

Thief 521

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 521: Psyche Invasion

Just as Ace's voice trailed off, Patriarch Empty Dream's startling voice rang, "What? You know about the Psyche Invasion?"

'So, that technique's name was Psyche Invasion, huh? It seemed my blind arrow indeed hit the mark.' Ace's eyes shimmered with ecstasy.

From the moment he discovered Patriarch Empty Dream's presence here, he couldn't help but remember the first time he met with the Patriarch, and he tried to infiltrate his knowledge sea in the sham of sharing knowledge with him.

If not for the system, his secrets would be revealed without even him knowing it.

But, right now, Ace also has Mind Stealing job mission that has similarities to Patriarch Empty Dream's Psyche Invasion, and he might get some insight from it.

That's why he set all this up and revealed his real purpose at the end. So, Patriarch Empty Dream won't sense anything amiss. Even if he did, with a soul contract in the place he won't think Ace would try to harm him or dare to play any tricks.

Furthermore, Ace revealed the Psyche Invasion's key function. That could only be known by others if Patriarch Empty Dream told them himself or if someone had the same inheritance.

This would make it even more convincing for Ace to trick Patriarch Empty Dream into revealing this technique to him.

He respectfully said, "Senior, your third soul piece promised me when I reached this realm, I can learn this technique from any of your soul pieces as long as I reveal this function. Or I would never know such an astonishing technique even exists in this world.

"Furthermore, your last part might be in the devil race's territory, so I need this technique even more than ever. The devil race is innately a race proficient in the soul. It would be extremely hard to get information from them with a normal soul search." He sounded determined and righteous!

Patriarch Empty Dream's soul piece felt silent hearing this. No matter what he thinks, there wasn't any loophole in Ace's description. He never even considered Ace could have come in contact with his clan's inheritance which was in his traitorous disciple's hand, and he would never let someone like Ace even close to it.

"Child, I don't know if you're just lucky or you've already known that I only have the complete memories of Psyche Invasion in this soul piece. Furthermore, you stated the fact that the devil race is innately a soul race, and this secret soul cultivation art would be extremely helpful against them." Patriarch Empty Dream spoke in acknowledgment which made Ace's heartbeat quicken slightly.

He knew he had succeeded in tricking the Old Ghost Empty Dream!

"It seemed my third soul piece had already foreseen this, and that's why he promised to teach you Psyche Invasion. I'll be fulfilling this promise now. Don't resist."

Just as Patriarch's voice trailed off, Ace saw a green glob of mist coming his way. He was extremely familiar with this misty glob and let it enter between his eyebrows.

"Oh, it seemed you have received memories from me before. I'm relieved now." Patriarch's old voice rang again with relief.

'Heh, your action told another story, though. Still wanted to see my memories. I guess some things never change with Old Ghost Empty Dream.' Ace sneered inwardly when he saw the expected notification.

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[System detects foreign memories and a wisp of foreign Soul Sense invading hoist's Knowledge Sea!]

[Countermeasure(s)]

1. Eliminate the Soul Sense and kept the memories?

Effect: The Infiltrator's Soul will suffer damage according to the Soul Sense strength!

Price: 10,000 TP

2. Eliminate the Soul Sense without any backlash?

Effect: The Infiltrator won't suffer any kind of soul damage!

Price: 100,000 TP

3. Create an Illusionary Knowledge Sea.

Effect: The Infiltrator would see anything they wanted to see in the illusionary knowledge sea according to his perception of the host.

Price: 5 Million TP

[NOTE: Select within ten seconds, or the System will automatically choose the first option!]

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His eyes fell on the third option. 'This third option is new and didn't appear last time, and it's more convenient for tricking powerful sneaky fellows like Old Ghost Empty Dream.'

A coldness crept into Ace's eyes when he saw the first option, but then he chose the second option after thinking it wasn't the time to burn all the bridges between him and Empty Dream.

Especially not when he was in the middle of a grade-7 formation which Empty Dream can influence as an energy core. Although he didn't know to what extent the Empty Dream could influence it, he didn't want to find out.

As for using the third option, he didn't want to waste five million TP on appeasing a mere soul piece. If it was the real thing, he might've considered it, but not this time.

He clearly remembered last time, Empty Dream didn't take any action despite failing twice, and this time won't be any different. He won't dare to turn hostile just because he can't read Ace's memories.

There might be various reasons like he just regained his consciousness and wasn't strong enough to use the Psyche Invasion on Ace.

He won't make a fuss, or it was akin to telling Ace that he just tried to read his memories.

Just as Ace selected the second option, a huge torrent of memories entered his mind and the more he processed them, the more he felt it was really worth tricking Old Ghost Empty Dream for this secret soul cultivation art.

After he processed the entire set of memories, his eyes shimmered like stars, 'With soul probing as the foundation and this secret soul cultivation as a base, my job mission is as good as complete!'

"Why aren't you accepting the memories?" Patriarch Empty Dream's confused voice rang.

"Oh, I already did, Senior. Thank you very much for bestowing this priceless secret soul cultivation art on me. I won't..."

"WAIT!" Patriarch Empty Dream's startling voice cut Ace's passionate speech in the midst, "You're telling me you refine all those memories in less than a minute?!"

Ace pulled an innocent face and nodded, "Yes."

"Impossible! Tell me the requirement of cultivating the Psyche Invasion and how many levels are in it and their names?"

Patriarch Empty Dream didn't dare to believe that someone could refine so much information within a few seconds unless they were old monsters like him who had cultivated in soul path.

That's why he doubted Ace was playing tricks on him.

Ace smiled and replied, "The requirements for cultivating the Psyche Invasion are Platinum Soul Embryo Realm, Platinum Soul Search Skill, the Soul Sense Diffuse & Infuse, and Knowledge Sea Conundrum. These skills you imparted with the Psyche Invasion.

"Then there are three levels of Psyche Invasion, Knowledge Sea Surface Invasion, Knowledge Sea Deep Invasion, and Knowledge Sea Depth Invasion. Is that all, Senior? Please guide me if I miss something?" Ace humbly bowed with a wily glint in his eyes.

"C-correct! How did you do it?!" Patriarch Empty Dream's voice quavered this time in disbelief.

"I don't know. I had just this ability from birth." Ace feigned.

"It seemed you weren't just chosen on a whim by my first soul piece. You're indeed full of surprises. Humanity should be proud to give birth to a heavenly genius like you, who is righteous and valiant." Patriarch Empty Dream praise.

However, Ace suddenly sensed that Patriarch Empty Dream was trying to suppress his excitement for some reason and covering it with these praises.

'I'll destroy the soul contract between him and me the moment I leave. Who knows what kind of scheme this old ghost is hatching? He might track me down with this soul contract as well.

'But this also means the moment I destroy this soul contract. He won't be able to find me or tell who I am as long as my disguising ability outclass him. As for those two soul wisps, I'll bury them in my thief's space. Even his ancestor won't be able to find them!'

Ace set up his mind and also made a mental note to be wary of those contracts he signed in the future.

"Alright, since we're done here, I'll help you leave on the other side. It's your fortune that I wake up, or you'll be entering an extremely powerful scanning formation the moment you leave with that ring. It's part of this formation.

"At that time, your disguise item won't be able to hide your racial aura, and you'll be caught. I have to admit this formation is really a piece of work. It seemed it was created by my traitorous disciple!" Patriarch Empty Dream sneered coldly.

Ace's heart palpitated when he heard this. 'Well, I could've still escaped. But it's good if I can save my life-saving trump cards.' He mused.

But Patriarch Empty Dream didn't know about this, so he blurted, "Thank you, senior, I will definitely find that last soul piece and revive you."

This time Empty Dream didn't even hesitate to say, and his voice was filled with boundless confidence, "Heh, I know you will!"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 522: World Famous (1)

There exist many forbidden zones in the Golden Sky World.

Every race had different opinions on them; as to which continent had the most dangerous, forbidden zone.

There wasn't any unanimous viewpoint on this.

However, if someone were asked any race about which was the most dangerous, forbidden zone in the entire world, the answer would be startlingly unanimous.

The Endless Sea!

The endless sea was filled with raging sea storms, whirlpools, and mysterious demonic marine beasts with uncountable numbers.

No one had ever been able to measure the full length of the endless sea ever, and those brave adventurers who embarked on this journey never came back to tell the tales.

Nevertheless, the Endless Sea was the only thing that connects the ten enormous continents, and this was the only way to travel between the continents.

Some continents have unique materials that can't be found anywhere else, so the sea routes were even more important.

However, traveling through the Endless Sea wasn't easy because of the high-risk rate, or with many races' ambition and prowess, they would've already started wars with each other long ago.

In thousands of years, the top races have discovered and paved safe seaways toward the ten continents. These seaways were voyageable in a certain part of the year.

But not just anyone can sail on these seaways, and only people with powerful backgrounds have access to these safe routes and travel freely between the continents.

Anyhow, these seaways lead to a certain point in every continent, and every race protected these places heavily, so other races won't start an invasion.

As for the other coastlines around the continents, they weren't as heavily guarded as the secure ones, but there were still formations protecting them. But these areas weren't accessible to siege.

Five huge sail ships were currently moving extremely fast, cutting through the calm surface of the water like a sharp blade.

Inside the captain's cabin in one of the ships, three silver hair figures were standing beside a table size runic cube which was brightly lit. It was a huge communication cube!

An aged voice sounded from this communication cube. "We just confirmed the news. The elusive demon thief really raided the Life Demon Association's outer continent's biggest auction, right under the nose of Fiery Grand Demon Duke.

"Not only that, but he sullied the Wise Demon Lady's reputation by exposing her gigolo in front of millions of onlookers, who were also the firstborn of Poison Wood Grand Duke.

"The entire demon continent is in a state of war right now, and even the Imperial Demon Knight Squad was summoned to the outer continent to search for a mere thief. I don't know when demons suffered such humiliation last time by a single person!" The voice sounded extremely ecstatic at the end. He was clearly gloating over the demon race's misfortune.

A beautiful woman with an icy demeanor also speaks in astonishment. "Is this the same thief that demons have been searching for the last few years?"

"Yes, it is the same thief. Although our spies haven't been able to penetrate their royal zone, this news can't be suppressed at all. The scope was just too great.

"The other four families might have also gotten this news by now, as well as the other races. I'm afraid this time at the Ancient Allied Gathering in five years, the Demon Race would be going to suffer big time.

"The cannon fold recruitment they were doing was also stagnated because of this event, and they might not be able to collect high-quality cannon folds before gathering. It is good news for us to kick demons out of the curb and crack their relation with the Devils." The old voice solemnly stated.

The old man standing in the middle of the two sneered at this moment, "We might doesn't even need to do anything. Do you think the Devils would not take advantage of this situation?"

"They'll definitely approach the demons and demand something excessive. The demons would not take it standing after this humiliation. We just have to fan the flames, and watch from the side and play as a fisherman."

"Well, that's why I contacted you. Arrange a meeting between the other four families. There are still four years before you guys will reach the gathering location. The five Element Lords have already reached this decision of no infighting before the gathering." The aged voice earnestly declared.

"I'll arrange it right away." The old man spoke in acknowledgment.

"Oh, there's another piece of interesting news I forget to add." The voice suddenly blurted and quickly tells them, "I heard, between the items that the thief stole, there was a Secret Sword Art which required Element Sword Intent to cultivate!"

"What?!"

The three of them exclaimed in unison.

"Hehe, I'm glad it got stolen away, or who knows what those demons would've done with it. Those four families might even support the demons to pressure us so they could get rid of our peerless Ice Sword Fairy." The voice on the other side sneered coldly.

"This is indeed a blessing in disguise. I hope that the thief leaves the continent and dies somewhere in the endless sea. But it's a pity, if we can get our hands on that secret sword art, our family position would be unshakable." The old man sighed with regret.

The female with an icy demeanor nodded, and with a hint of gentleness in her icy eyes, she said, "This is for the best. But when we left, the Ice Sword Fairy was on a venture. Has she come back?"

"Ahem, you see, that's the thing." The voice sounded perplexed all of a sudden. "We heard the news from the coastline that they had seen someone similar to Ice Sword Fairy sneaking into the endless sea with a ship!"

"W-What!? How could she be so irresponsible?!" the old man bellowed with widened eyes.

The other also pulled a worried face filled with anxiety.

"The Ice Lord said the exact thing, and he nearly went on a rampage, while the Ice Queen froze half the ice palace when she heard it. If not for the Old Butler telling them he knew where she had gone and guaranteed to take her back, they both might've already left the Ice Domain to search for her." The person on the other end sounds exhausted.

The three in the room couldn't help but smile wryly when they heard this.

"It seemed you have a lot on your plate, Old First. I'm glad I left early." The old man chuckled.

"Hmph, next time you're going to stay here and manage those two childish adults." Old first tutted.

The silent middle age man with an icy presence suddenly spoke, "So, where did she go, exactly?"

"The Old Butler revealed that she had some deep attachment from her childhood when she was alone, living with him. So, the place where she was most likely headed would be the... Azure-Wind Continent!"

In another part of the endless sea,

A gorgeous veiled figure was calmly sitting beside a window, as she absent-mindedly looked at the blue sea with her light silver eyes filled with eagerness.

She mumbled in her mellifluous voice as her eyes shimmered with gentleness, "We'll be going to unite soon, Ace..."

Right at this moment, a bony man was sitting cross-legged on a small sailboat surrounded by a purple haze, as the boat was drifting in a certain direction by the mysterious purple haze.

All of a sudden, the bony man's eyes snapped open, filled with disbelief and trepidation.

"Do you also feel it?" He asked hoarsely.

Another old voice sounded in his head filled with uncertainty, "We're already merged, so of course, I felt it. The soul contract has been demolished, which means that the boy is either dead or he gets rid of it!"

"What are the odds of the latter scenario?" the bony man questioned sharply.

"If talk about that boy's ability to leave the Azure-Wind Continent and run so far away within a short span of three to four years, then I say the chances of him breaking the soul contract are 90%.

"But we can't be sure when it comes to the endless sea. This place was always quirky. Even the predecessors fear this sea. But if he were killed in the endless sea, then it would be night impossible to get that soul wisp back, and without it, we can't regain our full power." The voice sounded grim.

"Hmph, who told you to hand over the soul wisp to a child with only a soul contract in place?" The bony man grunted in displeasure. He was enraged.

The voice in his head retorted, "Well, I wasn't as lucky as you to have taken control over that formation and made a soul body to escape it. Those memories were with you. So, I take whatever chance we have for revival.

"Furthermore, I didn't just choose that boy on a whim or out of desperation. As I told you before, he might be the possessor of the legendary Abound Soul Physique, the same as the ancestor, Humane Sage!"

Chapter 523: World Famous (2)

Far away, a black tower, so massive that it pierced right between the clouds.

Inside this colossal tower,

Two begin with folded dark bat wings kneeling in front of a mist-shrouded dark water pool.

A devilish voice sounded in the mist. "A mere thief wreaks havoc between demons, huh? Hahaha... I never heard of such news in three decades."

The devilish voice's amusing laughter rang in the dim space.

However, the laughter came to an abrupt halt. "Do you investigate this thief and the similarities between him and the Shadow Devil Thief? What are the chances of this thief being the successor of the Shadow Devil Thief and having her inheritance?" The voice was extremely icy, filled with killing intent.

One of the kneeling beings replied emotionlessly, "My Lord, the incompetency of the demons knows no bounds. They were misjudging this thief for years and let their useless prince handle this affair.

"But that thief grows from an ant to an iron thorn, and when they took it seriously, they still failed while losing their reputation greatly.

"To this day, there is no clear understanding of this thief's abilities or skills. No one had ever come in contact with him like his last victim, Paul Poison Wood. He revealed that the thief could easily move freely within a high grade-5 suppression limit talisman.

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"This means his cultivation is most probably in the sixth realm, as for if he's a soul or martial cultivator, this is still a mystery. He had excellent disguising ability or treasures.

"With every thievery, he leaves behind an owl symbol that can't be removed, no matter what. That's why he acknowledged being the remnant of that Witch Race which appeared thousands of years ago in the Demon Continent, and their blood had an extremely huge effect on the longevity.

"His last thievery made this theory even more solid. The demon put the Myriad Hex Manual on the auction as bait. Although he indeed took the bait, he escaped with it as well.

"As for him having the inheritance of our race's traitor, it's still unclear. We don't know if she ever entered the demon continent or not. But if he's from the demon race or witch race, this completely rules out the possibility of him being that missing halfling.

"Which completely rules out the possibility of this matter blowing up and others knowing about it. I have already warned those who know about the Shadow Devil Thief to keep their mouth shut."

The devilish voice sounded. "This is not enough. Have them sign high-grade soul contracts as well. The Shadow Devil Thief was the biggest disgrace of our race, and if this matter reached other races, we'll turn into the laughingstock of this world like the demons."

"I will see to this immediately." The being acknowledged without any emotions.

"After you are complete this matter, send two envoys to the demon continent and tell them to lend a hand to Demons. But we'll be taking that thief. This price is not negotiable.

"If they act stubbornly, tell them we'll be teaming up with the hunters for the next gathering. It ought to do it. Those bastards are becoming more and more ambitious. It will teach them a lesson as well." The voice coldly commanded, "You're dismissed. Only bother me if you either catch that thief or if you can't!"

On top of a misty mountain, there was a magnificent palace surrounded by thick Qi clouds.

Inside a spacious hall, many humans were sitting in front of a dignified-looking man in white Taoist robes.

Everyone was listening to him with solemn expressions.

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"... so, this was what all happened in the Demon Continent. It seemed demons are wilting, and if we unite all the sects' prowess, we might join the Ancient Allied Gathering this time." His sharp eyes were filled with ambition as he said those words.

Everyone couldn't help but pull astonished expressions on their faces when they heard this. But they also felt that it was possible since the Demon Race suffered a terrible blow this time, and this might be their chance to break the triangle.

Suddenly, a middle-aged man with black hair and a small beard questioned in an ambiguous tone, "Sect Patriarch, can you tell me the name of this thief?"

The Patriarch on the main seat as well as everyone looked at this person since he asked such a strange question.

What did this thief's name have to do with you? Or why are you even interested in a thief's name?

These were their thoughts.

But the Patriarch smiled and answered, "High Elder Joseph, it's quite rare for you to take an interest in something. But it's also good, we'll be required your expertise if the other sects agree to our proposal.

"The thief's real name is still a mystery, but the name he has given to himself was quite famous on the demon continent, it... Sky Stealer. Quite an arrogant..."

Before he could finish speaking, Joseph's calm expression turned pale, and he blurted out, "IMPOSSIBLE!"

"Hmm? What is impossible? Why are you turning so pale?"

The Patriarch and others frown upon seeing Joseph, who always remains calm, reacting this way as if he has seen a ghost.

Joseph didn't care about their expressions or his imagination anymore and quickly asked, "Is this thief left an owl symbol at every theft?!"

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The Patriarch's eyes narrowed at this moment. He clearly omitted these minor details, since he found them quite irrelevant.

He asked sharply, "How do you know about it? Could it be you also have spies on the demon continent that I don't know about?"

Everyone looked at Joseph with questioning eyes.

However, Joseph's next words make them flabbergasted,

"NO, NO, IT CAN'T BE HIM! It is all a big coincidence. I killed him myself!" Joseph's expression was ashen as he started mumbling like a madman, startling everyone.

The Patriarch suddenly stood up and released a powerful aura, "High Elder, calm down!"

Joseph finally snapped out of his stupor when he felt the sharp aura of the Patriarch.

But his expressions were ashen as his eyes were filled with disbelief.

"Now tell me, what were you just mumbling about? What are you hiding?" The Patriarch's eyes were sharp like blades as he looked at Joseph.

Joseph took a deep breath to calm down. He knew these things cannot be hidden anymore.

"It's the incident a few years back when I went to the lower lands with my clone..."

Joseph told everyone how his clone was killed by a foundation realm brat a few years ago. Everyone knows about Joseph's strange cultivation technique, so they weren't surprised by the cultivation clone.

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The more they heard about how this unknown boy turned into a famous thief from a nobody, the more astonished they became.

"... at the end, I had no choice but to use a soul talisman to kill him, and then I returned with my soul clone." Joseph finished his encounter with Ace.

He even told them about the 'Heavenly Blankness Worldending Technique Slate' because if this thief was really Ace, then he has to do anything to get rid of him.

Because now, Ace has grown to such an extent that even the entire demon race was searching for him. He had a life feud with him, and he couldn't let him grow anymore.

Even if he had to give up on the Heavenly Blankness Worldending Technique Slate, he would gladly give it up to get rid of the future disaster.

Besides, he can't get that slate even if he wants to now. He was not confident enough after hearing Ace's deeds!

But it was still yet to be seen if this was really Ace or someone else from the same origin.

Nevertheless, Joseph won't be able to sleep until the name Sky Stealer vanishes from this world completely. If he had known this before, he would've long told all this instead of keeping it all to himself just to escape some punishment.

Everyone in the hall was spellbound as if they just heard a fantasy.

The Patriarch's eyes were wide with disbelief, "S-so, in your opinion, this thief and the thief you encountered in the lower lands are the same people? Which means a human!"

Joseph prudently replied, "I don't know, but there's a 70% chance they're the same. That boy's parents belong to the White Crown, and they were always unfathomed. Even to this day, no one knows about them.

"My guess is that the boy's parents stole the Heavenly Blankness Worldending Technique Slate from the White Crown, resulting in them being hunted by the organization.

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"Since they can't hide from them, they left it with the boy and the method to use it. That's why he grows so fast and powerful. He told me himself that this technique has the full cultivation technique of eight realms.

"At that time, it might be that slate that damaged my soul and helped him escape to the Demon Continent. If I had known before, I would've never kept it a secret. I also thought this technique was destroyed together with him. No wonder I never found any corpse or any ashes of him!" Joseph couldn't help but gnashed his teeth.

Everyone's eyes were filled with greed when they heard it.

The Patriarch abruptly stood with an ecstatic expression and declared, "Declare the Continent Meeting. We need to awaken the Prime One. This treasure technique belongs to the human race and no one can take it!"

Chapter 524: Cold Liar!

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The Almighty Demon Empire was divided into Eight Provinces, a Royal Zone, and Three Forbidden Countries.

The eight provinces were called Outer Continents, Common Provinces, or defensive lands or whatnot... by the demon who lived in the Royal Zone.

The reason being, the eight provinces were actually a turtle shell or a protective shield created by the highborn demons to protect and by themselves enough time to prepare in case of an invasion by the east, west, and south side of the continent.

They take anything worth taking from the eight provinces and created the royal zone, which was the northern side of the mighty demon continent, and its area was around the four-tenth of the eight provinces.

The eight provinces known the northern side of the continent as the royal zone, but the upper echelon of the demon race called it the Royal Demon Nation. It was the nation where only royal demons lived, no commoners or lowborn!

The Royal Demon Nation was not only rich with Qi and resources, but the safe seaway was also on this side of the continent, and it was a perfect place to nurture a powerful naval force.

The North-East Coast of the Royal Demon Nation was surrounded by towering cliffs, while a strange mist existed a mile away from this coastline and no one ever came back from that mist once entered.

This place wasn't as guarded as the other sides because of this exact reason and was only checked once in a while by a small crew.

Today, however, a tall silhouette emerged from this mist.

It was in the middle of the day, and the sun was shining brightly.

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This tall person wore a long black hood, and his aura was completely hidden. Who could this be but Ace?

Ace looked at the golden sky with relief and smiled brightly, 'I finally left this gloomy place and it took me two extra months to reach here with the route the old ghost Empty Dream showed me. Where am I anyway?'

After Empty Dream was content with Ace, he used his small influence to alter the indicator ring's route. This route was in the completely opposite direction from the mainland of the Royal Demon Nation.

Ace even suspected that Empty Dream was trying to kill him when a month passed and he still wandered in the mist aimlessly. But when he thought how it was probably impossible with Empty Dream's soul wisp in his possession, he felt somewhat at ease and continued to follow the route.

Today he finally left the formation!

Ace looked around.

This place was a forest covered with mist.

'It seemed this was another safe boundary of the formation, and since no one knew the route for it, they left it unguarded, or the guards simply didn't care. Nonetheless, I wasn't intercepted as the old ghost told, and now I'm in the Royal Demon Nation!'

Ace's eyes gleamed with excitement when he thought how he had safely entered the sacred ground of the Demon Race that remained impenetrable for many years.

Doesn't want to stay any longer, Ace moved in that direction with no mist.

When the forest finally ended, a gust of chilly humid wind brushed past his face, and his steps came to a halt when he looked ahead with astonishment.

He saw a vast body of blue water as far as his eye could see, calm waves, and some low-level marine beasts calmly swimming under the crystal-clear water.

'So, this is the endless sea...'

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It was his first time seeing the Endless Sea in person and he had to admit it was a wonderful view from where he was standing.

Furthermore, from Paul's memories, he knew about the coastlines of this place and safe seaways and naval force under the Royal Demon Nation.

So, he wasn't completely ignorant about how dangerous this calm looking sea was on the other parts of the continent.

'Is that a Forbidden Country?' Ace's eyes narrowed when he saw a vague silhouette far from his position.

Even with his excellent eyesight, he can't confirm it.

According to Paul's memories, the mysterious Three Forbidden Countries were actually three large Islands close to the Royal Demon Nation.

These three islands were rich in rare resources and beasts.

However, this wasn't the reason for these places to call the Three Forbidden Countries, the real reason was these three islands were in the formation of a triangle, and right in the center of this triangle was a vortex.

As for what that vortex was and why the Imperial Palace forbade anyone to approach that place, the official reason was it was extremely dangerous, even for the Law Awareness Realm experts.

But Paul once heard from his father that it was a sham and there might be some tremendous secret of the Imperial Family Hidden there, which they don't want to share with anyone.

Nevertheless, there was still some truth to this matter since a Grand Demon Duke tried to sneak in but never returned, which resulted in his entire family being eradicated.

Since then, no one dared to approach that vortex no matter how much curious they got.

The Three Forbidden Countries were assessable for the junior members of the Royal Demon Nation, and they were treated as training grounds. But no one above the River Core Realm was allowed.

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That's why Ace was curious when he saw the vague shade. Even if that was a forbidden country, he averted his eyes, since it was meaningless. He can't just swim there with all those demonic marine beasts. He required a ship that; he didn't have and wasn't interested in going there either.

His mission was more important, and he still had the elemental orb to worry about, so he didn't have the time for sightseeing yet.

After having his fill of the endless sea's view, Ace's eyes turned sharp as he coldly commanded, "System, destroy the soul contract and any other contract supported by the fake consciousness."

The very next moment, the fake consciousness in his true soul and marital space turned into a wisp of smoke and vanished as if nothing happened.

Ace's lips curled up. 'Only the first soul piece would notice this, and he would think I was dead or break it on purpose. Well, even if it does, what can he do about it?'

He snorted coldly, 'Even if he escaped somehow, he wouldn't even dream I'm so far away from the Azure Wind Continent, and he won't be able to find me before getting found by the demons or his disciple. Maybe I'll visit him once I reach Law Awareness Realm and give him a big 'surprise'.'

He grinned mischievously.

'I only have a little over a year left for the job mission. So, I should first study the Psyche Invasion. I had to admit without the knowledge of Psyche Invasion, I might've still been missing the important pieces of the puzzle.' Ace's expression turned solemn.

Ace wasn't in a hurry to complete the final chain mission since there was ample time left. The job mission, on the other hand, was almost over, and he didn't want to fail it when he was so close to clearing the requirement.

Lastly, this seclusion wasn't just about the job mission. He still has the law fragments, new secret thief skill, and insight pills to absorb, and once he was done with them, he would be stronger than ever!

The chain mission would go even more smoothly. So, he was planning to use a year to absorb everything and then head toward the Royal Demon Nation.

Done deciding, Ace created an underground chamber close to the cliff. Since this area was barren, no one would disturb him.

After hiding the entrances and placing powerful formations around the underground chamber, he finally relaxed and started to study the Psyche Invasion wholeheartedly.

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Just like that, a week passed, and Ace was immersed in understanding the complex structure of the Knowledge Sea Surface Invasion when an unexpected notification startled him.

=====

[Congratulation host, your Thief Title [Famously Infamous] has reached the Intermediate Stage!]

[Thief Title: Famously Infamous (Intermediate Stage)]

-Famously Infamous (Intermediate Stage): Infamous between over 1 Billion lifeforms.

-Title Effect: Everyone is afraid of your name (Thief Name), and your deeds reverberated like thunder in every corner of this land. Your real name (Thief Name) will inflict [7% Fear] in others' hearts as long as they know about your name (Thief Name) and deeds.

(Note: This title is ineffectual against House Members & unhostile lifeforms)

=====

"What in the world?" Ace was baffled when he saw his title suddenly get upgraded without him doing anything.

But it wasn't the end, and another notification rang.

=====

[Congratulation Host, you unlocked the Thief Title: Cold Liar (Initial)]

[Thief Title: Cold Liar (Initial)]

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-Cold Liar (Initial): Made 10 Million Beings (Cultivators Only) wholeheartedly believed your lies!

-Title Effect: There's a 5% more chance that people will believe in your lies completely!

=====

'What the heck did I do?' Ace was speechless!

Chapter 525: Demonic Eater Mask

9-11 minutes

Two tall demons clad in black armor mounted on two horse-like beasts with dark horns. They were slowly moving a few meters away from the edge of the cliff.

They both were holding two brightly lit formation plates with small white projections.

"Every year we'll be sent here to inspect this place like someone would dare to come here with all those demonic marine beasts and the protective formations around the edges." One of the armored demons grumped as he idly looked at the projection of the area.

"This is Fate, my friend. If we have more talent, we wouldn't have been abandoned by our tribes and sent in the army to be high-level cannon folds." The other demon lamented with a forlorn smile, "Well, at least we weren't appointed to the Sea Hunting Division. The death toll in that place is like sky-high."

A hint of fear appeared in the other demon's eyes when he heard 'Sea Hunting Division' and nodded solemnly. "Alright, you check the perimeter here, while I check the forbidden forest."

"Fine by me."

The other one nodded without expression and continued to move at the cliff's edges on his mount while the other one moved his steed toward the forest a mile away from the cliff.

As the demon moved beside the cliff, he unmounted when he saw some cracks on the cliff's surface and carefully move in that area. He was doing it for years, so he was quite proficient in this task.

However, he reached a certain point, and the projection on the formation suddenly started to flutter.

"Is it broken?" The demon was startled because this formation shouldn't be supposed to react like this.

This formation was made to examine the protective barrier around this area, which was to detect the other races' invaders.

If the barrier was malfunctioning, the reaction would be completely different.

"Maybe it's because I arrange too many formations and arrays around my base?"

A pondering voice rang in the demon's ears, startling him.

However, before he could react or turn around, the voice rang again, but this time there was only one word that sounded laced with a mysterious power.

"Stop!"

The demon felt like strange darkness engulfed his eyes, and he forgot about anything and everything. He felt melancholic as a very distant and painful memory suddenly started to play in front of him.

A demon viciously beating a young demon appeared who was none other than him, "You, useless chode, I should've killed you when you were born..."

Then a demoness appeared and menacingly uttered, "I'm no mother of trash..."

These were the darkest moments of his life when he felt despair, and he had buried them deep within his heart and didn't want to remember them.

Suddenly, the scene in front of him shattered as the clear sea appeared in his view. His eyes were teary and filled with a sense of loss and befuddlement.

"W-what?" He uttered this only one word in befuddlement.

"Hmm, the Deep Despair Soul Words last only for two seconds with my 2% understanding of [Despair] law." The evaluating voice rang again.

Before the demon could react, this time a sharp sword filled with dark lightning pierced through his throat, killing him then and there.

Behind him was a hooded figure holding a long black sword filled with blood. Who could it be but Ace?

Ace looked at the dead demon without emotions as he mused over what happened just now when he used the first level of Soul Words.

It had been a little over a year since Ace was in seclusion, and he had already absorbed everything and progressed by leaps and bounds.

Although his cultivation hadn't increased, his status had undergone a tremendous change, and he was now twice as strong as a year ago.

=====

[Status Panel]

[Host: Ace White]

[Race: Human]

[Bloodline: Sealed]

[First Heaven: Mortal Sky Heaven]

[Martial Cultivation: Heavenly Dark Sea [Stage-9]]

[EXP: 10,000,000/10,000,000]

[Soul Cultivation: Orange Wind Soul Core [Stage-9]]

[SP: 6,350,900/10,000,000]

[Elemental Orb: 0/1]

[Skills: 8]

-Heartless Stealth (Art):

[Breathless Stealth: Perfection

Pulseless Stealth: Perfection

Heartless Stealth: Perfection]

-Misperception Sky Steps (Art):

[Camouflage Steps: Middle

Lightning Steps: Middle

Misperception Steps: Middle

Sky Steps: NONE]

-Soul Shattering Eyes: [Perfection]

-Soul Piercing Bullets: [Perfection]

-Soul Guardian Barrier (Art):

[Soul Barrier: Perfection

Soul Guardian: Low]

-Pick Pocket: [Perfection]

-Lock Eraser King Technique:

Lock Eraser Master: Perfectionist

Lock Eraser Grandmaster: Perfectionist

Lock Eraser King: None

-Thievish Soul Cord Control (Secret Soul Skill): Middle

[Cultivation Technique: 5]

-Heaven Stealer Technique: Volume 1

-Dual Shadow Swords: 2nd Realm (Sword of Finger)

-Heavenly Rune Crafter Foundational Manual: Tier-12

-Soul Words [Despair Manual]:

1. Deep Despair Soul Words: 2.3%

[Three Stages: Low at (10%), Intermediate at (50%), High at (99%)]

2. Extreme Despair Soul Words: 0.0%

[Three Stages: Low at (10%), Intermediate at (50%), High at (99%)]

3. Deadly Despair Soul Words: 0.0%

[Three Stages: Low at (10%), Intermediate at (50%), High at (99%)]

-Heaven's Stealer Dismantler Manual [First Vol]

Three Heaven's Stealer Dismantler Principles:

1. Treasure Dismantler Principles: Grade-1 Treasure Dismantler

2. Alchemy Dismantler Principles: Grade-1 Alchemy Dismantler

3. Runic Dismantler Principles: Grade-2 Runic Dismantler

[Law(s): 4]

-Despair (Minor): 2.03%

-Shadow (Minor): 2.05%

-Sword (Minor): 2.00%

-Psyche (Minor): 1.03%

[Thief Point(s): 187,956,500]

[Mission(s): 1]

[Side Mission(s): 0]

=====

Ace never thought he would gain an understanding of **[Psyche]** law after he absorbed and learned all the knowledge of the Psyche Invasion.

He mused, it might be the law Empty Dream was proficient in, and he unknowingly helped Ace acquire this law as well.

Furthermore, the comprehension of [Psyche] law also had something to do with the three intermediate-grade insight pills Ace used on Lock Eraser King Technique, Heartless Stealth, and Thievish Soul Cord Control.

Those pills not only increased his comprehension levels but there was always a lingering effect that could make his mind extremely clear for some time after the pill's effect was exhausted.

Furthermore, when he used the law fragments, he entered a strange state as well.

These things helped him understand the law of [Psyche] as well as he had a massive breakthrough in Soul Words, and now he can use the Deep Despair Soul Words according to his [Despair] law's comprehension.

Ace had done nothing but study this past year, and a few days ago, he turned 25 as well.

As for his house members, they were also in seclusion and he had no idea what they were up to, nor did he disturb them. He didn't require their assistance right now.

They were not bounded by some restrictions like elemental orbs and they can raise their cultivation normally with the system's help and the thief's house effect. They can achieve breakthroughs with no bottlenecks.

The stronger they were, the easier time he had so, it was best to let them be for now.

Today, Ace felt this demon's arrival, so exit the seclusion, and it was also time to complete his job mission. Only 47 days were left before the deadline, and these demons happened to be what he just needed right now.

Ace took out a skin mask, which was none other than the disguise mask he stole from Paul.

Although he didn't want to use this mask for disguise, he had no choice since this mask was of a higher grade than his mask right now.

This Demonic Eater Mask was a Grade-6 disguising treasure, and it was one of the three legacy treasures of the Poison Wood Demon Clan. This mask was also the biggest reason Paul could fool the anti-disguise formation the Empty Dream warned Ace about.

Ace didn't want to show this mask in front of Empty Dream, so he didn't reject his help at that time.

But now that he was going to enter the enemy's camp, he couldn't be shallow with his preparation.

He was no longer on the outer continent anymore, and if someone from the Royal Demon Nation even gets the wind of it that the Sky Stealer was here, the demons would not take it sitting anymore!

Ace placed the skin mask on the dead soldier's head, and the next moment, the skin mask came alive and engulfed his entire head.

Ten seconds later, the mask shrank and returned to normal, but the entire skin from the demon's face had been completely gone as if someone had peeled it off!

Ace wasn't surprised by this as he picked the skin mask. He already knew this Demonic Eater Mask was quite vicious, and it wasn't like his mask that just required a simple scan to copy someone's appearance.

This mask required real flesh to absorb the face and then use it. Furthermore, it can only have one face at a time, and the moment it devours another face, the previous face will vanish.

Ace had already pick-pocketed this soldier's storage ring, so after taking off his armor, which he needed, he kicked the body from the cliff into the sea and donned the armor.

He then put on the Demonic Eater Mask and activates it!

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 526: Royal Demon Nation

After an hour, the demon who left to inspect the forest returned and saw his companion calmly sitting on the edge of the cliff with his mount, looking at the beautiful sea sunset.

The demon also dismounted his mount and sat beside him. He commented, "At least we could see this magnificent view on this trip."

"Heh, you're right about that. Here." The 'demon' chuckled and tossed a closed wine bottle toward the demon sitting beside him.

The demon caught the crystal white bottle and was surprised when he saw the translucent blue liquid.

"Hahahaha... brother Roy, I didn't know you were hiding such a high-grade liquor. I own you one now." He laughed out loud and opened the bottle as an intoxicating fragrant drifted in the air.

Roy took out another same kind of wine bottle and opened it as well. "This view deserved such liquor. Don't you agree brother, Agared?"

Agared was a brown skin demon with fierce eyes. He looked at the setting sun, nodded, and waved his bottle in a gesture of toast, "I agree." He then gulped two mouthfuls.

Roy does the same as he looks at the sea, which looks like it was on red flame and drinks.

"I wonder where the sun goes at night? Do you?" Ace, who was in disguise as Roy, suddenly wondered out loud.

Agared was startled by this question and solemnly pondered, "I never thought about this. But now that you mention it, where did the sun go at night and the moon in the morning? My Old Woman used to say this is an eternal cycle of heaven."

Ace chuckled, "Eternal Cycle of Heaven? Intriguing."

He suddenly declared, "Eternal Cycle or not, but one day I'll be going to find out." It was his true feelings, his ambition.

Agared laughed while he drank a mouthful. "Hahaha, if you found out, tell me as well."

"Sure."

Ace smiled while he continued to watch the sunset with his thievish eyes.

After the sunset was over, Agared stood up. "I guess good things won't last forever, huh?" His voice was filled with lamentation.

"Indeed, we all have our parts to play." Ace also stood up as he tossed the empty bottle into the sea.

"Let's go." Agared felt his companion was somewhat different, but in a good way, so he suspected nothing.

They both left the area on their beasts and headed toward the Royal Demon Nation a few hundred miles away from this place.

The Royal Demon Nation wasn't like the outer provinces.

There weren't any cities, towns, or villages, but regions.

These regions surrounded the Imperial or Emperor Domain in the center like a defensive line.

There were six regions of the Royal Demon Nation.

Four regions were known as the Grand Demon Regions, which were under the management of four Grand Demon Duke Tribes ruled by Grand Demon Dukes of the Demon Race.

The fifth region was known as the Royal Army Region, which was under the management of the Demon Army, and controlled by the Demon Marshal.

The sixth region was titled the Demonic Academia Region, and it was under the management of four Demon Institutes.

The fifth and sixth regions have the most territories than the other four Grand Demon Regions because of their special significance.

The fifth region was the place where the nation's forces live, while the sixth region was the place where all the young demons of the Royal Demon Nations spent at least five decades of their lives learning about the world and cultivation.

Nevertheless, these six regions were the true backbone of the Almighty Demon Empire and each region control by a peak expert of the Law Awareness Realm.

These realm experts could be counted on one hand, and these were the true powerhouses of any top race, like the Demons.

The Royal Army Region was closest to the endless seaport since it oversees the safety of the royal demon nation.

The region was divided into many divisions according to the army ranks, and the rules and regulations here were absolute.

Although the demons in the army region all have a noble background, much nobler than any demon of the outer provinces because of their Sixth or Seventh Grade Bloodlines, but they still strictly followed these rules because the background didn't work here but talent!

The more talented you are, the higher the rank you'll get at your assignment.

These talents were filtered through the Demonic Academia Region by four Demon Institutes throughout their time, from admission to graduation.

As for those who were only subpar, they were sent to the high death rate divisions, like the Endless Sea Division.

Roy and Agared belong to the runic department of the Logistic Division, which was to monitor and repairs anything related to runes.

This department was specially built for rune crafters, and despite being only just field soldiers, Roy and Agared receive much better treatment than other normal soldiers.

Ace, who was now Roy, looked at the immense wall in front of him, and he couldn't even see where it ended on each side.

It was the entrance to the Royal Army Region as well as the Royal Demon Country.

As they both passed the colossal gates, Ace felt a powerful Qi brush past him. 'What a powerful scanning formation. If not for this mask, I won't even be able to enter this place like this.'

Ace's expressions were solemn. He could feel the disparity between this place and the outer continent now. He won't dare to underestimate the Royal Demon Nation.

Furthermore, he was still quite far from his goal, and he has to be extremely careful about his plan to reach there.

A burly demon clad in army armor with a soul realm aura coldly blocked Roy and Agared when they entered the gates and impassively said, "Dismount your rides and be ready for the blood test!"

Agared was baffled by this and questioned, "What blood test?"

The demon answered coldly, "This is the order from the high command. From now on, whoever leaves or enters this place will have to go through a blood test. Now, comply, or be detained!"

Ace's expression turned grave when he heard this. 'This is bad. This mask can only hide my aura, but not change my blood. They didn't rule out the royal zone for my search. They're really taking it seriously now.'

Agared frowned slightly, but he obediently dismounted his mount. He wasn't in a position where he could act as he pleased.

Ace also dismounted and followed Agared and the other demon toward a small building.

He was looking around, and there weren't many demons around the area. Only some soldiers were patrolling, and some were standing guards around the buildings.

'If I knew, I should've kept Roy's body.' He was exasperated by this sudden annoying security check. 'Well, I can't just run away or it would be too obvious. Right now, they're just being cautious with this blood test. But once they know for sure that I'm here, they'll turn their entire forces in this place.'

Ace could feel the gravity of this situation and had to admit; bullying the demon race wasn't easy. It was akin to playing with tiger whiskers.

As they entered the building, they saw a small pool filled with crystal clear water, and at the bottom of this pool were rune symbols engraved in complex patterns.

Ace saw an old demon in armor sitting cross-legged in front of this pool, and he could feel a deep, murderous aura from this Old Demon.

'Just how many people did he kill to have such a murderous aura?' Ace thought grimly.

The old demon remained static as his eyes were closed.

The burly demon who brought them here bowed and said, "Captain, I bring them for the blood test."

The old demon merely nodded his head without saying anything, with his eyes still closed.

After receiving the confirmation, the burly demon looked at Agared, who was standing right behind him, and coldly said, "Go and drip your blood on the top of the pool."

Agared obediently moved without any hesitation. He was already shocked when he saw a Captain rank figure guarding this place. It simply meant this matter was quite serious!

When Agared made a cut on his hand and blood entered the pool. The clear water suddenly turned black.

"Stun!"

The burly demon suddenly heard this mild whisper in his ear before his eyes went blank, and when he returned to his sense, everything was the same, but his expression was filled with depression, and his complexion turns pale.

"Brother, what happened to you? Why are you breathing so heavily?" Roy's concerned voice sounded, snapping him from his stupor.

He was startled and looked back at the demon with some suspicions, but when he saw his innocent expression.

'What was that just now? Could it be I was daydreaming or day nightmare?'

"Leave." At this moment, the old demon finally spoke.

Agared had a breath of relief. He was worried about a moment when he saw the black water, but it seemed it was just how this formation worked.

The burly demon took a deep breath and suppressed that strange, dark feeling. "Nothing, go. It's your turn."

Ace's lips curled up, and he nodded, "Alright!"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 527: Life Grand Demon Region

Ace swiftly moved right where Agared was standing.

He took out a knife and 'cut' his right hand. In other views, only the back of his hand was visible.

The next moment, some drops of blood fell into the already cleared pool, and thereupon, the water again started to turn black.

The Captain's impassive voice rang again, "Leave."

Roy bowed before he left the building with Agared and the burly soldier.

"You two may report to the task department now." The burly guard coldly said as he turned around.

Agared suddenly said, "Hey, there are some red stains behind your neck."

"Where?" He was startled as he used his hand to rub the back of his neck, and when he saw the red stains on his hand, he frowned deeply, 'Blood? But there's no wound, and then there were sudden images of the past? What is happening to me today?'

'He suspected nothing.' Ace's lips curled as he walked away with Agared.

It was indeed Ace's handy word. He used the soul words to stun the soldier for two seconds, and then he made a slight cut on his neck and stored a few drops of blood in an empty storage ring.

The soldier was a golden river core cultivator, so this kind of cut could heal within a few seconds.

So, when he regained his senses, the cut was already healed, and only some stains were left.

Even the Captain didn't notice a thing, and he was probably paying attention to that pool.

When it was Ace's turn he simply used his storage ring to make it appear that he had cut his hand the blood was his.

Now, he was clear to roam in the Royal Demon Nation!

"Alright, brother Agared you should go, and report to the task department. Here is the scanning formation." Roy suddenly spoke.

"Where are you going?" Agared didn't mind as he took Roy's scanning formation the task department lent them for this task.

He didn't mind covering up for Roy since it wasn't much, to begin with, and he have quite a good impression of him after their drinking season on the cliff.

Roy replied with a smile, "I'm going to the logistics department to ask for a leave. It's been over a decade since I returned home, and I think it's time to settle the last few matters and be free of everything."

Agared thoughtfully looked at Roy and nodded, "It seemed you had some kind of enlightenment on this trip."

"You can say that I just awaken by that setting sun." Roy mysteriously smiled.

"Hahaha, go, I wish you good luck." Agared nodded and left.

Roy's smile suddenly vanished as an impassive look appeared on his face.

'I have to be extremely careful about changing my appearance. If it was before I could've just deserted this place and others would think little of a desertion soldier. But now that the demons are on high alert they will investigate everything and anything.' Ace mused gravely as he headed toward another building.

Half a day later, Roy could be seen walking on a stony road as he headed in the east direction.

Getting a leave of absence wasn't difficult for Roy since he was a devoted soldier, and his service had already reached over a decade. He was allowed to take six months off.

However, Ace extended this leave to three years as he showed some 'goodwill' to the officer in charge.

Now, no one will look for a second-class soldier like Roy for three years, and this time was enough for Ace to do his thing.

He was now headed toward one of the Grand Demon Regions, the Life Grand Demon Region!

This region was under the management of the Life Demon Tribe.

Furthermore, the Life Demon Tribe was also the richest tribe of the entire demon continent because the Life Demon Association was founded by them and they reap massive resources every year!

Roy was a member of the Life Demon Tribe's branch clan, Earthen Soul Clan.

When Ace annexed his memories he almost laughs out loud when got the knowledge about Roy's memory.

If someone hates him the most on the entire continent, it would be either Leona or the Life Demon Association.

Life Demon Association in particular because he broke the legend of their impenetrable Life Demon Treasure Pagoda and then slap their faces one more time when he theft the Life Demon Auction!

The Life Grand Demon Duke probably wanted to eat him alive right now.

The Life Demon Tribe was extremely overbearing in Royal Demon Country. They didn't give anyone face except the Imperials. But now their reputation was in ruin because their reputation suffered a huge blow.

Their members were keeping a low profile right now while madly pouring resourcing into a continent-wide thief hunt.

But who would've thought the thief was heading toward their home ground right at this moment?

However, Ace wasn't going there to give the Life Demon Grand Duke a heart attack this time. He was going to complete his job mission as well as initiate his final chain mission.

For completing the Job Mission, he's required to steal a memory that would be useful for him. Like a memory that is important for his chain mission. He didn't think any other memory really matter to him unless it was related to the elemental orb.

But the system might not count the memories related to the Lightning Elemental Orb since he already had its exact location recorded in the fate map.

So, either it has to be a new elemental orb or something useful for him.

Speaking of which, when Ace activated the fate map before leaving the cliff, he found that the newly golden indicator was pointing in the endless sea direction!

Ace was stunned at that time before he closed the map with a wry smile. It was too soon for him to voyage in the endless sea.

With time running out, he moved at his full speed.

The Royal Army Region was filled with check posts. Without Roy's identity, he might've wasted a massive amount of time traveling.

On the sixth day, Ace finally passed the last checkpoint and exited the army territory.

The Life Grand Demon Region was closest to the Royal Army Region, and with Ace's speed, it took him five more days to reach the boundary of the region.

The Life Grand Demon Region wasn't as crude as the Royal Army Region, it was surrounded by a magnificent wall and many turrets.

This place was the hub for life profession cultivators and the headquarters of the Life Demon Association was also in this place.

Although the monopoly of the life profession cultivators wasn't as high as the eight provinces, the Association still attracts many talented cultivators that were interested in joining the association.

Especially, those youths who failed to enter one of the four demon institutes every year.

Ace passed another security check that was at the same level as the Royal Army Region entrance gate.

However, they didn't take any blood tests after seeing Roy's identity token as a member of the region as well as the army.

Ace was content with this and finally entered the Life Grand Demon Region.

The first thing he noticed was the dense Qi filled with a fragrance air, and then he saw many cultivators walking wearing association robes and beautiful buildings and clear streets.

The Royal Army Region would be called bleak in front of this place.

Although Roy was a member of Life Grand Demon Region, he hadn't been back in a decade, so many things were different from his memories.

However, the distribution of this place can't be changed. There were 90 life districts of the Life Grand Demon Region, and each district was under the management of a branch clan of the Life Demon Tribe.

The central district was the largest area, and also the palace where the main clan was as well as the headquarters of the Life Demon Association.

Ace's destination was this exact place!

As Ace walked on the busy street, he was observing everyone closely and his surroundings.

He only had twenty days before his job mission will fail, so he was in a hurry to reach this place.

But if he wanted to succeed, Roy's disguise would no longer cut it, and he required someone with very high status who could give entry to the central district.

Furthermore, he was still ten days away from the central district.

Ace suddenly spotted a golden carriage with a black runic insignia moving in the center of the vast road and there were four more carriages following closely behind this carriage.

Every passerby quickly stopped and bow toward the golden carriage with black runic insignia.

Ace also quickly identified this insignia from both Paul and Roy's memories, and his eyes lit up, 'Someone from the Life Demon Tribe's main branch!'

He knew this was the exact target he was looking for, and without getting noticed by another, he entered Heartless Stealth and started following the entourage from a safe distance!

Eternal Thief

Chapter 528: You must've Hear of My Humble Name

Archie was one of the young decedents of Soul Life Demon Clan, the ruling Clan of the Life Demon Tribe.

Albeit he wasn't from Grand Demon Duke's direct lineage but from Grand Demon Duke's younger brother's line.

But just this status was enough to make everyone revere him and make his status above many and blow only a few. This made Archie aloof.

With a huge amount of resources at his disposal as well as his backing, he had nothing to worry about. He just had to show his talent, and he'll get anything he demanded.

Archie was naturally talented, in fact, he was talented enough to compete with his cousins from the Grand Demon Duke's lineage. But he was too lazy and ambitionless.

Cultivation didn't interest him, he only cultivates for lifespan and luxury.

Furthermore, he was a debaucher and visited the red district almost every other day, which made his reputation among his peers hit the rock bottom. But Archie didn't care at all.

Today was just like any other day for him with his entourage of henchmen as he headed toward the red district in their luxurious carriages. Or a member of the Life Demon Tribe would seldom appear in public eyes.

Nevertheless, everyone minds their own business. It was the territory of the Life Demon Tribe, so they could do anything they wants as long as they didn't antagonize anyone publicly.

Archie sat inside his carriage with a bored expression as he sipped on wine. He had a handsome sharp face with emerald eyes and light green skin. His bend pair of sharp horns were covered under his long emerald hair.

Furthermore, he was a peak Golden Soul River Core cultivator and a hair away from reaching the Diamond Soul River Core. If he wasn't lazy and didn't want to, he would have had a breakthrough a long time ago.

But he deliberately held it back because once he does, his freedom would be gone because of a certain rule of the Royal Demon Nation.

That's why his parents let him enjoy while he could and weren't worried he'll destroy his life.

If he wasn't talented, then it would've been another story, but he was talented, and he can't escape his fate no matter how much he delays it.

As pour himself another glass of wine, he looked outside the window and glanced at those demons bowing in reverence, contempt flashed past his eyes.

He thought severely, 'Why do we need to follow rules when we're superior to those talentless nomads? We should be living a lifestyle suitable for our titles, but here we are living in a vast golden cage...'

He always hated doing cumbersome things and wanted to live a free life without doing anything and indulge himself with debauchery and the pleasures of life.

But the demon race wasn't a typical race. They were strong for a reason and that reason was their strict rules, which were embedded in their blood.

Archie could be said one in a million who had this kind of revolting mindset and thought about himself before his race.

At this moment, he saw the scenery suddenly change, and he no longer saw any passersby bowing, but eye-catching buildings lit in red lights.

Archie's lecherous eyes lit up. 'This is the only place where I can run wild!'

He wasn't in the least concerned about his safety or even thinking that someone would dare to attack him in the Life Grand Demon Region.

However, right at this moment, 'Bang.' the door of his carriage suddenly blasted open!

"yiii..." Archie yelled in shock, and wine spilled over his clothes.

The carriage came to an abrupt stop as a guard dashed in front of the door and anxiously said, "Young Lord, are you alright?"

Archie's aghast expression was replaced with indignant as he asked sharply, "I'm fine. What happened?"

If he weren't outside, he would've beaten these incompetent fellows silly.

The guard horridly answered, "I-I don't know, but it seemed the lock array malfunctioned just now."

Archie frowned as looked at the door, and a white mist filled his eyes. It was a runic eye skill to examine the symbols. Although he was lazy, it didn't mean his parents were also lazy. He was an Intermediate Grade-3 Rune Crafter!

The Soul Life Demon Clan was famous for its rune crafting, so Archie didn't have a choice in this matter. He can be lazy at anything but rune crafting!

After he was done examining it, he coldly looked at the guard. "It's completely fine. It must be you who didn't close it properly.

"Since we're almost at the Pleasure Palace, I won't make a fuss, but you'll be answering me after we returned. Now tell everyone there's no need to panic and continue moving!"

The guard trembled as his face turned pale. He knew his career was over, and he'll be beaten by Archie when they returned and might even be crippled!

It wasn't something new for Archie!

Archie didn't care about the guard's felling and shut the door with a cold harrumph.

However, the very next moment, darkness engulfed Archie within a moment, and he didn't even have time to react!

His entire body felt like it was glued on its spot, as his cultivation was completely suppressed.

'It's an attack!' He thought with a horrified expression. He finally understands that the gate hasn't malfunctioned, and someone has targeted him.

'Is this an assassination attempt by me cousins?! But I never get in their way! No, they didn't have any reason to assassinate me. I always keep a low profile, never offend anyone and mind my own business...'

Many possibilities flashed through Archie's mind, but none of them made any sense.

"There's no need to struggle. It's a Grade-5 Limit Talisman, the Dark Dimension Bead. No one will be able to hear or found about it unless they were in the Manifestation Realm. We're completely isolated in this carriage space." A snide voice rang.

'Someone is using a limit talisman just to kill me?!' Archie's expression turned ashen when he heard this, but even his speech ability was suppressed so he can't make a sound. He can't even see anything in this darkness.

He knew the limit talismans were also called the ancient talisman, and their creation method has been long-lost in the river of history.

The method of making limit talismans was so profound even his family, who were well versed and called the top rune family of the demon race, didn't have any way to decipher it completely.

They only had a handful of them, and every use of these talismans was extremely precious, especially a grade-5 limit talisman.

Now, someone is using it just to assassinate him. He never remembered having this kind of feud with anyone.

"Heh, don't worry. No one hired me to assassinate you." The voice snickered as it saw through Archie's thoughts.

The owner of this voice was clearly Ace who was following Archie's entourage from the moment Ace noticed the emblem of the Life Demon Tribe.

He never thought he would encounter a direct decedent of the Life Demon Tribe without even entering the central district. It was a windfall for Ace.

So, he followed them, and when his fate mapped to see the danger level, he didn't find any black fate point, which means there wasn't any fatal danger level character in this entourage.

After he used his soul sense, which was slightly powerful because of the [Psyche] law, he only found two soul realm guards with this entourage.

In the end, he decided to make his move when they entered the red district's territory. It's not as crowded as the other regions.

With his speed, he simply used his treasure-opening hands to unlock the 9-star runic lock, and before anyone could react, he was already inside the carriage!

No one noticed him with his heartless stealth at perfection, and when the door was locked again, he simply used the limit talisman he got from Paul.

It was quite useful in this kind of situation.

Although the limit talisman now only has 2 more uses left, it was all worth it since with Archie he could complete his Job Mission!

"Alright, we don't have time, so I'll tell you why I use a precious talisman to isolate ourselves." Ace speaks coolly, "First, my name is... Sky Stealer. You must've heard of my humble name?"

Archie's eyes went wide when he heard this name.

How could he not know about the legendary thief who his family hated the most, as well as the person who dared to expose Imperial Princess Leona's schemes in front of millions of demons?

'S-Sky.... Sky Stealer already infiltrate this deep into the Royal Demon Nation while everything is still searching for in the common provinces!?' Archie's mind turned into a mess, and a strange feeling of fear surfaced in his heart!

Ace observed Archie's reaction and smiled faintly before he continued, "As for why I approached you, you can imagine. You guys made it very difficult for me to move freely, so I have to hide in a place where anyone would least expect me to."

Archie's heart turned cold when he heard it, and despair filled his eyes. 'He wants my face!'

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 529: An Important Memory

"If you thought I want your face to use a disguise, then you're right. It's one of the reasons I wanted to target someone from a Grand Demon Duke's direct bloodline." Ace told meaningfully.

Archie's eyes went bloodshot with anger and trepidation. He knew even if Ace spared his life after using his appearance; he had to suffer the backlash of whatever Ace had done with his face afterward.

'If I had just listened to the Old Man...'

Regret shone in his eyes as the caring faces of his parents appeared in his mind, who he always took for granted. He always sneered or scoffed whenever his father or mother scolded him.

But now that he knew his fate was sealed, he understands they always wanted what was best for him.

Ace could feel Archie's emotions. He knew everything was set. Archie's mind was now a complete mess, and there won't be any resistance. He knew he had only one shot at this. If he failed, then this job mission was as good as gone.

Ace coldly said, "As for my other reason, it was to find someone who could enter the Royal Demon Institute!"

"According to my understanding, only someone with a pure Seventh Grade Demonic Bloodline was eligible to enter that place. Furthermore, this was just the minimum condition.

"The Royal Demon Institute is the sacred ground for geniuses of the Demon Race. They only recruit elites, and despite having the lowest number of students among the three institutes, they are the strongest because of their unmatched legacy.

"Just to take their test, one needs to be below 100 Years and has to be at least a Diamond River Core Cultivator. But that's none of my concern." Ace said with a chuckle, "You see, I could've easily stolen a genuine student face without going through any cumbersome tests or finding someone like you and taking enormous risks."

Ace sighed sadly, "But this won't do because I know almost everything about the Royal Demon Institute because of Paul. Since he's a member or was, I don't know if he was expelled after what I did.

"Anyhow, this put me in a peculiar situation where simple information no longer makes the cut. So, there was only one kind of information left which was really useful for me."

A flash of dark lightning flashed past Ace's cold eyes, "Do you have the qualification to enter the Royal Demon Institute?"

Archie didn't know what Ace meant by those subtle words, but he does understand why Ace was targeting him.

Although he can't speak, after listening to Ace, he couldn't help but think about the Royal Demon Institute because he was supposed to go there for the entrance test after breaking through the Diamond Soul River Core Realm.

But he was delaying his breakthrough for this exact reason. He didn't want to go there; he considered that place a cage for his freedom. He was planning to delay until he turned over 100 years in five years, and then he won't be eligible for their entry test.

Although he couldn't escape the fate of going to the other three Demon Institutes. Because it was compulsory for any and every demon in the Royal Demon Nation to go to the three institutes after reaching the 100-year age.

But the other three demon institutes were much laxer with their students than the Royal Demon Institute.

Archie didn't like to be bound by anything, nor he was ambitious, so he didn't want to go to the Royal Demon Institute.

He could've also just failed the entrance test, but he thought it was a drag and wanted to enjoy himself as much as he could before going to one of the three demon institutes.

His parents also didn't pursue him since the Royal Demon Institute wasn't like the other three, and with no grit, Archie would be expelled, which would be a huge disgrace for the Soul Life Demon Clan.

It would also spell Archie's exile!

But who would've thought his decision would become the exact reason for his downfall instead of free, luxurious life?

Like Ace said, annexing Paul's memories has become his biggest impediment in completing his Job Mission.

At that time, he thought little about it since he wasn't ready to complete the Job Mission.

But after he did, he found out that annexing Paul's memories wasn't a good move because he was required to steal a memory that was useful to him.

Finding these kinds of memories could be an enormous problem when you almost know everything about things that were useful to you.

Not only did Ace know about the Royal Demon Institute layout and library location because Paul was a senior student there, but he also knew about many secrets and famous treasures of the Royal Demon Nation.

It means, besides the location of an elemental orb except for the Lightning Orb, or some truly alluring treasure to Ace, or the location of a Grand Demon Duke Clan's treasury, or something related to his mission, nothing else could help Ace complete this job mission!

After mulling over it for a long time, he concluded that this type of memory would be useful for him and easiest to acquire. Because any aforementioned memories have to be in someone with a status like Paul's hand.

If he decided to go after them, it might be difficult to find one because these kinds of demons were in the Royal Demon Institute or were very powerful for Ace to handle.

Paul was the special case. That guy was unprepared and caught off guard by Ace, or using soul probing on him won't be that easy without injuring him.

Lastly, Ace didn't have time to look for such a target!

That's why he bet everyone on this memory and was going to find a demon like Archie since this memory would only exist in someone like him.

These demons were easy targets, and Ace could easily ambush them, making quick work without arousing any suspicion.

If Archie turned out to be a dead end, it was still a win situation for Ace because with Archie's face he can infiltrate the dominant clan of Life Demon Tribe, where he could easily find someone with more precious memories.

That was why Ace talked first, to make sure Archie would think about the same thing.

The moment Ace posed the question, 'Soul Probe!'

This time, an extremely thin orange thread shot from Ace's glabella like a gust of wind and entered Archie's glabella. But unlike a normal instant soul probe, it didn't shatter.

But the orange soul thread suddenly trembled before it pulled back from Archie's glabella, but there was a white wisp on the tip of this orange soul thread!

The moment this white wisp entered Ace's glabella,

=====

[Host has stolen a memory permanently.]

[Analyzing the memory fragment...]

=====

Ace was extremely thrilled when he saw this notification.

After he analyzed the Psyche Invasion and comprehended the [Psyche] law, a new door of possibilities was opened when it comes to Psyche and the Knowledge Sea.

Although he didn't have a complete understanding of the Knowledge Sea, after studying the Psyche Invasion, he had enough understanding of how memories were stored in the Knowledge Sea and the kinds of memories.

He completely got the true purpose of that hint he got from the system years ago. 'Memories are like fish in this Knowledge Sea, and if one wanted to fish, they need a Fishing Rod!'

It greatly helped him develop this unique soul line, which works like a fishing line that can pull out memories from the knowledge sea!

However, this ability wasn't fully developed since he was required to make others think about the memory he wanted to steal and they must think clearly, or this won't work.

He mused that as long as he could grasp a deeper understanding of [Psyche] law, he could search deep within the knowledge and steal Permanent Memories like a Name!

Right at this moment, the system's voice sounded again.

=====

[Analyzing complete!]

-Result:

-Requirement (1): Learn a way to steal an essential memory with an instant soul probe! (Complete)

-Requirement (2): The host cannot use the soul probe continuously to search for an important memory or to steal a memory. (Complete)

-Requirement (3): Target has to be stronger than the Host. (Complete)

-Requirement (4): The host can only try three instant soul probes on one target before the system will deem that target unqualified for the Job Mission. (Complete)

-Requirement (5): The Target must completely forget about the memory the host stole. (Complete)

-Requirement (6): The stolen memory had to be something important to the host, or the stolen memory will not count! (Complete)

-Final Assessment: Satisfactory!

[Job Mission has been completed!]

[Continue/Later]

=====

Ace could also see the memory. It was Archie's memory when he was told about the qualification of entering the Royal Demon Institute, and he was eligible.

Ace was ecstatic when he saw the notification. The impossible job mission was finally over. Then his eyes turned cold as he looked at listless Archie, who lost his will after accepting his impending fate.

He coldly uttered, "I'm grateful for your help. Goodbye!"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 530: Deft Thief

Archie's entourage stopped in front of a golden, eye-catching building called the Pleasure Palace.

The guard who had been chided by Archie moved with a listless expression to open the carriage door.

However, before he could, Archie's cold voice rang. "We're going back."

This order startled the guard because, in his eyes, Archie would never leave this place after coming here, even if something were to happen in the Grand Demon District.

At this moment, young demons disembarked the carriages behind and approached Archie's carriage in high spirits.

"Why are you there daydreaming? Fool, open the door for Young Lord Archie!" a black face demon with a skinny constitution sternly berated.

However, Archie's icy voice sounded again. "We are going back, and if you don't hear me, I can cut off your ears since you don't need them!"

The smiles on the henchmen's faces immediately faded, replaced with the same kind of look that the guard had previously.

The black face demon's eyes shimmered with a strange glint as he quickly said, "Don't you hear? We're going back. Milord isn't feeling well!"

Just as they appeared, they quickly embarked on their carriages with bewildered expressions and turned the carriages around.

It also shocked the beautiful demoness wearing a revealing dress who was coming to receive Archie and his henchmen when she saw them leaving.

Inside Archie's carriage.

Archie sat with an emotionless face before a little smirk emerged all of a sudden.

'This idiot really didn't know how to appreciate the wealth he inherited. What a pity.' Ace has an askance look in his eyes.

This Archie was naturally Ace. The real one had become a corpse and was inside a storage ring!

After Ace was done with his mission, he annexed Archie's entire memories within a few seconds. His soul probing was more powerful after he comprehended the [Psyche] law, and the memory fragments were much larger than before because of it.

Afterward, Ace required Archie's face, and the Demonic Eater Mask only worked when someone was dead, so even if Ace wanted to, he had to kill Archie, which he didn't mind!

Now, he was Archie, and he was going to the Grand Demon Estate to start the next phase of his plan.

To infiltrate the Royal Demon Institute!

Since Archie was already eligible, he didn't need to hunt for someone else, it might arouse suspicion if Archie suddenly vanished into thin air.

Ace didn't want to alert anyone, so he was going to play Archie for a while now like he did with Feng unless something untoward accrued!

Now, that sword of Damocles (Job Mission) has been removed from his head, he was relaxed and going to take his time in completing the Chain Mission and finding the Lightning Orb.

But first, 'Let's see the rewards!'

Ecstatic, Ace started the rewarding process!

=====

[Job Mission: Mind Stealing]

-Description: A Heaven's Stealer can not only steal physical treasures, but a Heaven's Stealer can also steal the precious mysteries deeply hidden within the mind in an instant!

-Requirement(s): Complete!

-Final Assessment: Satisfactory!

-Reward(s):

1. Art of Mind Stealing: Law Cultivation Art

[Claim?]

2. Thief Symbol Summoning has been unlocked!

[NOTE: Open Thief Symbol in Thief Panel]

3. New Intermediate Thief Rank 'Deft Thief' has been appointed!

4. New Thief Title has been unlocked!

[Thief Title: Mind Thief]

-Mind Thief: A Thief who had learned the mystery of Mind Stealing!

-Title Effect: Any Memory you steal will have 10% more chances of being the most precious memory in the target's Knowledge Sea!

-Extra Reward(s):

1. Thief Trainee's Hood has been upgraded to Deft Thief's Robes

[Deft Thief's Robes: Grade-3 Runic Treasure]

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

-Ability(s): Defensive Effect (Grade-3), Self-Repair, Self-Sustain, Color Change, 8% Increased in Thief-related skills.

2. Title [Disciple of Darkness] has been upgraded to [Follower of Darkness]

[Thief Title: Follower of Darkness]

-Title Effect: Able to raise the proficiency of [Skills] & [Cultivation Arts] related to Darkness by one proficiency level instantly!

=====

Ace's eyes glow like the sun when he saw the extra rewards!

He suddenly felt his Thief's Trainee Hood, which he was wearing, has undergone a mysterious change, and it felt more comfortable and safer.

Although the change wasn't much, it was still there.

As for the enhancement of the title of the [Disciple of Darkness] to [Follower of Darkness], it was an enormous boon and the most powerful thief title of all.

Before it was only limited to skills related to darkness but now, it will even work on cultivation arts!

Ace was about to open his Thief Panel to see the Thief Symbol Summoning ability just unlocked. He was most eager to see this reward.

However, a new notification rang.

=====

[Congratulation Host on entering the level of Intermediate Thief Ranks!]

[The Thievery count section has been reset and rearranged from Beginning Thief Ranks to Intermediate Thief Ranks!]

[Thieveries below Grade 1 will no longer be awarded Thief Points!]

[Intermediate Thief Count New Conditions]

-Low-Level Thieveries Count Minimum Requirement: 10,000 Thief Points

-Middle-Level Thieveries Count Minimum Requirement: 100,000 Thief Points

-High-Level Thieveries Count Minimum Requirement: 1,000,000 Thief Points

=====

Ace's elated expression visibly dimmed when he heard and read the details.

Indignant, he instantly questioned, "System, I can accept not being to earn thief points from items below Grade-1, but resting my previous thievery count is incriminating!"

He clearly remembered that he had over a hundred middle-level thieveries and high-level thievery, but now they were all gone just because of some stupid rank.

How could he not be incredulous and indignant?

"[As an intermediate thief host should show some sublime confidence and stop slandering the system for doing its job!]"

Black lines appeared on Ace's forehead when he heard this emotionless reply and refuted with spleen, "But you are doing a lousy job by taking my hard earn thievery count!"

However, no reply was given, which made him vexed. But what can he do besides give up?

He knew the system was a rock, and it would never listen to reasons, no matter how much he wasted his breath.

Ace sighed in exasperation and opened the Thief Panel to cheer himself up. He hoped the thief symbol summoning would be worth resting his previous thievery counts.

=====

[Thief Panel]

[Job [NOT Changeable]: Thief]

[Thief Name: Sky Stealer]

[Thief Title(s)]

-Follower of Darkness

[Title Effect: Able to raise the proficiency of [Skills] & [Cultivation Arts] related to Darkness by one proficiency level instantly!]

-Mind Thief

[Title Effect: Any Memory you steal will have 10% more chances of being the most precious memory in the target's Knowledge Sea!]

-Famously Infamous (Intermediate)

[Intermediate Stage: Infamous between over 1 Billion lifeforms.]

[Title Effect: Everyone is afraid of your name (Thief Name), and your deeds reverberated like thunder in every corner of this land. Your real name (Thief Name) will inflict [7% Fear] in others' hearts as long as they know about your name (Thief Name) and deeds.]

-Cold Liar (Initial)

[Initial Stage: Made 10 Million Beings (Cultivators Only) wholeheartedly believed your lies!]

[Title Effect: There's a 5% more chance that people will believe in your lies completely!]

[Thief Rank: Deft Thief]

-Thievery Required for next Rank:

Low: 10,000 Thieveries

Middle: 1,000 Thieveries

High: 100 Thieveries

[Thief Fame [Host and Symbol]: Worldwide (1-Star)]

[Thief Symbol: Dark Owl]

-Summoning Symbol Ability(s): 1 (NEW)

1. Dark Owl Wings (Initial)

-Description: Able to summon Wings of Dark Owl!

-Ability: Fly

-Limit: Thirty Minutes

-Cooldown: 7 Days

[NOTE (1): The Ability can be Upgrade by Thief Symbol Upgradation!]

[NOTE (2): The limitations of ability can be decreased with the host's increase in realms!]

[Job Mission: 1] (NEW)

[Thievery Count Section]

-Low-level Thievery(s): 0

-Middle-level Thievery(s): 0

-High-level Thievery(s): 0

=====

Ace looked at the Dark Owl Wing's ability with wide eyes filled with incredulously.

"System! Is that true that I can fly with this ability?!" He quickly asked, completely forgetting about his previous disapprobation of the system.

"[Only for thirty minutes for now.]"

System replay was plain and simple, but it made Ace almost scream with joy.

The ability to fly was every man's dream, and cultivators weren't different.

Only a Law Awareness Cultivator can master the ability of low-level aviation, but Ace got it much sooner, albeit for a limited amount of time.

This could make a world of difference when he was escaping, and only Law Awareness Cultivators could chase after him even if he got noticed by the manifestation realm experts.

Ace even wanted to rush outside to try this ability, but controlled his ecstatic heart. But his expression turned stern when he saw there was a new mission in the job panel!

"First, you give me happiness and then bitterness. Asshole!" Ace cursed as he opened the mission with an ugly expression.

No matter what, he has to be ready for the worse.

=====

[Job Mission]

-Mission: Intermediate Thief Symbol

-Description: As an Intermediate Thief, it's essential to have an Intermediate Thief Symbol worthy of an Intermediate Thief's status!

-Requirement: Imprint the Thief Symbol on the tallest building of the Mighty Demon Continent!

[Time: 5 Years]

[Reward: Intermediate Thief Symbol]

[Mission Fail Punishment: Thief Rank Degradation]

=====