

The Witch 811

Chapter 811: Another Matter

Young Master Punta's guard quickly felt like he was treading on thin ice. Before coming to Sunpeak City, everyone was told about the one person they should avoid offending.

Unfortunately, Young Master Punta just had to offend that very person – Lady Aeliana, Lord of Sunpeak City.

Shortly after Aeliana shifted her cold gaze to the drawn sword, the guard's body shook with fright. He quickly withdrew his weapon and pulled his young master further away.

"Lady Aeliana, please have mercy! My young master is still young and immature. He did not mean to offend you!" the guard quickly said.

"He doesn't mean to offend me, but he can offend everyone else with his insolent gazes?" Aeliana coolly questioned before firmly stating, "I don't know where you think you are, but this is my turf and my rules! Not some prostitute gallery!"

"Take your young master and get out of my sight! Your presence spoils the mood of my city!" Aeliana barked.

"Right away, Lady Aeliana!" the guard nodded like an obedient chicken before lifting his young master over his shoulders and scurrying off with haste.

At the same time, the crowd of witches quickly cheered at the departing eyesore.

If not for the strict rules of Sunpeak City, they would have long taken matters into their own hands and taught the audacious brat a lesson. They just didn't want to risk getting punished for committing violence.

After all, the city only had one person who could be the judge, jury, and executioner.

Although Aeliana's ruthlessness made everyone fear her, they also greatly respected her. Only when such brutal, cruel punishments existed would people properly behave and follow the law.

Many people might not agree with her cruelty, but even they could not argue with the results.

How could law and order be maintained if heavy consequences for breaking them weren't properly enforced?

A Transcendent-rank Red Dragon and a group of battle witches shortly arrived at the scene after catching wind of a minor disturbance in the area.

They were immediately pleasantly surprised upon discovering Aeliana's return.

"Lady Aeliana, is there a problem here?" a Transcendent-rank Red Dragon inquired, sweeping the crowd with a stern glance.

"No," Aeliana casually shook her head and explained, "I've already taken care of it."

"I see."

Meanwhile, many people lowered their heads in awe and reverence.

On the other hand, the visitors from outside shivered under the dragon's intimidating pressure. But at the same time, they also couldn't help but feel excited about meeting one of the True Dragons, especially those who traveled from the Great Ratholos Empire.

Dragons were the symbols of their worship since they represented strength and power.

Nevertheless, the crowd eventually dispersed after Aeliana departed the scene, returning to her residence.

"Welcome back, Lady Aeliana," the servants and vassals quickly greeted.

Aeliana acknowledged them with a nod before summoning all her vassals for a quick meeting.

"What has happened in the past four days of my absence? I was only gone for a short while, but the stability and order of my city already dropped?" Aeliana coolly inquired after sitting on her seat with her legs crossed.

The high-ranking battle witches under her command immediately lowered their heads in shame. Although they had a reason for that, it was undeniable that they disappointed their city lord.

After a moment, a Darkan High Witch stepped forward to speak.

"Shortly after you left, the city received a great increase in visitors from other countries, My Lady," the commander of the city guards started explaining.

"Because they were mostly offspring of reputable and noble backgrounds, we dare not punish the troublemakers in case we created bigger problems for you, My Lady."

Aeliana frowned with a dark look before saying, "I don't care if they are princes or princesses of another country, Mildred. If they come to my city, they have to follow my city's rules."

"If they break the law, punish them accordingly. If the crime is severe enough to warrant death, then just kill them. Their statuses will not grant them any special privileges here in my city," Aeliana coldly stated.

"Understood, My Lady," the Darkan High Witch bowed in understanding.

"So, who can tell me why the reputable and noble families in other countries are sending their dear offspring to our city?" Aeliana asked.

"Supposedly, words of our new academy of magic and aura had spread to other countries, so they are sending their heirs over to learn, but more importantly, to build connections, My Lady," a Lunaran High Witch answered.

"Heirs, huh?" Aeliana uttered thoughtfully before acknowledging, "That's pretty good. While they are learning and building connections in the academy, they are also hostages."

"This form of arrangement should be their way of showing goodwill and loyalty to Lord Vaan. Hm, I guess I can't just sentence their heirs to death if they commit heavy crimes..."

"But it should be easy to extort the families in return for keeping their lives..." Aeliana suddenly thought.

Mildred and the other vassals gawked at their city lord dumbfoundedly. However, surprisingly, they couldn't find anything wrong with her words.

"My Lady, there's another matter that requires your attention. None of us could decide what to do on this matter without you or Lord Vaan," another vassal suddenly mentioned.

"What matter?" Aeliana raised an eyebrow.

"There's a big group of warriors from the Great Ratholos Empire claiming to be the devoted followers of Sir Pendragon—I mean, Lord Vaan," the vassal stated.

"Supposedly, they moved her after hearing news of Lord Vaan's main residence and have been demanding some land and resources to build a temple and statue in Lord Vaan's name to worship him."

"However, they don't seem very credible due to their beggar-like appearances," the vassal added.

"A temple and statue, huh? That's actually a good idea..." Aeliana thought with interest before sighing, "To think that I have not thought of this before..."

"Take me to see this group at once! I will determine whether they can be trusted or not!" Aeliana demanded shortly after.

Although she couldn't confirm anything without seeing the group of warriors for herself, they had temporarily earned her goodwill.

Chapter 812: Corrupted One By One

Back in the unknown subterranean region of Chaos, Vaan had no idea that Aeliana intended to build a big temple in his name in Sunpeak City, where he also planned to establish Hecate's first church.

Undoubtedly, having two different symbols of worship in the same city would give rise to conflicts of interest.

Hecate might also question his intention.

Nevertheless, Vaan didn't care about faith energy, and it also no longer held the same value as it did before to Hecate.

After all, faith energy was cultivated to change her fate and destiny. However, they had already been changed since she comprehended the Nihilism Law with Vaan's help. Such a favor was greater than any other gift someone could have given her.

As such, Hecate likely had no more interest in expanding her religion.

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At that moment, Vaan and Dahlia were snuggling together, enjoying each other's warmth in tranquil silence after a long session of dual practice. That was all Dahlia needed to feel content for a long while.

Nevertheless, thanks to her individual efforts and the addition of their dual practice, she had safely joined the ranks of High Witches, stopping at the peak of the early stage.

Since each stage in the High Witch rank required the formation of new mana rings, she was required to take a break and condition her body to its peak state before taking the next step forward.

Meanwhile, Vaan's mana core was still stuck at Peak-stage Senior Warlock rank. However, it had already reached its absolute saturation limit.

He estimated he would advance to the Early-stage High Warlock rank once he dual-practiced with Solana, who was at a higher cultivation rank than Dahlia.

Solana had broken through two stages and reached the Late-stage High Witch rank during the five days of individual cultivation. Once she dual-practiced with him, she would most likely reach Half-step Transcendent Witch rank.

There was even a slight chance that she would achieve Transcendence.

Nevertheless, out of everyone brought to the otherworldly subterranean region to cultivate, Vaan had to admit the people who surprised him the most were undoubtedly the three Dreamcatchers.

After Seventh Dream learned about masturbation, she also corrupted Ninth Dream with the knowledge.

As a result, they both had secret masturbation sessions every time it was their turn to be on guard duty since they could not stop themselves from peeking into his private affairs.

Curiosity truly killed the cats.

Nevertheless, the surprising part in all of this was that the two had breakthroughs and stepped into the next stage of their cultivation.

Evidently, they had been stuck at the seventh stage of the Divine Dream Realm for a long time and had a solid foundation. Otherwise, they would not have advanced to the eighth stage of the Divine Dream Realm so easily from touching themselves.

When Fourth Dream learned about their breakthroughs, she didn't know what to think. She was the eldest of the three, yet she had been left behind in cultivation.

It would be a lie if she said she didn't envy their results.

After Fourth Dream struggled with conflicting thoughts for some time, she eventually thickened her skin and went to find one of her sisters.

"Seventh Sister, how did you and Ninth Sister advance to the eighth stage of the Divine Dream Realm so suddenly? Did you figure out a trick or something?" Fourth Dream asked.

Seventh Dream glanced at her weirdly, with a shade of pink creeping onto her cheeks. After a moment, she asked, "Do you really want to know, Fourth Sister?"

"So there was a trick to it?" Fourth Dream uttered with surprise before speaking excitedly, "I've been stuck at this level for 600 years. Quickly tell me the trick, my good sister! Good things have to be shared! Isn't it too selfish to keep such knowledge to yourself?"

"Alright then," Seventh Dream shrugged her shoulders in agreement.

Originally, she intended to warn her fourth sister about the forbidden knowledge out of consideration. However, she quickly changed her mind when the person slightly criticized her.

"Follow me," Seventh Dream instructed.

Shortly after, she led Fourth Dream toward Vaan's lovemaking location. At the same time, Fourth Dream was quickly alarmed after noticing the direction.

"Isn't this the way to... Ah, isn't this the way to Sir Vaan's love nest? Why are we heading this way, Seventh Sister?"

"Didn't you want to learn the trick? Instead of telling you, it's better to show you, Fourth Sister."

Along the way, Seventh Dream cast a veil of invisibility over them. A short while later, they arrived at their designated location.

At the same time, Vaan and Dahlia coincidentally resumed their dual cultivation.

When Fourth Dream peeked inside their love nest, she immediately blushed with vivid flashbacks of a similar scene. Within moments, her face was red-hot with embarrassment.

"The trick involves... peeking into Sir Vaan's private affairs..." Fourth Dream carefully asked while doing her best to maintain her composure.

However, her deep blush betrayed her calmness, revealing the chaotic emotions boiling inside her.

On the other hand, Seventh Dream's blush was much lighter, seemingly more used to the situation.

"No, but it's a great help as a stimulus," Seventh Dream replied with a deeper blush before mentioning, "It looks like Ninth Dream is about to begin."

Seventh Dream waved her hand, subtly sending her dream power into an inconspicuous corner to reveal Ninth Dream's hidden location.

"Ahh..."

Ninth Dream's soft moan escaped as her delicate body shook with pleasure under the movements of her fingers. She was so immersed in her masturbation that she did not notice another party was watching her.

In that instant, her innocent image in Fourth Dream's mind shattered.

Fourth Dream instinctively covered her eyes with both hands to avoid looking at Ninth Dream's embarrassing act.

"Ah! What is Ninth Dream doing? Why is she indulging in such an embarrassing and depraved act? Ah, I can't look! How could you show such a thing to me, Seventh Sister?" Fourth Dream exclaimed with a flushed face as she criticized Seventh Dream.

Despite showing a strong aversion to the scene, Fourth Dream secretly peeked through the gaps between her fingers. She thought she was subtle about it, but Seventh Dream still noticed it.

"You can drop the act, Fourth Sister. I know you are looking," Seventh Dream called her out while feeling speechless.

Chapter 813: Reason vs Desire

After being called out by Seventh Dream, Fourth Dream coughed awkwardly and glanced at her grudgingly.

"Do you not have any tact, Seventh Sister? I'm still your elder sister. At least leave me some face," Fourth Dream implored before finding her gaze wandering back to Ninth Dream's shameful act.

"This... is the trick that helped you and Ninth Sister advance to the eighth stage of the Divine Dream Realm?" Fourth Dream shortly asked with a flushed face, adding, "What does... pruning the flower have to do with our cultivation?"

"Pruning the flower?" Seventh Dream paused for a moment before laughing, "True, we've never learned about this before, so I wouldn't have known what to call it but this either."

"The humans call it, erm, fingering or masturbation," Seventh Dream stated with some embarrassment.

"So vulgar?" Fourth Dream gasped.

"Well, it isn't exactly a graceful act, Fourth Sister," Seventh Dream commented before saying, "However, the effects are undeniable. Just observe the changes for yourself, and you will understand."

"Observe the changes..." Fourth Dream muttered, forcing herself to calm down.

Unbelievable as it seemed, she had no choice but to trust Seventh Dream after noticing she wasn't joking about it.

Sure enough, when Fourth Dream observed Ninth Dream's flower-pruning act, she discovered her body absorbed the pure mana in her surroundings far faster than normal.

At the same time, she realized the mana density in the area was much higher than in other places. She also understood the high concentration of pure mana was formed by Sir Vaan and Lady Dahlia.

Ninth Dream's cultivation benefited from the lewd acts Sir Vaan performed with Lady Dahlia.

When Fourth Dream realized that, several other details she hadn't really paid attention to suddenly came to mind.

She was greatly astonished when she put the pieces together.

Whether it was Lady Eniwse, Lady Aeliana, or Lady Dahlia, anyone who had spent some time performing lascivious acts with Sir Vaan had their cultivation upgraded very quickly.

Even now, Fourth Dream could see that Sir Vaan and Lady Dahlia were attracting and absorbing pure mana at an incredible rate.

She had seen Lady Dahlia before and noticed her mana talent and affinity weren't great. In fact, they could be considered quite ordinary or even poor.

However, the mana talent and affinity she currently displayed as she performed shameful acts with Sir Vaan were clearly several levels higher than her original evaluation.

Unexpectedly, the union of man and woman could produce such incredible results.

'I see... these... sensual acts can stimulate the body and awaken its hidden potential,' Fourth Dream noted.

'Ninth Dream is also stimulating her own body's hidden potential through her solo act... However, the result is also inferior to the duo act... Moreover, the biggest difference isn't the duo act itself but the skill involved...'

'Doesn't that mean cultivation would be most effective if I could get Sir Vaan's help?'

Suddenly, Fourth Dream froze.

Her face quickly flushed with a deeper crimson shade. She felt so ashamed and couldn't believe she could have such a thought.

She was neither in an intimate relationship with Sir Vaan nor had romantic feelings for him. Thus, to surrender her body's innocence to him in the name of cultivation was rather demeaning.

How could she have such little self-respect?

Although Fourth Dream tried to fight off the foul thoughts with her reason and principles, her curiosity constantly grew. The more she suppressed it, the stronger it bounced back.

No matter what she did, Fourth Dream couldn't stop herself from imagining the possible experience with Sir Vaan.

Given how satisfied his women all seemed, Fourth Dream found it impossible to remove the seed of curiosity once it sprouted within her.

'I am a proud Dreamcatcher of the Dreamdust Territory. How can I be tempted by mortal desire?'

'This is no way for a lady to conduct herself; of that, I know. So, why do lewd thoughts cloud my mind and urge my body? Why am I compelled to engage in such indecency?'

'Is it for the cultivation benefits I seek or the possible pleasure derived from it? Either way, my sisters must find out if I were ever to do it...'

'No! I should be resisting thoughts of such indecent acts, not figuring out how to do them in secret from my sisters!'

Fourth Dream constantly shifted her gaze between Ninth Dream and Vaan's locations as she waged an intense battle between reason and desire in her heart and mind. It was uncertain which side was winning, but her blood pressure constantly rose.

She didn't want to be left behind in cultivation, but at the same time, she also didn't want to be caught indulging in such indecent acts in front of her juniors.

Alas, the choice proved too difficult for her to make.

Fourth Dream eventually collapsed in dizziness from all the stress and heat built up in her seemingly delicate body.

"Ah, Fourth Sister! Not again!" Seventh Dream cried.

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Meanwhile, inside the nearby rock chamber of lust, Dahlia earnestly shook her hips on top of Vaan's lap to calm his raging dragon, completely unaware of third-party observation.

If she had known about it, all her boldness would instantly disappear, and she would become as timid as a meek kitten.

Nevertheless, Dahlia was only concerned about making Vaan feel good at that moment. Everything seemed to be going well between them, but Vaan knew that was not true.

Despite Dahlia's effort to hide it, he could sense her unease and worries weighing under her eyes. Considering he was surrounded by women more impressive than her, it would be strange if she didn't have any.

After all, it was undeniable that her background was quite humble compared to most of his women's.

Vaan softly sighed before grabbing hold of her hands.

"Dahlia, comparison is the most poisonous element of the human heart. It robs you of your peace and happiness by eating away at your heart and twisting your nature. So, why burden yourself with such unhealthy thoughts? I don't want to lose the gentle Dahlia I know," Vaan calmly said.

Dahlia's body immediately shivered as her eyes uncontrollably teared up.

"I... I can't help it."

Chapter 814: Teasing Ninth Dream

"Even if you can't, you must. It's pointless worrying over things you can't control; the change you desire will only come from focusing better on what you can control," Vaan stated.

Dahlia gave a forlorn smile.

Without explaining anything, Vaan already knew what she was thinking and feeling. She was like an open book for him to read. He had always been amazing like that since she met him.

However, the gap between them continued to grow since then as well.

With such a significant difference in status and power between them compared to when they first met, it was normal for her to start feeling afraid of being abandoned and left behind.

Because of this fear, she would naturally compare herself with the other women around Vaan.

After all, she believed that as long as she wasn't the worst person in the harem, she wouldn't be the first to be abandoned. She didn't need to be the best; being somewhere in the middle was sufficient to put her mind at ease.

"I know what you are thinking, but this kind of mindset is wrong, Dahlia. I am not someone who abandons my women over a deplorable reason like being useless. So, your fear is unfounded," Vaan coolly stated.

Given his knowledge and countless opportunities hidden in the world around him, even if his women were all untalented, he could still find a way to turn them into talented geniuses.

As such, as long as his women had the heart to toil hardship and grow, they would never be mediocre with him around.

"As long as you don't betray me or purposely harm your sisters, you will always have a place at my side. Talent can be changed, but trust can't be regained once broken," Vaan added.

"Even if the gap between us continues to grow?" Dahlia asked unconfidently.

"That's right," Vaan nodded before mentioning with a calm smile, "After all, you'll still be chasing to catch up no matter what, no?"

"Mm," Dahlia quietly nodded.

Although she had strong feelings for Vaan, she also knew their relationship wasn't one of love but trust and commitment. As such, once that trust was broken, there was no chance of mending it.

Such a relationship wasn't fair for her, but it was one she was willing to bear.

After all, her love wasn't completely selfless. She also had a selfish reason for sticking to Vaan. Without him, her whole life would have most likely been limited to Redpine City.

However, thanks to their meeting, she felt like she had more control over her life; she had more choices available to her.

Vaan could take her to heights she never dreamed of having in the past.

Instead of imagining the world through the words of others in books, she would much rather see the vast world with her own eyes. She wished she could freely experience the world described in her books.

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Sometime after Vaan placated Dahlia and extinguished her worries, he shifted his attention to Ninth Dream.

He had already stopped his dual cultivation with Dahlia, but Ninth Dream was still immersed in touching herself. The erotic movements and sounds she made were certainly a treat for sore eyes.

"Hmm?"

Vaan suddenly noticed Ninth Dream abruptly stopping her masturbation and started fixing her clothes hastily as if someone had just caught her in the act.

She looked extremely distressed, awkward, and ashamed.

However, Vaan was certain she didn't notice his spying. Furthermore, she didn't seem to discover Fourth Dream and Seventh Dream peeking at her in the distance either.

After noticing Fourth Dream and Seventh Dream's expressions, Vaan immediately realized Hecate must have contacted them. That also implied her meeting with the Great Devils must have concluded.

'That finished earlier than I expected,' Vaan mused.

Sometime later, Ninth Dream approached the rock chamber, neatly dressed without any traces of the mess she made when she touched herself.

"Sir Vaan, are you free? Lady Hecate would like to have a word with you," Ninth Dream asked.

"Alright," Vaan acknowledged.

Shortly after separating from Dahlia, he cleaned up and dressed before heading outside to meet Ninth Dream, where she offered her hand to link him to her spiritual connection with Hecate.

Without Ophelia around, the Dreamcatchers had become his new channels of communication with Hecate.

Just as Vaan exited his rock chamber, his nose twitched a few times before casually commenting, "Doesn't it smell like freshly squeezed flower essence around here?"

Although the words were softly spoken, they rang like thunder in Ninth Dream's ears. She was immediately petrified on the spot.

'Nooo! I can't be!' Ninth Dream screamed in her mind.

She was certain she had already erased the funny smell on her body with magic. As such, there shouldn't be any traces of it left.

But if that was true, how could Sir Vaan smell it?

Ninth Dream started to doubt whether her flower cave still leaked new fluids due to the abrupt end of her private session. However, she didn't have the opportunity to check while standing in Vaan's presence with her hand extended.

Looking into Vaan's seemingly innocent yet curious eyes, Ninth Dream felt very distressed, as if she were on the verge of a mental breakdown.

"You don't smell it, Lady Ninth Dream?" Vaan asked, feigning ignorance.

"I... N-No... Er, I mean, yes. I was concocting a medicinal drink earlier... That must be the smell you are picking up, Sir Vaan," Ninth Dream vaguely explained as her cheeks reddened with embarrassment and shame.

"Oh? Medicinal drink?" Vaan uttered with surprise before asking with concern, "Do you have some chronic illness, Lady Ninth Dream? Have you drunk your medicine?"

"Have I... what?"

Ninth Dream almost wanted to faint on the spot when Vaan's seemingly innocent question forced the image into her head.

Of course, the medicinal drink was just an excuse, as she knew what she actually meant.

How could she drink her secreted fluids?

"Ugh... I'm flattered by your concern, Sir Vaan, but please don't worry about me," Ninth Dream forced a smile before urging him, "Please grab my hand to connect to the spiritual link. Lady Hecate is waiting."

"Alright," Vaan calmly nodded.

He figured he had teased her enough.

Chapter 815: Conditions

Shortly after Vaan held Ninth Dream's soft hand, he immediately felt a strong spiritual connection established between them.

In fact, the spiritual connection was much stronger than the one with Ophelia, considering a wisp of his consciousness had been pulled into Ninth Dream's spiritual world.

Vaan found his spiritual avatar standing in a world of pure white snow.

The heavy blizzard had obscured everything around him, and only a single path leading up a small snowy hill was seen. Hecate waited for him under an ice pavilion at the top as she quietly enjoyed her tea.

'Interesting,' Vaan thought as he observed the snowy spiritual world.

He could feel the softness of the snow underneath his feet and the piercing coldness of the air entering his body.

Although the spiritual world wasn't real, it didn't miss any detail, making it difficult to distinguish from reality.

It was a truly well-constructed spiritual world.

"I trust you have been well since our last meeting, Sir Vaan?" Hecate calmly greeted with an amicable smile as she gestured for Vaan to take the empty seat across the stone table.

Vaan nodded before jumping straight to the main topic, "How did the meeting with the other Great Devils go, Lady Hecate?"

"Well, for the most part, I would say. At the very least, I have succeeded in convincing the other Great Devils to spare you. So you don't have to worry about the Great Devils joining forces to hunt you down for the time being," Hecate stated.

"However, that doesn't mean you are off the hook just yet. The Great Devils have laid down several conditions you must meet within certain periods. During this period, the Great Devils have agreed to a truce and won't act against you."

"But if you fail to meet their conditions within the stipulated time, it'll become unclear what they will do to you, Sir Vaan," Hecate calmly stated.

Judging by her tone alone, Vaan figured the conditions weren't too difficult for him to accomplish—or at least, Hecate believed so.

"What conditions have they laid down for me, Lady Hecate?" Vaan inquired.

"First and foremost, you have seven days to swear under Contract Magic in the presence of one or more Great Devils that you are willing to become one of the Great Devils and act in Gehenna's

interests, which includes peacefully resolving any grudges between you and the Great Devils. Compensation can be negotiated, and other Great Devils can help mediate if required," Hecate stated.

"However, should you agree to become a Great Devil of Gehenna, you must also meet all the underlying qualifications to becoming one within the stipulated time. Since you are believed to be a Soul Master, the other Great Devils have given you two years to become a Rank 6 Divine Being and ten years to be a Peak Rank 6 Divine Being."

"Also, depending on which territory you choose to rule as the Great Devil of, there are further conditions you must meet within the given ten years."

"For example, if you choose to be the Great Devil of Pangea Territory, you must acquire the allegiance and acknowledgment of every Pangean country. Unfortunately, this option is impossible to achieve," Hecate sighed softly.

Vaan almost wanted to laugh when he heard how much time he was given.

While it might seem like the Great Devils had given him very little time to achieve something that took them hundreds to thousands of years, it was actually a lot of time for him.

He was confident that achieving the divine rank in at least one aspect would not even take him a year.

"Why is it impossible, Lady Hecate?" Vaan asked curiously.

He wouldn't have thought it impossible if Hecate had not said it. However, since she said so, he immediately suspected the reason.

"Some Pangean countries are already firmly under the control of the Great Devils. As such, you won't be able to acquire their allegiance and acknowledgment without offending the Great Devil in control of them," Hecate stated.

Sure enough, the reason was as Vaan suspected.

"Furthermore, if you were to force the issue and butt heads with them, you'll be forming new grudges with the Great Devils, which goes against the oath to resolve all grudges with them," Hecate continued.

"No magic can really bind you since you have the Nihilism Law. However, the oath you take under Contract Magic will be the only thing the Great Devils trust to feel safe and not want to kill you."

"So, it is unwise to make them think otherwise, let alone expose the Nihilism Law," Hecate stressed.

"Which countries are under the control of the Great Devils?" Vaan calmly inquired.

"As far as I know, all twelve city-states of the Divine League are under Astarte's control. As for Mephistopheles, I only know he has multiple countries under his control. As to which ones they are, I have no idea, unfortunately," Hecate said regrettably.

"I see," Vaan calmly uttered before asking, "So I can only choose to be the Great Devil of the Evernight Territory?"

"Technically, yes," Hecate answered before adding, "However, that won't be easy either. The Evernight Territory has already been stripped from my sole control and divided between the Great Devils."

"It's hard to say what will remain of it by the time you acquire the qualifications to rule it. Furthermore, the additional condition for the Evernight Territory is that you possess a Vampire Lord-rank Bloodline and acquire the allegiance and acknowledgment of every Vampire Lord."

"Also, among the Great Devils, Helcan and Mephistopheles will most likely try to make things difficult for you secretly," Hecate speculated.

Vaan couldn't help but shook his head.

Although he knew the denizens of Chaos lived with different values and mindsets, he still found the Great Devils' choices rather disappointing.

Clearly, the Great Devils were quite positive and fearful of his future, yet they still wanted to control and suppress him.

That was no way to earn his goodwill and favor.

Were they even trying? Or did being in positions of power for so long make them too proud and arrogant to suck up to someone weaker than them?

Nevertheless, Vaan noticed the nuance in Hecate's words.

"Basically, the lands of Pangea and the Evernight Territory are free for all because they are currently without a ruling Great Devil. They aren't the only territories without a ruling Great Devil, though..." Vaan rubbed his chin thoughtfully.

Chapter 816: Darksea Abyss

"Lady Hecate, will you tell me more about the two uninhabitable territories of Gehenna?" Vaan requested.

Hecate glanced at him with astonishment and surprise. After recovering her wits, she quickly asked, "Don't tell me you wish to make one of the two uninhabitable territories your Great Devil domain, Sir Vaan?"

"I do have that idea in mind, but I will have to hear more about the two uninhabitable territories first, Lady Hecate," Vaan replied with a thoughtful look.

Considering Hecate's reaction, he was willing to bet that even the other Great Devils wouldn't expect him to set his eyes on the uninhabitable territories. And since the Great Devils wouldn't have expected it, they wouldn't have set any conditions for them either.

"Although those uninhabitable territories are indeed ownerless, that's because those places are not suitable for living due to the extreme environment and dangers. The difficulty in turning them into habitable territories isn't worth the effort. I wouldn't recommend it, Sir Vaan," Lady Hecate advised.

"However, since you already asked about them, I am inclined to at least explain their situations to you. I trust you will be able to make the right choice."

"Of the two uninhabitable territories of Gehenna, the Purpleflame Territory is undoubtedly more famous... It used to be the most valuable territory in Gehenna due to its high quality and quantity of magical plants. But now, it has been reduced to a land of fire and death."

"Everything that was once there had been burned to cinders by the Eternal Purpleflame—only vengeful spirits born from the eternal fire plague that land now. As such, I wouldn't put any hope on finding anything of value there."

"However, it does make an excellent battleground for tempering oneself in the art of combat. The Great Devils generally send their Transcendents and Half-step Divine Beings there to train, albeit on small scales."

"After all, the Purpleflame Territory is an uninhabitable land with unpredictable changes and dangers. Even Divine Beings could lose their lives if they underestimate its dangers," Hecate stated.

Vaan calmly nodded with understanding.

If the Purpleflame Territory's danger level hadn't at least reached the Divine rank, it wouldn't have been labeled as an uninhabitable territory.

The Eternal Purpleflame ravaging the land was a higher divine power that even the Great Devils dreaded.

Although Vaan failed to see the value in choosing the Purpleflame Territory as his Great Devil Domain, he figured it was at least an excellent cultivation land that he had to visit at least once.

After all, his comprehension of the Fire Law would most likely advance by leaps and bounds in such a place.

"Beside the Purpleflame Territory is the Darksea Abyss Territory. Although not as renowned as the Purpleflame Territory, its dangers far exceed it. It is also known as the Unconquerable Ocean," Hecate continued.

"Unfortunately, there isn't much I can tell you about the Darksea Abyss Territory. It has always been the most mysterious and dangerous place in all of Gehenna. Even Great Devils have failed to explore it safely."

"Its black seawater possesses dreadful toxicity, and the sea life is even more fearsome. Not only are the sea creatures numerous, but they are also powerful. I don't have an exact count, but I can confidently say this ocean body is home to countless Divine-rank sea creatures."

"If the reincarnation of you-know-who was born and killed in Gehenna, the end of sentient civilizations in Gehenna will most likely be brought by the very sea creatures in this Darksea Abyss Territory," Hecate speculated.

"Now you understand why I don't recommend any of these two uninhabitable territories, Sir Vaan. You'll gain nothing from making any of them your Great Devil Domain."

"I beg to differ, Lady Hecate. This Darksea Abyss Territory has captured my attention and interest. I believe it is very suitable to become my domain," Vaan smiled.

Hecate's expression stiffened for a moment before turning solemn.

"Are you serious, Sir Vaan?" Hecate asked.

"Definitely," Vaan calmly nodded before saying, "Of course, I still have a lot of time to change my mind. After all, I've been given ten years to decide on my territory. There's a slight chance I will change my mind later."

"However, my mind is quite set on this Darksea Abyss Territory at this very moment, Lady Hecate. I feel a strong affinity with it," Vaan stated.

"Honestly, I cannot understand what you are thinking, Sir Vaan," Hecate softly sighed before asking, "Are you planning to give up on Pangea?"

"Do you think that's possible, Lady Hecate?" Vaan lightly smiled.

Hecate shook her head, replying, "I don't believe so..."

Suddenly, she realized Vaan's plan.

Considering his unparalleled control of the Spatial Law, bringing his Pangean land to the Darksea Abyss Territory wouldn't be impossible, especially if his cultivation reached the same heights as the Great Devils.

Even she could not imagine how much he would improve within these ten years.

Nevertheless, the biggest problem was taming the Unconquerable Ocean. If it couldn't be done, Vaan would just be sending his people to their deaths.

Although Hecate was optimistic about his future, she still couldn't figure out how he intended to conquer the Darksea Abyss Territory when all of the Great Devils had failed at their level of power.

Of course, only Vaan knew exactly why he was confident in the Darksea Abyss Territory.

However, even he did not know the extent of his Boundless Sea and Sky Aura's power. Fortunately, he had a lot of time to explore it.

The Eastern Sea was a good place to study it in preparation for the Darksea Abyss Territory.

"There's something I don't understand, Sir Vaan. Why are you fixated on the Darksea Abyss Territory? Although I don't know how you intend to conquer it, I know it won't be easy if you plan to move parts of Pangea to it. You must have a very good reason if you plan to go through all that trouble, right?" Hecate asked.

"Lady Hecate, you yourself have personally seen the state of the asteroid field," Vaan mentioned.

"Not only has it been destroyed by some Outer Beings, but the space is so unstable and fragile that it is quite easy to tear a rift into the endless sea of nothingness. The longer I remain in that world, the greater the uncertainty."

"I don't know if the Outer Beings will ever return to finish its job, but I do know that my people and I will be in a better position if we move to the Darksea Abyss Territory," Vaan stated.

Hecate couldn't help but agree with Vaan after learning about his reason.

Indeed, if the Outer Beings that reduced the asteroid field to its current state returned to destroy Pangea, the Wolf God Domain and Evernight Territory would be affected first.

Everyone else not in those places would be given time to react to the impending disaster.

Nevertheless, that was only speaking hypothetically.

What were the chances of the Outer Beings actually returning one day? Wasn't Sir Vaan being too cautious?

That said, Hecate would also prefer to err on the side of caution. It was better to be safe than sorry.

Chapter 817: Flustered Ninth Dream

Although Vaan planned to move part of Pangea to the Darksea Abyss Territory, he was still far from achieving his goal.

Moving the black pillar already consumed thirty percent of his soul force.

He simply didn't have anywhere near enough soul force to move three empires over such a great distance to reach the Darksea Abyss Territory. It didn't seem possible even if he reached the peak of Rank 6 Divine Being.

Of course, he knew better than to make a plan that wouldn't work.

There was another way to move such huge lands to the Darksea Abyss Territory—By carrying them within his Heaven-Swallowing Space.

Naturally, the capacity of his Heaven-Swallowing Space was only comparable to a city at the moment. However, it could expand indefinitely if there was a constant supply of mana.

Even Vaan did not know how big his Heaven-Swallowing Space could grow; he only knew his cultivation didn't limit its growth.

"Since you have already thought it through, I won't try to dissuade you. However, I want to remind you of the dangers of the Darksea Abyss Territory; you mustn't underestimate them, Sir Vaan," Hecate reminded.

Vaan calmly nodded, "Thank you for your concern, Lady Hecate."

"Since that's out of the way, there's not much left for me to say. I will find you in the next few days to record your oath and put the Great Devils at ease. I will also use that chance to hand you a few things you might find useful, Sir Vaan," Hecate stated.

"Hand me a few useful things? By the sound of it, I am not following you back to your territory yet, Lady Hecate?" Vaan asked.

"Not yet, Sir Vaan," Hecate shook her head and said, "I'm afraid the Great Devils will get jumpy if they hear news of you setting foot into Gehenna before being reassured of your oath to become one of them."

"After I deliver the items and record your oath, I have to attend to other matters and won't be free for some time as well. That's why I cannot bring you back with me yet, Sir Vaan."

"Furthermore, you haven't settled all your matters in Pangea yet, have you?" Hecate asked.

"I'm afraid not. It may take up to several months, actually," Vaan admitted before commenting, "Though, I must confess the Great Devils are not how I imagine them to be."

"While the Great Devils might seem high and mighty to most people of Pangea, they are, in fact, quite the scaredy cats," Hecate smiled.

"Since anyone in Chaos could die for no rhyme or reason, most beings tend to live cautiously. This is especially true the longer they live. That's why, while it might seem unfair to you, this is just how the Great Devils are."

"They didn't survive to this age by being the strongest. They became the strongest by surviving. Normally, they wouldn't tolerate anything that could threaten their existence. So, you should understand how much of a concession they are making to let you live."

"They are doing something different from their usual way of handling things—no doubt, thanks to my efforts in persuading them," Hecate claimed.

"And I am grateful for that, Lady Hecate," Vaan sincerely expressed.

Hecate nodded before mentioning, "On another topic, I trust my Dreamcatchers have been protecting you responsibly, Sir Vaan? You haven't been bullying them too much, have you?"

"Why do you assume that I would bully them, Lady Hecate? Am I such a bad character in your mind?" Vaan replied with a wry smile.

"That's hard to say... You do seem like a wolf in sheep's clothing, Sir Vaan," Hecate said playfully before sighing with exaggeration, "Since you claim to be innocent, I wonder what could have changed my Dreamcatchers in these past several days?"

"They used to be such honest and well-behaved children, crowding around me at every chance they got. But now, they are trying to get away from me as if they are feeling guilty over something."

"What kind of secrets are they trying to hide from me, I wonder?" Hecate uttered.

Considering it was Ninth Dream's spiritual world, her presence could be vaguely sensed in the area.

However, after Hecate spoke, Ninth Dream's presence quickly disappeared.

"Do you see what I mean, Sir Vaan? Such a dishonest child," Hecate shook her head with a seemingly helpless yet playful look. "Surely, you must have some ideas regarding their change?"

"Well..." Vaan briefly glanced in a particular direction and smiled.

Although nothing seemed to be in that particular direction, Ninth Dream's spiritual avatar was actually hiding behind her cloak of invisibility in that direction. As such, Ninth Dream was greatly astonished when Vaan glanced in her direction.

'Was it just a coincidence?' Ninth Dream doubted.

However, she suddenly had a bad feeling.

"They might have been secretly peeking into other people's private affairs and picking up new knowledge about the naughty stuff that men and women do, Lady Hecate," Vaan said with amusement.

Boom!

Ninth Dream was immediately thunderstruck after she overheard Vaan's words. It was only now that she realized Vaan had been fully aware of her voyeurism.

She was so flustered she didn't know what to do.

She couldn't figure out how Vaan knew about her peeking and masturbation. However, she didn't want to think about it—she didn't dare to think about it.

Ninth Dream's cheeks quickly turned red-hot with embarrassment and shame.

'What do I do? Sir Vaan actually knows about my secret deeds, and now, Lady Hecate knows about it, too. How can I ever face them in the future? How can I ever show my face again?' Ninth Dream lamented with regret.

The consequences of having her secret exposed were unimaginable.

'How on earth did Sir Vaan know about my peeking? Could he actually see through my invisibility spell? If that was true, then... wouldn't that mean he has also seen me...'

Ninth Dream became even more flustered as her thoughts traveled along those lines. She didn't dare to finish her train of thought.

Chapter 818: Fled in Panic

After Vaan ended his spiritual meeting with Hecate, his main consciousness returned to his body, and he regained awareness of reality.

Although he was still holding Ninth Dream's delicate hand, it was no longer cool to the touch. On the contrary, it was very warm as Ninth Dream herself had turned red like a tomato.

However, no movement came from her body; she was frozen still like a stone statue. Only a whirlpool of chaotic thoughts and emotions raged within the windows of her unfocused gaze.

Despite standing face to face, Ninth Dream subconsciously avoided meeting Vaan's gaze. She did not dare look into his eyes.

In fact, Ninth Dream wanted nothing more than to disappear on the spot.

However, she wasn't sure what to say to Vaan in order to escape his clutches. Her heart was palpitating with anxiety just by thinking about it. Even though she knew she had to say something and break away, she couldn't form any words on the tips of her tongue.

She wasn't in the right state of mind to think or act.

Suddenly, Vaan rubbed Ninth Dream's soft hand with his thumb, and an electrifying sensation ran down her body in that instant, causing her to shiver.

At the same time, Ninth Dream broke out of her dilemma as she couldn't help but look at Vaan in shock.

"Are you alright, Lady Ninth Dream? Was the spiritual connection draining? It looks like your body is cooking up a fever," Vaan feigned concern as he gauged the temperature of her forehead with his free hand, increasing their skinship.

Ninth Dream felt another rush of that electrifying sensation upon contact, and her heart skipped a beat.

In the same instant, she also broke away from Vaan in a jittery state. She felt shy and embarrassed, yet strangely enough, she didn't hate the feeling as much as before. It made her confused and lost.

Was she broken?

"Ahem, I-I'm alright. I appreciate your concern, Sir Vaan, but there's nothing to worry about," Ninth Dream replied after a slight cough.

Once she started speaking, she found it easier to continue.

"Um... Sir Vaan, about what you said to Lady Hecate... The secret peeking and naughty knowledge stuff... Err, does that mean you... um, have you..." Ninth Dream bit her lip as she found it difficult to finish her question.

"Hm? Did I mention something like that to Lady Hecate? How come I don't remember? You'll have to speak more clearly if you wish to help me remember, Lady Ninth Dream," Vaan softly chuckled.

Ninth Dream opened her mouth, but no words came out. She could only stare at Vaan with a dumb look.

Although she wanted to know if he had seen her bare body, it wasn't exactly something she could just straight-up ask him. Furthermore, after hearing his reply, she found it more difficult to press the issue.

Despite suspecting Vaan was deflecting the topic, Ninth Dream truly wanted to believe that he had forgotten everything.

However, she was only seeking comfort if she tried to convince herself that was the case.

"If you don't remember, then don't worry about it..." Ninth Dream bit her lips as she reigned in her curiosity. Shortly after, she said, "Since there's no further business, I will return to my post."

"Alright," Vaan nodded with a smile.

Right then, he watched Ninth Dream disappear before his eyes as if a misty or cloud-like spatial distortion swallowed her body whole.

During the past several days, he had seen the three Dreamcatchers use their invisibility spell so many times that he had already understood how it worked like the back of his hand.

The Dreamcatchers' invisibility spell was not as simple as a deflection of light. In fact, it had nothing to do with manipulating light. After all, what they used was dream power.

What Ninth Dream actually did to become invisible was create a dreamscape copy of the area and superimpose it, hiding her true self between the virtual and the reality.

As such, people outside the affected dream area couldn't see her unless they could see through her dream power like him.

Nevertheless, after Ninth Dream hid inside her dream field, she suddenly paused when she noticed Vaan's eyes were still on her. After checking that her invisibility spell was functioning, she moved a bit.

However, Vaan's gaze also followed her movement.

Ninth Dream was immediately startled by his eye movement. After a short pause, she found his gaze following her when she moved again.

She could doubt all she wanted, but the undeniable truth was before her; it was no mere coincidence.

"Um... Could it be that you can see me, Sir Vaan?" Ninth Dream asked in a tiny, small voice.

"No, I definitely can't see you, Lady Ninth Dream. What makes you think that?" Vaan answered mischievously.

Ninth Dream immediately felt like her world was collapsing; she was absolutely mortified.

If her invisibility spell was actually working as intended, then she shouldn't be seen or heard by anyone outside of her dream field. As such, the look of horror on her face when Vaan replied to her question was quite evident.

Not only could he hear her, but he could also see her!

Swoosh!

When the truth was laid bare to her, Ninth Dream failed to cope with the situation. Her cheeks burned with embarrassment and shame, causing her to immediately flee the scene in a panic.

"Hahaha..." Vaan chuckled with amusement.

Although he could have continued to tease Ninth Dream and the other two, he wouldn't want their innocent hearts completely crushed by the accumulated guilt and shame.

As such, he had to know when to stop.

"Now then, what should I be doing?" Vaan thoughtfully pondered as his gaze swept the surrounding terrain.

Although he had spent several days of dual cultivation in the area, the subterranean region had always remained a mystery. Even the witches and dragons failed to learn anything despite scouting the underground world a few times.

All they knew was the subterranean region was a single enclosed space without any connecting passageways leading to other large caves and pocket spaces.

In other words, the huge underground space was completely dug out by the Earth Spirit Worm. It was not formed by any other elements.

Chapter 819: Metal Shortage

Since the vast underground space didn't originally exist without the Earth Spirit Worm, it must have been lured or attracted by something that was only found in this particular subterranean region.

Of course, the pure mana was the obvious conclusion.

However, it probably wasn't the only attraction the subterranean region offered the Earth Spirit Worm. After all, while the Earth Spirit Worm was a fourth-dimensional creature, it was still a being of earthen affinity.

The higher-quality earthly minerals in the pure mana-filled subterranean region would undoubtedly be more appealing than the moon's ordinary soil.

Vaan believed that was why there wasn't a single trace of metal in the underground space.

The Earth Spirit Worm must have consumed all the metal deposits within the area. The Divine-rank Stalactite Milk could have also been a byproduct of it.

Shortly after Vaan moved toward the nearest earthen wall, his Fourth Dimensional Sense spread out and sank deep into the earth. He searched beyond the open space for potential mineral deposits that could be mined.

At the same time, he also tried to see if his senses could reach the surface to determine his location in Chaos.

Unfortunately, he failed to obtain satisfactory results from his scan. The range of his senses did not reach the surface; the underground space was too deep underneath the earth.

That said, Vaan believed the underground space was still somewhere within Gehenna.

After all, the distance between the moon and planet Pangea wasn't that great. The moon's dimensional crack connecting to a different star realm in Chaos wouldn't make sense.

'Among the nine territories of Gehenna, which one could have such pure mana hidden underneath its earth?' Vaan pondered.

Since he was free from his women, he had time to look into this matter. He figured it was something worth investigating.

After all, it was most likely one of two uninhabitable territories.

Considering that the Great Devils have ruled their territories for thousands to several hundred thousand years, they should be expected to know their land like the back of their hand.

As such, if they had discovered such pure mana underneath their land, they would have monopolized it long ago.

However, the pure mana in the underground space seemed virtually untouched. Thus, the underground space was unlikely to be part of the seven habitable territories.

On the other hand, the Darksea Abyss Territory and the Purpleflame Territory were places where even the Great Devils rarely visited, let alone explored.

No matter which one the underground space belonged to, it would still work in his favor.

...

As Vaan strolled along the earthen wall, scanning for rare metal deposits, a senior red dragon named Kaldrean soon approached.

"Supreme Leader, we have a problem," Kaldrean informed.

"What's the matter?" Vaan calmly asked.

"We are running low on rare metal to continue the next stage of the moon colony reconstruction project. Furthermore, we won't be able to rely on the clan to restock our inventory of rare metal," Kaldrean stated.

Vaan calmly nodded with understanding.

He knew it was only a matter of time before they ran out of salvageable rare metal they could use to repair the moon colony. After all, the original moon colony was made of a special alloy comparable to semi-divine to divine rank metals.

Even if the moon was rich in iron, the quality was too inferior to be used for the moon colony.

Such weak metal would compromise the moon colony's structural integrity.

Given the magnitude of the ongoing and future projects, Pangea wouldn't have enough resources to support the demand; it was lacking in quantity and quality of rare metals.

If they didn't want the ongoing construction projects to be delayed, they had to secure new mineral deposits of rare metals from elsewhere.

Fortunately, Vaan knew just where to procure said resources.

The asteroid field was the most obvious place to acquire an unimaginable amount of rare metal.

After all, it was the ruins of an ancient civilization. Not only was rare metal abundant in such a place, but it most likely contained the same special alloy used in the moon colony.

However, he was the only one presently capable of fetching the resources from the asteroid field.

Their other option was to search for rare metal deposits in the unknown subterranean region.

Fortunately, Vaan just found several rare metal deposits during his earlier sweep.

"There's a large deposit of rare metal ores just seven kilometers behind this wall. I will help you clear the path to it, but it will be up to you to organize a team to procure the resource," Vaan mentioned.

Shortly after, he placed his hand on the earthen wall and injected spatial power into it.

Shing—!!

In that instant, countless threads of dark light flashed across the earthen wall like flying metal wires, easily slicing through everything within their path as they rushed toward the hidden rare metal deposit.

Within mere moments, huge layers of the earthen wall were instantly reduced to finely cut slabs of rocks like bricks.

Shortly after, they all sank into a big spatial portal underneath and disappeared into Vaan's Heaven-Swallowing Space, leaving behind an open space that stretched for seven kilometers.

Kaldrean was awed after witnessing the casual manner in which Vaan cleared the path to the rare metal deposit, which was wide enough for three adult dragons to enter side by side without feeling cramped.

The feat itself wasn't anything noteworthy to a Transcendent-rank Red Dragon, but the casual execution yet skillful control of power was like a work of art; it was inspiring to observe.

"Go organize the mining team now," Vaan urged, before adding, "I'll give you a list of locations for the other rare metal deposits in the region later."

"Yes, Supreme Leader!" Kaldrean answered staunchly.

After Kaldrean left to recruit miners from the dragon group in the new moon colony, Vaan entered the new path to continue his investigation.

He might learn something if he studied the softer soil area.

Chapter 820: Grave News

Vaan traveled five kilometers into the seven-kilometer-long passage before opening up a new inclined path that stretched for another thirty-four kilometers, connecting to a different rare metal deposit.

However, he didn't reach the second rare metal deposit before opening up another inclined pathway leading up to the next closest mineral deposit.

He repeated the same step until he linked up a few dozen mineral deposits and was five hundred kilometers closer to the surface. There, he finally discovered some soil among the endless layers of rocks.

Ding!

<Analyzing soil composition...>

<Soil composition analysis completed>

<Soil composition: 32.67% limestone powder, 29.51% carbon dust, 17.87% humus, 6.63%...>

'As expected, there's a fair bit of humus,' Vaan mused.

Even without confirming the soil composition, he had already guessed there would be a substantial amount of humus in the soil after scanning the soil-to-rock formation in the area.

After all, the soil-to-rock formation somewhat resembled a neural network, which he figured was most likely created by plant roots.

Humus was the decomposed organic matter of plants.

However, considering the sheer size of the soil-to-rock formation, the roots of the plant life had to be equally enormous, and there was no such large plant in Vaan's knowledge.

Even the roots of the world tree that used to exist in the Verdant Wood Kingdom would have paled in comparison by at least a hundredfold.

If a plant with such enormous roots existed in Pangea, it would be easily seen from anywhere on the continent.

After all, such a colossal plant life would have been comparable to the fabled Tree of Origin that was said to pierce into the heavens. Such an enormous tree had only ever been recorded in stories and never seen or proven to exist—at least, not in Pangea.

There wasn't a single existing plant in Pangea that could even come close to such size with its roots.

'The remnants of colossal plant... The Purpleflame Territory was said to be a once flourishing green planet filled with incredible magical plants before calamity descended on its land. Could this place be part of the Purpleflame Territory?' Vaan wondered.

Although it was too early to draw a conclusion with a single discovery, he was already leaning toward the Purpleflame Territory.

After all, the Darksea Abyss Territory was a toxic water planet like Pangea. It was hard to imagine any plant life thriving to unimaginable sizes in such a harsh environment, even if they most likely existed in that vast unknown sea.

Furthermore, Vaan learned that the magical plants that used to grow in the Purpleflame Territory even attracted the Skymagia Star Kingdom.

If the Purpleflame Territory possessed such pure mana within its soil, it would be easy to understand why its magical plants could grow so well.

'Purpleflame Territory, huh? I hope this subterranean region is part of the Purpleflame Territory,' Vaan desired.

Considering he intended to become the Great Devil of the Darksea Abyss Territory, all its resources practically already belonged to him.

On the other hand, the Purpleflame Territory was still ownerless.

Thus, if the subterranean region was connected to the Purpleflame Territory, he could continue to enjoy its valuable resources without the other Great Devils' knowledge.

Why wouldn't he want to enjoy the resources of two territories without competition?

'I should end the investigation here,' Vaan suddenly decided.

If the subterranean region were truly connected to the Purpleflame Territory, nothing good would come from getting too close to the surface.

After all, it was still a place that even the Great Devils considered dangerous.

It would be disastrous if he attracted the fiery evil spirits or the Eternal Purpleflame to the underground space. It would be even worse if it allowed the Great Devils to learn about the pure mana in the deep subterranean region.

'Although it is good to know where the underground space is located, I don't absolutely have to know, especially if the risks outweigh the benefits,' Vaan mused.

It was an eventful break, but he should return to the others.

Solana was still looking forward to their dual cultivation, so he shouldn't keep her waiting. Otherwise, she would miss her chance once he met Hecate.

On that note, he was quite curious about what she had to give him.

...

Meanwhile, Ninth Dream fled without a clear direction in mind but somehow found herself in front of Fourth Dream and Seventh Dream. Perhaps she subconsciously wanted to share the grave news with her sisters.

Nevertheless, Ninth Dream quickly noticed Fourth Dream was giving her a weird look.

Moreover, she was familiar with that look since she had seen it on Seventh Dream before when she told her about masturbation.

As such, it only took a moment for Ninth Dream to realize that Fourth Dream must have also learned about masturbation.

Furthermore, Fourth Dream must have also watched a live demonstration of it.

Ninth Dream couldn't help but direct a blaming look at Seven Dream, who quickly averted her gaze after realizing she had been found out.

However, before Ninth Dream could complain, Fourth Dream criticized her with a frown, "Why are you back already, Ninth Sister? Your shift shouldn't have ended yet."

"I don't want to be on duty right now. Please take over my shift, Fourth Sister! I will make up for it next!" Ninth Dream pleaded.

Her face quickly reddened as Vaan's mischievous smile flashed across her mind.

Fourth Dream suddenly had a sense of *déjà vu* as she recalled such a situation. It was also precisely because they had been over it before that she felt displeased with Ninth Dream.

How could Ninth Dream still know any shame and embarrassment when she could prune her flower garden while spying on other people's private affairs?

"You can't be wilful forever, Ninth Sister. Go back and complete your shift now," Fourth Dream instructed with a deep frown, adding, "I can't believe you left Sir Vaan on his own without any of us around."

"I don't care. I'm not going back today. Someone, please take over just for today!" Ninth Dream stubbornly requested, adding, "I'm not feeling well right now."

"Stop being a child! Why are you being like this? Do I have to force you to go back?" Fourth Dream scolded, feeling a little mad with her behavior.

"Hmph, you can try, Fourth Sister," Ninth Dream pouted, feeling slightly angry too.

She didn't understand why Fourth Dream was suddenly acting so strict.

If Fourth Dream was unwilling to take over her shift, so be it. After all, even if Fourth Dream didn't want it, Seventh Dream definitely did.

Nevertheless, Fourth Dream suddenly didn't know what to say when Ninth Dream challenged her.

She remembered that her cultivation was one stage lower than hers. As such, she wouldn't be able to beat her.

If she didn't quickly increase her cultivation, wouldn't she be bullied by her younger sisters in the future? Where would her dignity as the fourth elder sister be?

Suddenly, Fourth Dream didn't find it so bad to take over Ninth Dream's shift.

Although she was still mad since Sir Vaan's whereabouts were currently unknown, she really should try this thing called masturbation and catch up on her cultivation.

"Never mind. I will look for Sir Vaan and guard him," Fourth Dream stated.

"There's no need to trouble you, Fourth Sister," Seventh Dream shook her head and volunteered, "I can do it."

"I insist, Seventh Sister," Fourth Dream firmly stated.

"Eh? Alright then, if you insist..." Seventh Dream timidly conceded after seeing her fierce yet determined gaze.

Shortly after, Seventh Dream and Ninth Dream watched Fourth Dream depart in search of Vaan.

"Hmph, smelly Fourth Sister," Ninth Dream snorted with a resentful look, muttering, "I was going to share the grave news with you. But since you are so mean and scolded me, you can suffer with us."

"Huh? What grave news are you talking about, Ninth Sister?" Seventh Dream quickly inquired with astonishment.

Ninth Dream glanced left and right, confirming Fourth Dream was gone before she whispered into Seventh Dream's ears.

The moment Seventh Dream heard the so-called grave news, her whole body instantly froze in disbelief.

However, her expression soon twisted into shock and outrage.

"What did you just say?! Sir Vaan can really—Mmf!!"

"Shh! Don't let Fourth Sister hear you!"