

Thief 191

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Chapter 191: A Golden VIP

Grey's eyes narrowed and said in a haughty tone, "This VIP wanted to use the library." She didn't even bother to correct Aaden and directly asserted her intent.

"Hikk...you're not Magdalena..."

Aaden's chubby old face redden a bit when he heard Grey's voice and knew he messed up and cursed, 'Damn it! It's all those old farts' fault to have women wear these armors and masks! At this rate, I'll never hook one!'

On the side, Ace rolled his eyes.

"This VIP wanted to use the library. I can always look for Craft Elder if you're feeling under the weather?" Grey repeat herself in a stern voice but also threaten him with Lan's name and there was a hint of disdain in her eyes.

She knows this old man's character too well; he was infamous for harassing young girls who come in the library and other shameful things. He was a pervert!

That's what she wanted to tell Finn before but refrain herself since it didn't seem appropriate to call an elder like Aaden 'pervert', but it appeared he didn't care about his image at all.

Now, she was using Lan's name to keep him in check. Besides, she wasn't any weaker than him in strength nor rank. She didn't have to worry about offending him either.

Aaden stiffly looked at Grey and knew she wasn't kidding around. He already has a terrible reputation and even got a warning from the flame palace after some female alchemists band-together to report him. Now, if Grey a flame captain report him directly to the Craft Elder, he will lose his post and might get punished!

He can't underestimate Grey since she was one of Lan's guards!

"Ha...ha...ha, I was just muddle-headed for a moment, Flame Captain Grey didn't need to be so serious, I apologize." Aaden wore a forced smile on his face as he excused and finally looked at Finn with an ugly smile, "Esteemed guest, please go to the number-51 bookshelf, it's for VIP. Just place your identity token in the array engrave on the bookshelf, and you're ready. If you want to go on the higher floors please always look for the last number bookshelf there as well, and do the same to unlock the array protecting it.

"But please keep in mind, you can't touch any other bookshelves, or you'll receive a terrifying backlash! In the worst-case scenario, it can even kill you!"

"Only one bookshelf?" Finn gave Grey a puzzling look. He clearly remembered he has access to everything below the 26th-floor.

But now Aaden was telling him, he can only unlock one bookshelf on each floor, how could he not be started?

Grey knew what Finn look mean since she has seen his VIP token.

"Librarian Aaden didn't have to worry about this VIP protection, I'll be looking over him, just record our entry." Grey didn't tell Aaden about Finn's special privilege and told him to just do this duty as a librarian.

Aaden was astonished, and this time he profoundly looked at Finn. It shocked him when he discovers he was just a fifth Qi gate junior and disbelief filled his eyes after noticing the slave item!

'A slave VIP!?' Aaden thought in bewilderment. It was hard to believe that a slave had a VIP token and was even being protected by a flame captain!

"Please place your token here." Aaden pointed at the counter where three different shapes of husks were and each was engraved with an array.

Even though he was curious about Finn, he also knew Grey would never tell him. In the end, he was more interested in the book he was reading before, so he just got it over with.

Grey place her silver token in the husks, which have the same shape as her identity token. The array lit up and after a moment the identity token stop glowing which mean it was done.

Ace do the same as he placed his VIP token in the third husk and after the array recorded his enter, he took the token back.

Aaden eyes flashed with incredulity when he saw the Golden VIP token in Finn's hand, but he said nothing.

Grey didn't want to linger anywhere near Aaden and took him directly to the second floor since on the first floor there wasn't anything good.

Aaden watched them going on the second floor and mutter under his breath, "A slave, holding a precious golden VIP token and his guide is also that arrogant woman. Just what is going on?"

He shook his head since it has nothing to do with him and read that book again with a lewd smile on his face!

"Why did he say I can only access one specific bookshelf?" Ace asked again.

He didn't speak at that time, since Grey want to keep it a secret from Aaden. But now that they were on the second floor he inquiry again.

Grey answer this time, "Your token is specially made at the order of Craft Elder Lan, and it's one of a kind. Normally, a Golden VIP Token can't be bought or made and only Silver and Bronze VIP tokens exist. Those have very limited functions like access to only the first two floors of the library.

"Sir Black Fox golden token is the first one in a hundred years! Even a Golden Token can only grant you access to superficial information and you have can only purchase the most common skills or technique, and it only has five functions. But sir Black Fox golden token has seven and can give you access to everything here for free at that. Simply put, this benefit can only be granted to a Purple Grade Alchemist!"

Ace was baffled by this information, he didn't think these golden tokens were so special, and he even got a unique one.

"Please give my sincere thanks to Elder Lan the next time you see him." He told Grey.

"Sure." Grey nodded and asked, "Where do sir Black Fox want to go?"

"I want to look at finger-skills."

"Finger type?" Grey pondered for a moment and her eyes brightened, "Please follow me I know where all the physical skills are stored."

Ace nodded and followed Grey toward the upper floors. He could see every floor was about the same, but the people were getting lesser and lesser as they climb the stairways.

They cross ten floors without stopping and Ace finally saw a change on the entrance of the eleventh floor, a light barrier was blocking their way. There were the same identification arrays like he saw on Aaden's counter.

After they press their token in the husk, the light barrier lifted, and they enter the eleventh floor. It was also the same as the lower floors, but the bookshelves were only half of the number compared to the lower floors.

He also saw a transparent light barrier dividing the other half of the floor and there were ten black bookshelves on the other side.

"That the restricted area only for soul cultivators." Grey introduces.

Ace's eyes shimmer with desire as he always wanted to get his hands on soul path skills.

After this brief stop, they found this kind of restriction and a restricted area for soul path on every floor. They both finally stopped on the seventeenth floor.

There were twenty large bookshelves and eight black bookshelves behind the transparent light barrier. There were only six alchemists on this floor and for the first time, Ace spotted someone behind the light barrier!

'A soul cultivator!' Ace's eyes narrowed. He could feel the atmosphere on this floor was heavy, and those three alchemists were on edge because of that one person.

Grey eyes also contracted after seeing that figure, she said in a sibilant voice, "Don't stare as long as we mind our own business we're good."

"The skills are here?" asked Ace.

"Yes, this is the specific floor for physical skills, but all the skills here are a low-grade warrior at the minimum. With sir Black Fox cultivation, it is impossible to read them, so just tell me whichever you want, and I can copy it for you. Once you enter the Qi foundation building realm, you can easily learn them." Grey stated.

Ace knew about these restrictions, but they didn't apply to him because of his heavenly cultivation.

"You can rest for a while, I'll call you once I select the skill I needed." Finn nodded and move toward those bookshelves.

Grey wanted to follow him but agreed in the end since he wanted to select alone.

If Ace wanted, he could show off his ability to read these skills with no restrictions, since Alvin and Lan know he can do it after the element bath. But it will also drag Grey in it, and it wasn't matched with Alvin's command either.

Moreover, he would take nothing from here, he was going to remember everything he needed and leave.

If it was any other time he would love to take his time on every floor and read everything he could but after learning the importance of the golden token, and it would also draw too much attention he gave up the idea.

However, this library was now on the theft list because of soul path skills and techniques!

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Chapter 192: Life Plexus

Ace was carefully browsing through the first bookshelf, it was filled with different colored old books. Whether it was skill or technique, their names were imprinted on books' spines.

He didn't find any finger base skill on the first shelf and move on to the next one.

Grey was watching Finn's movements, while also monitoring that figure sitting in the restricted area. As for those six blue alchemists they weren't worth much.

Half an hour pass and Ace has already checked eight bookshelves and still didn't find a single finger-based skill. Most of the skills were for fist, legs, or palm base, he already has some of them in his thief's space and even had a master-grade skill, so he wasn't interested in them.

On the sixteenth bookshelf, Ace finally noticed something.

'Stone Shatter Finger?' Ace looked at the green book with a hint of joy in his eyes. This was the first finger skill he found after searching for an hour.

He looked around and saw he was completely hidden behind those large bookshelves and swept his VIP token on an array engrave below the book container.

After a flash of light, the barrier around the book lifted, and he quickly grabbed the book. He didn't want to waste time and remembered the content of Stone Shatter Finger at lightning speed.

Ace has confidence in his memorizing ability, even before he cultivates he can easily remember everything and cultivation just make this ability even more perfect.

One has to know even powerful cultivators can't remember skills at first glance and only at a very higher level of cultivation one can get a photographic memory. But Ace has it even before he cultivated!

In five minutes, every single character written in that skill book was in his mind and he can recite it word to word now. He quickly places the book back and the light barrier appeared again, locking the book container.

Ace move on to the other shelf since there weren't any more finger-type skills there.

Grey saw Finn appearing again empty-handed, she was waiting all this time, and he still didn't find any suitable skill.

'The finger base skills are indeed rare since they're the weakest ones when it comes to physical type skills and no one bothers to learn them nowadays. I wonder why he wanted to learn them through?' Grey mused.

Ace found two more skills, one was, 'Star Finger', he finds it on the 21st bookshelf. While he finds 'Metallic Finger' on the 24th bookshelf. He naturally memorized them.

Now only the 25th bookshelf left, and he had little expectation of finding another finger base skill. He now has some idea these kinds of skills were rare after only finding 3 between hundreds of books and this library was not an ordinary one either!

Ace goes through those skill books one by one and just as he thought he didn't find another finger-based skill. He was about to turn around when his eyes landed on a book with a tatter dusty cover; it was at the very last book container.

What drew Ace's attention was; every book was in good condition with its name and everything intact, but this book had no description while its cover was tatter and dusty, and most importantly there wasn't any barrier protecting this book container!

Even with no barrier protecting this book, it was still there eating dust. Which also shows no one has even touched it.

This piqued Ace's interest and go toward the dusty book. He casually grabs the book and dust scatters the moment he touches it.

Ace blow the dust and open the first page and there was only one line written on it,

"Life Plexus"

Ace turn the page and there was a human body drawn on it with a complex meridian channels structure. On the other side was a very complex description of something called acupuncture points deeply connected with meridian channels within the human body.

Ace was fascinated because he never heard of acupuncture points before much less how these acupuncture points can cause major damage to the human body!

This wasn't a skill at all, this book was on mysteries of the human body like its critical points or acupuncture points. If everything written in this book was true, then one can easily subdue opponents with a single finger!

Ace read through the end, and he saw a single line on the last page,

"Everything in this book is just a theory based on my lifetime work as a physician... SLK..."

"SLK?" Ace frowned seeing this name, and he also understood why this book was unguarded because this was just the theory of someone and no one was interested in mere conjunctions.

Besides, there were impossible things described in this book, like how one can seal other people's Qi flow if they find a method of sealing acupuncture points. But it was just a hypothesis.

Ace still found this book quite fascinating and even got profound inspiration! He wasn't like the others, his thought process was different, and in his point of view, this book was a treasure trove if just these acupuncture points were real!

'I should research it and see for myself; whether acupuncture points exist! If they're real, then they're more than enough to fill that remaining gap!' Ace's eyes shimmer with ecstasy. Since no one wants it, I'll take it. No one would care if an unguarded book goes missing.'

After making sure no one watching, he stored the old book in his thief's space and pick a random fist skill as a cover. He can't return empty-handed.

Grey saw Finn coming back with a white skill book in his hand, 'He finally chose after wasting two hours.'

"I want to copy this 'Stone Fist'."

Ace casually gave this book to Grey, and she made a copy with an array for him. After placing the book where it belongs they were about to leave when the light barrier diving the restricted area shimmer.

A door size gap appeared in this light barrier and a petite girl in rune crafter robes walk out as the gap closed.

Everyone on the floor quickly avert their gazes as if they didn't want her to notice them.

Ace merely took a glance before doing the same.

This girl was beautiful as she walks gracefully toward the stairway, and she has an air of haughtiness around her. She was looking at everyone with disdain-filled eyes as if they were her servants.

When this girl saw armor and mask-wearing Grey, a hint of surprise flashed past her big gem-like eyes. Her gaze simultaneously rested on Finn's skinny figure, and she rapidly looked away with a hint of contempt, when she saw that slave mask.

She was a Soul River cultivator; how could she not sense the ominous aura from Ace's mask?

"Greeting, Lady Rune Crafter." Grey greeted her with a military salute when she saw her coming toward the stairway. Her eyes show deep concern.

"Mm..." That girl simply nodded toward Grey in response. If it were someone else, she might don't even glance at them.

The girl coolly leaves with no further pause.

'Is every rune crafter this complacent?' Ace thought with scorn.

He loathed this kind of people the most and if he wasn't undercover; he didn't mind giving this arrogant girl a thief symbol as a greeting and parting gift.

"Let's go." Grey finally move after some moments. She didn't want to bump into that girl again.

Even if she respects rune crafters, she didn't like their attitude as well.

Ace saw the Librarian Aaden reading the same book with a lewd smile and pulled an amusing face, 'This guy is totally from a different breed than others.' He thought.

It was his first time seeing someone making this kind of face so openly without even caring about what others thought of him.

"Hmph!" Grey snorted with scornful eyes and leave without even saying anything. She disgusts this old man.

Aaden nearly jumped hearing Grey's crisp voice and when he saw her leaving with no goodbye he grunted in resentment, "If you want to leave then just leave why are you disturbing this old man at such an important part!"

"Did, sir, want to go anywhere else?" Grey asked after exiting the library.

Ace wanted to go to the pavilions but quickly discarded the thoughts since he didn't want to draw too much attention, and it was especially the case after he learned about the history of the golden VIP token.

Besides, he didn't think there was something he can buy there with just 100,000CP, and buying an enormous bulk of pills might draw Lan and Alvin's unwanted attention. He didn't forget Grey was here to monitor him for Lan.

"Let's go to the Pavilions Lane." He said after some consideration.

Ace wanted a map of the city, and he wanted to see just how much wealth those alchemists have in pavilions lane!

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Chapter 193: Green Flame Pavilion

The pavilions' lane only exists in the Damien Kingdom's Flame City.

Everyone knows that only powerful and experienced alchemists and crafters can have a shop in this particular area of Flame City.

But what most of the people didn't know; this pavilions' lane was also a training ground for geniuses among alchemists and crafters.

The pavilions' lane was divided into two areas. The first area was from where the pavilions' lane starts, 'Entry Lane'. The second area was closest to the flame palace and only cover five miles of 20 miles long pavilions lane, 'Genius Lane.'

This genius lane was the area where only genius among alchemists and crafters obtain shops for free. Only people with bronze or silver VIP tokens can hire these alchemists and their price was sky-high.

Even if they failed, one still has to pay half the decided fee!

But people with high statues still come here despite the sky-high price because these geniuses were from pill flame!

These geniuses were relatively young and some of them were even sent here from high-level lands to gain experience!

The most famous shop here was the Green Flame Pavilion, run by the number one alchemist genius of the middle-lands, Green Flame!

Five years ago, this young girl appeared in this flame city and at that time she was only a blue rank alchemist and her age was only 18. And just a year after coming here, she achieves the Azure rank and becomes the youngest Azure Alchemist in middle-lands!

Her fame spread far and wide and nowadays, everyone knows who Green Flame was, and they even called her the Alchemist Queen of the middle-lands!

That's why no one dares to offend her nor cause any trouble in her Green Flame Pavilion.

The Green Flame Pavilion was distributed into three unique buildings, a shop, living quarters, and a workshop. The shop was seven-story tall with a beautiful outer appearance and the inside was even more lavishing.

On the top floor of Green Flame Pavilion's shop,

The interior was decorated with beautiful marble and different medicinal herbs in beautiful glass vases were used as a mere decoration.

At this moment a handsome young man in white silk robes was sitting leisurely while sipping on a fragrant tea and on both his sides were two ravishing beauties.

One in the blue dress with flower patterns was charming and seductive while the other in loose green robes looked innocent and friendly.

These three were the group who landed outside the flame city just three hours ago.

At this moment, a veiled lady in Azure Alchemist robes entered the waiting room. Her azure alchemist robes clearly can't hide her beautiful curves and well-developed chest. Her forehead was milky white, while her eyes were like shimmering stars. One can only imagine just how beautiful she would be if she removed that dark veil.

A dainty girl in blue alchemist robes was respectfully standing behind this veiled lady.

"Leave us alone." The veiled lady ordered in her mellow voice, which was pleasing to ears.

Like a loyal servant that blue alchemist leaves with no hint of disrespect.

The young man gracefully put the cup on the table and smile gently as he said, "It has been far too long since I last saw you, and you've become even more beautiful my dear, Zelda."

Yes, this veiled lady was indeed Zelda who once was the pavilion master of Jade Pavilion in Luminous City of low-level lands!

After Zelda and her aunt failed miserably in capturing that despicable thief they both returned empty-handed because that thief committed 'suicide' by diving into low-sky changing border's formation.

Zelda came back to her Green Flame Pavilion since she didn't receive any punishment for the failure because her aunt Layla took all the blame.

Zelda's life was returned to normal until that 'dead' thief emerge again, and she quickly reported it back to her clan in high-level lands. Now her clan was secretly searching for that thief again.

As for why she didn't want to return and even escape to middle-level lands in the name of training, it was precisely because of this handsome young man, who also happened to be her fiancé!

Now that her fiancé has come all the way here, she was ill at ease. If it was someone else who tease her like this, she would've already attacked and killed that person.

But she knew this fiancé of her was a cultivation genius and she as an alchemist didn't have any attacking power like him. She wasn't even sure if she could defeat his two Sword Maids beside him!

As for asking any help from the organization she knew it was useless since no one would dare to touch him as long as he states his background, not even Craft Elder Lan who was probably the only one who can handle him.

"Thank you for your praise, Crown Prince Marc. I'm honored." Zelda gracefully greeted the young man with royalty courtesy.

She probed first before taking any action, after all, it was highly likely that he wasn't here for her at all. She knew his nature very well, and that's why she didn't want to marry him but alas she can't go against her clan's wishes.

But there was a way that can help her escape this political marriage and that was if she entered the rank of the purple alchemist.

However, this gap was too great to cross, and she wasn't sure if she even had time. Her last hope to cancel this marriage and join the headquarters of Pill Flame was that blood rose in the possession of that thief, but it was also crushed!

The young man or Crown Prince Marc's smile widen when he saw Zelda behaving so timidly and said gently, "You two guard the door, I want to speak with my fiancé alone." He orders the two girls standing beside him who were also his sword maids.

"Young Mistress."

Those two sword maids greeted Zelda with smiles on their charming faces before leaving the room.

"Do the veil need to be intact even in front of me?" asked Marc with a meaningful smile.

Zelda didn't remove the veil and coolly replied, "Crown Prince, I made a vow to only remove this veil at my wedding. So, I have to apologize."

"Is that so?" Marc carefully measures Zelda's body from head to toe with his impolite gaze before saying, "How about I help you complete that vow, Tonight?"

Zelda's eyes turn icy cold the moment she heard this and even the slightest killing intent leaked her eyes.

Marc merely smile, sensing the killing intent, and coolly said, "What? I'm not even allowed to tease my beautiful fiancé?"

"I'm afraid... I'm not worthy of Crown Prince's teasing." Zelda forcefully suppressed her murderous aura, 'I have to endure, or he'll get an excuse to take me away!'

"Hahaha..." Marc laughed out loud, and suddenly an icy, ghastly aura filled the room. In front of this aura, Zelda's killing intent was nothing but child's play!

Marc speaks with a chilling smile plaster on his face, "How about this then, remove that veil, and I'll forgive you for making me wait in this shithole for an hour!"

He looked nothing like his handsome self anymore as his face was twisted with that nefarious aura.

Zelda trembled violently as her forehead filled with cold sweat and eyes contracted in deep fear, even with her Qi river cultivation she felt as if she was just an insignificant human standing in the middle of an icy storm!

Outside the waiting room.

"Heh, I told you His Highness was angry." The sword maid in blue dress giggles outside as she whispered in her companion's ear.

The sword Maid in green robes nodded with a serious and enraged expression on her face, "Who does that bitch think she is? She didn't even appear to greet His highness personally, and then she has him wait in this dirty shop for an hour. She has this coming. Hmph!"

Inside, Zelda subconsciously move her trembling hands toward her veil as her survival instinct told her; this was the only way to survive.

Just as she was about to grab the veil, the ghastly aura suddenly vanished, and she come to her senses. She hastens her hand away from her veil. She looked at Marc with intense horror.

Marc's gentle smile has returned as if everything happened earlier was just a horrible dream.

"See? I'm quite a reasonable person and since you're my future wife, I honored your vow. However, I'm quite disappointed in your resolution. Staying in this place makes you weak, and your potential is withering... Sigh..." Marc sighed with a piteous look in his eyes as if he was deeply concerned about Zelda.

"Just tell me everything about that Sky Stealer, and I'll overlook your past mistakes. Oh, and don't try to hide anything, or next time I won't stop until you remove every clothing on your body!"

Marc said with a gentle smile on his face, but in Zelda's eyes, this was the smile of a demon!

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Chapter 194: Dangerous Feeling

After leaving the flame library, Grey guided Ace to the pavilion's lane.

They both leave the Flame Palace's main gates and walk in the direction of the genius lane that was closest to the flame palace.

From time to time they would see alchemists moving past them and every one of them looked toward their direction with great interest since Ace was led by Grey a flame captain.

Those curious gazes did not bother Ace, and he was enjoying the lush greenery like he was on a promenade. He was in a good mood after finding something so interesting like Life Plexus inside the library.

After walking for some time, Ace spotted an exquisite seven-story building and a notable crowd of people outside, like they were waiting for their turn to enter. This piqued his interest since this was the first shop he spotted after leaving the Flame Palace, and it looked quite popular.

"Is there something unique about that shop?" Ace asked Grey.

Grey nodded slightly in affirmed, and she answered, "Yes, that's the Green Flame Pavilion of Miss Green Flame. She is the number one alchemist genius of middle-level lands and one of the Azure Alchemists..."

She told Ace about the amazing history of Green Flame and her rise as well as her unique position in Flame City.

Ace was astonished after hearing about this Green Flame and her reputation. He wasn't interested in alchemy, but even he could tell this girl was indeed a genius.

If he knows that this was the niece of the same woman who chase him near the sky-changing border and also the mastermind behind those wanted posters, who know how would he feel.

"I can buy anything with Qi stones, right? Or do I need CP?" asked Ace.

"Since this is a private shop, you can use Qi stones." Grey also added, "However, please bear in mind Green Flame Pavilion is number one shop in pavilion's lane and everyone in this shop either Miss Green Flame's help or work under her. This makes them very conceited, that's why sometimes they charge double from the actual price and get away with it since no one wanted to denigrate Miss Green Flame."

Ace understand Grey was alerting him, and he wasn't surprised about it in the least bit. He merely smiled underneath that mask and keep walking toward the busy Green Flame Pavilion.

Grey didn't know what Finn was thinking, since he didn't make any comments. With every passing movement, this person with the slave mask was becoming more mysterious.

Ace didn't enter that short line since Grey already told him they were here specific for Green Flame, not for the shop. He crossed the doors and enter the lavishing shop with Grey behind him.

The interior was very attractive and spacious, there were many glass displays with different colored pills bottles, and medical herbs behind them. Three green robe alchemists were standing behind a big counter and many white-robos alchemists were attending to the customers.

One thing that was worth noticing was every working alchemist in the shop was a beautiful woman.

Ace was amazed after seeing all these alchemists working like some servants with no shame or grievance.

"Sir Flame Guard, may I help you?" A beautiful white robe alchemist with round face approach Grey with a smile on her fair face. She didn't even glance at Finn since he was only a Qi gates brat.

Grey looked toward Finn and was astonished after seeing he didn't seem bothered at all, "I'm not your customer. He is!" She pointed toward Finn. She knew this would happen.

"HIM?" The petite girl finally turns around and looked at Finn with naked disdain. "What do you want?"

She asked with an aggravating tone. She didn't know who this masked brat was, but since he was with a flame guard; she has to give him some face. If he wasn't, she would've already kicked him out.

This girl's rude conduct did not bother Ace, and he calmly stated, "I need a map of Flame City."

"Just map?" asked the girl.

"I can only afford a map." Finn chortles.

"Hmph..." The white robe alchemist girl snorted with disdain and go to fetch the map. She wanted to do this task as quickly as possible, so this bumpkin could leave.

Ace completely ignored this 'attendant's' hateful glare and scan the shop. With his soul sense, he felt a powerful presence on the upper floors. He found it very normal since this was such a famous shop. He was more interested in those pills and herbs behind those glass displays.

Everyone one of them was at least at the Green rank and this was just the first floor, there were positively high-rank pills on the upper level of this shop, and he wanted every one of them!

"10 high-Qi-stones!" The girl was back with a white silk scroll in her hand.

Grey's eyes narrowed hearing the price, she knew this map's price wasn't this high and this girl can't demand the payment herself since that counter wasn't for just show, but she keeps her silence. She wanted to see what Finn do and would only help if he asked.

Ace didn't even bat an eye and placed ten crystal-like Qi stones on the table. He could sense the other 'attendants' know this girl was breaking the rules but didn't reprimand her.

'Heh, I'm looking forward to my next visit.' Ace thought with a faint sneer.

It displeased the girl when she saw Finn didn't even respond since she would've mocked him, however, now she handed the map without playing any tricks even she knows when to stop, and she didn't forget about Grey who did nothing all this time.

Ace place the map inside his thief's space with other maps and turn around to leave since he already measures this shop's wealth and their strength!

Grey followed Finn with no words when she saw him suddenly stop and noticed him quiver for a brief moment.

Ace's eyes were wide because he suddenly felt a nefarious aura for a moment from the upper floors!

He quickly recovered his composure and start moving toward the exit again.

Grey wanted to inquire about what happened just a moment ago, but Finn look fine now, so she said nothing and kept following behind him. However, she noticed Finn was walking a little faster than before as if he was in a hurry to leave.

'What happened to him? Is he finally angry?' Grey made a wild guess, 'It has to be it.'

Ace on the other hand was feeling very agitated and wanted to go back because that presence he felt for a moment was extremely dangerous. It was his first time feeling this kind of danger, one has to know even Alvin or Lan didn't cause his soul sense to react this way.

'Just who was it?' Ace thought with a grim face, 'If that presence wasn't concentrated on something else it would've discerned my soul sense!'

Ace knew his soul sense was never wronged before, and he was even confident that no one here can pinpoint it. However, after sensing that presence he wasn't sure anymore.

'That soul signature was clearly of someone at Qi river realm, but it was even dangerous than Qi River Core cultivators! There were three more Qi river realm soul signatures close to that person.' Ace mused.

"Sir Black Fox?" Grey's loud voice pulls Ace out of his deep thoughts.

"Ah, yes?" Ace looked at Grey.

"I was asking where you want to go next? Is everything alright?" Grey was now sure that something was going on with Finn after seeing him absent-minded for the first time.

"No, we're going back. I needed to go in secluded, I had an epiphany about the realm wall1 just a moment ago, so I don't want to miss this change." He lied.

"Oh, then we have to hurry back." Grey thought this had to be the case for Finn's strange behavior.

After half an hour they finally returned to the VIP area and all the way here Ace kept thinking about that strange encounter at Green Flame Pavilion.

Just when Ace and Grey were about to go inside the building, someone stops them between their steps. It was a tall man in flame guard armor.

"Flame Captain." He greeted Grey with common courtesy of the organization and look to Finn the next moment before saying, "Flame General invites sir, Finn for a chat."

'What does he want now?' Ace brace himself before following the Flame Guard, telling Grey to wait for him inside.

Since Alvin's place was next to his, it didn't take Ace long to reach there, and it was almost the same as the courtyard he was staying in.

"Flame General is waiting for you." Said flame guard, and he retreats after leaving Finn outside a room's door.

Ace was about to knock when a commanding voice sounded from the other side, "Enter!"

Ace took a deep breath and open the door, he didn't know what Alvin wanted from him, but he could vaguely guess; it has to be something to do with leaving for high-lands!

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Chapter 195: Plan Changed!

Alvin looked at Finn impassively and use his martial sense to measure him. It satisfied him to see Finn was just like before and didn't seem to change much.

"Sit." Said Alvin and after Finn do as he told, he continued, "I summoned you because I have good news for you."

"What good news?" Finn asked with an eager voice.

"I just received a reply from the headquarters after I told them about you." Alvin coolly said, "You can cultivate in soul path and the organization will fully support you in this. Furthermore, you'll be taught by ten soul cultivators present in Flame Palace until we returned to high-lands, and those ten are also rune crafters as well."

Truthfully, Alvin was laying reporting about Finn to the headquarters because he only reported it to his father. Alvin expected a protracted reply but to his stupefaction, he only received three sentences in his father's grim voice, and they were;

"Whatever the element physique boy needs, provide it. But at all and any cost; find that thief and bring him back alive. If you can't find him, then stay there forever!"

Alvin never expected this kind of solemn response, especially not from his ambitious father, Henrik. This also means that thief was even more important than a legendary element physique!

No matter how much Alvin mull over it, he didn't understand just why a petty thief was so significant to those old stick-in-the-muds. But one thing was obvious that he can't go back until he captures Sky Stealer and by the tone of his father, Henrik didn't seem to care about Finn at all.

This left an unpleasant taste in his mouth, and all his grand dreams turn to dust. He didn't know how he would be going to explain this to Lan since he promised him the glory.

In the end, Alvin decided to first deal with Finn, since the old man told him to provide anything Finn needs. He was planning to tell everything to Lan and have Lan prepare everything needed to erase Finn's Martial foundation personally.

He still thinks Finn can give him plenty of benefits on his own because he had a wood element physique and Alvin's innate element was also wood. Even if Finn cultivate Soul Wood Qi, this didn't mean Alvin can't benefit from it!

That's why he still dealt with Finn's matter first and then leave to search for that damn thief. It's not like he had any more clues about him at this moment, since he didn't appear for months.

"Thank you, Elder Brother!" Finn quickly thanked Alvin with a voice full of happiness.

However, inside, Ace was cursing his bad luck because he didn't think these guys would agree to his request this quickly. He knew if they start the process of altering his foundation, then they would find out there wasn't any foundation to erase at all!

'First that dangerous presence and now this bad news. Am I cursed with bad luck?' Ace thought with animosity. Still, he didn't let it show and still pretend like Finn.

Alvin smile faintly and said, "There is no need for thanks between us brothers and let me get rid of it for you as well there isn't need for it now."

Ace was confused about what Alvin was talking about when he saw Alvin taking out the slave item contract. It was his slave contract!

Alvin formed a hand seal as his aura grow denser.

Ace abruptly felt the slave item on his face heated up.

[Martial Slave Item has been removed by the owner]

[The fake conscious for martial slave contract has also been destroyed]

'What?! Then this means I wasted 500TP for nothing?!' Ace's face fell and thought, 'But why is he doing it? Is it because with this item they can't start the process of erasing the martial cultivation? It has to be it!'

Ace still knew little about the method of changing one's cultivation path, and this led him to make wrong assumptions. He didn't know Alvin was removing the slave item because he needed it for Sky Stealer, again.

This slave item was meant for him in the first place, and he just used it on Finn to intimidate those old men, but it seemed they didn't care about Finn at all. Now he had no choice but to play magnanimous to earn Finn's goodwill in the process.

However, Alvin still didn't know the truth about that slave item contract which was given to him by Flame Master William who get it from...

Cracks appeared on the black mask on Finn's face and the next moment it completely shattered, turning into dust particles.

Finn's thin face revealed again and there was a smile on his face filled with gratitude. He quickly bows toward Alvin and said, "Thank you! Elder brother for showing such trust in me."

Ace's real thoughts were opposite to his speech, though.

Alvin's smile widen, and he nodded in approval seeing his plan worked, "No need, you earned it. Now go back and wait until I discuss with elder Lan. Be ready because the process will be pain full, but the benefits easily outmatched the pain."

"Yes. I won't let Elder Brother down." Finn shows a resolute expression as his voice was solemn.

"Good, good. I know you won't disappoint me!" Alvin smiled kindly.

After that Ace was escorted back by the same flame guard.

When Grey saw Finn's face without the slave mask, she was shocked and curious about how did this happen. But Finn directly left for the cultivation room after telling her ambiguously that it was important for his cultivation.

Ace activates the formation barrier of the cultivation room and takes a deep breath. He stood there for a while before sitting cross-legged.

"I'm not ready for the mission yet, and I can't risk being exposed in front of two Qi river core cultivators. Sigh... I should've seen this coming, but I still wanted to theft the number one city of a giant like Pill Flame with my current strength, truly delusional." Ace mumbles bitterly.

After he saw Flame Place and the surrounding security with all those powerful cultivators within, he still didn't back down from his plan of theft this city first.

But today, after he felt that dangerous presence he finally wakes up from his fallacy and starts thinking about what would've happened if that person was someone from the flame palace.

He still didn't know the complete information about the flame palace, and his skills nor cultivation were enough to infiltrate the core reigns of the place. And after Alvin told him about the approval, this was the last straw that broke the camelback.

Ace has a realization that he was currently in the center of the enemy's base, and they even know about where he was. Although he got many benefits, he was still under watch.

Maybe, he forgot about what he was and why he was doing everything after getting all this free advantage, he should've seen this coming but kept telling himself; he can do this before they would find him.

Now, however, he understood just how big of a problem this mission was, and he was planning to theft one of the most powerful targets first, and he only realized this now.

'Well, looking at the bright side, I'm in the 1st-grade kingdoms-land and I even got something unexpected. I should've been happy by just this, but instead, I become too greedy. Heh, well, it's still not too late.' A sharp glint flash past Ace's eyes.

"I have to leave this city today!" Ace decided instantly, and he felt it was the right thing to do.

Ace closed his eyes and controlled his soul sense. His focus was Alvin's courtyard!

He was waiting for him to leave before taking any other actions. Although, he wasn't confident infiltrating the flame palace, but he was sure he can leave this city without alerting anyone.

Ace now just had to think about how he's going to disappear. He can either leave and cause a commotion, but it would probably backfire since Alvin and Lan weren't any idiots.

They can easily connect the dots and find out who he was since only one person has shown the ability to disguise himself to such an extent. If that happened then that means they would know just how powerful his disguise was, and he even demonstrates that he had an 'element physique'.

They would certainly come after him more strongly than ever, and it would make his mission more problematic.

He didn't want to give them more reason to chase after him and with more forces; he wasn't strong enough to escape from them yet, so he had to leave while keeping Finn's weak and innocent image intact.

Ace thought for a while when suddenly, his eyes lit up as his lips curled upward in a devilish smile, 'I can use that and benefit from this situation!'

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Chapter 196: A VIP Kidnapped!

Inside a room in Flame Palace, two men were in a heated discussion and an old man was especially fuming with anger. He was very incensed about something.

These two men were naturally, Alvin and Lan.

After Alvin told Elder Lan about the recent development regarding Finn, Lan nearly blew his top and bluntly called Alvin a fabulist and even though he was backing down from his promise.

In the end, when Alvin saw Lan was about to contact Flame Master William, Alvin quickly hand-over the message of his father he received this morning to Lan.

Finally, after Lan heard the recording his anger alleviated greatly, and believed in Alvin's words. But even for him, it was still hard to believe that Alvin's clan didn't seem to care about element physique much and a thief was more important to them.

This raise many questions in the old man's heart but no one was here to give him an answer since Alvin was in the same situation as him.

Between their dialogues, Lan received another long-distance message directly from the headquarters and the content was surprisingly the same as Alvin's father, and the person who send this message was non-other than Flame Master William!

Both, Alvin and Lan's faces turn decolorized when they heard William's husky voice, and this time William even ordered Lan to search with Alvin for that thief and leave Finn in the Flame City in the care of soul cultivators.

Besides this, nothing was mentioned about Alvin as if William was completely ignoring the topic and both of them know it wasn't like him at all. They finally understand the severity of this situation.

Alvin's face was ashen since he knew his father would never convey to William about Finn's special physique since both of their families were at odds.

Now, Alvin finally took this task more seriously than ever and Lan was even more scared since he could tell by William's voice that he was sounded somewhat dissatisfied.

Lan blamed all this on Alvin despite him being greedy himself.

After blaming and arguing with each other for a while, they finally focused on the task at hand and that was to change Finn's foundation.

Even Flame Master William told Lan to do it himself and provide Finn everything he needed before he searches for Sky Stealer with Alvin.

Lan quickly sent the other female Flame Captain to bring Finn, so he could start the process immediately. He even summons a bunch of flame guards and told them to monitor their information network and if that damn thief appeared again inform him post-hastily.

"I think you should head back to the 3rd-grade lands and keep a low profile, if that thief appeared again there are very high chances of him appearing there than any other place. We can easily corner him if someone like you is close by." Lan suggests with a stiff face.

Alvin has no choice but to nod in affirmation since Lan's words make sense, "I'm leaving 1st and 2nd Grade Lands in Elder Lan's hands then. If he appeared in these lands please immediately contact me, and I'm leaving my sister here this time."

"Fine, but make sure you won't get distracted this time!" Lan scoffed.

Alvin's face fell, but he didn't retort since he knew Lan was still angry because of what happened.

'I have to find out myself, just what's so special about you little thief!' Alvin thought with deep resentment. He never imagined a day like this would come when a flame general like him would send here to search for a petty thief!

Lan snorted and didn't say anything. He wasn't in the mood to even taunt Alvin anymore and keep waiting for Finn's arrival.

'I can't stay in one place all the time, I have to move personally once I discovered that Sky Stealer position.' Lan mused with a grim face.

At this moment, the door of the room where Lan and Alvin were waiting for Finn bang opened, and a masked flame guard entered with panic-sicken eyes.

Before Lan could berate the flame captain for her presumptuous entrance, she speaks in a panic tone, "Elder, the VIP guest has... gone missing!"

"WHAT!?" Lan and Alvin said at the same time as they quickly stand up from their seats.

"When I reached there, Grey told me he has gone in seclusion for cultivation... but when we try to contact him through the formation, we found out the formation was not active in the first place.

"We go to the cultivation room ourselves but still didn't get any response after calling for him, and open the door to check on the VIP, but when we got in he was gone and only a paper slip was there!" She quickly told everything to Lan.

"What SLIP?!" Alvin asked in a stern tone as his dreadful aura leaked.

She quickly handed a finger size paper slip to Lan.

Alvin and Lan's faces turned hideous as one could feel the suffocating murderous aura around them after they saw the paper slip.

There was only one sentence on it,

"Dear Alvin, I'm boring the boy, if he isn't the thief I'll promise to treat him like an esteemed guest. Your dear friend, BLACK." In the end, there was a skull drawing!

"Those presumptuous Ghost Bastards!" Alvin cursed as he used a movement skill to depart.

Lan quickly took out a circular formation plate with glittering blue color. He didn't have time to lock the entire city since it would take fifteen minutes, that's why he used this formation plate to examine the formations scattered all over the city.

Lan knew if the kidnapper was a Ghost, they had little time, and he wanted to find that person's exact location, so he could quickly intervene.

But to Lan's dismay, he didn't find any suspicious movement at all and the city was peaceful. His complexion was pale as he was grinding his teeth in anger, this simply mean Finn was gone!

This was a slap to their face and if the news got out that someone has kidnapped a VIP of Flame City, the organization would become a laughingstock of entire middle-level lands!

"Go, order every flame guard to assemble and spread the news in every 1st-grade kingdom. 'Anyone who deals with the Nightmare Ghosts will be the Flame Pill enemy!'

"Have our men attack their dealing dens, I don't care what method they used, I want the VIP back and have some looked for their hideouts. They went too far this time!" Lan orders her with an ugly face.

Even though it seemed the headquarters didn't care about Finn much but just the orders to give him everything he needs was enough to indicate they still care significantly much.

Now if they learn those ghosts kidnapped him under his thumb, Lan would be in deep trouble. That's why he didn't hesitate to attack Nightmare Ghosts dealing dens, since they were the ones who 'provoke' them first!

Alvin was using the treasure to spreading his martial sense in a thousand-meter radius. He was so angry that his eyes were bloodshot; he was moving toward the city gates.

Deep down he knew they were too late and if the kidnapper was the person who he thinks it is, then Finn was already gone and his martial sense also won't pick him!

'If those damn bastards find out about Finn's special physique, they would never give him up! I should've never released the slave item, damn it!' Alvin was regretting his decision of freeing Finn from the slave item.

Now he was even thinking that person was especially targeting Finn because of the slave item and the moment he removed it they took him away!

What both Alvin and Lan didn't know was they were playing someone else's game altogether!

Two miles away north from the flame city, a silhouette was blurring past on a random avenue. This silhouette speed was almost equal to a peak Qi river cultivator as his every step covered a three-meter distance.

One could vaguely see the silhouette was clad in black and a hood was covering his head. If one could see underneath that hood, there was an extremely handsome face of a young man. This was naturally Ace without disguise.

Ace escape the Flame City an hour ago when Alvin leave for Flame Palace. As for how he leaves without alerting those flame guards, simply he plunged the city wall with a rope!

He has the rope he bought from low-level lands and this simple method that only a formal mortal could think of.

Ace precisely chose the most barren area of the city wall after studying the map he brought today, and use his eye skill to see the formation on the wall, and to his amazement, there were many flaws!

He remembered every one of them with his photographic memory and use those flaws to climb the wall and then do the same to descend and escape the city!

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Chapter 197: The Damien Royal City

No one would've ever imagined this kind of method and even if they did, they had blind confidence in the formation protecting the city wall.

But Ace has a skill like Soul Shattering Eyes that can see through any flaw in formation, even if he could use it for a brief moment it was enough to see all the flaws.

He used it for an instant and escape the city before those patrolling flame guards could sense anything amiss. He didn't leave the rope or any trace behind.

In the end, his plan succeeds and even pin the blame on Nightmare Ghosts. He knew how much importance Alvin put on him, and it would surely infuriate him. As for Grey, his breathless stealth was enough to escape her perception.

In their eyes, Finn didn't have the skills to escape the city, nor any reason, so there was a certainty of 90% that they will believe in that little paper slip of his.

Ace couldn't help but smile with ecstasy, he took an enormous risk this time and if Alvin or Lan would've found out about his disappearance too quickly, he would force using the invisible bead.

But nothing like this seemed to happen, and he escaped the flame city with no hindrance just like a sneaky thief.

Ace's eyes shone with a sharp glint as his smile brooded, he now knows where the treasury was and even got the inspiration for one of his techniques and this was plenty enough for now despite that, he was frustrated.

It's not like he won't be coming back here in the future. And when he does, it would be like a thief!

'I don't have time to waste.' Ace put a serious expression when he thought about ten years, and he has to theft 30 places.

He almost wasted three months in a delusion to theft the flame city of Damien Kingdom first, and he knows he wasn't ready to raid any giants' cities in this kingdom right now.

Ace stopped briefly and study the map of Damien Kingdom's royal province, the closest city to the flame city was the Beast City of Beast Calling, but he didn't plan on going there, not right now at least.

After that was the royal city of Damien Kingdom, Damien Royal City, and he can reach there in a day at full speed.

After checking the direction, he put the map back in the thief's space and like a phantom moved again.

The Damien Royal City was very lavish but compare to Flame City it was thoroughly lacking. Like it didn't have formations scattered over the entire city nor a formation barrier or formations on city walls.

The power structure was also lacking, but there was still a powerful Qi River Core Damien King overseeing the city. Even the arrogant people of the three giants have to give Damien King some face.

The Damien Royal Family's history was very glorious as they were once only a 3rd-grade kingdom and their rise were very astonishing as well as mysterious. But no one seemed to solve that mystery even today.

Some believe the first Damien King stumbled upon some old inheritance, and some other rumors were this kingdom has the support of one of three giants. The majority believed in the latter since this was the only plausible explanation.

At this moment, a young man with plain looks yet lavishing clothing was sitting in a demonic horse carriage. If not for his clothing and air of nobility around him, one could simply consider him a commoner.

This youth with plain features was Ace in Ryan's disguise. He reached the city last night and easily infiltrate it. He bought some expensive clothing of nobles in the Damien Kingdom and wore them, so he would not attract any unwanted attention.

Ace find this city much to his liking since there weren't any hidden formations on the streets and most importantly no one knows who he was or what he was.

"Young Master, we reached the Beast Calling Colosseum." The coachman opened the door for Ace with a respectful attitude. Everyone in this city has a noble background since no one can enter without having it.

That's why people here think twice before offending someone and without searching their background no one act. Even a common-looking young man can be an aristocrat of a dukedom.

"Here, keep the change." Ace handed a middle-level Qi stone to the coachman and disembark the carriage.

As for why he was here, it was to leave the Damien Kingdom and the fastest way was; to travel through the Beast Calling Colosseum in Damien City.

After leaving the carriage Ace directly move toward the Colosseum's reception since its structure was the same as the regal kingdom's, but it was much grander and beautiful.

Ace pays two hundred high Qi stones to buy a seat ticket in the fastest category beast. He got it quite easily since this place wasn't like the third grand kingdoms and there isn't any need for auction either.

His destination was the Leap Kingdom, number ten in the ranking and weakest one in 1st grand kingdoms. Ace chose this kingdom for many reasons, and one of them was to become stronger. How he was going to do it, only he knows.

To Ace's surprise, he was the last passenger of this fastest category beast which mean he didn't have to wait like others for new travels.

This time Ace's ride was a 5-meter large Scarlet Wing Lion.

Beside him were five more people in different luxurious robes. Three of them were beautiful women in their late twenties and two middle-aged men. All of them were cultivators of the peak Qi foundation realm.

Speaking of which, Ace didn't find any mortals in this city and everyone was a cultivator, and this gave him a surprise. He somewhat understands why this kingdom was so powerful since they didn't allow any mortals in this city, not even in this province!

The beast tamer was a graceful girl in her early twenty, and she was at the Qi river realm. She didn't greet anyone nor even reply to others' greetings. She simply told them to embark on the beast, since she didn't want to waste time.

Only Ace cultivation was in Qi gates realm, and everyone looked at him with hidden disdain and completely ignored him. It isn't like he minded it in the least bit. On the contrary, he appreciates it very much; he didn't want anyone to pay any attention to him.

'Ten more days before I reach my destination.' Ace thought as he looked at the clear golden sky and blurry lands beneath.

He was sitting on the very end of everyone, and no one was paying attention to him. He took an old book from his thief's space and began to read it. It was the Life Plexus book he steal... ahem... took from the Flame Library.

Ace didn't get any chance to research it since those unanticipated events happened too fast, and he even had to flee from the place. But now that he was alone, and he had spare time, he would not waste it sitting.

He opened the book and start observing the diagrams of the human body and acupuncture points described on the other page.

'Acupuncture points are Life points in meridians and each has its different functions. Most of the Life points remained blocked for a lifetime in the human body, and we can only use seventy percent of our body's full potential...'

Ace engross in the book as he carefully remembered every life point's exact location and how one can open or seal them. Although it was a mere theory of a person, it was still quite practical.

The person writing this book or SLK's thoughts were quite profound as he boldly wrote that these effects cannot be achieved with just Martial Qi nor Soul Qi, in his opinion if someone could find a process of combining two Qi, it can achieve the effect!

'No wonder this book was unguarded. Those people simply consider him a madman, and even if they believe him, they probably didn't succeed.' Ace thought, 'Let me try this since I have both Qi's, and I won't waste more time if this is just a madman's theory.'

Ace looked around and there was still no one paying any attention to him. He secretly formed a soul thread on his index finger and a heavenly Qi thread on his middle finger.

Forming threads has become the second nature of his since he practiced it tirelessly for rune crafting.

Ace controls the two Qi's and both black and orange color Qi form a two-color thread. They were combined, but they didn't mix.

Ace controlled the two-color thread and create a little seal of pea size. After checking one last time that no one was looking, he gradually shot that seal to his wrist where a Life point was supposed to be.

He didn't think his own Qi's could hurt him, that's why he used it on himself first, just to check for any kind of effects.

But the second that seal enters his meridians, Ace's face turned ashen!

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Chapter 198: Probing Leap Queen's Memories!

Ace wore a grim face as he looked at his left hand that was completely paralyzed. He tries to move it but to his dismay, it won't move no matter how much force he used.

Although he could still feel his hand, the problem was he can't move it, and even HD-Qi wasn't circulating in it anymore as if it cut the meridian channels of his hands off!

'It succeeds!?' Ace's eyes shimmer with ambiguity.

Truth to be told, Ace didn't have any high hope for this thing to work, and he only took that book because it seemed interesting. But now that this method worked he didn't know how to respond.

Furthermore, Ace wasn't any normal cultivator and if this method even worked on him, then this means it can work on anyone!

'But why does no one research it before?' Ace mused.

He didn't understand just why this kind of book was left unguarded in a place like Flame Library, and why this book wasn't in some secret chamber of the flame pill organization.

What Ace didn't know was; before him, this book changed many hands, and its profound theories attracted every single person. But no one ever succeed in it, and the last person who had this book was an Azure Alchemist.

That alchemist put quite a time into researching it and even manage to bribe a rune crafter to help him in the research, but all his effort meet failure. Dishearten, that person didn't even put this book back to its place that the 29th floor!

He left it on a random bookshelf since he felt this book was just a waste of time for others as well. That's how this book landed in Ace's hand after eating dust for many years.

What anyone didn't think was what if, the required Qi's both soul and martial came from the same person?

Qi was unique to every person, and that's why the Qi mark and Soul mark exist. Every person has a different Qi signature or Soul Signature.

Even if this thought surfaced in anyone's mind, it was night-impossible to achieve since no one can cultivate both Qi's at the same time!

However, Ace wasn't like others, he was cultivating both Qi's from the start, and he was the only one who could use them so meticulously.

Now, Ace has achieved something that not even the creator of this book, SLK, wasn't able to achieve and this wasn't a laughing matter!

If Ace master everything in this book he could easily render his enemy helpless by blocking their life points!

But he still had a long way to go because this book was just a fantasy of a person, and it needed more research. Like how he's going to unseal his hand.

Ace calmed his enthusiastic heart and try using the Heavenly Darkness Qi to break free from that two-colored seal. But it didn't seem to work at all and the HD-Qi only chip away the slightest part of the pea-size seal.

'At this rate, I'll have to wait for three days before this seal could be fully dissolved. At least it isn't permanent.' Ace thought as he enraptured himself. This was a monumental discovery, and he was even more serious to research the other theories in this book.

Ace continued to use HD-Qi to dissolve the seal while he continued to study the old book.

No one pays any attention to him, even if they glance at him, they would instantly lose interest since he was holding an old book.

The beast tamer girl also glances at him from time to time, and she was quite curious about what this boy was reading with an impassive face. But her pride as a beast tamer didn't allow her to even talk with him, much less inquiry about the old book.

After three days the seal in Ace's wrist ultimately dissolved, and he could use his hand and Qi again.

In these three days, he was mulled over different theories in the book with diligence, and he has his thoughts on some of them. But he didn't dare to try them on himself anymore.

He was curious, but he wasn't a madman, he kept considering what he can do with this knowledge and that seal gave him a very good direction to work on. But he wanted to first find a method to unseal that seal.

Ace could tell his heavenly Qi can easily dissolve that seal since it was made by heavenly soul Qi and heavenly martial Qi.

But what would happen if he put these seals on a normal cultivator, they didn't have heavenly Qi which probably means they would be completely helpless. He wanted to control this properly, and he thought of a way to achieve it.

More days passed in peace, the scarlet wing lion speed finally decreased on this day, and it descended from the sky.

Ace opened his eyes and looked at the large city below him. It was the capital city of Leap Kingdom.

The scarlet wing lion finally landed inside the Beast Calling Colosseum of Leap Royal City. The journey ends as everyone thanked the beast tamer girl and leaves the Colosseum.

Ace strolled around the lavish city deep in thought. His goal was to become stronger and the fastest way was through stealing or increasing his cultivation by finding an elemental orb.

The latter was the more assuring path since many restrictions on him would instantly be lifted. The problem was the elemental orb and its position.

He has some idea where to look, but the issue was what next? How could he beat the orb guardian which would probably be more powerful than the last one?

He didn't want to use the same method of going through the heavenly punishment while nearly dying in the process. He did not know how he survives last time either, but he will not be going to put his life on the line based on dumb luck anymore.

So, first, Ace had to confirm the presence of the orb and then find 'helpers' to deal with the orb guardian, and he had an excellent scheme in his mind.

But before he does anything he had to find a way to deal with heavenly lightning, if push comes to shove, he had to prepare for activating the heavenly turbulence again.

That's why he was here because the Leap Kingdom's royal family was in the possession of a lightning-type protective treasure! It was the national treasure of the Leap Kingdom and a symbol of pride.

Ace didn't know if it would be enough to deal with the heavenly lightning, but it was far better than having nothing. Besides, he wasn't just going after this one lightning treasurer; he was planning to steal every lightning type treasure or anything related to lightning!

One had to know lightning was a very rare element, and treasures related to it were even rarer. The Leap Kingdom possessing one was already considered out of the place.

With Damocles of time over his head, Ace was planning on acting as soon as possible. He didn't put these Kingdom-level treasures in his eyes after seeing the defense of Flame Place.

He just needed some information, and he knew how to get it without no falsely.

There was still the problem of others finding out his position if he left a thief mark behind, but he didn't care about it anymore, since now Ace wanted others to know where he was!

Ace was going toward the Leap Royal Palace with full speed, no one saw him even after he passed by in front of their eyes. Even those royal guards of the Qi River realm were standing there like idiots when he flashed past them like a phantom.

After some twists and turns, Ace was inside the royal palace. He meticulously scans the area five hundred meters with his soul sense and move toward a specific direction.

Ace spotted a graceful slender woman in beautiful golden long gown, she had an air of supremacy and arrogance around her as she was followed by many beautiful maids. She was the Queen of Leap Kingdom!

His lip moved upward seeing this dignified woman because she was only a middle Qi foundation stage cultivator. Without moving Ace use the soul probing on her, and she noticed nothing at all and keep moving with her conceited face.

Ace started to get the Queen's memories the very next moment.

Now that he was at the peak of the Heavenly Foundation stage he can read the memories while stealing them at once.

First, he got many useless memories of how she was from a dukedom and how she was in an affair with the king's brother!

Ace even felt sympathy for the Leap King, who's being cuckolded by his own younger brother. But wasn't distracted by this small matter and continued to use his soul probing without stopping.

He finally got what he wanted, like the structure of the palace and where the treasury was hidden!

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 199: Theft The 1st Grade Kingdom!

Ace kept reading the Leap Queen's stolen memories in sequence.

Suddenly a frown surfaced on his serene face because from her memories he discovered the Lighting Treasure wasn't in the treasury since this woman has been there many times and only the King know where it was.

This means the treasure was with the King or hidden somewhere else in the Leap Palace.

Ace couldn't probe the memories of a Qi River cultivator yet, which made this even more cumbersome. He stopped using soul probing and move south, deeper into the palace.

He was going toward the King's Library, where the King would be at this moment, according to the Queen's memory.

Ace encounter some empty Qi river royal guards, but he easily flickered past them.

After crossing a big corridor, a tall silver door came into his view. This was the King's Library where only the Leap King can enter, not even the Queen can enter this place without his permission.

He used the runic eyes and just as he presumed, a formation protected the door, and it was probably a 6-mortal rune formation.

He also sensed a soul signature inside the library which was at the peak of the Qi river realm, it was most likely of the Leap King. Furthermore, there were two hidden Flowing Qi river cultivators in that large corridor.

According to the Queen's memory, these two were the Royal Life Guards of the King, and they were always hiding in shadows, protecting him.

Ace knew his limits and he wasn't their opponent. Nevertheless, he was going to try stealing the storage ring of Leap King!

If this didn't go well, he can always escape, since no one can stop him here. Others would probably assume him an assassin who failed in his mission to 'kill' the king.

'I have till evening where this guy come out, with those two guards I can't enter the library since I have to use soul-shattering eyes to open the formation and show myself. Waiting is more convenient.' Ace mused. 'Since I have time, I should do something. Oh, now that I already know where the treasury is, it would be impolite to just leave it with 'paying a visit, right?'

A thievish smile appeared on Ace's face as he vanished from the grand corridor, and his direction was the Leap Treasury!

Everyone in the palace knows the treasury was somewhere underground, but it was just a sham and this treasury was a dummy treasury to fool others.

The real Treasury was hidden in the throne room, right behind the golden throne, with an invisible and alarm array protecting it. Only King and Queen know about it.

At this moment, a black-clad figure in a hood appeared behind the throne. It was Ace.

Wasting no time, he used true and false eyes and found the arrays and their flaws. After using the second form of Treasure opening hands, 'Two-Finger Key' five times in succession, the array finally opened, revealing a golden door.

Ace had to use the soul-shattering eyes since there was a formation lock on the golden door. After finding flaws, he used the fifth form 'Lock Tearing Key' and the door opened with a click.

Behind the door was a vast space, and there were many colorful, shimmering lights. These were the treasures of leap kingdom, they accommodate many years!

However, Ace didn't step inside right away and used the runic eyes, and just as he suspected there was a formation on the ground and an invisible formation barrier in front of him.

If he had entered right away, the formation would alert the entire palace and trapped him there until someone come and captured him. Well, he can also escape this, but he would be exposed too early, and he didn't want that.

He used the soul-shattering eyes for ten seconds before he remembered the flaws. But this was his limit after entering peak stage heavenly foundation, anymore, and he will suffer a huge backlash!

With beads of perspiration on his forehead, he used the fifth form 'Lock Tearing Key again on the barrier and a small opening appeared, and he entered the treasury while stepping on the flaws on the ground formation.

Seeing all those glittering pill bottles, rows of sharp weapons, one small mountain of peak Qi stones as well an enormous mountain of high-level Qi stones, Ace wanted to laugh out loud since this was the biggest loot he has ever seen till now!

'Time to get to work.' Ace thought with elation.

After fifteen minutes, Ace came out of the treasury with an ecstatic smile. He could not hide his huge grin as he stares at the notification he just received.

[Host has stolen treasures worth 74,000 TP]

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

[First Middle-level thievery reward: 5,000TP & Basic-Talisman Crafting Technique (LOCK)]

[Thief Point(s): 109,000]

Truth be told, it was Ace's first-time getting rewards from the system without doing any mission, and his thief points also crossed the threshold of one hundred thousand for the first time. That's why he was elated

'System what is this basic-talisman and why the hell is it lock? Are you trying to swindle me of my hard-earn reward?' Ace asked with an unhappy tone.

How could someone not be dissatisfied when they 'earn' a free reward, but then someone just locked it away?

"[Host did not achieve Tier-1 Heavenly Rune Crafter Rank, that's why the reward was locked. The moment, host achieve the Tier-1, the reward will naturally be unlocked.]"

'So, this thing is related to rune crafting?' Ace deemed and didn't inquire any more, since now he knows he'll get it when he reached the tier-1 rune crafter.

'Thief Panel.' Ace opened the thief panel after a long time.

[[Thief Panel]]

[Job [NOT Changeable]: Thief]

[Thief Name: Sky Stealer]

[Thief Title: Disciple of Darkness]

[Thief Rank: Novice]

[Thief Fame [Host and Symbol]: High]

[Thief Symbol: Dark Owl]

[Summoning Symbol: unlocked at the Popularity Level, Fame]

[Job Mission: 0]

[[Thievery Count Section]]

[Low-Level Thievery: 35]

[Middle-Level Thievery: 1]

[High-Level Thievery: 0]

[Thievery needed to reach next Rank: 500 Low-Level Thievery]

=====

Ace was thrilled after seeing his fame has reached High-level, and he also got Middle-level thievery.

He needed [Popularity-level] Fame to summon thief's symbol, and he was confident of achieving it this time around after he looked at the vivid big owl symbol on the treasury wall. It mysteriously appeared after he got the notification of middle-level thievery!

It was 10 meters large and deeply engraved on the center wall. However, there was a difference this time, there was golden writing on the owl's sharp dark wings, 'Sky Stealer'!

Ace guess it was all because of middle-level thievery, and the wording was also in the language of the golden sky world, not in the ancient god language the system used. This means anyone could read it!

Now he didn't need to leave a Qi stone and everyone would know who the 'artist' was. After admiring the vivid owl symbol, Ace closed the door, and the formation arrays were instantly active.

Ace left the throne room and wait for his next target, the Leap King, to come out!

In the evening, the library's silver door opened and a handsome middle-aged man in red King's robe come outside. He had a 1.7-meter tall burly build, and he wore a tranquil yet complacent face. His eyes were like an intelligent hawk. This was none other than the Leap King!

The Leap King exit the library and the silver door automatically closed because of the formation. Without looking back, the Leap King walks out the corridor.

No one was following him, but the Leap King know his guards were shadowing him.

At this moment, a transparent orange thread as fine as a hair, meticulously move toward Leap King's right hand where he wore a beautiful silver ring.

The fine thread was as if it has its own life, it moved without alerting the Leap King and gently wrapped around the silver ring!

The Leap King sensed nothing amiss as he continued to move with no care of his surrounding since he was confident in the security of his palace. Besides, who dare to sneak inside the palace of a 1st-grade kingdom in broad daylight.

Even, nightmare ghosts didn't assassinate anyone in broad daylight.

While the Leap King was moving haughtily, he didn't notice his cherished storage ring has been disappeared and an owl tattoo has appeared in its place!

In the corner of a corridor, Ace was looking at the invisible notification panel carefully while a silver ring resting in his hand. He didn't dare to remove the Qi mark since it would alert the Leap King.

[Host has stolen treasures worth 43,900TP]

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

[Low-Level Thievery: 36]

[Thief Point(s): 152,900]

Ace frowned and asked, 'System is there any lighting type treasure in this ring?'

Since he can't find out from the long thievery report, he directly asked the system!

"[Yes]"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 200: Whereabouts Of Sky Stealer

Ace's lips rose in an ecstatic smile when the system voice sounded in affirmative.

Since the treasure was in his hand now was time to leave the Leap Palace, before the Leap King realized his storage ring has gone missing and an owl tattoo replaced it.

Within a few minutes, Ace was already outside the palace, and he didn't stop there and move toward the city's gates.

Ace knew once the news of him being here spread, the whole mob of enemies will flood this place, and he had to start the preparation of his big plan post-haste before it happened!

Inside the Leap Palace,

The Leap King was strolling toward the Queen's chamber with an ambiguous face. Today he was in a good mood because he just received the report of his youngest son reaching the last trial of Damien Royal Institute.

He was going to tell his wife the Queen about this good news and also 'celebrate' with her for the night. He subconsciously touched his ring finger because of a habit.

Like always, he expected a metallic touch but to his surprise, he only felt his warm skin.

The Leap King finally looked at his ring finger with a puzzling gaze and when his eyes landed on the ring, there was a strange bird tattoo, not the storage ring!

The King's brain immediately ceased working for a moment, his widely opened eyes nearly left his skull while his whole body started to shake uncontrollably.

The very next moment thereafter, the King vomited a large amount of blood as his face turned ashen like a ghost.

"Your Majesty!" Two thunderous voices filled with stupefaction and trepidation sounded as two men clad in black armor appeared beside the Leap King.

They first thought it was an assassination attempt and released their auras to the fullest. But they didn't find anyone.

When they finally looked toward the Leap King, they were stunned because the King's face was twisted with madness and abhorrence. They never saw the composed Leap King like this before.

They didn't dare to speak anymore since they could feel the thick icy killing intent rising from the King. Even they were afraid if they speak, he might kill them.

The King's eyes were bloodshot as he looked at the owl tattoo with deep, thick aversion. He clearly remembered seeing this symbol months ago, and he knew who the owner of this symbol was. He sends a small party to search for him but never succeeds.

Never in his wildest dreams, he imagines this person one-day theft from him and giving him this symbol for a lifetime. The most infuriating thing was, he didn't even know when that bastard stole the storage ring!

His murderous aura reached its peak, he shrieked in a hoarse voice and the entire palace heard it.

"That DEGENERATE THIEF!!!"

Those two guards' faces were pale since they were closest to the Leap King.

The King's words confused them when they also abruptly remembered hearing about something very astonishing months ago. They quickly looked at the King's hand and their faces lost all blood when they spotted the owl tattoo.

"HOW?!" One of them couldn't help but blurt out in befuddlement.

The Leap King controlled his chaotic emotions since he was a ruler of the nation and also a powerful peak Qi river cultivator, there weren't many things that can jolt his emotions to this extent.

However, this calm didn't last long when he thought about the treasury, and he sprang toward the throne room at full speed. Although the treasury was hidden, he still wanted to check himself to calm his agitated heart.

The king finally enters the throne room as he flipped his hand to take out the formation key from his storage ring when he spitefully remembered it was gone with the storage ring!

He nearly spat another mouthful of blood, but he calmed himself since there was another key in the Queen's hand. He turned around to go toward the Queen's chamber hurriedly when his steps froze in the place the moment his eyes landed on the golden throne's back.

There was beautiful writing that wasn't supposed to be there,

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"[Thank you for the generous gifts, I accept them all graciously, Your Majesty.

"Since I took his Majesty gifts, I am too ashamed to leave without giving something back.

"I'm giving you a gift of truth, and it's hundred percent true, believing it or not is your problem.

"The truth is: Your Wife is sleeping with your brother for 19 years and your youngest son is also their 'product' not yours. Just go in your brother's manor before night and in his bedroom, you'll find your wife and him doing... if you know what I mean... hehe.

"Your loyal subject, Sky Stealer!]"

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The Leap King finally couldn't take it anymore and vomited two consecutive mouthfuls of blood after reading Ace's 'sincere' message.

He was so angry, he laughed like a maniac with a twisted face. He knew the treasury has been compromised as well. Hundreds of years of accommodating treasures were gone as well as the national treasure in a single day!

"Why Us?! What we have ever done to you?!!!" The Leap King's ashen face was filled with despair, hatred, and madness.

This was the starting of an unforgettable storm that the Sky Stealer was about to stir in Middle-level lands!

The very next the day, the morning was sunny and calm like every day, but the people weren't because of two shocking news. Each one was more shocking than the other.

The first was the Flame Pill Organization announced, falling out with Nightmare Ghosts Organization. The reason was unknown, but the Pill Flame announced whoever deals with the Nightmare Ghosts will face their wrath.

No one dare to take this warning lightly since they knew what was the meaning of falling out with the Pill Flame Organization; their supply of pills and weapons will be cut off by them since all the alchemists and crafters were under their banner.

This news was the biggest news when another even more stunning news surfaced. The entire middle-level lands shake because of this.

This news was about the infamous thief, Sky Stealer who had appeared again, and this time he does something unimaginable. The Sky Stealer theft the entire Leap Kingdom Royal Palace and stole the Leap's King storage ring right under his nose!

First, no one believes this since this was a 1st-grade kingdom not some 3rd-grade kingdom like the Regal Kingdom but when the Leap King publicly confirmed this claim, everyone exclaimed and many people began to feel uneasy.

Because if that thief can steal from a 1st-grade kingdom and escape right under a peak Qi river realm cultivator, this means he can also rob them, and they won't even know until it's too late, just like Leap King!

The Leap King also purposed a Union Meeting between the ten 1st grade kingdoms to hunt down the Sky Stealer before he targets them, and the response was very shocking.

Every 1st-grade kingdom agreed, even the Damien Kingdom, within three days and this meeting was going to be held in the Leap's Place in a week!

The Leap King also does something very shocking the very day he purposed the meeting, he executed his wife the Queen, and his younger brother!

Furthermore, this wasn't the end of it, the Leap King also eradicate the Queen's entire clan and disown his youngest son!

No one knows the reason behind this madness, but everyone thought that the Leap King has gone mad, and he was no longer suitable for the ruling. But everyone's opinion changed when the news leak from the Leap Palace.

It said the Queen and King's younger brother were found doing adultery by the King and the youngest son was also not his and born from the younger brother of the King!

Everyone thought after that the King's actions were very reasonable, and no one called him mad anymore.

Even with all this shocking news together, the appearance of Sky Stealer took the top, and he became even more mysterious in others' eyes.

Nonetheless, the thief's whereabouts were exposed, and he was now in the 1st Grade Lands, and he didn't seem to be afraid of anyone!

Some people called him a degenerate, some called him a liberator, some people even called him a Judge because he only steals from those in power, but these people were very low in number, and most of them were from the lowest social class.

Many poor youngsters or those who were injustice by the system tried to imitate the Sky Stealer, but they didn't have the skills and got caught by the guards. Those who succeed leave traces behind and meet with a fate worse than death.

Those in higher positions quickly hid these 'little' incidents.

However, now everyone in power could tell if no one stopped the Sky Stealer the consequences will be very dangerous and unimaginable!