

Thief 531

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 531: Art of Mind Stealing

Ace's expression went grotesque when he read the new job mission and couldn't help but tutted, "Imprint the Thief Symbol on the tallest building of Mightily Demon Continent?! Just directly tell me to rob the freaking Imperial Palace!"

Ace was indignant by this Job Mission with only a single reward. He clearly knew the tallest building on the demon content was the Demon Temple of the Demon Emperor Domain which exists right in the middle of Imperial Demon Palace!

Furthermore, that place could only be accessed by the Imperial Family's direct lineage!

This Job Mission was even more difficult than the last chain mission.

However, the system reply came as a surprise to Ace.

"[The mission is to imprint the thief symbol, which means the host didn't need to steal anything to make the thief symbol appear this time.]"

Ace was baffled and quickly asked, "Then what I'm supposed to do?"

He clearly knew the system mostly controlled the placement of the thief symbol when it came to non-living subjects. It never asked him about where he wanted to put them like living beings.

"[The host is required to stand on top of the building for 10 seconds, and the mission will be deemed complete. However, if the host could steal from the target, it will also deem a mission complete.]"

Ace's eyes squinted when he heard this. 'Standing on top of the Demon Temple? Although it is much easier, if those demons saw me, they might go mad with rage.

'That place is considered the foundation place of the Demon Race, and every Demon Emperor's crown ceremony is held at that place, and without it, one can't be a real demon emperor.

'But stealing the treasures inside the Demon Temple is even more unrealistic since that place is in the middle of Imperial Demon Palace, the most secure building on this continent.'

Ace fell into deep thought as he considered his options. He had to admit with the dark owl wings, this mission wasn't as dangerous as he thought. But the problem was entering the imperial place without alerting anyone.

Even with aerial advantage, the demons won't be fool enough to leave this kind of weakness in their most sacred place.

So, he was required to have a deep understanding of the internal structure of the Imperial Place, which also would be a top-secret, and only a few might know about it.

Ace sighed in exasperation and pulled a wry smile. 'Although this mission sounds simple, it's more complex than my chain mission. Well, I have five years to figure it out, and I'm about to infiltrate the

Royal Demon Institute, which is under the control of the Imperials. It might not be as bad as I'm thinking...'

Ace's jittery mind calmed down, and his usual placid demeanor returned. He decided to cross this bridge when the time come, for now, he was going to focus on the matter at hand which was entering the Royal Demon Institute.

He looked outside, and they were still days away from the Grand Duke Estate, so he decided to receive his first reward, the Art of Mind Stealing, another law cultivation art like the Soul Words and Dual Shadow Swords!

The next moment, a torrent of information suddenly stormed into his mind, but he remained poised and absorbed the information.

However, even with his powerful knowledge processing ability, it still took him half a day to arrange the entire knowledge, which made Ace a little shocked because he only got memories of three realms out of ten!

The system had sealed the knowledge about seven realms of this technique, which meant Ace wasn't ready to even look at them, and this technique was extremely complex!

[Art of Mind Stealing: Psyche Soul-Path Technique]

-Description: A special law art created by the [??? Heaven's Stealer] to steal memories from the Knowledge Sea.

-Warning: The power of this technique solely depends on comprehension of the laws. Please refrain from using this technique on cultivators with powerful souls!

-Ten Realms of Art of Mind Stealing:

1. Bronze Thievish Hand

Introduction: Ability to steal one Short-Term Memory Permanently

[Restriction: Heavenly Dark Sea Realm & 1% Law of Psyche]

2. Permanent Thievish Bronze Hand

Introduction: Ability to steal the entirety of a Short-Term Memory Permanently

[Restriction: Heavenly Dark Sea Realm & 10% Law of Psyche]

3. Bronze Treasure Hunter

Introduction: Ability to Infiltrate and freely search the surface of the Knowledge Sea for Short-Term Memories of Target

[Restriction: Heavenly Dark Sea Core Realm & 50% Law of Psyche]

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Ace couldn't help but marvel at this technique and also grimace at the restrictions and the seven seal realms.

'By far, this is the most difficult technique I ever received from the system and with such a high level of restrictions. The Art of Mind Stealing was created by a heaven's stealer and this technique might be even stronger than an Upper-Sky Breaker cultivation art.

'Well, it's not my concern for now. I'm not even at the true Bronze Thievish Hand level and still lacking a little. Once I learn about short-term memories and their structure as described in the manual, I'll truly be at the Bronze Thievish Hand Realm.'

Ace was delighted when he skimmed through the details, and he knew he can easily fill the gap in his crude technique and truly enter the bronze thievish hand realm within days.

Furthermore, his soul probe will also become more potent with this technique, which would open a myriad of possibilities for him.

At that time, even someone like Empty Dream won't be able to mess with him, and he won't require the system's help to deal with his tricks either.

Since there were still six days before they reached the Grand Duke Estate, Ace immersed himself in the study of Bronze Thievish Hand before telling those guards to only disturb him when they reached their destination.

Inside the last carriage in Archie's entourage,

The black face demon with a skinny constitution sat with a frown on his ugly face as he pondered about something begrudgingly.

'What happened to that wastrel all of a sudden? He was eager to come here and even snuck out of the mansion at night despite being grounded by the Duke.

'Could it be the Duke finally lost his patience with him and used something to force him back? No, that might not be possible, since that benign woman would always shield that wastrel even if he wreaks havoc in the Grand Demon Region.

'Well, I'll find the answer when he returns. If it is the former case, then I'll have to report it to the young master...' His dark brown eyes shimmered with coldness.

On this day,

Ace opened his eyes when he felt the Qi in his surrounding suddenly increase by at least two folds!

He looked outside and saw a beautiful landscape filled with Qi trees and colorful flowers, but the most eye-catching thing was the herb fields spreading as far as eyes could see.

'So, this is the Grand Demon Region's core district, and the Life Demon Tribe's headquarters!'

Ace was quite familiar with this view after seeing it in Archie's memories, but unlike him, he found it rather refreshing and beautiful.

Furthermore, they passed the security check without any hitch, nor did anyone dare to check someone from the Soul Life Demon Clan unless the Grand Demon Duke gave the order himself.

It made his journey even smoother, and now, only a few miles remained until he reached the Runic Demon Duke Estate, which was where Archie's family live.

The Runic Demon Duke was none other than the title of Archie's father.

There was one Grand Demon Duke, and three Demon Dukes in Life Demon Tribes. The Life Demon Tribe was one of the founding tribes of the mighty demon empire, and they had earned huge merits in all these years.

Their tribe was a true pillar of the empire, and their position was unshakable unless the imperials lost their mind and decided to exterminate them.

Although the Life Demon Tribe looked harmonized and peaceful from the outside view, but many dangers lurk within the calm region of the Life Grand Demon Region.

Forget about the Grand Demon Duke's family, the competition between the three-duke families was immense, and from shadows, they always tried to adverse each other's paths.

Although Archie never cared about it in the past, he never fought with the others for any special resources or showed any ambitions. But this doesn't mean he wasn't under anyone's radar.

Just his astonishing talent was enough to make many jealous and keep a close eye on his every action.

But Archie had proved in these years that he really didn't care about his image or anything, in fact. So, the eyes on him were now very few.

However, it was about to change as his carriage stopped outside a vast mansion, and 'Archie' disembarked the carriage with a faint smirk on his demonic face!

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 532: Runic Demon Duke

As Archie disembarked the carriage, his henchmen quickly appeared one after another and circle around him with concern in their eyes.

There were six demons, and all of them were from the life demon tribe's different branches.

It was one of the rules of any grand demon duke tribe. The servants of the dominant clan must be from the tribe, no outsider was allowed.

Archie has personally chosen these six by rejecting the servants his father chose for him because he didn't like being spied on by him, and these six were also loyal only to him, and he treated them very well.

"Young Lord, are you already?" The black face demon was also among them as he asked with concern.

Ace looked at them, especially at the blackface demon. His name was Blacky, or that's what Archie used to call him.

This guy was one of the earliest demons who followed Archie, and he considered him like a friend and treated him generously.

Furthermore, Blacky was also the one who first took Archie to the pleasure palace, and from then on, he became his closest aide, and Archie let him handle almost everything.

However, Ace wasn't carefree and idiot like Archie, and he could tell when someone was being deceitful when he saw one.

He had long annexed these six memories and wasn't surprised when he found Blacky was a spy planted by Archie's side by another demon duke's hire of the Soul Life Demon Clan.

Blacky only had one goal: to make sure Archie would never enter the Royal Demon Institute and even compel him to run away from the Life Grand Demon Region.

The Runic Demon Family was placed second between the three duke families, and Archie has the potential to make them number one. His older brother and younger sister didn't have his talent, and they were mediocre at best in comparison.

It naturally made the number one duke family, the Soul Pill Family felt threaten for their resources and position.

However, Archie was completely ambitionless and never tried to fight with anyone for their position or show any signs of interest in politics.

In the end, Archie's threat faded away with time, and it left now only this chance of entering the Royal Demon Institute, which could turn everything around.

This heir of the Soul Pill Family was the same age as Archie, and his talent was only a little bit inferior, and he was going to partake in the upcoming entrance test this year.

He always looked down on Archie and considered him a fool. He was even jealous of his talent, which was completely wasted on Archie.

So, he planted Blacky under him to destroy the little bit of reputation Archie has, and he succeeded.

However, now, Archie wasn't in this world anymore, and someone who he couldn't even dream of messing with changed him.

Archie lampooned with a dangerous smile. "What? Do I need your permission to decide for myself?"

The other henchmen and Blacky were shocked, since Archie never spoke with them, especially Blacky like this.

Blacky felt his heart tremble under Archie's piercing gaze and quickly lowered his head, "I-I don't dare."

"Good. Now gentlemen, if you excuse me, I have something to discuss with my old man." Done saying, he left toward the mansion.

"Do you think something happened?" Another burly demon whispered in Blacky's ears. He was long bought by Blacky, so he naturally knew where Blacky's loyalty lies.

Blacky coldly looked at Archie's back and frowned, "I need to rest!"

As Ace entered the lavish runic duke mansion, he was greeted by a blue skin middle-aged demon with a scholarly demeanor. He was clad in black butler clothes, and when he looked at Archie; he bowed slightly.

He was clearly waiting for him. Furthermore, he spoke impassively, "Young Lord, Duke summon you for a chat."

"Very well, I was about to go look for him. It's more convenient this way." Archie merely chuckled and kept moving.

A hint of bewilderment appeared in the butler's impassive yellow eyes, 'He seems... different.' However, there were no emotions on his face as he followed behind Archie.

Soon, they reached a spacious hallway and at the end of this hallway were silver doors filled with beautiful patterns.

As they closed in, the silver doors suddenly opened, and an imposing voice sounded, "I want to have a moment alone with my son."

The butler naturally stopped hearing this and, without showing any expressions, he left while Archie entered the silver doors.

The interior was quite spacious, and it was filled with bookshelves and rows of books in them. It was the Runic Soul Family's Library, and the Duke spent most of the time here researching runes.

Archie always hated this place, since he hated studying the runes.

In the center of this room was a round table filled with many runic patterns and rune-crafting tools.

A demon who could be said to be the exact copy of Archie or the other way around, but he had a more mature face, and his sharp eyes were filled with sophistication, unlike Archie's callowness.

He was the current Runic Demon Duke of the Runic Soul Demon Family and Archie's father, Harvey.

However, he wasn't alone. Beside Harvey was an enticing demoness with a gentle demeanor. Her amber eyes were filled with anxiety and gentleness as they darted between Archie and Harvey. She was Archie's mother who spoiled him rotten, Ellie.

"Have fun?" Harvey coldly uttered as he sharply looked at Archie with exasperation.

He really had lost all hope for Archie because of his past transgressions and his recent exploit of his noble title. It would be another story if Archie didn't have any talent, but this was the exact problem.

It hurt even more when he thought about how his debaucher son could've changed their family position, but he turned out to be a wastrel. He even blamed himself for giving too much freedom to Archie, and now it was too late.

This time, he had grounded Archie and told him to break through, or he won't be allowed to go outside, hoping things might change. But Archie snuck out with someone's help and this made him furious to no end.

He was going to go after him if hadn't received the report that Archie didn't go to the pleasure place and returned from their doors.

That was why he still didn't go straight there and beat Archie's ass, and will listen to his reason first.

Furthermore, his loving wife was the one who gave him the biggest headache, since she would always get in the way with teary eyes whenever he was going to beat this bastard up. He just loved her too much and couldn't see tears in her eyes, so Archie would also escape.

The biggest reason for Archie's current mindset was none other than Ellie, who never stopped him from doing anything and supported him. Although she treated her other two children the same, Archie turned out to be different from his siblings.

Ace knew Archie's relationship with his parents and they were the biggest hurdle to cross if he wanted to enter the Royal Demon Institute. Because they might sense something amiss if the change was too great, so he had to be convenient.

Harvey was a Soul Embryo Manifestation Realm, as well as a Grade-6 Rune Crafter!

He might be even stronger than any Demon Kings in the eight provinces.

As for Ellie, despite her gentle demeanor, she was a peak platinum soul embryo realm cultivator and only a step away from being in the same rank as Harvey.

This was the biggest difference between the outer continent and the royal zone.

The Title Demon Duke can only be earned after entering the Manifestation Realm!

Archie didn't speak, but instead released his aura, which filled the entire library!

Harvey's sharp eyes suddenly went wide when he sensed the aura Archie had just released. While Ellie's beautiful eyes also shimmered with happiness.

She exclaimed in surprise, "My baby boy, break into Platinum Soul River Core before the age of 100!"

Ace quickly retracted the aura he released with the Thousand-Face Mask he wore under the Demonic Eater Mask.

Archie said with an ashamed smile, "I'm willing to go to the Royal Demon Institute."

Ace wanted to keep this conversation as short as possible. He knew the more he spoke, the more chances he'll expose some loophole in front of Archie's parents. Especially his mother. There's no way she won't notice any change in her own pampered son.

Although he was confident in his acting skill, he still wasn't completely sure if he could fool a caring mother like Ellie.

Harvey suddenly laughed out loud when he heard Archie's words. He even thought he was dreaming. He always wanted to listen to those exact same words for a long time.

However, he still had to make sure Archie wasn't doing this just to escape punishment.

Harvey's eyes suddenly turned as sharp as blades as he questioned, "Forget about me, brat, but not only did you hide your true cultivation from your mother, but you wasted god knows how many years hiding it. I want to know what changed it?"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 533: Forgive Me...

Ace felt a powerful soul sense locked on him, and he was prepared for this. With Archie's personality, he would never agree to go to the Royal Demon Institute.

He had declared it many times whenever Harvey brought this issue up and even had Ellie's support.

So, now not only did Archie show that his cultivation was at the Platinum River Core Realm, but he even stated his wishes to enter the Royal Demon Institute. It naturally aroused Harvey's suspicion.

However, the good news was, Harvey hadn't suspected his son was changed entirely. He only suspected that Archie was playing everyone for a fool. Since he can hide his cultivation even from his mother, then he wasn't a fool or careless as he showed himself to be.

Many decedents of big families play pig to eat the tiger and if Archie was pretending to be a pig, then Harvey would be even more ecstatic.

The thought of someone might've replaced his son never even accrued, not even once.

Although Archie had shown he was lazy and ambitionless, if one looks at this carefully, he always kept up his cultivation with his peers of Life Demon Tribes.

It alone was enough to make Ace take this risk, and everyone would think Archie was playing them for a fool because he was afraid something might happen to him.

Now that he revealed his fangs, it meant he was no longer afraid of any kind of threat, and there were only two months before the Royal Demon Institute conducted its annual test like the other three institutes.

Once Archie entered, he would be under the protection of the imperials. No one would dare to try anything within the boundaries of the Royal Demon Institute, and the only danger would Archie face would be from within.

Archie calmly stated with a meaningful smile, "Come on, don't tell me you still didn't figure it out, old man."

Harvey's expression fell when he heard Archie's familiar tone, while Ellie giggled since she was used to this.

She could sense Harvey was thrilled, so she didn't bother saying anything. Even she was shocked by her son's 'planning' and felt gratified and even more glad about supporting him 'secretly'.

Archie calmly said, "I'll lay this out for you. As everyone knows about my talent and started feeling threatened by me. So, to make sure I survive, I had to play as a wastrel until I would be sure I can protect myself."

Harvey refuted, "Brat, do you think I'm dead? Who dares to touch you with me here?!" He was feeling furious now when he heard this. It was like his son didn't have any hope in him.

"I know, I know, although you can protect me in this place. What about when gatherings or training seasons in the Grand Demon Estate? It's compulsory to go there for the younger generation, no matter what." Archie's eyes turn cold. "To this day, I had suffered eight assassinations, and if I weren't hiding my prowess, I would be long dead before you even know what happened!"

Harvey's expression fell with shock. "What?!"

Ellie was the same, anger appeared on her face for the first time. "Who dared to assassinate my baby boy?! Tell me, Mother will seek justice for you!"

Archie sighed, "See? That's why I never tell you guys. If you guys knew the perpetrator would be alerted. But since I didn't tell you, he never knows about it either. So, the best choice was to remain silent and wait for the perpetrator to make a mistake."

Harvey still has killing intent in his eyes. "Who was it?"

He never thought someone would try to assassinate his son in the Grand Demon District, of all the places!

Just as Archie said, if he had known, he would blow his top and gone there to fight it out with the person who belittles his status. He wasn't someone to push around while his wife was even more daring than him.

'They completely bought it!' Ace was elated since he exaggerated the assassination attempts.

Although many felt threatened by Archie's talent, they won't be foolish enough to try taking his life in the life demon district unless they wanted to incur the Life Grand Demon Duke's rage.

Everything was allowed except killing the decedent here, and if caught red-handed, they will be dire consequences even for a demon duke family.

Ace just pull up this sham to make Harvey less vigilant and turn their focus elsewhere, and he succeeded.

Since Archie turned out to be hiding his prowess, and with Ace's acting abilities, he escaped Harvey's detection!

Now, he just has to put the names on the table, and these names were all those demons who were keeping a close eye on Archie for years.

He even has Blacky to make his claims more solid and pull Harvey to his side completely. He will then just wait around until he leaves for the entrance test.

Once he was out of there, no one will ever know if Archie was a fake or real and he would be long gone before someone suspected a thing.

Archie coldly stated, "The first attempt was done by Daniel from the Soul Life Family. Second and Third, Lavender from the Runic Smith Duke Family. Reaming five was by that, like punk Lucas from the Soul Pill Family.

"That little punk Lucas even planted his men within my followers. He never thought I would know all of this. Just soul-search Blacky and Jackleg. They're both spies planted by that little punk. Blacky was also the one who broke me out of the mansion."

Harvey's expression was a little bit pale now. "Are you Daniel from the main family involved?"

Ellie, with teary eyes, couldn't help but chided Harvey, "You senile, old man! My son suffered so much alone, and you still care about someone else?! He's right, you're really grown old!"

She was full of rage and tears for her son, yet Harvey was more worried about Daniel, who had already entered the Royal Demon Institute ten years ago. He was shocked and apprehensive because Daniel was the star of their Life Demon Tribe and the number one genius.

If he was involved, then even if he knew, he really could do anything.

On the contrary, it would be his family who suffered for slandering Daniel without proof.

Hearing his wife calling him a senile old man, he smiled wryly and looked at his son with a complicated look in his eyes. He was gratified to have a son like this who considered his plights. He even blamed himself for treating him so harshly while he was enduring assassinations all these years.

"I really let you down." He said with guilt.

Even Ace felt that Archie was scum for using his parent's kindness for many shady things. He never cared about his father's feelings and was always disrespectful.

He even felt a tingle of guilt for killing their child cold-blooded, but that was only for a fleeting moment. Furthermore, he knew better than anyone. If Archie remained alive, he might be the exact reason for this family's downfall.

He had already created some cracks in his parent's relationship, and Ellie had the biggest hand in it since she just won't let Harvey punish Archie and make him fearless.

"Heh, if you hadn't played along, it won't look realistic. So, don't blame yourself. I should've come clean with you a long time ago, but I was stubborn. I hope you'll forget about all those things I did and said. Likewise, I wasn't an obedient son to you, but now I'm going to leave, so I want you to know that all I did was out of selfishness, and doesn't trust you guys enough.

"This creates some unpleasanties in your relationship, and I can never forgive myself for this.

"Even so, I hope you can forgive me... father and mother."

Archie deeply bowed before his parent.

Ace thought they both deserved this much from Archie. Since he didn't do it, he can do it for them.

The atmosphere turned quite emotional as silence remained for a long time, and only Ellie's sniffles could be heard occasionally...

Ace left after two hours. He was quite skeptical about how Ellie could cry for so long while holding him. But he had no choice but to let her be.

In the end, Harvey was also full of smiles as he promised to do everything in his power to make things even with the other two duke families since those youths could only make moves with someone backing them.

As for the younger generation, 'Archie' told them he'd deal with them, especially Lucas, who was going to take the exam this year as well.

Harvey instantly agreed since he knew that little punk had only a breakthrough in the diamond river core this year while his son was already a Platinum River Core Realm Cultivator. He was even intending to interrogate Blacky personally.

Ace left after saying he was going into seclusion and will only leave when the time of departure would come which both demons agreed and even gave me many pills and some core skills to practice.

Now everything was set!

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 534: Executioner Sky Sword

Ace entered Archie's cultivation chamber and activated every array and formation before he set up his own collection of protective formations.

He was currently in the family of rune crafters so, he couldn't be too careful.

After he was done, he finally sat on a comfortable praying mat and looked around. There was a rune crafter workshop, and a Qi pond in this place, as well.

Ace also felt the soul Qi density in this place was quite thick, which means there was a soul Qi collecting formation made with Soul Crystals!

Soul Crystals were abundant in Life Demon Tribe, and they even have high-grade five Soul Crystal Sources under their control. Two of them were Grade-5, and one was Grade-6, while the other two were Grade-3 and Grade-4 respectively.

Ace was even tempted to sneak into those places and absorb their grade-6 soul crystal source and one of their Qi stone veins to make his life less difficult.

However, Archie only knows about a Grade-4 Soul Crystal Source and a Grade-5 Qi stone vein under the Runic Soul Family.

But he might raise many suspicions if an entire source or vein goes dry all of a sudden, so he decided against it. He had to remain neutral as long as he could or things might turn in the wrong direction.

Besides, without an elemental orb, the EXP or SP he could collect from those sources or veins would be wasted, so it wasn't time to look for them.

He already got millions of soul crystals from Archie's storage ring, and Harvey gave him more, so he couldn't be too greedy.

After Ace calmed his mind, he flushed out a white jade scroll which has the 'Sky Sword Manual' inscribed on its smooth surface.

'I finally have time to study this jade scroll,' Ace thought with a hint of anticipation.

After he entered the royal zone, he put all this focus on his existing skills and Psyche Invasion because of the unfinished job mission and didn't touch anything he got from the life demon auction.

Now that he could finally breathe and things were moving smoothly in his preferred direction, he can finally look through the things he got from the auction.

The first thing was naturally this jade scroll, which he only read in legends, and it was related to the sword on top of it. So, he was somewhat excited since it could help him with his sword path technique if it turned out to be a sky breaker grade skill!

Ace used his Qi to activate the jade scroll, and the next moment, a line appeared in his mind, which made his eyes widen and his heart race.

'Required Element Sword Intent to learn Sky Sword'

Ace nearly laughed out loud when he saw the requirement just to open this thing and finally understood why this jade scroll was present in the auction in the first place!

'I really picked up a treasure this time!' Ace was ecstatic and even wanted to thank the person who took out the Sky Sword Manual for the auction.

If he knew it was from the Blade Demon King, who wanted to trade it with a high-level sword art for Peter, then no one knows what Ace would think.

Nevertheless, Ace won't be going to stand on ceremony, and his dark Qi suddenly turned white with a dark sheen as it engulfed the jade scroll.

The next moment, the white jade scroll suddenly trembled before it glowed in a dark hue.

However, no information infiltrates Ace's knowledge sea, but he felt his consciousness enter this jade scroll at this moment and this new experience astonished him.

'So, this is how a jade scroll store information.' Ace deemed and read the very first phase of information.

'Sky Sword - by Executioner Sky Sword'

'Executioner Sky Sword, huh? And there's even a note by this person.' Ace was quite happy after getting Sky Sword and quite interested in the person who created this technique.

Ace read the small note left by Executioner Sky Sword.

'Executioner Sky Sword: I created the Sky Sword after I entered the realm of Sword Emperor. I don't know how you got it or from where you got it, but whoever is planning to learn it, a fair warning.'

'Don't Cultivate it if you're a coward and not a pure sword cultivator!'

'Besides this, if you can open it, this also means you have exceptional talent in the sword's way, so I'm content as long as you can return this sword art to its former glory.'

'I might be dead when you get this Sword Law Art or leave this world, whichever the case might be, I left everything I acquired in my entire life within Sky Sword Realm, and only after passing the inheritance trails of the Sky Sword Realm will you be my true inheritance.'

'This Sky Sword Manual is also a key to my inheritance trail and proof of your qualification to enter the Sky Sword Realm.'

'Remember, only with nine keys will the Sky Sword Realm appear!'

Ace frowned when he was done reading this entire note left by Executioner Sky Sword and couldn't help but assumed, 'So, all in all, this guy left everything he collected in a realm name Sky Sword Realm and then scattered these nine jade scrolls, so nine people would find them and then fought with each other for his inheritance.'

'He might be a big shot to possess such confidence. He might be on the death door to create his inheritance ground or some enemy might've been after him. Whichever the case is, this sounds like trouble, and I have no idea where this Sky Sword Realm is as well.'

'I might go there to 'empty' that place, but not going to fight with the other eight who have this law art beside me. So, what if I'm a coward? I'm still going to comprehend this sword art!' Ace scoffed as he completely took Executioner Sky Sword's note as a wind.

The Sky Sword Manual was a law cultivation art that inscribed a way to combine Sword Intent with any Element Intent and create a sword core within one's Martial Space or True Soul.

There were three levels of Sky Sword.

Sky Sword Core Creation, Sky Sword Manifestation, and Sky Sword Crown. Each level has Early, Middle, High, and Perfect proficiencies.

The first level was about how to create a sky sword core within one's martial space or soul space. The second was to manifest the projection of this sky sword core outside the body. The last was creating a sword crown that could cover the entire sky!

Despite this exaggeration, Ace didn't dare to underestimate this law art and took it extremely seriously.

Before, if he thought that Executioner Sky Sword was a senile old man, now he felt this old man might be a genius among geniuses in the way of the sword.

Although these three levels were simple to describe, when it came to cultivating them, they were as complex as the sky itself.

Not only that, but he mused even a Law Awareness Realm Cultivator might not be able to learn the Early Sky Sword Creation because one required at least 75% mastery over sword law and another element law infused with sword law.

Ace laws weren't even crossed two digits yet, so he was even less qualified to learn Sky Sword.

However, even if Ace has the qualification, he can't learn this law art because it was based on a world Qi system which he didn't follow and he has both True Soul and Martial Space.

Either he can cultivate in system's techniques or create one himself.

Although he can imitate some simple skills with his different element Qis to fool others, the essence of all his techniques or skills was the Heavenly Qi!

It was probably Ace's biggest disadvantage beside the heavenly punishment in cultivating with Heavenly Qi.

Nevertheless, he never really cared about this much since he was talented enough to create his own techniques with different references.

This time wasn't any different. The Sky Sword was extremely exquisite, he wanted to create even stronger law art than the original, and if he succeeded. He will have two sky sword cores, and his sword element intent might not be limited to just the shadow element as well!

The Sky Sword has opened a whole new world of swords within Ace's mind, and his vision was no longer bonded by anything anymore.

'Executioner Sky Sword created this sword law art after becoming Sword Emperor, but I'm going to create my version of it being nothing!' Ace thought as he felt great satisfaction when he thought about the arrogant note left behind by Executioner Sky Sword.

Right when Ace retracted his half-sword intent from the Sky Sword Jade Scroll when he thought he remembered everything. The information about Sky Sword suddenly turned blurry before he completely forgot about it!

Eternal Thief

Chapter 535: Cherish them, Alright?

Within a brightly lit room, a handsome young demon has an indignant expression, his brows tightly frowned while looking at the imposing demon standing before him.

"How did this happen will you care to explain?" The middle-aged demon's emerald eyes went sharper than blades as he looked at the young demon.

"Father, as I told you, that bastard had played everyone for a fool, and I'm a victim here!" The young demon uttered with resentment.

He was none other than Lucas from the Soul Pill Family, and the middle-aged demon in front of him was his father, the Flame Demon Duke of Life Demon Tribe, Finley.

Finley frowned darkly, "I know that, but the problem is you got caught, and now that annoying Harvey is coercing me with those two goons you sent after Archie!"

He fumed, "That prick Harvey wanted to take advantage of this situation, and he threatened me to go to the tribe lord if I didn't comply. If he didn't have any proof, I won't even respond to this threat of his. But the problem is he has evidence, and if he really called out the counsel, you'll be imprisoned for at least 20 years!"

"Now you know what kind of blunder you cause for me?!"

Lucas's heart palpitated when heard this, and fear surfaced in his eyes.

After Harvey 'knew' about Archie's situation, he instantly seized Blacky, and without any soul search, that coward revealed everything about how Lucas wanted to defame Archie and sabotage him.

Although nothing about the assassination was revealed, Harvey simply thought someone like Blacky didn't have the qualification to know about this matter, so he suspected nothing.

Afterward, Harvey didn't go to the Grand Demon Estate to seek justice for his son. Instead, he decided to bleed the Soul Pill Family.

Although the punishment for all this was very severe and Lucas will also lose his qualification to enter the Royal Demon Institute. But it would be too light a punishment for Lucas.

Since his son said that he would take care of Lucas himself, he completely believed him now. So, he took this chance to have some payback and settle some score with Finley.

Finley was naturally an old sly fox, and he instantly saw through Harvey's intentions.

Furthermore, Harvey also didn't hide the fact that Archie will be going to attend the Royal Demon Institute's entrance test this year, which took the life demon tribe by storm.

Many thoughts that Archie was pretending to be ambitionless all these years and was finally ready to show his true colors.

Especially the Life Soul Family.

But the most perplexed by this news was none other than Lucas, who almost succeeded in ruining Archie, well, not anymore since Archie had turned the tables on him, and now he was on the verge of ruin!

He even felt fear of Archie, who hid too deep and struck when he least expected. It made even his usually calm father lose his composure.

Lucas's expressions were now pale when he heard Finley's words and quickly plead, "Father, please save me! I know I've made a mistake, but if I missed this chance, no one will be able to enter the Royal Demon Institute from our family in this generation. While if that little prick Archie got in, he won't spare us!"

Finley's eyes went cold. It was also the only thing that was worrying him right now. It was his sore nerve. Before, he also thought that Archie was just a wastrel, but it turned out he was a freaking snake.

Now, he didn't have time to play any underhanded tricks since it was too late and his son, who have the most chance of entering the Royal Demon Institute, was on the verge of losing his qualification.

He even thought that it was Harvey who orchestrated this whole situation, which made him feel respect and trepidation about the demon whom he always looked down upon because he was a henpecked husband.

He took a deep breath, but his expression was ugly. "Alright, I'll let that old bastard win this round. But if you dared to fail, don't bother to return!"

Done saying he left fuming with rage.

Lucas had a massive sigh of relief before his expressions were frosty. "Archie, you fucking prick! I'll let you know the consequences of threatening me in the entrance test!"

At another, an expressionless demon was calmly looking at the reports in his hand as his emerald eyes shimmered in an icy glint.

He mumbles softly, "Archie, o, Archie, you could have a peaceful life and my support in any three demon institutes and would be a great help to your cousin, but you chose the wrong path.

"Don't blame uncle for making things difficult for you. It's just how the world works..."

Ten days before the entrance exams of four academies,

A light knock rang in Archie's cultivation chamber.

Ace, who hadn't left all this time and engrossed himself in the study of Sky Sword, suddenly opened his eyes with a hint of confusion before clarity returned to them.

The Jade Scroll in his hand stopped shimmering.

It turned out, this law art wasn't like the usual techniques, and he required this jade scroll to continue studying it. He guessed that; it was because this might be how a jade scroll worked, or this technique was simply too high a level for him to remember.

To this day, he always got techniques from systems, even law arts, but he never encountered this situation.

Nevertheless, since he could access the technique with this jade scroll, he wasn't too worried about it either.

But then Ace also found something stranger a few days ago. The part he completely comprehends didn't vanish from his knowledge sea even after he closed the jade scroll, which gave him a new understanding of law arts.

It made Ace even more ecstatic when he found out that all this studying wasn't for nothing because...

====

[Law(s): 4]

-Despair (Minor): 2.03%

-Shadow (Minor): 2.05%

-Sword (Minor): 2.06%

-Psyche (Minor): 1.03%

====

His sword law comprehension has been increasing by 0.6% just by studying and comprehending the tiny portion of the first level, and this gave Ace even more motivation to keep walking on this path. His half-sword intent was also a little bit more powerful now.

Ace didn't dare to imagine just how far his sword law comprehension would increase as long as he kept studying Sky Sword!

All this time, he was searching for something that could increase his law compression, and he never thought it would simply fall into his lap.

He had even forgotten about the time, as he was completely engrossed in studying it. If it wasn't for the knock, he wouldn't even be awake after a year.

Ace quickly put away the precious sky sword manual jade scroll and quickly collected his formations before he changed his robes' color to black.

When he opened the door, he was a beautiful demoness which delicate features waiting for him outside with a resentful expression.

He knew who it was.

"Little sis Sonia, long time no see." Archie smiled teasingly.

Toward his siblings, Archie didn't have any close feelings, and his relationship with them was neither severe nor amiable but just simple.

They didn't get in his way, and neither he poked his nose in their business while his elder brother and little sister have a very close connection.

Archie's once had the same relationship with his elder brother and doted on his sister the most, but as his personality changed, he closed himself to his siblings and destroyed his relationship.

Now, his elder brother was a graduate of Evergreen Demon Institute and a High Runic Elder of the Life Demon Association. While his little sister, Sonia, was fifteen years younger than him, she have only above-average talent compared to him.

Nevertheless, the young demoness was as beautiful as her mother, it was enough to make her the center of attention.

Sonia frowned slightly when she saw Archie's amiable smile, which was familiar yet unfamiliar at the same time. The last time he smiled at her was when she was just six to seven years old.

"Hmph, stop pretending. You can fool father and mother, but you can't fool me!" She harrumphed coldly.

Ace was speechless when he saw the little demoness baring her pristine teeth at him as if she wanted to bite him and smile wryly while cussing Archie.

He knew the most influential because of Archie's behavior was Sonia since her mother always worried about him and his father had a sore mood.

She was once a cheerful girl and warmed to him, but now she was cold and hated Archie for creating cracks in their parent's relationship.

She believed this was Archie's new scheme to escape punishment and that he would hurt their parents in the end. That's why she came personally to warn him today.

Ace looked at the little demoness' cold eyes and solemnly said, "Once I enter the Royal Demon Institute, only you will be here with our parents. I want you to look after them and cherish them. Alright?"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 536: Whereabouts of Spirit Fire

Archie's words baffled Sonia, and she didn't know how to retort to them.

'Has it been really just a ruse like mom told me?' She thought indiscreetly.

Nevertheless, she still didn't buy it so quickly. But as Archie said, if he really entered the Royal Demon Institute, she would be alone with her father and mother and there won't an Archie who could create trouble, so it was definitely a plus.

Ace didn't make things awkward and moved on before leaving one last line, "Tell, elder brother, sorry for me as well, if you think it's worth it."

Sonia squinted before she followed him silently, but didn't agree or rejected him.

Soon, they reached the main hall, where Harvey, Ellie, and the mansion butler, with his expressionless face, were waiting for them.

Harvey looked at Archie with a content smile. "Brat, it's time to leave, and I'm going to escort you personally since that old dog Finley will not take it sitting after I made him bleed." He sounds proud and elated after he had a little revenge on his old rival, Finley.

"Hmph, you're just eating the rewards of my boy's hard labor." Ellie snorted gently, which made Harvey somewhat embarrassed. He wasn't a Runic Demon Duke in front of his wife.

After Archie's revelation, their relationship had mended completely, and they were closer than ever.

Ellie quickly approached Archie with a gentle smile, looked at him from head to toe, and nodded, "My son looks so handsome those high and mighty demonesses will definitely fall head over heels for you."

A tingle of jealousy appeared in Sonia's eyes when she saw how her father and mother treated his brother despite his past conduct.

Archie smiled and said, "I'm your son, so it's only natural to have handsome looks."

Ellie chuckled and patted Archie's head. "You really know how to make me happy. There's no need to pressure yourself. Even if you fail, there are still more years until you reach the age of 100, so there's no need to take any risk, alright?" she seriously told with a tingle of worry.

"I promised," Archie promised.

"Alright, let's go before your mom weeps fountain here." Harvey smiled wryly when he heard his wife instead of encouraging her son was discouraging him.

But deep down, he felt the same, but he was too embarrassed to say it out loud.

After Ellie let go of Archie and gave him a storage ring, both father and son left under Ellie's teary eyes within a carriage of Runic Demon Duke, and the coachman was the emotionless butler.

"Your sister is still young. Give her some time she'll come around." Harvey spoke at this moment.

How could he not know about the relation of his children?

Archie smiled bitterly. "I deserved this much, I guess. Even the elder brother doesn't come to bid farewell. I hurt him the most."

Harvey sighed and didn't comment on this. He knew his elder son used to care about Archie the most and always protected him, but when Archie walked on the other path, the person who was hurt the most was his elder son.

"You have indeed taken your act too far, but he still loves you, and if you enter the Royal Demon Institute, every doubt against will be erased. So, do your best." Harvey changed the topic, "I also found something interacting related to Academia Region this year, and I want to warn you about it."

Ace, who was still pretending to be remorseful, suddenly felt interested in what Harvey discovered.

As a Runic Demon Duke, Harvey has access to many secrets of the Royal Demon Nation and all the secret information.

Harvey quickly told when he saw Archie was interested, "You should've heard about that infamous thief, right?" A hint of coldness appeared in Harvey's eyes when he said the word 'Thief'.

The Sky Stealer was the Life Demon Tribe's biggest enemy right now, and everyone hated him, including Harvey.

Ace felt strange when he felt hostility in Harvey's voice. He didn't know what Harvey would do if he knew his son was replaced by the same thief his tribe hated the most.

But he still played along since he was interested in this news, which included him, "How could I not know? Almost every demon about him, that guy is like a legend now."

It was Archie's actual view of Sky Stealer.

Harvey snorted. "He's indeed a legend now, but so what? He's still hiding in his rathole, afraid to show his face. It won't be long before he would be captured unless he jumped into the endless sea. He can't escape the outer continent this time."

'So, they still think I'm in the eight provinces, huh? Good.' Ace was secretly glad.

Harvey continued, "Anyhow, because of this thief, the three institutes had to cancel their mass recruitment from the outer continent at that time, but they finally complete it a few months ago."

"I'm curious. Why would they want to recruit those lowly demons from the outer continent? Why now?" Ace was really curious about this exact thing for a long time.

The Demon Gate Trial was an open secret among the Royal Demon Nation, but the reason behind it was still a mystery.

Harvey smiled mysteriously and answered, "Isn't it obvious? Well, you were still young back then, so you might pay little attention to this matter, but it's related to the upcoming Ancient Allied Gathering between the top three races."

Ace's eyes shimmered brightly when he heard this. He had come to recollection about the Ancient Allied Gathering from both Paul and Archie's memories.

Furthermore, he first heard about this gathering from Noa when she told him about the rumors of a realm called 'Fiery Hell Secret Realm' that might have a Spirit Fire.

At that time, Ace paid little attention to it since he was too far away from the royal zone, and he still made a mental note to investigate it because Noa required a Spirit Fire to progress in her body refinement technique.

As he got memories from demons in the royal zone, he found out that this gathering was called the Ancient Allied Gathering, hosted by three top races of Golden Sky World every hundred years.

This gathering spot was the Fiery Hell Secret Realm, somewhere on the endless sea, and it was filled with precious recourses and astonishing opportunities.

As for the details about how this Fiery Hell Secret Realm comes into existence and why only these three races can enter it every hundred years, no one knows the details except for the upper echelon of the three top races.

Ace paid little attention to this matter nor did he have accurate information. But judging by Harvey's tone, it seemed it was quite important since the royal zone violated its rules for the first time and let demons from the outer provinces enter the three demon institutes despite their low bloodlines.

It might as well be a conspiracy!

"How is it connected?" Archie eagerly questioned.

Harvey spoke with a weighty expression, "If you weren't my son and about to enter the Royal Demon Institute, I would not reveal it to you.

"The next Ancient Allied Gathering is in little over three years. As you might already know the secret realm only opened every hundred years for a few months, and only demons under the age of 100 and cultivation below the soul realm are qualified to enter the Fiery Hell Secret Realm.

"If it was just for resources, then three races only allowed 50 participants for each race to enter the Fiery Hell Secret Realm. However, because of a peerless treasure that emerged in that realm's last gathering, they can send far more participants, until that treasure is acquired by someone! The exact number is still a secret, though."

Ace suddenly remembered Noa's words years ago and had a terrible feeling about this.

"What peerless treasure?"

Harvey solemnly said, "A fabled Spirit Fire!"

'So, this Spirit Fire really exists!' Ace was astonished, but then he worried because, by Harvey's words, a Spirit Fire sounds quite important to three races.

Harvey continued, "Although only his highness Grand Duke knows about the actual use of Spirit Fire. But from his tone, I presumed if another race acquired it, even devils, they will fight them for it!"

With a grave tone, Harvey revealed, "The selection in the outer provinces was also to choose demons, especially to enter Fiery Hell Secret Realm.

"As for why they didn't choose every demon from this side, you'll know if you got selected by the institute and given a seat in the upcoming Ancient Allied Gathering."

Ace now felt like he had just stumbled upon an enormous secret, and from Harvey's grave tone, he could sense that even he was afraid to reveal all the details or simply didn't know, despite his status.

Harvey gravely revealed at this moment with a solemn expression, "I told you all of this because I want you to break into the soul realm as soon as possible after you enter the institute before the gathering selection process starts so they won't select you!"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 537: Demonic Academia Region

One of the largest regions of the Royal Demon Nation, the Demonic Academia Region, was closest to the Demon Emperor Domain.

This region was under the management of four Demon Institutes: named, Evergreen Demon Institute, Battle Demon Institute, Black Mountain Demon Institute, and Royal Demon Institute.

These four institutes were under the direct juridical of the Demon Emperor Domain, and non-other have any authority over them and they have the most precious resources in the entire Almighty Demon Empire.

Whether it was resources, skills, or techniques, everything was top-notch.

That's also what made these institutes so alluring to the demons.

Furthermore, it was also an ironclad law of the Royal Demon Nation that any young demon who could cultivate had to spend at least fifty years in one of the institutes to learn about different fields they'll be serving in the future.

No one could overstep this hurdle, even the Grand Demon Tribes.

Not only this will make it almost impossible for a talented demon to escape the empire's grasp, but those demons without talent also put to use and train in the best fields they're most suitable in.

Before graduation, the life of a demon was already decided for them!

Only some expectational demons were given the choice to select their path.

But the end result was the same. No matter what they chose, they'll be serving their empire until their last breath, and this was also the reason the demons were second in the ranking.

Their ruling system was exceptional, and demons with power were promoted and protected as long as they showed their loyalty and worth.

Every year, the gates of these four demon institutes were opened for recruitment, and thousands of demons applied and entered.

This was also that time of the year when demons from all over the royal demon nation were heading toward one of the four demon institutes they preferred.

The three demon institutes, Evergreen Demon Institute, Battle Demon Institute, and Black Mountain Demon Institute, were almost equal in power, but as their names suggest, they all tech and nurture demons in different fields while having a specialty of their own.

The Evergreen Demon Institute was mostly famous for nurturing the best Rune Crafters, Alchemists, and Runic Smiths.

The Battle Demon Institute was famous for its battle experts.

The Black Mountain Demon Institute was proficient in teaching army tactics and nurturing powerful commanders.

Lastly, the most prominent was the Royal Demon Institute, which was the dream of every demon because only elites among elites could join this place and once they entered there, they were set for life.

The Royal Demon Institute has the most powerful inheritance, and every demon who entered this place and graduated from it was a force of nature.

They had the lowest number of students, but each one of them could crush the top geniuses of the other three demon institutes.

Their entering conditions were extremely harsh, and no one had ever known what they teach there. It was a core secret, and no student would reveal this even after they graduated.

The area of the Royal Demon Institute alone expanded thousands of miles.

The entrance to the Royal Demon Institute was blocked by an immense wall and two gates that were hundreds of meters in pure length.

These gates were known as the Demonic Gates, and no one could cross them without having a special pass or student identity.

Today, these usually closed demonic gates were opened, but a misty barrier still existed to prevent anyone from seeing what was on the other side.

Four imposing demons in pitch-black attire with golden outlines and a golden symbol of Baphomet's head on their back were sitting cross-legged around a huge water pool which has a projection in it.

They all looked at the projection in the pool with emotionless eyes.

At this moment, a white skin demon with golden horns and a strange black rune symbol below his left eye spoke emotionlessly, "Gentlemen, I don't need to repeat the rules since we do this every year, but I will follow the protocol."

He scanned through the other three and no one spoke, so he continued, "First, as Head Examiners, we'll remain impartial in our final judgment.

"Second, we'll not interfere during the entrance test.

"Third, if we caught anyone cheating, even if that person is our kin, capital punishment will be given on the spot.

"Fourth..."

The demon repeated a total of ten odd rules before everyone nodded without showing any disagreement. They had heard these rules thousands of times and now remembered them by heart.

"Alright, since the protocol is out of the way, should we start the first exam?" He asked with a tingle of excitement in his voice.

"Granted!"

"Granted!"

"Granted!"

A mile away from the demonic gate, a dark barrier covered the way forward while a few hundred meters away many lavishing carriages were parked.

Many demons from different tribes were gathered around their carriages, and all of these demons have scary auras around them, and ordinary demons won't even dare to approach them.

They were all waiting quietly outside their carriages, and no one dared to wait inside. It was a courtesy and respect for the Royal Demon Institute.

The young demons standing with their elders were looking around with sharp eyes as if they were measuring each other strength.

Within these demons, Archie stood straight beside Harvey, and behind them was their expressionless butler.

Harvey clicked his tongue and commented softly, "This sure brings back memories. When I was here for the entrance test, there were even more participants. But I, as your father, still crush everyone and earn a spot for myself."

He started to extol himself all of a sudden with a reminisced expression.

"Hmph, felicitations yourself again, Harvey. I guess something never changed." A cold, jeering voice sounded at this moment.

Harvey's joyful expression instantly fell the moment he heard this voice. He knew who this annoying voice belonged to very well.

Ace also looked around and saw two demons walking over, one young and handsome while his eyes were resentful as he looked at Archie. The other one was middle-aged, and his eyes were cold and astute. They all have the same racial features, which means they were from the life demon tribe.

'The Flame Demon Duke, Finley, and the youngest son of the Soul Pill Family, Lucas. It's good that Harvey came with me or they might make things difficult for me.' Ace thought impassively as he recognized these two from his memories.

Especially Lucas, with whom the real Archie had a very friendly relationship, and he never thought this guy was the one who wanted to sabotage him the most.

Currently, Lucas's eyes were filled with hate and malicious intent as he stared at Archie, who made a fool out of him in front of his father.

"Old Flame, I never thought you would come here personally." Harvey coldly sneered.

If they were alone, he would've called him Old Dog Flame, but for the sake of their tribe face, they have to give each other some face, or others will laugh at them.

Finley coldly chuckled, "And here you are yourself, Little Vey."

Both demons stared at each other coldly, and one could feel the gunpowder in the air.

"Cousin, it's been a while, hasn't it?" Lucas pulled a warm yet chilly smile as he greeted Archie.

"Yep, last time we have a great time in the pleasure palace. You even make eight prostitutes beg..."

"YOU... Stop... Stop!" Lucas quickly stopped Archie with a pale expression and quickly looked around, and when he saw no one heard this, he had a massive sigh of relief.

Even Harvey and Finley couldn't help but look at Archie and what he just mentioned as if he was talking about some random stuff.

Archie had an innocent expression as he shrugged his shoulder. "Why are you all looking at me like that? I was just reminiscing about our good time. Onetime brother Lucas even showed me this 'Lick the Lit', he said he saw Big Uncle doing..."

"Stoppppp!"

It was Finley who screamed with a horrified expression and nearly launched an attack.

Lucas's face went deadly pale at this moment. He never thought Archie would reveal his dark secrets, which he shared to win his trust so casually. Not only that, he even dragged his father into this, and he could now feel a cold aura from his father, who was looking at him with a death glare.

Harvey suddenly laughed out loud, "Lick the Lit?! Hahahaha... Old Flame, it seemed you're quite a player. Come, come teach your old friend this Lick the Lit. We're all men here. There's no need to shy."

Finley's face was deadly pale and gnashed his teeth at this moment when onlookers' attention was attracted. He really wanted to chop his little bigmouth bastard into a million pieces right now!

At this moment, an imposing voice reverberated in the vicinity, drawing everyone's attention.

"Gather for the Test of Qualification!"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 538: Four Grand Demon Tribes

"Gather for the First Test!"

The moment the reverberating voice faded, everyone looked toward the dark barrier because a large gap appeared in it.

Thereupon, two demons wearing black attire with white outlines appeared.

Their faces were emotionless with a cold aura surrounding them.

The next moment, one of them with dark bronze skin spoke while looking at the crowd, "Participants come forward and formed two queues fifty meters away from this barrier, men on right and women on left!"

The young demons standing along with their seniors didn't dare to neglect his command and quickly headed there and started forming queues according to their gender.

"Go brat, make me proud." Harvey patted Archie's shoulder with a solemn expression.

Archie bowed toward him before he left.

Finley wanted to beat Lucas, but he knew this wasn't the time and coldly uttered, "Remembered what I told you, now go!"

Lucas felt like he just escaped a heavy beating and quickly nodded and left after Archie while throwing a vicious glare at him for making him humiliated just now.

Harvey teased at this moment, "Lick the Lit, huh? So, tell me, what is it exactly?" He would never miss a chance to take a punch at Finley.

Finley's expression was dark as charcoal, and he furiously shouted, "Fuck off!"

Soon, two queues formed under everyone's watchful eyes.

The men's queue was much larger than the women's.

In total there were over two thousand demons and over nine hundred demonesses.

Ace felt every young demon around him was a prodigy since they all were River Core realm experts, and this wasn't a usual sight one could see in the eight provinces.

Forming a river core was an extremely dangerous process, and the higher level of your river cores the more difficult it was to form and the longer the process.

That's why it was the threshold that truly separates those with the extraordinary river from the ordinary river.

Right now, everyone here has a Peerless Foundation

The dark-bronze skin demon spoke impassively again, "As everyone knows already, this is the start of this year's entrance test of the Royal Demon Institute.

"The rules are simple,

"First and most important, no killing is allowed, if caught you'll be dealt with according to the institute law.

"Second, no treasures above grade-4 are allowed, and you'll be eliminated the moment you use any.

"Third, and last, the Royal Demon Institute has absolute power in this test, and no complaints will be accepted!

"Is that clear?"

Everyone already knew these three rules, and no one spoke in rejection. The Royal Demon Institute have a very high status, and offending them was akin to offending the imperials in a sense.

Besides, they were very fair and didn't conduct any underhanded methods, and they had a reputation to back this claim.

At this moment, the second demon with violet skin spoke, "Since no one has any problems let's begin the first test which is the easiest. The Qualification Test will determine if you qualify for the Royal Demon Institute.

"As everyone can see this black barrier behind me is a special formation which will only allow entrance to someone with age below 100 years and cultivate of Diamond Extraordinary River Core or higher.

"One by one, a man and a woman will move toward this barrier and try to pass it. If no one has any questions, let's proceed."

The moment his voice trailed off, the first demons in both lines started to move toward the barrier.

This test was very simple, and they just have to pass this qualification barrier.

Ace looked at the demons passing the barrier one by one without any hitch and wondered, 'My age is only 25. Both masks can fool a grade-6 formation detection so, it won't be a problem. But I don't know if that formation is grade-6 or grade-7. Well, as long as it couldn't tell my actual age, I won't be rejected since my cultivation is concealed by the system.'

He was in the middle of his queue while in front of him was a skinny demon with a somewhat gloomy aura, and behind was a lion hair demon.

No one seemed to be interested in talking with anyone, but they were all secretly paying attention to anyone who passed that barrier with sharp eyes.

Everyone knew this was just the first test and didn't matter much, the real competition will begin on the other side.

Soon, it was Ace's turn, and to his relief the barrier let him pass like other demons without drawing any attention.

However, when he appeared on the side he was shocked as he saw a gray translucent barrier a hundred meters away. At the end of this barrier, he could see the huge demonic gates which were open wide, but the mist was covering the interior.

Like everyone, he didn't dare to approach the barrier and stood on the side to wait for this test to be over.

Till now, no demon failed, and it was only natural since, every demon here belonged to a prominent demon tribe, and if they dared to play any tricks and found out, they didn't have any good ending from the institute as well as their families.

The entire process took half an hour, and everyone passed the qualification barrier.

When the last demon entered the barrier suddenly faded revealing the other side again.

The Royal Demon Institute or in fact any other demon institute didn't stop any spectators as long as they didn't interfere in the process.

It was also an opportunity to show off their talent and spread their fame around the nation.

Harvey looked at the translucent barrier and mumbled with a grim expression, "This is where the true competition will start."

Finley coldly mocked, "I clearly remembered, it took you two years to just pass the second test."

Harvey wasn't flustered at all and merely sneered, "And you were right beside me, do you forget?"

Finley merely grunted but didn't retort since it was true. He and Harvey were from the same generation as Archie and Lucas, and unlike them, these two were always competing with each other and at each other throat like rivals.

In comparison, Archie's life was very peaceful because of his astonishing talent, if he really didn't 'play' a fool, his true rival was Daniel from the main family who entered the institute a decade ago, and now he should be a second-grade student.

But Harvey knew if Archie really tried to compete with Daniel then it won't be Lucas but Daniel who targeted him, and would be a disaster for him.

Now, that Daniel was already far ahead, the main family won't feel any threat, at least he hoped that was the case.

Nevertheless, he won't let his son's talent be suppressed anymore even if he has to clash with the current family head of the main family.

"Oh, I thought I knew these gentlemen from before." At this moment, a jolly voice rang from behind.

Both Harvey and Finley found this voice familiar and looked in this direction and saw a group of eight demons coming toward them. Their aura was not least a bit below theirs which meant they were all demon dukes like them!

Two of them from the Fiery Grand Demon Tribe.

Two from the Poison Wood Grand Demon Tribe.

Four from the Nightmare Grand Demon Tribe.

All of them were either decedents of Grand Demon Dukes or relatives like Harvey and Finley.

The Poison Wood Grand Demon Tribe had the shortest history among four grand duke-level tribes while the Nightmare Grand Demon Tribe was at the same level as the life grand demon tribe.

The Fiery Grand Demon Tribe would place in third since it was established long after the foundation of the demon empire.

Nevertheless, each tribe had its own special strength and traits.

The life demons and nightmare demons have a friendly relationship and even business partners of sorts, while the other two weren't close to these two but still maintain friendly relations.

The demon who called out to Harvey and Finley was also a Nightmare Demon with a skinny, yet 2.6 tall build, he wore a tight black attire while his skin was ash pale with white eyes. He put on an amiable smile, completely different from the identity of the most ruthless grand demon tribe.

Harvey greeted since he knew this nightmare demon, "Ash Duke, I never thought someone from your family was participating in this year's test."

Ash Duke chuckled, they were all old friends and rivals and were graduates from the same institute.

He replied, "Runic Duke, you also didn't tell me your son was going to participate this year, so we're even in a sense."

At this moment, a gorgeous emerald skin demoness with black antelope horns coldly chuckled and made a jeering remark, "Your son is quite a character, unlike you."

Harvey looked at the demoness coldly and without holding back tutted, "Your mouth is still as poisonous as even Black Duke. But my son is still not interesting as your little cousin, Paul."

Black Duke's expression went rigid when Paul's name was mentioned, he was like a sour spot for the Poison Wood Grand Demon Tribe, and no one dared to mention him in front of Poison Wood Grand Demon Tribe unless they didn't have Harvey's status.

"Alright, the second round is about to start, stop quibbling." The Fiery Demon impassively reminded!

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 539: Martial & Soul Radiations

The two demons in the institute attire stood in front of the gray translucent barrier and looked at the young demons.

The dark bronze face demon spoke, "Since everyone passed the qualification test. It means everyone is eligible to enter the institute. But being eligible doesn't mean everyone can enter. Without the strength and ability to adapt, it's impossible to join the Royal Demon Institute.

"Now, we're going to test your strength, both physical and mental, which is also the second test, the Demonic Pathway Test. As everyone can see the barrier behind me, it's a formation called the Mind Breaking Demonic Path.

"If any of you think this test is unfair because you're a Soul Cultivator or Martial Cultivator, then you should leave now and save yourself the humiliation."

He coldly said, "Although we differ in the path of cultivation in Soul and Martial, it didn't mean you'll cry unfair if the conditions were not optimal for you. If an enemy happened to a strong marital cultivator while you're only a weak soul cultivator, do you think he'll listen to your plight and spare you?"

"The answer is no!

"In this world, either you're strong or weak, and that's how the world works. If you believe there's fairness in this world, then leave now." He coldly scanned through the crowd, and no one dared to speak.

Instead of feeling humiliated or angry, the young demons had this resolute expression and a flame burn in their eyes.

The onlookers with powerful backgrounds also nodded after hearing this speech. This demon said nothing wrong.

"This test is equally unfair to the soul and marital cultivators, but if you preserved, and have the will to reach the top, you'll pass it like your predecessors, or you can go home like those underdogs." He menacingly uttered.

"Now, let's begin the test. I'm going to explain only once, not again, so listen carefully.

"Anyone who entered the field of Mind Breaking Demonic Path, which is five hundred meters long, will feel the pressure of 1-Point Martial Radiation physically and 1-Point Soul Radiation mentally.

"If no one knows what Martial Radiation and Soul Radiation are, I'll explain it generally. You'll learn more about it once you enter the institute.

"The Soul Radiation and Marital Radiation is actually made by us cultivators when we refined pure Martial or Soul Qi between heaven and earth.

"The small amount of the Soul Radiation and Martial Radiation are normally harmless, and the world's nature also purified them the moment they were released into the atmosphere.

"However, if these radiations cross a certain threshold, for example, 1-Point where you can see it with the naked eye like behind me, it would be extremely harmful to cultivators of Foundation Realm. If the density increased up to 10-Point, even the manifest realm expert will only survive for a month in that kind of environment.

"And don't even think for a second that special formations are the only way to collect these radiations because the endless sea is filled with these radiations and the maximum numbers to this record are up to 19-Point!

"Even the radiations behind you were also collected from a region of the endless sea. So, I advise you to give up if you're not confident. These radiations have different effects on different individuals." The demon scanned the young demons. They were still fearless.

He suddenly smiled, which sent chills down everyone's spine for some reason, while those seniors watching behind smiled wryly as they all thought, 'Here it's come.'

"Oh, I forget to mention that with every hundred meters you cross, the density of the radiations will increase by a single Point, which means if you want to pass the test you have to cross 5-Point Radiations.

"Lastly, no external treasures are allowed in this test. If detecting use, you'll be eliminated with a fifty years entrance test blacklist plenty. So, try at your own risk.

"Now, let's start the test. You can move as you wish, but there's also a six-hour time limit. At the end of this time limit, whoever still does not cross the Mind-Breaking Demonic Path will fail this year.

"The six-hour time limit starts now!"

The young demons looked toward the gray barrier with some fear now, because this test wasn't as easy as it seemed.

The Soul and Martial Radiations together were a deadly combination, and exposure to these radiations for a long time was extremely fatal, especially when it reached the 5-Point density.

One had to know that the Qi density around them at this moment was between 7-Point and 8-Point, and each point was a massive leap on its own.

When the Qi density reached 10-Point or higher, it turned into a faint mist while Qi clouds were formed at 15-Point Qi density. This Qi density didn't exist naturally in this world.

But the radiation did, and unlike the Qi, the Radiation was harmful and fatal for cultivators and all living things.

If the Radiation present in the deeper parts of the Endless Sea one day stirred and moved in the ten continents' direction, it would be a calamity for everyone.

That's why monitoring the Endless Sea was so important, especially the parts with radiation.

Nevertheless, with special barriers and pure Qi, this radiation can be ignored, but only if you have an endless supply of Qi, or the moment the radiation eats away the Qi, it's a game over.

Anyhow, these demons were also alerted about these radiations, so they naturally knew about it, and the usage of treasures wasn't allowed either.

As for quickly crossing it with speed, it was even more impossible because the denser the radiations, the more Qi it will take to protect from it. The soul and martial radiations had different effects.

Unless they cultivate in both paths, they will be going to be ineffective by either of these radiations.

While everyone was still thinking about how they should proceed, Ace looked at the gray barrier with great interest.

Unlike everyone, he didn't feel any kind of threat from the mist at all. The concept of Marital and Soul Radiations was only known to people like Paul and the royal demon nation,

However, when Ace found the memories of radiations, he was intrigued and wanted to see if this could affect him or not.

Because of the heavenly Qi, there was hardly any Qi that could make him suffer or threaten him.

But these radiations seemed to be not one of those things, at least at the 1-Point level.

At this moment, a demon with ash-pale skin moved from the crowd with an emotionless, demonic face. Everyone knew it was a demon from the Ash Family of the Nightmare Demon Clan.

The Ash Duke, who was watching, chuckled with pride. "That's my little brat. I hope he won't embarrass me by walking first."

Everyone rolled their eyes, he was clearly mocking them.

Since the nightmare demon clan moved, how could the decedent of the other three grand demon clans remain standing?

Everyone knew every year this entrance test was also a silent competition between the four grand demon clans and it was watched by everyone.

Although most of the demons present were branches of these four grand demon tribes, no one paid attention to them, since they weren't from the dominant clan. Unless a prodigy appeared in their clans who could enter the Royal Demon Institute, no one would pay them any heed.

Although these branches of these four demon tribes also nurtured many talents every year, it has been almost a hundred years since any of their decedents ever managed to pass the entrance test and successfully enrolled in the royal demon institute.

Nevertheless, these tribes still come every year and have their excellent decedent try until they cross the qualification limit of the royal demon institute. Only then they will join the other three demon institutes.

Just as everyone thought, five more youths moved, and they were from the fiery demon clan, followed by three poison wood demons and six more nightmare demons.

Lucas also proceeded at this moment while glancing at Archie provokingly. He said nothing, though. He knew they were both representing their clan right now, and their rivalry or grudge didn't matter.

They can settle the score when they enter the institute, they will have fifty years. But right now, if they humiliate their clan in front of branch clans, it would not bid well for anyone.

Ace naturally knew this and cared little about it. He was thinking about something else.

'Should I draw attention to myself or not?' He mused seriously. 'If I did, I would gain high-ranking demons' attentions, and someone with enough authority to know about the treasury might take me as a personal student.

'But this could also end up drawing the attention of the Principal, which I don't want. That guy will easily see through my disguise with his high cultivation base.

'Although the Royal Demon Institute's Principal is known as an ascetic and seldom makes public appearances, I can't afford to draw his attention without a high-level disguise treasure which can fool a Law Awareness Realm expert completely!'

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 540: A Fool or Trickster? (1)

Everyone moved from the four grand demon clans, except Archie, who was still looking at the gray barrier.

Finley couldn't help but snickered, "It seemed little nephew still have some misgiving. I wonder if he tricked you again this time?"

Harvey coldly snorted, but didn't reply and looked at his son's back with confidence. He had sworn he would not doubt his son again and would support him in any way possible.

Finally, Archie moved as he walked toward the gray barrier with an impassive look on his face.

Everyone looked at the descendants of the four grand demon clans with great interest. They knew the show was about to begin.

But those branch clans didn't want to stay out of the limelight. So some of them who were extremely confident also moved forward while most of them decided to wait and observe.

There's still a six-hour time limit, and they also didn't want to enter between the fight of the four grand demon clans.

"Fellow peers, how about we bet who will cross this barrier first?" At this moment, an emerald skin demoness with a charming figure and gorgeous appearance expressed in her crisp voice. She was a Poison Wood Demon.

"I'm not interested in playing your little game." The nightmare demon youth with a stony expression sneered before he entered the barrier, and other nightmare demons followed suit.

"Heh, play your dirty tricks on someone else." The fiery demon sneered disdainfully and entered the barrier.

Lucas didn't even look and entered the barrier with an aloof expression.

The Poison Wood Demoness squinted her eyes when she saw no one took the bait well except for one demon who was looking at her with a gentle smile. It was Archie!

Archie said with a smile, "I'll take that bet if you're not afraid, that is."

Everyone looked at Archie as if he was a fool.

Because everyone knew the Poison Wood Demon Clan was famous for its poison art and charm art. They were dreaded by everyone because the target won't even know when they were poisoned or charmed by them until it was too late.

So, no one dared to talk with them without their guards up, much less get close to them.

But this soul life demon was talking with this poison wood demoness who seemed to be proficient in charm arts like it was nothing. They all thought he must be an idiot with a weakness of beautiful things.

"Hehe, I told you, your son is more interesting than you." The Black Duke giggled when she saw Archie dare to talk with her daughter.

Harvey frowned. 'What the hell is this brat doing? Could it be his mentality has been decreased by going to the pleasure place?'

The demoness's name was Nancy, Black Demon Duke's youngest daughter, and she was as poisonous and cunning as her mother.

Nancy was startled for a moment when she heard Archie before she smiled charmingly. "I accept. This way, it would be more fun, right?" While talking, she was already close to Archie and was about to hold his hand.

Everyone thought Archie would at least couldn't let her touch him, but to their surprise, Archie didn't show any sign of resistance and let her hold his hand, which left even Nancy somewhat baffled.

'Is he a retard?' She thought with uncertainty.

Well, she wasn't alone with such a thought.

"Hahaha, little nephew sure knows how to treat a lady." Finley couldn't help but laugh out loud, and the pressure he felt from Archie suddenly vanished.

'That brat is really a fool and had not been part of the previous scheme, and all of it was Harvey.' He believed.

Even the emotionless Dark Fire Duke of Fiery Demon Clan couldn't help but comment, "It seemed he was already charmed."

Ash Duke nodded, saying nothing, and merely glanced at Harvey with some pity.

Harvey was now really worried.

Archie replied as he held Nancy's hand with both hands as if he was completely head over heels for her and said, "If I win you have to be my girlfriend, and if I lose, I'll do three things for you without any hesitation."

The other two male poison wood demons also felt this guy was a retard, and was going to suffer big time under their cousin's hands.

Others might not know, but they knew Nancy was extremely proficient in charm arts, and with her beautiful appearance and seductive figure she had many admirers, but even they won't dare to approach her or let her approached like this, afraid to unknowingly become her puppets, or get poison.

Nancy smiled charmingly and quickly agreed, "Big bro, the bet is on. Now I'm going first. Will you please give me a head start of half an hour, please?" She looked pitiful.

"Sure, sure, I don't want you to say to me, I cheated, so go, go." Archie agreed without even thinking as if he would do anything for Nancy.

"Black Duke, tell your daughter to stop that charm art, and I'll owe you a favor!" Harvey gritted his teeth as he saw Archie sitting down while waving at Nancy like a fool.

He wasn't worried about the humiliation but worried that Nancy might've done something with his mind which would harm him in the radiations. He can't interfere, or Harvey would be blacklisted.

Harvey had no choice but to look for Black Duke, who he loathed, but he didn't mind owning her a favor for his son's sake.

However, Black Duke coldly smiled and rejected with no hesitation, "Don't worry, since your son has a crush on my little Nancy, she won't mistreat him. We shouldn't suppress our youngsters' feelings as parents."

The other poison wood demons behind Black Duke also had wintry smiles on their faces. Since Harvey dared to use Paul to taunt them, they were feeling quite great that now a Poison Wood Demon charmed Archie.

"She's right, you shouldn't interfere in your son's 'love affair.'"

Finley won't let this chance go to get back at Harvey after what he did and Archie was also being disrespectful to him before, so he wanted to teach that little brat a lesson.

The others remain silent.

A thick vein popped on Harvey's forehead, and he really wanted to attack both Black Duke and Finely, but he knew it would spell trouble if he did anything in royal demon institute territory.

Many young demons disdainfully looked at Archie sitting outside the barrier with a big smile on his face as he watched Nancy's back with flowers in his eyes.

Even those two invigilators didn't bother to hide their contempt. In their eyes, Archie was as good as failed with this kind of mentality.

Lucas also laugh inwardly when he saw Archie getting 'charmed' by Nancy. He didn't think it would be so easy to get rid of Archie, and he didn't even have to do anything at all.

Half an hour passed in a flash,

At this moment, almost a hundred demons were inside the formation, and at the number one spot was the nightmare demon youth named Charles, the son of Ash Duke.

Followed by another nightmare demon, Bobby, and then Dark Fire Duke's son, Hugo, Nancy, Lucas, and the remaining demons of the four grand demon clans.

They were at the three hundred meters mark and halfway toward the four hundred meters. But their speed was quite slow, and they were all saving their Qi for the five-hundred-meter mark.

That was their true battlefield.

At this moment, Archie, who didn't make a suddenly stood up with a smile on his face.

Many merely glance at him and then ignore him. They all thought he was going to make a fool of himself when he entered the formation and soon be eliminated. There's no way someone who was under charm arts can endure soul radiation.

Harvey was looking worriedly at him and wanted to drag him back, but remained standing and let him get eliminated on his own.

'I'll have to train his mental fortitude this year so he won't fail next year.' He thought and already started making plans.

At this moment, Archie looked at the two invigilators and asked with a polite smile, "What is the record of crossing this test?"

The dark bronze skin demon coldly answered, "It is enough for someone like you never be able to break it."

The others also smirked disdainfully.

Archie, on the other hand, shrugged his shoulder. "I guess you're right."

Done saying, Archie suddenly charged into the formation with a protective green Qi barrier around him.

The violet skin demon chuckled mockingly at this moment, "What an ignorant moron. He'll exhaust his soul Qi before he even reached the 3-Point radiation, and soon he'll be screaming for help."

Soon, Archie crossed the 100-meter mark with no hitch, and his speed didn't decrease at all.

"At least he'll fail with some dignity." Finley chuckled when he saw Archie's suicide charge.

No one thought he was sane anymore.

However, when Archie crossed the 200-meter mark in a minute and almost caught up to the group at the very front, everyone's expression changed!