

Thief 201

Eternal Thief

Chapter 201: The Big Shots Of Middle-level Lands!

Today was like a carnival in Leap Royal City because this was the day of the Union Meeting between ten first-grade kingdoms. The reason for it was very simple, to capture the notorious thief, Sky Stealer!

It was truly iconic because a single person and thief nevertheless have forced these powerful figures to come under a roof.

Furthermore, all these people never get along and always scheme behind each other's backs. However, now they were here to work together for a single thief!

Those in power were very excited about this because they were afraid of Sky Stealer would come to their territory next and rob them of their entire wealth.

These were those people who love wealth before anything else and some of them earned it through underhanded means, like slave trading, gambling dens, pleasures houses...

As for those who think the Sky Stealer was doing nothing wrong, they were somewhat anxious because they didn't want this legend to die so quickly.

But alas, they can't express their opinion because they knew in these past few days people who speak positively about Sky Stealer, mysteriously vanished. Some knowledgeable fellows guess that those in power didn't want another Sky Stealer appearing while one was still tumulting.

Now, everyone's focus was on the Union Meeting between the ten 1st grade kingdoms and how they're planning to deal with the sly thief!

Inside the Leap Palace's throne room,

The Leap King was sitting on the newly built golden throne, he destroyed the old one because of certain someone.

The Leap King looked pale and his face has sunk as some wrinkles surfaced on his face, it was as if he aged twenty years. The vagarious Leap King days ago has turned into an old man whose eyes filled with hatred and killing intent.

Those two lifeguards beside him looked anxious at this moment. They know the biggest blow their King suffered because of the matter with the Queen and his younger brother's betrayal. It was all because of that thief, and they hated him to the core.

Suddenly, the throne room's gate opened and someone announced in a blasting voice,

"The Earth King of rank ninth Earth Kingdom has arrived!" A brawny man with a fierce expression on his face entered the throne room.

It was a costume to announce the rank of the Kingdom with the King's title.

It's considered an honor and a reminder of the power a 1st-grade kingdom held. Kings of 2nd-grade kingdoms didn't have the right to bask in this honor and instead, their true name will be used in these announcements.

"The Blue Queen of rank eighth Blue Kingdom has arrived!" A curvaceous woman with a refined face made the next entry.

"The Warren King of rank seven Warren Kingdom has arrived!" An old man supporting gray hair while wearing an elderly smile entered the throne room.

"The Misty Queen of rank sixth Misty Kingdom has arrived!" Another Queen's entry was announced, but this queen wasn't young like the Blue Queen, she was an old woman supporting white hair.

"The Golden King of rank fifth Golden Hammered Kingdom has arrived!" A handsome middle-aged man with a slender build and golden hair enter.

"The Luminous King of rank fourth Luminous Kingdom has arrived!" A scholarly middle-aged man entered, if Ace was here he would've shocked because this man resembled his friend Bill, or it was Bill who resembled him!

All these seven people inside the throne room were at the peak of the Qi River realm, and all of them controlled the biggest powers of middle-level lands. No one spoke as they all keep standing in front of their seats since the three big shots were about to come!

Only the Leap King keep sitting with an icy face as if he didn't care about ethics anymore.

The others also didn't ruffle his feathers, since they know just how much this guy has lost, and he was like a wounded lion, who'll attack anyone without caring about his own life!

"The Scarlet King of rank third Scarlet Kingdom has arrived!" A tall, slender middle-aged man with scarlet hair entered the room with a stiff smile.

"The Lavender Queen of rank second Lavender Kingdom has arrived!" An extremely gorgeous woman with a seductive, curvaceous figure entered the room. Her snowy face was impassive yet perfect as her gem-like intelligent eyes filled with indifference.

This woman considers the most beautiful woman of entire middle-level lands. Rumored has it even the Damien King courted her, but it was all just a rumor.

Every man in the room sneaking a peek at her even the cold Leap King showed a hint of desire but no one dares to be impolite to her because this dead gorgeous woman was half-step into the Qi River Core realm and only the Damien King was powerful than her!

"The 1st King of Middle-lands, his majesty, the Damien King, has arrived!" This time the announcement differed slightly from the other rulers.

A tall man seemingly in his early thirties entered the room. He had a fair, handsome face with long black hair. There was a dark silver crown sitting on his forehead. He wore a gentle smile as he looked at everyone.

When his eyes landed on the Lavender Queen, his eyes show intense desire and gentleness for a moment, and he hid it the very next moment.

The Damien King took his seat beside the Lavender Queen and closet to the throne of Leap King. Every ruler of the middle-level lands was sitting inside this room now, as the air was somewhat suffocating.

"Leap King, you have my sincere condolence. I can't imagine the pain you're going through." The Damien King broke the silence.

"Thank you, your majesty." The Leap King nodded slightly, as his eyes were still icy.

He didn't care about offending the Damien King anymore, but he needed his help to catch that thief and retrieve his treasures and also take his revenge!

Just as the Leap King was about to start the discussion about the Sky Stealer, an unexpected announcement was made that shocked even the handsome Damien King and caused a ripple on Lavender Queen's expressionless face.

"Crafter Elder and Flame General, of Pill Flame Organization... have arrived!"

Everyone in the room quickly stood up, even the Leap King. They didn't imagine that such big wings would come uninvited in their ten kingdoms meeting. They didn't dare to offend them, since they knew just what these two titles represent!

Lan and Alvin enter the throne room with impassive faces. They just stayed on their spot, said nothing, as if they were waiting for something or someone.

Just the Damien King was about to greet them with a fawning smile, another shocking announcement was made.

"The Grand Beastmaster of Beast Calling Organization... has arrived!"

A burly, tall old man with a long white beard and hair entered the room. His sharpened eyes were giving off the feeling of a demonic beast. This was the Grand Beastmaster, John, who controlled the Beast Calling Organization in the middle-lands. He came here with Lan and Alvin!

Everyone in the room felt the dreadful aura around Grand Beastmaster, John. They all know he was the strongest inside the Room.

The Damien King was also feeling dreadful toward this old man from the bottom of his heart.

"I hope we're not disturbing anything?" Lan spoke with a warm smile on his face.

Everyone has an urge to roll their eyes, but they knew who this old goat was.

"N...no, no, it's an honor to have three venerable guests here." The Damien King finally spoke with a fawning smile.

"Oh, little boy Grayson, you've grown up, eh." Lan looked at Damien King and smile in acknowledgment.

"It's all because of your blessing." The Damien King smiles awkwardly after being called little boy Grayson.

"Stop your nonsense, Lan, you drag me here just for me to watch this shit-drama?!" John snapped at Lan.

Everyone in the room was shocked seeing this old Beastmaster talking to Lan like this, but when they thought about their identities, they felt only this guy can talk to him like this in entire middle-level lands.

Lan also didn't mind John's tone, since he knows about his friend's fiery temper. He drags this guy here because of John's special ability, or he won't even bother to come in this gathering of ants.

But after mulling over it, he came here right this time because it would be good to have them do the work for them. It would also speed up the process of finding that hateful thief.

Furthermore, John didn't just come here because of his friendship with Lan, he was also here to capture that thief since the Beast Calling was also after him.

Once they capture him, they would decide then who will take him, but first, they have to work together to capture him because after analyzing the newfound abilities of that thief.

It was safe to say he was extremely profound in hiding and disguise abilities, and he was also master of his craft, Thievery!

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Chapter 202: Grand Beastmaster's Secret Skill

Lan coolly looked toward Leap King with an ambiguous smile and said, "I heard what happened to you, and we can't change the past. But I can promise you that thief will face justice and what he stole from you will be returned to you once we captured him."

The Leap King's cold eyes showed a hint of elation after he heard Lan's promise. He finally saw some hope of calming those treasures back without giving away anything.

"Thank you, My Lord!" The Leap King quickly showed a sincere expression, "I'll do anything as long as I can bring that bastard to justice, even if I have to give away my life!"

"We don't need your life." Lan chuckle softly and continued, "Just show us if that thief leaves behind anything, and from the rumors, we all know he left his imprint."

The Leap King's eyes flicker with hatred as he looked at his left hand that was covered in a black glove. He knew what imprint Lan was hinting at.

He took a deep breath and nodded, "If craft elder was referring to that owl tattoo, he indeed left it behind. But I have something much greater than these little imprints!"

Everyone in the room show an astonishing expression as they kept their silence and let Leap King continue.

The Leap King didn't speak anymore as he waved his sleeve, and the newly build golden throne blasted away. He directly goes toward the wall and opened the hidden vault. Since the treasures were gone, he didn't care if everyone knows where the hidden vault was.

Lan, Alvin, John, take the lead as other rulers heeled them. Everyone was curious about what the Leap King was showing them.

When everyone entered the empty vault, their eyes instantly contracted when they looked at the central wall. They looked at the vivid dark owl mural.

It was 10 meters and there was golden writing on the owl's sharp dark wings, 'Sky Stealer'!

"How did he do it?" The Scarlet King mumble in a daze.

Everyone in the room had the same question, as the Scarlet King because they could feel an unknown aura from the large owl mural. No one can draw something like this, especially while doing thievery.

The threat of sky stealer reached another height in their hearts, and they instantly wanted to get rid of him as quickly as possible!

John gravely looked at the owl mural as he stated in a stiff voice, "Leave, I need some time alone!"

"I'll leave it to you, old friend." Lan nodded in understanding and left the vault with everyone else because he knew John was going to use his secret skill of Beast Calling.

John was finally alone in the empty vault, he sat cross-legged in front of the dark mural and place one hand on it. He closed his eyes as the aura of a Qi river core cultivator fully unleash.

A silver-blue mist released from John's hand, which was on the wall, and it slowly covers the entire dark owl mural.

This was a secret skill that the beast calling used to track down enemies. To use this skill, the only requirement was the belonging of the enemy, and it can't be older than 15 days.

Most importantly, this secret skill can only be used by a Qi river core cultivator!

This mural can be considered Sky Stealer's belonging since it was 'made' by him. That's why John was here with Lan and they both didn't want to miss this golden chance to track that hateful thief down.

John was blindly confident in this secret skill of beast-calling organization since it never failed before.

Just as the strange mist cover the entire owl mural, John expected to see an invisible mist that would lead him directly to that thief. This was how this skill was supposed to work, at least.

But something unexpected happen, John suddenly had a strange vision in which he saw nothing but darkness before he come back to his senses. What he found next was terrified him to the core because he was still in darkness!

He quickly calmed himself as he deemed this situation a strange backlash of using the secret skill. He quickly tries to circulate his Qi, but a dreadful reality hits him.

No matter what John does, the Qi was nowhere to be found, not in his body nor the surroundings as if the Qi didn't even exist anymore!

This was not the end of his nightmare, after a moment he finally realized he can't feel his body and he can't even call for help because there was no voice. Only his conscious remain!

Right now, John was experiencing a fate worse than death or any torture one could ever imagine!

Outside the hidden vault,

It already has been half an hour, but John still was inside, but no one disturbed him because they didn't have the guts to disturb him when he said he wanted to be alone.

They were all waiting for John to come out on his own.

Lan and Alvin weren't too much excited because of the incident that happened with Finn. They still didn't get any news, and they were in the process of finding the Ghost's hideout when they have to rush here because of that thief.

No matter what, that thief was more important, and they were also hoping to encounter some Ghosts since they were also after him. Both Alvin and Lan were planning to kill two birds with one stone.

They now also had the help of Grand Beastmaster John, and they were confident in pushing the Ghosts to the corner and forcing them to hand Finn over.

While Lan was deep in thoughts, Alvin was looking in a particular direction with a feverish gaze. He was looking at the dead gorgeous Lavender Queen!

Alvin never expected to see a woman this beautiful in this barren place. Truth to be told, he wasn't married nor did he have any thought of women since he was only interested in power.

But the Lavender Queen was truly ravishing to the extreme, and only someone like that person in high-level lands can match her beauty.

He suddenly wanted to make this lethal beauty his woman, and he was confident in his status, power, and background. No one will refuse him!

Alvin waited until he's done with that thief and after finding Finn, he'll also take this beauty away with him!

Another two hours pass and Lan finally become impatient since this wasn't supposed to take this long. He told everyone to wait while he checked on John.

Lan entered the secret vault again, and the scene in front of him shocked him to the core! He didn't dare to believe what he just saw and took quivering steps toward the position where John was sitting.

As he got closer and closer, Lan's face lost all color as disbelief and terror filled his old eyes.

Before Lan was sitting, a black skeleton was in John's clothing. There was no fluctuation of life, it was dead!

Lan didn't know what happened, but this skeleton was John's because it was his aura and also the storage ring of John!

Lan's back was drenched in cold perspiration as his heart was beating widely in horror. He looked at the dark owl with dreadful eyes. His only guess was all this happened because John try to track the thief.

He didn't want to stay here in the presence of this bizarre owl symbol. He quickly collects John's remains and with a pale face left the hidden vault.

When everyone saw Lan coming out of the vault, they wanted to ask about John but stopped when they saw Lan's ashen face.

"We're leaving!" Lan command Alvin with a powerful tone.

Alvin was stunned, but seeing Lan's ashen face, he didn't retort and followed behind after taking a last glance at Lavender Queen.

This abrupt departure of Pill Flame Organization flabbergasted everyone in the throne room, and they didn't even take the Grand Beastmaster with them.

"What happened?" Alvin inquired.

Lan said with a stiff face, "John is dead, and I don't know, how! But it has something to do with that owl mural. I have to report this to higher-ups as soon as possible and return John remains to the Beast City."

"What?! But how is it possible?!" Alvin's face also turned pale.

Lan didn't speak as he directly showed John's black skeleton to Alvin, and he finally felt a chill run down his spine.

"T-this???"

"See? We're dealing with someone terrified, and I finally understand why those old fossils of every organization wanted that thief so badly. He had a dangerous and profound secret. We need planning and pawns to capture him, and I know how to get them." Lan's eyes shone with slyness and intense greed.

"Have those ten come to the Flame City of Leap Kingdom tomorrow and don't tell anyone about John's death, or they might get scared off! Just told them he left with a secret skill after he got the location of that thief!"

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Chapter 203: Ace's Progress & Plan!

The Moon Leap City was at the edge of Leap's Kingdom and closest to the Earthen Mist Forest of Earthen Nature Boundary between first and second-grade lands.

Although this city was very close to the earthen mist forest it was still tens of miles away, so there wasn't any danger. Besides, the demonic beasts inside the earthen mist forest never left the Emerald Mist for some mysterious reason.

At this moment, inside an Inn's room.

A young man with plain features was sitting cross-legged. This was Ace in Ryan's disguise.

Before him, floating four runic symbols, illuminating in different shades.

The bright green was the Earth Rune, the gentle blue was, Water Rune, the scarlet one was Fire Rune, and last in Azure color was the Wind Rune!

Ace's eyes were shimmering with elation because he finally completed the Basic Myriad Rune Symbols Encyclopedia, and it only took him two days before he completed the Fire Rune and Wind Rune.

Now that he comprehended four basic element symbols, he was only two steps away from being a tier-1 rune crafter!

After this third part was the fourth part, Basic Myriad Runic Structural Encyclopedia!

In this encyclopedia, there was complete instruction on how to combine different basic rune symbols into arrays and formations, the materials needed, and information on soul Qi control one needed to crafter a corporeal rune symbol perfectly.

This encyclopedia was filled with ancient knowledge about four rune symbols Ace's just comprehended. Like, rune crafter's tool, materials, combination structures..., everything one needed to start the 1st-level of the final and fifth part the Heavenly Rune Crafting Technique!

Ace got the huge information of both the Basic Myriad Runic Structural Encyclopedia and Heavenly Rune Crafting Technique, first levels.

He wanted to start right away, but the time of his Light Element Qi was about to end, so he had no choice but to end rune crafting practice.

It already has been twenty days since Ace theft the Leap Palace and Leap King.

The first ten days Ace spent on reaching Moon Leap City because it was the furthest away from the 'crime scene' and it was also close to the mysterious Earthen Mist Forest.

This was Ace's backup plan because he knew this was the most dangerous area of the middle-lands and no one dare to enter this forest so easily if he escaped there.

Ace also heard about what the Leap King did to the Queen and his brother after reading his 'kind' message. He also heard about the Union Meeting between ten kingdoms and the sudden entry of Flame Pill and Beast Calling.

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He has predicted this much because he had robbed a 1st-grade kingdom and its king. Other rulers would naturally feel threatened because of him and even unite their power just to deal with him.

As for those three giants, they were his real enemy, and they will indefinitely come after him.

But what he never expected was no one took any action after that big meeting, and they announced nothing. Ace understands that they would be idiots if they released their plans in public since he would also know about them.

What Ace didn't know was, he dodged a bullet a few days ago, because if Leap King didn't destroy that throne in madness where he wrote those words himself and John tried that tracking skill on it. He would've already succeeded in locating him.

But these ignorant fellows go after something created by the System, a thing that the likes of them or anyone can never comprehend.

John even dares to use a tracking spell on it, which simply means he was courting death, and he already paid a horrible price for it!

Furthermore, one thing that the Leap King still didn't tell any was he also tried to destroy the owl mural out of shame and anger, but no matter how much he attack he can't even scratch it.

In the end, he kept it a secret because he thought everyone would laugh at him and the little face he has left, will be lost as well.

If he had told them, they would've been more careful before messing with the dark owl symbol, but in the end, he even helped his enemy!

Now no one in the entire middle-land can cast this secret skill because only Grand Beastmaster level existences can learn it!

However, Ace had his plans and even if those guys locate him, it won't be easy to capture him because he can easily enter the earthen mist forest after using the invisible bead.

It was just that he had to go there unprepared and with no backup plan; it was still a small price to pay, though.

Now, he was progressing very quickly, and he was only a step away to create a powerful skill. But this last step was like a cliffhanger because he just can't seem to complete it no matter what he does.

In the end, Ace only sighed and focus on the rune crafting and made tremendous progress. As for his other skills, he never overlooked them.

"Status!" Ace opened the status panel.

[Status Panel]

[Host: Ace White]

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[Race: Human [No Bloodline]]

[Heaven: 1st Mortal Sky Heaven]

[Martial Cultivation: Heavenly Foundation Building [Peak-Stage]]

[EXP: 10.95 Million/100 Million]

[Elemental Orb:0/1]

[Soul Cultivation: Orange Wind Soul Core]

[SP: 51,030/100,000]

[Skills: 7]

Heartless Stealth (Art):

[Breathless Stealth: Perfection

Pulseless Stealth: NONE

Heartless Stealth: NONE]

Misperception Sky Steps (Art):

[Camouflage Steps: Low

Lightning Steps: Low

Misperception Steps: Low

Sky Steps: NONE]

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Soul Shattering Eyes: [Low]

Soul Piercing Bullets: [Low]

Soul Guardian Barrier (Art):

[Soul Barrier: Low

Soul Guardian: NONE]

Pick Pocket: [Perfection]

Treasure Opening Hands [Art]: [5th Form]

[Cultivation Technique: 3]

[Heaven Stealer Technique: Volume 1

Dual Shadow Swords: 1st Realm (Sword as Limb)

Heavenly Rune Crafter: 0-Tier]

[Thief Point(s): 152.900TP]

[Mission(s): 1]

[Opportunity Makes a Thief: These self-proclaimed three Giants currently plaguing Host. Because of this, they're hindering Host's progress in the path of Thievery, and this is unacceptable. Please take this opportunity as a challenge and also teach Three Giants an unforgettable lesson!]

[Mission: Steal everything from Three Giants' ten main branches in Top Ten Kingdoms of Middle-Level Lands.]

[Progress:0/30]

[Rewards based on Host Performance]

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[Three Hidden Rewards]

[Time Left: 9 Years & 5 Months]

[Mission Failure Punishment: System shop closing for 200 Years!]

Ace's lips rose after seeing his skills, he had already reached the limit of skill proficiency in the Heavenly foundation realm and if he wanted to further progress; he had to reach the Heavenly River Realm!

His soul skills were also limited because of his martial cultivation, or their proficiency might not be just 'low'. But this did not dishearten him, and he kept improving in other aspects which he can, like rune crafting and dual shadow swords.

But he had already reached a bottleneck in dual shadow swords, and he had a strange feeling that he won't be a tier-1 Heavenly Rune Crafter with just worldly soul Qi, and he might need Heavenly Element Soul Qi. He only felt this way after he got the final two parts of the technique.

As for buying something new from the system's shop, everything was too expensive and by the price tag, he could guess these techniques weren't something he could learn so quickly.

At least not now, since the time to act was approaching!

'Sigh...' Ace sighed, "I need to find that damn elemental orb as soon as I can. But I won't be a walk in the park, like last time. Ten more days before the last competition between the hundred kingdoms of Damien Royal Institute would start."

Ace smiled with ambiguity when he thought about the finale of the Damien Royal Institute recruitment test. He was also a part of the first test but was taken away by Alvin and missed the second one, but the last one was approaching, and he wanted to complete what he started.

Before, Ace planned to get inside the institute and broaden his horizons and theft those participants while becoming famous in the process. But things didn't go as planned when three giants interfere and the system issued an almost impossible mission.

Now, however, he won't be going to take part to join the institute, though.

Ace was going to the last competition because there would be lots of 'fat sheep' and he can harvest a vast amount of TP while also getting some fame.

Furthermore, this was just something extra he's going to do while luring those big wings of middle-level lands at the venue of the last test!

Because the venue for the last test was non-other than the outskirts of Earthen Mist forest, and Ace was 90% sure that an elemental orb was somewhere inside that mysterious forest.

All those who were after his secrets and those hidden enemies, they were his 'helper' in dealing with the Orb Guardian!

"The more, the merrier." Ace's lips rose in an icy smile, he can't wait to begin the game!

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Chapter 204: Harvest Festival Begin

The Earthen Mist Forest remains barren all the time because of the danger surrounding it.

However, today, the outskirts of the earthen mist forest were bursting with actives. There were thousands of youngsters gathering a mile away from the Emerald Mist.

All these fifty thousand youngsters were geniuses from all around the middle-level lands. Though 80% were from the 1st-grade land and 18% were from the 2nd-grade lands.

The 3rd-grade lands were most pitiful, with only 2%. Everyone looked down on them and didn't put them in their eyes at all.

As for the reason for this gathering, it was because of the finale of Damien Royal Institute's recruitment tests.

The last test was already announced, and that was to survive in the outermost region of the Emerald Mist for 3 days!

Although this area was relatively safe, whereas for all these youngsters in the Qi gates realm it was extremely dangerous.

One had to know the Emerald Mist's bewitching effect in the outermost area can even endanger a Qi foundation building cultivator.

But all these youngsters needed to bear it for 3 days and there wasn't any method to cheat either because nothing work on Emerald Mist. No treasure, no medicine, nothing!

That's the true terror of Earthen Mist Forest was, and that's why to this day not a single person returned alive from its depth.

But the danger wasn't just the Emerald Mist and beings living in there. The actual danger for these youths was the other participants!

The seats were limited and all of them were geniuses of their regions. Everyone wanted a seat, and they all will do anything to eliminate as much competition as they can.

This was the actual test of survival, no one will look for them for three days, and they were free to do anything and everything! That's why the death rate was so high for these tests!

While all those fifty thousand youths were receiving survival instruction from their seniors.

A black-clad person, his face was hidden behind a hood, he was leisurely sitting on a strange tree inside the Emerald Mist as if this terrifying mist didn't have any effect on him at all!

This person was indeed Ace, who came here this morning just before all those participants. They released the news about the last test to the public, and this greatly benefits Ace.

He deliberately chose this day to lure everyone inside this mysterious forest and in his free time harvest some TP from all those young ones.

Ace was very confident about the elemental orb was somewhere deep inside this forest.

His confidence comes from this Emerald Mist because when he was traveling with Alvin, at that time Alvin wasn't sure about Finn's element physique. He heard about the mystery of this forest from the old beast tamer and consider it a backup plan in case of if Finn wasn't an element physique.

At that time, Alvin even has the old beast tamer fly over this Emerald Mist to check the bewitching effects.

But by doing this, Ace also came in contact with the Emerald Mist and instantly felt the similarity between this Emerald Mist and the White Mist he encountered at the Moon Forest in low-level lands. He found the light orb there!

Even though the similarity was vague, but Ace only need this much to consider there was an elemental orb here and came here after he robbed the Flame City.

Furthermore, this Emerald Mist didn't have any kind of effect on him, just like that white mist didn't have any kind of effect. This makes things easier for him.

That's why he selected to lure everyone who was after him here and let them follow him, so he can use them on luring the orb guardian away in case he found the elemental orb!

Although his plan of robbing the flame city didn't go as he thought it would, he still got many things and understand the powers he was facing.

He wasn't ignorant anymore and even if he didn't find any elemental orb, he can cripple the most powerful beings who were after him, and make his mission more feasible!

Now, he was only waiting for the test to begin and then start his little game.

Ace suddenly opened his eyes, and a faint smile appeared on his face. He felt many soul fluctuations coming this way.

"Oh, these familiar soul signatures. They're some people from the Regal Kingdom and also testers." Ace instantly remembered where he felt these soul signatures and his smile widen.

"Thirty Empty River, Twenty River Depth, Five River Source, oh...one Flowing River Cultivator, and hundreds of Qi Foundation realm cultivators. Hehe, I should start with them, this time I'll be able to level up my thief rank!" Ace's heartbeat raced as he counted all those powerful cultivators.

All these cultivators were here to protect some important youths like prince and princess of first-grade lands and other geniuses deemed important by the institute after they monitored them for last tests and investigate their life histories.

They can't let these seedlings die no matter what.

As for Ace, after robbing the Leap King, he become more confident in robbing cultivators in Qi River Realm and all these people protecting those youngsters from shadow were nothing but TP in Ace's eyes now!

He was determined to level up his thief title this time around; he hides and cower long enough.

With a faint smile, Ace disappeared in Emerald Mist.

All those youngsters enter the Emerald Mist, and shadowing them were those people of the institute. They will only interfere when the 'special participants' were about to face death, not before.

"River Shadow 9, follow the Prince of Earth Kingdom..."

"Foundation Shadow 88 Followed the Duke Brat of Scarlet Moon Kingdom, he's very troublesome..."

"River Shadow 3 follow the nephew of Lavender Queen..."

A person clads in completely black gave these kinds of orders to all those people hidden. He was the Shadow Leader; he appointed everyone to a special participant based on their importance. The River Shadows were Qi river cultivators and Foundation Shadows were Qi foundation building cultivators. As for the number, the lower it was, the higher the power of that person.

Every shadow received its order, and they shadow their targets. The shadow leader and number 2 and 1 river shadows followed two princes and one princess of the Royal Damien Family.

Half a day pass and 238 participants were already dead because of internal fights between the participants. But all those dead were commoners who had big dreams and didn't submit to big families and wanted to stay independent.

This was the real cruelty of these lands, if those in power felt a threat from you, and you won't submit to them either you vanished mysteriously or die in some unknown gutter.

All these geniuses with humble backgrounds or those below 1st-grade lands were nothing but crops in the eyes of 1st-grade kingdoms' nobles. Either they harvest them or just render them rotten so no one could eat them if they cannot.

Ace was observing these fights between weak commoners and powerful nobles, who were also protected by the people of the institute. If those protected nobles were about to die from a commoner's hand, the other person interfere and take them away.

This disgusted Ace and his mood fell, seeing this unfairness of the fairest institute of middle-lands. In the end, it was just a sham, and this turn Ace's heart cold.

'Well, I also needed some EXP, might as well not waste it.' A sharp glint flash past his eyes and he finally made a move after observing for half a day.

"Why are you attacking me?! I have no enmity with you?" A short boy was panting while hatefully grimacing at a young man with a wintry smile.

"I know, but you refused a loyalty (Slave) contract from Ruby Chamber of Commerce, and my father didn't seem to like it very much." The young man wore a cold smile as he coolly answered.

The short boy suddenly remembered and pursed his lips, "So you want to recruit me with force now?"

"Nah." The young man shook his head as a mocking smile surfaced on his face, "We only gave one chance, that's our policy."

The very next moment, he slashed his long sword toward the short boy's neck with no hint of hesitation.

"Heh, your policy matched mine." A sneering crisp voice sounded at this moment and the young man's sword suddenly fell with his hand!

Everyone was flabbergasted by what just happened, even that peak Qi foundation cultivators protecting the young man didn't see what happened.

"Ahhhhh...." The young man finally come to his sense and shrilled like a pig after he saw his bloody hand on the floor.

The person protecting the young man also moved quickly, he could feel something wasn't right and wanted to leave quickly and report this to the Shadow Leader!

But alas, before he could do anything he felt a huge hammered strike inside his brain and he instantly fell on the floor, dead!

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Chapter 205: Happy Thieving

The short boy was dumbfoundedly looking at the screaming young man whose hand was cut off from his wrist. He didn't know just what happened, but someone had just saved his life.

"Bastard I'll kill!" The young man's face was twisted with hatred as he shrilled.

"Heh, just you?" The same indifferent voice sounded again.

"I..." Before he could curse again his eyes abruptly lose their luster, and he landed on the dirt becoming a corpse.

The short boy's face flashed with terror as he looked at the corpse, he didn't even see how this guy die.

"I...t-thank...you!" He stuttered, he didn't know if this was a friend or foe, but he knew if this person wanted him dead, he can do it a hundred times over.

Ace looked at the terror-sicken youth from a tree ten meters away with a faint smile and said coolly, "Get out of here, this place is going to become chaotic, very soon. Oh, and please spread the news the Sky Stealer is...here!"

Finish saying, he left the flabbergasted youth there.

"S...S-sky...St-Stealer?!" The short boy's heart was beating so fast it was on the verge of exploding when he heard the identity of his savior.

He kept standing there for a while in a daze before he finally collected himself. An ecstatic smile appeared as he mumbled, "I was saved by the Sky Stealer!"

After mumbling for some time, he quickly remembered what Sky Stealer told him, and with no hesitation, he left the trail ground to spread the news.

He didn't know why this Thief wanted to everyone know he was here, but something huge was going to happen in Earthen Mist Forest very soon!

Ace was moving between trees like a phantom. He was going after anyone who came in the range of his soul sense. He was sensing many soul signatures and all of them had a protector with them.

'I hope they would give me at least a low-level thievery.' Ace mused with a hopeful smile.

Now that he had already shown his presence and told someone to announce his whereabouts, he had little time to play around before all those powerful beings come running here.

He stopped fifty meters away from his new targets, there was a ground of 12 youths with 4 peak stage Qi foundation realm protectors.

Abruptly, fourteen soul treads rush toward all those targets and a few moments later they vanished and the system's emotionless voice sounded,

[Quick Report of Thieveries]

[Successful Pick Pocket Count: 16]

[Low-Level Thieveries: 1]

[Total Rewards: 13,100TP]

[Thief Point(s): 166,000]

[Low-level Thievery: 37]

Ace looked with some disappointment after only scoring one low-level thievery after robbing those previous two dead guys and these fourteen.

'Next.' He quickly closed the notification panel and move on toward the next targets.

Just like that, a full day and night pass.

This was supposed to be a test between fifty thousand youngsters, and it was also supposed to be a ruthless one.

However, at this moment, the forest was filled with curses and swearing. Almost everywhere, one could see a large group of youngsters and black-clad people moving together.

The people within these groups look very united, and their eyes were bloodshot for some reason. One could hear someone cuss with a voice full of resentment and fury.

"Bastard Thief, come out if you have guts, this father will teach you thievery is a crime!" An enraged burly youngster loudly exclaimed.

"Get back in line you muscle brain, you didn't even get this ugly owl tattoo like me. I'll fucking carve that bird on that basted ass with my lance!" another enraged guy roar as he showed an owl tattoo on his ring finger.

Just like this, many enrage voices sounded as some people showed the owl tattoo with deep resentment. No matter what they do, they can't seem to get rid of it. This was truly despicable.

Everyone knows just who this thief was since only he can imprint these strange owl symbols with no one finding out. They all knew they weren't a match for him, but the losses of their treasures were enough to let all of them unite and hunt him down.

They simply thought since the Sky Stealer didn't show himself it means he didn't have fighting power and this gave them even more incentive.

Even those protectors were no longer hidden as they were also madly searching for that thief. They never imagine that the infamous Sky Stealer would come to the institute's test destination so boldly and even dare to rob from the number one institute of middle-level lands.

One day and night, that thief had already robbed over 8,000 people and numbers kept rising every moment.

Everyone was on the verge of insanity because no matter what they do how much they guard or hide the storage rings they always vanished in front of their eyes, and sometimes they would get an owl tattoo as a blessing!

Now everyone knows that the notorious Thief was here and someone from the Shadows ground even reported it to the higher-ups. They wanted to cancel the test and leave before they would also get robbed, since no one seemed to be safe, not even those Qi river cultivators.

But to everyone's misery, they got an uncompromising order that they had to keep looking for the thief, or at least keep him here until the help arrived. The person giving the order even told them to let that thief rob them as long as they can keep him in one place.

Now no one had any choice but to keep all those youths who wanted to leave before their treasures got stolen in the forest. This was giving the Shadow Leader a colossal headache, and he gritted his teeth as he also cursed that damn despicable thief and keep searching.

However, no matter what they do, that thief always stole everyone's storage rings without even leaking the slightest bit of Qi.

Now the final test of Damien Royal Institute has turned into a thief hunting test, but it seemed like they were the ones being hunted by that thief instead.

At this moment, when everyone in the earthen mist forest going crazing because of Ace, a folk of ghost cranes was moving toward the earthen mist forest at high speed.

On the back of these Qi river flying beasts were many terrifying beings, and all of them at least at the peak of the Qi river realm!

A ghost crane was leading the folk in front, and on its back were Alvin and Lan and a stiff face beast tamer.

All of their expression was grave as they were all in a hurry to reach the location of that hateful thief as quickly as possible.

Alvin and Lan never expected that the hateful thief would show his face so soon. They both guess he would appear somewhere else since he was already done with the Leap Kingdom, and they were just in the process of forming a flawless plan to corner him.

As soon as they got the information that he was robbing many people in the earthen mist forest, they quickly assemble their forces and head there. This time they were bringing most of the powerful beings of middle-level lands with them!

Also, this wasn't the last of it because they deliberately spread the news of this and they both know more people will come, and they were especially expecting Nightmare Ghosts.

Truth to be told, after what happened with John they were dreadful of that thief but also very greedy to get his secrets.

They didn't even tell about John's sudden death to anyone because they knew all these people would never dare to take part in this hunting if they knew a Qi River Core cultivator die.

They were even keeping it from Beast Calling and just make the same excuse they made before that John was chasing after the thief alone. Likewise, they simply thought to tell everyone after this hunt and only if that thief was powerful, and they can't handle him alone!

They concluded that the thief probably can't use this 'trick' all the time, or with this kind of prowess, he didn't need thievery at all!

But for the sake of safety, they both were going to let those others become their cannon folds, especially those damn ghosts, and let them test the waters for them. If they sense anything amiss, they will quickly escape!

A few thousand miles away from the Pill Flame and Beast Calling group,

A group of black-clad people was moving toward the earthen mist forest with speed even faster than the ghost cranes.

In the very front of this group were three black-clocked figures and a handsome young man in red robes, following behind him were two extremely beautiful women.

"Black Reaper, how much longer before we reached this Earthen Mist Forest. I don't want to lose this chance to capture that petty thief." The young man coolly asked the black-clocked man a few meters away from him.

"Crown Prince Marc, don't worry, even if he escaped, he'll come in our way.. That damn forest is not a place where anyone could enter." A respectful yet confident voice sounded underneath that cloak!

Eternal Thief

Chapter 206: Title Level-up & Reward!

Shockingly, these people were from the Nightmare Ghosts Organization, and an even more shocking thing was the infamous black assassin Black Reaper being respectful to a Crown Prince of an empire!

If Alvin or Lan saw this, this would shock them because the Nightmare Ghosts were a very conceited bunch, and they never show humbleness toward anyone except their leaders.

"Oh? This forest seemed quite interesting." Marc smile faintly.

After 'talking' with his fiancé Green Flame Zelda, he now had some idea just how bizarre that thief truly was, and he was even more interested in capturing him alive than dead.

As for how he knew so quickly about the appearance of that thief, it was all thanks to Luminous King. The Luminous King kept providing him information about the plans of Lan and Alvin for many days without no one knowing.

The moment they heard the thief has appeared again, Marc quickly contact the Ghosts since he needed someone to keep the people of Pill Flame and Beast Calling in check until he captured and take away that thief.

As for why the Ghosts helped him and even being compliant toward him, it all because...!

"Yes, Crown Prince, it's very dangerous, and it would be wise to no go deep inside." A crisp voice of a woman sounded from another cloaked figure, there was a hint of fear when she warned Marc.

"Fine, I just want something of mine that little thief stole." Marc coolly stated as a hint of killing intent flashed past his eyes when mentioning 'something'.

While the powerful forces were moving toward the earthen mist forest's outermost area at full speed.

The forest was quite lively because of a thief. The search was still going, but no one seem to find him.

Somewhere inside the earthen mist forest, inside a cave hidden within Emerald Mist.

Inside, a young man was sitting while staring at the air with burning eyes, as if he was looking at something invisible to others.

Who could this be but Ace, who was looking at the notification panel of the system with elation!

He was looking at the thievery count after his 'hard labor' and he seemed quite satisfied and thrilled.

[Quick Report of Thieveries]

[Successful Pick Pocket Count: 11,290]

[Low-Level Thieveries: 2,500]

[Total Rewards: 2,000,000TP]

[Thief Point(s): 2,166,000]

[Low-level Thievery: 2,537]

Ace was grinning ear to ear like a manic when he saw the huge amount of thief points. He just robbed one-fifth of the participants, and he already got 2 million TP, this was a TP farm, and he was pleased he does this.

However, this wasn't the end of it the symbol of Thief Panel was also shining bright, and he knew what it's meant.

'Thief Panel.' He quickly opened the thief panel with eagerness.

[[Thief Panel]]

[Job [NOT Changeable]: Thief]

[Thief Name: Sky Stealer]

[Thief Title: Disciple of Darkness]

[Thief Rank: Trainee]

[Thievery needed to reach next Rank: 5,000 Low-Level Thievery & 100 Middle-level Thievery]

[Thief Fame [Host and Symbol]: Good]

[Thief Symbol: Dark Owl]

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

[Job Mission: 0]

[[Thievery Count Section]]

[Low-Level Thievery: 2,537]

[Middle-Level Thievery: 1]

[High-Level Thievery: 0]

Ace took a deep breath when he saw a new condition for leveling-up Thief Title. He knows just how hard it was to score middle-level thievery, and it's going to take a while before he could enter the next rank of Thief Title.

But what confused him, even more, the low-level thievery count was the same, and the system didn't deduct the previous 500 thieveries and left them there.

'Well, five hundred fewer thieveries for me, then.' Ace grin.

Just as Ace was about to close the thief panel, the system's emotionless voice declared,

[Congratulation on reaching Thief Trainee Rank]

[Reward(s): Thief Trainee's Hood]

[Do the host want to claim the reward now?]

[Yes/Later]

"What?!" Ace exclaimed out loud, he didn't think there was a reward since he didn't get any instantly when he reached the requirements for level up.

The only explanation was it happened when he opened the Thief Panel.

He took a deep breath as he tried to calm his wildly beating heart, "Of course, I'm calming it!" He quickly mumbled as he shifted his thought to 'yes' in the transparent panel.

[The reward has been transferred into thief's space]

Ace quickly looked inside the thief space that was filled with unique treasures and storage rings, he shifted his attention towards the section where he kept the treasures he got from the system; he called them Heavenly Treasures now.

He quickly spotted an extra treasure beside the two pitch-black swords and quickly took it out.

In Ace's hand, an imposing inky long coat with hood appeared, it was giving off a feeling of the night when one looked at it. The fabric was like feathers, there were dark blue runes engraved inside the long coat.

Ace admire the work with a grin and just as he turned it around his eyes contracted because on the back a twenty-four-inch large dark blue owl was embroidered! It was the thief symbol, the dark owl.

"System, what are the functions of this Trainee's hood?" He quickly asked because he knew this wasn't just a simple long coat just by looking at those dark blue, mysterious runes. He can't even see through them with his runic eyes!

"[100TP for descriptions.]"

"As stingy as ever, just take it." Ace snorted.

[Thief Point(s): 2,165,900]

[Thief Trainee's Hood: Tier-12 Runic Treasure]

[Descriptions: A treasure that can only be used with Heavenly-Darkness Qi.

Ability(s): Self-Repair, Self-Sustain, Color Change, 5% Increased in Thief-related skills.]

[Thief's Skills: Stealth (Any kind of Stealth skills with not Attack-Power), Picking-Skills (Skills like Pick-pocket & Treasure Opening Hands)]

(Author's Note: Soul Shattering Eyes and Misperception Sky Steps Art do not fall in the category of Picking Skills because they have attack powers, and they're not pure skills just for thievery.)

Ace eyes shimmer with elation, even if this treasure was only tier-12 runic treasure, it was still something of a much higher grade than those runic treasures that only had 9 runic ranks!

He quickly changes his old hood which wasn't even a runic treasure with Thief Trainee's Hood after imprinting it with his Heavenly Mark.

The moment Ace released his Heavenly-Darkness Qi in the long coat, it adjusted on its own according to his tone-body. He looked like a Night King with that owl on his back.

He tries to move and was astonished because his movements were smooth, and he didn't feel any hindrance. Furthermore, he was very satisfied with this unexpected reward.

'If I can get this reward after leveling up in rank, then doesn't it means I'll get more after I level up again?' Ace mused as his thirst for theft reach new heights.

'I still have a day before anyone reached here, I should take full advantage and at least complete five thousand low-level thieveries before starting the next phase of my plan!'

Instantly, Ace active the breathless stealth and dissolved in the surrounding, and it was more powerful now because of the Thief Trainee's Hood.

Since the system deemed this skill a thief's skill, it was 5% more potent than before. Now he can fool the martial sense of a newly advanced Qi river core cultivator to some extent.

Ace quickly pick a group of people protected by two empty river cultivators. His lips rose as he stealthily moved closer to them. He was used to these kinds of groups after he robbed so many people like these.

He appeared ten meters away from a group of fifty people, all of them wore expensive and high-level equipment.

After scanning the group, he didn't find any storage rings on them and Ace's smile widen as if he was used to this scenario.

'They make it simpler again.' With a faint smile, he used soul probing on a little girl, the weakest in the group. After five minutes, he stopped using the soul probing and leave the vigilant group alone.

Ace reached a specific area filled with trees, he looked carefully and, on a tree, he spotted a particular vague mark as if it was naturally formed.

"Heh, they're becoming more creative." With a sneer, he sent a soul tread toward the vague mark, and instantly the soul thread penetrated a husk area behind that mark.

Inside, Ace found a storage ring and quickly used the pick-pocket.

[Successful Pick Pocket Count: 50]

[Low-Level Thieveries: 33]

[Total Rewards: 7,800TP]

[Thief Point(s): 2,173,700]

[Low-level Thievery: 2,570]

Might you ask why he didn't score only one instead of fifty just now? It was all because all those 49 storage rings inside this storage ring still had their owner's Qi Marks.

Consequently, as long as Ace pick-pocketed a storage ring with Qi Mark, it counted as a thievery score!

That's also the main reason Ace could score so many thieveries in so little time, all these idiots hide their storage rings like this, and he easily used soul probing and took them all at once!

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Chapter 207: I Know You Were EVIL!

Hence, as long as Ace pick-pocketed a storage ring with Qi Mark, it counted as a thievery score!

Ace also found out about it when recently when he first raided a hidden place. He first thought that he won't even get one count because the ring was just laying in a place, not on someone.

However, when he used pick-pocket, something happened completely out of his expectation and he got all the storage rings with Qi marks counted, and those people even received thief symbol!

This make things easier for him and at once he was collecting more thieveries with no real danger.

As for why those people did not give one person their storage rings and have him hide them, so no other person would know. It's very simple actually, they don't trust each other.

That's why whenever someone hides storage rings, every person who agrees to hide their storage ring goes to the secret place together, and then all those people stay in one group. They won't even let anyone leave, afraid that person might take all the rings and escape!

Even though the storage rings were protected by Qi marks, they still do not trust anyone.

If they just have one of the strongest people hide the storage rings, Ace might've had a tough time. Because first, the stronger a person is, the longer his soul probing would take since he randomly got memories.

Second, he can't use soul probing on peak stage Qi foundation or higher realm cultivators. This would've hindered his progress the most, but these idiots just can't work together.

After storing the storage in his thief's space, he moved toward another group of four hundred meters north.

"Hmm?" A deep frown surfaced on Ace's calm face when he saw the group of five youths with an ashen complexion.

'They're reaching their limits of tolerance. If they didn't leave, they'll be bewitched by emerald mist.' Ace mused.

Their clothes were more crude compare with those nobles and no one was protecting their group. It was clear they were commoners or their lives weren't important.

He spotted many groups like these and in the end; he spared them since he deemed they won't give him much TP, or he just didn't want to steal from them.

From memories of other noble brats, he knew the big-wings were coming, and they were deliberately stalling him here, using these people in trails as baits.

He didn't mind it in the least bit though, since this makes things easier for him after all. After taking one last glance at that ashen face group, he moved on.

Ace has already spared them by not stealing their storage rings, and this was the only thing he can do. He won't be saving anyone since all of them come here of their own free will, and they were ready to die.

After all, he was just a trainee thief, not a hero.

After stealing from over seven hundred more people, Ace notice something very strange, he got no more low-level thievery count after he reached 2599, and the TP he got become much less than well.

"System, what's the meaning of this?" Ace transmitted in an irksome tone.

"[Since host has already become a Trainee Thief. The treasure he stole after 2599 thieveries will also have to be of trainee level.]"

Ace's face fell, and he knew this black-hearted system has done something behind his back, he pursed his lips and questioned, "Might I ask what the hell are those trainee's level treasures?"

"[Expect Runic Treasures, any treasure of Lowest-grade, Low-grade, Mid-low-grade as well as Qi-Stones of Trash-Grade (Low-Level) and Qi-Stones of Lowest-Grade (Middle-Level) will no longer give any TP from now one.]" The system's icy voice replied.

"I know you were evil!" Ace gritted his teeth in resentment after hearing this answer.

'This evil system just didn't want to watch me become rich!' Ace cursed some more with a deep grievance.

After 'greeting' the system's nine generations, he finally calmed down. However, his mood was still bleak since from now on any kind of treasure with the first three-level will be deemed useless.

'White-Grade, Green-Grade, Blue-Grade Pill and herbs. 1-star, 2-star, 3-star weapons, and materials. She didn't even spare Qi stones, damn it!'

The more Ace thought, the more he wanted to cry. His only comfort was the runic treasures will still give him TP.

Ace looked at the TP he accommodated before the black-hearted system put a restriction on them, and his mood turned better after seeing the number.

[Thief Point(s): 2,259,400]

[Low-level Thievery: 2,599]

'I should now go after those protected by Qi River cultivators only.' With a bleak mood, he again started his search for high-level targets.

But even after robbing over 200 rich-looking youths protected by Qi river cultivators he still didn't score any low-level thievery and the most infuriating thing was he only got 1050 TP!

Ace was so mad and he again 'greeted' the system's all the generations while keep stealing from whoever come in his way. Now, even if he got little TP from those brats, he felt he at least got something.

He intervened on a tree because he picked up a group of over 200 people with his soul sense and the strongest of them were none other than the missing Twenty River Depth, Five River Source, and one Flowing River Cultivator!

They all were guarding these youths.

Ace's eyes shimmer as a cold smile appeared on his face, 'So that's why I don't find them, they come together to protect the richest bunch of all the participants. Well, the time is also approaching. I should start the second phase after this raid.'

With some expectation, he moved toward the campsite of those rich pigs. They were just sitting there, and waiting for the 'slaughterer' to come.

Inside the camp, most of the youth's faces were pale, and the toxic mist affected even some Qi foundation cultivators.

The atmosphere was already gloomy, as a young man's yelling on a black-clad man make it more.

"What do you mean we can't go outside? Do you know who my father is?!" This youth's face was handsome with a slender tall body, he was the youngest son of Damien King!

"Damien Prince, this was your father's order, not mine!" The shadow leader pursed his lips while he answered with annoyance. He wasn't feeling too good, staying here like some sacrificial goat.

But what can he do but obey the order?

All he can do was to collect all the princes and princesses, and some other important youngsters of the top ten kingdoms in one place, so he could protect them from that hateful thief.

He even collected everyone's storage rings and put them all in his own. However, he didn't hide it out in the open because he received multiple reports that it was pointless since that bastard can find them no matter where someone hid it.

That's why he did something even crazier, he made a deep cut into his stomach and place the storage ring there!

He wasn't bothered by this at all because of his high cultivation level, and now he was completely assured about the safety of his storage ring. He even wanted to taunt that thief when he would fail miserably.

'Heh, that thief is too immature!' Shadow Leader sneered, gloatingly in his heart when he thinks about his genius hiding plan.

"But if we stay here two more days, we'll be completely at the mercy of this malicious mist!" A beautiful girl beside the Damien Prince retort with a hint of anxiety.

"Damien Princess, my hands are tied and all I can do is to protect you, so please be patient!" Shadow Leader smile wryly.

He wanted to tell them about the coming to the rulers, but he was afraid that the thief would hear it and escape, so he had no choice but to hide it.

More youths show disgruntled faces, but they can't beat these guys, so all they can do now was to wait since Shadow Leader also took their storage rings away.

Ace heard this debate and couldn't help but sneer with contempt. They were even using their children as bait.

Just as he expected, they didn't have their storage rings so, he just soul probe the weakest like before.

However, he didn't get information after that brat handed over his storage ring to that Shadow Leader fellow. He probed two more brats and just like before he didn't find the location.

Ace narrowed his eyes, this was the first time he encountered this situation.

'Should I leave?' Ace deeply looked at that Shadow Leader fellow with a stony gaze. He didn't think there was a capable fellow in these idiots.

'Well, I can't probe his memories. Sigh... forget it.' Ace was just about to leave in disappointment when a treacherous plan flash past his mind.

'So be it.' An icy smile creped out on his face, he's going to try something unique!

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 208: I'm A Peace Lover

Just as Shadow Leader was alleviating the situation, his eyes suddenly wide opened as he looked ahead of him with incredulity.

All those brats and other members of the shadow group who were looking toward Shadow Leader become confused by his odd expression. Everyone looked in the direction of Shadow Leader.

At this moment someone's ecstatic voice sounded with a hint of disbelieve, "T-thief! It's the thief, look he's standing right there!"

Everyone instantly shifted their focus with bewitching faces. Their expression also turned the same as Shadow Leader.

Just twenty meters away from the Shadow Leader was standing a figure, wearing an inky long coat and his face was covered behind the hood. The most eyes catching thing was the imposing owl embroidery on the coat back!

Only one person would dare to wear this owl symbol in the entire middle-land, and that was the Sky Stealer!

"You dare to come before me? Good, good, stay here forever!" The Shadow Leader's eyes shimmer with greed when he sensed this was indeed a real person standing there, not some illusion.

Although he didn't seem to fathom this person's cultivation, he didn't sense any danger from him at all. This instantly gave him ample confidence and when he thought about all those rewards on this thief's head, his heart instantly raced.

A blue light suddenly shone from his hand and a dreadful aura of flowing Qi river reached to limit. He instantly shot toward the hooded figure like an arrow and punch toward Ace's chest.

Ace was calm while watching blue punch coming, as he expected this outcome. With a faint smile, he used the Misperception Steps!

Shadow Leader suddenly discern a strangeness, he saw the thief was standing right there, but his senses keep telling him he was behind him. But he still believed his vision and ignore this sudden feeling.

'Swoosh...'

The blue punch created a sharp waft sound but it only 'injured' air, nothing else since Ace's wasn't there!

This dumbfounded everyone because they saw the shadow leader's powerful attack only land on empty air. The thief was somehow standing five meters away on Shadow Leader's left.

No one saw him moving, but somehow like a ghost he emerged there. This shocked everyone.

"Are you done?" A nonchalant voice woke Shadow Leader from his befuddlement.

He quickly turned left with an ugly face, 'This bastard is mocking me? But how did he move there?'

With cold eyes, Shadow Leader again attack Ace, but this time the power was even more potent than before. The last time he wanted to capture him alive, so he didn't use his full power, but now he didn't care anymore.

Ace again used the misperception steps and move in a special pattern, as every step contain a deep mystery. This was the third form of Misperception Sky Steps Art, Misperception Steps that can fool someone's Perception!

Again, that strange feeling aroused in Shadow Leader's mind that keeps telling him the thief was not before him but to his right. This time he goes with this feeling and abruptly swings his punch to the right.

However, to his spectacle, there was no one since he missed again!

"Want to try again?" Again, that same nonchalant voice buzzed from behind.

Although Ace seemed nonchalant, he was gloating inside.

With low-level mastery, he can easily fool a flowing Qi river cultivator's perception, but not any higher since he was still in the Heavenly Foundation realm.

This was the main reason he dares to show up in front of Shadow Leader. But his attacking power was lacking, and that's why he was only dodging.

To his plan to work, he needed the party to dread him and by counter-attacking, he would instantly reveal his low attacking power. That's why he was acting overbearing.

With an ugly face twisted with humiliation and discomfiture, he pursed his lips, "What do you want?" There was a hint of fear and shock in the shadow leader's eyes this time.

'He's not attacking and even dares to show himself, which means he wants something. But why is he stealing from those brats with this kind of prowess? With his abilities, he can easily join the ranks of those giants.'

Many questions were raised in his heart as he deeply looked at the hooded person. He was an instructor in the institute, and he could tell by the voice of Sky Stealer that he was extremely young.

Ace smile faintly, seeing his plan working, "What do you think I want?"

Shadow Leader's eyes narrowed as he assumed, "You want our storage rings? Do you have the method to remove the Qi marks?" He couldn't help but ask since this was an open secret.

All those bystanders were quietly listening to them since they were all weaker than the Shadow Leader, and it also seemed that thief was more mysterious than they thought!

"My answer for both of your questions is..." Ace coolly stated, "Yes!"

Ace didn't mind admitting this fact since every time the system removed the Qi mark the owner suffer a backlash, and it was impossible to hide it.

Shadow Leader's eyes flash with greed when Ace admitted it himself. No matter what just this method was enough to cause war in entire middle-level lands but alas it was in the hand of a thief.

"I can't give them to you, they're not with me." The shadow leader shook his head. He was lying. How could he just give away his life's worth of wealth just like this?

Ace frowned because he knew this guy was lying, and his eyes turn cold, "Heh, fine keep lying. Then let's play an interesting game."

Shadow Leader was shocked inside when his lie was seen through so easily by the thief, but there was a possibility that the Thief was just bluffing.

He kept an expressionless face and said, "Do whatever you want, I didn't have the storage rings."

"So be it..." Ace's voice suddenly turned much louder as he spoke this time,

"My dear Princes and Princess, as you just heard I only wanted your storage rings, nothing else. I'm not a person who likes violence, and I'm a peace lover, but I seemed your leader took my kindness as an act of weakness..."

Before Ace could finish, a blue spear made of violent water element Qi whistled through air toward Ace's heart.

"Hmph..." Ace snorted and instantly used the Lightning Steeps and sidestep the Qi lance, it didn't even faze him.

Ace coldly looked at the Shadow Leader because he was the sneak attacker.

Shadow leader smacks his lips, he never thought this guy would even dodge his high-grade warrior skill, Water Lance. He thought he could sneak an attack in since this thief was busy yapping, but he again seemed to underestimate him.

Ace didn't speak to him again and continued what he was saying, "Where I was...oh...as I was saying your leader seemed to be a retard and didn't care about your lives and only the storage rings."

Shadow Leader's face changed, hearing Ace calling him a retard like he wasn't there. He wanted to attack again when he suddenly felt a chill run down his spine as if he has been looked at by a terrifying existence.

'Just who is this person?' With horrified eyes he looked at Ace's face which was covered beneath the hood, it was like a black hole.

Ace didn't know his killing intent just scared a flowing Qi river cultivator. He just released the killing intent as a warning for Shadow Leader, so he won't interrupt him again.

Seeing that it worked, he continued, "So, from now on, every ten seconds I'll kill someone. As long as he gave me the storage rings, I'll stop and leave in peace!"

Everyone's faces turned ugly when they heard this thief dare to threaten them so boldly.

Did he don't know just who they were?

Did not know their backgrounds? But wait he clearly said princes and princesses, this means he knows who they were.

But so why did he say he'll kill them? Did he not afraid of their entire Kingdom would seek revenge if he started killing them?

"Bastard, you dare?!" Shadow Leader killing intent intensified.

This wasn't a sneering matter at all because he can't stop Ace if he really went after those youths and even if this thief didn't kill him, he would be killed by those rulers who were coming after seeing their offspring die on his watch!

"Heh..." Ace sneered and in front of everyone's awful eyes vanished like a ghost!

Everyone's heart turn cold seeing this and even shadow leaders didn't seem to sense Ace's presence anymore.

"Just gave him my storage ring!" A boy said with a pale face.

"Yes, mine as well. Just don't kill me!" A little girl also shouted with anxiety.

"Shut up!" Shadow Leader roared in anger.

Just as his enraged voice sounded,

"Ahhhhh...." Another girl's scream rang in the silent vicinity.

Everyone looked in her direction and a chill seemed to run down everyone's spine because a lifeless body of a boy was laying there!

Eternal Thief

Chapter 209: He's A Rebel!

Shadow Leader's face turn ashen when he saw the dead body. Even he didn't see how that young boy die without any impairments. Most importantly, that thief actually starts killing.

"Brute, stop!" He roared as he looked around with killing intent and atrocity.

"You know how to stop me." Ace's unconcerned voice drifted in the air and everyone heard it.

"Just give him what he wanted!" Damien Prince yells with an ashen face. He cherished his life more than treasures.

Shadow Leader gritted his teeth with bloodshot eyes, he didn't want to hand over his storage rings for these brats at all. He even regretted collecting everyone's rings, or this might not come to this.

But he can't just wait and watch those aristocrats die, and they all belonged to Royal families of the top ten kingdoms.

Even if he wasn't afraid of other kingdoms, he was afraid of Damien King's wrath. Because he was non-other the principal of Damien Royal Institute!

The Damien King's will torture him to no end and kill him, there was no place he could run.

When he thought about all these possibilities, his heart turned cold, but he still hesitates to hand over his storage ring!

"H-he kill the P-Prince of...The Golden Hammered Kingdom!" Someone exclaimed with dreadfulness.

"Bastard, give me my storage ring if you want to die, die alone, don't drag me with you!" A scarlet hair youth roar as he charged at Shadow Leader without even thinking about their cultivation level difference. He was the scarlet prince, and he was terrified of dying.

More and more people join him and all of them were filled with madness. They didn't want to die!

"Stop! Just stop, I'll give you the storage ring!" Shadow Leader's face was lifeless when he finally gave in. He also chose life over treasures.

He felt this thief wasn't attacking him because only he knows the secret position of the storage ring or with this thief's ability he can easily kill him.

No matter what, he will die!

Ace appeared ten meters away from the listless Shadow Leader like a ghost. He had a faint smile of victory on his face, 'I succeed and even kill those bastards from the Golden Hammered Kingdom.'

A hint of viciousness flashed past his eyes when he thought about the Golden Hammered Kingdom. He still didn't forget the blood feud created by Dulce.

That's why he went after the Golden Hammered Kingdom first and cornered Shadow Leader. He knew this guy was just an instructor and will be killed if he didn't protect these important nobles.

Ace took the risk and show him just how helpless he was if he really killed, and now he was even thinking he might be able to kill a flowing Qi river cultivator if the other party wasn't vigilant of him.

But the next moment he throws the idea aside since it was very dangerous, and he wasn't some blood-thirsty killer and just a petty thief. He would never kill wantonly for no reason.

Shadow Leader gritted his teeth when he saw this bastard appear so leisurely with no fear.

"Give me a moment!" He turned around and enter his tent.

"No tricks!" Ace could tell this guy wasn't lying this time, but he still warned him.

Shadow Leader took a deep breath and unclenched his fist and with a trembling hand, he took off the black armor and robe. There was a healed scar on his stomach.

With his Qi, he again cut open that scare with a painful expression and took out a bloody ring. His expression was as if he would cry at any moment when he looked at the storage ring.

However, before he could strengthen his resolve, the storage ring vanished and an owl tattoo appeared on his left index finger mysteriously.

Shadow Leader's eyes turn bloodshot and abruptly vomit a mouthful of blood.

His shrilled roar rang in the vacancy, filled with hatred and helplessness.

"I not over between us! You, thievish son of a bitch!!"

'Heh...!' Ace smirked when he heard Shadow Leader's resentful roar.

He looked at the storage ring, which still has a trace of warm blood. He observed all that the shadow leader did after entering the tent with his heavenly sense.

Even he had to admit this method was unique and effective. He will remember it since if one person can use his body as some hiding-place the other can as well.

The world was filled with more sly people like Shadow Leader, or even more shrewd people than him.

He looked at the notification panel with elation that he received after he used the pick-pocket.

[Successful Pick Pocket Count: 205]

[Low-Level Thieveries: 146]

[Total Rewards: 40,000TP]

[Thief Point(s): 2,299,400]

[Low-level Thievery: 2,745]

'I guess this was the last low-level thieveries I got from these participants. Now I have to lure those incoming 'helpers' deep inside the forest!' Ace's eyes shone with a sharp light.

Another day passed,

A few ten miles away from the earthen mist forest, a flock of Ghost Cranes came to view. Any demonic beast in the vacancy would escape just by sensing the terrifying aura this flock was emitting.

After fifteen minutes, the flock finally landed a mile away from the emerald mist.

A group of powerful people disembarks the Ghost Cranes.

An athletic middle-aged man with long black hair looked at the 12 beast tamers who controlled these 12 Ghost Cranes and ordered, "You guys keep an eye from the sky. If anything, out of the ordinary happened, use the Thousand-Miles Transmission Formation."

The beast tamers nodded since this person was from the high-level lands, Ridge.

He was sent here to capture Sky Stealer, just like Alvin. He was also in the Qi river core realm.

Since John disappeared, he was temporarily in charge of the beast calling main branches. He came to the Leap Kingdom with John, so he would naturally also take part in this hunt.

Ridge had his doubts regarding John's sudden disappearance, and he naturally suspects Lan and Alvin, but he knew John was much stronger than both combined, so there was also a possibility they were telling the truth.

He didn't have John's secret skill so, he couldn't sort this out and only trust those two. But he would demand an answer if John didn't come back, even after they capture that thief.

Right now, they all needed to work together since the thief wasn't the only problem and the real threat was from Nightmare Ghosts!

"Everyone, I don't need to warn you about the danger of this mysterious forest but who didn't know I would say only this much," Lan spoke at this moment while looking at everyone solemnly.

"This emerald mist can be dangerous even to me if I enter deep into the forest. We're here to capture a thief who didn't know the immensity of the sky or depth of earth.

"He defies the authority of everyone and didn't follow the high-laws we maintained for thousands of years. He's a rebel, and he needed to face judgment.

"As for everyone who followed us here, after capturing that thief they will be abundant rewards for you and your ruling domains. I promise you, on the behalf of Pill Flame Organization and Beast Calling Organization!"

Every ruler standing there shows an ecstatic expression after hearing Lan's promise of rewards. These rewards would bring those kingdoms to a new height of power.

Lan was very satisfied with everyone's reaction and continue, "One last thing, Nightmare Ghosts Organization will also come in two or three days. If you see any one of them kill them all, the Pill Flame Organization will take full responsibility!"

Lan still didn't forget about the incident with Finn, and he wanted him back as well. He'll be going to settle the score with them if they dare to come here.

After Lan gave some more direction, they enter the mist. They were going toward the Shadow Leader's camp first since most of these people have relatives here.

They would let them all exit the forest first and then truly initiate the search.

Half a day later, the remaining over 24,000 participants emerged from the mist with elated expressions in different groups. More than half of them die, some because of the demonic beast, and most of them die because of the emerald mist.

Nevertheless, their nightmare was finally over, and now it was time for them to go home.

Even those in the shadow group with Qi foundation cultivation came out with a relieved expression on their faces. But there was also a hint of terror in their eyes.

Some of them had an Owl tattoo on their fingers, it was a reminder and proof of what happened these days was as real as heaven and earth.

Especially those princes and princesses from Shadow Leader's camp. They would never forget that mysterious Hooded-Person with a domineering attitude. This left a deep impression on their minds and souls.

Perhaps he was evil or a liberator or even a peace lover as he said, one thing was clear.

That person was a Thief through and through!

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Chapter 210: Traces Of Sky Stealer

Five hundred miles east from Lan's party,

A group of black-clad people stopped a hundred meters away from the emerald mist.

Marc deeply looked at the mist with keen interest and said, "Even I'm feeling a little apprehensive just by standing here."

This was Marc's first time in this barren place and truth to be told, he only thought of this place as a countryside village. He wasn't even afraid of those powerful people.

When Marc heard about the stories related to this mysterious forest, he never believed them until now. He could feel this mist can gravely harm him, only if the density were far more potent than the mist ahead of him.

"Did that slave contact you? What's the situation with Pill Flame and Beast Calling group?" Marc asked the Black Reaper standing behind him.

Black Reaper was also shocked seeing this mist and felt apprehension from it. He quickly answered, "Yes your majesty, he contacted an hour ago, and they just start the search at that time and didn't find any traces of that thief yet."

The salve these two were talking about was non-other than the Luminous King! He kept feeding information about Lan's group actions to them; he was a spy of Marc!

"Tsk, useless old fools." Marc sneered with disdain, "Let's go. Scatter and if you find the Old man's group doesn't engage. Our target is that thief, anyone else doesn't matter."

"However, if anyone tries to hinder you, kill them without mercy. Heh...but I don't think anyone can discern you in this mist. Three Purple Assassins will remain here, and two blue assassins should go and monitor the Beast Tamers to the other side."

"If you find any traces of Thief immediately use the communication formation, don't engage alone if you're not sure of capturing him alive, let's go!"

A group of 25 assassins and a prince party of three finally join the fray to hunt down a thief in Earthen Mist Forest.

Alvin was exploring the forest alone while searching for any traces that the thief left. His handsome face was frowning for some reason.

'My martial sense is greatly hindered because of this damn mist just like last time and even with amplifying treasure I can only cover a hundred- fifty-meters area!' Alvin's mood was gloomy because of this huge hindrance.

Moreover, Alvin could feel the mist density was increasing and his martial sense's range was keep decreasing because of it.

Without the full power of the martial sense, he can't cover a large area, and this was very frustrating. This was the case for everyone who possesses the martial sense, not just for Alvin only.

But this wasn't the only side effect they were facing, the Qi recovering inside the emerald mist was also very slow, and the deeper they go inside the Qi usage can't keep up with Qi recovery. They will have to rely on Qi stones then.

Everyone has to keep using their Qi to form a protective barrier around them, so the Qi won't affect their minds. Although, this area wasn't harmful to someone like Alvin and the team.

But if they didn't protect their mind now, the effect after going deeper inside the forest would intensify many folds. This was the true terror of this mysterious forest.

Everyone was searching for over three hours now, but they still didn't find any trace of the thief, and the scouts outside still didn't alert them of him leaving the forest.

They even check those participants themselves to make sure he wasn't hiding between them and then let them go.

This could only mean he had escaped deeper inside the forest, and this was a piece of terrible news for everyone.

They were still hoping he was in this most outermost area of the earthen mist and if they didn't find him until the night they would have no choice but to go in the real outer circle of the forest!

The Earthen Mist Forest was divided into four circles, the outermost circle where the mist was not so dangerous.

Outer Circle, where the emerald mist density was fifty percent more potent than the outermost circle and can even affect those in the Qi river depth realm.

Then come the Inner circle, which mist can influence the peak of the Qi river realm's cultivators. Supposedly, in this region, there were many terrifying beings!

Lastly, the mysterious circle, from which no one has ever come out alive even some Qi river core cultivators were in this missing list. No one can explore this region to this day, and the emerald mist there was dense like clouds!

No one dares to go there if they have brains!

While everyone searching for the traces of the thief,

The thief himself was leisurely resting on a gloomy tree, the mist around this area was much thicker than the outermost circles because this was the outer circle!

Ace was a mile away from the outermost circle, and he was waiting for everyone to come together before luring them here!

While waiting, he was sorting out the big loot he collected in the last three days. There was a big grin on Ace's face as he admired those thousands of storage rings.

Although they were still bonded by Qi marks, nonetheless they were now his. He would open them when he had a much less costly way.

Ace's thief's space would've been cramped if he didn't have all those extra storage rings, and there was still a thirty-cubic-meter metallic box that cover a large area of his hundred-cubic-meter thief's space.

He was planning on getting rid of this treasuring very soon; he didn't care about what was inside since it was very rich already. The treasury of low-level lands didn't interest him anymore.

If not for the high-grade formations attached to it, he would've already thrown it away long ago.

After making some adjustments, he looked at the pitch-black cocoon with scarlet lines like some runes, in the very center of the thief's space. His eyes become extremely gentle.

'I didn't think I would miss you this much...' Ace lament with a sad yet gentle sigh...

At night, the earthen mist forest was filled with gloom and pitch-black darkness.

Ace suddenly opened his dark blue eyes, 'It's the time!'

He knew the 'helpers' had already entered the forest, and now was the time to 'show the way'.

The very next moment thereafter, a deep-yellow hand-sized ball with a little gray string appeared in Ace's hand.

Yes, this deep-yellow ball was indeed the same Explosion Bomb he once used in his last thievery mission in low-level lands! But this could cause much more commotion than the last one!

Ace has plenty of these toys in his thief's space and from his last experience, he knew the cultivators didn't have any impression of them nor did he see these bombs in middle-level lands.

He quickly lit the string attached to the explosion bomb and then throw it toward the sky with full power. It vanished in the mist.

With a wintry smile, he moved deeper into the outer circle.

Just five seconds after the throw,

'Boooooommmmmmmmmmm...!'

A thunderous explosion rang in the dead silent earthen mist forest which startled everyone in thousands of miles!

All those people who were searching for the traces of Sky Stealer with dejected looks were shocked hearing this strange explosion.

However, the very next moment excited voices rang in the forest, and a few minutes later everyone moved toward the source of the sound at full speed.

Everyone thought someone must've encountered a powerful beast, and that explosion was because of their fight. And that part of the forest was far away from the searching region of both groups, so they knew it must be that thief.

They all move after sending a signal at full speed, so they could first reach there and capture probably wounded thief.

After haft an hour, three figures in black cloaks appeared in Ace's previous position.

"My prince, there isn't any trace of battle?" A crisp voice sounded from a cloaked figure, with a hint of confusion.

"But the sound came from this position, the Myriad Rhythm Compass can't be wrong!" Another confident yet bewildered voice of a mature woman sounded.

"Let's search the area first. Others are coming, and they're not ghosts!" Marc's grave voice sounded and the three quickly enter deep into the forest.

Just like Marc's party, other people came close to the area, and after they didn't find any trace of Qi, they also searched for the vacancy.

The outer circle of the earthen mist forest, which remains barren most of the time, suddenly turns lively.

Ten miles away from all those people, Ace was standing on top of the tree. He didn't know if people took the bait or not, but he didn't dare to be too close to them. If a Qi river core cultivator senses him, it would be over for him.

'Let's continue!' Ace took out another deep-yellow explosion bomb and repeat what he does an hour ago.

Another thunderous explosion sounded and just like a moth to a flame, all those people quickly move toward it with no hesitation!