

Thief 421

Eternal Thief

Chapter 421: Astute Thomas

In the middle of the night, sounds of heavy steps were reverberating in this silent part of the middle region, and strong Qi undulation could be felt in the cold air.

A silhouette was jumping from tree to tree in succession, while five more silhouettes were chasing silhouettes chasing behind this silhouette, two from trees and three from the ground. One rugged silhouette was holding a glowing white array plate with a black dot on it, constantly moving.

That person shouted viciously, "You can't escape this Qi Marker Array Disk, Thomas! Just give up struggling!"

This silhouette being chased was none other than Thomas, and he had many injuries and bruises on his face and body.

He had been hunting leisurely for four months, but just today, he bumped into this group while following the trace of a demonic beast.

This group instantly ambushed Thomas as if they were hunting for him, and Thomas knew why; when he discovered the leader of this group.

Thomas shout back while winding on the trees with a taunting tone, "Jaxx you sister fucker, if my dear second brother hasn't given you Qi Marker Array Disk with my Qi Mark, do you think you can find me this easily, much less chase me?!"

Qi Marker Array Disk was a grade-4 array whose function was very simple: to track the person who had its Qi mark ingrained in it.

Every person had a unique Qi Mark and this Qi Marker Array Disk was made to track the person whose Qi Mark was embedded on the array plate when it was made, and it didn't have any other function.

Although it didn't have an absolute range, as long as the owner of this Qi mark appeared within a thousand miles radius, it will react and lead to the person.

These Qi Marker Array Disks were used by Demon King Grade Clans and influences to track down their important personals if they fell into some kind of trouble or went missing in some area.

They can even discriminate if the bearer of a Qi marker array disk was dead because, after a person's death, their Qi mark would naturally vanish and these array plates would also be shattered.

Last but not least, these Qi marker array disks can be duplicated three times without needing the bearer to infuse a new Qi mark on it again.

Thomas naturally had one Qi marker array disk in his clan, since he was a direct decedent of the demon king and a genius.

However, this seemed to backfire on him right now because his second brother had somehow created a duplicate and handed it to Jaxx, so he could easily assassinate him whenever he felt like it.

That was why these Identity Array Plates would be kept in absolute security because they could also become a fatal dagger if they fell into wrong hands, just like right now.

Jaxx's expression fell when Thomas called him 'Sister Fucker' and coldly roar, "Take that blabbermouth bastard down for me!"

Those two demons, who were following Thomas from tree to tree, start shooting arrows at him in rapid succession.

Jaxx group was originally made of 12 demons, but Thomas had killed seven of them with his soul attacks while being chased, and now only those five had left.

However, this also exhausted Thomas's soul Qi, and he hadn't got the chance to recover because Jaxx wanted to achieve this same result, and he wanted to tire Thomas out before killing him.

If not for his powerful body, Thomas would've been killed a few hours ago, but now he was really on his last leg and those incoming arrows make it even worse for him to even breathe.

'If I somehow managed to escape this disaster, I'll let them know the consequences of chasing me!' Thomas cursed as he dodged those arrows, but three of them still pierce through his shoulder, and two on his back.

He gnashed his teeth and used his Qi to pull those arrows, and more bleeding wounds appeared on his back.

Jaxx couldn't help but ridicule with a sinister smile, "Don't worry, I'll take care of Milly for you, you can go in peace!"

Thomas's eyes turn extremely frosty this time and thick killing intent leak from his eyes. Milly was his reverse scale, and he would let nothing happen to her, even if it cost him his life.

"Soul Phantasmagoria; Dream!" Thomas's gray eyes turned misty as translucent smoke gushed out from his body before covering those two archers.

Jaxx's expression sank, and he roared, "Don't breathe that smoke, or you'll be dead!"

However, his warning came too late and two miserable screams rang from the trees before two bodies fell to the ground.

Yet, this wasn't the end, that translucent smoke directly moved toward Jaxx and his remaining two minions.

Jaxx coldly snorted before a jade black hand fan appeared in his hand and he waved it, "Wind Sweep!" whistling winds gather around the fan before sweeping through the translucent smock, blowing it away.

"Your Soul Phantasmagoria Art is useless as long as I don't touch the Phantasmagoria Smoke, and my wind element is your natural counter. While your soul attacks are useless, as long as I had a soul guard pendant. So, Thomas, do you have another trick?" Jaxx menacingly uttered while looking at the tree with killing intent.

Thomas's figure appeared as he breathes heavily while he holds a short sword in his hand. He looked ashen after using that soul art, and his eyes were filled with helplessness.

He knew it would be extremely difficult to drag Jaxx into his Soul Phantasmagoria Art, as long as the Phantasmagoria smoke won't come in contact with Jaxx's body.

While his other soul attack was rendered useless because of Jaxx's defensive soul treasure, he can also protect the other two around him w

This put him in a bind and his soul Qi was now almost gone after using the last attack to kill the other two, and he was exhausted because of running all day and sustaining many injuries and loss of blood.

A decisive glint flashed past Thomas's eyes at this moment, which made Jaxx flinch slightly, and he felt something was amiss. He roared furiously, "Ramiro, Seamus, quickly used your strongest attack. That bastard is up to something!"

The hand fan in his hand also shimmered brightly while releasing a sharp aura, and Jaxx swing it fervidly toward Thomas, "Wind Blade Storm!"

The heroic demon youth behind him in indigo armor who was Ramiro also plugged his long spear toward Thomas and blue water Qi gushed out, "Spear Arrow!"

The stone skin demon standing next to Ramiro wore cestus with golden knuckles punched toward Thomas and a stony fist phantom formed, "Mighty Stone Punch!"

Thomas coldly stared at the three-incoming attack, but he didn't move from his place, and a yellow paper talisman appeared in his hand before he activated it.

The very next moment thereafter, white light illuminates the entire place, and a warm yet sharp sensation filled the three demons' hearts.

Jaxx's heart trembled before a green paper talisman appeared and vanished right in front of him, forming a green barrier.

Ramiro and Seamus also felt that strange sensation, but they didn't have a defensive talisman to block this soul attack, and it didn't take long before their heads popped like watermelon!

Jaxx's heart turn cold when he saw two of his strongest followers die within a few moments after that soul talisman was released.

'Not good!' His countenance changed again when cracks started to appear on the green barrier.

"Bastard, I'll make you pay!" with gritted teeth, two more same green paper talismans appeared in his, and he used them with no hesitation and two more green barriers appeared.

The first barrier shattered like glass in that white light, and the second barrier also started to crack.

At this moment, Jaxx's heart palpitated when he saw a very thin and fingernail size black streak abruptly flash past his defensive barrier, and he put the hand fan in front of his head to black it.

But the small black streak target wasn't him, to begin with, and it directly landed on the Qi marker array disk hanging on his belt, crashing it!

At this moment, Thomas's scornful yet icy voice rang in Jaxx's ears, "I'll make you pay to force me to use these two precious talismans and for all this 'care', hundred-fold!"

Jaxx's expression was a sight to behold when he regained his sense and saw the broker array plate, and he understood Thomas has used another lower-level soul talisman to brake the Qi marker array disk, and he knew he has been had by Thomas!

"Thomas, you better not let me see you!" He roared indignantly.

Jaxx never thought a single Thomas would be enough to annihilate his entire group with his tricks, and he finally understood just how dangerous Thomas was, and he was now his enemy as well.

If he didn't get rid of Thomas soon, he might die with regret!

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Chapter 422: Imperial Envoy Doubts

The very next day after the ranking was reset, it created a tremendous storm because eight names vanished from the top hundred rankings and two of them were from the top ten and top twenty and the common thing among them was they were all from wild tribes.

This riled up many and some even suspect Mist Domain's biggest team, which was led by the second prince, was behind their death and some believe they had provoked a demon beast in the depth of the middle region.

Nevertheless, this didn't stop others from caring about their hunt, since the last day before the first phase would end was rapidly approaching.

Many had already entered the middle region because the demonic beasts in the outer region were almost gone extinct because of excessive hunting, and now those youths could only try their luck on high-level demonic beasts in the middle region.

This also cause quite a massive death toll on the blade domain side, but those weak yet ambitious demons were fearless and kept charging toward their death.

Inside the throne room in Blade Castle,

Blade Demon King was sternly looking at the report, while Aura Duke was respectfully standing in front of him.

Blade Demon King finally uttered, "Did you find anything unusual about those eleven deaths? All of them were in the top five hundred and all of them had some kind of relation with Wild Wind Tribe."

Aura Duke respectfully answered, "As his majesty already suspects, Thomas's ranking has suddenly sour, and it seemed he was the one behind these kills. It seemed Jaxx has led that group of demons to hunt Thomas, but it backfires."

Blade Demon King suddenly smile, but it was extremely forbidding, "It seemed those two princes hadn't given up and wanted to assassinate every throne candidate in this competition, just like Maddux suspected.

"But it also seemed that brat Thomas had some skills to even escape from twelve powerful demons while killing eleven of them. Hehe, he's worth nurturing into our blade domain team."

Aura Duke also nodded. "Yes, but the most shocking of them all is Feng. He remained dormant for over two months before taking the ranking by storm. By how his ranking has been rising, he has been hunting intermediate grade-4 demonic beasts without killing any participants from our side, while he killed the mist domain demons without mercy. He might be the biggest dark horse of eight provinces."

Aura Duke had personally escorted Feng here, and he felt glad that Feng was here, and he could be an immense help to the blade domain team on the demon gate trail.

Blade Demon King smiled hearing this, he was also quite satisfied with Feng's performance and had very high hope for him after he showed his talent and judgment.

"Tell those four ingrates, from now on they're forbidden from taking any actions against Feng. I have given them a chance and since they failed in those two months. They can now forget about touching him again and if I found out they were plotting something behind my back, I didn't mind cleaning the trash from my tribe.

"You may go now and closely watch over those misty killers. If they move, send the distressed single to me immediately. That bunch might try something in desperation," Blade Demon King coldly commanded.

Aura Duke bow respectfully before he left the throne hall.

Blade Demon King mutter with a faint icy smile, "Slutty Mist, let me see what will you do out of desperation."

In Mist Castle, inside Mist Demon Library,

Gianluca kneeling in front of Mist Demon King while trembling slightly, he could feel the deadly air around graceful Mist Demon King right now, as if she killed anyone on a whim, and she was like this for over a month.

This suddenly happened over a month ago, when the entire mist castle heard Mist Demon King's sorrowful wail, which alarmed everyone, and they all thought someone had sneaked inside the mist castle and attacked Mist Demon King.

However, they were all dead wrong because whoever approached her retreat chamber was killed without any exception. Even one misty demon killer was slaughtered under her sudden outburst.

After that event, everyone was avoiding Mist Demon King and any place near her like a plague.

Today Gianluca was suddenly summoned, and he felt like crying, and he was on the edge all this time while breathing in front of Mist Demon King, who was constantly emitting killing intent. It was too hard for him to even breathe under this invisible oppression.

Mist Demon King impassively said, "I heard one name on the must-kill list has been slain?"

Gianluca furiously nodded and replied timidly, "Y-yes, it was Ramiro Wild Lion, but I seemed he was killed by Thomas Wild Cheveyo..."

Her aura suddenly surged as the vague mist around her turned black, and Gianluca felt like standing in front of death itself.

Mist Demon King coldly said, "You may go."

It was like he had been pardoned by death itself and without wasting any time; he performed a respectful salute before fleeing the study, leaving the Mist Demon King alone.

Mist Demon King's eyes suddenly turned moist and melancholy the moment she was alone and two halves of an array plate appeared in her hand.

It was a broken Qi marker array disk, which means the owner was either dead or someone broke it. But by Mist Demon King's grieving expression, it seemed the former case.

She muttered with a grievance tone as crystal tears flow out from her eyes, "Son, don't worry mother will avenge you, and I'll kill every last person of your killer's family to accompany you!"

That dark mist around her turned into a pitch black vortex, completely blurring Mist Demon King into it.

Only her murderous voice filled with hatred resounded in that library,

"Cedric, even if you won this battle, the war is just starting..."

At this moment, a carriage without any mount pulling it had reached the outskirts of the blade domain, only a couple of miles away from the blade domain.

Inside the carriage, two masked demons were sitting, and they were none other than mysterious Imperial Envoys who has been searching for Sky Stealer around the former Ocean Demon Duchy.

The killer couldn't help but said in a doubtful tone, "My Lord, why are we going toward Blade Domain?"

The masked demon replied, "Heh, we've been searching for months after dealing with that impudent tribe, and we didn't find any traces of that rat. In the end, I conclude the rat might have already entered a higher hunting ground. Don't you already find the pattern? First, he appeared in a marquis level tribe, then a duke level, so what could be his next target?"

Killer's eyes narrowed. "Although I wanted to agree with milord, but even I found it extremely unlikely. King Domains are nothing like those backwater tribes, and they're our hidden trump cards and defensive lines against intruders. How can a mere thief break into one easily?"

"Heh, you see, here are you extremely wrong? That thief is extremely cunning, and he'll go to the last place we expect him in the least, and that rat is playing a game with us.

"Don't you remember the message he left with hex? 'I'm Back'. It was a taunt meant for someone, and I think he was referring to us, and he might already know why we're here after we destroy the first city.

"Furthermore, he's trying to humiliate us by doing these thieveries in tribes under our control, and if this continues, many will lose faith in us. So, if he wanted to give us the biggest blow, where do you think he'll go and which target he'll choose?" the masked demon mysterious question.

Killer's eyes gleamed coldly, "There aren't many influences that can shake others' belief in the royal zone, and there are only three, King Domains, Life Demon Association, and Royal Council. If any three of

them were to fall or suffer any incident under our protection, it will be an immense blow to our prestige and people started to doubt our authority."

"Exactly. So, if that hex demon is trying to create chaos and wanted to give us trouble, he'll go toward a king domain because all these tree places can only be found in a king domain.

"Furthermore, if he somehow pulled a stunt in any of these three crucial influences, we can't punish them extremely like we were doing to a marquis or duke tribes. This will also backfire on us since it will be seen as we're bullying the weak, and we can bend laws when it comes to our people." His voice was deadly cold in the end.

Killer's eyes turn gloomy, "If that is the case... aren't we falling that bastard trap and playing in his hand?!"

He didn't admit nor did he rebuke and merely said, "I don't know, but if that guy had thought this far, then we can't let him do as he pleases anymore.

"However, this also makes him predictable, and we can easily entrap him as long as he dared to come into any king's domain, he's going to fall right into our trap. Besides, we're already sent the bait to lure him out. There's no need to search for him anymore!"

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Chapter 423: Clash with House's Assassin

In the outskirts of the blade domain were Stone Hills,

Deep inside stone hills, inside a well-hidden cave filled with darkness.

At this moment, a pair of glowing dark eyes snapped open and if anyone would've peered in them, they could've bewitched in an instant and might've lost their soul.

Thereupon, a melodious voice sounded full of rapture, "I finally managed to breakthrough in Soul River Realm and this new ability... hehe, I can't wait to show it to the leader. House Status!"

[Thief House Member Status]

[House Member: Noa Night (Female)]

[Race: Demon]

[Bloodline: Night Demon (Grade-1 Bloodline) (Upgradeable)]

[Thief Genre: Thief Assassin (Novice)]

[House Rank: Old Member (Upgradeable)]

[Next Rank [Excellent Member]: 3/5,000 Thieveries]

[Soul Cultivation: Soul River (Empty Soul River)]

-Innate Soul Ability(s): 2

1. No Kill

[Description: Completely hide Thief Assassin's Killing Intent and Life Aura]

2. ...

[Description: ...]

[Talent: Low (Upgradeable)]

[Technique & Skills: 7]

-Cultivation Technique(s):

1. Thief Assassin Principles: Third Realm

-Body Refinement Technique(s):

1. Night Demon Body Transformation: (Not Cultivate)

-Cultivation Art(s):

1. Endless Shadow Daggers Rainfall:

Shadow Rain Dance: Low

Stormy Shadow Rain: None

Endless Shadow Rainfall: None

-Skill(s):

1. Thief Assassin's Soul Steps: Low

2. Thief Assassin's Soul View: Low

4. Thief's Charity (Inverse & Reverse): Low

3. Soul Threats: Intermediate

-Treasure(s): 1

1. Endless Night Daggers Set [32 Pin-Daggers]: Grade- 4

[House Point(s): 7,350]

[House Mission(s): 0]

[House Leader Mission(s): 0]

[House Punishment(s): 0]

[House Shop: Thief Assassin]

Noa couldn't help but marvel at her status, which had gone through a tremendous change from years ago, and it had become extremely detailed. She couldn't help but admire this 'divine blessing' again and again.

'I should start cultivating the body refinement technique while advancing in my soul alchemy. I need to be a grade-1 soul alchemist before I can create those medicinal liquids.

'Only then I can purchase the Thief Assassin Invisible Cloaking the last soul art in the shop. Then I can solely focus on upgrading my bloodline and I will also increase my cultivation speed.

'But to do all this, I have to enter a king's domain, but it's hazardous. Some people were searching this area three months ago and without my No Kill, I would've been discovered.

'I wonder when the leader will come for me and take me away...' She couldn't help but think with a hint of anticipation and yearning.

However, a sudden voice snapped her out of her daydreaming,

[Thief House Leader (Ace White) has issued a mission]

Noa was startled before happiness filled her heart as she quickly opened the mission. She knew Ace would seldom contact her and last time he did, to inquire about her safety, though.

She was looking forward to it, this time.

[Thief House Leader Mission]

-Mission: Time to meet!

Description: Meet me at Stone Hill Pass.

-Reward: One Life Escape Coin

Time: 7 Days

Punishment: None!

"Finally!" she rumbled in elation before she quickly left her hidden cave and vanished into the dark night.

Stone Hill Pass was like a barricade that marked the final boundary between Blade Domain and the entire Mighty Blade Province, and only after crossing this stone hill pass will one truly enter the Blade Domain.

Furthermore, this stone hill pass was tightly secure and a blade demon envoy command it the entire year to make sure no one unqualified entered Blade Domain, and it was also the first defensive line of blade domain.

At this moment, a hooded figure completely invisible to all those guards and all the arrays and formations cross the enormous gates of the stone hill pass, leaving the blade domain.

No one notice anything and keep doing their usual work, nor did it trigger any kind of trap, as if that hooded figure could easily see the positions of those traps.

'Heh, I never thought Live Mapping's ability to pinpoint traps will be so useful, I can avoid all of them and I don't need soul-shattering eyes as long as I don't want to theft some treasury...'

This invisible hooded figure was indeed Ace in his heartless stealth and as for what he was doing here instead of the shadow mountain range, it was obviously to meet Noa.

The boundary of the entire shadow mountain range was covered with poison mist, so the participants couldn't leave before the competition ended, or someone else won't enter.

However, Ace easily passed though that deadly poison mist since it didn't fear that level of poison and the array that can create that poison.

After he got the legacy treasure of Mist Demon Tribe, Mist Camouflage Mask from Santos, he was planning to do this all along, so he could bring Noa inside the blade domain and also deliver her soul medicine herbs he collected for her practice.

That was also why he was controlling his own ranking all this time, so he could leave without being worried, and Thomas also seemed to be doing just fine.

Furthermore, he also had another plan for Noa, and it would be beneficial for both of them in a long run, especially Noa. He also felt bad to leave her alone on that remote stone hills.

'I should be back before the first phase end and start my investigation for my mission...!' Ace mused as he speeded up and moved toward the dense forest.

Ace found a secluded place close to the stone hill pass and waited for Noa.

Although they didn't have a meeting point, he could find her with her soul signature.

Time passed, it was already the second last day of their meeting deadline.

The full moon illuminates the surrounding with its gentle light. Ace's eyes suddenly snapped open at this moment and a smile appeared on his face before he vanished from his spot.

Three hundred meters south from Ace's waiting spot, a shadow flashed past trees with astonishing precision and moved toward the stone hill pass.

However, at this moment, an icy voice rang, startling this shadow. "Who are you sneaking around this place? Show yourself!"

The shadow trembled slightly before it turned around, revealing a cloaked person, and in front of this person was standing a tall green skin demon, completely visible under the moonlight.

"Hmph!" A cold snort rang before the cloaked person completely vanished. Even her presence was gone, with no trace.

Ace's eyes narrowed. 'This no-kill is really something even my soul sense can't detect anything, and she had already entered the Soul River Realm.'

At this moment, Ace suddenly felt a cold sensation surrounding his neck from all directions, and quickly used his misperception steps to dodge!

'Clang...'

Sharp voices of metal smashing together rang after Ace moved from his position, and Ace's eyes contracted when he saw twelve pitch black daggers hovering in a circle.

Those blade daggers were eight inches long and extremely thin and sharp like pins. If not for their small handles, one couldn't fathom they were daggers or ordinary pins.

'Endless Night Daggers Set! Even a river core realm will be dead by that ambush!'

Ace's expression turned serious when he realized just how deadly a thief assassin was with that dagger set and soul cultivation art.

However, Noa didn't give him any chance, and those twelve daggers suddenly turned into black streaks and shot toward Ace.

"Not happening!" He coldly grunted before using his swords, brandished with light Qi.

"Hehe, you're dead!" Noa's voice buzzed at this moment from a few inches away from Ace's ears, which make Ace's heart tremble.

"Not good!" Ace felt goosebumps all over, and he knew if he didn't do anything, he really might be died by his own member's hand.

The white Qi suddenly turned into pitch black and a dark sheen surrounded the edges of his sword.

"Dual Shadow Mirage: Ten Thousand Shadows Mirage!"

The dark Qi suddenly turned into a dark sword storm before clashing with Noa's daggers and her sneak attack.

Noa's eyes went wide, and she yelped in alarm, but she didn't back down and used her movement technique to dodge all those dark sword streaks. But she still underestimated Ace's last move of his dual shadow mirage sword art.

She didn't even know how, but those shadow black streaks multiplied suddenly and turned into thousands!

However, before those thousands of sharp blades enveloped her, they all suddenly vanished and Ace appeared again with an embarrassing smile on his face.

He said with a defeated sigh, "You know, from the start, it was me!"

Noa couldn't help but complain with a hint of smugness, "Humph... It's the leader's fault for playing this kind of prank on me. But how do you know so quickly I was playing along?"

Ace said while rubbing the bridge of his nose in embarrassment and replied, "Well, if you have killing intent toward me, you would've been punished because of house rules. I just realized it later.

"But I have to say, you force me to use my sword art and my real Qi. But I still didn't understand how do you know it was me since you didn't know I can use light element Qi?"

Eternal Thief

Chapter 424: End of the First Phase

"... how do you know it was me since you didn't know I can use another element Qi?"

Ace couldn't help but ask since this confused him because he never revealed this identity to Noa nor did he tell her about his unique element Qis, so he was surprised by how Noa know it was him.

Noa's eyes shimmered mysteriously, "Although I don't know how the Leader could use the light element Qi. But the leader didn't know that in the entire demon race, there was not a single demon tribe that had an affinity with the light element! So, it wasn't hard to know who could use the light element in the demon race. Besides, I also have learned new soul-ability. It also helped."

Ace finally remembered the demon race deemed the creature according to the system, so using the light element was a colossal blunder. However, he was more interested in her new ability.

'Could it be just like my soul signature?' Ace guessed with skepticism.

"Tell me more about this ability?" Ace asked.

Noa replied truthfully with a hint of excitement, "It's called, 'Assassin Mark', it can not only help me lock on a target soul but after the Assassin-Mark is successfully locked any attack at the target will have a 100% connect rate.

"It doesn't matter if they are soul attacks or physical attacks, they will connect within a fifty-meter radius area. And as long as they didn't leave fifty meters away from me, I can sense them even if they used some treasure.

"As for the leader, my Assassin Mark failed, and I instantly know your soul was stronger than me, and when you used the martial Qi, it wasn't hard to guess who can have a powerful soul despite martial cultivation."

Ace couldn't help but be startled by this Assassin Mark ability. It was like a marker of death, and even he didn't notice Noa using it on him, despite his strong soul cultivation.

He took a deep breath and said, "But I could've possessed a soul defensive treasure, right? Then what you'll do?"

Noa chuckled and said, "That's where Leader is wrong, you see, no matter what kind of defensive soul treasure you had, as long as my soul is stronger than yours the Assassin Mark will lock on you. Then there was your mission and also that sword intent, so I quickly know it was you."

Ace couldn't help but wryly smile, "It seemed you'll become a nightmare for your enemies with Assassin Mark and No Kill. Even I felt envious of those two abilities."

Noa rebuke with a hint of elation by Ace praise, "Please don't joke around. I know if you were using your true skills, I wouldn't stand a chance, just like that sword torrent I almost shredded into pieces."

Ace slyly chuckled and didn't tell her the last move was based on soul Qi, and it was just a mirage created by soul Qi, and only some of those slashes were the real deal.

Albeit, it was extremely deadly since it gave Ace the chance to sneak attack while the others had no clues about the nature of Ten Thousand Shadow Mirage.

Right now, he could only create real thousand shadow mirages or two thousand if he gave it his all.

Nonetheless, he was still glad that Noa was becoming more strong and more cheerful after the ocean demon tribe's destruction. She wasn't as cold and indifferent as before.

However, she was only warm to him and still cold and indifferent towards others and that was why she was an assassin, no lives matter to her except Ace anymore!

"Well, since you're doing just fine, I don't need to worry about you anymore. Here, I have gifts for you." Ace smiled and give twenty storage rings to her.

Noa accept with some anticipation and quickly banded all the storage rings with her soul mark and when she examined them, her eyes went wide with disbelief.

Five storage rings were filled with all kinds of soul medicines and ten of them were filled with grade martial medicines, while the last five were filled with grade Qi stones and some talismans from the system.

"T-this...?"

"Haha, I got all of this from Livy and the ocean demon treasury last time. Albeit, I used all the soul pills. I save all those soul materials for you so you could practice your soul alchemy, and there might be materials you needed for your body refinement technique there, as well.

"You should practice that technique as soon as possible because all those demons from the demon king grade clan had cultivated body refinement techniques to some levels, and they're truly strong." Said, Ace.

Noa's expression turned serious hearing this and nodded, "I understand. Don't worry, I won't disappoint you. This will really help me greatly."

Ace nodded and his expression turn grim as he said, "I also have another mission for you and I think you would profit from it the most, and it will also help me with my next thievery as well. But it will be extremely dangerous, though.

"Although I give you a life escape coin and some talismans to you, it still might leave you half dead if you make any mistake. I want your honest thoughts about it?"

Noa said without even thinking, "Please don't look down on me. I have received so much from you, I don't want to be a burden."

Ace sighed before a white mask appeared in his hand and give it to Noa, "This is the Mist Camouflage Mask, a legacy treasure from the mist demon. It can help you store three faces and change your appearance and cultivation accordingly.

"It would help you enter the blade domain and also support you in your mission, while I'll be playing Feng for a while longer. You also don't have to be afraid of manifestation realm cultivation as well."

Noa was startled when Ace said Mist Demon Tribe because she knew there was only one mist demon tribe and there weren't many who dare to mess with that tribe, much less steal their legacy treasure.

Furthermore, this mask was far more precious because of its functions. She didn't know how Ace got his hands on it, but she with it, she could move around freely as long as she didn't make any mistakes.

After Noa received the mask, Ace solemnly said, "So, here's the plan. First, you need to find a face...

Ace disclosed his plan, and they discussed it for a few hours before he left Noa to do her own thing after issuing the system's mission.

As long as she did according to his plan, they both going to cause an incredible uproar!

It was already the last day off to blade domain competition and many demons were eagerly waiting to go back.

They had all undergone a baptism of blood and all of them had a cold aura around them because of the harsh environment they live in for five months.

Albeit the competition was extremely cruel and unfair to Blade Domain Participants, they had to admit this factor also strengthened them and give them an accurate idea about their fighting abilities and their flaws.

The moment of the last day was over.

Everyone, no matter if they were from the blade domain or the mist domain, their wristbands suddenly glow and a solemn voice sounded.

"First Phase is over, the wristbands are also sealed, and they no longer recorded your points anymore, so there's no need to fight anymore.

"Participants from Mist Domain, please head toward the northern exit of the outer region.

"Participants from Blade Domain, please head toward the southern exit of the outer region.

"Everyone will get further instruction from your escorts...'

Everyone started to cheer with happiness and relief. They all knew they were extremely lucky to leave with their life, and they deserved this moment of happiness.

Many demons from both sides sighed helplessly because they didn't manage to achieve their goals for various reasons.

Nevertheless, everyone started to move toward their respective exits without more fighting while some demons still try to kill some demons who they had personal grievances with while others simply looked the other way.

While this large movement was started in the shadow mountain range, two demons were standing in a remote region between two provinces.

One of them was surrounded by a dark mist completely blurring her appearance, while the other one was a handsome middle-aged demon who had a huge grin on his face as if he was enjoying seeing that dark, glooming mist around this figure.

They were both Mist Demon King and Blade Demon King, meeting after the competition to conclude the result of their bet, which they made a few months ago after the mist demon king's provocation.

Blade Demon King jeeringly said, "I know you're angry, and that's why you're hiding your face. But don't even think that I would forget about my reward just because you're not feeling happy.

"According to our bet, if your domain participants managed to hunt down three of these five participants, 'Feng, Ramiro, Jaxx, Thomas, and Alora, I will hand over my Soul Tracking Talisman.

"However, if they failed, you will politely hand over the Sky Sword Manual, and we had already signed a soul contract, and it was also your idea, so hand it over!"

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Chapter 425: Furious Demon King

... hand it over!" Blade Demon King's voice was full of relish and sarcasm as he looked at blurry Mist Demon King.

From the start, it was her idea to start this bloody competition, and she had already decided to bet against him and even the structure of the bet. Everything was ready, and all was left for him to take the bait, which he did.

Although, it wasn't like Blade Demon King's character to bet on someone's life without them knowing. However, Sky Sword Manual was too important for his son's future, so he became pitiless in an instant.

Mist Demon King also calculated thoroughly and select those five names, knowing that Blade Demon King would never reject this bet if she chose the strongest contestants from the blade domain and everything go exactly as she planned.

She even sneaked in Santos before signing the soul contract with Blade Demon King, and it was supposed to be an easy win, but Santos mysteriously died all of a sudden, demolishing her entire plan.

As for the third prince, she knows he couldn't hunt those five because his talent was mediocre, and he was only there to receive and deliver 'goods'.

There was something else Blade Demon King didn't know. It was Mist Demon King has never sent the best of her mist domain in that bloody competition and sent them to a mysterious place to train. All those demons were just cannon folds, and their deaths mattered little to her. She only cared about her children.

A white streak flash past from the dark mist toward Blade Demon King, and he caught it without any hesitation. He knew under the soul contract they can't attack each other, and she can't delay or hold on to the reward either.

That was why he knew it was what he won.

He saw it was a four-inch cylindrical shape white-jade and small words were carved on it in ancient demon language 'Sky Sword Manual'.

His eyes instantly lit up in elation and exclaimed while laughing, "Hahaha, so this sword art is inscribed in a Jade Scroll! Truly worth being an Upper-Grade Sky Rank Sword Art. My Peter is going to soar in the sky soon!"

Jade Scrolls were mysterious methods of ancient times to preserve knowledge and save it for a very long time. They were also very convenient to transfer an excessive amount of knowledge within an instant and imprint it in the user's knowledge sea.

However, the methods of making jade scrolls have been long-lost and there weren't many remaining in this world.

Only tribes like demon king grade tribes have one or two of these jade scrolls and every one of them has at least a sky rank technique, skill, or art inscribed in them.

There were many ancient sites where these jade scrolls can be found, but it all depended on luck in the end.

Suddenly Mist Demon King's sardonic voice sounded, who was silent for this entire time, "Heh, why don't you take a look at this sword art first?"

Blade Demon King's laugh came to an abrupt halt, and he felt a forbidding feeling rising in his heart after hearing what Mist Demon King just said, and he quickly used his Qi to activate the jade scroll.

Thereafter, only one sentence entered his knowledge sea from the jade scroll of the sky sword manual, not the entire sword art, which made him gobsmacked. Blade Demon King's expression clouded and his sharp aura suddenly surged with rage, subsequently!

Mist Demon King's derisive voice sounded at this moment, "Heh, as you can see, this Sky Sword Art is actually a Secret Cultivation Art, and the requirement to cultivate it is a fable... Element Sword Intent!

"Not only that, but this Jade Scroll is an extremely high-level one, and only someone with an element sword intent can unlock it and get the real sword art. If anyone tries to forcibly open it, the jade scroll will self-destruct.

"I was just holding on to it for you, so tell me, do you like what you won, dear Cedric?"

Thick veins were bulging all over Blade Demon King's forehead, and he was clenching his teeth that his gums almost shattered. He knew he has been duped by Mist Demon King... again.

He finally understood why she was willing to bet an Upper-Grade Sky Rank Cultivation Art, which can make his tribe extremely strong. She simply didn't care if she loses because she knew this secret cultivation art would be useless to him or anybody else as a matter of fact.

Just the requirement to open this jade scroll and get the secret sword art was extremely harsh, not to talk about the real thing.

An element of sword intent had completely vanished for a very long time because it was just too difficult to comprehend.

Blade Demon King only found out about Sky Sword Manual from an ancient record, and it was supposed to be the legacy sword art of the Sky Sword Demon Tribe from ancient times. This tribe has been extinct from this world for a very long time.

He even managed to locate their ancient rune because he wanted to get this apparently sky-rank sword art for Peter. After all, his tribe's blade art didn't suit him.

But somehow that site was already raided and someone already got there before him and he simply sighed helplessly and forget about the entire thing, nor did he research this matter any further.

Well, until Mist Demon King revealed the sword was in her hand and all that happened afterward.

"Mist, you tramp!" He couldn't help but cursed out loud. He was so angry that the surrounding was turned into a mess just by his raging aura.

Mist Demon King's icy voice sounded at this moment, "What, you want to attack me or my domain? Let me remind you, in the soul contract, there was also a term; after the bet was over, we'll not interfere with each other, neither did we attack each other and both domains for Ten Years! Hehehe... albeit, I really like your current expression, I might say!"

Blade Demon King wanted to go on a rampage, but he knew the moment he did, he'll suffer a terrible backlash from the soul contract and life-threatening soul injury.

Then Mist Demon King can easily kill him, and his tribe will be destroyed by others. Furthermore, suffering soul injuries at their level was not a laughing matter, and soul healing medicine that can heal them was extremely rare.

That was why he didn't dare to attack. Mist Demon King's scheme was just too good, and she completely defeated him!

"Just you wait, I have enough of your dirty tricks, and this time you have gone too far and played with my emotions... again! In ten years, there'll be the first ever Domain War in five thousand years, and I'm going to destroy you. Even your husband cannot stop me this time!"

Blade Demon King declared with thick killing intent and left like the wind without listening to Mist Demon King's reply. He knew if he stayed here any longer, he might pop a blood vessel from fury or do something reckless.

Mist Demon King remained standing in her position for a long time after Blade Demon King's furious departure.

"I'm afraid, you won't be able to escape my husband's wraith either once he found out his son was dead, and he's not bound by soul contract... I'll let your entire domain accompany my son in the afterlife... hehehehe..."

Mist Demon King's eerily laughter suddenly rang in the vicinity with icy killing intent...

Right outside the gates of Outer Blade Domain.

A vast crowd of young demons was gathering around a large platform, and these young demons were emitting a murderous aura, making the place extremely intimidating.

These demons were all the surviving participants from the first phase, and they were completely different from five months ago. Before they were like diamonds in the rough, but now they were like sharp swords.

This was the innate gift of the demon race; the more they fought between life and death, the more they become strong and evolved into merciless demons.

At this moment, five demons appeared on the towering platform and many young demons suddenly exclaimed.

"T-they are... Blade Demon Envoys and five of them together!"

"They are all soul realm cultivators, and you see that red skin demon with spiky white hair, that is Lord White Fire, the most powerful blade envoy!"

Many heard those voices, and they all clamored because it was too rare for them to see a blade envoy, much less five of them altogether, and the most powerful blade demon envoy was one of them.

White Fire, who had a middle-aged square face and bright white eyes, had a fierce expression on his face and he suddenly come forward and roar firmly while spreading his peak diamond soul realm aura,

"Silence!"

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Chapter 426: Rewards of First Phases

"Silence!"

His frightening heavy voice reverberate in the entire vicinity and everyone stopped doing whatever they were doing and looked toward the White Fire.

White Fire continued, "Foremost, I will congratulate every one of you for surviving and making it here alive. You all deserved this!"

Everyone's eyes shimmered with pride, but the White Fire was still not done.

"I know most of you are still resentful about the sudden interference of the mist domain, and about us not taking any action and blocking the exit. I will only say this much about it, 'In this world, nothing is fair or unfair, if you're capable, make it fair and if you're not, then you can either survive or just died under the feet of those who decided what fair or unfair!'"

His voice was full of disdain as he scornfully looked at those demons clinching their fist in anger, but didn't dare to rebuke him because of his power and status.

He knows he said nothing wrong, and everyone got the point as well. He was simply saying, 'if you're unhappy, do something about it, I'm right here...'

White Fire coldly smiled, seeing everyone remain silent, "Heh, since no one is complaining, then let's move on to the next point.

"According to the first phase, which was 'Hunting', everyone was given five months to hunt down the demonic beasts and collect kill points according to your assignments.

"As for the results, I have to say, I'm very disappointed and so does his majesty. You all should be ashamed of yourself for calling yourself demons. You all are nothing but a bunch of tyrants in your own house, nothing special. It would be a disgrace to word geniuses if I call you all geniuses!"

The atmosphere suddenly turned extremely grim as many young demons stare daggers at White Fire, but they didn't reprimand him because they knew he can easily kill them without being worried about consequences.

White Fire coolly said, "What? Not agree with me? Let me tell you, there were a total of 31,500,222 participants who registered and enter the shadow mountain range five months ago.

"Do you know how many of you came back alive? 20, 238,154, which means over 11 million demons died in this first phase. Now tell me, if you all are not worthless, then what are you?"

Everyone was shocked to hear that number because it was just too huge, and they felt ashamed, not proud anymore.

Although most of them still blame mist domain interference for this astronomical death rate, deep down they knew it was all because they live in peaceful environments for too long and in face of real danger they were nothing.

They were all known as geniuses of the mighty blade province, but they were only geniuses in their own comfort zone, and now they face the ugly truth in the cruelest way possible.

Moreover, it was just the training program, not even the real demon gate trail, where geniuses from all over the eight provinces will battle.

This was an awakening call for them!

White Fire also wanted to achieve this same result and said, "It's not too late to realize your own shortcomings and improve, you all still have over a year to improve yourselves and prove me wrong... no, prove everyone wrong that you're not just a bunch of house flowers but demons who aren't afraid of challenges!"

All those four envoys smiled, seeing the resolved expressions of all those young demons. They knew White Fire was just motivating them in his own way, and he had achieved it. They expect nothing less from White Fire, the fourth-strongest expert, and the knight commander of the mighty blade province.

"Now, back to business." White Fire's solemn voice sounded again, "Those who achieve their target please move to the right side, and those who didn't achieve the sufficient amount of kill points move to the life."

Thereupon, demons started to move quickly and some demons with sly expressions try to move to the winning side despite being unqualified.

White Fire seemed to sense their thoughts and coldly sneered, "Oh, and don't try to play any tricks. We can easily check your wristbands for verification, and if we found you waste our time, the consequences will be dire."

Those cunning demons perspired and quickly changed their directions without hesitation.

After half an hour, the enormous crowd of demons split into two sides, one large, one small.

White Fire looked at the large crowd and coolly said, "There are over 15.8 million demons who failed the first phase. But it doesn't mean you can't enter the demon gate trial. It is just that you all won't be able to go there with the blade domain group anymore, neither you can take part in the second or third phase of training. You all are on your own.

"However, to show appreciation toward your efforts, His Majesty Demon King has decided to give each one of you 200 Reward Points. Now, you all follow the Dark Blade Envoy and go to the Tanning Guild and exchange your reward point with anything on the reward list after showing your wristbands. Dismissed!"

All demons sighed bitterly and followed the masked Dark Blade Envoy toward the outer domain with dejected expressions. They knew it was over for them, and now they can only depend on their tribes again.

Everyone knows from the start that the competition will be fierce and those who couldn't keep up will be left behind just like now.

After the losers left, only winners remain with excited expressions on their faces.

White Fire smirked and announced, "There are 4,193,871 demons who passed the first phase, and you are all eligible to enter the inner domain. You will all get 1000 Reward Points and may exchange them for rewards in the training guild of the inner region.

"Now, those with glowing wristbands can stay and others will follow Ocean Blade Envoy toward the inner domain. You all have seven days of rest before the second phase will start. Dismissed."

"Everyone except the glowing marked participants, follow behind me." Ocean Blade Envoy smiled warmly before he shot an ambiguous glimpse in a particular direction and left with the eligible contestants.

Those who left had a powerful murderous aura around them, and they could all feel they were probably the strongest among all the blade domain participants.

Ace was naturally among those who stayed, staring in the direction where the ocean blade envoy left before glancing at them.

'Don't tell me that the old demon wanted vengeance on Feng?' Ace mused grimly.

He couldn't help but felt somewhat apprehended because the old ocean duke was a peak Qi diamond soul cultivator and if he decided to make things difficult for him or try to assassinate him, it would be terrible for his identity.

"Haha, brother Feng, I finally found you!"

Ace was snapped out of his daze by a familiar, joyous voice and looked at the tan skin demon with a skinny constitution coming in his way with a big smile on his face.

However, the name 'Feng' also draw everyone's attention to him and all the remaining demons gawked at him with hostility, envy, resentment, shock, and adoration. There was a myriad of emotions in their eyes.

They all know who Feng Demon Sword was, an absolute genius!

Ace smiled wryly, seeing everyone's attention on him, but he completely ignored them. If he was afraid of attention, he would never stand out in this competition.

He looked at Thomas, who was already a few feet away from him, and said in annoyance, "I was feeling much better in that cramp crowd, sigh..."

Thomas's skinny face has even further withered, and his aura was also somewhat unstable. But his eyes were still bright and couldn't help but scoffed at Feng's joke, "You'll never find a wife with that attitude of yours."

Ace's expression grimaced slightly when he felt Thomas's aura and looked at him seriously, "So, who was it and when will you going to ask my help?"

Although he knew the answer, he still wanted to hear it from Thomas.

Thomas couldn't help but smile bitterly. He knew it was now meaningless to hide from Feng anymore after almost dying, and he also knew he needed helpers. Furthermore, he knew Feng was already marked by his second brother, so hiding it from him will only put him in more danger.

He sighed and said, "Let's talk about it after we returned."

Ace nodded and didn't pursue any further, and at this moment White Fire's voice rang again.

"Now, let me tell you why were you kept here. First, I must congratulate you all for entering the top ten thousand in 31 million, and you all are the most powerful ten thousand youths of our blade domain.

"Not only you'll get 1000 reward points from before, you'll all get an extra 5000 Reward Points and an audience with His Majesty, the Blade Demon King!"

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Chapter 427: Entering the Inner Domain

"Not only you'll get 1000 reward points from before, you'll all get an extra 5000 Reward Points and an audience with His Majesty, the Blade Demon King!" White Fire announced with a faint smile.

Everyone's eyes shimmered with excitement. However, some of them look discouraged and most of them were from the wild tribes because they were only here for resources, and they worship their wild demon kings, not those from the eight provinces.

Thomas was also one of such demons, but his reason for being uninterested was because his father was also a demon king, so it didn't excite him at all.

Ace, on the other hand, wanted to see an actual soul manifestation cultivator, especially the blade demon king, who had comprehended the real blade intent.

White Fire continued, "As for the top hundreds, you'll all get special rewards at the audience with his majesty in a week. Now you may follow Poison Blade Envoy. She'll lead you to the inner domain and the special lodging prepared for you all."

Everyone's attention was drawn by the dark cloaked figure standing behind the White Fire and there was a hint of dread in their eyes because they all knew Poison Blade Envoy was a very dreadful existence and no one wanted to mess with it.

Furthermore, she was the only envoy who didn't have a duke title or any tribe behind her; she was nurtured by the silver blade clan into a poison master because of her special bloodline and traits.

Supposedly, even her slightest touch was poisonous, and that was why she always covered herself with a treasure cloak.

White Fire didn't care about those youngsters' difficult expressions and vanished from his spot after finishing his task and reported to the blade demon king about their stay in the shadow mountain range and handed back the legacy formation of the blade demon tribe, the Myriad Threads Qi Detection Formation.

Now only those ten thousand young demons left and the cloaked Poison Blade Envoy, who was giving off a very creepy feeling for some reason.

Finally, a hoarse, creepy voice sounded, "Follow me."

Some of them gulped before they quickly followed the Poison Blade Envoy from a safe distance.

Thomas couldn't help but whisper in a low voice, "Brother Feng, do you think we'll be poisoned just by getting close to her?"

Ace found everyone's reaction quite amusing and scan the cloaked figure, who seemed somewhat desolated, and shrugged as he said, "Do you think they would have left us with her if they were the case?"

"Heh, I also had the same thought." Thomas nodded.

"What are you two mumbling about?" A curious voice rang from behind them.

They both looked and saw a silver skin demon with crimson eyes, followed by a similar gorgeous girl with the same traits.

Ace and Thomas both greeted him, "Your Highness, Peter."

Peter merely nodded and said, "There's no need for formalities." He then looked toward Feng with the slightest hostility and said, "Although I lose in this round, I won't lose next time."

Ace couldn't help but admire this guy a little because this prince didn't have any vanity when admitting his defeat and had an upright character. He didn't blame anyone for his loss and admit it while also striving for improvement.

He smiled. "I'll look forward to it."

"How boorish." The beautiful girl beside Peter remarked with a hint of disdain.

Peter coldly said, "Brenna, do not meddle in my business, and why are you following me?"

He looked at Feng and Thomas and said with an apologetic tone, "Don't mind her. She's my cousin, Brenna, and always behaves this way."

Brenna retorted as if she has been wronged by Peter, "I'm also your fiancé, and I must follow you!"

Thomas grinned wildly all of a sudden and tease Peter, whose expression turned dark after Brenna talked back, "Oh, so it was her highness the princess. Please forgive us for not greeting you early."

"En." Brenna nodded in acknowledgment and slightly blushed as she got even closer to Peter, which made him stare dagger at Thomas.

Ace was amused by Peter's angry reaction, but he could feel Peter wasn't angry at all. On the contrary, he was happy.

He also smiled and said, "His Highness really chose a flower among flowers, not only her highness is beautiful, but she's also ranked within the top ten in this competition. Please forgive my ignorance, your highness."

"Hmph. As long as you know. Peter will not be going to lose next time!" She suddenly turned hostile when looking at Feng. She was unhappy that Peter was defeated by Feng.

Ace merely smiled and nodded. He didn't want to anger this love-blinded girl unless she does something which she regretted.

Peter glared at Brenna, which made her snort in satisfaction, and she turned her head to the side as if she saw nothing.

Peter wryly smile and said, "Just ignore her. I'll be going now. I was just here to greet you both and also to tell you to prepare yourself for the second phase. It will be extremely deadly."

Thomas and Feng's expressions turned grave, and they solemnly nodded before they bid the couple farewell.

Thomas couldn't help but comment with a gloomy expression, "What do you think?"

"Troublesome," Feng said plainly.

"Sigh... I'm glad Milly didn't take part in these trials. Even I almost died. I would never forget myself if something happened to her because of my selfishness." Thomas lament.

Ace was about to console him when he abruptly turned around and coldly glance in a particular direction and his eyes landed on a handsome pale white skin demon with brown eyes. He was looking at them with killing intent. Although it was hidden, Ace could sense it like a day.

Thomas also found Feng's sudden reaction questioning and looked in the direction, and he also locked on the pale white demon. He couldn't help menacingly utter with gritted teeth, "JAXX!"

"So, he's the one who left you half dead, huh?" Feng teased, but there was a hint of killing intent in his voice.

Thomas retorted coldly, "That bastard ambushed me with eleven others. Do you think you could escape without being half dead?"

"Maybe." Ace ambiguously answered as he put his hand on Thomas's shoulder and seriously said, "Don't worry about that guy, just don't run alone next time."

Thomas threw one last murderous glance at Jaxx before looking ahead and sighing deeply and looking at Feng. "I know, but you might die if you run beside me. Are you ready?"

Feng's lips curled into a confident smile. "What do you think?"

Thomas shook his head resignedly, but a warm smile emerged on his face. "Just don't cry afterward."

Thereupon, everyone was led to a specific direction in the outer domain by Poison Blade Envoy, where many carriages were waiting for them and everyone embarked on them.

Ace and Thomas got a separate carriage because of their special status and while they were going toward the inner domain, Thomas told Ace about himself and the ongoing trial for the throne and his two brothers, who wanted to kill every heir.

Ace already knows about all this, so he wasn't much shocked. Heck, his knowledge about wild tribes was quite rich after he robbed three of the top participants' memories.

But what Thomas said in his last sentence left him baffled, though.

"Truthfully, I don't want that throne and I just want to leave this place with Milly and live a peaceful life away from my tribe. However, I can't achieve it if I stay on the mainland because they will hunt us down no matter where we go. That's why the royal zone is the only haven for us. That's why I'll have to pass that trail no matter what. Those two assholes can shove that throne into their asses and that scheming old man can die for all I care..."

Although it was hard to believe, Ace can tell he was telling the truth, but couldn't help but feel doubtful about Thomas's view of this situation. Because he fell into more danger if he entered the royal zone because of his potential, especially with his king-grade bloodline.

Nevertheless, he had nothing to offer him better than his bold plan, and he could only remain silent and agreed with lending a helping hand.

But Ace also guessed Thomas has a backup plan, and he won't throw his and Milly's life into more danger, so all he had to do was to lend him his help if he will it and if not put him in any danger.

Within three hours, they all cross the towering doors of the inner domain, and it won't be a lie to call this place a completely lavished wonderland. It was just too exaggerated; the streets were built with shining large bricks and all the buildings were large and beautifully structured.

In the far center of the inner domain, one could see the vague silhouette of an enormous castle. It was the blade demon castle!

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Chapter 428: Overriding Slave Contracts

The top ten thousand participants were dropped outside a grand hotel, which was spread over three-thousand acres. This grand hotel was the most luxurious hotel in the inner domain and the most expensive one at that. But all the accommodations for them were free because of obvious reasons.

Ace and Thomas also parted ways because Milly was staying with Maddux inside the blade castle and someone was here to pick him up, Thomas also wanted Ace to come with him, but he rejected under the farce of his maids were coming here as well, and he can't abandon them.

But the real reason was he won't be able to move around freely if he entered the demon castle, and he wasn't here to rob that place, or he might've considered it.

After bidding Thomas farewell, he first found his room on the first floor, and it was the most expensive room, with both a high-end cultivation chamber and a laboratory inside. And all the top hundred contestants were given such rooms.

This was also Ace's first time seeing a laboratory. He can use it for alchemy, crafting, or rune crating with different arrays engraved in this room, and this became his new favorite place.

He was practically none exhausted because this first phase wasn't much of a challenge to him, and he only did this to enter the inner domain with Feng's identity, or he could've just sneaked in.

'I have wasted 152 days playing around, and only 348 days left before my mission's deadline. Although I got Eternal Thief Fate Compass and also find a silver fate location, I still wasted time.

'And If I go into this second phase, I would waste even more time and in the last phase, I'm pretty such Demon King would monitor it himself, or he might monitor from the second phase, especially the top hundred contestants.

'I have been controlling my kill points all this time and remained at the top because I wanted the prestige that comes with it and makes Feng even more untouchable. But it can also backfire,' Ace mused as he lay on the comfortable bed.

Although everything was moving smoothly and according to his assumptions, he didn't have absolute control over everything, and with the slightest mishap, everything he worked for will collapse.

Ace suddenly think of something and a small triangular shape token appeared in his hand. His eyes shone ambiguously as he muttered, "I should first meet with that Lionheart Shop's owner and see how reliable that All-Knowing Parrot is before deciding to take any further action against him."

Ace clearly remembered his first conversation with All-Knowing Parrot, and he asked him to go to this shop with this token if he required anything or any kind of exchange.

Although this offer was quite tempting for him, this would also put him in a disadvantageous position while the other part will stay in dark and monitor him.

But this didn't worry him too much, nor he was afraid of any hexes because of the system and All-Knowing Parrot didn't want an enemy like him either so even if he did something it won't be too excessive. Then there was the upcoming face-to-face meeting between them.

So Ace wanted to see the actual worth of the All-Knowing Parrot before deciding what to do with him.

In the evening, his two demon maids in flowery robes, Flora and Dolly, also arrived in his room, but their expressions were extremely downcast and Ace instantly notice it.

"Did something happen while I was gone?" He asked with narrowed eyes.

Ace knew Flora and Dolly can't scheme against him because of their stupid oath, and they were completely loyal to him.

Flora's eyes suddenly turn teary, but she said nothing, but her Qi suddenly surge before a dark red mark appeared on her forehead and she squealed before it vanished, and she kneeled on the floor with an ashen expression.

Ace instantly identified that mark and his expression turn frosty. "Someone forced you to sign a slave contract, and they wanted you to hurt me?"

Both of them nodded furiously as tears flow out of their eyes. It was clear they can't tell him this. That was why Flora used her cultivation to slightly resist the slave contract and the mark became apparent, so Ace could see it while she also suffered a backlash.

Ace asked, "Let me guess it was someone from four blade clans?"

He knew only those four clans were daring enough to do such a thing in blade domain, and they were the only enemy he had here, and he never thought after failing in the shadow mountain range they still won't give up.

They both had bewildered expressions on their faces, hearing this.

"Sigh... so they didn't tell you, huh, but I'm sure it was them. Just tell me, if you can, how powerful the slave contract was?" Ace asked coldly.

Flora quickly said, "It was high grade-2... I think. I'm not sure, since I have never seen a higher-level contract."

Ace suddenly smile hearing this and two thin black sheets appeared in his hand, "The easy way to break the slave contract is to destroy the medium. But there's another way I found recently. It is to override the slave contract with another slave contract, but it has to be a higher grade one from the slave contract you have already been enslaved with.

"These are both low-grade four slave contracts I recently got from a dead rich scion. Just drop your blood on it, and you'll be freed from your slave imprints."

Ace had naturally found this loophole in wild tribes' youths' memories and these contracts from Santos's storage ring. He never thought of override a slave contract was even possible, and it would come in handy so quickly.

The two sisters' eyes shimmered with excitement as they quickly do what they were told and drop their blood on both contracts. Before long, dark red marks appeared on their forehead and vanished before new crimson marks appeared.

Ace was slightly astonished and smiled, "See, now you're free. Keep these two contract mediums with you. This way, no one could enslave you as long as they didn't have an intermediate grade-4 slave contract."

However, Flora and Dolly didn't take them and said with a pleading expression, "Please keep them, we're both dumb so if we lose them in the future we'll suffer calamity, so they will be safer with you, and besides we already your maids it doesn't matter if you enslave us or not."

Ace thought about it seriously and this made sense, so he stored those two slave contracts away to keep them safe.

Slave Contracts were mostly used to control living beings or put restrictions on them, so as long as he didn't use the contract to control both sisters' actions, it doesn't matter to them if they were enslaved or not.

"Now, tell me what happened and when?" Ace grimly questioned again.

Both sisters gnashed their teeth as they remembered what had happened one month before.

It turned out that an extremely strong masked individual broke into their room at night, and he forced them to sign slave contracts even before they could commit suicide.

After they were both bonded by the slave contract, it was extremely easy to control their actions, and they were instructed to wait until Feng came back from the shadow mountain range.

It was just yesterday that the same person approached them again and give them further instructions.

First, they had to give Feng a mysterious pill without being noticed by him, and after he took that pill; they had to lead him toward the west district of the inner domain, toward a specific inn.

Second, they would show a token given to them by that mysterious demon to the inn manager. Lastly, they had to kill five demons staying in that place before returning with their heads and hiding them under Feng's bed.

Ace's expression was extremely frosty as he heard this plan, which will not only ruin Feng's public image, he would've suffered terrible consequences at the hands of the law enforcement department of the inner domain and might even be detained.

Afterward, it was extremely easy to deal with him and killed him inside the prison and no one would ever know how he died.

As for that mysterious pill, it was an extremely powerful poison that will block his meridians for a day before it'll vanish without any trace.

This was a perfect scheme to capture him within the law and the demon king won't interfere as well.

But they never would've thought those two maids would not only reveal their slave marks despite the terrible backlash, but Ace would easily override the slave contracts as well.

Even if Ace would've taken that poison pill, it would never work on him and only given him EXP. This plan would've never succeeded.

"If I'm not wrong, the West District is under the Evil Blade Clan's control. I should visit that place..." A forbidding smile emerged on Ace's face!

Eternal Thief

Chapter 429: Life Demon Association Structure

Inner Blade Domain, the business district, was the area where all the important businesses of the blade domain were.

Furthermore, this was also the location where one of the wealthiest organizations of the entire mighty demons' continent and a haven for life professions, the Life Demon Association's branch, were and also the Life Demon Treasure Pagoda!

No one dared to provoke those eccentrics because of their arrogant and erratic natures.

At this moment, inside a grand, lavish hall, two old demons were staring at each other with hostile and vexed gazes and behind them were two middle-aged demons and three young demons who had fierce expressions on their faces as they glared at each other.

The common thing about these two groups as they all wore white and green robes. The only difference was one group had a golden pill emblem imprinted on their robes, while the other group had a rune symbol.

There was something more. They all had different numbers of small silver star shape emblems on their shoulders. The lowest number was 4 stars, while the highest was 9 stars.

The four middle-aged demons had one golden star and one or two green stars.

As for those two old demons, they had astonishingly four golden stars and two green stars.

If anyone saw them, they would instantly know they were Intermediate-Grade-4 Alchemist and Intermediate-Grade-4 Rune Crafter!

Those Silver Stars represent the first nine ranks, while the golden stars represent the symbols of a legendary grade and the green stars indicate toward low, intermediate, and high stages of a legendary grade.

The last thing that differs from those professions were the unique symbols in their robes. Alchemists had a golden pill symbol, and Rune Crafters and Runic Crafter Smiths had a golden rune symbol.

Lastly, the Crafter Smiths had an iron sword symbol, and they had the lowest status in the Life Demon Association, despite being the most in number.

Each branch of the Life Demon Association was controlled by one 'Life Grandmaster' while the second in command were two Life Masters and these two old demons were exactly Life Masters of the Blade Domain, Life Demon Guild.

As for why these two Life Masters have such hostility toward each other, it was because of the rivalry between Alchemists and Rune Crafters, and it wasn't just the case with these two old demons, but the entire life demon association was this way.

These were the two biggest factions and always compete with each other for rich resources and prominent positions in the association, and the association also promotes this faction rivalry as long as they won't break any rules or do something unethical.

The Alchemy Life Master, who had yellow skin and bright red eyes, finally said with pursed lips, "Samuel, what are you doing here? Wouldn't you be cooped up with your stinky lines?"

The Runic Life Master named, Samuel, had crimson color skin with gray fiery eyes and long hair, he replied with a sneer, "Old Ghost Kenny, you didn't know the immensity and beauty of runes so don't compare your fire play with noble rune crafting!"

"Heh, how about I use that fire play to burn your whole facility down?!" Kenny's eyes suddenly burned in a translucent crimson fire as the temperature plummeted.

Samuel's aura also spiked as white runes started to appear on his fingertips, and he snorted, "Just try it. If I didn't seal that rotten mouth of yours, I would write my name backward!"

However, before those two old demons fight, an even more profound aura suddenly appeared in the grand hall and a sighing old voice sounded, "Can you two stop quibbling like children each time you confront each other?"

Both old demons' eyes widen slightly before they quickly retracted their auras and quickly bow slightly toward the doors where a fossil-like brown skin old demon, with snowy long hair, was standing with an ambiguous smile on his wilt face.

Everyone greeted in unison.

"We pay respect to, Life Grandmaster Gatlin!"

Gatlin slowly walk inside the hall and said coolly like an elder, "No need to bother yourself with formalities."

Everyone became extremely respectful, even two life masters in front of this extremely old demon who seemed to be as weak as a dry tree branch, but his snowy eyes were full of vitality and profoundness.

Furthermore, this old demon wore the same robe with a golden pill symbol, and he had five golden stars on his shoulder and one green star, which was the symbol of a Low-Grade-Five Alchemist.

Moreover, the fifth grade was the highest grade anyone could reach in eight provinces and there were only eight in the eight provinces, including Gatlin.

All of these Life Grandmasters were extremely respectful figures, and even Demon Kings have to put a request if they wanted them to make pills or runic treasures.

Gatlin coolly said, "I know why you two are here and what made you two come out of your old caves. I heard a genius had appeared in our branch. She passed the test of the 4-star alchemist in soul alchemy twenty days ago, and yesterday, she passed the assessment for the nine-star alchemist.

"Even this old man was astonished by this news, and this progressing speed is very close to the record of the founder. Even the Life Grandmaster in core domains investigating that little demon."

Both Life Masters have an awkward expression on their faces as their hidden intentions were seen thought by Gatlin.

They were indeed here to fight over this mysterious genius who appeared right out of nowhere and took the entire eight provinces by storm with her dazzling aptitude in alchemy and control of the soul.

"Grandmaster, since you knew this, why don't you let me take her to the runic facility? I think she's more suited to be a rune crafter with her soul cultivation." Samuel shamelessly declared.

Kenny spat disdainfully, "Stop your nonsense. She's a soul alchemist, and she didn't choose rune crafting. You'll just ruin her if you teach her those swinger lines!"

Gatlin uttered imposingly before those two-start bickering again, "No need, even those Life Masters wanted to accept her as their core apprentice. Do you think it's your turn to fight over her?"

Both life masters' expressions suddenly soured, and they looked toward Gatlin with disbelief expressions on their faces.

Gatlin suddenly grin and said with a hint of elation, "Too bad for those old ghosts. The genius appeared in my branch, and I also happened to be a soul alchemist who had never received an apprentice before.

"Do you think I would let go of such a gem that can inherit my techniques and skills? Heh, I already accepted her as a core disciple yesterday, and I'm only here to tell you two to announce this news. Hahaha... being a master is really a unique feeling..."

Gatlin left while laughing heartedly, leaving everyone dumbfounded.

Soon this news flooded the eight provinces that the eccentric life grandmaster, Gatlin, of the Life Demon Association, finally accepted a disciple who happened to be an absolute genius which startling aptitude in soul alchemy.

Many send congratulation gifts to curry favor with this rising star before she could mature, while those other life grandmasters cursed Gatlin to snatch such a genius from them.

However, those young male demons in the association have different plans altogether because that genius also happened to be an absolute beauty.

Nevertheless, this commotion had nothing to do with this particular demon who was standing outside a large shop which had a golden name board, 'Lionheart Medicinal Shop' and many customers were going in and out.

Ace couldn't help but think in admiration, 'No one can tell this shop belongs to a syndicate boss...'

Ace had come here after changing his appearance into another demon and no one could tell he was the rising sword earl, nor would they be able to monitor him.

After what happened to Flora and Dolly, he told them to stay in his room and sneak out to visit this shop because he needed something, and he can only buy it from here while remaining hidden. He also observed what kind of influence All-Knowing Parrot has and what can he do.

Ace entered the bustling shop, which had ten floors. The interior was lavishly decorated and there were all kinds of medicinal herbs behind glass displays.

A young, beautiful demoness approached him and respectfully asked in a gentle tone, "Welcome dear customer, what kind of medicinal herbs you're looking for? We have many types of herbs from 1-stars to high-grade-1."

Ace looked at this young demoness and said with a smile, "I want to meet this shop's owner. Can it be arranged?"

The demoness was startled and take another glance at Ace's appearance and no matter how much she looked; he looks extremely ordinary. But she didn't dare of offending him because anyone who can enter the inner domain wasn't ordinary.

"Please wait. I'll inform the manager, only she can help you with your request!"

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Chapter 430: Meeting at Lionheart Shop

On the top floor of the lionheart shop, an enthralling demoness, with an oval face and pale white skin and violet eyes, and long hair, wearing a bright yellow dress. She was respectfully standing in front of a veil demoness with only her canny ocean blue eyes visible.

These two were none other than Aliya and All-Knowing Parrot!

Aliya said, "My Lady, I just received the news that someone with a Diamond Parrot Token has come, and he's an unknown person. Furthermore, he wanted to see the owner... I think he's the person you gave the diamond parrot token a few months ago."

All-Knowing Parrot's eyes lit before she said, "So, he came after all. It's only natural since the competition has been ended two days ago. But he seemed to be in another disguise, yes?"

Aliya nodded, "Yes, he's currently disguised as a Spear Worrier Demon or there's no way our people wouldn't recognize him."

"Hehe, as expected of the man I had my eye on. Go, and do as planned, and observe him. I want every detail about this meeting. I can't show myself yet, he had to wait..." All-Knowing Parrot snickered playfully.

Aliya hesitate for a moment before she said, "But my lady, it's too dangerous for you to be here. Don't you send me here already? There was no need for you to come yourself so quickly. If someone were to find out, I'm afraid..."

Before she could complete her sentence, All-Knowing Parrot coldly cut her short, "Just do as you're told. I have my plans for coming here this early!"

"Please forgive my rudeness!" Aliya quickly bowed before leaving.

All-Knowing Parrot's eyes shone with a sharp glint as she watched Aliya leaving, 'You took the first place despite knowing the dangers... what are you planning now...'

After Ace showed the token to the manager, that was given to him by All-Knowing Parrot, the manager quickly led him to the ninth floor which was a waiting area for VVIP customers like him or to be more precise it was the area reserved for only All-Knowing Parrot's clients!

Furthermore, this place was filled with many arrays and a concealing formation which make it perfect for underhanded deals.

A beautiful demoness was serving him high-quality wine, but he remained uninterested in any because his eyes were glued to the live fate map.

Ace only used the live mapping out of curiosity to see if there was something worth noticing, and he found an anomaly on the map the moment he opened it.

"Moirra, why is this fate point green, red, and white at the same time? Furthermore, this person seemed to be on the floor above." Ace looked at the tri-color fate point with astonishment.

Moirra replied, "This person can turn into an enemy, a friend, or even a neutral party based on Sir Ace's actions or this person's whim. You can say this is a type of person who had many faces, and they can stab you in the back at any time as long as it benefits them. Furthermore, since the green color is also present, this means you have some kind of understanding with this person, and you're currently on friendly terms."

Ace's eyes suddenly shimmered with a sharp glint, 'The person I know and in a friendly term with? I only know one person of this syndicate and had an understanding with him... could it be that guy is really hiding here?'

Ace couldn't help but inhale deeply, as he looked at the ceiling with a peculiar glint in his eyes. Because of some restrictions, he can't sense anything on the top floor and if he used his heavenly sense, he might alarm and alert the person.

And if that person was the same person he was thinking, he can't let him know about this at any cost because he could use it to his advantage and gain what he wished for all this time.

'Heh, it seemed even that savvy guy didn't imagine that I have a treasure like Eternal Thief Fate Compass that can see through any restriction and camouflage. As long as his fate point didn't change, he can never escape from me. But I can't just attack this guy since I still have no idea about his prowess and there's still that hex magic which I do not know of...'

Ace fell into deep thoughts as he thought about the pros and cons of acting against someone like All-Knowing Parrot.

At this moment, Aliya finally entered the ninth floor and looked with a belligerent glance toward the demon, who had an impassive expression on his face.

'I don't know what mistress sees in you and what is your true identity, but I won't let you harm her!' Aliya's eyes shone coldly before she took the seat in front of Ace and said coldly, "I heard esteemed guest have our diamond parrot token, can I know when you acquired it and how?"

Ace looked at the enthralling beauty which wasn't inferior to Milly at all and sense her belligerent gaze.

'She came from the upper floor and her cultivation is also early stage diamond soul embryo realm. Even though she's using some treasure to hide her soul cultivation, but it's useless. Then didn't this mean she's a close aid of that guy, and it also confirmed that he's here?' Ace quickly reached this conclusion.

However, Ace didn't show any emotion on his fake face and coolly said, "Don't tell me you didn't know from the token? I know your boss had already informed you about me, so let's cut to the chase. I didn't have any time to waste."

Aliya's eyes narrowed as her aura spiked slightly, but she controlled herself after thinking about her mistress.

He coldly said, "Fine, since esteem guest didn't want to waste time, we won't waste time. So, do you want to trade, sell, or buy?"

"First, I want soul-type medicinal herbs or pills. I don't care about their type or what they're used for. As long as they're 8-star or higher, I'll take as much as you have. Price isn't a matter for me." Ace impassively said, without revealing his real, wily grin.

Aliya seemed to widen for a fleeting movement before returning to normal, and she suddenly smiled graciously as she said, "It can be naturally done, but I'm afraid we also have a limited supply of soul material above eight-star, and our prices will be slightly higher than market price as well."

Ace seemed to have failed to notice this brief abnormality as he said without. "How much?"

"Since esteem guest didn't care about the nature of herbs or pills, it'll be extremely simple, we had Soul Calming Pills, Soul Mending Pills, Soul Burst Pills, and Soul Qi Pills.

"We can offer you 30,000 of each kind of pill of 8-Star. 10,000 9-star, 1000 low-grade-1, 500 intermediate-grade-1, and 100 high-grade-1.

"I can also arrange raw materials for the same types of pills that I just mentioned. We sold those materials in units and with each unit, ten pills can be made. I'm allowed to offer you 5,000 units of 8-Star. 2,500 units of 9-star, 500 units of low-grade-1, 100 units of intermediate-grade-1, and 50 units of high-grade-1."

Ace was astonished when he heard they can provide even high grade-1 soul materials, and it seemed they still had much in stock.

However, he didn't show any emotion on his fake face and merely said, "What about the price?"

Aliya smile playfully and said, "Since the esteemed guest is a diamond VIP, we won't charge any extra expenses. If you want to exchange them for martial pills, you have to pay double the amount you're buying, and they had to be of the same rank as the soul materials. Or you have to pay twice the market price with Qi stones, and we only accept grade-2 or higher Qi stones. As for treasures and weapons, like formations, arrays, and runic weapons, we can discuss the price as long as they are precious."

Ace's eyes narrowed. "Are you trying to rip me off?"

Aliya salaciously smile as she said, "I won't dare to lie to a diamond VIP. This is our normal exchange rate. If it was a golden or silver VIP, they had to pay four times the market price. We, from the Spica Syndicate, deal fairly. You can ask any of our customers."

'What's the deal with this woman? First, she was like a firecracker, and now she became like a shrewd merchant who wanted to use a honey trap to sell her products?' Ace finally noticed the abnormality in Aliya's behavior from before.

In the end, Ace knew he wouldn't be able to buy soul materials anywhere and not this much, so he could only agree, "Fine, but I'll pay with 1-star to 6-star medicinal herbs and other treasures, I have many star rank weapons, arrays, and formation. But I'm still not done with my purchase."

Aliya slightly exhibited her voluptuous, titillating figure and a concupiscent expression appeared on her enthralling face as she drawled, "Oh, what did you like to purchase next? Don't tell me you want me?!"