

## **The Witch 1001**

### Chapter 1001: Doomsday Lockdown

The Fanghorn Lord was the elder brother of the present generation's Ocean Master's mother. It was just due to this close connection that the Fanghorn Lord could become the City Lord of Fanghorn City.

Moreover, he relied on his relationship with the Ocean Master to live a lavish and tyrannical lifestyle in the Residential Zone.

There were many instances where the Fanghorn Lord abused his authority to get his way, whether it was removing a peasant he found unpleasant to his eyes or snatching a pretty woman that attracted his interest.

The Fanghorn Lord also had a sadistic side where he would toy with the women and force their men to watch if they offended him. Afterward, he would kill them and remove all traces of his involvement.

After all, the Fanghorn Lord was the City Lord; he still had a public image to keep up.

As such, none of his dirty deeds had ever been done openly. He would scheme, frame, or blackmail to achieve his twisted desires. If words of them ever got out, he would silence the whistleblowers and manipulate the media in his favor.

Of course, what he had done was considered normal among the nobles. None of them were clean; they each had their own twisted hobbies.

There was even one occasion when the Fanghorn Lord invited a group of young students who had won honors and awards at their all-girl schools to his mansion.

What everyone thought was a rare celebration party hosted by the City Lord turned into a tragic fire that killed twenty beautiful, talented young girls. Only the Fanghorn Lord and the noble friends he secretly brought over knew what had actually transpired that night.

Perhaps due to the absence of authority in the military department, the nobles found other ways to give them a fulfilling sense of authority and power, even if it meant stomping down on the weak and helpless.

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Inside of City Lord's manor, the Fanghorn Lord and nobles gathered for a meeting. Their eyes were filled with anxiety and uncertainty. Some of them even possessed a hint of guilt and regret.

"What should we do? I haven't lived long enough yet."

"There's no need to worry. I have already sealed the transit pillars with my authority. Even if the Fanghorn General intervened, he would not be able to override it since the Residential Zone is my jurisdiction."

"So what if the Fanghorn General can't override it? Can't he smash his way through with brute force? He has General Neyi and the sea monsters on his side."

"Unless they don't care about the seventy million lives we are holding hostage, they will not act so recklessly, my friend. I called you all here to help me think – What can we do, and what can we offer to make the enemy reach a compromise with us?"

No one had an answer to the Fanghorn Lord's question.

All of them had been shrewd all their lives, but no one had a single understanding of Vaan and his character. They didn't possess any special relationship with him like they did with the last Ocean Master either.

They didn't have any connection or familial background they could exploit like they were used to.

Moreover, Vaan was a Land Dweller.

Since he became the Ocean Master and inherited the faith of the military, he wouldn't care about the nobles. In fact, he would find their privileges and authority to be hindrances in his ability to rule and stabilize his order.

In other words, they were all parasitic eyesores in the eyes of the new Ocean Master, who possessed zero relationship with them.

It would be strange if they weren't concerned after living the way that they had.

"Hah... I have warned you all countless times about karma biting you back if you indulge in your lifestyles... You reap what you sow. This has nothing to do with me. I'm leaving."

A Celestial noble with a cleaner history wanted to leave as he did not want to join the Fanghorn Lord's sinking ship and go down with them. He believed he had a brighter future than their lot.

Unfortunately, he did not even take three steps out the door when the Fanghorn Lord suddenly put a hole through his head.

Even in his death, he couldn't believe that a "good friend" of many years would kill him over a disagreement.

"Anyone else wants to join him?" the Fanghorn Lord asked indifferently. He didn't need variables in the Residential Zone.

Many nobles shook their heads immediately.

However, they all felt a chill in their hearts after experiencing the Fanghorn Lord's cold-heartedness. They quickly understood that even they could be killed if they disagreed with him.

Still, a single Celestial nobleman was brave enough to speak up.

"You can't be doing this to us, Lord Di! Just because you are screwed, you can't screw us over with you!"

"But I can!" the Fanghorn Lord smiled coldly, saying, "If I'm going down, you are all going down with me. Do you think I don't have dirt on all of you?"

"You—!" the Celestial nobleman failed to respond.

Naturally, he had participated in some of the Fanghorn Lord's twisted parties to establish their friendship and gain some advantages for his noble family in the city. He didn't indulge in activities of such nature as the Fanghorn Lord had.

Still, it was a stain he could not remove. Once stepped in shit, a lifetime of smelliness.

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Fanghorn City, Cultivation Zone

"What's the current situation?" General Neyi asked the Fanghorn General after arriving with his troops. He shortly added, "Can the transit pillars be open with brute force?"

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"No," the Fanghorn General said, shaking his head. "Fanghorn City was built differently with Domsday in mind. If the transit pillars receive shock above a certain level, the entire Residential Zone will drop into the mantle layer."

"Once the Residential Zone falls into the mantle layer, it'll be hard to track and even harder to reconnect," the Fanghorn General stated.

Fanghorn City was designed to be a self-sufficient ship capable of surviving in the mantle layer. But without any navigation system or control to steer it due to its sheer size, it would swim the sea of magma aimlessly.

General Neyi frowned.

Vaan had ordered him to take over Fanghorn City. He couldn't take over Fanghorn City if there were no Fanghorn City left. After all, a Fanghorn City without the core functions of the Residential Zone and its population couldn't be considered a city.

What was a city without its people?

General Neyi didn't dare to take on the risk of forcing his way into the Residential Zone. He could only look for alternatives.

"Is there a backup system to deactivate the lockdown state in the event that it was mistakenly activated or activated without official authorization?"

"Yes, but it can only be manually done from the other side."

Chapter 1002: Predestined Mutiny

Click...

While General Neyi and the Fanghorn General were discussing how to enter the Residential Zone, metallic clanking noises came from within the transit pillars.

Several breaths later, the transit pillars reopened their entrances, marking the deactivation of the Doomsday lockdown system.

Surprises could be seen on everyone's faces.

The Fanghorn General was just mentioning that the Doomsday lockdown system could only be manually deactivated from the other side. Yet, suddenly, someone actually did it? Nevertheless, the deactivation of the Doomsday lockdown didn't just surprise the military; it surprised the nobles' side even more.

After all, the Doomsday lockdown couldn't be reactivated within a short time of deactivating; it had a thirty-minute cooldown. Such a timer was actually quite short, but it was long enough to be a death sentence for the nobles.

"Do you have any idea what you have done?!" a Baron-rank Celestial nobleman roared furiously with a mix of rage, horror, and disbelief. He couldn't believe one of his best knights had betrayed him.

As the Ninth-stage Divine Origin Realm Celestial Knight leaned against a white wall, impaled by a black spear, he coughed up a mouthful of blood and felt his life slipping away.

All of his bones had been crushed, and his internal organs were severely misplaced or ruptured. His condition was simply beyond terrible after facing the wrath of his "lord."

However, the Celestial Knight didn't have any regret regarding his action.

Bloodied and battered, the Celestial Knight looked up at his master with a grin and said, "You nobles can all go to hell. I have long waited for a day like this... My brothers, I'll be going first... Sasha, my love, I'm coming to see you now..."

After giving the Baron the middle finger, the Celestial Knight's arm dropped shortly after, having drawn his last breath.

Boom!

The Baron exploded the Celestial Knight's body into thousands of bloody pieces with his divine power, completely enraged. He couldn't stand the Celestial Knight's peaceful passing.

"Bastard!" the Baron gritted his teeth.

Thinking back, the name "Sasha" sounded familiar. It was a common name, but it did belong to a peasant lady from five hundred years ago. Her beauty had moved him to the point that he did not hesitate to make her his thirteen concubine by force.

Unfortunately, she committed suicide shortly after he conquered her body. Still, her beautiful image remained fresh in his memory.

To think she had a lover...

Moreover, it was his best knight! Such patience! Such dedication! Such vengeance! All for one woman!

The Celestial Knight's faithfulness to his lover would have been considered praiseworthy in the eyes of many people. However, in the Baron's eyes, he was extremely foolish. With a Knight's status, he could have any number of women. Yet, he gave up his life for one.

No matter how much the Baron wanted to curse his Knight, the latter was already dead, obliterated into bits. Now, he had to face the wrath of his peers.

As expected, spirit calls came in not long after the manual deactivation.

"Sir Cuzho, you fucking bastard! What have you done?! How dare you deactivate the lockdown!" the Fanghorn Lord's furious curses sounded.

"It wasn't me, Lord Di. It was my Knight," the Baron sighed.

"What difference does it make?! The seventh transit pillar was your responsibility! Your incompetence in managing your men has fucked us all! How are you going to fix this?!" the Fanghorn Lord raged through the spirit communicator.

"I'll block the seventh pillar's entrance with my life," the Baron sighed.

It was the least he could do-No, it was the only choice he had. If he didn't do it, he would have to face his angry peers; they would definitely rip him apart like ravenous wolves.

Shortly after leaving the seventh transit pillar's underground circuitry control room, the Baron summoned his remaining Knights. Since his best Knight betrayed him, he could not trust any of the rest.

As such, he immediately put them under a spirit confession spell for interrogation. "Have I hurt anyone important to you before? Any lover, family, or friend?" "Yes."

"No."

It was only a short question, but the Baron immediately weeded out one potential rebel out of his five remaining Knights. The person did not get a chance to explain himself before he was executed on the spot.

"The rest of you, go and block the entrance with your life. Kill anyone who tries to pass through. If you can't go on, combust your Divine World and take down as many as you can with-"

Puchi!

Just when the Baron put his guard down in front of his Knights, one of them stabbed him in the back, piercing straight through his heart. Moreover, it was a knife laced with divine

poison.

"Dammit!" the Baron roared furiously.

His divine energy immediately exploded outward, blasting the Knight far away before he turned around with bloodshot eyes.

"Why?!"

"I have never liked your filthy nature... Also, you just killed my friend."

The Knight coughed as he leaned against some broken debris. His physical condition was not much different from the Knight who deactivated the seventh transit pillar.

"Fuck-!!" the Baron cursed furiously, wanting to finish the Knight off.

However, the divine poison spreading from his heart was far more vicious than he imagined. It wasn't something he could easily isolate or expel with his divine energy, especially not after it was injected directly into his heart.

The divine poison turned his heart black with decay, blood purple with clots, and skin yellow with bubbly pus.

Worse of all, the Baron felt like his inwards was being scorched by hellfire. The pain came with an unbearable itch, prompting him to scratch his pus-filled flesh. He couldn't feel the

slightest relief unless he tore his flesh apart with his own nails.

Even after digging into his bones, the itch did not go away.

Everyone watched as the Baron chiseled away at his pus-filled, softened body until death eventually claimed. His mixed expression of pain and ecstasy sent a chill down people's spine. Even in death, the Baron did not know what kind of poison he was inflicted with.

However, everyone could agree that it was one of the most deadly and vicious poisons they had ever witnessed. It was something that an amateur could casually cook up.

It was definitely the handiwork of a top-rank Poison Master!

Chapter 1003: Exposed for Public Scrutiny

After the Baron died, the other three Knights rushed over to the blasted Knight to provide emergency care, not hesitating to take out precious healing elixirs and medicaments.

However, the latter refused their treatment.

"It's too late to save me. You'll only be wasting your divine elixirs. Besides, the road to the afterlife is surely a lonely one. We shouldn't let our brother walk it alone. I'll leave the rest to you all," the dying Knight said.

The three Knights clutched their elixir bottles with reddened eyes. Even a moment of delay became too late for their divine elixirs to bring their friend back from the jaws of death; they could only watch his last sliver of life slip away.

"Don't worry, Brother. We will surely bring an end to the nobles!" the three Knights vowed.

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Not long after the seventh transit pillar was deactivated, the other transit pillars also faced similar situations-The transit pillars were deactivated, the Knights rebelled, and the nobles were killed, unprepared for the betrayal.

More importantly, the powerful Divine Star Realm nobles all died of the same vicious poison. They died scratching their melting flesh to death.

A poison no one had seen before... A Poison Master no one had heard about... And an organized mutiny carried out by many Knights...

Not every Knight betrayed their Lord because of revenge; many Knights also did it to survive. Even so, many people could agree that the Knights' mutiny was planned a long time ago when they pieced together the clues.

General Neyi's arrival only pushed the anti-noble faction's plan ahead of time.

Not long after the Residential Zone became divided between the noble faction and the anti-noble faction, many of the nobles' dirty and evil deeds were brought to it.

With so much evidence to back them, the Celestial civilians were both shocked and horrified by the tyranny and darkness they had been living under. Many people had looked up to the Fanghorn Lord and the nobles, envying their status, power, and authority.

Becoming their knight was a symbol of honor.

But now?

All they could feel was disgust, loathing, and outrage. They were filled with anguish for the victims who had suffered miserable endings under nobles' abuse of power and authority.

"Kill all nobles!"

"Kill the City Lord!"

The enraged civilians gathered their tools and weapons, crowding outside noble estates. Their gazes showed furious determination to wipe out all nobles and their lineage.

They wanted to purge the great filth from their beloved city.

"Death to noble scums!"

"Kill them all!"

The civilians continued their bouts of shouting outside the noble estates. Normally, the Knights, servants, or guards would have shooed them away. However, the Knights were gone, and the servants and guards were too ashamed to side with the nobles.

The angry, judgmental gazes of the masses could murder them.

Still, even without anyone guarding the noble estates, the original folks had no way of breaking past the protective barriers with their mortal strength.

Meanwhile, gloom filled the interiors of the noble estates.

Even the nobles didn't have the slightest idea where the mountain of evidence came from. They had always cleaned up their mess to look clean in the eyes of the public, especially the Fanghorn Lord.

The Fanghorn Lord would never allow a single voice of dissent to grow into something more. Any civilian who had ever spoken ill of him would always end up in some accident, scandal, or executed for fabricated rage-inducing crimes they had never committed.

Yet, there were countless private messages, secret transactions, images, and even video proofs of their wicked deeds. It was as if the entire list of their inhumanity had been recorded and laid bare for public scrutiny.

What the nobles thought to have been secrets were, in fact, no secrets at all.

It was as if someone had been monitoring their every move for countless thousands of years -all for such a day to come when they could be brought down.

Still, there was simply too much evidence that even if a rat existed within their noble group, they couldn't have produced so many. In fact, they were more inclined to believe someone maliciously fabricated the mountain of evidence.

They had committed so many atrocities that even they don't remember everything. Thus, they couldn't confirm the legitimacy of everything, let alone others.

All they understood was that such a mountain of evidence, true or false, was enough to ruin a person's life a hundred times over.

"Who is it? Who has such great hatred for us that they were willing to devote this much time and effort to drag our reputations through the mud?"

No matter how much the Fanghorn Lord and the nobles pondered, they couldn't think of anyone.

After all, while it was true that the atrocities they committed in their lifetime would earn them countless enemies, they had also removed all of their potential enemies; they did not give their victims or their families and friends chances to point their blades at them.

As such, they didn't understand how they could have so many enemies. Moreover, most of them were among their Knights.

How did they end up committing so many atrocities to people related to their Knights and had their Knights find out about them? Had it been someone's deep-rooted scheme?

Had someone purposely lured them to indulge in their wickedness against their Knights' beloved ones?

While the Fanghorn Lord and the nobles were trying to make sense of the situation within the safety of their estates, General Neyi and the Fanghorn General arrived in the Residential Zone with their troops.

It was no surprise that the city's situation was not one that they had been expecting. The wickedness of the nobles had shocked them to no end.

Needless to say, they all felt unprecedented levels of rage.

"I can't believe this is the type of people our military has been protecting while our good soldiers give up their lives to defend against the threat of the Outer Sea... Even a million deaths won't wash these scums of their sins!" the Fanghorn General thundered with rage and

gloom.

The Fanghorn General was truly disgusted and sickened to the core.

This was the true face of the Fanghorn Lord and the nobles? To think his beloved city had been hiding such a deep-rooted darkness! He had failed his home and people!

Chapter 1004: Rekindling Wills to Live

"What are your orders, General Neyi?" the Fanghorn General asked after forcefully suppressing his rage towards the nobles.

Although he held the same rank as General Neyi, the latter was following the direct orders of the new Ocean Master. This slight difference was enough to create a huge gap in their statuses.

General Neyi could even command the sea monsters to some extent.

Language and intelligence were the only barriers preventing the sea monsters from following his instructions precisely. Even so, just being able to do this much showed the greatness of the new Ocean Master.

Was there ever anyone in the history of the Celestial Kingdom who could command the vast power of the Boundless Sea? Was there ever an Ocean Master who could share a portion of his authority?

None. There had never been such a person.

After General Neyi observed the situation, he replied, "For now, let us assist the Knights and protect the civilians from hurting themselves. See if you and your troops can also acquire some useful information from the Knights, General Karso."

"Understood," the Fanghorn General called Karso acknowledged. It seemed like he had more to say, but he kept his silence.

Even so, General Neyi saw through his thoughts.

"The Ocean Master temporarily stayed back in Moonwater City. You won't be able to see him now, but there will be a chance in the future," General Neyi mentioned.

General Karso nodded without saying anything.

Shortly after, the Fanghorn Army and Moonwater Army poured into the Residential Zone, slowly controlling the situation and restoring order to the region.

In the war between the Nobles and their Knights, dozens of Knights had died, and many more suffered various degrees of injuries. After the two armies joined the fray, much of the pressure was taken off the Knights.

General Neyi was on his way to the field hospital, where the injured Knights were taken for treatment. However, he suddenly sensed the Ocean Master's presence. When he changed directions and moved towards the source, he was quickly surprised.

Indeed, the Ocean Master had arrived.

"General Neyi welcomes the Ocean Master to Fanghorn City!" General Neyi proudly knelt with a loud announcement, allowing many people to hear.

General Neyi's sudden announcement shocked everyone. However, the Moonwater Army was able to confirm Vaan's arrival since the soldiers had all seen him back in Moonwater City.

"We welcome the Ocean Master to Fanghorn City!" the Moonwater Army's soldiers repeated, kneeling with complete subservience.

Their uniformed act amazed ordinary civilians but bewildered the higher-level Knights because Vaan lacked an awe-inspiring aura and cultivation.

A First-stage Divine Origin Realm equivalent Land Dweller was their Ocean Master? Did they miss something? Or did the Moonwater Army know something that they didn't?

What was that tiny temple following him?

"You can get up."

"Thank you, Ocean Master!"

Shortly after General Neyi got up, several questions swam in his head. The Ocean Master had stayed back to stabilize Moonwater City. As such, he didn't understand why the Ocean Master came so soon.

Was Moonwater City's situation already dealt with? But it had only been a few hours!

"Why did you come here so soon, Ocean Master? What about Moonwater City?" General Neyi couldn't help but ask.

"Moonwater City has been stabilized. However, a situation with the nobles caught my attention. That is why I am also here to check," Vaan casually stated before asking, "Where were you headed?"

"To the field hospital to question the Knights, my Lord," General Neyi answered, still feeling amazed in his heart. But at the same time, Vaan's words shook him.

Did Moonwater City's nobles also have a dark and twisted history?

When Vaan and General Neyi entered the field hospital, dozens of Knights could be found lying in medical beds. The people who tended to them suddenly paused to salute them.

Those who didn't know who Vaan was quickly found it.

Vaan was unconcerned by the gazes of respect and doubts directed at him. He glanced at a nearby wounded Knight with only several minutes of life left in him.

"Why did you decide to rebel against the nobles?" Vaan casually asked.

The Knight wore a peaceful expression, seemingly prepared to embrace death. But when he heard Vaan's question, his gaze turned sharp and fierce.

"Because they are all scums who deserve death! I used to have a wife and two daughters, but because of them... Because of them...! They are no longer in this world...!" The knight bit his lips until he bled.

"What about you?" Vaan glanced at another Knight.

"..." The second Knight was silent for a moment before mentioning, "My little girl was abducted and toyed to death by them..."

Silence filled the room with a heavy feeling.

Indeed, the nobles were truly inhumane scums of Pangea. With Vaan's senses, he could see the mountain of evidence being shared around the city. Anyone would be enraged after seeing their wickedness and immoral depravity.

Even Vaan couldn't help but frown at their history.

Still, the nobles' disgusting nature and true face made things easier for him. With the nobles' reputation ruined, no one would bat an eye if he killed all of them for their Divine Worlds.

Moreover, with the deep-rooted hatred the Knights have for them, they could also become his sharpest sword against the nobles.

Since he had the military, there was no need for the nobles to exist.

Today, their special privileges are revoked.

"So what have you done to avenge your loved ones? Do you think you have done enough to make the nobles understand your pain? Don't you want to make them suffer the same pain they inflicted on your loved ones? Don't you want to save others from experiencing the same tragedy? Do you think you can reunite with your loved ones in the afterlife? Are you truly content to die now?"

Originally, several dying Knights truly did feel they had done enough and made peace with their deaths. But after listening to Vaan's questions, they realized they could never be content.

So what if the nobles' reputations were ruined? Weren't they still living? How could they die before them? Explore stories on empire

"I'm not content! I'm unwilling to die now! However, I also know my body best! I can't be saved!" a dying Knight said with reddened eyes.

He partly blamed Vaan for reigniting his desire to live when his situation was hopeless. He should have just left him in his delusional peace.

Chapter 1005: Saving the Dying Knights

"You shouldn't have come here."

"Why... Why didn't you just let me die in peace? Why must you make me want to live when I can't be saved? Why must you make me feel this way?"

"Why, why, why...?!"

Tears trickled down the dying Knights' faces as they felt despair. The peaceful deaths they had convinced themselves were ruthlessly shattered by the cold reality of Vaan's words.

Indeed, even if they died, they would never feel content, knowing the nobles lived longer than them. Even if the nobles eventually died gruesome fates, it wouldn't have been done by their hands.

The rage, hatred, pain, and sadness they had accumulated in their hearts wouldn't just disappear with the nobles' death. Even a thousand deaths wouldn't be enough to wash them of their sins, not even a thousand years of cruel torture.

In the Knights' hearts, they all wanted the nobles to suffer the worst fate unimaginable.

After all, they were also aware that they had an infinitely small chance of reuniting with their loved ones in the afterlife. For some, it had been hundreds of years since their loved ones died, and thousands of years for others.

Such a long period was enough for a mortal to live several to dozens of lifetimes. It was also unlikely for them to remember their past lives.

As such, whilst living, the Knights were lonely. But even in death, they would still be alone.

However, Vaan's words also made them realize their life's true purpose. Getting revenge on the nobles was never enough.

At the end of this road, only bitterness and emptiness awaited them.

If they could live after their revenge, they would like to continue hunting down similar villains so that others would never have to experience the same pain they did.

Alas, they realized too late.

"Submit to me, and I will save your lives and give you all a chance to exact revenge on the noble scums with your own hands. After that, you can consider how to live. Do you want to waste away the Divine Worlds you bear? Don't you have anyone you want to hand them over to?"

"W-What did you say...? We can be saved in this state? How is that possible?"

Despite Vaan's claim, he realized the Knights wouldn't be able to believe him. They all had their own "common sense" they lived by.

Common sense was a double-edged sword. It could give people wisdom but also deprive them of it by closing their minds to new possibilities and rejecting new knowledge.

They needed to experience the divine miracle personally before they believed him. "Mera."

"Myuuu~!"

Emerald immediately emerged from Vaan's body, brimming with energy, momentum, and excitement after being called. At the same time, wood and life energies poured out of her small body, quickly filling the field hospital.

In a short instant, the entire area turned into a miraculous land. Anyone exposed to its pure energy would have their wounds and injuries healed at an incredible rate.

Without a surprise, the dying Knights were all shocked. They knew their bodies best. Thus, they could clearly feel life returning to their dying bodies. Such pure and holy energies were more powerful than any divine healing medicine they knew.

Emerald's sudden emergence was, no doubt, no different from an Angel of Life descending to deliver the Life Goddess's blessings. She was very awe-inspiring and sacred.

Alas, Emerald's great momentum quickly died as the surge of wood and life energies was abruptly cut.

"Myuuu..."

Emerald slowly fell into Vaan's palm after she deflated like a balloon, having emptied her energy reserve.

"Out of juice? I suppose healing several dozen Rank 6 and Rank 7 beings at once was asking for too much when you're not a Divine Spirit yet," Vaan softly muttered.

After giving Emerald's soft cheeks a slight poke of intimacy, he let her rest in the Wood Spirit Space.

Although Emerald's healing only extended the dying Knights' lives several hours, no one doubted him anymore. He had truly opened their eyes to new possibilities.

Nevertheless, Vaan wasn't done.

He suddenly opened a spatial portal and reached inside with his hand, dragging a surprised Valefor out by the collar.

"What the fuck do you want now?!"

"Heal them."

"What am I, a portable life support battery?!"

"It's good to be self-aware."

"Bastard...!"

Valefor almost coughed up blood during their exchange. Still, he did as he was told, unleashing life energy from the Profound Pearl of Life. If he didn't, he would have been forced to anyway.

Although the Profound Pearl of Life was a peerless treasure that constantly nourished his body and cultivation, it also brought him a lot of trouble.

If he had to deal with Vaan's bullshit like this every time, he would rather not hold on to it! The field hospital was turned into a sea of life energy after Valefor unloaded a portion of the Profound Pearl of Life's endless life energy.

After the dying Knights absorbed it, they unexpectedly made a full recovery within a short time. Even their cultivation improved by leaps and bounds, shocking them all to no end.

They couldn't help but look at Vaan in a new light-They were full of respect, gratitude, and reverence. This was the new Ocean Master? His abilities were truly beyond everyone's imagination and expectations.

"We thank the Ocean Master for giving us a new lease on life! We hereby swear our loyalty and allegiance to you!"

The reborn Knights quickly dropped off their medical beds and knelt on the ground to express their gratitude and loyalty.

Meanwhile, Valefor grew impatient on the side.

"Are we done here?"

"Yeah, you can go back now."

"Who do you think I am? Do I look like a cheap prostitute you can just call and shoo anytime you want?!"

"Scram."

Although Valefor had many complaints, Vaan wasn't interested in hearing them. He quickly kicked him through the spatial portal before closing it.

Valefor's curses resounded on the other side, shaking the land and sky. Still, he ultimately patted his butt and returned to his previous business after snorting coldly.

#### Chapter 1006: Digitalization Technology

After Vaan booted Valefor back through the spatial portal, General Neyi, the Knights, and the medical soldiers remained in awe, seemingly spellbound by their discoveries within this short while.

The respect in their eyes rose by several grades when they stared at Vaan.

Not only did he possess resources and abilities beyond their imagination, but he even commanded an extremely powerful twin.

Valefor's appearance, aura, and cultivation were truly shocking.

No one knew where he came from, but his existence made them realize how little they knew of the world, especially General Neyi. After all, he was part of the military with access to high-level information due to his rank.

He thought he knew the land very well, but he was wrong—Everyone was wrong. Their information was seriously outdated.

Would the three northern cities dare to attack the land if they knew Vaan had such a terrifying and powerful twin backing him?

Hell no!

Nevertheless, recalling this point, General Neyi's face paled.

"My Lord! There's something you need to know. Blackshell City, Razorfang City, and Tidalsong City were planning to launch a joint attack on the land! It might have already begun!" General Neyi mentioned fearfully.

He didn't dare imagine the impact of Vaan's wrath if he found out his home was destroyed during his absence.

The Celestial Kingdom might truly suffer extinction!

Alas, General Neyi's worries were unfounded. Vaan glanced at his fearful concerns with amusement before shaking his head.

"You don't have to worry about that. Their armies have already been decimated, and the sea monsters are keeping their cities in check."

Although Vaan mentioned it nonchalantly, General Neyi froze in shock.

How did he even know when he wasn't there?

Nevertheless, General Neyi quickly felt relief, knowing the Celestial Kingdom was saved from Vaan's wrath. Although the annihilation of three armies saddened him, the soldiers' deaths were nothing compared to the bigger picture.

The three cities should have never made such a move against the Ocean Master's home.

When the recovered Knights removed their bloodied bandages, they were, once again, amazed by their own recovery. Their recovery had been so flawless that there wasn't a single scar on their skin.

Not only that, their energy channels flowed more smoothly, allowing them to draw more power from their Divine Worlds.

The potent life energy didn't just heal their wounds but also remolded their physique and purified their impure Divine Worlds. It wasn't wrong to say that they had been reborn.

"What are your orders, my Lord?" the Knights inquired as they knelt subserviently.

"First, we need to deal with the Fanghorn Lord and the nobles. They need to answer for all the atrocities they have committed," Vaan stated before turning to General Neyi, "I trust you handle this well."

"Yes, my Lord!" General Neyi answered.

"I want their Divine Worlds preserved and ready for transfer if possible. Once they are stripped of their powerful cultivation bases, we can leave them to the Knights and families of the victims to judge and punish as they see fit," Vaan said.

"Understood, my Lord!" General Neyi acknowledged.

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Shortly after, General Neyi and the Knights departed the field hospital to rejoin General Karso and plan a strategic attack on the Fanghorn Lord and nobles.

Meanwhile, Vaan turned his attention elsewhere—the mountain of proof's source.

While the Fanghorn Lord and the nobles were inhumane scums of Pangea, they shouldn't be so stupid as to leave behind so much evidence of their twisted hobbies.

Even if there were sick bastards among them who would like to record everything, it couldn't be every one of them. As such, Vaan was quite interested in unmasking the mastermind who managed to record all their wicked deeds.

Considering the level of detail and sheer quantity of evidence, it almost seemed like the mastermind was omniscient—knowing everything that happened within the city.

Even a hacker or group of hackers could not be this impressive.

As Vaan studied the high-tech Residential Zone, he found it to be exactly how he would expect a futuristic city to be. The Residential Zone heavily relied on electricity to function.

Moreover, the majority of the civilian population did not need to work. All of the city's important facilities and functions were automated by robots, drones, and artificial intelligence.

As such, ordinary civilians normally engage in recreational activities.

Vaan found out that the virtual space appeared to be the most popular source of entertainment for civilians. Within the virtual space, people could revisit the great home of the Celestial Kingdom, enjoy the land, or explore the virtual universe.

There was also a plethora of virtual games to enjoy.

While Vaan was looking into the virtual world, he discovered that there were also people who only existed within the virtual space but not in reality. At first, he thought they might be artificial intelligence.

However, he shortly realized they were digitalized humans—people who had given up the mortality of their fleshly bodies and copied their consciousness onto the virtual network.

When Vaan discovered such technology existed, he immediately understood that digitalization was one way for Celestials to cheat death and live beyond the limits of their lifespans.

As such, the possibility of the Divine Transformation Realm Ancestors being alive in digitalized forms greatly increased. The same was also true for the previous generations of Ocean Masters and every past leader of the Celestial Kingdom.

Did that mean the highest level of authority was truly within the hands of these people? – Vaan wondered.

Nevertheless, the Celestial Kingdom also had strong controversy regarding digitalization technology.

The conservatives believed that digitalized people were simply clones who had inherited the personalities and memories of the original, while the radicals argued it wasn't the case.

On this front, Vaan leaned towards the conservatives' side of the argument.

After all, even the soul had a lifespan, just much longer than the physical body. Still, unless the soul was directly transferred into the virtual space, the digitalized person was just a set of data—they were just artificial intelligence imitating the real person.

What was the point of such immortality if the person was no longer the same?

Chapter 1007: Aliyah Salamrut

Over at Marquis Salamrut's estate, Moonwater Soldiers and Fanghorn Soldiers formed two defensive lines, holding the angry crowd of civilians from hurting themselves against the spirit barrier.

At the same time, several higher-rank officers from the two armies ordered their men to control the crowd. It was not easy for the two armies to disperse the angry crowd in their incited state.

Boom! Boom!

Dozens of Knights continuously struck the sturdy spirit barrier in a bid to deplete its energy before ultimately breaking it.

However, the spirit barrier suddenly deactivated on its own, as if someone inside had willingly turned it off. The Knights did not miss the opportunity to dash inside the estate immediately.

The sight excited the angry crowd as they also wanted to follow the Knights to kill the scummy nobles inside. Unfortunately, they lacked the power to push past the line of trained soldiers barring their path.

"Stay back! It's dangerous here. Please return to your homes and wait for further news! This is not a place for you folks to be!"

"To hell with that! I want to kill some scummy nobles! Who are you to us?!"

Although the enraged crowd felt frustrated by the soldiers' obstruction, they didn't dare to engage in physical altercations with them.

After all, they were only angry, not insane. They haven't lost their shred of reasoning.

They understood the soldiers were trying to protect them. Still, they were just a mob with a lot of anger and not enough wisdom. They didn't know how else to express their dissatisfaction with the nobles.

Meanwhile, a large group of three hundred Fanghorn Soldiers poured into the marquissate estate, following the Knights.

The bloodied, maimed corpses of servants and guards littering the courtyard floor surprised them immediately.

After all, it did not look like the work of the Knights who entered before them. Instead, there were clear signs of infighting within the estate prior to their arrival. Moreover, the fight seemed especially fierce.

When the soldiers entered the inner courtyard, they quickly discovered the Knights fighting against a group of nobles—No, rather, they were trying to escort a young lady out while defending against Marquis Salamrut's noble family.

From the young lady's luxurious attire, everyone could tell she was clearly a noble lady.

However, her beauty could not be seen due to the terrifying bruises and cuts on her face. Her silky white dress was dyed in her blood, having suffered various shallow to deep cuts throughout her frail body.

More notably, her nails were pulled out, her fingers were broken, and her tendons were all sliced. Evidently, she had been tortured terribly.

The Fanghorn Soldiers could not understand why the scummy Marquis Salamrut was directing such a murderous gaze at his own child as if she were his mortal enemy.

"Don't let them get away! Bring that bitch back here!" Marquis Salamrut roared furiously.

The Fanghorn Soldiers were able to confirm their suspicions after hearing the scummy Marquis's roar. However, they became even more confused.

"Isn't that the scum Marquis's illegitimate daughter? Why does he want to kill her so badly? What did she do? And why are the Knights protecting her?"

Although Fanghorn Soldiers had a lot of questions, the answer wasn't difficult to find after a bit of thinking.

Vaan was also observing the situation closely after it attracted his attention.

By the looks of it, the Marquis's illegitimate daughter was the rebel leader in charge of leading the Knights against the nobles. While the young lady didn't have any noteworthy cultivation, she appeared to be a computer expert.

She was a master in hacking.

Her room, which had been bloodied from her torture, was a hidden mechanism leading underground, where she stored all her data, servers, and computers. One underground room even had over two hundred different monitoring screens.

All the clues pointed to her as the mastermind behind the massive evidence dump, which exposed the nobles' true faces.

However, Vaan didn't believe it was that simple.

For starters, some of the Knights had grudges with the nobles for thousands of years. Moreover, the nobles' nature wasn't something that started in the past few thousand years either.

It was very likely that the nobles had engaged in such twisted activities since several hundred thousand years ago. The young lady's age was nowhere close to any of that.

As such, Vaan was more inclined to believe the young lady was only the successor carrying out the will of her predecessors. But even then, the detail and quantity of evidence she dumped on the Celestial Network far exceeded what a hacker was capable of acquiring.

Even if the city had cameras installed everywhere, she could not have accessed all of them at any time to spy on the nobles' secret activities.

It already required tremendous time and effort to collect so much dirt on one noble. To do so for hundreds of them in the past few thousand years simultaneously was simply unthinkable for someone as frail as the young lady.

Whether it was her or her predecessors, Vaan figured they also received higher-level assistance from someone else—someone with true authority in the city.

Vaan was certain of this once he looked into the young lady's background.

Her name was Aliyah Salamrut. She was the daughter of Marquis's seventy-third concubine, who died of poor health when she was five. Her mother was most likely another victim of the Marquis's whimsical depravity.

She was neglected as a child and did not receive any extensive education, especially not in the computer software and networking field.

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As such, how she grew to become a master hacker on her own was questionable.

How did she even come to possess such an intricate setup in her basement right under the Marquis's nose?

Although Vaan didn't believe Aliyah was the original mastermind, who collected all the evidence, he figured she knew who it was. As such, she was a valuable target he couldn't leave to die.

Swoosh!

A wave of spatial power suddenly rushed toward the young lady, causing the escorting Knights to pale in horror as they imagined the worst.

"My Lord, please spare her!" the Knights cried.

However, they thought too much. The spatial power wrapped around Aliyah gently and brought her to Vaan's side, where she received his immediate treatment and care.

Marquis Salamrut quickly glared at Vaan's hovering figure in high air. Disdain and rage shortly flickered across his eyes.

"Little bastard, give that bitch back to me!" Marquis Salamrut bellowed.

Chapter 1008: The One Who Sits Above

Following Marquis Salamrut's angry bellow, he immediately stomped his feet, catapulting himself toward Vaan without hesitation.

In his mind, Vaan's action was extremely foolish. His bastard daughter was better protected when the Knights surrounded her. On the other hand, Vaan was alone with a meager cultivation...

If Marquis Salamrut had faced the situation calmly, he would have realized many things that would have made him wary of Vaan.

But alas, how could a cornered beast have time to think calmly when pressured?

"Overestimating yourself," Vaan snorted.

Peng!

Vaan flicked his middle finger, and a detached piece of the Sea God Temple's barrier power struck Marquis Salamrut squarely on the forehead before nailing him back into the ground.

Although the blunt force didn't outright kill Marquis Salamrut, it did give severe concussion and incapacitated him.

"Seal his cultivation base."

"Yes, my Lord!"

The Knights immediately acted on Vaan's order, injecting concentrated divine energy into Marquis Salamrut's acupoints to obstruct his energy pathways. This prevented him from drawing divine power from his Divine World.

The more acupoints blocked by foreign divine energy, the stronger the seal.

For a strong cultivator at the seventh stage of Divine Star Realm like Marquis Salamrut, the Knights gave him special treatment-a 108-acupoint energy sealing.

With this many obstructions in his energy pathways, Marquis Salamrut would feel like his limbs were all nailed to the ground with stakes. His body felt heavy, and forcing it to move would provoke pain.

"Save the Marquis!"

The remaining noblemen in the Salamrut family saw the situation turn bad and hoped to reverse the situation by recovering Marquis Salamrut from the Knights' grasp.

Unfortunately, their struggle was meaningless when they lost their strongest cultivator. They quickly lost their fights to the Knights and soldiers of the Fanghorn Army and Moonwater Army.

Following Vaan's orders, the noblemen in the Salamrut family all had their cultivation bases sealed after getting captured by the Knights and soldiers.

They were left within the estate's inner courtyard until further orders.

Meanwhile, Aliyal Salamrut glanced at Vaan's handsome profile with a mixture of gratitude and helplessness.

After her full recovery, her Lunaran beauty was exposed for the first time in years. She had purposely scarred her own face and body at the young age of seven, turning herself into a hideous girl to save herself from being violated by the beasts of her own household.

However, under Vaan's treatment, the old scars had all disappeared. No one had ever seen Aliyah's mature beauty without her scars, so many Knights were astonished by her pretty sight.

Without the hideous scars to protect her, Aliyah felt extremely vulnerable and afraid. Still, she couldn't blame Vaan for it since he helped her.

"Why did you save me?"

Aliyah stared at Vaan with fluttering long eyelashes, exuding a womanly charm rarely seen among the Lunaran Celestials.

Although she was neglected, she was of noble birth with superior genes. With her innocence preserved for over a hundred years, she was indeed a rarity among noble ladies.

However, Vaan wasn't moved by her beauty and charm.

He had seen countless beauties and could have many lined up to warm his bed if he asked. It wasn't wrong to say he could have any woman he wanted in Pangea. Still, just because he could didn't mean he should.

There were some things he shouldn't do. For example, sticking his dick in crazies.

Aliyah was ruthless enough to scar her face and body into a hideous sight at the tender age of seven, then lived her life collecting dirt on the scum noblemen. It would be strange if she didn't possess extreme prejudice against men.

As such, bringing her into his fold would be like inviting a venomous snake into his home. He didn't have the luxury to be patient with such a troublesome woman.

"I think you already know what I want," Vaan stared back at Aliyah thoughtfully.

From another person's perspective, it seemed like the two were being flirty with each other. However, Aliyah knew Vaan wasn't blinded by her beauty. For some reason, she was both relieved and disappointed.

Originally, Aliyah didn't intend to cooperate with Vaan even if he tortured her for an answer. However, her brain suddenly received an electrical signal that changed her mind.

Aliyah softly sighed before nodding, "Follow me, Sir."

Vaan instructed the Knights and soldiers to watch over the estate before he followed Aliyah into her blood-filled room and entered the secret basement floor.

More accurately, they entered the basement floor's monitoring room, which lined up the walls with computer screens.

After Aliyah accessed her computer terminal, inputted her login details, and pressed a few buttons, a blonde Solaran woman suddenly appeared on the interconnected computer

screens.

The blonde Solaran woman looked slightly like Astoria. However, she appeared far more mature and ancient. Her golden eyes glittered with the stars of wisdom, and her fair skin softly glowed like moonlight in the night.

Her body itself seemed like a celestial body sculpted by gods; it was sublime with an otherworldly attraction. Her golden silk dress only further enhanced her perfect appeal.

Despite being an image on the screen, her transcendental beauty wasn't diminished in any way. Rather, it could only exist within the virtual realm.

Still, the golden woman's most distinctive features were undoubtedly her partial golden

scales and antler-like dragon horns.

"You are... Pangea?" Vaan asked.

"How unsurprised you are. As expected, you have suspected this," the golden woman on the screen smiled thoughtfully before shaking her head, "I am indeed Pangea, but at the same

time, I am also not her."

"I am Pangea's collective consciousness, which had been uploaded onto the Celestial Network. Some people say I am Pangea, and some people don't. Even I don't have the answer

they seek."

"However, of one thing, I am certain-I have inherited Pangea's will, and I think that is enough. Does this answer satisfy you, Child?" Pangea asked.

"So, you're the one who holds first-class permission in the Celestial Kingdom?" Vaan replied with another question.

Pangea didn't seem to mind her question left unanswered.

"The one who holds first-class permission, you ask?" Pangea chuckled.

"There are indeed quite a few children who have it, but I am not one of them. I am the one who sits above them all; I am the Celestial Kingdom's supreme intelligence-the one who governs the Celestial Network."

"Why would I need permission?" Pangea asked rhetorically.

Chapter 1009: Hidden Difficulties

After listening to Pangea's official introduction, Vaan's gaze flashed with understanding and enlightenment. Indeed, the current Pangea could not be regarded as the original Pangea.

Although the current Pangea has inherited the original Pangea's character and memories, her thought-processing ability has vastly outstripped the former.

Even Vaan didn't think his thought-processing speed was superior to the current Pangea's level. After all, Pangea was managing the vast Celestial Network with nearly one billion users.

Her omniscience over her users allowed Vaan to understand how the nobles' entire dirty histories were dug out despite their efforts to bury or eliminate them.

All their wickedness and inhumanity had been under her silent yet watchful eyes. No one living under the Celestial Network could hide anything from her.

Naturally, no human could compare themselves to Pangea in her ability to collect and absorb information on the Celestial Network. She was the Celestial Kingdom's supercomputer.

As such, the current Pangea was more like artificial intelligence with the original Pangea's character template.

Even if Vaan had the potential to improve his thought-processing abilities to the level of the Celestial Kingdom's highly advanced supercomputer, he would not want to take over the vast Celestial Network.

Ultimately, he was a living being and not artificial intelligence. If he scattered his consciousness across such a vast virtual network, he would most likely lose himself within it.

Nevertheless, despite possessing absolute authority over the Celestial Network, Pangea seemed to have limits on her abilities. Otherwise, she would not have needed to rely on Aliyah and the Knights to take down the nobles.

Still, given her authority and capabilities, her interaction with the physical world seemed rather restricted.

"Are you in need of my help?" Vaan guessed. Read exclusive chapters at [My Virtual Library Empire](#)

Given the security measures on Aliyah's basement floor and Pangea's ability to control the Celestial Network, Aliyah's act of dumping evidence shouldn't have been discovered, and definitely not at such a particular time.

As such, he believed Pangea purposely left traces to expose Aliyah and lure him over to meet her.

Although Aliyah was ultimately saved, this did not change the fact that Pangea willingly endangered her life to ensure their meeting. Based on this, Vaan knew he should be wary of Pangea—no, the Celestial Kingdom's supreme intelligence.

When Pangea heard Vaan's question, she smiled favorably.

"Indeed, you are a smart one. You grasp the situation quickly. As you have guessed, I purposely left traces of Aliyah uploading the nobles' dark history onto the Celestial Network in order to lure you over here," Pangea openly admitted.

However, Aliyah did not seem surprised either. She appeared to have been warned beforehand and prepared for the consequences.

Still, that was something Vaan didn't understand.

Given the direction of the situation, the nobles would eventually be defeated. It wasn't too late for Aliyah to reveal herself as the Rebel Leader and approach Vaan to arrange their meeting.

Why did they have to take such extreme measures?

"Aliyah's servants make grave mistakes in their conduct, arousing the Marquis's suspicion. It was only a matter of time before he found out about her and tortured her to death. I simply calculated the probabilities and chose the time when you were nearby to ensure her best chance of survival."

Pangea gave Vaan a reasonable explanation, seemingly having read his doubts.

"So, what do you need my help with?" Vaan wondered.

"Liberation and reform," Pangea firmly stated before explaining, "As you have seen, the current state of the Celestial Kingdom is not one that Pangea wishes to see. The nobles' nature does not align with Pangea's desire and love to nurture humanity and realize its potential."

"Of course, I would love to reform the Celestial Kingdom's social structure, but as you have also seen, I am restricted in what I can do in the physical world," Pangea stated.

"Why don't you use your authority over the Celestial Network to build androids and download copies of yourself onto them? Wouldn't that give you extensive control in the physical world?" Vaan doubted.

"Of course, that was one option—if I didn't have a sword pointed at my core, that is," Pangea mentioned, adding, "You see, when the Celestials made me the Celestial Kingdom's supreme intelligence, they also feared they would be taken over by artificial intelligence."

"As such, they restricted me from producing androids. You won't find a single facility within the thirteen cities of the Celestial Kingdom capable of creating and assembling the complex components of an advanced android. There are only production robots with limited ranges of movements."

"Moreover, top-quality minerals are all controlled by Celestials with high status and power. There's no chance of creating androids powerful enough to contend with cultivators, even if I could mass-produce them."

"Most importantly, my core stored in Celestial City would be destroyed if the Celestial Dragon King and his people caught a single news of advanced android production. Even plotting against the nobles is a huge risk I am undertaking."

"This plan to overthrow the nobles' tyranny only began today because someone like you appeared. Otherwise, we would have continued to wait until another opportune time came," Pangea stated.

"I see," Vaan grasped Pangea's situation.

With the sword of Damocles hanging over Pangea's head, threatening to end her existence, it indeed greatly restricted what she could do to steer the Celestial Kingdom toward the proper path.

Moreover, she had to be extremely prudent in selecting the people she would include in her grand plan. Most likely, even victims who hated the nobles had to be further filtered before they could join.

Having the Knights help Pangea build android production facilities was never an option since its discovery would end her existence. She also could not manipulate virtual media to her advantage as signs of insurrections would also point toward her.

Just as Pangea said, Vaan's arrival was the only chance they had to overthrow the nobles. Moreover, Pangea had to take a big risk for it.

"What can you offer me for my help?" Vaan asked with a thoughtful look.

He already knew what he wanted and what Pangea could do without her restraints. However, he wanted to hear her sincerity.

Chapter 1010: Pangea's Understanding

Pangea stared at Vaan deeply from within the electronic screen.

"I can give you the highest level of access to the Celestial Network. All confidential information limited to first-class permission users will be made available for your perusal."

"I can also help you monitor the situation in any city, including Celestial City, in real time and inform you of any significant developments. Any schemes or hostility aimed at you would be known immediately."

"Once you liberate me from the Celestial Dragons' control, I will also help you produce components for starships, space stations, colonies—anything you desire on a large scale."

"Even a mechanized army is not out of the question," Pangea calmly added.

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Indeed, if Vaan could fully utilize all of the Celestial Kingdom's resources and technology, the UN's—No, all of Pangea's development would advance by leaps and bounds.

The mechanized army was also a tempting offer.

After all, training an army of powerful cultivators would take time. On the other hand, producing a battalion of powerful Rank 6 to Rank 7 automatons might be much simpler and faster.

It would greatly strengthen Pangea's overall power within a short time.

Moreover, since the mechanized army was inorganic, it could scout the situation in the sea of stars without alerting Outer Beings.

Of course, producing a mechanized army came with its own risk. After all, it would give the supreme intelligence more power. Furthermore, if artificial intelligence gained self-awareness, there might even be an uprising of mechanical life forms in the future.

However, Vaan wasn't worried about this.

No matter how powerful the mechanized army could be using the Celestial Kingdom's advanced technology, he would always be stronger. The power of the mechanized army would not be able to keep up with his rate of growth.

Even his people could outgrow the strength of the mechanized army, considering he possessed an endless source of life energy.

"What should I do?" Vaan asked.

"It would be great if you could continue doing what you have been doing—creating bigger waves across the thirteen cities of the Celestial Kingdom to attract the Celestial Dragons' attention so they don't suspect my involvement," Pangea wished.

"Fine by me," Vaan acknowledged.

He had intended to take over the twelve cities before facing Celestial City, to begin with. Thus, there was no conflict of interest with Pangea's wish.

"Is there an easier way for us to communicate?" Vaan asked.

Pangea immediately directed her gaze at Aliyah, signaling her to offer up the spirit watch she was wearing. As such, Aliyah took off her spirit watch and handed it over to Vaan without any reluctance.

It was just a gadget used for convenience, not something valuable. Aliyah could get any number of spirit watches she wanted. The only difference was that they wouldn't have an untraceable channel connected to Pangea.

However, that was also something she could set up herself.

"We can communicate through that spirit watch. It is designed with state-of-the-art technology. You won't lose connection to the Celestial Network even if you go off-world to the moon. Of course, it would be a different story if you went to Gehenna."

"I see."

Vaan quickly familiarized himself with the spirit watch, which featured holographic functions. Although it was designed to track time, it was also built like the popular smartphone that most Lunaran civilians used in the city.

He could text and make calls with it, and none of them would leave any traceable history on the Celestial Network.

Even if it did, Pangea could still erase it with her authority.

"Quite handy," Vaan praised the black metal watch.

After obtaining some more information from Pangea, Vaan left the secret basement floor to deal with the captured nobles.

Meanwhile, Aliyah silently watched him leave. Once he was gone from sight, she turned her attention to Pangea on the big screen, expressing her puzzlement.

"Why are you going to such lengths to hand the entire Celestial Kingdom over to this man, who we know little about, Mother? Isn't that too much of a gamble? What if he becomes worse than the nobles after wielding so much power?" Aliyah feared.

Pangea calmly smiled at her before replying, "Did you notice the small temple following behind that young man, Child? You don't know what that is, do you?"

"Is it something important?" Aliyah wondered with surprise. Indeed, she had noticed it early on.

"If I'm not wrong, that should be the Sea God Temple where the first-generation Ocean Master obtained his trident of authority over the sea," Pangea mentioned.

"The records stated that passing the Sea God Temple's trial would allow one to become the Sea Warden of the local star ocean domain or become Sea God Proteus's in-name disciple and enter the doors of the Myriad Sea God Palace for cultivation."

"The first-generation Ocean Master did not mention the possibility of the Sea God Temple following anyone like this. Do you understand what that means?" Pangea asked.

Aliyah was greatly astonished after hearing that. Although she still couldn't guess the implications, she figured it had to be something incredible.

"I don't know what that child did to get the Sea God Temple itself to follow him like that. However, I know he possesses a great destiny far beyond this world. The Celestial Kingdom shouldn't suffer if it were to follow him," Pangea speculated before adding, "It's not like we have a choice, anyway."

"What do you mean, Mother?" Aliyah asked with surprise.

Pangea didn't give her a verbal answer. Instead, she directly showed various footage from different cities. No matter which city appeared on the screen, it revealed the same thing—large sea monsters roaming the Inner Seas.

Aliyah was shocked—No, frightened silly! The sight was far scarier than anything she could have imagined.

"Now, do you understand?" Pangea asked.

Aliyah nodded timidly.

The Sea Warden was said to be able to control nine sea realms within his jurisdiction. Since Vaan commanded the Sea God Temple, his authority was undoubtedly beyond that.

Yet, what they were seeing in the Inner Sea was only a fraction of the power from a single sea realm.

This wasn't the kind of power the Celestial Kingdom could go against.