

Thief 371

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Chapter 371: A Noble Demon Title (2)

Ace 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?"

Clay smiled mysteriously and said, "You don't need to worry about it. In three days, come and get your noble demon token and robes."

Ace didn't push the matter, since it seemed Clay was far more eager than him to get him a noble demon title.

Ace suddenly asked, "Since this is the case, then I have to thank Head Elder in advance. Can I gain access to the library here since I already pass the test?"

He was very interested in information stored in royal demon council libraries and since he doesn't have to steal it now, he won't let such a chance pass. It will greatly boost his knowledge and he might get some clue about why those royal zone demons were after him.

"Heh, young friend Feng didn't strike me as a scholarly type." Clay chuckled as he looked at Feng's burly build. He clearly strikes as a muscle brain.

"Well, we can't judge a book by its cover now, can we?" Ace put an ambiguous smile on Feng's face.

"Hahaha indeed, I never thought brother Feng would be someone with earth-shattering abilities when I first meet him." Thomas snickered as well.

'You and me both.' Clay smiled wryly and said, "Although the library here isn't as grand as our library in a domain level headquarters, there's much information you need there. Since you pass my test, you can naturally get access to the library here, but only after you get your noble title token."

Clay smirked broadly. "But since I'm in charge here, I don't think there's any reason to let those books collect more dust. You can enter the library as long as you want. It's not like we have cultivation technique or skills to hide there."

Ace looked at Thomas and said with a hint of excitement in his voice, "Brother Thomas, it seemed I won't be going back with you. I'm planning to stay there for a while."

Thomas looked at Feng deeply.

'Could it be he's going to the library and planning to stay there until he gets his official title, so he could stay safe in the duration between it? Since those two elders had already witnessed his strength and threat to their tribe, they would definitely report it to the demon duke. Albeit his title is confirmed now, he still didn't have any proof of it, so they can easily get rid of him and show it as an accident. It seemed this guy really had thought about every possibility.'

He said with a knowing smile, "I understand, brother Feng, don't worry."

Clay also had some thoughts like Thomas as he looked at those two ocean demon elders. 'It seemed the enmity between these two tribes is quite deep and Feng might be in danger if he stayed in the ocean demon estate anymore...'

Clay said, "If little friend Feng wants you could stay in the pavilion quarters, any demon with the noble title can stay here." He decided to lend a hand since it was within his power and no one would dare to make a move on Feng here as well.

Furthermore, he didn't want a sword path genius to get killed before he entered the big stage of the demon gate trial. It will be very beneficial for him if Feng passed it, so he would naturally protect him.

Ace could easily guess Thomas and Clay's thoughts and smile wryly. 'I also want to stay here, but because of my mission, it would be extremely disadvantageous to me if I won't stay in the duke's estate. Furthermore, even if I stayed here, I can't sneak in or out because of this place's high-level security or this might be a splendid chance to fend off any suspicion of Feng's identity after I am done with the ocean demon estate! Such a pity...'

"Thank you, Head Elder, for your kind intentions, but I'm fine in duke estate and besides I can't stay here forever. I have to head toward the king domain in a month, so I have to leave, eventually. But I will stay here in the library for some time if you don't mind." Ace said. He would not remain in a turtle shell, and he still needed to prepare for his mission.

This small development didn't change his plan, even if these demons treat him well and he could live a comfortable life, can he?

It was simply impossible now since he enjoyed the exhilaration of theft and adventure, and he would not change his ways anymore, just for a comfortable life. He preferred his life as a thief, filled with uncertainty and thriller.

"Heh, you can stay there as long as you want." Clay naturally didn't mind, and he appreciated Feng's character more and more.

"You two spread the news about a sword genius has appeared from my branch, and he's under my protection. If anyone tries anything funny, don't blame me for dealing with them." Clay's coldly looked at ocean demon elders, who were now regretting opposing Feng in front of Clay.

This was Clay's way to give Feng some extra protection, now as long as he was in the ocean demon fief no one would dare to move against him, especially the ocean demon tribe since it would only make things more difficult for them if something were to happened to Feng because they would be the prime suspects.

Clay wasn't someone to trifle with as well, he was a royal council elder and his means were astonishing!

"Go to Rina, the girl who brings you here before. She'll take you to the library." Clay said, "I have to report your situation to the headquarters. Hehe, you're going to become famous, my boy."

Clay left toward a room while laughing heartedly.

Ace smiled wryly. 'This old demon is really overly enthusiast.'

Thomas grin and shouldered Feng before saying, "It seemed I have to rely on you from on."

Ace ambiguously said with a wily smile, "Heh, a storm is coming. You better brace yourself."

"Hehe, I'm just afraid it won't come." Thomas laughs.

Ace chortled coldly, "Oh, it will come, at least for the ocean demon tribe, I guess!"

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Chapter 372: Noble Demon Title: Rising Sword Earl

The mighty blade province was divided between ten dukedoms and a king domain.

Recently, there wasn't anything new besides Blade Demon King's announcement, and almost every youngster who dreamed about going to the royal zone was moving toward Blade King Domain.

Until a piece of astonishing news spread like wide fire, a young demon from a backwater tribe has emerged within the ocean demon duchy, and he was a sword path genius who had comprehended half sword intent.

This drew even Blade Demon King's attention, and he himself confirmed it from the royal demon council, and he was thrilled when he heard this sword path genius was from his province and soon reached his domain.

Blade Demon King has always promoted talents, and he never cared about their background, either. He quickly commanded one of his close aides to go toward the ocean demon city and escort this genius with no accidents.

However, contrary to Blade Demon King's warm attitude, others were jealous and wanted to nib the bud before it matured, and some even order to assassinate of this genius, so he could not hoard all the resources from the blade king domain.

Everyone in mighty blade province knew an emergence of a sword path genius meant he will get a sizeable portion in the upcoming training camp, which simply mean fewer resources for their own juniors.

The most distress about this news was naturally the ocean demon tribe. Especially Livy, who was flabbergasted when he heard this grave news, and he quickly wanted to assassinate Feng before his official title would announce.

However, very soon, everyone found out that this genius was hiding inside the royal demon council branch for two days under the pretext of studying.

Although they wanted to get rid of him, they didn't dare to make a move on the royal demon council branch. Furthermore, the Head Elder Clay himself announced that this youth was under his protection and anyone who dare to make a move will regret it.

This caused great distress in the ocean duke estate, but they were all helpless in this matter now, and they could only fume silently and cursed Feng for being such a schemer.

Soon, shocking news surfaced in mighty blade province, that the title of this mysterious youth was announced.

The most astonishing thing was this youth not only get approval from the demon royal council, and he earned a noble demon title specific for him, not a normal one.

Normally, a specific title will only be bestowed upon a genius duke, but this youth didn't earn the duke title or marquis, but he still got a specific title which was a great honor itself.

The title quickly spread throughout the mighty blade province and some other provinces.

Now everyone was calling this mysterious sword path a genius with his title.

'Rising Sword Earl!'

Inside a bright room,

A burst of booming laughter could be heard, and an elated voice filled with pride rang, "Hahaha... Rising Sword Earl, my Feng had become one of the two sword geniuses of mighty blade province. Even his majesty praises him. Hahaha... Feng, oh Feng, you didn't even tell your dear old man about your sword intent. But this is also great Hahaha... I want to see those ocean bastards' faces now!"

This burly demon had a middle-aged face that greatly resembled Feng, and it was only natural since he was Feng's father and the clan leader of the Demon Sword Tribe, Lei Demon Sword.

Lei didn't dare to believe this news at first, but as the time passed, more and more soiled news started to spread, and he finally believed it.

The entire Demon Sword Tribe was in the festival's mood when Feng's title was announced and Lei announced a ten-day celebration in his ecstasy. He was the happiest of anyone because he was Feng's father, and he loved him dearly.

However, Weng had completely opposite emotions from his father, and he almost went mad with shock when he heard his brother had become such a big shot within days after he left the tribe.

This simply means that those two maids he planted with Feng can't kill him now because killing someone with a sword intent for someone like those two maids was simply just a pipe dream.

Weng now regretted his actions because if Feng found out about his treacherous plan, he would meet with a tragic end, and he knew even his Father might not stop Feng from killing him. He was now the hope of their entire tribe, and almost everyone now worshiped him!

However, if they know Feng was someone else who just used Feng's identity as a disguise, no one knows how will they react...

'Clang... Clang...'

Sharp piercing voices of metal clanging together could be heard as a bare chest demon with a handsome appearance and tone muscle was moving like a phantom, leaving after images as his long sword was like a lightning bolt.

However, the wizened face demon was easily blocking these strikes with a faint smile without any effort at all.

"Your Highness, your mind is not clear today."

His husky voice sounded before his sword become alive, and he maneuvered the youth's sword without blinking as his raptor slid on the youth's sword's edge creating sparks before like a snake it twisted, and the next moment it was already on the youth's throat!

The youth stopped when he felt the sharp edge just a hair away from his throat.

He sighed and said, "Butler Jerome, can you go easy on me for once?"

Butler Jerome smile and shook his head gently and said, "I can't, your highness, when His Majesty makes me your trainer, his only command was to never go easy on you."

The youth sighed helplessly as he retrieved his sword and said, "You just like bullying me in the name of my father."

Butler Jerome didn't react at all. He heard these words millions of times and only smiled as his raptor also vanished. He said faintly, "Can his highness tell me what's on your mind?"

The youth said as he looked toward the horizon while a fighting intent flashed past his demonic eyes, "Rising Sword Earl..."

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Chapter 373: Title with Drawbacks & Benefits (1)

Ace was currently standing in front of Clay while wearing a solemn expression.

The same ocean demon elders were standing right behind Clay with a pacified look on their faces. There was also another middle-aged demon with green skin and yellow eyes and short hair.

This middle-aged demon wore a gentle smile on his face as he looked at Feng. He said faintly, "I never thought I would meet another sword path genius besides His Highness Peter in his province. You're indeed very good!"

Ace heard from Clay that this middle-aged demon was an envoy, specially sent here from the king domain by Blade Demon King!

Furthermore, this envoy was here to take him to King Domain, which made Ace frown since it would foil his plans and he can't leave for King Domain right now because of obvious reasons.

He never thought this title would cause this situation.

However, he also knows this was Blade Demon King's way of protecting him as well as showing appreciation for his talent.

'The rumor about Blade Demon King being generous and righteous seemed quite true. But I can't go to the king domain right now. I have to stall his envoy somehow. This is a hazard as well as a chance!' Ace mused.

He replied while greeting this envoy, "I'm just a nobody, while his highness Peter is someone with great fortitude. I can't take this senior praise."

Peter was none other than the Blade Demon King's son, and also the only sword path genius who comprehended the half sword intent until Ace showed up.

The Blade Envoy smiled broadly, "Indeed His Highness, Peter had great fortitude, but you're not bad yourself."

Right now, everyone knows about Feng's history because of his sudden rise.

'He isn't like describe in those documents. How could someone who walks on the path of the sword be that nauseating? It was clearly a façade to fool everyone and to protect himself. He's indeed worth of His Majesty's praise and care.'

The envoy was one of the closest aids of Demon King, and he followed him for almost a thousand years. He knew his master's disposition very well.

Although he was sent here to fetch Feng, he was also here to judge his character and disposition. If Feng was really the same as the documents described him to be, he would report it to the Demon King, and he knew Feng would be in big trouble then.

But if it was just a sham to cover himself, then Demon King will, even more, appreciate Feng's character and deemed him worthy of nurturing.

Until now, Feng hasn't shown any kind of pride or arrogance, nor did he give off any wicked feeling. If he does this, the envoy would definitely know because of his bloodline ability, 'Aura Discrimination'. Which allowed him to sense wickedness from others.

He didn't sense any kind of wickedness in Feng at all, which gave him a wonderful impression of Feng as well.

"Elder Clay, please proceed with your title bestowment ceremony. I won't hinder you anymore." The Blade Envoy said apologetically to Clay.

Clay laugh lightly and said, "I have heard about the famous Aura Blade Envoy long ago and the rumors can't relate to the real things at all."

How could Clay doesn't know about this Aura Blade Envoy's special ability?

The moment he showed up, Clay knew Blade Demon King wanted to test Feng's character. That was why this Aura Blade Envoy showed up, and he also wanted to see if Feng's attitude was just a façade or if he was really humble.

And it seemed Feng had passed the test, which greatly elated him as well.

Ace, on the other hand, had no idea about this at all.

Clay looked toward Feng solemnly as he took out a golden paper with a long string of wordings.

This paper was eighteen inches long and ten inches wide, and there were thousands of symbols engraved on its four borders.

Ace's eyes dilated when he saw this golden paper. 'A loyalty contract?'

He was too familiar with these loyalty contracts, and he didn't think the royal demon council used them. Thomas also didn't tell him, which could only mean two things. First, he was also bound by some conditions of this contract, or he simply didn't care about this contract.

Clay said in a solemn tone, "Feng, this is a loyalty contract that every entitled demon has to sign on his entitlement. Although our royal demon council is very lax with its members, there are some rules which can never be broken and as a warrior of the demon race we are abided by these rules and this contract is just to make sure it remains the same."

He handed the contract to Ace, so he could read it without saying another word.

The Aura Blade Envoy also looked solemn. He was also titled Aura Demon Duke, entitled by the royal demon council, and he himself had signed the same contract. He knew even Demon Kings had to sign these contracts, so they never rebelled against the crown.

Or, it was impossible for the crown to give the management of over half the continent to eight king tribes without even worrying about the rebellion. This contract had become stricter after the Hex Demon Race rebellion.

Although these titled demons got many benefits after entitlement, these benefits came with a price, and the price was their lifetime loyalty toward the crown.

They can order these title demons in the time of wars or invasions, and they can't refuse at all.

But the world was at peace for a long time and no one dares to pick a fight with the demon race if they didn't have a death wish, that is. This was also the reason these demons just sign it off without being worried about the call and live their life in luxury and limelight.

Ace also notice these points and all in all this contract was only to stop these demons from rebelling and harming the royal demon council in any way, and they have to lend a hand if the council or royal zone experienced any kind of danger no matter what.

Furthermore, two points confused Ace, these points were,

'Point 18: No 'Hex Magic' shall be practiced at any cost!'

'Point 19: If the signer had practiced 'Hex Magic' before, then this contract cannot be signed and the 'Hex Magic User' shall die as a result!'

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Chapter 374: Title with Drawbacks & Benefits (2)

Ace couldn't help but looked at Clay and asked in confusion, "Head Elder, what's this Hex Magic?"

He never heard of this term before and while he was in the library, he had read every book in these three days, and he has never seen this term in those books before. Right now, Ace had a very good grasp of the outer provinces and all the famous areas and dangerous regions of the Mighty Demon Continent.

He even got to know about some servitude races under the demon race and some other races on nine continents. Although the information was quite vague, it still broadened his horizons.

However, he never found the term 'Hex Magic' in over ten thousand books and now that he saw this in the contract with such harsh restriction and death punishment, it clearly implied this Hex Magic was hated by the royal demon council or more specific royal family.

Elder Clay said, "I can only tell you this much. Hex Magic is an absolute taboo in our almighty demon empire, and whoever practices it will be hunted down by the entire demon race. These conditions were made so no one with this vicious profession can infiltrate our royal demon council and if anyone dares, they will be instantly seized!"

Clay naturally knows about the Hex Magic, especially after the recent incident with that thief, who was considered a being from the hex master from Hex Demon Race.

But they don't announce it to the common public, nor they could reveal it under any circumstances.

Aura Blade Envoy's eyes shimmered. He knew about the hex demon race because of the blade demon king, and there were also records about them in the secret library.

He was also shocked when he heard the imperial envoy killed a soul cultivator without batting an eye just because he was affected by a hex. They even incinerated two tribes and a city, just because they didn't want to take any risk of letting that thief escape.

Right now, all the upper echelon knows about the tragedy of the iron demon city and the consequences of a hex master roaming freely in their territories.

Since the thief was alive, then it naturally meant he'll show up eventually, but they didn't want him to show up in their home.

That's why the securities were extremely high nowadays, and any suspicious subject will be instantly detained.

A sudden thought flash past Ace's mind like lightning when he heard this and his heart trembled, 'Could it be they think I'm this hex magic user and that's why the royal zone got involved?!

The more Ace mulled over it, the more he found it possible because the appearance of the royal zone was too sudden, and they come extremely overbearing to him. Even wanted to refine him.

After hearing Clay's words like the enemy of the entire demon race, he felt like crying because if this was true, then this was a huge misunderstanding, and he had no way of proving that he wasn't this hex magic user at all.

But he knew it was meaningless since no one would believe him because he might have done something which let them believe so much that he was a hex magic user.

'What was it, my thief abilities? No, there are many demons with stealth abilities like Noa. Then it has to be my thief symbol since it's uncomprehended by anyone. I have to get more information about this hex magic and I have to confirm if they think of me like one.'

Ace could tell Clay would not reveal any more than he already did, but he had to confirm his conjecture no matter what. It was extremely important to his future plans and safety.

He suddenly thought of something and said with uncertainty, "Head Elder, I suddenly thought of something. I just don't know if I said it or not..." He pretended to be hesitant.

Clay narrowed his eyes and said, "Speak your mind, don't worry."

Ace's eyes shimmered. "Elder said this hex magic is sinister, and I couldn't help but think about what happened to the iron demon city a few months ago. Could it also be done by hex magic?"

Ace had taken an enormous risk by saying this because others might think his guess was too accurate, and he might know something, but he knew as long as he signed this contract they will not suspect him.

Furthermore, it was not like he had spoken about some secret matter. Everyone knows about the sudden fall of iron demon city and the common public had no idea what has happened. Many were curious about it. But there wasn't any kind of news or rumor about it all, as if someone had made the iron demon city forgotten.

That's why Ace dared to say this since Feng's tribe had no idea about the iron demon city matter as well. He had to take this risk to confirm his guess.

'This brat!' Clay's eyes went wide for a moment, but he controlled his expression. He never thought, with just this casual information, Feng would connect the iron demon city's destruction with hex magic.

Aura Blade Envoy was also startled, and he felt this was too much of a coincidence, but he remained stoic and keep observing Clay. But he had activated his ability.

Clay merely shook his head and said, "I don't know about the matter of iron demon City. No one knows about it."

However, the little change in emotions of both soul realm beings was enough for Ace to get his answer and he scoffed, 'So, you know but don't want to admit it because of that person's background, huh? Well, I got my answer, and now I know why they're after me...'

However, Ace didn't show any kind of reaction and only nodded in defeat.

He didn't ask or delay anymore because he could tell those two were starting to look at him with more peculiar looks.

"Well, it's a shame then if there was really such a vile character, then I would do anything to kill it, so the other innocents would not have to suffer such a fate," Feng mumbled.

He sent his Qi in the loyalty contract and then a drop of blood.

The contract shimmered in golden light.

Ace has already delayed long enough and the last conditions of the contract were also about some other things and the last term was to never reveal this contract or any of its terms and conditions to anyone, which confirmed Ace's other guess as well.

As the light shimmered, Ace suddenly heard a familiar yet unfamiliar notification:

[System has detected a High-Grade-5 Martial Binding Slave Item!]

[Please choose between two options]

-Option 1: Destroy the Binding Slave Contract

-Cost: 100,000TP

-Option 2: Create a Fake Conscious for Binding Slave Contract

-Cost: 500,000TP

[Please choose within thirty seconds, or the system will auto-select the first option.]

=====

'Slave Binding Contract? But why the hell is this so expensive this time? Last time only a hundred or five hundred were charged for both options! Could it be because it's a grade-five, that's why?' Ace mused.

Still, he quickly chose the second option since if he doesn't system would destroy this contract, which will not be good for him in any way. He doesn't have any third option.

=====

[Option 2 has been activated!]

[Thief Point(s): 17,515,000]

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In his martial space, a white smoke cloud was quickly formed, and a golden streak entered it, turning the white cloud into dark golden.

Ace sneered coldly inside as he thought, 'Heh, I can never be bound by anything...'

Clay and Aura Blade Envoy's expressions loosen a bit when they saw the contract was signed without any hitch and a dark red marked has appeared on the bottom.

This also cleared their suspicion about Feng, if they had any.

Ace handed the contract to Clay respectfully.

Clay finally revealed an elderly smile and said, "Congratulation, Rising Sword Earl, you're now an official part of the royal demon council. Be proud!"

"It's all thanks to the elder's grace." Ace act submissively.

"Haha, don't be so humble, act like a noble earl who had earned a special title. But don't get too cocky as well, because it seemed you just triggered a competition of sorts. Just yesterday, three more youths appeared out of the blue and earned special recommendations from council elders like me. One of them is also a weapon cultivator with half spear intent, while two others have special abilities." Clay revealed.

Aura Blade Envoy remained unfazed because he already knew this beforehand.

These three youths were from the eighth and seventh provinces, and they also cause quite a commotion.

Many ordinary young demons understood the competition had raised to another level and that they have to work hard, or they can just say goodbye to their dreams.

Furthermore, there were still over twenty-two months left. Who knows just how many more monsters would appear!

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Chapter 375: Title with Drawbacks & Benefits (3)

Ace remained unfazed by this news.

Foremost, this demon gate trail has nothing to do with him, and secondly, he would remain Feng as long as this identity suits him.

The moment he deemed Feng's identity useless or troublesome, Feng would forever vanish!

But he acted according to the situation and didn't give away his inner thoughts

Clay smiled and continue, "Now the ceremony is over, you can meet with Thomas Boy, he's on the fourth floor. He's been waiting for you since this morning. He's a good friend."

Ace was startled for a moment and nodded with a smile. "Yes, he's indeed a good friend."

Clay suddenly said, "Here's your token. Don't lose it, or you'll be in trouble. Furthermore, since you're a Demon Earl now, you'll get a 15% discount on any purchase, and you can sell anything at a good price from any shop within any province especially the Life Demon Association and you can also buy soul pills and soul materials now from the association."

Ace's eyes contracted when he heard 'soul pills' and 'soul materials' and his heartbeat raise slightly. He never thought he would get such a benefit because he knew soul pills or soul materials were sold to the public.

This will also make things easier for him now. He had wealth, and he had nowhere to spend them.

Ace quickly took the five inches triangular golden token with Earl's word in front and on the back was a goat's face demon who he knew was the deity of demons, Baphomet. It was the symbol of the royal demon council!

Clay chuckled when he saw excited Feng and said, "Don't get too excited, although you can now buy soul pills and soul materials. But you have an annual limit according to your title. Those stingy soul alchemists won't give a face to anyone, but the royal demon council isn't afraid of them. That's why they have given us this much quota."

Clay snorted with a hint of anger as if he has some resentment toward the soul alchemists or the Life Demon Association.

Ace frowned. This also put a damper on his plan to buy a large amount of soul material for Noa's practice and soul pills for himself. But it seemed there was a limit to it.

'It seemed the relationship between Life Demon Association and the Royal Demon Council is quite cumbersome. But the royal demon council is still strong since they could even force them to give such discount and soul-type treasures to their nobles,' Ace mused.

'Well, let's see how much I could get, and this also confirmed they had soul-type materials and soul pills in large quantities because they can't satisfy such a large group of noble demons. Although soul-type pills or materials are useless for martial cultivators, they're wonderful medicine for soul recovery because of soul attacks.' A thievish glint flashed past Ace's eyes.

"Thank you, Head Elder. I'll remember this." Ace quickly thanked Clay. He really treated him well all this while, when he was in the council pavilion.

Clay smiled and nodded in approval. "I'm looking forward to your performance in the demon gate trial. You have to earn some face for this old man. Hahaha."

Aura Blade Envoy smiled seeing Clay's jolly mood. He knew, that as long as Feng perform exceptionally, Clay would get rewards and might even raise his rank in the elder council.

"Let's go." He moved toward the exit after bidding Clay farewell.

Ace also bid his farewell and followed Aura Blade Envoy.

Just when they reached the fourth floor,

Thomas was sipping on some alcohol, enjoying himself, and when he saw Feng followed by Aura Blade Envoy, he quickly stood up and greeted them with great enthusiasm.

Aura Blade Envoy said with a smile, "Little Thomas, it's been many years since I have last seen you. You've grown quite strong!"

'So, they knew each other. Thomas's background is not simple.' Ace remained silent and listened attentively.

Thomas smiled and respectfully bowed. "Hehe, it was all because Uncle Aura Duke pointers that time. But I never thought I would see you here so soon."

Aura Blade Envoy or Aura Duke answer, "You and me both. I heard your brothers have already gone to king domains, and you went toward His Majesty's domain, but you took a slight detour. It was also because of you little Feng here, got his title."

Thomas chuckled, "Haha, I just wanted to enjoy the scenery on my way, so I took a detour, and it was all because of brother Feng's talent, he got what deserve. I did nothing except give him a ride."

"Heh, who're you kidding? The view of your mountains is even more beautiful than our domain Rainy Mountain Range. Nevertheless, you did well." Aura Duke nodded in satisfaction.

Thomas looked toward Feng and laughed before teasingly, "Rising Sword Earl, damn you, brother Feng, you left your brother here in the dust with your unique title."

Ace shook his head helplessly. He knew this guy was joking.

"Well, you better bow before me from now on." He scoffed jokingly.

He sensed no malice or jealousy from Thomas, and he was indeed worthy of being his friend.

Thomas sneered, "It depends on if you can make me."

Aura Duke smile seeing the young boys' friendship and couldn't help but thought, 'His Highness Peter, it seemed you'll get good followers...'

He said, "Thomas, we're leaving in three days. Since I'm already here, I'll be escorting the ocean demon duchy's team for an old friend request. If you want, you can also join us. With senior Maddux, it'll be a smoother journey."

Thomas nodded. "Yes, it's time to depart. I don't think those other youths coming here will be much of a talent, anyway. I was also waiting for brother Feng to be done with this matter, so we can all leave together. But since Uncle Aura Duke is here, we'll be following you."

"Good, you two can catch up. I'm going to pay a visit to senior Maddux. It's been a long time since we have seen each other." Aura Duke said with a hint of respect for Maddux.

There weren't many who can get his respect, and Maddux was one of them.

"Haha, Grandpa will indeed become happy after seeing you." Thomas nodded with a smile.

Aura Duke left and now only Thomas and Ace remained.

However, Ace was frowning because of the news about his departure in three days, and it seemed he can't stop them, not until he had a valid reason, which he didn't.

Furthermore, Thomas's group was also planning on leaving, and he can't say no to them as well.

'Three days... it seemed I have to complete my mission in three days. Although it is sooner than my actual plan. My preparation will be complete tonight. This is also an opportunity to escape with this group before anyone could react, and I will be long gone and enter the domain. I don't believe whoever it was who's after this hex magic user will dare to do the same to the king's domain...'

Ace mused while he and Thomas exited the council pavilion.

"Brother Feng, let's go to the Life Wine Pavilion for celebrating. It's the best place with liquor all around the continent, and its owner is none other than the Life Demon Association." Thomas's excited voice sounded.

Ace snapped out his thoughts and said, "Let's go to the Life Demon Association shop first. I heard from Elder Clay, I can now buy soul-type pills and material."

Thomas's eyes flash as he said, "Brother Feng, don't waste your annual quota in the duke level branch of Life Demon Association. Let me tell you since you're a Demon Earls with martial cultivation, you can only buy Soul Recovery Pills and Soul Calming Pills.

"The limit of ranks is from 6-Star to 9-Star, and you can buy only a hundred both pills of each rank, meaning three hundred pills each and a total of six hundred. The same goes for soul materials. You can only buy these two pills materials and only ten units of each rank are allowed.

"On unit contains a total of ten pills' worth of material. But what they won't tell anyone is that there's a rank of materials and pills as well. There are four quality ranks of pills, Low, Intermediate, High, and Peak.

"You see, in the duke level branch, they'll only have low quality or intermediate pills, and no matter what quality pill or material you bought, they'll deduct it from your quota. As long as you are someone who didn't know how to evaluate the pills, they'll dupe you.

"Although the Life Demon Association gives us noble demons' quota because of our status. But giving us high-quality or inferior goods is completely up to them, as long as they can get away with it, and trust me, it always happened. So, save your quota and used it in the domain level branch.

"They only have high and peak quality goods and they don't dare to go too far because of Blade Demon King!"

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Chapter 376: A Unique Ritual

At nighttime, a carriage entered the duke's estate without any commotion.

Two young demons disembark the carriage. One was slim and handsome while the other one was burly and looked average, but he had two long swords sheathed around his wrist.

These were naturally Feng (Ace) and Thomas. They just returned after their drinking season from the Life Wine Pavilion.

After Thomas told Ace about the truth about those soul pills' quota, he does as Thomas said and saved it for the king's domain. Ace was in a good mood after drinking good alcohol.

At this moment, an old ocean demon in white and blue attire with extraordinary conduct quickly approached them. He respectfully bowed and said, "My Lords, I'm the head butler of the Duke Mansion, Charlee!"

Thomas's eyes flashed with a hint of coldness and said, "So, it's Butler, Charlee. What do we earn the honor of making the famous head Butler pay a personal visit?"

Thomas knows this Butler Charlee was one of the most cherished and loyal servants of Livy, and he was quite arrogant. He won't give anyone face if he deemed them beneath Livy's status.

Furthermore, this Butler Charlee was not simple. He was a third-level diamond river core cultivator, a realm above the golden river core that can only be achieved with the Ordinary River (Formed with 8-Slates).

Simply put, anyone with the ordinary Marital River can skip the bronze river core and enter the silver river core directly and the last realm for these cultivators will be the Diamond River Core, and they had an 80% chance of entering the soul realm or embryo realm.

As for the Extraordinary River (Formed with 9-Slates), they can directly skip the silver river core stage and step onto the golden river core stage. Their last stage will be called the Platinum River Core, and they have over a 95% chance of entering the higher realm.

As for the Qi soul realm and soul embryo realm, only cultivators with the Golden Qi River Core or the Golden Soul River Core or higher can achieve these two realms.

These cultivators had different terms like if you enter the fifth realm with a golden river core then you'll form a Golden Soul or Embryo, similarly, Diamond Soul, or Embryo, and Platinum Soul or Embryo, respectively.

Qi Soul Realm and Soul Embryo Realm were further divided into nine small stages, from the first to third stages they called Minor Stages. The fourth to sixth stages were known as Intermediate Stages. The seventh to nine stages were known as Advance Stages.

As for this Charlee, he was at the very peak of the diamond river core realm and a hair away from entering the first stage of the diamond soul realm because it was obvious the ocean demon tribe doesn't have a cultivation technique to form a platinum river core.

Besides, just this seemingly small gap was akin to a chasm, and it wasn't easy to cross. Some remain to this level for their entire life, and Charlee was also quite old, so his chances of entering the soul realm were now fifty/fifty.

But just these fifty percent chances were enough to give Charlee a superior status in his tribe and earn him the goodwill of the Old Ocean Duke, and now he was serving his son as well.

That's why no one dared to mess with him in the ocean demon tribe, despite his status as a servant.

Charlee remained stoic despite Thomas's jeering comment and respectfully said, "His lordship sure like to jest. It's this old servant's honor to meet with two young heroes of our race. Especially the Rising Sword Earl."

Charlee's old eyes darted to Feng and an icy glint flashed past his eyes before it was completely gone.

However, Ace clearly felt the hostility and murderous intent from this old demon, and he sneered inwardly, 'So they saw me as a threat, heh. You all have no idea just how much of a threat I am to you all...'

Ace was determined to ruin this entire tribe and take revenge for Noa, and he knew as long as he did according to his plan, the ocean demon tribe was doomed or Livy and his followers at least.

Especially after he found out the royal zone was after him like a mad dog!

Thomas pursed his lips. "Cut the crap and tell us why you're here?"

He knows the enmity between Feng and the ocean demon tribe, and he also didn't have a good impression of this tribe because of Miler and other youngsters' arrogance.

Furthermore, now was too late to deal with Feng because firstly he was a noble demon with an earl title, and most importantly, Aura Duke was here himself to make sure of his safety and Livy won't dare to go too far.

Charlee's expression didn't change at all, and he remained respectful despite Thomas's rude tone. He said, "His Highness invites Rising Sword Earl for tea."

Ace's eyes flashed with anticipation. No one knows what he was thinking.

Before Thomas could retort and refuse, Feng spoke coldly, "What if I don't want to?"

Charlee's expression finally turn cold as he said, "Then I'm afraid I have to go back and report it to His Highness. He's quite eager to meet with Rising Sword Earl, and he might pay a personal visit himself then."

Thomas smirked coldly, "Hehe, then let him come. I want to see what he can do."

However, Feng spoke at this moment, which shocked both Thomas and Charlee.

"Hahaha... I also want to meet with His Highness. I have long heard about his glorious name. Brother Thomas, you go first. I'll be going to meet with His Highness Ocean Duke."

"But why?"

Thomas didn't understand why Feng would put himself in danger, because even if Livy came knocking on their door, Maddux would be there as well as Aura Duke, so Feng's safety was guaranteed.

But if he goes to Livy alone, no one knows what can Livy do, and he might really attack Feng for the greater good of his clan and there were a high chance he won't be punished harshly because his father Old Ocean Duke was now one of the blade envoys, Ocean Blade Envoy, under Demon King!

Feng merely chuckled and said, "Don't worry, I'll be fine. How could something happen to a noble demon in duke's estate, right, Butler Charlee?"

Butler Charlee's brows frown slightly when he saw Feng's ambiguous smile and felt this brat was not so simple.

But he still replied respectfully, "Why, of course. Who dares to hurt Rising Sword Earl in our ocean demon estate? I can guarantee His Lordship's safety."

Thomas nodded helplessly, "Fine, but I will also inform grandpa and Uncle Aura Duke about it."

He deliberately raised his voice at the end.

"Heh, do as you please." Feng nodded and looked toward Charlee, "Let's go, we can't let his highness wait."

"Please."

Butler Charlee respectfully escorted Feng.

Thomas quickly left as well to report this development to Maddux.

As Ace was moving deeper into the duke's estate, he was observing everything. The onlookers would only think he was just admiring the view.

Feng said at this moment, "Tell me, Butler Charlee, you're the head housekeeper of the duke's mansion, right?"

Charlee didn't know why this brat was being too chatty, but he still replied, "Yes, I managed the whole mansion's day-to-day work. It's not worth mentioning."

'Not worth mentioning? Heh, look how proud you are,' Ace scoffed.

He said, "I must be quite tiring, and you might not get the chance to cultivate at all."

Charlee was perplexed and replied, "Yes, but because of duke's kindness, he granted me some staff members to make my work less tiring."

Feng merely nodded and ask another worthless question, "I really envy you guys. You see, in my tribe, we didn't have any kind of territory or lavishing buildings. Heck, we didn't have proper cultivation chambers with high-grade soundproof arrays. The cultivation environment is not good as here at all, and I bet his highness has the most lavishing cultivation chamber, and he will remain in there most of the time, right?"

"It's only natural. As chief of an entire tribe, he had to continue to improve. But don't worry, Rising Sword Earl will get good cultivation chambers in Blade King Domain." Said Charlee briefly.

"Heh, I really looked forward to it as well." Feng wore a longing face.

Charlee sneered inwardly. 'He is still just an amateur who wants status. No matter how much he accomplishes or how wily he is, he's just like anyone else who wants power and luxury.'

At this moment, Feng bought out a glowing red stone and asked Charlee, "This is a Light Crystal."

Charlee was really stumped at this moment and pursed his lips. "I know, but why did you take out a light crystal? There are plenty of light lamps here."

"Haha, it's a kind of ritual. You see, whenever I was going to meet someone, I blow up a light crystal like this."

Feng crushed the red crystal with a smile, and a bright red light enveloped both Charlee and him before everything returned to normal in an instant.

Charlee really wanted to slap Feng for just what he said, but he controlled himself since it harmed nothing, and it was just a light crystal. He could only endure!

Charlee's eyes spasmed, and he said with a stiff face, "Quite a unique ritual, my lord."

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Chapter 377: Confronting Livy (1)

The duke's mansion was quite large and lavish.

The chief family lived here with all the decedents of his bloodline, and only some old loyal servants were allowed to live here.

After entering the Duke Mansion, Charlee quickly left Ace in a big room with some chairs and a table and went back to report his arrival to Livy.

Furthermore, Charlee just wanted to quickly get rid of Feng because he just asked too many worthless questions about his life and servants. He simply thought there was something wrong with Feng's head. But alas, he can do nothing about it because of his status.

Ace had a serious expression on his face as he thought, 'Security is quite high. I have detected many arrays already, and it will really be challenging thievery. Well, I guess any duke title tribe will have this much security. The system also didn't give notification of scouting target, which means I'm still not in the range of treasury.'

There were two reasons Ace dared to come here to meet with Livy despite his threat: first, he wanted to scout the mansion and wanted to know the layout of the servants and their routines.

Second, he wanted to see Livy in person and gauge his prowess because this time around he had to also pick-pocket his storage ring, and it would be quite difficult since Livy was much stronger than Henrik!

At this moment, the room's door slap opened and Ace snapped out of his stupor.

This intruder wasn't Livy or Charlee, but it was a young ocean demon.

He was handsome, with a slim build and long antelopes-horns and short blue hair. His purple eyeballs were filled with hostility as he looked at Ace with a fierce look in his eyes.

However, Ace remain unfazed and coolly remain in his comfortable position, completely taking the other party like a breeze, which enraged the intruder even more.

He spat angrily, "Feng of Demon Sword tribe accepts my Noble Title challenge!"

Ace was somewhat baffled and said, "And who had heck do you think you are to challenge me for my title?"

The young ocean demon gritted his teeth when he heard Feng's disrespectful words. No one dared to talk to him like that in the whole ocean demon duchy!

He said furiously, staring at Feng, "You Nobody from a mere servant tribe dare to talk to a duke heir like this?!"

'Too snooty.' Ace shook his head in disappointment because he expected more from Livy's heir, but this guy was just an arrogant demon who didn't know the disparity between sky and earth.

He merely chuckled coldly and said sternly, "Who the hell do you think you're calling a nobody? Do you dare to be disrespectful to a Demon Earl? Do you know the punishment for this treason!?"

The youngster was shocked. He never thought this guy would dare to retaliate like this, and he was lost for words because Feng's words make perfect sense.

Feng was someone with a Demon Earl title and a special one at that while he was just a duke heir and not even the main heir, so he had to show respect toward Feng, or he'll really be punished if the council acted!

But he still didn't want to back down because he was the most talented demon of the ocean demon tribe who was eligible for the demon gate trial and that's why he naturally looked down on everyone.

However, Feng's sudden rise and his unparalleled talent in the weapon's path completely shattered his pride. But he was still unwilling to admit it and so when he heard from the servants that Butler Charlee bought back the Rising Sword Earl, he instantly come here to challenge him for his title.

But he never thought Feng would be so hard to deal with and turn the table on him.

He was just about to blow his top when a deep voice filled with authority sounded, "Little Fifth, apologize to young Earl!"

Little Fifth's expression changed when he heard this powerful voice and clenched his teeth hard and mumbled, "F-Father wh..."

"Apologize!" The voice rang again with overbearing power and a hint of dissatisfaction this time.

At this moment, a burly demon with 3,1-meter height and dark blue skin entered the room, followed by Charlee, who wore an expression of reverence and undying respect.

This burly demon had two feet long sharp antelope horns on his head full of blue long hair, and a horrifying aura was surrounding him. His purple eyeballs were filled with vanity and aloofness.

This was none other than the Chief of Dark Ocean Demon Tribe, Duke Livy Ocean!

Little Fifth knows his father would not take a no for an answer, so in the end, he lowered his head toward Feng and said, "Please forgive me, Demon Earl." His voice was filled with unwillingness and hate.

Ace deeply looked at the towering demon duke before him, who wore a mild smile on his middle-aged face which was still handsome, and only one word come to his mind.

'Slay!'

Feng said as he smiled. "There's no need."

"Now go and reflect on your actions." Livy coolly said to his fifth son.

Little Fifth left before shooting a hateful glare at Feng, he will naturally put all the blame on him since he can't do anything to this father.

Ace pretended as if nothing happened and gave a noble salute to Livy since he was a demon duke, he naturally has to show some respect.

"His Highness Ocean Duke."

Livy closely observed Feng. He didn't know how, but even he can't sense anything extraordinary about him, and if he doesn't know Feng had already gained such fame and a special noble title, he would never have believed Feng was a sword genius.

Although he wanted to get rid of Feng, the moment he got the news, Feng was far more slippery than he thought because he never left the council pavilion until he got the title and now Aura Duke was also here.

Aura Duke and Old Ocean Duke were old friends, and both clans controlled duke-level fiefs in the blade domain, and Aura Blade Envoy was also the last generation chief of Aura Demon Tribe and then move on to the blade domain like the old ocean duke.

The first thing Aura Duke did was to give Livy the message from his father and that was to not touch Feng at any cost, the Demon King had personally spoken!

Now Livy's hands were completely tied, but there was another secret message that can only he could understand.

'I'll deal with him in Blade Domain!'

This message greatly eased Livy's worried because he knew his father had a superior status in the blade domain, and he can easily get rid of Feng and no one would ever know.

However, he was still ill at ease, and that's why he met Feng first before he decides on his next step.

After he observed the brief confrontation between little fifth and Feng, he instantly concluded.

'He's too much of a threat for my tribe!' Livy thought as a ruthless glint flashed past his eyes. 'Although he looked boorish and arrogant, he isn't reckless, and he knows his way with words. He had been hiding for too long before, which means he's not a suicidal type and calculative.

'He revealed his strength in front of Cheveyo Tribe's heir and earn his respect and protection and then quickly go toward the council to gain a title adding another protection while gaining the demon king's attention. Who knows how much more he's hiding?

"Father can only do little under the eye of the demon king, and he would definitely gain the best resources and protection there. If I let him leave here without any assurance, I'll never be able to sleep with this disaster growing safely!"

His smile completely vanished, and he said coldly, "Let's cut this pretending act, shall we?"

Feng said coolly, "Fine with me. Speak. What do you want?"

Ace already know this guy was too hard to deal with and since he was still talking with him, this meant Livy can't do anything to him, so he didn't need to be afraid!

'He is not afraid of me killing him? Heh, he's really calculative, but can you really remain confident?'

Livy snorted coldly as he released half of his cultivation pressure. He was a fifth intermediate stage diamond soul cultivator and his pressure was no joke, even half!

However, Livy was shocked because Feng's expression didn't change at all, and he even smiled under that pressure, and he started to raise it until it reached its peak. Even Charlee fell on his knees while sweating hard.

But Feng remained standing while smiling at Livy.

He said coldly, "I don't think Duke Livy would be so incompetent. You didn't even know a weapon cultivator's willpower is extremely strong. Let me tell you, this much pressure is nothing for me, not unless you're a peak diamond soul cultivator or a legendary platinum Qi soul cultivator!"

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Chapter 378: Confronting Livy (2)

Charlee, whose kneecaps almost shattered, felt like he just heard something unbelievable and thought he was hallucinating because no one dared to call a demon duke 'Incompetent'. Not if they had a death wish!

Livy was flabbergasted when he heard someone dare to call him incompetent right in on his face, and this someone was a brat weaker than him by whole two high realms!

But the next moment, his shock turned into boundless rage and gloominess. He was a demon duke, respected by everyone, and even his father never chided him like this.

A thick killing intent surfaced in his eyes as he looked at smiling Feng.

"You dare to curse at a demon duke?! Die!"

Purple Qi gashed out of Livy's hands, and he was going for the kill!

Livy simply didn't care about the consequences anymore, and he also saw it as a chance to get rid of Feng because he was the one who provoked the dignity of a demon duke and Livy also knew his father won't let anything happen to him as long as he had a valid reason for his actions.

Furthermore, Demon King won't go too far with his punishment, since it would only weaken his strength if he killed a soul realm cultivator under him.

However, when Livy saw Feng's smile didn't fade at all, on the contrary, his smile broadened, Livy finally felt something was amiss and when Feng's mouth opened, he knew this brat had played him!

Feng suddenly shrilled and screamed in panic, "Duke Livy wanted to murder me... please, someone save me!"

His voice has just faded when two additional pressures enveloped the room. These pressures were twice as stronger as Livy's and one of them can even make the other person's soul tremble.

When Livy felt two powerful senses locked on to him and the other sense was trying to plague his mind, he knew it was soul sense!

Livy's expression finally changed because he finally understood why Feng dare to provoke him and never fear for his safety in the least bit. It was all because he knew Aura Duke and Maddux were already here!

'But how did he know, even I wasn't able to tell?!'

Livy's heart trembled when he looked at Feng's frightened expression at this moment, and if he hadn't experienced it himself, he would've thought he was terrified for his life.

"YOU..."

Before Livy could utter, an icy voice sounded, "It seemed Demon Duke had stooped too low to even dare to attack a junior."

Even more horrifying soul pressure invaded the air and Livy finally felt piercing pain from deep within his mind before all his pressure shattered like glass and all the purple Qi turned into nothingness and blood trickled from Livy's mouth!

"Senior, please ease your anger. It was all just a misunderstanding!" another voice rang, filled with bitterness and dismay.

"P-please... forgive m-me, S... Senior!" Livy gritted his teeth as he pleaded.

He knew he had been played by this brat, and now he was suffering a powerful soul attack. He could tell the party was still holding back and if it was a full-powered attack, then he was afraid he would've suffered a terrible soul injury!

"Hmph!" Maddux coldly harrumphed before the pressure finally vanished.

Livy felt he had just escaped a catastrophe, but his eyes were filled with boundless rage and abhor.

Just when did he suffer this kind of humiliation after inheriting the position of tribe Duke, and he was even forced to bow his head?

Furthermore, the other party was so strong he felt completely at the mercy of the other party's mood and this was even more terrible than death.

Livy was too proud, and he always saw others as his pawns and care about his face, but now he could feel the same feeling of being helpless, just like all those tribes felt when he decided their life and death on a whim!

He threw a hateful glare at Feng, who was still pretending to be frightened by him, and he felt his hate for Feng reach a whole new level. He never hate someone like this because no one was worthy enough!

Maddux and Aura Duke finally appeared right outside the room.

Maddux had a stony expression on his face when he looked at Livy, while Aura Duke had a disappointed expression on his face.

After Thomas got back, he quickly reported how Feng was summoned by Livy and how Charlee even threatened them.

Aura Duke was also present there, chatting with Maddux happily until Thomas reported the situation.

They both quickly left because Maddux also felt Feng's life was not safe with Livy, while Aura Duke continued to assure him all the way that he doesn't need to worry about Livy.

However, just when they reached the Duke Mansion, they heard Feng's frightened voice and their expressions finally changed, especially Aura Duke. He cursed Livy for being such a reckless fool!

Aura Duke knew if Maddux went on a rampage, even he won't be able to handle him and only someone at Demon King level can threaten him because of his peak level diamond embryo realm cultivation!

But thankfully Livy did nothing to Feng, and they weren't too late or Livy might suffer a huge disaster this time around and even the old ocean duke won't be able to do anything to Maddux and Demon King won't say anything because Livy had gone against his will as well!

"Let's go, Feng." Maddux coldly said without even giving Livy a second glance, and his expression loosen a bit when he saw Feng's obediently coming his way.

Feng's expression was full of respect and thankfulness as he said, "Thank you for saving me, Senior."

Maddux merely nodded and turned around before shooting a glance at Aura Duke. "I'll see you in three days."

Maddux left as quickly as they came, taking sheepish Feng with him while leaving resentful Livy and bitter Aura Duke.

Aura Duke sighed and sternly said to Livy, "Are you out of your damn mind? I clearly warn you Demon King wants that brat, and he's under the protection of Senior Maddux, but you still try to attack him? Do you want to end your father's legacy?!"

He was disappointed in Livy this time around.

Livy finally breathed in relief when he saw Maddux was finally gone but felt wrong when he heard Aura Duke berating him.

He defended himself. "Uncle, I didn't want to attack him, but that brat is just too hateful. He provoked me. First, you can even ask butler, Charlee!"

Aura Duke's expression changed somewhat as he looked at Charlee, who was sweating buckets all this time for an explanation.

Charlee quickly told everything about how Feng resisted Livy's pressure and then provoked him. He hid nothing.

Aura Duke's eyes narrowed as he said, "So, you're saying; that brat knows we're here. That's why he provoked you to attack him? He even resisted your pressure without any problem? Are you taking me for a fool?!"

Aura Duke's expression was a sight to behold. He felt Livy was really out of his mind and wanted to fool him by fabricating such a story.

How could a Qi river cultivator can bear the pressure of an intermediate stage diamond soul realm?

Even if he believed it, he didn't dare to believe he could sense his or Maddux's presence without them being noticed. Especially the soul cultivator like Maddux. It was just too unreal.

He sternly said, "No matter what, don't provoke Senior Maddux again and stop going after Feng as well, or even your father can't save you from the disaster which you bought upon yourself!"

He also turned around a left, hearing nothing else.

Livy felt like he had gone insane because he knew he was telling the truth, and it wasn't coincident. He could tell just by Feng's expression. It was all carefully calculated by him.

Charlee said at this moment with a hesitant tone, "Milord, c-could it is a coincidence?"

"Shut up and go away. I know what I saw. I have to warn father that the brat is hiding a terrifying ability, and he might pass the demon institutes' trials and enter the royal zone. It will be a colossal disaster for our ocean demon tribe!"

Livy no longer considered Feng a junior or reckless. He was just too mysterious and scheming. Even someone like him fell into his trap, and that has made Livy think of Feng as someone of an equal!

Outside the duke's mansion,

Feng and Maddux were walking when Maddux suddenly said in a knowing tone, "Your performance wasn't bad."

Ace felt his heart tremble when he heard Maddux's ambiguous words, he knew it wasn't easy to fool someone like Maddux, but he didn't regret it because he knew if he remained polite and played along with Livy, he won't make Livy suffer like this.

Furthermore, the demon race was known for their special innate abilities, and he wasn't afraid Maddux would suspect him or try to get rid of him.

Because the stronger he was, it would only benefit Thomas since they were allies and Maddux wanted Feng to be strong!

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Chapter 379: Meeting Between Thieves

Deep at night,

Inside a remote alleyway, there was an old dark five-meter-tall status with a large pair of addax-horns and the face of a goat and the torso of a human while two legs of horse and wings like an eagle, it was indeed the demon race worshiped deity, Baphomet.

Suddenly, a hooded silhouette appeared right in front of this old dark status, and he pressed his hand on the side of the status platform.

Thereupon, a small crevice appeared on the wall right behind the status and this silhouette vanished in this crevice before it closed right after.

At the end of this pathway was an opened door, and this silhouette entered it with no hesitation.

A masked, voluptuous figure was sitting cross-legged while her eyebrows were tight shut.

Suddenly, she felt something, as she quickly opened her eyes and a pair of pitch-black eyeballs, as a dark abyss revealed.

When she saw the dark hooded figure standing five meters away from her, her eyes shimmered in ecstasy as she said, "Leader, you're back!"

Ace quickly removed his long dark hood, revealing his real smiling face, and said, "How have you been?"

Noa answered without any misgiving, "I was just waiting for your further instruction and I also manage to achieve some progress in both soul skills you gave me!"

Last time, when Ace revealed his biggest secret about being a dual cultivator, Noa's respect for him turned into devotion.

She finally understood just how powerful Ace will become as long as he kept making progress in his dual cultivation systems, and he will roam freely in this world without any rivals.

That's why she decided to cultivate even harder and become more useful or the day might come when he would not need her and just the thought of it make her heartache for some reason.

Ace smiled and said, "Good because I think you won't be able to head inside the duke's mansion with me."

Noa's eyes flashed with panic as she asked quickly asked with a hint of unwillingness, "Why?"

Ace sighed helplessly. He knew just how much Noa was looking forward to this thievery, which will rune Livy and the ocean demon tribe's future.

However, after his prior visit this day inside the duke's mansion and confrontation with Livy, he knew with Noa's current level she would be a burden and this might affect his mission.

Although he didn't mind taking Noa with him, she didn't have a disguise skill or item, and she was still a soul foundation realm cultivator. Any demon with martial sense can easily find her.

Furthermore, there were now two more experts inside the duke estate and one of them was a soul embryo realm peak expert with lots of experience and a mistake would be deadly.

After he experienced how Maddux subdue Livy with his overbearing soul sense, he knew he can't fool him easily.

That's why he came here tonight and tell Noa about his plan, which didn't involve her going to the duke's estate, but he had another task for her.

"I know it's unfair to you but hear me out, after I infiltrate the duke estate guest quarters and took over this demon identity name Feng..." Ace told her experience while hiding nothing, "... I meet with Livy over three hours ago..."

Noa's eyes went wide with shock and disbelief when she heard how Ace earn himself a special title, especially when she heard he had comprehended half sword intent. She knew just what this represents. She never saw Ace fighting and didn't know he was a sword path genius, either.

Noa's eyes twinkled with stars when she heard how Livy was forced to lower his head, and all because of Ace.

"That bastard deserved it!" She said through gritted teeth.

Ace chuckled coldly, "Heh, it's only the start of his suffering. Now, do you understand why I don't want you to enter the duke's estate?"

"Yes." Noa nodded without any unwillingness this time. She knew she would only drag Ace down if she followed him into this theft.

Ace was happy and relieved. He was afraid she would insist on going. But his worries were unjust in the end.

He said, "We'll leave at dawn in three days, and I'm also going to start the theft just a few hours before the departure."

Noa said with uncertainty, "Won't Livy would find out about his missing storage ring and report it to those two experts?"

She heard from Ace that he was planning to steal Livy's storage ring as well. This was extremely risky since Livy would be there when they depart, and he'll easily find out about his missing storage ring and which will cause a tremendous commotion.

"That's the thing actually, he would tell no one." Ace smiled ambiguously, "Won't I tell you the person who extinguish the iron demon city was specific after me and from the royal zone?"

"Livy might also know about it because of Henrik's death, so what do you think he'll do when he found out the 'Hex Magic User' just struck his home and even give him an owl symbol?"

Noa's eyes when wide, and she blurted, "He would not risk such a thing because he feared he might suffer the same fate as the iron demon city if he let the cats out of the bags!"

Ace nodded, "Yes, that's why he would do anything to suppress the news, and that's where you come into play!"

Noa quickly understood why Ace was implying, and her heart was filled with elation.

'It seemed I'll be the reason for the ocean demon tribe's demise after all!' Noa's eyes turned icy.

Abruptly, a green pentagon coin appeared in Ace's hand, and he threw it toward Noa with a grin.

Noa quickly caught it and when felt the Qi fluctuation, she quickly knew this was a low-level Qi stone, but it was delicately carved into this pentagon-shaped coin.

On its one side was an owl symbol, she knew it was Ace's thief symbol and on the other side was his thief name (Sky Stealer) written in demon language with a minor note right below it, ('I'm Back!').

Ace grinned, "Hehe, you see how we don't need to worry about Livy hiding the news."

Noa quickly clinched the Qi stone coin in excitement and nodded. "If we spread these coins all over the ocean demon city, everyone quickly knows you were here, and then came the downfall of the ocean demon tribe!"

"Hold your horses, although you guess it right, we have to do it in the right way." Ace's expression turned serious. "So here's the plan when I..."

Ace carefully elaborate his plan and Noa asked many questions, and he calmly answered. He knew he can't mess this up because of that unknown person from the royal zone.

After an hour of discussion, the meeting between the two thieves was finally over and after Ace handed ten storage rings to Noa, he quickly left under the shade of night. He can't be away for too long. Others might suspect him if they found out he was not in his room.

Although he left those two busty maids to cover up for him, he still felt it would be bad if Maddux came to find him and discovered his unusual behavior.

Ace stealthily entered Feng's room just like he had left, and he was flabbergasted when he was greeted by the sight of two sexy maids dressed in revealing clothes.

Dolly and Flora coquettish greeted Ace completely revealing their busty assets, "Greeting His Highness."

He frowned and said sternly, "Don't I tell you to not do this kind of stuff? If you have time to fool around, go and cultivate Feng's cultivation manual, and the resources I provide you are enough for you to break into the soul realm."

After those two sisters took that loyalty oath, Ace could do nothing but endure them.

In the end, he provided them with Feng's core cultivation method and all his skills since they were both from the same tribe they had a talent for that special manual, and he even gave them cultivation resources he found in Feng's storage ring since they were nothing to him.

This made those two sisters even more grateful to Ace, and they wanted to 'serve' him with 'everything' they had, but Ace sternly rejected them and chided them to behave.

However, it seemed those two sisters just don't want to give up on 'serving' him!

"Hehe, let's go sister, it seemed Lord is still shy." Flora giggled in a teasing manner.

After they observed Ace wasn't bossy or overbearing and was extremely easy to talk with, they became more daring and even tease him as if they wanted him to punish them.

Black lines appeared on Ace's face when he heard this and harrumphed coldly before he goes toward the cultivation chamber. He could not be bothered by those two shameless women.

Flora's, and Dolly's enchanting giggles, sounded from behind.

Ace active the soundproof array and set up his formation before he said calmly, "System released the EXP and SP!"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 380: A Pleasant Breakthrough

Thereupon, Ace felt a huge torrent of heavenly Qi entering his soul and body as his both cultivations surged.

Inside his martial space, the sea bed was filled with black Qi mist started to change as that mist slowly started to liquefy.

When the Qi mist started to turn into liquid, this was the sign of the flowing river cultivation stage of the Qi river realm.

However, Ace had formed a Qi Sea, which means this process of liquidation will not easily be complete while he needed a large amount of Qi to fill his martial Qi sea.

When all the dark mist turned into dark liquid Qi, his sea bead was only ten percent filled!

However, Ace's focus was now completely on his orange soul core, which was revolving at high speed and releasing orange mist as the heavenly soul Qi was being absorbed.

He felt his soul sense was growing all of a sudden. From 250-meter it grew to 270 and quickly crossed the three-hundred-meter mark and finally stopped at 350M range!

Ace was astonished and ecstatic because he knew a golden soul or embryo cultivator's martial or soul sense maximum range was only 150M to 200M, while a diamond soul or embryo cultivator's martial or soul sense maximum range was between 250M and 300M.

As for the peak, platinum Qi soul or soul embryo cultivator's range of their martial sense or soul sense was between 450M and 500M.

However, Ace wasn't even in the fourth cultivation realm, and he had a soul sense and heavenly sense that can rival a peak diamond soul embryo realm cultivator, which means his chances of the upcoming thievery success were just skyrocketed!

One had to know the cultivators who broke through in river core realm with Medium River can only have martial sense or soul sense of 50M, and they used treasures to boost their senses, but these kinds of treasures were rare, and they weren't accurate like the real thing.

The Large River formed Core will have a 75M soul sense or martial sense range.

While the Ordinary and Extraordinary river cores range will be 100M and 150M, respectively.

Growing a soul sense or marital sense was extremely difficult because the larger range of your senses, the stronger you were, and it can decide a winning factor between a life and death struggle.

However, cultivators were bound by the limits of heaven, and even if they had a treasure that might widen their senses, there was a limit, and they can't be grown infinitely.

But Ace wasn't bound by any limit, and he was walking on a completely different path than others, and this make him the anomaly among anomalies.

At this moment, the system's icy voice rang.

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[Congratulation, host, on achieving the fourth stage of Heavenly Sea Realm and fourth stage of Orange Soul Form!]

[Host status has been updated]

[Martial Cultivation: Heavenly Dark Sea [Stage-4]]

[EXP: 82,270/100,000]

[Soul Cultivation: Orange Wind Soul Core [Stage-4]]

[SP: 70,000/100,000]

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Ace smiled and mumbled, "Well, this was an unexpected, pleasant surprise. I never thought my soul and heavenly sense can further grow. But it seemed the secret part of my soul cultivation technique had its advantages as well. I think now only Maddux can detect my heavenly sense presence, and maybe I can also bypass Aura Duke detection as well, which means Livy's is nothing now..."

Ace was excited, and he wanted to take off for his mission right now, but he knew it would be meaningless right now since he had already crafted the plan and discussed it with Noa.

Furthermore, although he became strong, this doesn't mean he can protect himself from looming danger and his enemy had many mysterious ways to deal with him, so there wasn't any need to make mistakes over this small power boost.

Two days passed in a flash,

Thomas came to visit Ace every day and drag him for drinks, this time his wife Milly also join them, and she also treated Feng more sincerely but was still cold.

Lastly, Livy seemed to completely behave and won't dare to find trouble with Feng anymore and the preparations were almost complete.

There were over four hundred candidates from the ocean demon fief and over hundreds of them were from the ocean demon tribe, and their leader was naturally Little Fifth.

As for the other youths, they were from the other tribes of the ocean demon fiefs, and they also remained in the camp of ocean demon youths.

But Feng was even more popular than the ocean demon team, and many youths approached him to join his team, but Feng completely rejected them and Thomas also didn't seem too interested in forming his team or leading this group of sycophants.

Everyone knows the Aura Blade Envoy was personally escorting them tomorrow morning!

It was the last night, only four hours remained before the departure of the ocean demon entourage.

This night was destined to be a sleepless night for the duke's estate.

Many servants were busy with the final preparation.

At this moment, an ocean demon in servant attire was hurrying toward the main estate.

The gate guards naturally stopped him and one of them sternly said, "What are you doing here? This isn't the place for a lowly servant like you!"

The timid servant sweated as he blurted, "My lords, I have an emergency report for Head Butler. It's related to the journey of this dawn. Please understand."

Those guards' expressions finally changed. They know the duke himself has given the order that there was no room for any mistake, and anyone who dared to make the slightest mistake will be harshly punished.

One of the guards quickly agreed to this servant's request. "I understand. Follow me."

The servant sighed in relief, but his anxious expression didn't loosen as he quickly followed the armed guard inside the duke's mansion.

"Wait here, I'll report it to Head Butler." The guard left the servant in the hall and quickly left to find Charlee.

Charlee was extremely busy while setting things up for the Livy's fifth son and other ocean demon youths and when he heard something might've happened, he quickly agreed to meet with this servant, which he won't in normal circumstances.

Charlee quickly approached the anxious servant and sternly said, "You're Abdiel, who was in charge of carriages, right? Speak, what happened?"

Charlee was the head butler of the duke's estate, and he knows every servant who worked here because they were all carefully selected by him, and it was only natural for him to know about Abdiel as well.

Abdiel quickly bowed and said, "This lowly one greeted the Head Butler, and it's an honor for me to be remembered by the Head Butler."

"Cut the crap and tell me what the matter?" said Charlee sternly. He didn't have time to entertain this bottom feeder.

Abdiel quickly said respectfully, "Head Butler, I don't know, but Purple Horn Demon Horses were going mad all of a sudden, and we don't have enough manpower to calm them. They had already destroyed three 8-star carriages, and beast tamers had sent me to ask for help here."

Charlee's old face turned gloomy when he heard this, and he berated, "Useless bunch, such a useless bunch, they can't even handle livestock?"

Abdiel trembled slightly before he said timidly, "My lord, Head Beast Tamer specifically asked for you, and he said, without your pressure, it will be extremely difficult to handle the beast."

"That useless trash, it seemed, we need a new beast tamer." Charlee's eyes turned cold. "You may leave. I'll head over there right now."

Charlee quickly left toward the north part of the estate, where all the estate carriages and demonic beasts were held. It was two miles away from the main estate, and it would take Charlee five minutes to reach there.

Abdiel was also quickly escorted out of the main gates by the guards.

Just one minute had passed after Charlee left, and suddenly he came back. The guards became confused, but they didn't dare to stop him from entering the mansion.

One of the guards mumbled, "It seemed the head butler forget something."

The other quickly reprimanded in a harsh tone, "Shut up, if the butler heard you, then only punishment awaits you!"

Charlee coolly walked toward Livy's cultivation chamber before he closed his eyes and a powerful sense suddenly surged from him for an instant before it completely vanished.

He mumbled, "So, he's here."

Livy wasn't cultivating right at this moment since it would be soon the time for his descendants to depart, and he was deep in thought about Feng and how to deal with him as quickly as possible.

Although he had already written a message to his father, he wasn't sure if his father can deal with Feng easily.

At this moment, a gentle knock rang on his cultivation chamber's door.

Livy frowned before he sternly said, "Who is it?"

Charlee's respectful voice sounded, "Your Highness, I have something to report."

Livy's eyes narrowed when he heard Charlee's voice. He knew Charlee would never disturb him, especially when he was in his cultivation chamber, and this might be something really important.

He said mildly, "Enter!"