

Thief 131

Chapter 131 - An Assassin

6-7 minutes

Three hours before, Aden found out about Ace and Jason.

Ace and Jason left the auction together and outside was a large crowd gathered.

Most of them were people from the auction who wanted to buy those seats. That's why they were waiting for the owners to come out and discuss the price with them.

But when they saw these two dark horses of today's auction came out first, all the chit-chat immediately stops as everyone looked at Javier and Jason.

"Scram to the side before I get annoyed." Javier outright spoke imperiously.

"I also don't want to sell my tickets since I've heard a beast can move faster if there are fewer people on it," Jason speak with more reserved as he declared his reason.

Everyone understood Jason's reason, as they all know it was true..

Ace and Jason calmly left the curious crowd behind because none of them wanted to confront those titled families' nobles at this moment.

After they left the territory of Beast Calling auction, Jason abruptly stop while coldly looking at Javier.

"Who are you?" Jason deeply looked into Javier's brown eyes as if he wanted to see through him.

"Me? Heh, how about you tell me first?" Javier chuckles as he asked back.

Jason grin mysteriously as he walked again, "You know people are following us. I might protect you if you tell the truth."

Javier didn't faze by this critical information in the least bit as he walks beside Jason. "Oh, you're talking about those twenty goons?"

Jason clicked his tongue, "I mess up this time around, aren't I?" He looked bitterly at Javier's blank face.

"Oh, indeed you did." Javier nodded impassively. "But I'm curious. Why did you choose me and what is your purpose?"

"Heh, how about we play tag first?" Jason beams at Javier as he became a blur before vanishing completely.

"Interesting." Ace chuckles as he vanished after Jason, but he was faster.

"We lose them!" A figure dressed completely in black said in a nearby alleyway.

"Search for them!" Another one shouted in anger.

Twenty black figures scatter instantly and began their search for those two youngsters. It was already dark, so it would not be easy, though.

In a remote alleyway, Jason's figure appeared as he looked back and his lips move upwards after seeing no one was there. "Heh, it appears I was worried too much, and he was just bluffing."

"Is that so?" A voice full with mockery rang at this movement.

Jason's eyes constrict as he glanced around, but he saw or felt nothing. He thought it was his imagination, but he suddenly felt a sharp, icy edge on the side of his neck.

Jason swallowed his dry saliva. *'He was able to sneak behind me and I still can't feel his presence!'*

But Jason was not going down easily as his ring finger twitch slightly, he wanted to take out something from his storage ring.

However, to his dismay, nothing came, and he finally felt the storage ring on his finger has mysteriously disappeared and he didn't even notice it!

But a strange bird marking has appeared on it, but Jason didn't have the luxury to notice it.

"Oh, are you looking for this ring?" The voice rang again as there was a clear teasing in it, "Give me one good reason to not kill you. And don't try to use your metal element qi trust me, your head will fly before that."

"Y-YOU! Just who in the world are you?" Jason finally felt the gravity of the situation.

Jason didn't think that the scapegoat he chose so carefully was a wolf in sheep's clothing and he was the real sheep all along!

"Me? Heh." Ace chuckles darkly. "Does it matter now?"

Jason nearly choked on his words upon hearing this unreasonable answer.

"I'm the one asking the question here." Ace snicker as he put some pressure on his inky long sword, "Now it's your turn, and don't try to lie because I would know and I will make your head fly!"

Jason felt the cold sharp blade digging into his neck and finally gave in as he took a deep breath. He knew this time he has encountered someone more shrewd and powerful than himself.

The most marvel thing was, all this time Jason think he was the one in control however, it was not the case at all.

All this time, he was dancing in the other party palm like a clown.

'So, that's how it felt to be manipulated, huh.' Jason smile bitterly as he said, "Fine, you win! I'm an... assassin!"

Ace narrowed his eyes into slits with bewilderment because this was not the answer he was expecting and Jason was telling the truth!

On the first day when Jason approached him, he instantly knew this guy was up to something and he used soul-shattering eyes for a moment.

All he needed was that brief moment to see through Jason!

To Ace surprised, Jason's face was disguised, but he didn't wear a mask like him and his cultivation was also at the Empty River Stage!

Ace's interest was instantly piqued because of Jason's disguised techniques or skills.

That's why he decided to just act along and first see what this guy's actual goal was, and most importantly, why did he approach him, of all people.

Although Jason was a Qi river cultivator and it was dangerous to fight head-on with him.

But Ace also has element qi of light and this gave him the edge. If he could take Jason by surprise and stop him from using the element qi, Jason would be helpless. On top of that, if Ace stole his storage ring, he would lose the element of surprise as well!

And he succeeded because of the show he put in the auction, Jason panic and lose his calm. This finally gave Ace the chance to catch him by surprise.

Although Ace has a bigger reason to put that show on the auction yet it worked perfectly with Jason as well and he kills two birds with one stone.

However, Ace never expected to discover an assassin, of all people!

Chapter 132 - The Secret Passage

6-7 minutes

Ace asked again, "Assassin?"

"Yes, I'm an assassin and it's true!" Jason nodded grimly.

"I believe you." Ace said with a weird face, "But what kind of assassin told his real identity outright? And why did you approach me? I wasn't your target, was I?"

Jason was astonished because he didn't expect Ace would believe him so easily. Although he was telling the truth, it was also a test to check if Ace was telling the truth about finding true or lies.

Now it was even more difficult to fathom this unknown fellow's limit. Jason decided to take the gamble.

"My life is more important than some silly assassin pride!" Jason scoffed, "As for why I approached you; I have a secret skill, with it I can sense 'Baleful Qi' on someone. You didn't have any of it, that's why I approach you, but I didn't think you were so strong. I have never seen someone as strong as you without baleful qi."

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Jason said. He has regained his calm.

"Tell me more about this Baleful Qi?" This was Ace's first time hearing this type of qi and wanted to know more. Especially if he didn't possess any of it. He wanted to determine if this was a good or bad thing.

However, suddenly a silver beam of light shot from Jason's finger straight towards Ace's eyes.

Jason use his metal element qi to surprise attack Ace since his sword was on Jason's neck and thought it would be a critical blow or at least injured the guy to some extent, but he didn't know Ace had two swords!

Ace was fully alert for this kind of attack because he knew a Qi river cultivator was difficult to deal with or subdue, especially if this cultivator was an assassin!

With lightning speed, Ace's short sword instantly came between him and that silver beam.

'Clang...'

The element qi scatters the moment it touched the inky blade of Ace's short sword, but this brief exchange also gave Jason the chance to escape the long sword on his neck.

By using metal qi as armor around his neck, Jason dashed to the left side and finally manage to escape with his movement skill!

Jason quickly turned around to face Javier but to his horror, the guy has vanished!

'Damn it!' Jason swore and use his concealment skill to hide as well.

But how could he escape Ace's heavenly sense?

Ace was coldly looking at the Jason as clear as day from the corner of the alleyway like a conceal serpent.

Jason's survival instincts tingle with alarm as he didn't feel any sense of security even after using his top-notch skill, *'He can see me!'*

Jason clench his teeth as he stopped the skill he was using and said bitterly, "Fine, you win, just came out and we can talk like gentlemen, there is no need for bloodshed."

But no answer came from the dark alleyway.

"Look, we both know, if we fight for real, we'll create a huge disturbance and this will alert many and I know you also didn't want this. After all, you were also hiding your abilities, meaning you have your motives and I don't want to get in your way so we should go our separate ways after you returned my storage ring!" Jason said.

Ace curled his lips hearing Jason's reasoning, but he also sensed the well-hidden element qi began to surround Jason and take the shape of a ball one foot around him.

'It is highly possible if I got closer to him that field of qi would alert him. I can't take him by surprise anymore, just as I thought Qi river cultivators are not easy to deal with.' Ace judged.

"I know you're here, so come out!" Jason tried again to lure Ace out.

Because just as Ace thought, Jason has created an element qi field around himself, which is difficult to penetrate without him being alerted. And if now Ace try sneaked up on him, Jason would know instantly and he only needed a moment to counter-attack.

Jason has first told Ace the truth and then use an unknown term to slightly distract Ace and manage to escape the deadlock.

However, now he wanted Ace to sneak up on him, but Ace was not even talking anymore. This truly infuriates Jason.

It was his first time being in this kind of situation and encounter so cumbersome opponent. He can't see through Javier in the least bit and still didn't know what cultivation realm he was at.

More importantly, Jason wanted his storage ring back because there was something very important in it that he can't afford to lose. It was as important as his life!

"Just give me back my storage ring and I'll tell you a very important secret. It is not used for you since it can't be open without killing me and I'm not going down easily!" Jason attempted to negotiate by declaring the facts.

Ace still didn't talk and only observed Jason from afar, *'He is becoming agitating because of the storage ring, is there something important inside it?'*

Ace's soul sense was equal to a soul river cultivator, and he could easily tell there was something that Jason desperately wanted inside that storage ring.

Jason still didn't get any answer from Ace, and his face fell. "Just give it back and I'll tell you about a passage that can lead to the high-level lands and you didn't need the sky-changing pass!"

Ace's eyes widen with astonishment, *'So, there is exists a passage like this, my guess was not wrong!'*

Before he has guessed that there was some kind of passage that Aline and that old goad use but didn't have time to investigate it, nor he has the means to.

But now this guy was offering him the passage for a mere storage ring.

Now Ace wanted to know just what was so important in that storage ring that is worth more than that secret passage!

Chapter 133 - Jason's Motives

6-7 minutes

This temptation was very great to reject for Ace because he didn't want to come in contact with that old ghost Empty Dream anymore, and this passage was just the thing he needed.

But first, Ace quickly glance at the pickpocket notification that he got after he stole Jason's storage ring but didn't have the time to see it.

He wanted to confirm if there was something important inside before saying anything since that idiot was kind enough to show there was something important inside it!

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[Notification Panel]

[{Unseen Notification}]

[Pick Pocket success]

{Host steal}

{1: Low-Grade Storage Space Treasure} (2nd Mortal Level-Runes)

{3: Low-Level, Middle-Grade Weapon} (5-Stars),

{Qi-Stones Trash-Grade (Low-Level): 3 Million},

{Qi-Stones Lowest-Grade (Middle-Level): 300,443},

{Rewards: 260 Thief Points}

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[Thief Point(s): 1,400]

[Host has stolen treasures worth more than 200TP]

[One Low-Level Thievery has added to Thievery Count]

[Low-Level Thievery: 5]

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Ace frowned, seeing the system didn't catch anything of that sort and items inside were just chump-change for him.

'If the system didn't count it as a treasure, then it is highly possible that the thing that clown wanted is not a treasure.' He mused.

On the other side of the alleyway, Jason began to panic after he didn't get Ace's answer.

He begins to think Ace has left, but that feeling of being seen by someone still didn't vanish. An assassin's instinct was not to be underestimated since they had to train it in life and death situations and even deadlier training.

And Jason's origin was nothing but ordinary!

"Listen, just come out because we didn't have much time. You know, after what you have done, those nobles won't leave us alone!" Jason said gravely.

Ace deeply looked at Jason first and then the ring. *'Should I exchange it with that secret passage position, but I can't confirm it any time soon. I can't probe his soul since it is far stronger than mine and he can always twist his words to confuse my senses.'*

Ace was hesitant for a moment before he took the risk. He used the lightning steps and vanished from the area, leaving agitate Jason behind!

Jason finally felt the watchful eyes on him have been vanished but his face twisted with fury, not relief.

"YOU BASTARD I'LL FIND YOU!" Jason roar out loud. He was regretting approaching that rascal since he has created this blunder himself!

"Boy, calm down. He can't open that ring and won't leave this place because he also wanted to go to the capital!"At this moment, an old voice sounded in Jason's mind!

"Senior, how can you be so calm; the map is gone!" Jason transmitted as he pursed his lips. *"Even you weren't able to sense him and now he knows about the baleful Qi as well!"*

"His cultivation must be higher than yours, and my prowess is connected with yours. That's why my abilities are limited because of it. But I have to say that child was very strange. He didn't have a trace of baleful qi."The old voice was astonished.

"You were the one who wanted me to approach him and said he was the perfect sacrifice!" Jason was furious.

"Heh, we needed exactly this kind of sacrifice without any baleful qi, and trust me that boy is one in billions, I never heard of anyone without Baleful Qi existed! That's why I told you to make a friend out of him, but who would've thought he was a wolf in sheep's clothing and even like stealing." The old voice said, **"And Don't worry, no one knows about the baleful Qi in this barren place. He won't know anything."**

"Yeah, stealing is the last thing I expected from someone with his skills. I think he leave because he didn't trust me completely." Jason said with a nod. *"He is very observant and cautious, especially. His ability to detect lies is extraordinary."*

"Yes, he was very confident in his claim that time. That's why I tell you not to take risks, but he wasn't a soul cultivator since he was using the martial Qi. Maybe it is some kind of secret art." The old voice said.

"But the map is gone. What if he runs away from the city? With all those nobles on his tail, it is highly likely he would leave." Jason was still worried about that map.

"It is one of many possibilities, but by his cautious nature, that thing he did in the auction has a reason behind it. We might find him again tomorrow. Remember, he has no trace of baleful Qi. I can easily detect him. And if by some snowball chance he didn't show up, I can find him with the map since it is made of ----- when you reach the Qi River Core Realm!"The old voice said confidently.

"I can always rely on senior." Jason's expression finally loosened a bit. *"But first I have to complete the assassination mission or we'll be killed by the organization first without achieving anything!"*

Jason vanished from the alleyway to an unknown destination.

Ace appeared outside the Jade Pavilion of Zander City and enter inside nonchalantly.

After eating and drinking his fill, he left for the inn where he was staying.

Just as he expected, the inn was surrounded by hidden cultivators and the movement only occur when Ace was at the entrance of the inn.

Ace's lips curled as he entered the inn as if he didn't notice a thing, and go straight to his room.

After confirming there was no one around with his heavenly sense, he entered and close the wooden door.

"System, do you know what this baleful Qi is?" Ace asked in a grave tone.

Ace still didn't forget about this particular Qi since Jason has approached him because of it and this means he can find him again, even with some other disguise and he didn't want it.

He still didn't know who was the target of Jason's assassination, but he will go to the capital and that's was even more of the reason for Ace to thoroughly hide his traces!

Chapter 134 - Baleful Qi

6-7 minutes

"System, do you know what this baleful Qi is?" Ace asked in a solemn tone.

"[50 Thief Points]"

Ace pursed his lips while saying, *"Just take it and open this damn ring while you are at it."*

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"[100TP has been deducted]"

[The Storage Ring is now opened]"

[50TP has been deducted]"

[Baleful Qi: The resentment, malice, hatred... of someone is the Baleful Qi. In other words, everyone has Baleful Qi! Even the purest beings as long as they had emotions.]

[The Baleful Qi can grow continuously. It is impossible to see with naked eyes and there are some techniques and skills they can use the Baleful Qi to boost one strength tremendously..]

[But there is a very stein price to pay and only Unorthodox Cultivators use this kind of method.]

[Thief Point(s): 1,250]

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Ace was truly marveled as he quickly asked, *"Then why didn't I have this Baleful Qi? It's not like I didn't hate or resent someone."*

"[Host has no baleful Qi because of the dark void it can absorb it and because of it the host will never encounter a Baleful Heart Evil in the future!]"

Ace's eyes shone with uncertainty as he asked, *"What is this Baleful Heart Evil?"*

"[Host has not enough authority to know about *Three Evils of Heart*]"

"[But remember this, if one has too much Baleful Qi one will die at a specific point of cultivation because of Baleful Heart Evil!]"

"Three Evils of Hearts and one will die because of this baleful Qi, huh." Ace mumbles softly.

Ace was astonished while mulling over what the system has revealed. He didn't expect one can even die because of Qi that one accumulated on their own.

This made Ace realize again that he was still ignorant and insignificant.

Now another question aroused in Ace's mind, *'How did that clown know about Baleful Qi?'* But no one was here to answer him.

Since Ace can't find a reasonable answer because of his little experience, he didn't dwell on it for long.

The important matter at hand was Jason possessed the ability to sense Baleful Qi, and Ace didn't have any baleful Qi because of the dark void.

Ace knew it was a good thing, but now in this kind of situation where someone can find him because of this wonderful trait.

"System, can I stop dark void from absorbing baleful Qi?" Ace asked with high hope.

"[Host cannot control the dark void with his current prowess at this moment.]"

'Figures.' Ace smiles bitterly. He knew from the start that the dark void is not something that he can control as he wishes and its actual abilities are still mysteries.

"[Host can spend 500TP and system will stop dark void from absorbing baleful Qi for 10 years.]" Startlingly, the system's voice rang again.

Ace frowned. *"Can I cancel this anytime I want?"*

"[No.]"

'Well, it's a plus since I won't be like a torch in the darkness anymore for those who can sense baleful Qi like Jason. But I won't be able to cancel it for ten years and dying in cultivation because of it is not something I can overlook either.' The more Ace considered the more he felt this decision was a double-edged sword.

"System which cultivation realm can one encounter this Baleful Heart Evil?" Ace asked eagerly.

"[Heart Evils doesn't exist in Mortal Sky Heaven.]"

Ace was elated hearing this extraordinary good news, *"If that's the case then stop dark void from absorbing baleful Qi."*

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"[500TP has been deducted]"

[The Dark Void will not absorb any Baleful Qi for ten years.]

[Thief Point(s): 750]

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Ace wait a while but he felt nothing at all, *"Is it stop?"* He frowned.

"[Yes.]"

'It seems it was not a big deal. But I lose 500TP just because of that clown.' Ace's face stiff a little seeing his remaining TP and blame it on Jason.

However, Ace didn't know this prior knowledge of Baleful Qi and this decision has saved him from many future troubles!

Ace's focus shifted to Jason's storage to minimize his losses. He has rejected the path because there was something even more important in this storage ring and he didn't trust Jason.

'Now let's see just why you were so anxious about it.' Ace quickly sent his consciousness into the storage ring that was now open.

After shifting everything keep-worthy inside his thief's space, and begun to check the other items one by one.

Half an hour pass, but Ace still didn't find anything unique and his complexion darken because of it.

"Hmm?" Ace suddenly spotted something unusual.

An old map appeared in Ace's hand. He felt a unique texture from the hide when he touched it as if it was made of icy silk.

'Is this it?'

Curious, Ace open the map with great expectation.

"What is this?" Ace murmured in confusion the moment his eyes landed on the map.

The map was of a large valley surrounding by mountains and in the center was an altar-like mark he didn't recognize. But what truly caught Ace's attention was the mountains surrounding the valley because they were evenly sized, not like typical mountains.

'Is this some kind of treasure map?' Ace muse but in the end, he gave up and store the map inside his thief's space.

"This place might never exist in middle-lands, but I should still keep a lookout for it. Since that idiot was so anxious about it there has to be some kind of heavenly treasure there like Blood Rose." Ace mumbles softly.

'It's just a pity that I didn't manage to obtain his disguise skill. Well, no problem if my scheme worked I will be able to buy that new mask in the shop before the competition began. Now, I just have to wait for them to show up. I hope he will come or I have to think of a different way.'

Ace's face was full of enthusiasm as he thought about the master plan he cooked up in the auction this evening!

Chapter 135 - Stealing A Person!

6-7 minutes

After Aden sent the confirmation about those two youths' superficial backgrounds, the noble families immediately take action and send many experts to silent them and retrieve their storage rings.

In the middle of the night, the Zander city was as silent as a graveyard, because the Zander family has given the order to empty the area around the Inns where those two youngsters were staying without alerting the targets.

They didn't want anyone to witness this since it will stain their high status.

Although in the morning everyone would guess what had happened after seeing those two dark horses absent, no one would dare to say anything.

Every evidence of their existence would be erased, and no one will mention them again. This is just how things are in the cultivation world. Without status and power, you are nothing but a disposal.

Strangely, those two youngsters didn't run except vanish for more than an hour. They returned to their rooms and now resting there.

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In these experts send by nobles, there were fifteen Qi foundation realm cultivators, five of them were middle stage and ten of them were at the early stage.

One can easily guess by this; the nobles didn't underestimate those two just by noticing their weak cultivation. They were dead serious about killing them, especially Javier; many hated him after what he did today.

Ace's eyes were closed as if he was meditating, but that was not the case. He was observing the area with his soul sense.

For half an hour, Ace felt many powerful Qi waves outside his inn. However, they didn't make any move as if they were waiting for someone or someone's command.

At this movement Ace felt a familiar soul signature and a smile creep out on his blank face, *'Hah, it appeared my bashing truly worked.'*

Outside the Inn where Ace was staying, many black-clothed figures in masks were hiding while encircling the Inn to stop Javier from escaping.

At this moment, a lavishing carriage stopped just outside the Inn's door, and three figures disembark it.

One of them was a handsome young boy of the age of 14 or 15, while the other two were old men in their late fifties. They were in luxurious robes and wore haughty expressions on their faces.

"Young Lord, that brat is here." One of the old men respectfully spoke to the young boy.

"Since it was father's mission to kill him and retrieve my honor, I will do it alone don't interfere or my uncle will nag me to no end if I can't even kill a third gate ant." The young man gravely warned, he was not in a good mood.

These three were none other than Victor Zander and Zander's family two head butlers.

Patrick sent Victor here because Javier has humiliated Victor the most and this is a tremendous blow to young Victor's confidence. His father has told him to kill that person who humiliated him and regain his dignity or never come back!

However, Patrick still sent these two high-stage foundation building realm butlers with Victor, just in case if anything goes south to protect him.

Patrick wasn't a fool and knew there is something fishy going on with those two targets because they had vanished in the eyes of many peak qi gate realm experts and strangely they didn't run and returned.

"Young Lord, please let us lure that brat here since this space is not proper to fight and by doing this we could also witness your glorious victory." The other old man said with passion, but a cunning glint flash past his old eyes.

They both know Victor's stubborn personality too well and they didn't want to put him in danger by sending him alone inside. That's why this old man made this silly excuse to coax Victor to comply willingly.

Just as he expected, Victor instantly imagine his glorious victory seen by many and quickly agreed with the cunning old man, "Fine, but don't hurt him, I don't want others to say I only finished an already beaten dog."

"Why of course, I'll make sure of this." The old butler smiled as he was about to enter the inn to drag that brat out.

He was also furious. After all, Javier has humiliated the Zander family by pointing his finger at Victor and, he as a loyal servant of the Zander family would never take it sitting.

"YOUNG LORD!!!" At this moment, the second butler screech with fright.

The cunning old man quickly turn around to see what has happened when his face also shone with horror as he roared at his brother, **"W-where is the Young Lord???"**

Victor has suddenly vanished from his position!

"I-I...I didn't see clearly... it was a blur that take away... Young Lord. It was too fast. I can't stop it!" He shuttered as his voice was filled with uncertainty and anxiety.

"Fool! What do you mean by; you didn't see it and can't stop it?!" The other one was infuriated and panic, **"Do you know the consequences if something happened to Young Lord Victor?!"**

The butler shiver just thinking about the punishment if Victor goes missing under their protection. Patrick would skin them alive as well as their decedents without even caring about their years of loyalty!

"Head Butler Hugh, the target has vanished!" A man quickly appeared at this moment with the report of missing Javier.

The cunning old man's name was Hugh, and a chill ran down his spine hearing this.

"It was him! Damn it, that hateful brat has played us. Search for him, lock down the entire city. It doesn't matter even if you have dug every part of the city to find him. He has Young Lord Victor!" Butler Hugh roar out loud as he also raced away with his brother to search for Victor.

Everyone was horrified hearing this grave information, and every hidden expert around the Inn quickly began the search for Victor.

They didn't even notice it until Hugh give the command and they all know if things go awry with Victor, they all can forget about living!

Chapter 136 - Soul Probing

6-8 minutes

Inside Ace's room in the Inn.

Javier appeared with an unconscious young man on his shoulder as he throws him on the floor.

This young man was exactly Victor Zander, whom Ace stole just a few moments ago.

Ace active his heavenly sense to see the situation outside.

"Those morons." Ace clicks his tongue seeing everyone scatter to search for Victor and no one even thought about taking another glance at his room again.

No one even consider that the kidnapper would be returned to his hideout and not run. It was a simple trick but always works when the other party is in a state of frenzy.

After confirming that everyone has gone, Ace looked at unconscious Victor and smile slyly..

Ace has done all this just to get his hands on this young boy, or more precisely, his face!

The moment Ace saw Victor in the auction, an abrupt thought appeared in his mind, *'I need a new face.'*

The moment this thought surface in mind, Ace began to think, and when Jason drew everyone's attention to himself.

Ace also made up his mind and put up on a huge, arrogant act. He humiliated every noble in the auction, especially Victor, who was his prime target.

He makes sure to humiliate Victor brutally, but also not make it too obvious or someone might suspect him, especially Aden.

Ace was sure that after what he had done Aden would use the organization behind him to search for his origin and when he finds out that Javier was just a paper tiger Aden would come himself or sent all those nobles.

If it was the first case, Ace would have escaped and wait for his chance to infiltrate Earl Estate. But if Aden used these nobles, then Victor would surely come for him with everyone else.

Ace understood too well just how much these people with status cherish their pride. And just as he expected, Victor came for him.

Victor has come for revenge and won back his dignity, but he never would've thought he was presenting himself on a silver platter to Ace by coming here.

If Ace wanted, he could've killed everyone outside, included those two old butlers, but it will spoil his plan since he won't be able to explain why Victor has escaped alone. People would doubt him and this is not what he wanted, not until he leave this place.

By kidnapping Victor, he can easily forge some lie and with his abilities, everyone would think he was telling the truth.

'Heh, this risk was significant, but I gained a treasure map and new face of an Earl's son from it. Now the arrogant Javier will also disappear.' Ace was ecstatic, *'I don't have much time, if he vanished for too long it will be hard for me to explain.'*

Ace sits beside unconscious Victor and closed his eyes. **'Soul Probing!'**

This was the second part of his scheme. With soul probing, he would gain Victor's memories and this will help him more in acting like him. He didn't need it for a long time though, since he would leave this morning.

Transparent orange soul Qi rushed from Ace's forehead where his mind space was and directly enter Victor's forehead.

Victor was only a fourth qi gate cultivator and Ace can easily probe his memories.

Quickly, fragments of foreign memories begin to appear in Ace's knowledge sea. These fragments were Victor's life memories.

Since there was no interference, Ace continuously used soul probing, and fragments after fragments keep entering his knowledge sea.

Ace used to this feeling, he knew the weaker the soul of his target was the larger memory fragment he would get.

Victor was young so his life's memories were only fourteen years' worth and by the speed, Ace was getting Victor's memories fragments. It would take him one and a half-hour to gain Victor's complete memories!

It was more than enough though because Ace can use soul probing for two hours after his cultivation advancement.

Now the question was withered. Ace would get disturbed or not. Because if someone interfered in this process, Ace has to start from the beginning if he wanted Victor's complete memories.

Because soul probing was random and by using it in intervals, Ace can get the same memory fragment twice or even thrice depending on his luck. But if he can maintain the connection, he will always get a new memory fragment!

He has experimented with it many times on those two maids of Javier and knows everything he needed to about soul probing.

One and half-hour passed in a breeze, but no one came anywhere near the Inn.

'I overestimated them.'

Ace opened his eyes after he absorbed all the memories from Victor and now he knows everything about him. With his acting skill now, he can fool even his sister who knows him the most.

Ace also got Victor's knowledge about the middle-lands, although it was not as much as he expected, nevertheless it was the knowledge of a native.

'I still need two hours or three hours to digest these memories.' Ace mused, *'But first I need to save his face.'*

Ace again use heavenly sense to confirm he was alone.

Completely sure, Ace removed the two-face mask as his real, extremely handsome face revealed.

Just like before, Ace use the mask's formation to scan Victor and after a few moments the half-black side of the mask vanished and Victor's face appeared beside Javier's.

'Heh, everything goes smoothly, with no interference. Now should I kill him or not?' Ace deeply looked at unconscious Victor.

This is the final decision of Ace's scheme.

'His first kill a mortal man at the age of eight because of a minor dispute when that man bumped into him by accident.' Ace scan some of Victor's exceptional memories.

'Hah, he killed him just because he didn't want to look down upon by other aristocracies, especially his father, who he respected the most, or by his sister, who he loved the most.'

Ace laugh sharply when he felt Victor feeling attached to that event, now he understood the pressure of cultivation society, especially when you're born in a high-class cultivation family.

"Your flesh and blood judge you the moment you were born and label you as trash or genius!"

Chapter 137 - Give It Back!

9-11 minutes

Victor was missing for five hours now and the news has already reached the ears of every person with a status.

Patrick went into a frenzy the moment he heard this news and nearly killed those two loyal butlers. If not for his father stopping him, he might've done it already.

Skyler was also horrified hearing this news and immediately searched for her brother with everyone else.

Valentino, on the other hand, was happy about Victor's disappearance but didn't dare to show it because even he didn't dare to irritate Patrick when he was enraged.

Since Javier was missing with Victor, no one paid any attention to Jason.

But the news come soon that he had also escaped.

This was an immense blow to the noble families and they will become the laughing stoke of the entire Zander county when this news spread.

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Especially when they know the Earl's son got abducted by a third qi gate realm brat. They all knew it was not the case and that brat's cultivation was much higher, but who would believe them?

Everyone would consider it as an excuse to hide their embarrassment.

The sullenest about this loss was none other than Aden because he spends quite some from his pocket to get information on Javier and Jason.

Aden was enjoying 'teaching' his two disciples when Black Hound came back with this unexpected news.

Black hound was also furious because he was observing Jason, and he got away under his nose. If others find out the Vice Beast Master has failed to stop a brat, he might lose his position and punish by the organization for involving himself in the affairs of nobles!

Inside Earl Estate.

"Where is my son!" Patrick roar as he quickly entered the grand hall.

He spotted Victor, who was...fine except for his dirty robes!

Victor spotted Patrick and promptly said, "Father, your son has returned with gifts." He quickly took out two storage rings from his own.

One was Javier's, and the other was Jason's.

Patrick agitates and his worried face instantly stiffened seeing Victor fine and those two storage rings.

"Where were you? And how did you gain those storage rings?" Patrick inquired sternly.

He didn't dare to believe his son can kill those two cunning scoundrels after being abducted by one under two high-stage foundation building experts' noses.

'Something is not right here!' Patrick grimace because after what happened, he knew those two had very high-level concealment skills and Victor was missing for hours and there is a very high possibility this Victor was a fake!

"That boy gave it to me who abducted me and say..." Victor's face twisted with rage as if he didn't want to say the next phase.

"What did he say?" Patrick's eyes narrowed. This expression was exactly his son whenever he got angry.

Victor pursed his lips. "He says never offend someone who you can't find out because of your trivial ability and say he was just bored and playing with... dogs in this barren place.

"He gave me these two rings with beast tickets and some Qi stones as a... charity. He said he gave them to that Beastly Old Man and tell him if he dares, just try using them."

"Presumptuous!" Patrick's face was as dark as charcoal hearing those overbearing words. He has heard that brat arrogance knows no bounds, but this was just too infuriating.

"Victor!" Skyler enters at this moment; her eyes were teary when she saw Victor and without even care about Patrick, she throws herself into his embrace and hugged him.

"Are you hurt?" She asked in a sniffing voice.

"N-no I'm fine." Victor quickly escaped Skyler's bear hug.

Skyler was shocked because Victor never does this before. But she didn't have time to ponder over it since Patrick speak in a stiff voice.

"If he let you go after giving you those rings, then where were you for almost six hours?"

Skyler looked at her brother and father with bewilderment because she didn't know what they were talking about.

At this moment, everyone from the Zander family entered the grand hall. They all heard the news about Victor appearing at the front gate unharmed.

But seeing Patrick questioning him, no one speaks and only observed.

"H-he drag me quite far from the city and I-I never go outside the city. That's why I I-lose my way back."
Victor's face reddened when he told the 'truth' in embarrassment.

Everyone in the hall knew Victor was telling the truth, so this explanation was valid.

But Patrick still didn't feel right as he asked, "How many times did I beat you and when was the first time and last time?"

Everyone looked at Victor, now they all understand why Patrick was questioning him. Victor was unharmed and even had storage rings of those two rogues.

This makes anyone with some brain wary and doubts the other person.

Skyler was also very intelligent and instantly knew what was happening. She suddenly recalls Victor escaping from her hug and narrowed her eyes while observing Victor more carefully and wait for his answer.

Patrick has asked this question because only Victor knows the answer and beating is not something that anyone could forget, especially Patrick's beating. And even if someone is posing as his son, they would never think of this question.

Victor confusingly answers, "Why are you asking this at a time like this?"

"Just answer your father!" Old Man Chase said in an unfriendly tone.

Victor quickly lowered his head because he was terrified of his grandfather.

"F-four times... you beat me four times. First when I was ten years old because I stole spirit stones and last time was today, because I sullied the family name in the auction." Victor timidly answered.

Everyone looked at Patrick.

Patrick sighed in relief, "He's Victor."

"Give it back!" At this moment Skyler chimed in while extended her snowy hand towards Victor.

Another test!

If anyone in this hall knows Victor better than Patrick, it has to be Skyler!

Patrick also didn't stop Skyler and just watch. He knew Skyler has taken care of Victor ever since he was young and care for him the most.

Victor deeply looked at those beautiful, gem-like sky-blue eyes of Skyler and smile with affection, and flip his hand.

In everyone's curious eyes, a beautiful hairpin appeared in Victor's hand, but it was only half.

"Our mother's hairpin that you gave me when I was ten." Victor throws that pin to Skyler.

Skyler catch the half hairpin and after seeing it the doubts vanished from her eyes, "Victor, you brat, don't make me worried again or I'll break your legs for real."

Victor smile wryly.

Patrick didn't speak and a peculiar glint flash past his eyes seeing that broken hairpin.

"Give me those two rings." Now the doubts were evident, Patrick's focus turned to those storage rings.

Now he has to believe what Victor has told him and he was planning to tell Aden the exact words of that arrogant brat.

After all, Aden was the one who checked the background of those two and give a green signal.

What happened was those two scoundrels have played everyone just because they were bored and even gave them tickets and qi stones in the name of charity!

"They are open." Victor's smile vanished as he handed those rings to Patrick.

"You can rest now. Only three hours remain until you'll leave for capital." Patrick excuses everyone as he headed to the Beast Calling Colosseum to meet with Aden.

Victor leave for his room while Skyler followed him as well as everyone else.

Valentino's face was full of disappointment as he leaves since Victor was back, he can now forget about sending his son to the capital in the fastest category beast.

Victor finally entered his lavishing room after escaping from Skyler's lecture.

"That girl can kill someone with her mouth!" Victor lamented or Ace!

'So, this is what it feels like having an elder sister, huh.' Ace couldn't help but wonder. He had no actual siblings and only had Alina closest to one.

'I wonder how is she now.' Ace couldn't help but nostalgically remembered that cut face of Alina and the time he spends with her. *'One day I'll find you and give you a huge surprised!'*

Ace quickly snapped out of his memories and planned his next move.

He had fooled the Zander family, but his purpose was not ended here.

Now he needed a large amount of Thief Points. Because he wanted to buy [Hundred-Face Deception Mask] which price was 50,000TP!

Ace needed this mask the most because his destination was the number one institute of middle-level lands. And he found out after absorbing Victor's memories that the principal of the institute is rumored to be a Qi River Core Cultivator!

Ace's two-face mask can't work against this kind of existence and that's why he felt even more urgency to buy this new mask.

'I'll have to prepare soon and think more like a cunning thief who is also a master of deception.' Ace closed his eyes as he imagined many kinds of scenarios.

This was his new method of thinking that he finds very helpful and his mind become sharper and his decision-making also improved tremendously!

Chapter 138 - Thievery Outside The Colosseum (1)

6-8 minutes

Early in the morning,

Outside of the Beast Calling Colosseum was packed with a large crowd of people.

The reason for this was very simple, the time of departure was approaching and every noble family with their recruits are coming in packs.

These recruits were those who can't afford or purchased the beast ticket and had to lower their heads to these titled families. For these beast tickets, they all sign a loyalty contract that was a fancy way of saying slave contract!

All of these youngsters can now take part in the upcoming test, but whether they win or lose, it's all belonged to these titled families now.

This was not only the case of Zander County, it was happening all over the land of kingdoms!

Although over 80% of them will die in just their kingdom's test. However, those who survived will become elites who go through the battle of blood even if they didn't get selected.

All those survivals will be future assets to these titled families, and that's why they all spend so much Qi stones to monopolized all these sets of seats and then sell them just for one loyalty contract!

The enormous gates of the colosseum creak open at this moment and the crowd went into absolute silence..

After the gates fully open many high cultivation guards and Aden two disciples came out in the organization uniform. To everyone's surprised Aden was absent.

As for Black Hound, he never shows his face in public places and most of these people didn't know a Vice Beast Master even exist.

"Welcome everyone," Nora spoke in her charming voice at this moment with a smile on her face.

"Please show your beast tickets before entering the colosseum. As for those people without beast tickets, please don't block the entrance." She announced.

Everyone does as she said and entered after showing their different color tickets.

Golden tickets were only in the hands of the most promising youngsters of titled families and their protectors.

These protectors were going to keep them safe until the test and all of them were at least of the middle Qi foundation stage cultivators.

When the crowd with beast tickets almost entered, thirty carriages with Earl's estate symbols came into everyone's view.

Shockingly, no one stopped them as those luxurious carriages began to cross the colosseum's gate.

But no one raised any voice because everyone knows the Earl has an excellent relationship with Beast Master Aden and this much VIP treatment for an Earl is to be expected anywhere.

Victor was also sitting with his siblings in the sixth carriage from the front.

Ace observed everyone with his heavenly sense. *'The gates would most likely be closed when everyone with those tickets entered.'*

"System mark every storage space treasure in my soul sense range." Ace command while his heart raced because it was time to move!

===

"[System detect 210 storage space treasure in host's soul sense range.]"

[420TP required for marking.]

[Will the host want to proceed?]

[Yes/No]

====

"Yes." Ace transmitted without any delay.

====

[420TP has been deducted]

[Marking has been completed.]

[Thief Point(s): 330]

====

With his heavenly sense, Ace saw many little black panels appearing on every person's storage ring.

At this moment, almost all the crowd was in his soul sense range and he took advantage of this by using the system's ability to mark the storage space treasures.

Although it would cost him two TP per treasure yet it was worth it!

Ace thought at lightning speed, *'There are approximately 97 storage rings; on the people who are not going inside. I can create 20 soul threads on each finger now, thanks to my practice of soul controlling technique.'*

After making sure that no one was paying any attention to Victor inside the carriage, Ace create 97 soul threads on his fingers!

Those transparent threads came to life as each of them darted towards 97 different targets like tentacles.

'This is draining more soul qi than I expected.' Ace thought, but he still has a large reserve of heavenly soul Qi because of his soul river cultivation!

The very next moment, each soul thread was in its place, but Ace didn't use the pick-pocket immediately as if he was waiting for something.

This plan of stealing everyone's storage rings was essential to collect a large amount of TP faster.

After taking everything into account, Ace decided to just go for it and take risks. But the risk was very little with Victor's face and all these carriages.

First, no one would even think someone can steal from a moving carriage.

Second, no one would dare to point their finger at Earl Estate.

Third, the organization would not get involved in this because he was not stealing their storage rings and only those nobles!

As for suspecting these innocent people outside, Ace wasn't worried about it because they all will only blame one person... Sky Stealer!

Now the question was how he was going to do it? Well, Ace has created a very good and simple skill for it.

Ace waited for his carriage to get inside and, *'Pick Pocket!'*

The 97 soul threads blink for a moment and Ace heard strings of system notification at once and couldn't help but grin brightly. ***'Succeed!'***

But those soul threads didn't vanish like they always do and remain.

'Thief's Charity.' Ace active his newly developed skill thief's charity.

The soul threads blink again and faded afterward.

Ace closely observed his victims and was astonished because for the first time he saw the thief marks on 8 of his victims' fingers!

"System, why didn't you tell me the thief symbol can appear on someone's body!" Ace asked in bewilderment.

"[System has already explained that a thief symbol will emerge in any place where host doses honorable thievery of at least low level.]"

"[These places also included living beings]"

"T-then I leave those marks on that old man and that clown as well?" Ace asked with a weird expression on his face.

"[Yes]"

"Can it be removed?"

"[Not until the host dies. Even if they cut off those limbs as long as they regrew them, the thief symbol will return.]"

Ace inhales sharply. He does not know the thief symbol works this way!

Chapter 139 - Thievery Outside The Colosseum (2)

6-8 minutes

Ace marvel at just how astonished this thief symbol was.

He studied the blackbird tattoo that appeared on the ring fingers of those people.

This tattoo was of a bird with its wings wide opened and there were two horns-like cavities on its head. Ace has seen an owl before and this tattoo just looked like it but the difference was its wings were like sharp daggers.

He could only see this much detail since it was almost like a black stamp.

'Those guys will hate me for this.' Ace smile wryly and couldn't help but imagine these people's reactions when they'll find this symbol.

Ace quickly shift his focus elsewhere because the thief symbol was just a surprise he didn't expect to see like this and his actual reason for observing them was to see if his self-created skill thief's charity work or not.

'Hehe, it worked perfectly, now I don't have to worry about anything..' Ace was elated after confirming the skill worked just fine.

"What are you grinning about?" Skyler's mild voice entered Victor's ears who was smirking for no reason.

"Oh, I'm just excited about leaving this city for the first time and going to the capital." Victor answer while looking at Skyler, who was wearing magenta color dressed which revealed her mature figure pretty well.

But the white veil on her face was still there, only her beautiful sky-blue eyes were reviled.

Ace knew from Victor's memories that she always wore this veil for as long as he could remember, and Ace had some idea why.

"We're not going for side seen. Don't be naughty or you know me." Skyler warned her younger brother like always.

"Heh, don't worry. Father has sent me to watch over you two, he won't be causing trouble." Niko chimed in.

Victor only smile as for Skyler, she nodded silently. She wasn't close with her elder brother nor was Victor because Niko was always busy with Patrick's tasks and he spent very little time with his siblings.

After the carriages entered the colosseum, the remaining group of people with beast tickets moved again.

One by one, people keep entering after showing their beast tickets. Half an hour pass until everyone with a beast ticket was inside.

"4,930 spots are filled. That means there is not a single beast ticket missing." Nora announced as she watched a formation plate in her hand.

This formation plate can detect beast tickets that were engraved with a special rune. As long as someone with a beast ticket passed the gate, the count will show on this white formation plate.

It can even detect them in someone's storage rings. That's why no one dares to forge false tickets, because fooling the organization was almost night impossible.

Nora and her fellow disciple Jade returned after their task of bringing everyone inside was over.

After those two girls left, the enormous gates of the colosseum were also close and only those people who were here to see their relatives off remained.

Before anyone could leave, a shrill scream resounded in the packed area outside the colosseum.

"W-where is my storage ring!!!" It was a woman's voice, and it came from a luxurious carriage park on the busy square.

Everyone curiously looked at the carriage and exclaim because it was the carriage of Viscountess Macey who was here to send off her eldest son!

"MY RING!"

Another scream of a man rang at this moment and the crowd shifted their focus there in bewilderment.

It was another carriage of some Viscount who was here for the same reason as everyone.

"T-this... mine is gone as well..."

Just like this, 97 different voices filled with murderous intent rang in the area one by one.

One thing was common in those exclaiming voices, all of their storage rings were missing!

Every one of these people was of utmost importance and held a prominent position in Zander county. Eight of them were people with a tilted in their names!

That's why their guards instantly lock down the entire area!

One by one, those victims exited their lavishing carriages with killing intent and dark faces.

"A strange bird tattoo appeared on my ring finger." A baron showed the thief symbol to everyone with a grim face.

"It's not only you." Viscountess Macey also showed her middle finger to everyone where she wore the storage ring once.

Just like that, six more fellows appeared with that strange bird tattoo. All of them had titled names with 3 viscounts and 5 Barons!

As for everyone else, they didn't have that tattoo.

The crowd on the other side was closely watching this peculiar scene. It was the first time they see so many people with influential positions in a public place and all of them got robbed somehow and at the same time in the same way!

"But how is this possible to steal our rings inside carriages and even tattooed this bird on our flesh and we didn't even notice it. People will laugh at us." A viscount spoke in a hushed voice with an ugly face.

However, in this silent and large crowd of cultivators, his voice sounded clear.

"So how the hell you all can explain this!" A short-tempered baron roared out loud. He was not in the mood to talk politely after being robbed and given this strange tattoo as a gift!

"Did anyone have a storage ring on them?" A clear-headed fellow asked the crowd to confirm his conjecture. He also got robbed but was very calm.

Everyone shook their heads as they began to show their hands to clarify any misunderstanding.

"Figures." That man mumbles as he shifted his focus to the mad group of victims who were eyeing him for an explanation.

"It seems only people with storage rings got robbed and the person who did this is a thief called Sky Stealer!" The man helplessly sighed as he told everyone.

"Sir James, how did you know this name, and why are you so confident? Care to explain." Macey asked coldly as her aura skyrocketed.

She, as well as everyone else, was suspecting James now!

Chapter 140 - New Skill: Thief's Charity

6-8 minutes

James has a wise and calm personality. That's why he didn't panic like others and search for some clues before confirming his guess.

Now he knows everyone was doubting him and if he didn't give them a proper explanation, they all might torture him.

"Please calm down, everyone. I know this name because I found this fragment Qi stones in my pocket." Jason quickly showed the fragment Qi stone in his hand to everyone.

Since everyone was a cultivator, their eyesight was very good, and they saw on the fragment Qi stone was engrave something in crude small writing.

But everyone can read what was written on it.

It was;

"Thank you for this wealth.. I'll cherish it well. Sky Stealer."

"Insolent!" A furious roar sounded in the victim's group.

"How can I believe that's not your doing to escape this situation?" Macey still didn't buy it.

"Please check your robes and if I'm not wrong, you might also have the same fragment Qi stones. Just think about it. This thief can leave those tattoos on your skin without even you. knowing slipping these Qi stones would be just a breeze for him." James gravely said, "You can also scan my body this will prof I'm just a victim like you guys."

Everyone quickly searches, just as James indicates.

The crowd on the side was closely observing this as if they were beholding some magic show as well as those guards of the organization because it was all happening outside their gates.

In everyone's shocking gazes same 96 more fragment Qi stones appeared from other victims with the same phase of words!

"That insolent thief I'll cut him into millions of pieces!" A viscount crushed the fragment Qi stone into powder as his face was twisted with hatred.

Everyone's face turns dark as charcoal because this wasn't just daylight robbery, it was a slap to their faces.

Not only did this Sky Stealer rob these nobles, but he even leave 'gifts' behind.

The crowd that was watching this also exclaim as some of them couldn't help but felt a deep respect for this Sky Stealer and somehow this overbearing name sounded more fitting and well deserved!

"Sir James, you are the one with vast knowledge. Please tell us how should we found him?" A Baron respectfully asked.

Now that the misunderstanding was clear, they all can see this lesser noble was wittier than anyone of them. That's why they all hopefully looked at him.

'Two-faced scums.' James scoffed inside.

"I also don't know, but he's not in this crowd." James respectfully said and didn't show disdain on his face.

"Why did you think like this?" other women in the victims' group asked, with a pale face.

Everyone's eyes narrowed while the crowd listened with great interest.

James takes a deep breath as he said, "Just by this thief skill, one can see he isn't normal and he is greatly skilled in deception. He might already leave long ago and we only noticed it now after all our prime focus was on the colosseum before. If not for Viscountess here, we might still didn't notice it."

The atmosphere turns grim hearing James's words because they all can understand James's words were very much on the point.

"Didn't this mean we lose our storage rings and wealth inside!" Someone spoke as if he would cry at any moment.

Everyone's faces were ashen, and the crowd has a sigh of relief because if these guys didn't find anyone to blame, they might kill everyone here in the name of justice.

Now, however, they all seen just how capable this thief was and he would not stay here to get captured. He even leaves his name so they all know who did the deed and do not blame anyone.

'What a strange fellow, leaving his name clearing means he didn't want these innocent people to drag in.' James guess but didn't point it out. He was a peace lover and didn't like bloodshed.

As for his storage ring, he didn't care about it since he can get a new one and he didn't store all his wealth like some people in this group of victims in one place.

'I like to meet this Sky Stealer fellow. Since you put some effort into stopping the bloodshed, let me help you.' James thought without any resentment.

But there was still little grievance in his heart. After all, there were ten thousand low Qi stones in his storage ring and that ring alone was worth 100,000 low qi stones.

"How about this? We should scan each and everyone here and let them go. We don't want the organization to interfere, right?" James suggested.

"Yes, we can't cause commotion outside the gates of colosseum like this. Everyone with Qi Foundation Building cultivation; check these people one by one and let them go. If you find anyone suspicious, bring them here." Macey order and everyone sprang into action.

Inside the colosseum, no one has any idea about the tremendous commotion caused by a thief.

'I wonder if they found my message easily.' Ace thought as he disembarks the carriage.

This thief's charity was the skill he created on the structure of pick-pocket. Meaning it was a reverse pick-pocket of a sort.

It takes him some time, but he manages to pull this off. He specifically created this skill to leave his name behind.

Because people always name him with strange titles and he didn't like any of them, especially the last one.

Furthermore, he can also give others the actual target of their anger and he can become famous with it as well.

It's just that he can only send small objects with this skill like qi stones at this moment. But it was enough for him.

As for why he chose fragments Qi stones for the substitute of paper, it's all because he just felt great about it!

This name also matched the gesture and Ace like the sound of it. That's why he called it Thief's Charity!

However, Ace does not know just how much famous he'll become because of this new method of his in the future, and also got caught because of it!