

The Crafts 251

Chapter 251: A Change With The Stele

Seeing her reaction, William chuckled and comforted her.

"No use thinking about it. It's only just a rumour and there's not enough evidence to support it."

"Hmm." Laura nodded.

While Laura felt like she had learnt a mind-blowing piece of information, Lucas was far behind and wasn't even a part of the queue. With his focus on the Aura-breaking stele, it was natural for him not to sense the siblings. Even if his focus wasn't on the stele, he wouldn't have noticed them after all, Lucas never expected anyone from Baylands city-state to come here. Havos was a unique exception because he was originally a citizen of Belfargos city-state.

The siblings similarly hadn't noticed him as their focus was on the stele as well.

'It's definitely a lot like magic runes, but the difference is clear.' Lucas marvelled at the inscriptions on the stele.

Compared to the bits and pieces he gleaned from the other relics and some documents online, the runes on the Aura-breaking stele gave off a different feeling.

When he first encountered them, Lucas had mistook them for magic runes but found out they were different, then dubbed it 'magi runes'. As he delved more into them, Lucas discovered more differences between the two types of runes. However, standing before the Aura-breaking stele, he could feel the true essence of magi runes. Even though they looked the same and operated by similar runes, the difference was greater than he had imagined before.

Lucas could now understand why the system had yet to acknowledge his mastery over magi runes because it was nonexistent.

'Completing these runes would take me at least three days, but I don't need that long for the mission. Four to six hours should be enough.' Lucas thought.

Since he wasn't planning to approach the stele, there was no limit to how long he could stay in this region.

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A few minutes went by with the group at the viewing area having switched at least three times. Laura, Vergil, William and the others were still there since their time limit was ten minutes. This was mainly because Vergil was absorbed in the runes and Laura too found them interesting. Since Laura was here, William decided not to leave yet. This made it awkward for the other two individuals to depart, and so they stuck around as well. Since it would only be just ten minutes, there was no harm in waiting.

It was at this moment that something out of the ordinary happened.

While Lucas was currently staring at the stele and everyone else was admiring the rock or taking pictures beside it, one of the individuals who was a part of the new group that had just swapped in, did something strange. At first, he was simply lost in the magnificence of the twenty metres tall stele just like everyone else. But then, he glanced at his sides suspiciously however no one noticed this. Seeing that the guards' attentions were a bit relaxed, he abruptly dashed for the stele.

"Hey!"

One of the guards shouted, but the man ignored him.

There was only a five metres gap between the viewing area and the stele so even though the security guards stood between the two sides, the man rapidly made it past them. This was mostly because the guards had their guards down. It wasn't easy to always be on alert, and with the fact that no one had done anything out of the ordinary in years, they never expected a change to take place today.

"Stop him!"

The captain of the guard squad roared but it was too late. The man had already reached the stele. Regardless, they weren't worried. There was nothing he could do to the stele.

The stele was twenty metres tall and seven metres wide; it couldn't be fit inside of a regular spatial vault and the ones needed for the job couldn't be found on Erete so easily. As for damaging the stele, that was similarly impossible. The material used to make it was incredibly dense and hard, making it difficult for any scratches to be caused on it. To damage the surface of the stele, one would need at least a Grade 2 vestige and to destroy it, a Grade 3 vestige was the bare minimum.

Vestiges were highly regulated by every city-state and city government such that the common masses couldn't gain access to it. As such, no one believed the man had one.

The guards were only worried about the report they'd have to file as well as the penalty they'd receive for not controlling the crowd properly. Not a single one of them was worried about the stele nor did they believe that the man could do anything to it.

However, that was only for a second as in the next one, all their presumptions were shattered.

Once he was before the stele, the man didn't hesitate to slit his hand with a pocket knife. As blood spilled from the cut, he immediately slammed the injured palm on the stele.

"Haha. Haha. Awaken, oh ancestors!" The man guffawed as he stared at the stele with a fanatic expression on his face.

Suddenly, the Aura-breaking stele began to glow with a strange blue light as the aura from it experienced a drastic change. If before it could be equated to the aura of a towering structure that seemed to overlook all of creation, the aura the stele gave off now was of an emperor who was rising from his throne. An unimaginable pressure began to exude from the stele, making eyes go wide at the scene.

Meanwhile, Lucas, who was behind, had already made his move to run the very second the stele began to glow.

Take a chance? No way in hell.

Lucas thought as he ran. At the same time, he was cursing the system. He already suspected that something strange would happen during this trip as it was all too calm, different from his usual experience with outing missions from the system. At the same time, the description of the tourist site was just too safe which didn't add up.

Knowing that the system possessed some sort of all-knowing ability, Lucas guessed that something might crop up. However, what proof did he have? Even if he were to come the next day instead, who was to say that the next day wouldn't be the day of the strange event?

As such, Lucas bit the bullet and came. This was especially since he didn't have much time left for the mission again. This was because there was the drift racing team and the store eating into his time. He also didn't have any other options left as this was the last of the Sunil relics.

However, as of now, Lucas didn't care. He simply wanted to get away from here.

The East Braftford relics was a relics [1] that could even threaten fourth level Apertures Opening stage practitioners. Even though he had killed one before, that was through the help of the Stellar Circuit Battle-Armour; Lucas wasn't delusional enough to think that meant he was the same as a fourth level stellar practitioner. So, he decided to escape before it was too late.

Despite his quick reaction, it was already too late.