

## Thief 581

### [Eternal Thief](#)

#### Chapter 581: First Imperial Demon Prince Gone Mad?

Six months passed since Ronan left the Demonic Seal Castle, and everything was the same as the puppet servants doing their daily jobs without missing a single day and repeating the same process over and over.

NO.8,430 was also the same as he supervised those nameless puppet servants, but Ace was almost ready to start the foray at Demon Temple.

In these six months, he appeared to be completely NO.8,430 in the day, while at night, he would plan for this foray, and after checking every detail, he was now 70% confident in pulling this foray and escaping before anyone would notice.

Today, Ace was checking the herb gardens daily when his ears perked as he heard a slight commotion from outside. Even though the castle gates were closed, he could still hear the sound of marching knights.

'What is going on?' Ace's eyes flickered with uncertainty, but he pretended to be unfazed by it.

Being a puppet servant was not easy. They can't put anything first before their duties unless ordered by the imperials. So, if he showed curiosity about something else, he knew he would get busted.

From the day Ronan left, Ace had this nagging feeling that he was being monitored or the whole castle, so he was even more on guard and didn't dare to show any flaw in his act.

'Are those inner palace knights moving away from their posts for some reason?' Ace's eyes flashed.

'By the sound, they are almost a hundred of them, and according to Ronan, there are only five hundred Imperial Guards and five hundred hidden high-ranking puppet servants guarding the entrance wall to the inner palace. This number should be high, but some imperial knights were sent to join the search for me.

'Only if someone from the inner palace was about to leave the domain will those guards escort them. But who could it be from the inner place since only Emperor or Empress lived or the youngest prince who still had yet to bestow his castle in the outer emperor palace...' Ace fell into deep thought as his mind worked at lightning speed?

'Anyhow, their formation might be disrupted tonight with this reshuffle in their positions. Should I move tonight?' Ace's heartbeat raced as he weighed down his options!

Outside the Demonic Seal Castle,

A squad of hundred knights clad in menacing black armor branded with the imperial family emblem while holding long halberds in their hands was moving in a circular formation. In the middle of this formation was a beautiful carriage with the imperial family emblem as well.

They were marching toward the exit of the emperor's palace.

"Stop right there!" A cold voice filled with authority rang at this moment.

Another carriage comes into everyone's view and bears the imperial family emblem.

Those imperial knights had no choice but to stop since they knew who this voice and carriage belonged to, and they couldn't just ignore this person.

The door of this carriage blocking the marching imperial knights opened, and a masked demon exited wearing black color prince robes. He was none other than the first demon prince, Martian.

Martian coldly looked at the carriage in the center and questioned coldly with a hint of indignation, "Who is in that carriage of the inner palace?"

"It's me, your cherished little sister, First Imperial Brother. It's been a while." Leona's gentle voice rang at this moment within the carriage.

Martian's eyes turned cold, and he sneered, "It seemed you've been well even in your detention, Third Sister. You even got to enjoy the ride in the inner palace carriage. I won't if I would get the same treatment if I dragged our family face in the mud!"

Martian didn't mince his scornful words and rage. He was completely exasperated when he heard that Leona was going to be released from her so-called detention and return to the institute to complete her graduation.

He, as a first prince, was never actually treated like the first prince at all. On the contrary, Leona was the one who got that treatment or even more exaggerated love from their parents.

This naturally made those other children indignant, especially the First Prince, who saw Leona as his enemy who snatched his birthright. He was even more afraid that she would seize the throne of Demon Emperor one day if this continued.

He thought it would end her splendor after Leona's blunder, and he will have a chance to rise.

But now, after seeing those knights escorting her out, he knew he was wrong all along, nothing had changed, and Leona remained supreme!

After Martian's menacing words, silence descended in the vicinity. Those knights didn't dare to breathe heavily because they knew this matter was between the imperials, and they will only dig their own graves by interfering.

Especially when it concerned First Prince or Third Princess.

Everyone knew about their strange status in the imperial domain since the firstborn should be treated like Leona was treated from birth, but no one dared to poke their nose in this matter and pretend as if they didn't know.

Today, however, it seemed the First Demon Prince finally lost it.

"First Brother, how about you come inside, and we'll talk like siblings? It's improper for your status...." Before Leona could finish.

Martian's aura suddenly exploded as he loudly yelled, "Shut up! If you care about status, then get out and kneel before you, First Brother!"

"My Prince!" Dagger suddenly appeared. Her voice was filled with horror.

She never expected Martian to cross the line like this, as if he didn't care about his face or any consequences anymore.

Dagger knew Martian the best as she had literally watched the boy grow, and she knew the anger toward Leona and his parents was scornful in Martian's heart for a long time. It even started to affect his mind!

"You dare to come between imperial family members matter?! Lowly thrall!" Martian's hand suddenly lit with dark lightning as he punched Dagger, who appeared beside him with a concerned look in her eyes.

She could've avoided it if she wanted, but will she dare?

No!

She was blasted into the carriage by that punch with power equivalent to a manifestation realm!

Martian's aura started to rise as lightning began to crackle all over his body. His focus shifted toward the imperial knights again, and he started walking toward the carriage.

"Get out of my way. It's between her and me!" His cold threatening voice rang in the vicinity.

However, before Martian could walk even two steps, he stopped because a puppet servant appeared in a Black and Golden mask two meters away from Martian. Furthermore, a number was engraved on his mask, '3.'

This puppet servant bowed toward Martial and said in his aged voice, exempt of any emotion, "Your Highness, His Majesty, summon you to throne hall!"

"Hahahahah... NO.3, you lowly dog, even you dare to come in my way now. If you have guts, then attack me!" Martian laughed manically as he took a step forward without any hesitation.

"Presumptuous!" At this moment, an enraged thunderous voice reverberated in the entire Imperial Domain!

Everyone was alarmed because they knew only one person could cast this kind of voice, the Demon Emperor!

But it wasn't over with the voice. The next instant dark lightning suddenly descended from the sky and landed directly on the First Imperial Prince!

Strong the First Imperial Prince might be, but the moment that lightning struck him, he plummeted to the ground within a dark charred crater.

Deadly silence descended on the entire imperial domain.

No.3 moved at this moment and picked up the unconscious Martian before a rueful sigh escaped from his mask, "Everyone, continue whatever you were doing. Dagger, you may return to recuperate; First Prince will stay in the inner palace for a while."

Finished saying NO.3, vanished with Martian on his shoulder.

"Alright, why are you all dozing off? Continue forward." Leona's gentle voice rang. It was like she didn't know what had happened or simply didn't care. No one knew.

Those knights take a deep breath and start moving with lingering fear in their eyes, and they all decide not to offend Third Demon Princess in the future!

Ace listened attentively to all those noises and was astonished by this sudden turn of events.

He clearly saw that lightning had descended from the sky, and his heart turned cold just thinking of how the Demon Emperor sent that lightning from miles away.

But he also discovered something as his eyes shone, 'So, it was Leona being released, huh? Furthermore, this first prince, either daring or simply, had lost his mind to cause such commotion. Or there he has other movies?

'According to Ronan, this First Prince was shrewd and tranquil, which didn't match his personality.' Ace mused.

But the next moment, a determined glint shone in his eyes, 'Whatever it was, it didn't change the fact the formation of those knights will be disrupted tonight, and the others will pay attention to the First Prince, especially the Emperor...!'

## **Eternal Thief**

### **Chapter 582: A Thief in Imperial Demon Palace!**

The shade of night descent on the imperial domain, and except for the incident with the First Demon Prince, everything was as per usual.

In the Demonic Seal Castle, the puppet servants were returned to their quarters after their routine work.

However, tonight was destined to be anything but peaceful for NO.8,430, who was looking at the dark cloud-filled gloomy sky as the cold winds of winter were making the air chilly.

'No moonlight, huh?' Ace's lips curled slightly as his dark blue eyes were gleaming thievishly, 'It seemed even mother nature is helping me...'

Chuckling at his own humor, he shook his head before leaving the window and turning off the light in the room.

At this moment, NO.8,430 clothes suddenly started to change as the inky black color spread, and the size also began to change.

The short and loose robes soon turned into a tight long black top and bottom with a mysterious dark blue pattern before completely vanishing within the fabric. An imposing owl symbol gleam in dark blue color on the back as a long hood rest upon it.

NO.8,430 stature also started to change as from 2.6 meters, he turned 6.4 feet tall, and his burly physic also altered into a slimmer and toned body.

The black and white mask on his face returned to Thousand-Face Mask, revealing dark blue eyes like the starry sky at night.

Ace then donned the long hood overhead, which he hadn't for quite a while.

'Feeling myself again.' Ace smiled behind the hood before his eyes turned stern, 'Let's start this show!'

He turned in the direction where the inner emperor's palace and Space Step Heavenly Talisman appeared in his hand. The moment he activated it, the space trembled, and he vanished from the room!

This marked the start of this foray, and there was no going back. He'll either pull this off and escape or fail and suffer the persuasion of all the mad demons!

A 1000-meters away from the servant quarters in the inner palace direction was a long alleyway that was completely tranquil. But at this moment, space rippled before Ace's hooded figure appeared!

Ace felt slight pain in his head as his vision was blurry, 'I'm still not used to this teleportation.'

He long expected this aftermath of using the heavenly talisman from his previous experiment, so he quickly circulated his Qi to recover and activated his stealth, vanishing from plain sight.

Ace looked around and smiled in satisfaction, 'Just as I measured, I appeared in the right place, and even if someone were watching the servant quarters, they wouldn't be able to find NO.8,430 disappearance unless they go inside his room or could sense space undulations.'

He had planned and calculated for over nine months, and as long as he didn't miss something, he was 80% confident in pulling this entire foray off.

Ace then turned toward the direction of the inner palace walls, which was a little over 2 miles away from the pathway, and used his lightning steps to move.

As he passed street after street, he kept looking at the active Live Fate Map. Although it was quite Qi-consuming, he knew Live Fate Map was his biggest assurance to avoid danger.

Just as he was over a mile away from the inner palace walls, he saw crimson fate point two streets away, so he instantly took another route.

But he had just gone two hundred meters in this alter route when he saw four crimson fate points on end.

'How could it be this easy?' Ace smiled wryly, 'Since both routes are blocked, and I don't want to risk passing these watch points, I have to use another space step.'

Ace had long prepared for these watch points in the way of the inner palace, and according to Ronan, there were grade-7 formations activated in those points all the time, and they were the biggest hurdle before the inner palace walls.

So, Ace didn't hesitate, so he used another heavenly talisman after adjusting his position.

One thousand meters away was a grass field without any walls, and there was only a single road that went toward the closed gates of the inner palace, and the five-hundred-meter-tall wall surrounded the inner palace.

Ace appeared on this grass field, but his expression changed because this entire field appeared black on the fate map. It was a black fate location!

Without even wasting a moment, he used another heavenly talisman and vanished in the direction of the inner palace.

The moment Ace vanished, a dark light suddenly shone on his standing spot for a fleeting moment before the grass field returned to its tranquil state.

However, a blurry figure soon appeared on that spot as he mumbled with uncertainty, "Why did the soul fraction formation catch someone standing on it for an instant? Or was it just a false alarm? I better scan the area."

The entire grass field around the walls and even the road was under the monitoring of a giant grade-7 Soul Fraction Formation which could detect anyone below mid-level Law Awareness Realm Cultivator or any concealment treasures below intermediate-grade-7.

The formation was kept active in this area unless someone was summoned or left the inner palace. Even the outer wall was within the detection of this formation!

If it had been a moment later, this formation would've given Ace a ghastly Soul Shock, which would be the end of his foray!

On the other side of the inner palace wall was an herb field to keep the air refreshed, and there wasn't any grade-7 formation active since there wasn't any need to.

Because even at this time of the hour, puppet servants were active, and they all at least belonged to middle ranking and worked on these herb fields, not to mention the powerful imperial knights' patrols and high-ranking puppet servants inside the palace.

At this moment, just a few hundred meters away from the inner palace wall, Ace's figure appeared in the middle of an herb field.

His eyes were affixed on the fate map, and when he saw the area was only red, not black anymore, he had a sigh of relief.

'That was close!' His eyes shone with fear since he wasn't told there was such a formation in that grass field, 'Could it be they even keep the secret about that formation from the princes? Quite possible.' He guessed.

But he didn't have time to mull over it since he was already inside the inner palace, and this place was completely different.

Although it was night, the entire place was lit with lights like day, and he saw a magnificent structure in pristine white marble and filled with beautiful artistry half a mile away from where he stood.

'The Inner Emperor Palace!' Ace's eyes shone with a hint of excitement, and he had to admit this palace was quite huge now that he was close to it.

There were pillars and small structures on both sides of a marble road, and Ace was currently standing within such structure.

Ace knew now he had to be extremely careful and couldn't just randomly teleport, or he might appear in front of some terrifying hidden existence. He only had a general outline of the inner palace, not the core area.

Furthermore, Ace didn't want to go into the core areas, and he just needed to get in range of 10 miles of the demon temple to activate his random pick-pocket talisman.

So, he just has to enter the inner palace hallway, which is the boundary between the core of the palace, and he'll be able to activate the heavenly talisman.

But looking at the brightly lit road and the red fate map, Ace knew it was dead wrong to go inside without arousing any attention.

'One last time!' Ace inhaled sharply before he activated another heavenly talisman, as well as he activated a concealment talisman of grade-5. He only had two more such talismans that he theft from the auction.

They can only last for a little over 2 minutes, so he has to use them carefully.

The next moment, Ace appeared right in the middle of a spacious, beautiful hallway, and when he saw the fate map still crimson, he didn't dare to be careless.

Although he couldn't see where he was in this close hallway, he was pretty much inside the inner palace's outer area.

But he didn't dare to continue randomly anymore and hid behind a thick white pillar. He will be going to wait for someone to pass here for half an hour to steal their memories, and if in this half-hour no one appeared, he would move on to search for his prey.

Furthermore, using so many skills and the fate map put a strain on him, so he needed to rest, and this place was perfect for recuperating.

"System, if I still didn't get the lightning orb, humph!" Ace threw a threatening transmission in his mind to the system, but as usual, he was ignored.

Just ten minutes after Ace hid in the hallway, footsteps rang...!

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**Chapter 583: System detects...**

Just ten minutes after Ace hid in the hallway, footsteps rang, making Ace vigilant as he didn't even dare to breathe.

Thereupon, a puppet servant holding a golden tray walked out from the other side.

After sensing that its cultivation was in the realm of his soul-probing range, Ace quickly used it without getting noticed by the walking puppet servant.

The puppet servant had no idea his memories of the inner palace were getting annexed by a thief as it emotionlessly walked toward its destination.

Becoming more confident when he saw no guard inside, he started to follow the puppet servant in stealth while annexing his memories and processing them at lightning speed.

The more memories he annexed, the calmer he became, and after following the puppet servant to a cross hallway with a grand door in the center, he stopped and took a turn abandoning the puppet servant since it served its purpose.

It turned out he was still at the entrance halls of the inner palace, and the puppet servant was going toward the imperial kitchen.

So, Ace turned around and headed toward the depth of the vast palace, it was like a maze, and without the knowledge of those pathways, he might stumble upon some hidden trap or expert, or even worse, find himself in front of a high-ranking puppet servant with two digits.

He had to admit this entire palace was filled with traps and hidden experts working under the Demon Emperor. Anyone who wanted to attack this place might as well just commit suicide.

Ace was glad that he didn't have to go anywhere near the Demon Temple because that area was completely mysterious and closed to everyone. Even the imperial family members couldn't approach it.

As Ace continued to move in deep into the palace, he was quite tense but also excited since the target was almost within his reach.

After sneaking around for half an hour and passing different hallways, he appeared on a pathway that was open, and a marble bridge was connected to the other side of the palace.

But Ace didn't dare to step foot on this bridge because it was marked pitch black on the fate map, in fact, the entire area forwards the dyed-in-black, and the red area ended here.

This was the bridge that led toward the core of the imperial palace and also where the quarters of the Emperor and Empress were as well as the imperial library and probably the imperial treasury.

No one had ever infiltrated the imperial palace before, much less up to this point.

But Ace's destination was also this exact place since he could now see the black demon temple from here, which was just behind the huge doom of the core palace.

From the puppet servant's memories, Ace knew no one would come here unless summoned, and it was already in the middle of the night, so the chances of someone crossing this bridge from both sides were almost null.



Nevertheless, Ace still didn't dare to let his guard down and turned back to a hall and started to recover his Qi while hiding. He wanted to be in peak condition for his escape plan because it was the most challenging part of this entire foray.

Infiltrating the imperial palace was a piece of cake in front of escaping while robbing something from the Demon Temple or worse from the Demon Emperor or the imperial treasury since there was a chance the random treasure might be from these two sides.

Whichever the treasure came from, Ace knew he couldn't stay for a second more and had to exit the imperial domain!

Over an hour passed, and Ace finally opened his eyes as his heart was beating faster and faster, he inhaled a cold breath to calm down, but he just couldn't because he knew the moment of truth had arrived.

Ace reached the bridge again as his thievish eyes were locked on the demon temple.

The next moment, a heavenly talisman appeared in his hand; this was the random pick-pocket talisman!

"System, use this Heavenly Talisman on a 10-mile area ahead of me and bring me the elemental orb, damnit!" Ace commanded while holding his breath.

The heavenly talisman vanished at this moment, and the System's voice rang,

[Random Pick Pocket Heavenly Talisman has been activated in a 10-mile area ahead of the Host's current position!]

[10 seconds until the process is complete...]

[9 seconds until the process is complete...]

[8 seconds...]

[7 sec...]

[6...]

...

Ace's heart was in his throat as he looked at the timer with bloodshot eyes. Every second was torture for him!

If the elemental orb didn't appear, he might really cough blood today!

The Demon Temple was completely closed off from the outside world, and the inside of the demon temple was filled with dark mist. Whoever entered could not see anything; on the contrary, this dark mist was deadly miasma for any cultivator below the peak of the law awareness realm!

In the middle of this demon temple, deep within this miasma mist, was a 100-meter tall Baphomet's pitch-black statue hovering above a long staircase, giving off an approachable feeling, and anyone who saw it would compel to kneel.

A black altar filled with shining light-blue ruins was right under Baphomet's statue, on top of the staircase.

A blue pillar of light rose from this altar, and it was connected with a huge Scepter in Baphomet's statue's hand. Making this long crystal Scepter look ethereal.

At the top of this 50-meter-long Scepter was a blinding light spot continually crackling with furious dark lightning.

Right at this moment, right above this blinding lightning spot, a dark ethereal thread suddenly shot from within the space itself, and the next moment the blinding lightning was completely gone!

Thereby, the shining Scepter suddenly lost its light as if someone had removed the energy source. The light pillar also shattered before the Baphomet's hovering statue started to tremble, threatening to crush the staircase.

"Hmm... W-what?!" A bewildered ancient voice suddenly rang from the top of the staircase altar...

At this moment, Ace's eyes were bloodshot with trepidation as he watched the timer at its near end,

[2...]

[1...]

[The Random Pick Pocket Talisman has been successful in Pick Pocketing a Grade-8 Treasure!]

[The treasure had been delivered to the living thief's space!]

[Reward(s)]

-Rewards: 100,000 Thief Points

[Thieveries Rank(s)]

-Middle-Level Thievery(s): 1

[Thief Point(s): 93,100,100]

[System detects the Thief Job Mission has been completed!]

[Please Leave a Thief Farewell Note to continue!]

-Time: 00: 00: 59

[Note: The Host has only one minute to write and choose a location for the Thief Farewell Note, or if times run out, the System will choose on behalf of the Host.]

Ace couldn't be bothered with all notifications right now, especially with the Thief Farewell Note, which should appear only at the high-level thievery, but the job mission completion triggered it.

But that one minute was the time for his escape before the thief symbol emerged on that huge demon temple!

Although he didn't know what kind of grade-8 treasure he stole, it was apparent that the treasure came from the demon temple since the job mission was also completed!

Right at this moment, another notification rang, which made Ace nearly scream,

[System detects Lightning Elemental Orb in host thief's space!]

[Did the Host want to start the breakthrough process?]

Ace didn't let this mirth get the better of him. Since he had gotten what took all this risk, it was time to escape before the whole imperial domain went bloody for him.

"System activates the Dark Owl Wings!" He quickly commanded.

Ace had only tried the Dark Owl Wings once as Archie, and this was his second try and the only chance to escape from this place.

[Dark Owl Wings has been summoned!]

-Dark Owl Wings (Initial)

-Description: Able to summon Wings of Dark Owl!

-Ability: Fly

-Status: Active

-Time: 00:29:59

The next moment, the dark fog suddenly seeped from Ace's back before it spread and turned into long pitch-black wings.

When the wingspan reached 5 meters, the expansion stopped as the magnificence pitch black wings were spread behind Ace's back just like his thief symbol.

The dark mist was exuding from these ethereal black wings as if they were aflame.

With a thought, those wings suddenly swung, and the next moment, Ace was shot out of the open bridge toward the dark sky!

However, Ace knew this wasn't enough, and he instantly started using the space step as he appeared higher and higher within an instant.

Right then, Ace saw something that left him to stupefy and horrid.

The Demon Temple, which was peak was still not in his view, suddenly started to tremble as immense pressure descended on the entire imperial palace, including Ace, who was almost two miles into the sky.

Ace's heart palpitated as he thought those space-step talismans were too slow. But he knew just how fast he was, but in front of this pressure, he felt as slow as an ant.

At this moment, an ancient voice filled with boundless fury rang in the entire imperial domain,

"WHO DARE TO STEAL IMPERIAL DEMON SCEPTER?!"

## Eternal Thief

### **Chapter 584: Thief is Destined for Greatness!**

'What, Scepter?!' Ace's heart skipped a beat. He was almost on at the peak of Demon Temple.

But even from such height, he could feel that ghastly aura. He had never experienced such a presence before. Even the heavenly punishment paled in comparison a little.

This also explained why the Demon Temple was forbidden, and no one dared to mess with the demon race. There was such an expert hidden within the demon race!

Nevertheless, since the other party still hadn't locked onto him, this meant he didn't know who took this Scepter which was probably related to the lightning orb.

Furthermore, if he hadn't had the Space Step Heavenly Talisman, he might not even be able to fly under that pressure, and the lower the altitude and static he was, the higher his chances of getting locked by this person's Martial Sense or Soul Sense!

At this moment, Ace was even above the dark clouds, as it was his first time flying so high he could literally touch the stars, but he didn't have the time to enjoy this breathtaking view, and he used his ninth Space Step Talisman.

The demon temple was a ten thousand feet high tower, and Ace finally saw the peak. He was shocked when he saw a pitch-black sword stable on the pointy edge of the Demon Temple Tower.

Furthermore, this sword gave off an extraordinarily sharp and foreboding feeling even after the distance between him and the peak was hundreds of meters.

'Why is this sword left at this height alone?' Ace's thievish interest was instantly piqued since he could tell that it wasn't just a random sword.

The suffocating pressure was still around, but it still hadn't locked on him, and he knew just one more space step, and he would be out of the massive detection formation of the imperial domain.

But that sword drew Ace's attention, and his thievish nature instantly stirred despite the severity of the situation.

In the end, his sanity still won since he knew that the building had to have a powerful formation, and now that he had provoked that terrifying existence, there wasn't even a hint of carelessness left.

He almost succeeded in pulling the most dangerous thievery of his existence, so he shouldn't be greedy. Besides, once he became strong, he could always return and take that sword without caring about anyone.

After taking a last glance, he activated the space step talisman again, and the next moment, he appeared 1000 meters above the peak of Demon Temple.

Strangely, that pressure still existed, but for some reason, Ace didn't feel the throbbing anymore, as if the danger had ended.

With this altitude, Ace could see the entire Imperial Domain; even far, the sensation was simply too magical.

After throwing another glance at the sword below, he headed toward the north while using the space step talisman. He wanted to leave the Imperial Domain before his symbol summoning time ran out.

At this moment, Ace heard a notification,

[Thief Farewell Note time limit has been ended!]

-Time: 00: 00: 00

[System had automatically chosen a random famous Thief Farewell Note from the past Heaven's Stealers!]

Ace cocked an eyebrow, "Famous Thief Farewell Note from past Heaven's Stealers? Tell me, what was that?"

He was quite curious, and at this time, the System replied, which made Ace's eyes widen before a prideful smile appeared on his pale face, "I couldn't be more agree with this Note, hahaha!"

His thievish laugh drifted on the boundless sky...

Just before when Ace took the flight.

Inside the Demon Temple, the massive statue of Baphomet suddenly lost the power which kept it hovering in the air after the Scepter was stolen from its core.

But before the statue could crush upon the black altar on the staircase, a masked person at least 6 meters height appeared beneath it and held the entire statue with one hand, stopping it from crashing into the altar.

The giant person suddenly trembled, not with the weight of the statue but with pure anger and incredulity.

He hollered, "WHO DARE TO STEAL IMPERIAL DEMON SCEPTRE?!"

The next moment, symbols suddenly appeared on the tip of his fingertips right below the massive statue before they began to suspend into the air, creating a complex array in the thin air!

The next moment, the small array was complete without showing any sign of dissipation, and he also vanished from his spot. But the entire statue was now balanced on that small array without showing any sign of falling.

Outside, the giant person appeared, hovering in the air, and the next moment, an invisible sense started to spread all over the inner palace.

Right at this moment, a masked demon wearing emperor's robes appeared, he was the Demon Emperor, and the Demon Empress followed suit a step later.

Both of them were shocked to see this giant person, and they bowed their heads without any discomfort the next instant.

"Ancestor!" They respectfully greeted in unison.

The Demon Ancestor clearly wasn't in the mood for chitchat and coldly uttered, "What were you doing?! Did all the formations inside the domain malfunction?! Someone just stole the Imperial Demon Scepter with some space treasure!"

"What?! How is that possible!" The Demon Emperor's voice was filled with disbelief and atrocity.

"Do you think I need to joke with you?! I told you fools to investigate the strange space undulation months ago, useless all of you utterly useless!" Demon Ancestor hollered as he was getting angrier and angrier since his soul sense wasn't picking up anything, "Now quickly activate the formation and lock down the entire imperial domain. The Imperial Demon Scepter can't be stowed in the storage ring. I'll find this degenerate soon!"

Demon Emperor and Empress didn't dare to refute or show any discomfort when they got reprimanded by the Demon Ancestor.

But it wasn't their fault either since if this was so important, the Demon Ancestor should've acted himself that day, but he handed this task to Leona, which showed just how 'important' this task was.

Nevertheless, they were horrid by this revelation of the Imperial Demon Scepter being stolen right under the nose of Demon Ancestor and the strongest formation on the entire continent.

The Imperial Demon Scepter was the poof of the Black Lightning Tribe's sovereignty on the Demon Race, and without it, there would be no ruler, at least not a powerful one.

Because the Imperial Demon Scepter held the secret cultivation art that only a generation ruler could learn, and that secret art was so magical that it couldn't be recorded on anything or taught verbally.

The Imperial Demon Scepter also had another most important function and held the Imperial Family's core secret.

If it was lost, then the demon race won't have the capital to challenge the Devils!

That was, the Imperial Demon Scepter was protected within the safety of Demon Temple and always under the watchful eye of Demon Ancestor!

But now, somehow, it got stolen, and the watchman blamed the workers for the blunder he caused himself.

Yet, they didn't even have the guts to refute it.

Demon Emperor quickly took out a crystal chessboard, and with a thought, the entire chessboard suddenly turned black.

"Every formation has been activated, and I'm going to issue a Black Imperial Order. No one would be able to leave unless we found that degenerate who scheme against our imperial family!" The Demon Emperor menacingly uttered as he activated different traps with the chessboard.

"H-husband!" At this moment, the Demon Empress's horrified shrill ring, like she saw a ghost, startled both the Demon Ancestor and Demon Emperor.

"What?!" Demon Emperor quickly asked with a hint of concern.

"L-look... the t-temple... something is emerging on the Demon Temple!" She exclaimed in a dreadful voice.

Both Demon Emperor and Demon Ancestor instinctively twisted their necks to see the Demon Temple.

Although it was night, they were all existences with extremely high cultivation bases, and they could see as clear as day, especially the Demon Ancestor.

Right under the eye of those three top experts of the demon race, a white color suddenly materialized on the demon temple's black walls. It was simply too eye-catching.

Soon that white color turned into a massive owl symbol, and there were eye-catching words on its thousands of feet long wings.

On the upper wing was a name,

"Sky Stealer!"

On the lower wing was a string of imposing factful words filled with arrogance and mirth, which sent shivers to those three terrifying existences.

"Thief is Destined for Greatness!"

Soon those words will be going to reverberate in the entire world like a thunderstorm and appear in everyone's nightmares!

[End of the Third Volume: Thief is Destined for Greatness!]

[AN: I hope everyone likes this volume about Ace's journey on the Demon Continent and accumulating treasures... ahem, I mean thievish experience. It also opened the gateway for the world stage for Sky Stealer and the Thief House Members. Which will also be the next title of the [Fourth Volume: Thief vs World]

### [Eternal Thief](#)

#### **Chapter 585: Final Assessment: Grand!**

Ace flew or teleported for fifteen minutes, using 152 Space Step Talismans, and was now at the outskirts of the Imperial Domain.

He had crafted 231 Space Step Talismans with all the materials he had, and this entire theft cost him over 23 million thief points just for a mere chance to get the elemental orb.

But the grin on his face was evident that he didn't regret it!

The pressure of Demon Ancestor had already vanished because of the altitude, and the distance Ace had managed to pull with the help of space step talismans. But he knew he wasn't out of the danger zone yet, not by a long shot.

First, his owl wings would only last for 14 more minutes, and he had to land before he fell to his death. From this height, he would be turned into mush no matter what he does.

Second, he could see the white color thief symbol from this height, and he knew those demons now wanted to hack him into millions of pieces, if not billion since he had sullied their sacred building.

If he had a choice, he would prefer not to imprint his thief symbol on that building at all, but he knew the system would rather give him another impossible mission.

Last but not least, he had to leave the demon continent as fast as he could before the demon in the imperial domain was done with their search of the imperial domain.

And after he discovered that terrifying existence hiding within the demon temple and he had stolen something very important like the Imperial Demon Scepter, that existence will not sit idle anymore.

Truth be told, he wasn't confident in hiding from that existence even if he broke through to a higher realm. It was his gut feeling. So, he didn't want to stay on the continent while that kind of existence was after him, and it was now personal!

The only advantage Ace had was the imperial domain was cut off by the rest of the continent, and only the most loyal demons lived there, so they would not spread the news of this utter humiliation, or all their prestige will go down the drain.

So, they won't make it too obvious, but they won't hinder them either.

That's why Ace has to desert the Demon Continent.

As for his last chain mission, he will leave it to time for now.

At this moment, Ace saw the mist surrounding the imperial domain, which also meant he was close to the Royal Demon Nation.

But his eyes contracted when he saw a small silhouetted a few thousand meters below his altitude; even though it was dark, he could clearly see it because of shimmering symbols below its feet and a brightly lit formation plate in its hand.

'They react too fast!' Ace expression grimace.

This demon was clearly here to guard this perimeter, and this person was too strong for him because only Law Awareness Realm cultivators could fly!

The only comfort was he was far above the other party's capability of flying, but Ace needed to start descending soon unless he wanted to die tragically.

So, he knew he couldn't be stingy with space step talismans anymore. He needed to use them quickly to leave the imperial domain.

Gritting his teeth, he started to teleport again!

The person holding the formation plate suddenly looked above at the cloudy sky, 'It must be my imagination. How could someone fly above the Demon Temple? It was created 200 meters higher than the flying altitude capacity of an 8th-realm cultivator.

'That damn thief couldn't be so high above, or the formation would've already alerted His Majesty!'



This demon ground his teeth as it looked toward the demon temple, which now had a white thief symbol with eyes full of abhorrence!

He couldn't help but roar in a fury, "Damnable thief, you can't escape!"

After using 20 more space talismans, Ace could finally see the end of that mist, and his face was ashen because of the altitude as well as the Qi exhaustion caused by the dark owl wings.

Because the Dark Owl Wings used his Soul Qi and Martial Qi simultaneously, this experience wasn't good. On the contrary, his vast Qi reserve was just enough to buy him 30 minutes of flight.

But Ace didn't know the altitude he was on was also affecting him. If he hadn't gone through the heavenly punishment torture, he would've passed out long ago, much less enduring the pressure of the Demon Ancestor and flying at this altitude for over 18 minutes.

The space steps talismans play the most significant role in all this because Ace wasn't flying on his own but teleporting and only exposed for a moment or two.

Seeing the safe zone arrive, he used five more talismans to decent and save himself some Qi to move forward.

When he was only a thousand meters above the ground level, he felt much better and right at this moment.

'Rumble...'

Thunder started to flash on the clouds, and raindrops poured like mad all of a sudden as if the sky was crying.

Ace sneered wryly, "Not going up there again anytime soon." But his eyes suddenly turned sharper as he vowed, "But one day, I'll explore the stars and heavenly secrets up there."

After seeing the beauty from up there and the countless stars, which were even higher than he had imagined, he was now even more curious about what was up there and if the next heaven was within that ocean of stars.

He was always curious about the starry sky, and his ambition was no longer just the Mortal Sky Heaven.

Ace didn't know when it happened, but his goal had long changed from Mortality to Heavenly. He wanted to explore the heavenly secrets because, without them, he would be dead eventually since he was the Eternal Enemy of Heaven!

He was no longer the scrawny, naïve kid from the River Flower City anymore. He was now the elusive thief, Sky Stealer of Golden Sky Word!

Soon, Ace's feet touched the ground, and he had never felt better before.

"System disable these wings." He commanded with exhaustion written all over his deadly pale face.

[Dark Owl Wings has been disabled!]

-Dark Owl Wings (Initial)

-Description: Able to summon Wings of Dark Owl!

-Ability: Fly

-Status: Cooldown

-Time: 167:59:59

The ethereal black wings suddenly vanished with a small burst, and Ace felt even more mentally and physically light.

His attire suddenly started to change into a noble blue attire, and he took the face of Fiery Demon he once copied as Archie.

Ace headed directly south in the stormy rain, but he had to be careful while traveling the Demonic Academia Region.

He would be fine if he didn't encounter or step into the four demon institutes' territories. But it would still take him months to reach his destination, and he knew the Imperial Domain soon realized he was long gone.

So, they will start a continent-wide manhunt, and this time, they won't miss a single stone unturned!

That's why to make his journey less dangerous. He was going to cross the Black Mountain Ranges.

It was the most dangerous forbidden zone of the Demon Continent and the source of the mysterious Black River of the Demon Continent.

But it was far safer than those powerful demons on his tail, especially that mysterious expert of Demon Temple.

Lastly, Ace wanted to cross the Black Mountain Range because the chaotic part of the Endless Sea was right on its other side and closest to the three forbidden countries.

He still had to fetch Winter, or that woman would nag him to death if he dared to leave her, and that place was also the only place where he could summon the heavenly punishment and breakthrough without getting noticed.

"Notification Panel." While moving, Ace finally got the chance to see the notifications he received after the Thief Farewell Note.

What he saw made his eyes flash with ecstasy!

[The Job Mission has been completed!]

-Job 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!

Status: Complete

Final Assessment: Grand

-Mission Reward:

Mission Reward: Intermediate Thief Symbol has been unlocked!

[Intermediate Thief Symbol: Devil Horn Dark Owl]

[Open Thief Panel to continue]

-Extra Reward(s): Grand

1. New Summoning Symbol Ability

[Open Thief Panel to continue]

2. Low-Grade Epiphany Pill: 1

-Description: Consumer will fall into an Epiphany for 60 minutes.

3. Intermediate Item Upgrade Token: 1

-Decreptitation: Upgrade any Treasure purchased from the System Shop by 2 Grades.

4. New Thief Title has been unlocked!

[Thief Title: Grand Theft (Initial)]

-Grand Theft (Initial): Acquired an [Assessment Grade: Grand]!

-Title Effect: Any Theft of [Assessment Grade: Grade] will automatically result in a 2X Reward!

### Eternal Thief

#### **Chapter 586: Wallow in Despair!**

Ace was astonished when he saw the new assessment grade, which was clearly above the Satisfactory Grade or even higher. And when he saw the extra rewards given to him because of this grade, he was even more shocked.

Especially when he saw the description of the Intermediate Item Upgrade Token and couldn't help but swallow hard when he thought about one of the chain mission rewards having three such tokens!

Lastly, the new title will increase his rewards if the System deems he has performed a Grand Theft.

Ecstatic, Ace almost forget about his exhaustion. As for the new thief symbol, he wasn't too optimistic about it since it would only change the symbol's appearance.

But he was more interested in the new ability, and he quickly opened the thief panel and hoped this new ability would be as helpful as the Dark Owl Wings.

[Thief Panel]

[Job [NOT Changeable]: Thief]

[Thief Name: Sky Stealer]

[Thief Rank: Deft Thief]

-Thievery Required for next Rank:

-Low: 10,000 Thieveries

-Middle: 1,000 Thieveries

-High: 100 Thieveries

[Thievery Count Section]

-Low-level Thievery(s): 0

-Middle-level Thievery(s): 2

-High-level Thievery(s): 0

[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!]

-Grand Theft (Initial)

[Initial Stage: Acquired an Assessment Grade: Grand!]

[Title Effect: Any Theft of [Assessment Grade: Grade] will automatically result in 2X Reward!]

[Thief Symbol: Devil Horn Dark Owl]

-Summoning Symbol Ability(s): 2 (New)

1. Devil Horn Dark Owl Wings (Intermediate)

-Description: Able to summon Wings of Devil Horn Dark Owl!

-Ability: Fly

-Limit: 15 Minutes

-Cooldown: 14 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!]

## 2. Devi's Horn (Intermediate)

-Description: Able to summon Horns of Devil Horn Dark Owl!

-Ability: Undetectable Stealth in Mortal Sky Heaven!

-Limit: 1 Minute

-Cooldown: 30 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!]

[Thief Fame: Worldwide (1-Star)]

[Job Mission: 0]

Ace was surprised for a moment when he saw his flying ability had been upgraded. He nearly forgot about this fact.

However, the flying duration had been cut by half, and the cooldown period had been doubled. He didn't need to ask why it was happening since his ability had upgraded from initial to intermediate, and so did its power. The toll it would take on his body had also significantly increased. He never thought it was his last time using the fly ability of Dark Owl.

But when he saw the newly unlocked ability, he halted in his steps and looked at the ability with widened eyes as if he had seen a ghost. After making sure he didn't see things, he laughed out loud.

"Hahahaha... invisible beads, this is having an unlimited supply of invisible beads!" He almost wanted to try it but suppressed his excitement because the time limit was only a minute and the cooldown period was a whole month.

Nevertheless, this ability was a huge boon and his biggest life-saving trump card. His furious laughter was completely justifiable.

Ace always longed for invisible beads, and he still had one. It was his biggest trump card, but the black-hearted System never sold them again in the shop.

Yet, now he had the same ability as an invisible bead. He never thought he would get such an ability.

But still, he didn't let the mirth get the better of him and quickly calmed down. His grin covered almost all of his face.

"System, it seemed you have a heart after all." He grinned ear to ear even though he was ignored like usual, but he didn't mind.

Lastly, Ace sent his consciousness to the thief's space. He instantly noticed the addition of a new item which was lying in the middle of the storage ring wall.

Cyrus was completely nonchalant about it and sleeping conformably on Page 09. The little guy spent most of his time sleeping since he didn't have anything to do, albeit he didn't mind.

Ace also ignored the little chick since his attention was affixed to a two-meter-long translucent crystalline pole. On top of this pole was a golden crown made with beautiful gemstones, and within this crown was imbedded a palm size, purple orb, crackling in purple lightning.

It was the Imperial Demon Scepter, and the purple orb on top of this scepter was the Lightning Elemental Orb!

Ace's eyes shone with ecstasy when he saw the orb was finally in his possession, but he didn't dare to take it out since the demon race might have some way to measure its location.

Furthermore, Ace was getting a very dangerous feeling from this scepter, and he didn't want to touch it. This was probably a very important treasure of the demon race and was bound to have deadly restrictions.

So, he'll let the System deal with it when he starts the absorption process. But it wasn't the right time to start the breakthrough or the place.

Moreover, according to System's warning, this heavenly punishment will be going to be absolutely a nightmare after he formed the Qi sea instead of the Qi river, so he needed to be at his peak condition.

In high spirits and more confident in himself, Ace continued his traveling while his soul Qi was slowly recovering. He was planning to use one Qi while letting the other recover and then switch again.

It was the advantage of having two types of Qi at once!

The stormy night passed as the bright golden light of the sun illuminated the entire imperial domain. But the storm seemed to only start in the Imperial Domain.

The entire domain was shimmering within all kinds of formation barriers as puppet servants were kneeling listlessly on their places when they were last night.

Powerful demon figures stood in the sky, guarding the Imperial Domain's boundaries. It was simply an impenetrable prison now.

On the top of Demon Temple, the giant figure of Demon Ancestor appeared right where the mysterious black sword was impaled.

The next moment, something unimaginable happened. One of the most powerful experts of the Golden Sky World, the Demon Ancestor, fell on his knees and prostrated in front of the mysterious black sword!

His raspy ancient voice was exempt from any arrogance and filled with imploration as he pleaded, "Oh mighty Sword of God Baphomet, I beseech you for guidance! The Key had been stolen by a Thief named Sky Stealer, who profaned your sacred temple no less.

"Please show your guidance to this lowly subject of yours, show your splendor to the entire Demon Race once again, and punish that defiler who wanted to harm your thralls and end your inimitable faith!"

He then banged his head giant head in front of the mysterious black sword, making the floor quiver with the impact.

"End Baphomet faith, you assumed, profaned Baphomet temple you accused. Yet, what I see is the incompetence of a thrall who had lost its way because there is no one holding the leash." An ethereal voice suddenly rang, filled with mockery.

The Demon Ancestor's entire body fluttered when he heard those scornful words.

The ethereal voice continued, "The Key was given to your race for a keepsake, yet you used it to empower your lineage and prolong your insignificant, worthless life. Oh, insignificant speck of dust, answer me if you are here because you're worried about your God's faith or worry about you'll die in 50 years without the Key and your lineage will perish?"

The Demon Ancestor's body trembled even more as if the owner of this ethereal voice completely saw through his intentions.

He quickly tried to explain, "N-no, I live to serve mighty God Baphomet and protect the immeasurable one's faith. I know I have crossed my boundary, but...."

"Ah, insignificant one, I'm not blaming you, nor I'm interested in your worthless reasons. Everything has a consequence, and your consequence is to wallow in despair." The ethereal voice emotionlessly stated before it stopped altogether. It no longer seemed to care about the Demon Ancestor.

Even after Demon Ancestor begged, the voice no longer replied. A hint of madness surfaced in the Demon Ancestor's hidden eyes as he left, filled with helplessness and full of mad resolve.

Afterward, the peak of the demon temple returned to its tranquil state, but suddenly a mumbling could be heard in an unknown language.

First, it sounds like chants, but in actuality, it was filled with disbelief and horror.

"Heaven's Stealer, that was a freaking living Heaven's Stealer, everyone is doom, doom...!"

## **[Eternal Thief](#)**

### **Chapter 587: Black Mountain Range**

The Imperial Demon Domain incident was completely under-wraps, just as Ace suspected. As a result, this news and the entry to the domain were closed off.

However, after three days of the foray, the entire demon content experienced an absolute lockdown.

Powerful demons from the Imperial Demon Council started spreading on the entire continent, and everything was again related to the elusive thief Sky Stealer.

Yet, this time, the search wasn't just a search anymore. It was simply a massacre!

Because if a city, town, village, or even a prominent clan fell under the suspicion of the Imperial Demon Council, they would be slaughtered to the last men. The demons no longer care about the aftermath. It was like they had gone insane for the thief.

No protest, no complaint, not even a plea was allowed. Whether they were from eight provinces or the royal demon nation, whoever did so, was detained and killed without mercy!

Even Grand Demon Dukes, who seldom made public appearances, was also part of this search force.

Naturally, this action of the demon won't go unnoticed by the two devil envoys, who are baffled by this sudden change in the demon race's attitude.

It was like the demon continent was at war with its own people, but the only difference was no one could resist!

Today, Raul and Ralph were escorted by the Sixth Demon Elder to this obscure underground passage somewhere in the Royal Demon Nation.

Truth be told, Raul and Ralph were quite wary of demons after they started their mad slaughter, and no matter how much they inquired, the Sixth Demon Elder won't tell them what happened.

The Fourth Demon Elder left long ago, joining the mad search for the elusive thief.

Both Devil Envoy wanted to leave the Demon Continent, but today they were summoned by the Demon Emperor to this place.

They had no choice but to comply since Sixth Demon Elder was not inviting them.

Still, they were envoys of the devil race, and Ralph was one of the pillars of the Devil Race, so unless Demons were gone bonkers, they wouldn't harm them.

Yet, Raul and Ralph were still prepared. If push comes to shove, they won't hesitate to use their life-saving means to flee.

The Sixth Demon Elder led them to a 10-meter large stone door, and when he placed his hand, the stone door slowly opened.

The Sixth Demon Elder gestured toward the opened door and coldly uttered, "Please, His Majesty is waiting for you. I'll be staying right here."

Ralph looked deeply at Sixth Demon Elder before nodding, "Thank you for the trouble."

He then signaled Raul to follow him. Raul wasn't as calm as his brother about this situation, but he knew better than to antagonize demons now. So, he followed his brother's lead.

The stone door was closed as they entered, and after walking a long corridor, they finally appeared in a bright grand hall.

However, they both didn't have time to look around because they were shocked when they saw the giant masked figure sitting on a pitch-black throne.



Ralph had a terrible proposition about the identity of this giant individual. Still, he didn't dare to believe it because this existence should not bother him with worldly matters anymore, much less meeting them in such a place.

Demon Ancestor coolly spoke in his raspy voice, "My brethren, from afar, I need you to contact your Ancestor. Unfortunately, he's not responding to my communication. I guess he's in either seclusion or he is simply ignoring me.

"I reckon with his vexed personality. It is the latter case. Nevertheless, this matter is pressing. Tell him, 'Key is lost,' and he'll contact me!"

Demon Ancestor's tone was mild as if he was talking to his juniors, but there was absolute authority and manic hidden within, which sent goosebumps to the devil brothers!

At nighttime, on the outskirts of the Black Mountain Demon Institute,

Ace looked at the radiant barrier covering the area in front with a grim expression. Not only that, but there were rows of Demon soldiers blocking the perimeter.

He never thought demons would react so quickly that they completely blocked every possible way out of the continent—especially the paths toward the forbidden zones.

The Black Mountain Range was on the rear of the Black Mountain Demon Institute, and if it were any normal time, there wouldn't be anyone out there, much less a barrier and soldiers.

This showed just how serious demons were.

He nearly got caught when he was heading this way by a peak soul realm cultivator scanning the area with a powerful formation from where he was coming. He ends up using the space step talisman to escape from that formation.

He was pretty sure even if he showed his demon face, they wouldn't let him go since he was wandering in this barren region. The disguise was pretty much useless in this situation where these demons were suspecting everyone.

Even for Ace, this time, it was almost impossible to escape. Almost...

But he had the Space Step Heavenly Talisman, and as long as they didn't conjure up a space-locking array, he was as uncatchable as before.

He still has over 50 talismans left, and he knew they would be his trump card to leave these blockades and the continent without a scratch.

Even if something goes wrong, he now has Devi's Horn thief symbol summoning ability.

Ace then quickly used the heavenly talisman and appeared on the other side of the blockade and vanished in the wilderness as those guards had no idea; someone just passed their blockade with a single talisman which wasn't even a grade talisman!

Afterward, Ace didn't encounter any more blockades since this region was under the Black Mountain Demon Institute. They also had every formation active to find Ace if he dared to enter this region.

Ace suddenly stopped a hundred meters away from a mountain ridge.

His expression turned ashen when he saw the fate map showing that area as a black fate location!

'Do I have to climb this steep mountain?' Ace looked at the hundreds of meters tall black mountain dyed red on the fate map.

Although it was still dangerous, it wasn't deadly.

He knew on the other side of this ridge was the entrance to the Black Mountain Range as well as the Institute location. He planned to cross this ridge and then vanish within the maze of mountains, but it seemed the entrance was guarded by a powerful formation.

So, he had to take the detour, which was a steep climb. Or he could simply use his new wings or even a talisman. But he didn't want to waste any of them unless absolutely necessary.

Ace goes miles in the south and but the red fate color still hasn't vanished. He mused that it might be the case for all of the Black Mountain Range since it was the most dangerous forbidden zone on the continent.

Nevertheless, he still had to be careful and complete this climb as quickly as possible.

After making sure there wasn't anyone around, something shot from Ace's right sleeve toward the top of the steep black mountain like a piercing arrow.

It was the Thievish Soul Cord!

When the edge of Thievish Soul Cord reached its peak, it suddenly changed its shape into a harpoon, and the next moment, it pierced right into the mountain!

Ace smiled contently since he was the one controlling the Thievish Soul Cord with his thoughts. This cord was simply too magic, and the size control and shape control wasn't its only functions.

It could bind anyone, rendering their cultivation useless. It doesn't matter if they're martial or soul cultivators.

Furthermore, this cord was a deadly weapon, and as long as he learned the Thievish Soul Cord Control Secret Skill to full mastery, he would be a disaster to his enemies.

With a thought, the soul cord suddenly started to shrink at a fast pace, and Ace was running on the steep mountain thereby.

Ace was on top of the cliff within a minute as the cord vanished into his sleeve. Behind him was a vast mountain range surrounded by clouds, and some peaks were so high they were hidden under the clouds.

On the east, he could see lights and silhouettes of buildings. It was the Black Mountain Institute.

Ace suddenly sensed something as his expression turned ashen, and he activated the space step talisman and vanished from his spot.

Thereupon, a tall demon in the institute attire appeared a few meters away from where Ace was standing moments before his arrival.

A terrifying soul sense was oozing from this demon as he had a deep frown on his face.

"I just sense a presence on this cliff, but there's no one. It was like it only existed for a fleeting moment. Or was it my paranoia?" He couldn't help but smile bitterly while shaking his head, "Those damn imperials had gone completely mad, and now it even started to affect the peace of the continent and our minds!"

### [Eternal Thief](#)

#### **Chapter 588: Evil Thief's Move!**

After the vague encounter at the cliff, Ace didn't dare to let his guard down and headed deep within the black mountains.

However, after three days, he concluded that no one was overseeing this area because he hadn't encountered anyone, not even beasts. All he could see were chains of black mountains.

If his fate map weren't dyed in red, he would've believed that this place was dangerous at all.

On this day, Freya contacted him as he was resting in a well-hidden mountain cave.

"Leader Ace!" Frey's somewhat respectful voice rang in Ace's mind.

Ace felt he had heard wrong since this woman would rather tease him than show respect.

Nevertheless, he sent his consciousness into Frey's private space in Thief's House.

Her space had been converted into a half library and half rune crafter lab by her. Those books and equipment were naturally given to her by Ace.

Since she liked to collect knowledge and was a rune crafter, Ace wasn't stingy with her and let those books collecting dust put to good use.

Furthermore, Ace always wanted to create a library for House Members, so Freya was doing him a favor by doing this. If those house members wanted some knowledge, they could look for Freya.

Freya's Evil Thief Armor was now changed into a flowery pink dress revealing her seductive curves and perfect figure and her long white hair draped on her shoulders.

She looked completely breathtaking while sitting on a comfortable divan like a vivid painting, and only Ace could enjoy this view.

"What is it?" Ace coolly questioned. He wasn't someone to be tempted so easily, especially when the woman happened to be a cunning witch.

Freya's lips curled into a seductive smile before she exclaimed, "You really imprint your thief symbol on the Demon Temple?" Her eyes were filled with disbelief and awe.

"Oh? It seemed Ronan got the news. Yes, I needed something in that temple, and since I had done the deed, it won't hurt to admit it and claim the credit, right?" Ace lied through his teeth without telling her it was the System's doing.

Freya didn't deny it, "No, he wasn't told, but he was summoned back with that snake sister and brother of his. After he entered the domain, it was hard to miss that eye-catching owl and imposing words."

Her smile suddenly turned dangerous, "I have to admit, Leader, if this news spread, I don't need to take revenge at all, and the demons would die out of shame. It would be more interesting to see that happening. The high and mighty demon race left with no face, and their so-called sacred temple now become the stepping stone of Sky Stealer!"

Ace was speechless when he heard it. He almost forgot about Freya's grudge against Demons, and this method will effectively destroy the demon's prestige.

"Is that why you asked for me?" He questioned.

"This and another thing. I first wanted to notify you about this plan and gain your approval before contacting Aliya to spread the rumors." Freya revealed with a hint of an astute smile.

Ace merely chuckled with a hint of exasperation, "You have already started, don't you?"

Freya smiled charmingly, "You know me, the best Leader. Besides, I can't let your glorious deed get buried now, can I?"

"Tsk, ts, do whatever you want. But aren't you worried that Aliya might get caught by this?" Ace sneered in vexation.

Although he didn't mind, this move would make the demon race hate him even more. Right now, only the Imperial Domain knows, and this result was still not bad. However, the other races will know when the entire continent knows.

This will destroy the demon race's prestige and might even have unimaginable consequences.

Freya merely smiled and replied ambiguously, "Aliya knew how to handle herself. I have already told her to desert the continent if needed. I hope you can give her shelter in our house in the future."

Ace didn't agree or disagree, "Thief House is full right now. I might consider it according to the circumstances if there were free spots. Or there might never be a spot open, I can't guarantee anything, or you can just set her free and let her live her life happily. Is that the second matter you wanted to discuss?"

Ace had a good impression of Aliya, but this didn't mean he could let her enter the Thief House. The spots of Thief House were too crucial to Ace, and he knew he would have an extra pair of hands with every additional member.

Like Thomas, Aliya was one of the contenders for this spot.

Speaking of Thomas, Ace still had no idea if he was one of those black robe demons selected from the eight provinces. He had to stop poking his nose in this matter because it was the situation's demand.

Now, he could only hope that guy wasn't one of them, or he could always use his thief promise to let Ace know, or at least this should be how it works. But worry about him would do nothing good.

Besides, Ace had his own path and problems to worry about.

Freya's eyes flashed with helplessness. She had expected this answer. Thief House was a magical place, and she knew joining this place was completely dependent on chance and Ace's circumstances.

So, she didn't ask anymore and told him about the second matter, "No, the other thing I wanted to say to you is Ronan might've been suspected of bringing you into the Imperial Domain.

"Since you had impersonated a puppet servant of his castle, it won't be too hard to retract it back to Ronan. Although my Evil Seed is unbreakable, I don't know to what extent. I do not doubt my ability. It's just that I'm not strong enough.

"So, I suggest we get rid of him. He knows too much about us, especially about me and your private space. He had no use to us anymore, and I might drag down that snake princess with him." Killing intent shone in her eyes.

Leona rubbed Freya the wrong way because she felt she was the same as her, and she knew just how dangerous this type of person could be. That's why she wanted to kill her to save Ace and herself from future trouble.

Ace thought for a moment since he knew Freya was right, Ronan had no use, and demons were fools to no notice of the disappearance of NO.8,430.

His eyes turned cold, "Alright, get rid of him. But don't reveal your ability. Just make it look like he committed suicide. There's no need to show more than this, and Leona is no more threat to us.

"Furthermore, don't underestimate her, she is not simple, and Ronan would not be enough to get rid of her. So, instead of letting them know about the extent of your abilities, giving them a mysterious fright would be more than sufficient.

"At least, it will make us look more unfathomable and might make them give up if they think we are stronger than them." Ace coldly stated.

Freya fell in deep thought, and a refreshing smile appeared on her charming face, "Leader is indeed a Leader when it comes to scheming. I'm still lacing."

"Yeah, like I would believe that." Ace chuckled sarcastically, "Alright, if nothing else, then I'm off. I still have a long journey ahead before we get out of the demon continent."

"Alright, don't hesitate to summon us if you find yourself in trouble." Freya softly stated.

Afterward, silence filled Freya's space before the smile on her face turned into a ruthless grin.

'I always wanted to kill someone from the imperial family. I'll let them know the true despair. Evil Descent!' She instantly used her fourth ability!

The dark mist slowly enveloped her bright eyes before they turned pitch black.

Imperial Domain, just a few miles away from the inner palace.

A large carriage of the inner palace was moving at full speed toward the inner palace.

Inside this carriage were Leona, Ronan, and the Fourth Prince Cassius, as the atmosphere in the carriage was utterly gloomy and icy.

Leona was even oozing naked, killing intent as she sat in front of her two brothers.

Cassius felt he was in an icy lake and wanted to get out of there, but he knew he didn't have power or authority in front of Leona.

On the other hand, Ronan was silent all the way as if he didn't care.

At this moment, behind Ronan's mask, his eyes suddenly enveloped in a dark mist before they were entirely enshrouded in this mysterious mist.

Suddenly a dark smile appeared on Ronan's emotionless face as he looked at Leona, who was also watching him like a venomous snake.

He suddenly said, which startled both Leona and Cassius, "Don't provoke the wrath of Sky Stealer...."

The next moment, the carriage explodes!

Evil Descent

[Description: The Evil Thief could descend into an Evil Seed taking full control of its body and soul!]

[Limitation(s): Once the Evil Descent is used on an Evil Seed, the Evil Seed will be dead the moment the Evil Descent limit is over!]

[Current Time Limit: 5 Hours]

[Eternal Thief](#)

### **Chapter 589: An Epiphany**

Three months after the Imperial Demon Domain's foray, on a colossal mountain peak filled with azure winds.

A figure kneeled in front of a small adobe at this strange mountain peak.

A mild voice rang behind that door, "What is it?"

The hunchback old man in white robes, who looked like a wilted tree branch, respectfully replied, "We received an unbelievable rumor from our destination."

"If it's an unbelievable rumor, then why are you disturbing me?" The mild voice coolly asked without any hint of anger.

"Prime One, rumor is about the Thief, Sky Stealer!" The old man replied.

"Oh? Did he get captured?" The nonchalant voice suddenly showed a great interest, even anticipation.

The old man had this unexplainable expression as he hesitantly replied, "No. On the contrary, he stuck again, and this time he stole something from... Demon Temple!"

"What!" Prime One's voice rang in astonishment.

"That's why I said it was an unbelievable rumor. But it might not be so baseless since we received the reports of the demon race's strange, tyrannical behavior in these past months.

"No one knows who spread this rumor, but it had already spread through the entire continent, and other races might also know about it. Furthermore, I don't think Demons would welcome our visit anymore if they knew we had something on that thief.

"If there is even an iota of truth in this news, they might try to snatch the Icy Sword Fairy to threaten that thief to come out or even go beyond that. That thief is too important for our race's rise!" The old man stiffly stated.

At first, he didn't believe it, but he still came here to report it and state his concern.

"Hmm, this is indeed troublesome. If this concerns the Demon Temple, I'm afraid Dream Shatter won't be enough. Contact him and tell him to head toward the Blood Continent instead. He should be close at this juncture of time." Prime One's coolly commanded.

The hunchback old man's eyes widened slightly, "Are we returning the Ice Sword Fairy?"

"Heh, just give my command to Dream Shatter, and he'll know my will." Prime One merely chuckled.

"As your command Prime One!" The Hunchback Old Man respectfully bowed and then faded from his place.

The azure winds around the mountain suddenly formed an azure vortex right above the adobe.

Prime One's voice rang again, but this time it was filled with terrifying killing intent, "You can't escape. One way or another, you have to die ... Contamination!"

Deep within the Black Mountain Range,

With a frown, Ace was looking at the black ravine hundreds of meters below. The sound of raging black water reverberated in the vicinity.

If Ace wanted to cross the Black Mountain Range, he needed to travel to the other side of the ravine, but he didn't dare to because the fate map ahead was Black!

In this past month, with the help of the fate map, he had avoided terrifying demonic beasts residing in black mountains, and he finally understood why this place was a red fate location.

If someone without the Eternal Thief Fate Compass like treasure dared to tread into these mountains, they would eventually stumble upon one of those beasts' territories.

Only a Manifestation Realm Cultivator could move unhindered.

However, now that he saw the other side of the ravine, Ace thought otherwise. Manifestation Realm might not be enough after all.

Even after searching for another path forward or finding a red fate location instead of black, he failed. No matter what, it appeared he had to cross that black area where his life might be threatened. The black river below also wasn't exempt from this black fate location.

'Should I break through here and then move forward? Once I break through, the compass rank will also increase, and there are also stagnate skills. I need to break through eventually, and I might draw some terrifying existence on the other side with the punishment commotion.

'This place is far away from the royal demon nation, and most of the beasts here are soul realm... I can't put this off anymore. Besides, I want to try this new theory to deal with the heavenly punishment, and the Epiphany Pill came at the right time.' Ace's lips suddenly curled up as he looked at the sunny sky.

After making his decision, he turned around and left to find a suitable place for calling the heavenly punishment and breakthrough.

It was a rare chance for Ace to prepare before starting the heavenly punishment since, in his last two breakthroughs, he had no choice but to activate the punishment to save his life while putting it in an even more dangerous situation.

However, now, he wasn't in any danger, and he had been planning this for a long time. From the day he found out that his bloodline was sealed by someone and he needed to endure heavenly punishment to unseal it, he was not going to hide behind Page-09 anymore.

The Epiphany Pill was a miraculous pill that could let him enter the state of Epiphany, which was called the fabled State of Wonders in some books. He never thought the system had such a thing for reward as well.

He wanted to use the power of the Epiphany Pill to enter the state of Epiphany and wanted to see if he could create some wonder with it.

Ace found a secluded mountain, created a large hole just big enough to hold a demon, and then set up multiple formations around it.

Afterward, he sat cross-legged, cleared his mind, and recovered for an hour.

At this moment, Ace flipped his hand, and an ethereal white pill appeared, just staring at it made Ace somewhat dazzle. Furthermore, he couldn't feel the pill or its scent. It was like he wasn't holding anything.

It was the Low-Grade Epiphany Pill!

Ace took a deep breath before he threw the pill into his mouth, and it instantly melted into a white wisp.

Ace felt his mind being pulled into a strange state as the connection to his surrounding completely cut off. It was like taking an insight pill, but he was feeling... free this time.

While talking insight pill, he could only think of the skill he wanted to increase its rank, but the Epiphany Pill was completely different. He could mull over anything!

Not only that, but he felt some strange power was helping him understand problems he was never able to.



Ace felt if he could enter this state for a long time, he might cultivate all his skills and even laws to a terrifying degree!

All kinds of notions started coming to him, but he focused on three things.

First, the Law of [Despair]. Second, the first level of Sky Sword, the Sky Sword Core Creation, and third, the Black Lightning God Manual, which was the cultivation technique of the Black Lightning Imperial Demon Family.

These three things covered almost all the aspects Ace had, and the cultivation art he wanted to create, which could help him against the heavenly punishment lightning could only be created with these three things.

After taking the Epiphany Pill, it became apparent!

Although he only remembered the Sky Sword Core Creation to its Early Stage, it was still as complex as his Dual Shadow Swords Basic Technique.

Time pass at a breakneck pace for Ace in that magical state. Minute by minute, Ace was having all kinds of simulations within his mind.

An hour passed, but Ace still hadn't awakened from the Epiphany despite the fact that the pill's effect got exhausted. Somehow Ace fell into an even deeper state of Epiphany!

Epiphany was a very mysterious state, sometime it would only take a moment to fall into such a state unknowingly, and sometimes, even a lifetime won't be enough.

Although the Epiphany Pill only works for an hour, the time could be increased if the pill consumer had a heaven-defying talent or simply too profound of an inspiration. Ace was a both!

At this moment, he had completely forgotten about himself and anything around him. His whole mind was focused on creating that imaginary cultivation art that could help him cross the heavenly punishment.

Just like that, without even Ace realizing it, a week passed, then a month, as he remained stoic like a statue.

2 months... 3 months... 5 months...

Today a strange dark mist oozed from Ace as it gave the feeling of sharp despair, it was like despair had manifested upon Ace's body, but his expression remained stoic.

The black mist also didn't seem to harm him. On the contrary, the dark mist suddenly started to seep from the black mountain where Ace was sitting, and that dark mist somehow got annexed within the mist oozing from his body, and it started to grow!

Soon, more mist drew from the black mountains and ignored the formations. They started to become part of the growing mist around Ace.

One month passed since the black mist started to gather around Ace, and the small mountain was now wholly enshrouded in that mist!

## Eternal Thief

### **Chapter 590: Opportunity or Disaster?**

One month passed since the black mist started to gather around Ace, and the small mountain was now completely enshrouded in that mist!

At this moment, black lightning suddenly shimmered over Ace's body and spread in the black mist. However, it didn't vanish as it continuously circulated within the black mist.

Thereby, in front of Ace's chest, the dark lightning-filled mist started to gather into a tiny ball without stopping.

All that mist accumulated within this sixth month was now gathering in front of Ace, condensing a pitch-black mist ball as its size slowly grew.

Soon, all the black mist was condensed into a three inches ball, which looked black then black as it hovered in front of Ace.

At this moment, Ace's eyelids snapped open as they shone with despair lightning as he looked at the small black ball emotionlessly.

He suddenly flipped his hand, and his black blade swords appeared. The next moment, the black blades of those swords suddenly shone in a shadow-like sheen before they continued to grow deeper and deeper as those blades look they were made of ethereal shadows.

It was no longer the Half-Sword Sword Intent but the complete Shadow Sword Intent!

Ace has completely grasped the Dual Shadow Swords Basic Technique in his six months of epiphany!

However, Ace looked oblivious to this as he suddenly raised his sword and impaled it into the black ball. The ball trembled, threatening to explode, but in the end, it remained stable.

Then something unexpected happened; the impaled sword didn't pierce through the black ball, but part of it vanished within the ball, and as Ace pushed the short sword, it continued to get absorbed into that black ball until not even its hilt was left.

It was like the short sword was completely devoured by the small ball.

Ace mumbled at this moment while placing his left hand a few centimeters above the black ball.

"Honesty is not my nature; my sword path is not the path of honor. My path is thievish. Then my sword path shall be thievish and filled with darkness. Soul Thief Sword Core, condense!"

Orange Heavenly Soul Qi suddenly gushed out of Ace's hand and poured over the black ball like a waterfall as it devoured it like a chasm.

As a massive amount of soul Qi got absorbed, the black ball suddenly started to shake, and all of a sudden, a slit appeared in the center of the black ball, and the next moment it turned into two halves!

Strangely, the soul Qi now only got absorbed by the left half while the right half was completely dormant.

Ace's complexion started to pale as more heavenly soul Qi got consumed by the half-black ball, but he remained expressionless, like he wasn't aware of it. His entire focus was on the half-black ball.

Right at this moment, the half-black ball basked in heavenly soul Qi started to twist, and shockingly, it started to shrink as it became thinner until it was shaped into a short blade!

Soon, the half-black ball was completely gone and in its place appeared a tiny short sword that looked exactly the same as Ace's short sword, which got devoured by the black ball!

Ace didn't even flinch, and with soul Qi, he started to move that small sword which was only 1-inch, towards his glabella.

The small sword didn't resist as it followed Ace's lead, and soon it was a centimeter away from piercing Ace's skull, but he didn't stop as he continued to push it toward his glabella.

Just as it was about to touch his skin, an orange sheen shone on Ace's glabella, and the sword got absorbed into his true soul!

Ace's body started to tremble as he felt piercing pain in his true soul, threatening to cut his soul part.

Within his true soul, it was currently trembling as a small sword was hovering toward the orange soul core.

The Enteral Thief Fate Compass was majestically revolving above the orange soul core like a protective shield.

"I hope, Sir, Ace knows what he's doing is pure madness with his current strength." Moira's worried voice rang within the true soul, but she didn't dare to disturb Ace with his current state.

When the small sword reached above the soul core and the compass, it stopped without having any intention of moving from its spot.

Soul Qi suddenly gushed out from the orange soul core, and after bypassing the compass, it directly engulfed the black sword.

The trembling true soul startled to calm down.

Outside, Ace had blood trickling down from the corner of his lips, but he didn't seem to plan on stopping.

After the stabbing pain was subdued, he then moved his long sword toward the remaining half of the black ball.

Just like the short sword, it was completely devoured by the half-black ball. He then placed his right hand over it.

He stated in a hoarse voice, "Fighting in light is for Hero, not for a Thief in darkness. I'll rather be the coward who only draws his sword out of selfishness than a hero in light who draws his sword for guarding. Martial Thief Sword Core, condense!"

Thereby, Heavenly Martial Qi gushed out of his hand and started to get devoured by the half-black ball.

Like before, Ace's expression went paler and paler as this half absorbed even more Qi than the other. It might have something to do with the sword's size.

After absorbing 90% of Ace's martial Qi, the half-ball finally started to twist and shrink as it began to reshape in Ace's long sword.

When only 5% Qi was left, the condensing was finally finished as a three-inch-long sword hovered in front of Ace.

Without wasting any time, he then controlled and moved it toward his solar plexus, where his martial space lies.

Like the true soul, a dark sheen appeared when the sword was about to pierce into Ace's skin, absorbing the sword into his martial space.

Ace's marital space, which should be a calm dark sea, was almost empty because of the Qi consumption.

On the other hand, the Dark Void was completely static in its position.

The long sword slowly approached the Dark Void, and when it was above it, it also stopped.

The little bit of dark water within Qi sea started to stir as it suddenly became a small water tornado and directly engulfed the sword core.

Ace was now deadly pale, but he knew he had almost succeeded, and as long as he could take this last step, he would succeed!

Ace had just established a foundation for something no one might have imagined before. He also knew he had a very short window if he wanted to have any chance of succession.

"I'm sending you two out!" His cold voice suddenly rang into the thief's house.

Without giving Noa or Freya any chance to question or care about whatever they were doing, he forcibly threw them out, and they appeared while holding their weapons.

They thought Ace was in trouble since he would never throw them out like this. They almost believed him when they saw blood trickling from his mask's edge.

However, there wasn't any aura around them, and they appeared outside a hollow mountain hole. There were even formations activated which made them bewildered.

"What happened?" Freya frowned her brows as the dark grimoire hovered in front of her.

"Leader, are you alright?" On the other hand, Noa was emitting killing intent when she saw Ace's blood. She had never seen Ace getting hurt before.

Ace didn't have time to explain since he had never expected this kind of situation himself, but he knew this chance might never come again.

"Don't ask. I don't have much time left. The 'Goddess Trial' is about to decent. I'll give you 1-minute to leave as far as you can and never stop running until you are no longer in the range of the trail.

"You'll know what I'm about when things start. No matter what happened or what you see, do not approach my trial, or you'll die if you interfere.

"All I want is for you to take me away from here if I was unconscious when the trial is over and hide in these mountains. Don't cross the river, no matter what. Wait for my awakening. Take Cyrus with you!"

Both women were flabbergasted by Ace's gloomy explanation. Nothing was making sense.

The next moment, Cyrus appeared in Ace's palm. He was clearly sleeping and was jolted awake when he appeared outside and looked around curiously, and his tiny eyes stopped at Ace.

"Who hurt you?" He asked as a fiery aura suddenly released from its tiny body

"Just follow your sister Freya. She'll tell you." He sternly ordered before he placed the small guy in front of Freya.

'Cough...'

Ace suddenly coughed blood as his face became ashen. Both Qis were almost exhausted, and it was time!