

Thief 361

Eternal Thief

Chapter 361: Giving a Choice

Dolly and Flora thought Feng was mocking them, but their expression changed when they saw Feng's face melting before changing into a completely unfamiliar demon.

"Y-you..."

Pablo smiled and said, "Yes, I'm not Feng, I already killed him for his face."

Flora mumbled in disbelief, "No, it's impossible you know too much about Feng's behavior. You're fooling us!"

Ace merely chuckled and said, "Hehe, I have my means."

"Then who are you if you're not Feng!" Dolly's eyes were filled with disbelief, but there was a hint of relief and happiness.

She also wanted this to turn into the truth since this would mean they got their revenge, but she also felt pity since she wasn't the one who do it herself.

"How about you looked at your storage ring? I think you should get your answers!" Ace gave an ambiguous reply.

Both sisters simultaneously looked toward their ring fingers and were gobsmacked when they saw the owl imprint has somehow replaced their storage rings!

Ace had already pick-pocket their storage rings the moment he entered the room; these sisters didn't notice anything since they were busy being sexy and then shocked by Feng's abrupt retaliation.

"S-s... Sky S... Stealer!" Flora stuttered when she said the name of the infamous thief.

Ace smiled, "Oh, so you know about me, good then. Now you believe me?"

Both of them nodded like statues with shocked faces. They still didn't dare to believe they were seeing the actual thief, who was probably even more famous than Demon Kings!

"So, you should also believe when I say, Feng didn't kill your family, you were used by Weng to get rid of Feng and once you have accomplished your task, you won't be able to escape death, and he has nothing to worry about getting exposed." Ace still wanted to clarify their confusion.

He felt pity for both sisters; they have a very tragic past, and then they were both taken advantage of by their dead parents. He knew those with status and power always see everyone as their disposable pawns, and he hated them all, regardless!

Flora suddenly burst into tears and asked, "But why did he do that to us? Why would he play with our emotions? We never offended him?!"

Dolly also starts sobbing after her sister.

They both knew Ace didn't have any reason to lie to them. He was already a demon king-like existence in their eyes, and not only for them, but many saw Ace like this as well.

With just one thievery, he managed to shake the eight provinces and the royal demon council. How could this kind of person be so simple and ordinary?

"Benefits and cause, of course, he never saw you as living beings. He only saw you two as trash, which he can throw out anytime he wanted." Ace's words were extremely harsh, but they were accurate a vicious but absolute truth!

Both sisters' expressions turn listless when they heard Ace's words. Their entire life had turned into a joke and their pure emotions were used as a plaything by another. They felt like dying right now.

Ace felt their chaotic emotions and only sighed. Two intermediate-grade-1 oath contracts appeared in his hand. Oath contracts were categorized by the system as slave contracts.

It wasn't wrong to call oath contract a slave contract as well, since this contract was worked on the same principles as the slave contracts, it was just that it was not as vicious as the slave contract.

Ace has millions of slave contracts from his thieveries and he never used them before, and he also didn't want to since he considered slavery as a malevolent disease.

He threw those oath contracts, which were in the shape of a simple blue paper with beautiful carvings on their sides.

When both sisters saw the blank blue pages, they knew this wasn't a slave contract, since every slave contract was filled with terms and conditions beforehand.

They looked at Ace in confusion. Truth be told, they thought Ace would kill them now or turn them into slaves to hide his secret, and they completely understood if Ace does any of it, but this was completely out of their expectation.

Ace said impassively, "These are oath contracts, just vow you'll never reveal my identity or any of my secrets to anyone, no matter what! After that, you just have to bear with me until we reached King Domain.

"Since it would be too eye-catching if Feng killed his two beloved maids so suddenly, or they vanished without any traces. Everyone will become curious about it, and I don't want any attention on me right now.

"So, I'll release you after we entered the king domain, and you're free to go anywhere from there and if you perform well, I might even help you settle there, remembered I have nothing but wealth. This will be my vow toward you. What do you think?"

In the end, Ace smiled confidently, and his words were sincere. He didn't want to kill these two sisters at all, but he also won't set them free just like that.

In the future, even if they revealed his identity as Pablo or Feng, he would be long turned into someone else, and it wasn't a secret anymore that he can change his face as well in the royal demon council.

But he didn't want to draw any attention to the ocean demon city, not before he was done with his mission and Noa's revenge.

Everything was going smoothly, and he felt Thomas was a big chance as well. That's why he quickly tried to deal with these two maids, so he could be worry free from any hidden danger.

But after knowing their reasons and seeing himself why they wanted to deal with Feng, he took pity on them and decided to spare them and even helped them to stand on their feet. It wasn't anything hard for him. All he had to do was to use a tiny piece of his wealth.

Now, it was these two sisters' decision to make.

However, when Ace saw twinkling stars in their eyes, he felt something was amiss!

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Chapter 362: Meeting with Thomas (1)

As the night passed, the ocean demon city greeted another sunny morning.

At this moment, on the sixth floor of the guest quarters, Feng could be seen going toward a specific room.

Ace was naturally here for his promised meeting with Thomas.

Even though the other party can set a trap for him, this chance was too good for him to pass just like that. Furthermore, he found nothing malicious about Thomas the other day and that was why he will meet him.

However, Ace's mind was still filled with what happened last night, and he couldn't help but sigh bitterly.

'Those two are really something...!' Ace smile wryly while feeling helpless.

Ace felt bitter not because those two sisters refused to comply with his little demand, but they not only complied, but they even took things too far with their oath.

Not only did they take the oath Ace wanted them to, but they even put extra conditions in it, which were they will serve Ace as his personal maids from now on with all their heart and soul and if they even think about betraying him, they will die!

Ace's expressions were a sight to behold when he heard this oath, and he wanted to stop them, but it was already too late, those two sisters were just too quick, and he can't break the intermediate-grade-one oath contracts, yet.

Even though he wasn't in the least bit affected by the oath contract, and he can just abandon those two sisters whenever he wanted and easily disposed of them, he didn't do it since he still needed them to play their part.

As for their stupid oath, he knew there had to be some way to break it, and he'll deal with them once he found the way. For now, he just had to endure those two extremely enthusiastic women after they completely submit to him.

He just didn't have time to babysit those two sisters, and he didn't even think about adding them to his thief house because after founding out the real potential of the thief house, he didn't want to add just anyone random. He'll just leave them once he reached the king domain. That was his final decision!

Ace quickly reached Thomas's room, and he sensed two new soul signatures inside. He was astonished when he sensed both of them were also soul cultivators and their soul fluctuations were very identical to Thomas as well, especially one of them which was far more powerful than Thomas!

'A Soul Embryo protector or a family member? Just who the hell is this guy?'

Ace's expression turned solemn because it was his first time encountering a soul embryo cultivator and if it wasn't for his sea realm cultivation, he won't even be able to sense this soul cultivator's presence!

But he knew the other party had already sensed him but still didn't react, which also mean his new mask was working fine, and it can't sense his soul cultivation as well.

He felt quite glad he chooses to upgrade his mask, or his disguise would be useless against a soul embryo realm cultivator!

Ace pretended to be completely oblivious since it would be no good if he showed he can sense the other party's presence, and he didn't find any malicious intent from this demon.

But he can't sense its emotions because the cultivation difference was quite high, and he can currently only sense the vague presence and soul signature, nothing else!

Ace took a deep breath and knock on the door lightly. But just in case, Ace still kept a part of his focus on the Instant Flash Teleportation Talisman. If he sensed anything amiss, he won't hesitate to use it!

The door was finally opened and a beautiful, attractive demoness in white attire come into Ace's view. She was 2.4 meters tall with an hourglass figure. She had an oval face and tan skin, just like Thomas. It was clear she was from the same tribe as Thomas!

However, this demoness was too beautiful, even more, beautiful than Grace he encountered yesterday, but she'll still lose to Feng's maids in other 'departments', though.

This demoness was also a soul cultivator but only at Flowing Soul River Stage, but it was still impressive since Ace had never encountered a soul cultivator demon before, not talking about three at once.

'This Cheveyo Demon Tribe might be as powerful as a demon king level clan, but what the hell are these people doing here? With that soul embryo cultivator, I don't think anyone would dare to hinder their advance in the king domain...'

Ace felt this Thomas was just too mysterious, and it was also dangerous!

"Sir must be Young Master Feng, I presumed. Please come in. My Husband is expecting your arrival."

Ace was pulled back by this demoness melodious voice which was completely impassive. But he was astonished when he heard 'husband'.

"So, it was Mrs. Thomas. Please forgive my rudeness!" Ace quickly performed a noble demon salute.

"Mhm..." However, this demoness's impassive face didn't change, and she merely nodded before going inside the room. It was as if she didn't care about Feng at all.

Ace even felt deep displeasure from this demoness's soul, but he didn't know how he offended her, but he still followed her to the hall.

Ace saw a table filled with luscious dishes with steam rising from them, and there were three chairs around it.

Thomas was already standing in front of his chair while beaming at Ace.

"You really don't have to do all this," Feng said with a smile.

"Hahaha... how could I not show hospitality to my esteemed guest?" Thomas chuckled.

"I'm really honored, brother Thomas." Feng does a noble salute, humbly.

Thomas wave his hand and said, "Enough with the pleasantries. Quickly sit or all this will go cold. I have Milly especially made this feast. Oh, how rude of me. Let me introduce you to the love of my life, my wife Milly Cheveyo."

Thomas's voice was filled with affection and love when he introduced Milly, and Milly give a tender smile to Thomas as well.

"This one has seen Sister-In-Law." Ace greeted again, but differently this time.

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Chapter 363: Meeting with Thomas (2)

Milly's warm expression again turned impassive as she nodded toward Feng before she sat beside Thomas.

Thomas didn't say anything. He knew his wife didn't like Feng after they dig out his complete history last night.

Even Thomas thought Feng's reputation was just too peculiar, but he couldn't help but think that information might be false because he himself meet Feng, and he found Feng quite unfathomed and not as reckless or arrogant as all those documents described him to be.

Furthermore, Feng didn't show any kind of reaction after seeing Milly. He knew Milly's beauty wasn't something that a lustful fellow like Feng could resist. Even if he hid his expression, he won't be able to hide his soul's undulations from his protector!

This was a test purpose by Milly herself, and if Feng really showed any kind of bizarre emotions toward her, Thomas would've not even seen Feng and have him leave from the door.

But out of Milly's expectation, Feng didn't even react after seeing her as if he was looking at an ordinary demoness. Which somewhat earned Milly's respect as well as resentment.

Nevertheless, she had no choice but to invite Feng in since he passed the test.

Ace had no idea about it, but even if he had, he would only scoff.

Thomas happily signaled Ace to start without restraint.

Ace was foody himself, and it was his first-time eating food of the demon race, and this was homemade by Milly as well. He could tell Thomas and Milly's relationship was very close, and they didn't have maids, which also means Milly took good care of Thomas.

But Ace smiled wryly when he saw such a heavy feast for a breakfast and could only put it back on his head since it might be the demon race's custom, besides they were all cultivators, so it doesn't matter what they eat or when they eat as long as it wasn't full of Qi.

After the scrumptious meal, Ace couldn't help but praise Milly's cooking, which earned him some of Milly's goodwill, and Thomas smiled gleefully.

"Brother Thomas, I never thought I will have such a warm meal so far from home and I must confess, it's been a long time since I've eaten a homemade meal." Ace truthfully praised. He was telling absolutely true.

He was always on the move, and he seldom ate in some restaurant or cooked it himself. It was unimaginable for him to eat a meal like this and he least expect to eat it in the demon race.

He felt Thomas was really someone worth befriending, but he knew it was nothing but a pipe dream since he was a human, and Thomas only treated him nicely because he had his own agenda.

"Hahaha... Brother Feng, you're too kind." Thomas felt quite good at Ace's genuine praise. His evaluation of Feng greatly changed as well.

Milly quickly change the dishes with wine glasses and wine and after pouring wine for all of them, she quietly sat on her position. She never spoke a word from the start of the meal and only observed.

Thomas's expression turned somewhat serious at this moment as he said, "Brother Feng, I thought about our conversation the last day, and I think I can help you gain a noble demon title within two weeks."

Ace knew this would come, and he was completely prepared. He said, "Since this was the case, then I wonder what Brother Thomas wants from me. I know everything had a price. Please speak your mind without holding back."

Thomas greatly appreciated Feng's sincerity. He also didn't want to beat around the bush. He replied, "I want nothing excessive from brother Feng besides a simple oath or more of promise."

'I knew it won't be so simple.' Ace smiled wryly, he said, "What kind of promise, if I may ask?"

Thomas didn't expect to Feng react this calmly. He knew when he said oath; he was obviously hinting at an oath contract. But Feng reacted a little.

He said with uncertainty, "Before this, brother Feng, can you tell me how confident are you in acquiring a noble demon title?"

Ace knew this guy still had his misgiving about his strength and decided to show him something.

Thomas and Milly's eyes narrowed when they saw Feng showing his index finger to them with a smile, and suddenly a light green Qi enveloped his finger, forming a finger blade.

But this wasn't all, but a vague white sheen could be seen on the edge of this green finger blade.

"Half Sword Intent!" A deep elderly voice sounded at this moment with a hint of surprise.

Both Milly and Thomas's expressions turned into shock when they heard 'Half Sword Intent' and Feng was 'shocked' when he heard this old voice.

"Grandpa Maddux, are you sure?" Thomas quickly asked without even explaining to 'dumbfounded' Feng.

Maddux's old voice rang again, "Yes, this young friend has indeed comprehended half sword intent, and it seemed he has excellent control over it. I think we belittle this young friend and showed a poor side of our Cheveyo Tribe this time. Little Thomas, there's no need for an oath contract. This young friend is worthy of your friendship and respect..."

Feng finally 'snapped out of his stupor' and quickly said with extreme respect, "Junior Feng pays his respect to the old senior, and I'm not worthy of the senior's praise."

"Heh, there's no need to act humble. You have comprehended a half sword intent just like His Majesty Blade Demon King's youngest son, who's considered an unparalleled genius of Mighty Blade Province. You're worthy of such praise." Maddux's voice was filled with respect and reminiscence as he mentioned the Blade Demon King.

However, Ace was shocked when he heard this piece of news. He has no idea that there was someone else who had comprehended a half sword intent, and it seemed that demon was nothing but ordinary since he was the son of Blade Demon King!

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Chapter 364: Meeting with Thomas (3)

However, Ace still didn't show his real sword intent, which was an element sword intent, or Maddux would thoroughly be shocked because element weapon intents were absolute legend.

That was also why Ace chose to only use his sword intent while hiding his element intent, or it was more of a disaster than fortune.

Furthermore, with Feng's status as a Demon Sword Clan member, he won't have to worry about others finding it strange that he comprehended a half sword intent.

Everyone knew the Demon Sword Clan had some ancestors who comprehended half sword intent previously, so it would not be so shocking for a descendant to comprehend it as well.

It could be said, Ace wanted to take advantage of Thomas's mysterious background and all he had to do was to show his worth. And it seemed it goes quite well!

But he also got to know there were many geniuses in the demon race, and he better not underestimate them as well.

"Please, senior, I'm not worthy of mentioning in the same breath as His Majesty's heir." Ace still acted humbled.

"Very good. You're indeed worthy of someone who can comprehend a weapon's intent and still keep it hidden from the world. To resist such temptation and remain humble, you have earned this old man's respect."

Maddux figure finally appeared from the cultivation chamber. He was tall and skinny, with a wrinkled face but his eyes were filled with vigorous fire, with his long snowy hair and horns, but one of his horns was cut cleanly. There was definitely a hidden story.

Thomas and Milly were also snapped out of their stupor and their view of Feng had completely changed after they knew Feng had comprehended half sword intent and Maddux praise him so highly.

"Greeting Grandpa Maddux." They both greeted him.

"Senior!" Feng also followed suit.

"No need to care about these old bones." Maddux nodded with a faint elderly smile on his wizened face, and he closely looked at Feng.

Ace felt a strong sense envelop him for a moment before completely vanished, but he pretended he noticed nothing since Feng won't be able to tell this either.

Maddux nodded in satisfaction, "Little Thomas, take little friend Feng to the royal demon council and used your chance. I don't think anyone is worthier than little friend Feng than that chance."

Thomas nodded gladly. Evidentially, he felt the same as Maddux.

"Let's go, brother Feng. We're going to the royal demon council. You're hiding your strength too well, you have to let me experience it myself. I heard weapon cultivators can block soul attacks..."

Ace was soon dragged by an enthusiastic Thomas while feeling a headache when he heard his endless chatter. He didn't think this guy was a chatterbox.

Milly and Maddux smile wryly when they saw Thomas. They knew Thomas's character was like this. If he considered someone his friend, he would treat them sincerely.

Milly suddenly asked, "Grandpa, that Feng really just showed us half sword intent?" she was still somewhat in disbelief since Feng's background was just too... ordinary.

Maddux's eyes shined mysteriously and said, "Yes, that little guy is indeed full of surprises. Even I sensed nothing until he showed it himself."

"But will it be ok if we don't bind him with an oath contract?" Milly questioned, with a hint of worry.

"I think that Feng didn't have any ulterior motives for us. He didn't know about us, and it was little Thomas who approached him, not the other way around. We also know everything about him, but he seemed nothing like what we found information about him. It seemed he wanted to remain low-key because of the ocean demon tribe. Or do you really think they would let such a threat to their position let flourish right under their nose?"

"Now that the demon gate trial has been announced, this Feng decided to show his real fangs, but if he didn't have any real protection, he was still venerable to other schemes.

"I think that's why he dared to show his half sword intent to you guys because he thinks you can give him that protection he needed and this also showed his sincerity and resolve.

"I don't think if you want him to take an oath, he would reject you either. Remembered my little Milly. Sometimes sincerity is worth more than a strong grantee."

Maddux patiently advised as he looked at Milly dotingly.

"I understand grandpa, it seemed I still have much to learn." Milly seriously nodded.

Maddux nodded in gratification, "Don't push yourself too hard, that little brat has indeed eyes for treasures."

He suddenly mumbled, "I seemed we're getting ahead of other heirs with Feng at our side, and we didn't even reach the king domain yet. If we can get three... no, two more sturdy youths like Feng, Thomas's chances of entering one of three demon institutes will increase tremendously."

Milly nodded, "I never thought Thomas's whim of coming here will bear such a fruit, while the other heirs were directly going toward the king domains. But Tribe Leader really chose a vicious method to choose an heir for the chief position. He wanted them to fight tooth and nail with each other..." her eyes were icy when she mentioned this.

Maddux sighed ruefully and said, "Don't worry, I won't let Thomas die with some underhanded scheme... but I just hope he can keep his life on the upcoming demon gate trail. The entire demon race boiling right now, and I don't think Feng would be the only dark horse. There are many tribes with grand ambitions, and they won't let this chance of ascension slip through their finger."

"Why can't we just run away? It's not like someone will come to look for us." Milly said with a dejected expression.

Maddux shook his head serenely, "You know Thomas better than me. Will he stop if you want him to? Even if he stopped, I know you can never forgive yourself for seizing such an opportunity from him. Even if not for this abrupt, heirs trial, Thomas would still head toward the royal zone and I know you would never stop him..."

Milly's eyes suddenly turned teary...

Chapter 365: A Thief's Promise!

Inside a carriage,

Thomas and Ace were heading toward the royal demon council, which wasn't far from the ocean demon duke estate.

"So, brother Feng, tell me, what makes you trust me so much that you revealed your half sword intent without any worry?" Thomas suddenly asked. He had wanted to ask this question from the moment Ace revealed his sword intent.

Ace sighed. Things were moving, too fast. They were just inside Thomas's room a few moments ago, and now they were going toward the royal demon council. Things were moving too... smoothly from Ace's perspective.

Although he showed his sword intent for this exact change, he never thought old man Maddux would decide to trust him without asking for an oath contract.

Thomas also acted friendly toward him right now, and he could tell he was sincere this time around, and this made Ace feel somewhat guilty when he thought he was taking advantage of someone's sincerity and friendship.

If old man Maddux has also wanted him to use an oath contract or if Thomas has rejected the old man Maddux's decision, then Ace wouldn't be feeling this way at all.

'Well, whatever, it's not like I'm stealing from them or anything. I just won't steal from Thomas's party.' Ace thought.

This was the only way he could make himself feel better.

"What happened, brother Feng? You seemed absent-minded?"

Thomas's voice pulled Ace out of his thoughts and he said with a smile, "It's nothing I'm still feeling it's all just a dream that I'm going to get a noble demon title of my own, and it's all thanks to brother Thomas kindness."

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Thomas shook his head and said, "No, I'm pretty sure you can get a noble demon title on your own if you don't have to look over your shoulder for ocean demon tribe all these years."

"Well, I'm glad my gamble of trusting you paid off." Feng said with a grateful expression, "But I'm still curious, how will obtaining a noble title fast have anything to do with that chance the senior was talking about? Can you please tell me if it's not too bothersome, brother Thomas?"

Ace was really curious about this chance Maddux speak-off, and he could guess it has something to do with Thomas's Demon Earl Title. It might be quite precious since Thomas needed this much consideration to give it to Feng.

"Gamble you say, I don't think brother Feng is someone who could gamble such a secret on a whim and if you really gambled it, then I think you are one hell of a gambler." Thomas chuckled lightly, he clearly doesn't believe Ace's words, but he didn't pursue the matter either.

He said, "The chance grandpa Maddux was talking about is related to my demon earl title. Since you didn't have an individual noble demon title, it's only natural for you to not know about this.

"You see, every demon who could gain an individual noble demon title of an Earl rank or higher will be given one recommendation chance. This recommendation chance can only be used once, and not even a demon duke can get another recommendation chance if he used it.

"This recommendation chance gives us noble demons a privilege to instantly recommended someone for a noble demon title trial and if they passed it, they can get a noble demon title within two weeks.

"But if they failed, not only will the noble demon who recommend the demon will lose its chance, but the other demon who failed the trial will lose its qualification to become a noble demon forever.

"That's why seldom noble demons used their recommendation chances and only if they have someone like a loyal servant who can get the noble demon title or a close family member, then they used it. You could understand its importance now, right?"

Ace was astonished. He never thought there was such a privilege for a noble demon with an individual noble demon title. But this privilege was a double-edged sword because if the trailer failed, then he won't be able to have another go at the individual noble demon title anymore and the recommender will also lose this precious chance to acquire a noble demon subordinate as well.

"Brother Thomas, I really didn't know this change was this precious. Are you really sure you want to give this chance to me without any oath contract? Don't you think I'll be an ingrate and won't repay this favor?" Ace said in an impassive tone.

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Thomas deeply looked at Feng's serious face before his lips curled into a smile and said, "So what if you turn your back on me and appeared someone ungrateful? I just think I, Thomas, didn't have eyes for a friend. I won't hold it against you. But are you really an ingrate, brother Feng?"

Ace sighed when he heard Thomas repose. He still was testing if Thomas could change his decision, but he didn't and even threw a question with a deep meaning behind it.

This time, Ace said with a solemn expression on his face, "I'll help you one time for this favor as long as it's within my power. I won't back down. You have my word!"

Thomas felt Feng's words hold some kind of unbreakable bound for some reason because of his soul cultivation. He found it absurd, but he had this strange feeling that Feng really mean what he said from the bottom of his heart.

At this moment, Ace heard an unexpected notification from the system.

=====

[Host has just made the first Thief Promise]

-Thief Promise: An unbreakable promise of a Heaven's Stealer

-Abstract: Theft is not just about stealing for one's own benefits and motives. Sometimes a theft was done for the greater good and for others who were in need.

-Description (1): A Thief Promise can only be triggered when the host willingly agreed to take a mission from someone else who's desperately in need of host thieving abilities.

-Description (2): ...

Chapter 366: Royal Demon Council Pavilion |

[Host has just made the first Thief Promise]

-Thief Promise: An unbreakable promise of a Heaven's Stealer

-Abstract: Theft is not just about stealing for one's own benefits and motives. Sometimes a theft was done for the greater good and for others who were in need.

-Description (1): A Thief Promise can only be triggered when the host willingly agreed to take a mission from someone else who's desperately in need of host thieving abilities.

-Description (2): The system will instantly trigger a mission when the possessor of a Thief Promise declared their reasonable request.

-Description (3): If the bearer had any malice against the host, the Thief Promise will be deemed void by the system.

[Host has gained a one-time reward for triggering the Thief Promise, one of the creeds of Heaven's Stealer!]

[Reward (s): 100,000 EXP, 100,000 SP]

[Do you want to use the EXP and SP?]

[Yes/Latter]

=====

Ace was gobsmacked by this sudden revelation by the system. He never thought his one promise will trigger this Thief Promise thing, which he had no clue was even possible.

Furthermore, he could easily see that this Thief Promise can't be just triggered because he gave his promise, but it also depended on the other party's sincerity as well.

'Doesn't this mean if Thomas had any malicious thoughts, or he wasn't in need of my abilities, I would still be in the dark about this? Well, at least I know Thomas is sincere about his words, and I'm glad I make such a promise,' Ace mused.

However, his expression changed the next moment, and he quickly asked while gazing at Thomas, who was deep in thought about that strange feeling.

"Hey, system, don't tell me you tell Thomas about it? And don't release this EXP and SP I can't breakthrough here!"

If this was the case, then doesn't that mean his identity will reveal?

Although he wasn't sure if Thomas will still have such veracity after finding his real identity. But he was sure Thomas will definitely raise his guard against him, and he had a soul embryo realm cultivator protecting him!

This could instantly turn bad for Ace!

"[Don't worry, host, a Thief Promise is a sacred promise made by a heaven's stealer, and it's his duty to complete it. But if the other knows about it, then there's no need to make such a promise, which can be used against a Heaven's Stealer and threaten his life.]"

System coldly assured Ace.

Ace sighed in relief because it would really be a disaster if others can use this absurd unbreakable promise against him, and it seemed the system won't let anyone take advantage of this loophole at all.

But he still felt deep respect toward his predecessors, Heaven's Stealers, to give such promises to help those who were in need and for the greater good.

This also clarified that Heaven's Stealers weren't someone evil or heartless bunch, they were thieves with principles, and Ace felt proud of walking this path now more than ever!

Thomas finally snapped out of his stupor and thought that feeling was just his imagination, but he still felt quite grateful to Feng for this promise, which was more than enough for him.

"Brother Feng, your words are enough to show your goodwill, and you really consider me a genuine friend. I'm glad I came here and befriend someone like you." Thomas said with an elated expression.

'He's really clueless.' Ace smiled faintly, "Brother Thomas, I'm also quite glad I meet you here. But my previous promise still stands as long as there's anything I can help you with. I will do it. Don't hesitate to tell me. My promises are nothing to joke about."

Ace jokingly said the last part, but he was telling the truth in a sense, and now it was on Thomas to use Ace's thief promise wisely, and he naturally won't tell about it to him.

"Hahaha, don't worry. I won't let you go back on your words, either." Thomas chuckled.

"Young Master, we arrive at the royal demon council branch." The coachman's voice sounded at this moment.

"Heh, time sure passes quickly. Let's go. I want to see those old men's baffled expressions."

Thomas jollily disembark the carriage and Ace followed suit.

Ace saw in front of him a twenty-story pavilion with a beautiful design and craftsmanship. There was an imposing golden sign board which speed 'Demon Royal Council Pavilion of Ocean Demon Fief.'

"Quite exaggerating, right? It's only natural since they collected absurd taxis from all over those provinces for the royal zone. We, on the other hand, didn't need to pay anything since we lived in mountains and forests." Thomas scoffed with a hint of disdain.

Ace also nodded. He had memories about the ocean demon tribe collecting half of the demon sword tribe's annual resources, and they were naturally unhappy about it as well.

They both enter the pavilion after Thomas showed his demon earl token. Those guards didn't dare to stop them.

The interior of the pavilion was quite lavishing and spacious.

It wasn't too crowded, and only fifteen demons were gathering around a big counter where three female demons were managing those demons.

These demons were also here to try their luck at the 'Noble Demon' tile, which was the lowest title amount of noble demon titles.

There were six individual noble demon titles that the royal demon council could issue, 'Noble, Baron, Viscount, Earl, Marquis, and Duke. As for a King title, it can only be gained from the Demon Emperor.

But all these six noble demon titles were very hard to gain because they had absurd trials attached to them, and titles like Marquis and Duke can't be gained just by completing the trial.

These individuals had to earn some merits for the royal demon council by completing dangerous missions, and only then they can reach the requirements to attend the trial of Marquis and Duke level titles.

Even Noble Demon Title wasn't easy to get not to talk about, there was also a mortality rate of 95% as well!

Chapter 367: Head Elder's Disdain

Thomas headed straight to the second floor, after showing his token, no one hinder his way.

'It seemed that having a noble demon title has many benefits,' Ace mused as he followed Thomas toward the upper floor.

On the second floor, the interior was the same as the first, but there weren't any demons on it and only a single demoness was lazing around.

However, she saw Ace and Thomas walking toward her as she quickly stood up and tidy up her clothes. She knew anyone who can enter this floor had to be a titled Baron at least, so she didn't dare to underestimate those two youths.

"Welcome to the second floor of the Royal Demon Council Pavilion, My Lords, what can I do for you today?" She said with a beautiful smile.

Ace saw this demoness was from the ocean demon tribe by her features and she was a second-level Iron River Core cultivator, and she was just a mere receptionist here!

Thomas greeted her with a friendly smile and said, "Miss, I'm here to use my recommendation chance. I wonder if I'm allowed to?"

The demoness was astonished for a moment, and she quickly asked, "May I ask your title?"

Thomas replied, "I'm a demon earl, and I was given my title by Pavilion Head Elder Clay over two years ago."

This time the demoness was shocked and blurted, "So, His lordship knows Pavilion Head Elder. Please wait, I'll quickly inform him. I'm afraid I don't have the authority to deal with His Lordship, Earl!"

Thomas nodded in acknowledgment.

The demoness didn't dare to delay and quickly head to the upper floor to inform Clay. She knew there weren't many who know about Clay, and only someone who had met him knew about his existence.

The demon council rules were quite strict when it came to choosing their members. Only those who passed their assessment can work for them, and they had to be impartial even if they had to declare judgment on their tribe or family.

Those who could become a council elder were all ruthless characters, although they will appear warm to you on the surface, if you dare to go against the rules of the council, they won't hesitate to eliminate you even for a moment.

That's how the royal demon council works. They were absolute royal to the crown, and they will eliminate anyone who shows disrespect toward the crown, regardless of who they are!

The receptionist came back quickly and said, "Your lordship, please follow me. Head Elder invites you and your friend."

"Let's go."

Ace followed Thomas quietly as he observed the interior of the building, and he was astonished when he found out that his soul-shattering eyes can't see anything abnormal about this building.

'Either they didn't have any security measures which is almost impossible, so, the security is a too high level for my skill.'

Ace felt quite glad that he wasn't given the mission to rob this place, or he might have to suffer the system's punishment this time around.

They quickly reached the top floor, which seemed to have an enormous hall and a table in the center. There were other rooms, but they were closed.

On that table were sitting three old demons,

Two of them were ocean demons, which was quite normal since this branch was in their territory they can join this branch's staff or even rise through the ranks to become elders under the Head Elder like these two.

The old demon in the center wasn't an ocean demon, but he had an emerald skin color with green eyes and a bald head. His greenhorns were downward curved. He was giving off a powerful feeling of authority. This was the Head Elder of this pavilion and also a member of the elder council of the royal demon council, Elder Clay!

Clay had an elderly smile on his face as he looked at Thomas. He didn't even give Feng a look, as if he was nothing but the wind.

"Hahaha, Thomas Boy, I know it will be you or who could be an earl at such a young age." Clay's mild voice sounded with a hint of approval for Thomas.

Thomas smiled and politely give a noble salute before he greeted, "Elder Clay, you're too kind. I earn this title because of you, after all."

Clay chuckled, "You earn it after passing my test, so there's no need to act humble. Now tell me, how did you come to see this old man?"

'Straight to the point eh, what an old wily fox. He clearly must've heard from that woman, but he still pretends to act ignorant. These old men from the council aren't easy to deal with.'

Thomas cursed inwardly, but he put on a polite smile and said, "I'm here to use my recommendation chance for my friend over here. Please give your opinion."

Ace could feel the disdain from those old men, especially the head elder. He didn't even look at him as if he was too beneath his standards. But he remained stoic since he didn't want to trouble Thomas.

He quickly greeted those three old demons after Thomas introduce him.

"Junior Feng of Demon Sword Tribe greeted three elders."

Clay reacted a little and merely nodded. His smile didn't disappear, but his disdainful eyes were telling the true story.

But those two old demons from the ocean demon tribe suddenly asked in unison, "Demon Sword, Tribe? As if the demon sword tribe, far north in the ocean demon fief?"

"Yes, junior is indeed from this tribe."

Ace nodded, but inwardly he was cursing because he knew these two will not sit idly because of Feng's background. He never thought the ocean demon tribe had even had two old goats in the royal demon council, but he could do nothing but sigh.

"Oh, you two know about this youngster?" Clay asked with a hint of curiosity.

He had already deemed Feng as an extremely normal demon with an above-average talent, and he thought Thomas has gone blind as he wanted to give his recommendation chance to this demon, which was simply a waste.

But these two elders' reactions didn't go unnoticed and this finally arouse some of his interest!

Chapter 368: Let Me Fight...

One of the elders with a long sharp nose spoke with a hint of disdain in his voice, "Yes, Head Elder, this Demon Sword Tribe is nothing but a decline tribe of our ocean demon fief, if not for old duke's kindness they would be long turn into history."

The second elder, with a bony face, said with a sarcastic smile, "I never thought someone from Demon Sword Tribe would dare to strive for a noble demon title, and I'm curious about this youngster who's willing to give him such a chance. I wonder if he was beguiled by him."

Ace impassively looked at both ocean demon elders. Truth be told, he felt nothing when they denigrate Feng or his tribe because they were telling the truth, even though they were exaggerating some parts.

He knew the ocean demon tribe has suppressed the demon sword tribe for generations, and they all have a very good understanding of their strength, so looking down on Feng was absolutely normal for them.

Furthermore, these two elders were right now the dog of the royal demon council, and they had little attachment to their own tribe. Still, they're members of the ocean demon tribe and won't let someone from a fearsome tribe rise easily.

Thomas merely smiled coldly when he heard those two old demons babbling all this nonsense to make things difficult for Feng, but he knew better than anyone that Feng was a true hidden monster!

Clay spoke at this moment with a hint of dislike, "Thomas Boy, are you sure you want to use your chance on him?"

From the start, he looked down on Feng, and after hearing about Feng's background, he thought it was really not worth it for Thomas to waste his chance on someone from a backwater tribe.

He wasn't from the ocean demon tribe. It was a rule of the council that a head elder can't be from the same tribe as the territory lord.

Clay had a good impression of Thomas. He was a soul cultivator as well his background was grand, so he felt Feng has played some kind of scheme to threaten or force Thomas to use this chance.

If Thomas really was in trouble, he didn't mind lending a hand, but he saw nothing amiss with Thomas's speech or expression.

Thomas said with a smile, "I'm sure. Don't worry, the Elder will change his view of my brother once you see his grander for yourself."

Clay deeply looked at Thomas's confident smile, and he felt there might be really something he didn't know about Feng.

At this moment the long nose elder spoke, "Youngster, why are you throwing away your chance at such trash? If he had some dirt on you, you don't need to feel worried. Just tell us, and we'll punish him since it's a grave crime to threaten a noble demon!"

"Yes, you don't need to feel afraid. We promise no a word will be got out of here." The second ocean demon elder nodded in assurance.

Clay remained stoic and silent. He clearly agreed with those two ocean demon elders.

Thomas's face twisted in anger when he heard his, but before he could berate those old fools, Feng's jeering voice sounded.

"Hehe, I didn't know the royal demon council even allow dogs an entry. My eyes are truly open."

Those elders, momentarily shocked, turned into rage when they comprehended what Feng just said.

"You lowly slave, you dare to curse at royal demon council?!" the bony face elder pointed his finger at Feng and howl angrily.

"Who said I cursed the council? I said the council will even give dogs an entry. I have no words for the royal demon council's generosity and honor." Feng smiled coldly.

Those ocean demon elders' faces were turned deep purple, almost black with shame and rage. This was the first time someone dare to be this disrespectful toward them. Even their tribe chief has to give them face, but now this little brat was bluntly calling them dogs without any restraint or fear!

Ace spoke again. This time, he looked at Clay, who had a frown on his face. He was also angry.

"Elder Clay, I long heard about the trials of the royal demon council is fair for everyone, right?"

Clay said coldly, "Yes."

Ace nodded and with an icy smile, "How about letting me fight those two, and if I beat them I earn the demon earl title, and if I failed, they can kill me. It's fair for everyone, right? This way, both parties get what they want. I'm only a peak Qi river cultivator, while those two are at the golden river core realm. How about it?"

Clay finally narrowed his eyes. He didn't know just where this brat was getting his confidence from, but his simple words just force him to not act against him while he also was getting what he wanted.

'This brat is cunning...' Clay's eyes shimmered coldly, 'Now, if I accept his proposal then I won't be able to take action while if I don't then Thomas might spread the news about what happened, and it'll threaten my position as a council elder. But if those two really lose, then I would lose even more, but I can still just expel them and the matter ends at it as well. But can he really go against two golden river core cultivators, despite being only at the peak of the Qi river realm?'

Clay was now calm. He didn't get his position just by fooling around. He wasn't a fool, and he could guess he might really have underestimated this brat, and now he was cornered.

But it was also the fault of those two idiots as well. They just can't keep their mouths shut and went too far this time, just offending Thomas was enough to get both of them 'disappeared' mysteriously.

Thomas's angry expression turn into elation when he heard Feng's words. He felt quite good right now and coldly looked at old demons. Since they didn't give him face, they can now suffer the ignominy!

Chapter 369: Change in Attitude

Thomas was very confident about Feng can easily beat those two golden river core old goats because they have exhausted all their potential just to reach the golden river core realm and their foundation was built on medicines, and they can only bully the weak and cower in front of strong.

They were given this position here because they were useful with their mouth and run some errands for Clay. They were just council dogs. Ace spoke nothing but the truth just now.

"Elder, please approve of it. We'll let this brat experience the strength of the council!" the long nose elder spoke as he shot a murderous look at Feng.

This was too humiliating for them and they can't take it just sitting, or they'll become the joke of their race.

"Shut up!" Clay snorted coldly at this moment, which was out of everyone's expectation. "Do you think you have the right to represent the council?"

"N-no but..."

Before they could say anything further, Clay coldly said, "Then keep your mouth shut and behave!"

Those two elders didn't know why Clay turned on them instead of Feng, but they didn't dare to speak anymore since they could feel Clay's firm pressure. He was furious. They could only shoot vicious looks at Feng now.

Clay finally looked at Feng and suddenly smiled, "I have a missed-treat little friend before, please accept my apology."

'This guy is too wily, he didn't want to be in a disadvantageous position and if those two elders would lose, or he rejected, it would be a huge blow to his reputation, so he decided to chide them so and even apologized to suffer a little humiliation in private but save himself from the public humiliation. Now if we don't give him face, then we'll be treated like bad guys, heh. No wonder the royal demon council can maintain the peace in eight provinces for so many years in succession without suffering any resistance.'

Ace thought with a grave expression on his face, he knew he was currently the biggest enemy of the royal demon council and if he slipped for a moment, he won't know how he got caught or killed!

He said with a meaningful smile, "Elder Clay, please don't make things difficult for this junior. I'm not worthy of your apology. Please forgive me, I was a little too boorish with my words and let elders experience the poor side of me. Please forgive me, everyone."

Thomas smiled proudly when he saw Feng knew when to retreat and advance, he also had the same thoughts as Ace about Clay's move, and he knew if Feng pushed Clay too far it won't end too well for them, so this was the right move.

Clay's eyes flash, 'I was right to not fall for this, or I might lose my prestige this time. This youth is not normal, and even I misjudged him from the start. He's calm and scheming. He knew when to advance and where to retreat. It seemed Thomas boy wasn't fooled by him after all.'

Clay smiled and said, "Don't worry, it was the second elder and third elder who concluded too soon. How can we judge someone with their background? It's one of the rules of the royal demon council. Always remain impartial, no matter who you are dealing with."

He said while deeply looking at smiling Feng, "Now since Thomas boy is a Demon Earl his recommendation chance will give you the right to take Demon Earl trial, but you can also choose the trial for below demon earl title, what do you think?"

Ace answered without any hesitation, "I chose the Demon Earl trial. Please give your guidance, Head Elder."

Thomas nodded in agreement.

Clay pulled an ambiguous smile and said, "Very well, to become a demon earl, either you have to possess a special trait deemed of the demon earl title, or you have to pass a survival test."

'This is simple?'

Ace felt they were giving these titles too lax when he heard the requirements.

However, soon he understood this wasn't the case. Just how many demons have special traits or abilities worthy of entering the demon council's eyes?

As for the survival test, he knew it would be even more dangerous.

He looked at Thomas, and he winked at him. He could guess Thomas had also passed the first test since he was a soul cultivator, this wasn't to mean he didn't have any inherited ability of his tribe.

Ace looked at Clay's smile. He could guess Clay didn't expect Feng to possess some special trait or ability, so he was very confident he would choose the survival test, which had a ninety-nine percent mortality rate. He also might want to deal with Feng this way for his early offense.

But alas, Clay was destined to fail, and he was in for a huge surprise.

Ace suddenly said with an ambiguous smile, "Is having a half sword intent can be considered a special trait?"

Clay's eyes narrowed as there was a tremendous shock on his face. He said, "Someone who can comprehend a half sword intent below the age of hundred is more than worthy of Demon Earl Title."

"Elder is too kind. It was just a fluke I comprehend this half sword intent." Feng said humbly.

Thereupon, his earth Qi suddenly surged from his hand, and it formed a sword with a white sheen on its sharp edges, giving off a feeling of sharpness and coldness.

Clay darted from his seat with a disbelieving expression on his wizened face, and those two ocean demon elders looked like they had just lost their souls.

Clay quickly took a sharp breath before he said with excitement, "Hahaha... this is really a half sword intent. Excellent, terrific. A genius has appeared from my branch with a half sword intent!"

Ace was somewhat dumbfounded by Clay's foolhardy reaction. He didn't think this calm elder would go into such frenzy after seeing his sword intent, if he showed his element intent, Clay might die from ecstasy!

Chapter 370: A Noble Demon Title (1)

While Clay was laughing in elation, those two ocean demon elders' expressions were ashen, and they felt cold sweat on their back when they thought about just dodging a bullet.

Because they know someone with a half sword intent can easily chop them into half because they had no prior experience of battle and their battle sense could not even compare with someone who had comprehended a weapon intent.

If they had gone through with their impulse and Head Elder agreed to Ace's challenge, they would've become his high-grade punching bags and shamed the council, which will cause an even worse backlash.

Furthermore, they were also feeling dread for their tribe because the appearance of a half sword intent genius means the rise of the Demon Sword Tribe and which spelled nothing but trouble for the ocean demon tribe.

However, they were members of the royal demon council now and if they try to harm Feng, who was about to acquire a noble demon title, it will not end well for either of them.

In the end, they could now only pray this Feng would fall in the King Domain or demon gate trial because they know since Feng dared to show his biggest trump card now, it was naturally because the biggest opportunity for demon race outside the royal zone.

Clay finally calm down, but there was a big smile plaster on his face and his bald head was throbbing with many veins.

He said, "Young Friend Feng, I sincerely apologized for my previous misconduct."

He bowed slightly as he shot a murderous glare at ashen ocean demon elders. In his point of view, it was all those two faults that the situation reached this point.

Albeit Clay himself belittle Feng at first, he wasn't as overbearing as those two old fools, and now Feng had a terrible impression of him.

He was present that day when the Imperial Envoy announced the demon gate trial, and he clearly remembered the orders of high elders, which were to protect any genius from harm's way while also reporting new geniuses emerging because of this trial.

They will get huge rewards if they found noteworthy geniuses who had above seventy percent chance of passing the demon gate trial.

Clay never thought his luck would be so good that he would find a genius with half sword intent in the ocean demon fief, and he knew those old demons will go mad with envy because of it.

But things can go sideways for him if Feng reported what happened here to someone with higher authority over him.

That's why he quickly apologized and even lower his head, which he would never have if this was any other time.

"You two old things quickly apologized to young friend Feng or do you want to go home?!" He sternly said as he released his aura of the soul realm.

Those two ocean demon elders snapped and trembled when he felt the cold aura of Head Elder on them and quickly bend ninety degrees and said,

"Young Hero Feng, please forgive us. It was our short-sight which didn't recognize the genius of our demon race, and we let our selfish motives cloud our view."

"Yes, we never thought Young Hero Feng was a demon among demons. Please forgive us, old bones."

Ace smiled coldly, seeing three old arrogant demons lower their head and thought, 'Heh, status indeed.'

He said humbly, "Please everyone, I was nothing but a misunderstanding. I'm just a junior. I can't accept your bows. On the other hand, please forgive me. I have spoken too harshly before."

Ace could tell Clay would not do anything to him now, and those two old goats won't dare to play underhanded tricks anymore. Furthermore, having a good relationship with Clay will only give him many benefits in a long run. He was, after all, someone from council elder circles, and his status was much higher than those two idiots.

Thomas smirked wildly as he silently observed. He had the same reaction as Clay, and he knew those old fogies were now thanking their lucky stars that they didn't get to fight Feng.

Even he wasn't confident of defeating Feng with his soul cultivation anymore, and he knew he could only fight Feng to a draw if he goes all out or still lose, since he had never seen him fighting before.

Clay smiled warmly. He felt he had really shown his poor side this time around and almost earn a genius irony.

He looked at Thomas and said with a warm elderly smile, "Thomas Boy, you don't need to use your recommendation chance for Young Friend Feng. Consider this a reward to bring him to the royal demon council pavilion."

Thomas was astonished and asked with uncertainty, "Thank you, Head Elder, but won't he need nine months to register and get approved by the council this way? Truth be told, Head Elder, I'm using my chance to get my brother here, the noble demon title, quickly."

Clay chuckled and said, "Don't worry, you don't know this, but we council elders have been given ten geniuses slots each after the announcement of the demon gate trial. With these ten geniuses slots, we can recommend ten geniuses we deemed worthy of these slots, and they'll get a suitable noble demon title within three days."

Ace was startled. 'It seemed the demon race is trying to promote the geniuses for this demon gate trial, and the royal zone might want to recruit some geniuses from other provinces. But could it be this simple, since it never happened in the long history of the almighty demon empire...'

Thomas's eyes lit up and said, "I didn't know there was such a thing, it seemed I was worried about nothing. Brother Feng, it seemed your luck is great, even I envy you."

Ace chuckled. He knew this guy was joking and replied, "Well, you know my luck with gambling is great recently."

He looked at Clay and asked, "Since Head Elder is giving me one of the ten slots, then can Head Elder tell me which noble demon title will I earn?"