the crystal.

What !! , How is this possible ? . Even though I was feeling good for Mark, my feeling of unease increases.

Something is wrong, this was my gut feeling.

' Woah! look that kid, he awakened the fire element ' .

' The light from the crystal is so strong ' .

' His affinity with fire is very high ' .

' Looks like we have witnessed the birth of a legend ' .

For some reason, I start hearing voices, I look around but don't find the students in the queue talking.

Hub!

Hub!

The noisy situation continues, and I feel myself burning up.

What's wrong with me, I look at my trembling hands. I feel extremely tired for some reason.

Feeling an ominous foreboding , I decide to leave the hall. But as soon as I turn, a voice among the numerous voices catches my attention.

‘ Next, Max Edwinston ‘.

I see my parents and Lilly, giving me a thumbs up , just as they did in my dream. But this time, I could hear their soft voice even from a distance in the hall.

‘ Good luck Max‘

Seeing things turning out this way, I decide to take it to the end. I walk towards the awakening crystal and the instructor states in a clear voice.

‘ Place your hand on the crystal, and try to feel the energy. Try to interact with it ‘.

At that moment, I should have listen to my instincts, but I didn’t and moved my trembling hand towards the awakening crystal.

I touch the crystal trying to interact with the energy. But I only felt the cold and lifeless piece of crystal with my hands. And time passes slowly.

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‘ Ah! I think the crystal broke after the last test. Ryan, change the crystal ‘. The Instructor speaks after 30 seconds and a man comes with another crystal in his hands.

I look at the new crystal and place my sweaty hands on it.

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After a minute, I hear the voice of instructor among the numerous voices who seemed to be curious about the situation.

‘ Try to concentrate ‘ . He speak with a confused look on his face.

But nothing happens even after a minute. I feel my dreams shatter with each passing moment.

And the voices in my ears increases.

‘ OMG!! look, I haven’t heard of anyone failing to awaken ‘ .

‘ Woah! look another legend is being born, ha...ha...‘ .

The voice keeps on piling and I keep hearing them. But failing to hear the voice I wanted the most, I turn to look towards my parents and see them looking towards me with a complicated gaze. I am unable to discern their feeling.

I get off the stage under numerous gazes and mocking laughter.

All through my way towards home, my parents didn’t mention me anything. They reacted like nothing was wrong.

A few days pass and I become a topic of discussion. Although they never talked on my face, my godly ears made my life miserable. I only had Mark with me, who tried to cheer me up.

A few days pass and I started using head phones to avoid hearing any unnecessary things. But after a month, I am unable to take it. I don’t care about others. I just wanted to hear it from my parents. They kept

behaving as if nothing was wrong. They even forgot about their promise to let me visit Grandpa.

Am I such a big disappointment to them. Unable to continue with my life, I walk up the stairs to the terrace of my six storey school building. I grab the railings with both my hands to take a look down.

Seeing the height, a fear struck me. But a thought keeps revolving in my mind.

Can I live in this world. Am I even qualified if the world itself is rejecting me.

Steeling my resolve and with a hope of a good next life, I step on the railing.

‘ Wait! Wait! kid don’t jump ‘. A voice gives me a scare, and I slip back on the floor on my butt.

‘ You! What in hell, did you think you were doing. You almost made my one month of hard work disappear ‘. I see an old man standing behind me shouting at me.

Looking at him, I couldn’t help but ask ‘ Are you a cultivator ? ‘. It can’t be blamed on me. This old man with wrinkled face, just look at him, White hair and a long beard. And that sword hanging around his waist.

‘ What are you talking about ?, I am not a cultivator ‘. He pauses before continuing in a deep voice ‘ I am a God ‘.

Pfft!

‘ Sorry, please continue ‘. I look at the old man staring at me with a stern gaze.

‘ You don’t believe me do you ‘. He asks.

‘ Don’t feel bad, I can’t help it. If you said , you were a cultivator, I might have been fooled. But a God, don’t you think you are over doing it ‘ . I reply.

‘ I would have loved to explain everything to you, but I have already wasted too much time on finding you. So I would get to the main topic ‘ .

Without giving me a chance to speak, he continues , ‘ A long time ago there was an era when the Demonic beasts used to rule the land. Humans were at the bottom of food chain. But , there was one Man who refused to submit to his fate of the weakest and rebelled against the heaven. That was his and humanity’s first step towards the top of the world. But it wasn’t easy, after countless years of training and battle, he finally developed a method that gave humans the power to fight the demonic beasts. The power of ‘ Flow ‘ . The path towards Godhood ‘ .

Heaing him, I couldn’t help but curse in my mind. Damn it, in the end he admitted to be a cultivator. ‘ Godhood ‘ my àss, ain’t that all the same

He doesn’t notice my twitching eyebrows and immerses himself in his story telling.

‘ And finally the ruler of the Demonic Beast, the Heavenly Demon Vacaria was sealed by that Man. But the cost of the battle was too much , for any side to bear. As a result, both the humans and demons of that era vanished. While the few remaining ascended to Godhood ‘ . He pauses for a second as a look of reminiscence appears on his face.

‘ But we underestimated him, after we ascended to Godhood, the demons emerged again. And the fight continued. But with our help, humans of the new era were able to resist them. And the seal was

protected. After the end of last era, the demons never appeared again. And the next era, the Mage era thrived ‘ He turn to looks toward me.

‘ But a few days ago, there was a huge surge of demonic energy from the seal, signifying the weakening of seal. It look like all this years, he has gotten stronger and was working on destroying the seal. And when the energy got out of the seal, it led to some changes in the world ‘.

Finding his story amusing, I ask ‘ What happened ? ‘.

‘ Some humans reacted to this demonic energy and their genes realising the threat awakened in an attempt to fight. Although there were a few who awakened, only 5 awakened the ‘ Ancient Gene ‘. The gene of the first Human God. So, now as the carrier of the genes of that man, they have to stop Vacaria or else the humanity will end up at the bottom of food chain again and this peace will be destroyed‘. He ends his story and looks at me.

‘ And you are one of them ‘. He speaks in a deep voice.

‘ Hm... why don’t you stop him, aren’t you a god ? ‘. I ask him for fun.

‘ There are somethings you won’t understand until you have a certain level of strength. Just think that I can only give you my blessing and can’t interfere anymore ‘. He speaks.

‘ Ha..ha..you are still maintaining your character. You don’t need to do it anymore old man. I won’t commit suicide. I don’t have courage to do it anymore ‘. I speak shaking my head.

‘ I am serious kid, hurry up and receive my blessing, I need to find the other 4 too ‘. He speaks as veins bulge on his forehead.

‘ Ah! Sorry, I get it ‘ . I move forward while taking out a note of 10 zen from my wallet.

Seeing his face getting red, I couldn't help but say ‘ Old man, even though your story was pretty good, I can't give you more than this only for a basic introduction ‘ .

‘ Kids these days. Looks like I need to prove myself. A few days ago, your genes awakened. You must have awakened some kind of supernatural ability ‘ . His words freezes me.

After a while, a realisation strikes me, which leads to curses being spewed out to of my mouth, ‘ Wait!!!WAIT!!! YOU ARE BASICALLY TELLING ME THAT ITS YOU DAMN GOD'S FAULT THAT I HAD TO GO THROUGH SUCH SUFFERINGS UP UNTIL NOW. GOD DAMN , I WAS EVEN ABOUT TO COMMIT SUICIDE.‘

‘ YOU ARE FUCKING KIDDING ME !!‘

‘ Looks like, I need to discipline your descendant senior ‘ . He speaks as he balled his hands into a fist.

With that, I see a fist heading towards me. And the next thing I know is my world turning upside down along with a DING sound ringing in my head and after that, I lose my consciousness.
