

Thief 591

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 591: Dark-Gold Despair Thunder!

They were even more shocked at Ace's puking blood as the mask on his face dropped, making his ashen complexion surface in everyone's worrying view.

"What is going on here?" Freya felt something extremely wrong, but she still picked up small Cyrus, who seemed to be even more confused than them.

"Here, take this storage ring. Now, go! I'll explain after this is all over. Run at your full speed!" Ace yelled in a cold voice as he tossed a storage ring toward Noa.

"You better explain it!" Freya had no choice but to obey since she could tell

Noa looked deeply at Ace with worried eyes as she caught the ring, but she didn't hesitate to leave since if it involved the goddess, they could do nothing but watch.

Ace then took out all the remaining Qi recovery pills he had bought from the System in the past and consumed them all, making his expression somewhat better.

After enduring for almost five minutes, his cold voice transmitted into his mind at this moment, "System, filled the remaining cap of Soul Points and started the absorption process of lightning orb!"

Although the circumstances were not what he had expected, he knew this was a heaven-defying opportunity. So, he sent those three out just in case he went unconscious after this whole ordeal.

Heavenly Punishment will alert many existences in these mountains, or even demons might investigate. But with those three working together, they will not be much to worry about.

Especially Cyrus, who could suppress others' bloodlines like it was nothing.

The next moment, the soul materials from his thief's space vanished, and a massive amount of soul Qi entered his true soul.

The System's notification also started to buzz in his mind.

[All requirements for the next realm breakthrough have been fulfilled!]

[Process of absorbing Nature's Lightning Elemental Orb has begun!]

[The Third [Heavenly Punishment of Body and Soul] will start in ten seconds!]

[Warning: The Heavenly Punishment will descend during the process of absorption. It will be immediately stopped if the host faints or loses consciousness during the process. Thereby, the host will die!]

At this moment, the scepter in the thief's space suddenly started to tremble violently as if it was gripped by something and wanted to free itself.

The purple lightning orb also shimmered with dangerous lightning, but it was completely suppressed by this invisible force.

Right at this moment, runes suddenly started to appear on the scepter staff, and the crown holding the orb also revealed a pitch-black barrier encasing the orb, which was invisible before.

Yet, cracks started to appear on this barrier before it blasted like glass, revealing the orb again.

However, the scepter suddenly shrank, leaving the orb and three things on the floor.

A black jade scroll, a black crystal key, and a cracked black formation plate.

Ace, who was paying attention to the orb, was startled when he saw the scepter falling apart like this. But he didn't have time as the purple color element essential of the lighting orb started to gush out.

The System's voice rang at this moment,

[The Third Heavenly Punishment [Golden Despair Thunder] has been detected!]

[Warning: The Heavenly Punishment sensed Host's Qi Sea!]

[Warning: The Heaven is angry!]

[Warning: The Heavenly Punishment has been strengthened!]

[Strengthened Heavenly Punishment: Dark-Gold Despair Thunder!]

[System recommends finding an isolated place, or the Heavenly Punishment will annihilate all the living in a 10-mile radius around the host!]

Ace's eyes shone hysterically when he read those new warning notifications which had never appeared before.

'Heaven is angry, huh?' Ace sneered coldly.

Despite struggling against that piercing pain in body and soul, he was full of fighting spirit.

"Rumbleeee..."

An explosive voice fell into Ace's ears, almost making him deaf. Heaven had announced its thunderous arrival!

All the treasures on his body vanished since he didn't want them to get destroyed.

Freya, Noa, and Cyrus, still a little bit away from crossing the 10-mile mark, felt their bodies numb as their hearts palpated.

A deadly pressure started to descend, crushing over their bodies.

"T-this? What is happening?!" Freya was pale.

"Rumbleeee..."

As if her question was answered by heaven itself, the pressure started to intensify as those two women's speed significantly plummeted, and they were now crawling forward!

The night sky started to turn pitch black at this moment with pitch-black thunderclouds. They came out of nowhere.

Cyrus, who was sitting over Freya's shoulder, looked up with a fearful expression while the two women were busy gathering their strength to escape this pressure.

But they were both feeling helpless as that pressure kept getting stronger and stronger as if it wanted to lock them into their places.

Ace's ambiguous words came into their mind, 'Goddess Trial!'

Just what kind of trial was this?

A huge rumbling of thunder sounded from above at this moment, almost making the entire ground shine in pale golden light for a moment.

"I'm going to use my fire, and you two have to leave in 10 seconds, or we'll all going to die!" Cyrus's voice was solemn as a memory surfaced in his mind from his bloodline.

Those two couldn't speak, but they were shocked because Cyrus sounded quite serious.

The next moment, Cyrus opened its small beak and shot sky-blue color fire, and this fire enveloped all three of them as the pressure almost vanished.

Both women felt a ghastly cold aura from that fire, but they had no time to inquire since they only had ten seconds, and they used their strongest skills to run!

The inky clouds were condescending into a lightning-filled vortex as it expanded larger and larger, revolving at an incredible pace.

Golden thunderbolts suddenly started to shoot down all over the ten-mile vicinity under the inky clouds.

At the last second, Noa and Freya managed to leave the vicinity of heavenly punishment as Cyrus retracted its fire, but the little guy looked skinny from his cute chubby self.

But its eyes were filled with fear as it looked toward the punishment clouds, "How did master offend heaven?"

"Offend heaven?" With an ashen face, Freya didn't understand what it meant as she was still busy running for her life.

However, they stopped when they were a mile away as the pressure or lightning no longer affected them. They finally got the chance to see the lightning vortex on the horizon.

Even their eyes felt piercing pain for some reason.

"Don't look, or you might get noticed by it!" Cyrus sternly warned in his child-like voice.

"Just what is that? Heavenly Wrath?" Noa couldn't help but ask with a deep concern for Ace.

They couldn't even stand straight under that pressure, and it was clearly here for Ace, and he was right in the center of it. They didn't dare to imagine how he could survive this or why he was even targeted by this lightning cloud.

"He didn't offend Goddess, right?" Freya's imagination runs wild.

"Bommmmm..."

Their attention was suddenly drawn by a terrifying thunder sound, and they saw a thick pillar of dark gold lightning shot down!

Ace's blood ran cold when he felt that terrifying pressure, which was a hundred times stronger than he had felt that day at the demon temple.

At this moment, the entire mountain was blasted apart as the thick pillar of dark gold lightning descent over Ace's body, completely enveloping him!

Blood-curdling lightning started to run wild all over Ace's body as it wanted to obliterate him completely.

Madness surfaced in Ace's bloodshot eyes as if he was waiting for this, he didn't take out page-09 to shield himself, but he started to absorb the lightning into his martial space.

The black sword enveloped by the Qi suddenly trembled when the dark gold lightning invaded Ace's martial space, and with Ace's will, it shot toward the lightning before it could destroy the depleted Qi sea.

The lightning also seemed to be sensing the approach of that small sword, and as if it got offended by the puny sword, it instantly attacked it.

The heavenly thunder instantly encased the pitch-black sword.

However, something completely unexpected happened. The heavenly thunder started to shrink at a terrifying speed. The sword was absorbing the heavenly thunder!

Ace instantly felt the deadly pain and despair sensation on him getting lighter as the heavenly thunder was getting absorbed in his body.

"It's a success. It's a success! Hahahaha..." Ace suddenly laugh out loud toward the sky, "My thief sword core can steal anything, even heavenly lightning. Hahahaha!"

Although burring marks and blood were dripping from all over his body, Ace was still ecstatic as he could feel the sword devouring the lightning, and his body was also undergoing some kind of change.

However, it was just the first strike, and the heavenly punishment clouds rumbled ragingly the next moment when the first lightning pillar didn't do its job.

Three dark gold lightning pillars menacingly shot toward Ace like three unstoppable hammers!

Chapter 592: I'll See You Around!

At this moment, Ace suddenly felt death approaching when he saw those three thunder pillars over a hundred meters in size.

'Fuck, stubbornness!' Ace cursed as his charred face was deadly pale, and the next moment, Page-09 appeared in his hand, and Ace covered his head with it.

Although he wanted to devour the heavenly thunder like the Page-09, and he even succeeded, the heavenly punishment speed far surpassed that of what his newly born sword core could devour.

Now that his Martial Thief Sword Core was completely condensed, he now only has to worry about his Soul Thief Sword Core.

Furthermore, his life was far more important than unsealing his bloodline, and the system had never told him to endure the entire heavenly punishment. One or two bolts might be sufficient... at least, he hoped.

The thunder pillars completely engulfed Ace, who was holding the Page-09 above his head like a small umbrella.

But Page-09 again surpassed Ace's expectation as a powerful suction force suddenly appeared, and the thunder pillars started to suck into Page-09 at an alarming pace.

Ace didn't even feel the heavenly punishment on his hands holding Page-09 as the page was greedily absorbing the heavenly lightning without wanting to leave even a speck of it.

Ace felt immense relief as his eyes shone deviously when there was only a single lightning pillar left, Ace waited until only a 10-meter bolt of it was gone, and at that moment, Page-09 vanished from his hand and the 10-meter descent on him!

However, Ace grit his teeth and endure while letting the heavenly lighting invade his martial space so the sword core can devour it.

It was far better than the last time since this heavenly thunder was on Ace's endurance level, and he also wanted to see just how much heavenly punishment the sword core could devour before getting full.

Lastly, it would also count as enduring the heavenly punishment.

"Rumbleeee..."

A heart-wrenching thunder voice rang all over the black mountain range, startling all the terrifying existences residing there as they hid.

Even the three observers felt their minds collapsing as they saw a horrifying sight.

A one-mile-long dark gold thunder blade was slowly piercing the heavenly punishment clouds as its destructive aura could feel through hundreds of miles.

"I'm going to save him!" Noa shot as she wanted to run toward Ace's direction, but her legs were stuck in their place and refused to move forward.

Freya's face was deadly pale, "No one can save him but himself!"

On the other hand, Cyrus wasn't panicking despite his close connection with Ace because he could feel Ace was still fine, and there was no panic from his side.

Ace looked at the thunder blade descending with killing intent as he felt knee-crushing pressure, but he remained straight, "Not giving any chance, huh? Even law awareness realm cultivators might perish under this kind of Sword."

However, there wasn't fear in his voice as Page-09 appeared in his hand again. He had to admit without Page-09, he wasn't strong enough to handle this kind of attack even after creating the sword core.

The thunder blade shot down toward Ace with a flash, and it was one mile wide and three miles long!

Just like before, the thunder blade was blocked by the Page-09, and Ace remained unfazed, and this time Ace stowed away Page-09 when fifty meters of that thunder blade left.

When fifty meters long thunder blade, Ace's almost regretted his bold choice because, for the first time, he felt something other than thunder and despair from this heavenly thunder; it was sword intent!

But to his surprise, the sword core merely trembled under that thunder with murderous sword intent before it started to absorb it.

However, Ace was on the verge of collapsing as his charred body was filled with deep wounds, and there was still the soul-type heavenly punishment. The Soul Thief Sword Core restlessly absorbed his soul Qi, which wasn't fully condensed yet.

Ace had no choice but to buy some healing pills and Qi recovery pills from the system and eat them in mass.

But it was too slow, so he commanded, "System, release my unclaimed EXP and SP right now!"

He was saving those unclaimed rewards for his next realm, but now it seemed he had to use them to recover his Soul Qi and Martial Qi. It was much faster this way.

The system released all the unclaimed EXP and SP at this moment and turned into vast Soul Q and Marital Qi. Ace finally felt alive.

The fifty-meter lightning sword was also got fully absorbed by the sword core at this moment, and something unexpected occurred.

The black sword core suddenly started to vibrate violently as if something wanted to break free from within.

Ace felt his blood run cold because if this sword core exploded within his martial space, he'd be as good as dead when all that heavenly thunder escaped.

He felt he had overestimated the newly born sword core and overwhelmed it, and now he was going to die out of his own greed!

Because he made those sword cores with his shallow understanding of the law of [Despair] and the law of [Sword], and he made them so they could grow as long as they absorbed heavenly punishment, which was the essence of Black Lightning God Manual.

Because the Black Lightning God Manual was a cultivation method to absorb all kinds of lighting to make one's lightning more powerful, it was the true foundation of the Imperial Demon Family as well as Ace's sword cores' nature.

However, Ace's sword cores couldn't be called out once they were completely condensed, just like the Sky Sword. The only chance Ace had been before they could fully condense like the Soul Thief Sword Core.

He can still detonate it, and it would only give him some soul injuries.

But the Martial Thief Sword Core was complete, and it was like a time bomb now. If it explodes, Ace's entire martial space would be blasted apart, and he, himself, with it.

Moreover, his sword cores were condensed with two treasures that could withstand his heavenly Qi, then both heavenly Qis, and the heavenly thunder, so they were not like the normal sky sword's core anymore.

Ace's plan was to develop the sword cores first, and then he wanted to take his time cultivating them by comprehending the complete sky sword jade scroll or going beyond that, which was impossible with his current realm.

Ace suddenly felt his soul jolt at this moment as he looked warily up.

He saw an ethereal dark gold thunder pillar was about to decent.

'Soul Heavenly Punishment is about to start!' Ace felt the timing couldn't be more wrong.

But he knew he needed to endure this thunder pillar if he wanted to condense the soul thief sword core completely. However, he hesitated and almost took out the Page-09 to block it while dealing with the crisis of his marital space.

Suddenly, Ace stopped as his eyes winded because dark gold runes started to emerge on his sword core as they slowly covered his entire sword core.

'So, it wasn't going to detonate?' Ace was flabbergasted as he looked at those profound runes, which were clearly made with the heavenly thunder.

But he didn't have time to pay much attention since the soul thunderbolt was already upon him. He didn't detonate his soul thief sword core and became even more confident and let it fall over him.

Expect the deadly pain; everything goes smoothly as the soul sword core also greedily absorbs the heavenly soul thunder.

Moira also trembled as she observed the familiar heavenly punishment invading Ace's true soul. She was once been destroyed by this exact heavenly punishment which was millions of times more powerful than this one.

Still, the trauma and hate she had for heaven were all the same, and she watched Ace enduring the heavenly punishment and doing the impossible, devouring it!

As for Page-09 involvement, she only thought it was made by Ace.

After the first strike, Ace left in a terrible shape, but his starry eyes were as bright as ever as he faced the following three soul thunder pillars with the Page-09's help and absorbed the last bit of the soul thunder.

The last strike also came fast, and it was also a blade condensed with soul thunder which made Ace elated since he was afraid if he didn't absorb the same amount or kind of heavenly thunder, the soul sword core might not be as powerful as the marital sword core.

After enduring the terrifying sword intent, Ace finally felt relief as the short sword core started vibrating as ethereal runes began to condense on the Sword.

'Rummmmbllleeee...'

The angry heavenly clouds could only rumble as Ace again escaped death for the third time.

"Yeah, I'll see you around!" Ace sneered weakly.

He felt relief wash over him when the knee-breaking pressure suddenly lifted, and the punishment clouds dispersed just as fast as they came.

With a huge grin, his eyes went upward, and he fell backward unconsciously!

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Chapter 593: Fourth Realm Breakthrough

Soon after the Heavenly Punishment clouds dispersed and the heavenly pressure vanished, Freya and Noa approached with ashen expressions.

They could still feel the blood-curdling aura lingering as they got closer to a giant charred crater which was supposed to be the mountain where Ace had spent over six months.

"Do you think he's alive?" Freya mumbled grimly as she looked at the smoke from the charred crater.

She was even trembling from the lingering aura of heavenly thunder; this fearful feeling came from the core of her very being.

'What kind of trial is this? If this came from the Goddess, do we have to go through it as well?' Just thinking about it frightened Freya, and she even started to doubt whether the Thief House was still safe or not.

If before she was happy about this fact of gaining the thief house member spot, now she was forced to reconcile and think with a somber mind. After all, everything had a price.

Noa coldly berated as she suppressed the strange fear in her heart, "Do you think we'll be alive if he's dead? Don't you remember the house rules? Almost every rule has Leader's name in it, and if he dies, I don't think we can stay alive as well."

She didn't care about her life as much as she cared about Ace's, and even if she also had to suffer such a 'trial' in the future, she would take it without any hesitation.

"Master is fine. I can feel it." Cyrus's childish voice rang with happiness.

At this moment, the little guy suddenly jumped off Freya's shoulder and directly ran toward the crater. He was even faster than the two women.

Both women sighed in relief as they increased their speed and quickly followed the small chick.

When they finally reached the giant creator, they were shocked when they saw just how deep it was. It was almost a mile deep, and right in the center of this creator lay a charred body.

"Master!" Cyrus quickly hurried over while the two women followed with gloomy expressions.

Ace lay there completely exhausted and barely keeping his consciousness, but he grinned on his charred face was quite apparent and even seemed ghastly.

When he heard Cyrus's voice, his eyes trembled, and with difficulty, he looked over and saw blurry figures approaching.

'It was the right thing to let them out....' He thought weakly, but he didn't fall unconscious because the orb essence was still getting absorbed and seeping within him.

He knew the breakthrough was about to begin. Furthermore, he transmitted his thought to Cyrus at this moment, "T-take me... away."

Cyrus cheerfully jumped beside Ace as he could feel Ace's power spiking and his power with him as well, and his life wasn't in danger.

So, he quickly said, "Master said take him away. Let's go. Why are you dillydallying!"

"Shouldn't we treat him first?" Freya frowned darkly.

"No, Master is completely fine. There is no need. Quickly pick him this place stink!" Cyrus disdainfully retorted as he looked around with its tiny scornful eyes.

Noa hesitated and then moved toward Ace. As she looked at his smiling charred face and starry eyes, she felt some relief and gently used her Qi to envelop his body within.

Cyrus then jumped over Freya's shoulder and said, "Alright, let's go. If someone tried to block us, I'll just burn them, don't worry." He said confidently.

Ace felt relief when he felt they start moving, and at this moment, the system's voice rang, which he was waiting for.

[Congratulation, Host, for successfully crossing the third form of Heavenly Punishment!]

[Martial and Soul breakthrough process has been started!]

Unlike before, Ace felt his Martial Space and True Soul stir.

At this moment, two vortexes formed over Ace's glabella and one over his solar plexus, and both soul Qi and martial Qi around the surroundings stirred and started to suck within those vortexes.

Freya and Noa instantly noticed the changes in Qi density around them, and they were startled when they saw the focal point of these Qis was Ace, who was enshrouded within Noa's Qi.

The strange thing was Noa's Qi wasn't affected at all, and only the unprocessed Qi in the atmosphere was getting sucked inside, completely bypassing Noa's soul Qi.

"Now what?" Freya frowned as she felt the soul Qi becoming denser and denser.

"Master is breaking through, don't worry." Cyrus coolly revealed.

"Breakthrough in this condition?" This naturally came as a shock to both women.

Cyrus proudly said, "Of course, just keep moving and enjoy the fresh Qi."

Freya and Noa had too many questions, but they knew it wasn't the time or place to ask them, so they continued to move.

However, the three were forced to stop after three hours when the surrounding Qi turned into cloudy mist, and they could even feel the martial Qi at this moment.

"Just what kind of breakthrough is it?" Freya was completely baffled as all her understanding of the cultivation was shattered by Ace.

Noa thought of a possibility but didn't reveal it and said, "We're already quite far away. We should stop and let Leader breakthrough peacefully."

"No, continue to move. I'll navigate. Master said no matter what, we can't stop until we're 3 or 4 days away from that place." Cyrus stated.

They had no choice but to continue moving while dragging a Qi cloud. The only relief was all the predators were scared into hiding by the heavenly punishment, or they would be attacked by all kinds of beasts while carrying such a dense Qi around them.

After two days, the Qi cloud finally stopped, which astonished them.

Ace, on the other hand, has long forgotten about the outside as his entire being completely fell into a wonderful warm state.

At this moment, Ace's martial space and true soul were filled with dense heavenly Qi.

The martial space was filled with dark Qi sea and black heavenly darkness Qi. At this moment, the misty heavenly Qi suddenly started to condense below the dark void.

Soon, all the mist condensed into a pitch-black round core, and suddenly dark blue chain emerged from the dark void shooting down at the condensed core.

The dark blue chain suddenly started to shimmer in a dark blue hue before the Qi sea raged.

Tiny dark blue symbols started to emerge over the dark core as they slowly faded and the next moment, a small dark blue ring formed at the top of the dark core.

The blue chain trembled before it retracted into the dark void, and at this moment, the pitch-black water of the Qi sea suddenly started to revolve, forming a small vortex right below the dark core.

At this moment, the dark core with one dark blue circle started to hover down and stopped when it was in the middle of this vortex and started revolving with the entire Qi sea.

Inside Ace's true soul, all the Heavenly Soul Qi was getting absorbed by the orange soul core, and as it got absorbed, the orange color started to get changed into a deeper color.

When all the heavenly Soul Qi was absorbed, the Soul Core had fiery red color as it glowed like a raging sun, illuminating the entire true soul in red.

The Soul Qi also turned fiery red at this moment as some of it got absorbed by the Eternal Thief Fate Compass and the treasure aura became more ethereal.

"Beautiful." Moira's joyous voice rang within the true soul while the short sword soul core remained dormant.

Furthermore, Ace's soul sense suddenly started to grow, 600 Meters... 700 meters... 900-meter, and it finally stopped at a 1-mile radius.

But this wasn't over yet purple soul core suddenly started to form around the red soul core, just like the white and green soul cores revolving around the soul core.

Ace's entire body suddenly started to shimmer in a dark sheen as the charred skin started to shed, revealing his pale white pristine skin.

His silky black hair started to grow again while his body also experienced a subtle change as it became more masculine, and he looked even more handsome as his natural charm deepened with his strength.

System's voice rang in his mind,

[Congratulation, Host, on successfully creating the Dark Qi Sea Core]

[Host has reached Stage-1 of Heavenly Dark Sea Core Realm!]

[Innate Martial Ability: Fortune Sense has been awakened.]

[Reward: 5,000,000 Thief Point]

[Congratulation, Host, on successfully creating the Red Wind Soul Core]

[Host has reached Stage-1 of Heavenly Red Wind Soul Core!]

[Innate Soul Ability: Thief's Mark has been awakened.]

[Reward (1): 5,000,000 Thief Point]

[Reward (2): Apparition Wind Walk (Soul Art)]

[Nature's Lightning Elemental Orb absorption has been completed!]

[Special Reward: Lightning Qi [Martial & Soul]]

-Host can switch between Worldly Element(s):

1. Light [Soul & Martial]

2. Earth [Soul & Martial]

3. Lightning [Soul & Martial]

[Warning: Worldly Elements' and 'Heavenly Elements' cannot be used together]]

[Host status has been updated!]

Ace's eyes snapped open at this moment!

Eternal Thief

Chapter 594: Heavenly Thief Sense

Ace felt unbelievable power surging in every muscle of his body as his mind was clearer than ever while his soul sense was even more refined and covered double the area.

'I break through!' Ace's lips curled upward before the Deft Thief Robes covered his pristine naked body.

"Alright, you can let me out." Ace coolly called as he knew who was encasing him right now, and they were constantly moving.

Noa and Freya were startled when they heard Ace's voice and looked at the cocoon they had been dragging for the past two days. While Cyrus directly chirps in joy.

Truth be told, they had thought that Ace would be out of commission for a long while since his condition could not be recovered in mere days. If not for Cyrus, they would've thought Ace was on the verge of dying and treated him.

Now, they no longer dare to guess.

They stopped at the entrance of a valley, and Noa retracted her soul Qi, revealing Ace.

Both women were baffled when they saw Ace in his deft thief robes while his peerless handsome face was revealed, and he was grinning at them. There wasn't any trace of injury.

Noa was even more uncertain since she didn't notice any change despite paying attention to Ace all this time, and her Qi should be able to detect any change but didn't.

Ace's figure suddenly flashed before he vanished from his lying position and appeared right in front of Freya, making her heart pound for some reason when she looked at his face.

She felt this inexplicit feeling welling up within her heart.

"You did well." Said Ace, gently sending a strange current to the witch's heart as a tingle of redness surfaced on her pale white skin.

However, before she could say anything, Cyrus's small body darted as it appeared over Ace's shoulder and jumped happily while he said, "I know even heaven's anger couldn't kill master!"

Ace cocked an eyebrow, 'Heaven's anger? It seemed Cyrus knew about the heavenly punishment.'

"You two, good job. Now you can go back and continue your cultivation. I'll be taking over from here on." Ace finally looked at the two women and nodded.

'He was talking with Cyrus!' Freya's eyes turned cold with a hint of jealousy, "First, tell us what was that?"

In contrast to Freya, Noa said, "Leader, don't you need to rest?"

Ace shook his head with a smile, "Don't worry, I'm more than fine now. You should go back. I'll explain it in the thief's house hall." He then held his hand toward Noa.

Noa's eyes shimmered in a peculiar light, and she placed her hand in Ace without asking more and let him pull her into the thief's house space.

Ace then looked toward Freya, who seemed to get angry after being ignored again.

But Ace did something which made Freya's heart suddenly skipped a beat. He suddenly moved his hand, placed his finger under her sharp jaw, and dreamily said, "Do you fall for me?"

Freya felt a compelling feeling from those dark blue starry eyes, and that mysterious feeling became more potent as her heart pounced like a raging river. She wanted to slap Ace's hand away, but she just couldn't, as she even enjoyed his touch.

However, at this moment, a mask appeared over Ace's face, and his eyes were suddenly enshrouded with dark lightning.

Freya felt the spell was broken and all those strange feelings were gone, almost...

She quickly used her movement skill and appeared a few meters away from Ace. She yelled with a hint of humiliation, "Y-you! What did you do?!"

She could still feel her heart pounding as her face beat red. She felt if she had stayed in that state, she would be forever spellbound by Ace.

Ace mischievously replied, "Oh, nothing, actually. I just wanted to see if you have a heart or not. It seemed you did have one, and I almost captured it, right?"

He would never tell her that he was testing the power of his natural charm, and it almost worked on Freya.

As for trying it on Noa, he simply didn't want to since Freya wasn't as warm to him as Noa. So, she was a perfect target.

Freya ground her teeth. Since she knew Ace had done something to her or she would never feel that way, she was too proud to believe it.

Cyrus looked at Freya curiously and then at Ace, he didn't understand what was happening, but he knew his sister Freya was being bullied.

After Ace, he was closest to Freya since she taught her many things, but he would always choose Ace over her no matter how close they were.

"Alright, it was a joke. You played it all the time. Don't tell me you can't take a loss. Let's go." Ace sneered without showing any remorse at all, and he again forwarded his hand toward her.

Freya didn't have words to retort because Ace was stating the fact, so she quickly calmed down, but the resentment in her eyes didn't lessen much.

Without saying anything, she took his hand while coldly looking at him, "You better be ready!"

Ace shrugged, with a chuckle, "Hah, I'm always ready." He then pulled her into the thief's house space.

"Alright, you go rest as well. I can sense you're still exhausted despite breaking into the peak of the River Core realm." Ace caressed Cyrus's tiny head with his finger before sending him back to the thief's space where Page-09.

Ace wasn't in a hurry to move or explain himself to the two members waiting in the thief's house. Because a panel was shining brightly in front of him, making his eyes glow with uncertainty.

[System detects Host has awakened all three senses, Soul Sense, Heavenly Sense, and Fortune Sense!]

[All the conditions have been met to awaken the [Heavenly Thief Sense]!]

[Do you want to merge the three innate senses into Heavenly Thief Sense?]

[Cost: 50 Million Thief Points]

"What is the Heavenly Thief Sense?" Ace questioned with uncertainty.

He was always curious about if he would awake a Martial Sense at River Core Realm like the other cultivators. But what he awakened was this Fortune Sense which was probably related to the Dark Qi Sea Core Realm.

However, he was used to his soul sense, and now that he tried to use this Fortune Sense, he felt nothing except this strange feeling that he should continue to go in the direction of the endless sea.

As for this Heavenly Thief Sense, he might lose his soul sense and heavenly sense the moment he merged them together, which would be a massive loss because these senses have been with him since the start of his cultivation journey.

Especially the active Soul Sense, which had saved him many times.

The System replied at this moment,

"[The Heavenly Thief Sense is an exclusive Innate Sense of a Heaven's Stealer which can only be created by merging Soul Sense, Heavenly Sense, and Fortune Sense. The Heavenly Thief Sense not only has the abilities of all three senses, but it can no longer be bound by just Heavenly Soul Qi, but it can be used with Heavenly Martial Qi as well.]

"[For example, Heavenly Thief Sense will be passively active like the soul sense, but it would no longer be detectable. Furthermore, unlike soul sense which could only detect soul-related danger or soul being, it would have the martial sense detection of martial beings as well.]

"[Like if an enemy didn't have a soul, your soul will never be able to detect it without using the Heavenly Sense ability, which could let you 'See' the surrounding area. In Mortal Sky Heaven, this type of opponent is non exist, but it couldn't be said for Heaven beyond.]

"[The Heavenly Thief Sense will also have the same 'Seeing' effect, but you will be able to fully control the area of range and even focus it on a sole target and can use it with both soul Qi and martial Qi.]

"[Although this would make it detectable, the other party will only think you were using either soul sense or marital sense, depending on the Qi you were using it with.]

"[Lastly, the Fortune Sense is also an active sensory ability like your soul sense, which can lead you toward treasures.]

"[Host can even take it as having the Live Fate Map always activate, but its effect is still pale in comparison to the Eternal Thief Fate Compass.]

"[Where's the Live Fate Map can directly indicate the treasure's location. The fortune sense could only give you vague direction. This is also Host's fortune to possess the Eternal Thief Fate Compass, which previous Heaven's Stealers never had.]"

Ace felt the System was praising him for the first time in all these years, and the voice sounded emotional to him. It had been quite a while since he had heard the System's emotional voice.

Nevertheless, he was still marveling at the Heavenly Thief Sense, which could only be described as overpowered!

With shimmering eyes, Ace commanded, "Alright, merge them into Heavenly Thief Sense!"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 595: Host has Taken a Step into...

Ace's eyes were closed as he felt the newly merged Heavenly Thief Sense. Besides some minor changes, it was still like the soul sense.

But he could feel something had definitely changed as he could feel a calling of sorts from a specific direction which should be his fortune sense, but unlike before, it was somewhat apparent but not much.

Lastly, he tried to activate the heavenly sense ability with the martial Qi to 'see' his surroundings, and he was shocked.

Because unlike before, when heavenly sense would cover his soul sense instantly, this time, he could feel it tightly wrapped around his body like a layer of skin as he could feel his body condition.

He even peered through deep into his physique and could finally see his dark meridians connected with his martial space and true soul, which looked like blazing black suns.

It was Ace first time seeing such a phenomenon of his body, and he finally understood just how marvelous the new Heavenly Thief Sense was!

Ace then tried to make that tightly wrapped sense on his body expand, and with thought, it suddenly started to expand at an alarming speed, instantly covering the one-mile radius.

Ace could now 'see' far more than before; even the naked eye pale in comparison, and even the underground was no longer any different from a clear sky to Ace.

Ace then tried to control it on one spot, and after some difficulty, he finally succeeded. Then he tried switching to his soul Qi, and he was even more ecstatic as the Qi changed without much effort while the ability remained completely stable.

"This is no longer Heavenly Sense. Let's call it Dark Spy!" Ace's mumbled as he deactivated the Dark Spy, it wasn't dispersed like always, but it retracted into his body and vanished!

Ace cocked an eyebrow since he couldn't remember heavenly sense having such an effect, or it was because he could control it.

Whichever the case was, he was content since, according to the System, now his Heavenly Thief Sense would be increased together with his both cultivations, not with just soul cultivation anymore.

Lastly, he claimed the Apparition Wind Walk, an exclusive soul movement art that used the element of Soul Wind and can be used in fighting and escaping.

The Misperception Sky Steps Art was based on his martial Qi and lightning element, and these two movement arts were quite helpful in different ways.

Furthermore, he had neglected the Heavenly Wind Soul element for too long, and it was probably time to pay attention to it as well.

His epiphany had given him many inspirations, and he was now confident about surviving the demon continent as long as 7th or 8th realm cultivators won't target him.

However, the System wasn't done yet, because another notification rang,

[Congratulation, Host, for creating a ??? by using the Black Blade Swords!]

[Warning: The Black Blade Swords can no longer be upgraded with item upgrade tokens and ???!]

[Host has taken a step into the uncharted territory of Darkness!]

-Reward(s):

1. Thief Title: (???) has been unlocked]

[(???) Title Effect: ???]

2. Advance Mission Complete Token: 1

[Use: Advance Mission Complete Token can complete any mission with a Satisfactory Evaluation Rank.]

[Warning (1): There is a 90% chance of gaining a Death Penalty in the very next Mission after a Mission Complete Token was used!]

[Warning (2): Only Three Mission Complete Tokens can be used continuously to complete Three Mission in a row before the Host has to complete the 4th Mission to use a Mission Complete Token again!]

Ace was baffled when he saw the ambiguous words of the System, especially when so many (???) were involved. He even got a title with (???). It was his first time seeing it.

Furthermore, that line about entering uncharted territory was quite spooky on its own.

Although he knows he might have created something extraordinary, he never thought it was impressive enough to make the System speak up and release this subtle reward.

However, when he saw the Mission Complete Token, his eyes brightened, but it was only when he saw the warnings which made his expression darkened. So, he decided to save it and wouldn't use it unless it was absolutely necessary.

He then inquired about those (???) and the title, and he received a reply that he hadn't in a while.

"[Please upgrade your authority level!]"

He could give up after hearing this reply.

'Well, it didn't matter as long as it won't endanger my life. Besides, I still have a long way to go before I can use those sword cores properly. By System's words, I won't be getting a new pair of swords either.'
He smiled wryly.

Lastly, Ace opened his status panel to see what he had gained from epiphany and his new cultivation realm EXP and SP caps. What he saw made him inhale sharply.

[Status Panel]

[Host: Ace White]

[Race: Human]

[Bloodline: Sealed]

[First Heaven: Mortal Sky Heaven]

[Martial Cultivation: Heavenly Dark Sea Core [Stage-1]]

[EXP: 0/1,000,000]

[Soul Cultivation: Heavenly Red Wind Soul Core [Stage-1]]

[SP: 0/1,000,000]

[Elemental Orb: 0/1]

[Skills: 10]

-Heartless Stealth (Art):

Breathless Stealth: Perfection

Pulseless Stealth: Perfection

Heartless Stealth: Perfection

-Misperception Sky Steps (Art):

Camouflage Steps: Perfection

Lightning Steps: Perfection

Misperception Steps: Perfection

Sky Steps: NONE

-Soul Shattering Eyes: [Perfection]

-Soul Piercing Bullets: [Perfection]

-Soul Guardian Barrier (Art):

[Soul Barrier: Perfection

Soul Guardian: High]

-Pick Pocket: [Perfection]

-Lock Eraser King Technique:

Lock Eraser Master: Perfectionist

Lock Eraser Grandmaster: Perfectionist

Lock Eraser King: None

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

-Thief's Vision (Art):

Initial Thief's Vision: Early

Intermediate Thief's Vision: NONE

Advance Thief's Vision: NONE

-Apparition Wind Walk (Art): 9 levels

Current level: NONE

[Cultivation Technique: 5]

-Heaven Stealer Technique: Volume 1

-Dual Shadow Swords: Complete!

-Heavenly Rune Crafter Foundational Manual: Complete!

-Soul Words [Despair Manual]:

1. Deep Despair Soul Words: 10.09%

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

2. Extreme Despair Soul Words: 0.0%

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

3. Deadly Despair Soul Words: 0.0%

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

-Heaven's Stealer Dismantler Manual [First Vol]

Three Heaven's Stealer Dismantler Principles:

1. Treasure Dismantler Principles: Grade-2 Treasure Dismantler

2. Alchemy Dismantler Principles: Grade-2 Alchemy Dismantler

3. Runic Dismantler Principles: Grade-3 Runic Dismantler

[Law(s): 5]

-Despair (Initial): 10.09%

-Shadow (Initial): 10.01%

-Sword (Initial): 15.09%

-Psyche (Minor): 3.05%

-Lightning (Minor): 7.09%

[Eternal Provenance Treasure: 1/2]

-Name: Eternal Thief Fate Compass

-Type: Soul (Fate)

-Current Grade: Grade-4 (Upgradable)

[Grade-5 at 5th Soul Cultivation Realm (Golden Soul Core)]

-Status: Incomplete (10% Complete)

-Ability:

1. Live Fate Map (Grade-4)

[NOTE: Next ability(s) unlocked at 20% Treasure Completion]

-Completion Scheme: 1 (Available)

[Thief Point(s): 53,880,000]

[Mission(s): 1]

[Side Mission(s): 0]

Ace was content when he saw all three laws break into the initial levels of comprehension, especially the [Sword] law. He had really gained a deep understanding of the sword law in his epiphany.

While he also discovered something unusual, which was after his Law of [Shadow] and [Despair] crossed the 10% threshold, he could feel 'intent' from them like the Sword Intent.

Furthermore, because of the Sky Sword Manual, he knew Sword Law could be fused by any element, which is the true nature of Element Sword Intent.

He guessed that as long as someone comprehends a law up to 10%, they can awake the intent of Law like a Law Intent, just like the Sword Intent.

The only reason he had never heard about a Law Intent was probably no one had ever awakened it, or the information might be top secret.

The Sword Intent was simply the most common Law since it was only a weapon law, not a law of element, which was far more complex.

Ace can now fuse both Shadow and Despair Intent with his Sword Intent or even use them separately, akin to having two-element sword intents where the Despair Sword Intent was far more powerful than the Shadow Sword Intent.

However, Ace knew it wasn't the limit of a Law Intent. He had this nagging feeling that it was just the most basic method of using law intents, but alas, he had no more epiphany pills, so he could only give up on exploring the mysteries of laws.

But if those Quasi Law Awareness Realm knew that Ace has three types of law intent and already stumbled on the concept of Law Intents. They will vomit blood in anger since it will make their entire life worth meaningless in front of this young man's six months epiphany!

Because the secret to entering the 8th realm was hidden within Law Intents, Ace had no idea about it!

After Ace was done mulling, he finally sent his consciousness into the thief's house, where Noa and Freya were waiting for some answers.

He knew the matter of Heavenly Punishment had to remain hidden under the Goddess Trial sham, or if they knew they were going against Heaven itself, this might affect their mindset.

At least it was not the right time to disclose his status as the Eternal Enemy of Heaven!

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 596: My Women?!

Noa and Freya were sitting in the main hall without speaking anything.

Freya had this sullen expression as she was still peeved about how she almost got charmed by Ace, but that strange feeling was still there; she could feel it!

As for Noa, her face was hidden behind the mask. Only her pitch-black eyes were visible, and it was hard to guess what she was thinking.

"Sorry to keep you waiting." Ace's jolly voice rang.

He was in a good mood after breaking through and acquiring rewards.

Before Noa could utter a word, Freya shot a torrent of questions with pursed lips as she looked even more alluring, "What kind of Trial was that? And why does it look like some execution? And do we have to worry about it? And most importantly, how could you recover in three days from that state?"

"Alright, I'll explain. Stop giving that death stare." Ace's perplexed voice sounded, "First, that Trial was actually because of my special cultivation. You see, I can cultivate in both Martial and Soul paths. But it had consequences, like the one you saw three days ago.

"Every time I break through to a higher realm, I have to cross such Trial. There's no way going around it!"

Freya's beautiful eyes completely widened when she heard this unbelievable truth. She was simply gobsmacked. In contrast, Noa didn't seem surprised since Ace had told her.

But she never thought cultivating in both paths could bring such a 'trial.'

However, she thought about how Ace could cultivate in both cultivation systems then she didn't find this 'trial' unfair. Everything has a consequence, and this wasn't any different.

Ace continued, "As for if you have to go through such a trial or not, I don't know yet. But since you can break through realms normally, then it's clear you don't have to worry about it for now.

"Even if something like this happened in the future, it wouldn't be as dangerous as my Trial, and I can protect you from it so you guys can have your mind at peace. Lastly, after crossing my Trial, I naturally got rewarded and recovered completely with my breakthrough."

"Leader, what realm are you in right now?" Noa asked curiously. Since that 'trial' was so dreadful, Ace had to have at least into the soul manifestation realm if not law awareness.

However, when she heard Ace's reply, her eyes widened, "I broke through River Core Realm."

Freya also snapped out of her daze when she heard this and shrieked, "R-river core?! Then this means all this time you were in River Realm while doing all those thefts?! Are you kidding me!"

This was simply too unbelievable for them because they all thought Ace was at least a peak soul realm cultivator or even manifestation realm since he pulled all those thefts and completely destroyed the demon race's prestige.

But it turned out he was doing all this while being in the river realm. If the demons know, won't they all will die of humiliation since they got destroyed by a River Realm brat?

Ace chuckled, "This is also one of the benefits that come with cultivating both paths together. I'm far stronger than normal cultivators and lucky, I guess."

Freya felt like her world turned upside down when she heard it and didn't have more words to say anything. Her confidence in overtaking Ace's position was completely crushed.

Noa's eyes shimmered with reverence and adoration since she only wanted to become strong for him and stay by his side.

"C-can we..." Freya hoarsely spoke.

But before she could complete her sentence, Ace's coldly shut her down, "It's impossible unless you can kill me, and it still will be impossible. Just be grateful for what you have, or you might lose everything if you desire everything!"

Ace knew what Freya would ask if they could cultivate both paths like him, but he knew it was impossible without the system.

This thought process will only get her killed if she develops malicious intentions toward the system. That's why he coldly crushed her hope before her ambition got the better of her.

She was too ambitious, but she was going in a completely different direction with all this, which would only lead to her death.

Noa also shot a cold glance at Freya as she also felt Freya was going out of her place this time.

Although Ace allowed Freya and Winter to eye his position so they could work hard, she didn't like it.

Freya finally snapped out of her stupor as she got momentarily distracted by Ace's prowess and wanted to have it as well. But she became sober when she thought about those thunder swords falling from the sky.

Does she even have the grit to pass such a trial?

She took a deep breath and lowered her head, "Please forgive me. I was way out of my place. I'll be retiring today, but if you need anything, just call me."

With that, she stood up and moved toward her personal space.

But a peculiar glint suddenly flashed past deep within Freya's cold eyes, 'If I can't persuade that power, I should change my target....' She vanished within her personal space.

Ace's sighed ruefully, "Was I too hard on her?"

Noa shook her head and coldly said, "You should've done this long ago. The sooner they'll know their place, the easier it is for them to accept it."

Ace couldn't help but raise his brows, "You sound like an autocrat, you know."

A glint of unhappiness flashed past Noa's eyes, "And you didn't know how to handle your women!" Noa snorted before standing up and flashing into her personal space as she shut the door with a bam.

"Wait, my women?!" Ace was flabbergasted by the swing in Noa's mood, and she even retorted for the first time.

'Women are fickle, indeed.' He smiled wryly as he stopped paying attention to the thief's house.

But deep down, he knew what Noa was talking about. It's just that he didn't want to admit it...

Ace then checked his thief's space just to see how the little guy was doing.

When he saw he was resting on Page-09, he was relieved.

However, his eyes narrowed at this moment because his eyes fell over new golden-gray wording which had appeared at the top of the Page-09.

With a thought, Page-09 vanished from beneath Cyrus and appeared in Ace's hand. The little guy was still sleeping, as he didn't notice.

Ace looked at the new writing that emerged on the top center of page-09.

It was also written in ancient god language.

"[Avatar of Holy Twilight]"

Ace was even more curious about this mysterious page-09 and mused, 'These words appeared after it absorbed heavenly punishment. Could it be it needs more heavenly lightning to reveal the full set of words on the page? The only question is how much and what kind of information is hidden that needed heavenly thunder to get revealed?'

The more Ace thought about it, the more compelled he fell toward this mysterious page-09 and what was stored in it. But since he couldn't do anything about it, for now, he put it away right under Cyrus with a thought.

Since heavenly thunder was needed to reveal the content of this page-09, he knew he still had a long way to go.

Afterward, a black jade scroll and a black crystal key appeared in his hand. They appeared after the elemental orb was torn apart by the system from the imperial demon scepter.

The black crystal key was cold to touch, was 9 inches in size, and looked just like an ancient key. He tried imbuing Qi, but nothing happened.

So, he tried to look into the jade scroll. Anticipation shone in his eyes. He knew since this jade scroll was hidden within the imperial scepter, it had to be quite important.

Suddenly information appeared in his mind, just like the sky sword jade scroll.

'Secret Cultivation Art, Deity Lightning Strike.'

'Requirement to see the art, 'Soul Lightning Element.'

Ace was even more thrilled as he quickly changed his soul element to lightning and ethereal purple lightning started to cackle all over the jade scroll.

The next moment, the Deity Thunder Strike was revealed.

It was actually a law art but not at the same level as the sky sword. But it was probably one of the top law art of mortal sky heaven.

This law art could harness the power of Lightning Law, and then like a real lightning cloud, one can shoot down lightning from miles away!

Ace instantly remembered that lightning strike he saw in the Seal Castle, which shot down prince Martian that day.

'So, it was Deity Lightning Strike, huh? Just how far could Demon Emperor strike their opponent while hidden in his palace?'

Ace felt glad and chill in his spine simultaneously because he wasn't spotted that day or with Deity Lightning Strike; even his wings might not be enough to escape!

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 597: Impending Danger! (1)

A week passed since Ace had crossed the Heavenly Punishment.

Today, two demons in the black mountain demon institute's robes appeared at the edge of the charred crater created by the heavenly thunder.

"Just what kind of beast caused this?" The fiery demon questioned as he looked at the sheer scale of destruction and felt his blood run cold.

The nightmare demon's expression was also solemn as he replied, "At least peak manifestation realm cultivator. Furthermore, there is no trace left of any aura, so we could only guess. But since the Principal sent us here to investigate, he must've discovered something."

"However, this place is too far away from the institute and is around the core region of the black mountains. Only those three fellows could cause such destruction that could even alert the Principal so far away." The fiery demon sighed, "If not for the thief search, the principal won't have even bothered sending us here and might've come himself."

The nightmare demon sneered coldly, "We are constantly being pressured by the imperials day after day, and now they're even starting to skim through the students of four institutes. I heard a few days ago they suspect a core grade student and then soul search him, turning him into a vegetable.

"The Principal was completely helpless since two Grand Dukes were there. If anything, this just proves that the rumors about that thief robbing the demon temple might be true."

A hint of fear flashed past the fiery demon's eyes as he retorted in a low voice, "Don't talk about it, or we'll be in big trouble."

"Hmph, who can hear us in this wilderness?" The nightmare demon sneered.

"Is that a fact?" An aged voice suddenly startled both demons.

They instantly looked up at the sky, and their eyes widened in horror when they saw a giant figure hovering in the sky majestically.

The Demon Ancestor coolly stated, "It seemed you, little fellows, are forgetting about our past... sigh...."

The next moment, the clear sky suddenly turned dark with black lightning!

Meanwhile, Ace, who was already hundreds of miles apart from the crater and moving swiftly toward the edge of the demon continent, suddenly halted his step and looked back at the horizon with a frown.

"Why I'm feeling uneasy all of a sudden?" Ace mumbled in uncertainty, "It was the right choice not to go back just because I broke through. It is still too dangerous since the demons are still looking for me. I should leave as soon as possible."

Ace's eyes shimmered sharply before he continued on his path. Right now, he wanted to leave the black mountain range because even after he broke through, the fate map was still dyed red.

Even though the black area was gone, it was still pretty dangerous to remain in this place, and after the Thief Sense replaced the old soul sense, Ace could sense danger in the one-mile radius even more clearly now.

Furthermore, now he could also feel a sense of danger while traveling in the black mountain range, especially in the area he was currently in. He was at the bottom of a mountain rift, and there was no sign of life as eerie silence filled the place.

Ace took this path because he didn't want to climb that tall mountain. It was too time-consuming, and this rift was probably a shortcut.

However, when the night descent, the path completely enshrouded into darkness and fog, and now that he was this deep into this rift, he finally noticed that he was going further down, and the rift was at least a mile deep and even more.

Ace activated the live fate map again, now that the compass was at grade four, it could show traps and formation of grade-6 which was massively helpful to Ace, and its range was also increased to a mile radius with his thief sense.

These traps and formations included natural formations like the ones formed by an elemental orb.

But Qi consumption was still quite high even after his breakthrough, but it was much better than before.

At this moment, Ace's eyes suddenly widened because a Light Silver spot suddenly appeared a mile away from his current position.

But this was also a red fate location, meaning this silver fate location might have a powerful existence hidden there or around the vicinity.

Because a silver fate location represented a treasure that benefits Ace, he won't even think for a second that such treasures won't be eyed by someone else. At this juncture, only a few things were helpful to him.

Still, he wanted to see just what it was, and he didn't mind taking it if he could.

But first, Ace stopped and set up multiple concealment formations before he questioned the system, "System, do I have enough material to break into the Eighth Stage of my soul and martial cultivation?"

Ace wanted to wait before consolidating his cultivation, but he found he didn't need to. Even after a week, there was nothing to consolidate, and his foundation was like an unshakable mountain.

So, he stopped hesitating and decided to increase his cultivation from stage-1 to stage-8 directly.

It would also increase his prowess greatly and his chances of acquiring whatever were hidden in this silver fate location, or at least he would be able to escape.

The system replied with a simple word, "[Yes!]"

Ace's lips curled, and he said, "Alright, do it, but use all the grade-1 materials first before moving toward grade-2 and so on. Don't use higher-grade materials before using all the lower ones!"

The system complied, and the next moment, Ace felt a torrent of massive Heavenly Soul Qi, and Martial Soul Qi started to pour into his true soul and marital space.

Ace was paying attention to the sea river core in his martial space, which was revolving in the center of the Qi sea, and the Qi sea was revolving around it like a whirl.

At this moment, heavenly darkness Qi started to pour into the dark Qi sea core, and Ace noticed a faint dark blue ring right a centimeter down from the first dark blue ring that began to appear as more and more Qi got absorbed.

While in his soul core was getting redder and redder as more soul Qi got absorbed into it.

As more and more Qi entered his true soul and martial space, the materials he accumulated on the demon continent started to vanish at a terrifying speed.

When the second dark blue ring was fully condensed and the third was half done, all the grade-one materials were gone, and grade-2 materials turned into dust afterward.

After two hours, the fifth dark blue ring started to condense, and half of the grade-3 martial materials were gone while the grade-3 soul materials were already long gone, and now all those grade-4 soul crystals started to turn into dust.

After 15 hours, when the eighth dark blue ring was condensed, all the grade-4 and some grade-5 martial materials were exhausted, while all the grade-5 soul materials were gone.

Just these eight breakthroughs had cost Ace over half of his fortune!

Nevertheless, Ace would do the same even if he had another chance because right then, his soul core was double the size before as it looked like a crimson sun, and red soul Qi was flaring over it like fire.

Not only that but Ace's thief sense was now spread within a 3-mile radius!

Last but not least, the dark Qi sea core had eight shimmering dark blue rings all over it and a small space left at the bottom, which was for the ninth ring.

The vortex of the sea was even more black at this moment as dark lightning was rumbling within Qi sea.

At this moment system's voice rang,

[Congratulation, host, on achieving the Eighth Stage of Heavenly Dark Sea Core Realm and Eighth Stage of Heavenly Red Wind Soul Core!]

[Host status has been updated!]

[Martial Cultivation: Heavenly Dark Sea Core [Stage-8]]

[EXP: 0/150,000,000]

[Soul Cultivation: Heavenly Red Wind Soul Core [Stage-8]]

[SP: 0/150,000,000]

[Elemental Orb: 0/1]

(AN: 1st Stage = 1M/ 2nd Stage = 2.5M/ 3rd Stage = 5M/ 4th Stage = 10M/ 5th Stage = 25M/ 6th Stage = 50M/ 7th Stage = 100M)

Ace's eyelids flashed open as dark lightning shimmered within them; he felt like he could kill a peak platinum soul realm cultivator with a single strike right now.

A cold smile suddenly appeared on his face as he was itching to find someone to test his strength, but he knew it was only the feeling because of his breakthrough.

But he was confident in hiding under the detection of manifestation realm cultivator now.

So, he no longer hesitated, and after collecting the formations, he activated the live fate map again, and a map covering a three-mile radius appeared.

He could literally 'see' all the terrains, and he finally had a clear look at the silver fate location. He was astonished because in this silver fate location were three red fate points!

Eternal Thief

Chapter 598: Impending Danger! (2)

Ace saw the three red fate points and couldn't help but frown because the terrain where this silver fate location was starting was actually inside the left mountain wall.

Furthermore, it was a straight passage, and those three red fate points were all together in this passage. Nevertheless, he was still going to check this place out since it was a silver-fate location.

Ace then made his way toward the passage while keeping an eye out for some other anomaly, but he didn't encounter anything as he reached the entrance. But to his surprise, there was only a mountain wall like the rest of the rift.

If not for his compass, he would've missed this place.

Ace then carefully started to examine the wall; no matter how much he examined, it was a solid mountain.

However, Ace quickly stopped touching the wall because one of the red fate points suddenly moved in the fate map. It was coming right this way, and the speed was quite terrifying.

Ace was completely caught off guard, and he didn't have time to prepare as a powerful soul sense suddenly enveloped the area.

He quickly activated his heartless stealth and used a concealment treasure to conceal himself. Ace then moved as far as he could from the passage.

The other party was probably an early-stage manifestation realm cultivator.

The Soul Manifestation Realm was divided into four stages, Early, Middle, High, and Peak. And each stage could make a world of difference in this realm.

The Soul Manifestation Realm was a massive milestone for any cultivator, and only someone with a peerless foundation has any chance of entering this realm. In contrast, someone with a perfect foundation has only a 5% chance with a stroke of heaven-defying luck in the mix.

In this realm, the lifespan of a cultivator would increase up to 5000 Years!

(AN: Natural Lifespan of 2nd Realm Cultivator = 250 Years / 3rd Realm = 500 years / 4th Realm = 1000 years / 5th Realm = 2500 years / 6th Realm = 5000 Years / 7th Realm = 10,000 Years.)

In the soul manifestation realm, a cultivator could make their soul manifestation anywhere outside their body within their soul sense or martial sense range for a short time, and those manifested souls can be used to attack.

However, this will also expose a manifestation realm cultivator to a bigger risk because if that manifestation soul gets destroyed or wounded, it will be akin to death in the former case and mortal soul injury in the latter.

That was why they would never expose their soul out in the open unless they confirmed that the other party was not a cultivator of a stage higher than them.

Because these manifested souls could only be wound by law-imbued attacks, not with the normal element Qi.

The difference between an Early Stage and a Middle Stage Soul Manifestation Realm could easily be detected from their law comprehension. Because to progress in the soul manifestation realm, one needed to comprehend the same innate Element Law.

Lastly, the sword intent cultivators were dreaded by soul manifestation realm cultivators, and it was taboo to manifest their soul in the presence of a soul cultivator, even if that person was just a Qi soul realm cultivator.

Because sword intent was something that had the Law of Sword in it, and it was the easiest and most difficult form of a law intent. Easiest because a Weapon Intent can be cultivated with a deep understanding of a weapon.

Difficult because comprehending a weapon's intent couldn't be done on a whim like other element laws just because you wanted to comprehend it. Or everyone would be walking on the path of a weapon cultivator in this world.

Sometimes a cultivator who devoted his whole life couldn't cultivate a weapon intent, and sometimes they simply develop it in the moment of battle.

Ace might be strong enough to fight or snuck up on an Early Stage Soul Manifestation Realm cultivator. But a soul manifestation realm with its soul or martial sense active was another story!

He could only hide since a soul manifestation realm, soul sense, or martial sense was quite prone to ill intent.

Ace stopped fifty meters away because that soul sense had become more powerful, and movement within might expose him. Since the other party hadn't discovered him in his stealth, it meant he should be fine as long as he won't make some excessive moment.

If push comes to shove, he could always use a space-step talisman.

But he didn't feel much threatened because of his cultivation rise. If he was still in the Qi sea realm, he had no choice but to run with his full might under the soul sense of a soul manifestation cultivator!

Ace was completely hidden within the darkness as he held his breath while he felt the soul sense still scanning the area.

A soul manifestation realm cultivator's sense rang 10 Miles. It was quite hard to get away from one if they locked on someone.

Furthermore, if they deem you a harmless threat, they can easily manifest their souls as long as you are in the range of their senses and kill you!

Ace was also looking at the fate map, and he could clearly see that whoever this was, they were already standing at the entrance. But he didn't see anyone coming out.

Soon, the soul sense dissipated, but the red fate was still at the entrance.

'Why is no one coming out? Is he wanted to bait me out of hiding by dissipating his soul sense?' Ace's lips curled slightly, 'It is indeed a good plan, but even my thief sense could feel danger, much less the fate map, which is showing me exactly what the other party is doing.'

Ace decided to remain stoic. He could guess that the other party didn't want to reveal the secret passage since it was hard to detect a soul sense or martial sense medium unless your sense was stronger than the other party.

Whoever was behind the passage only scanned the surroundings, and after not discovering anyone, they tried another method.

This only made Ace more curious about what was within the mountain.

Ace was calmly waiting while the live fate map was still on when his thief sense suddenly stirred as his entire body trembled in trepidation.

Because at this moment, he felt impending danger approaching, and when he looked at the live fate map, his heart turned cold because a black fate point had entered the life fate map range, and it was heading in his way.

Most importantly, there was a red ring around this black fate point, which meant an enemy!

Furthermore, the entire area suddenly turned into a black fate location, except the silver fate location!

Without hesitation, Ace activated a space step talisman and teleported himself into the hidden passage.

Although it was dangerous but not as deadly as that black fate point which had turned the entire terrain into black except this hidden passage!

His thief sense was still ringing like morning bells. He had never felt this kind of danger except for the heavenly punishment before.

At this moment, just as he appeared at a 10-meter-wide cave passage, a ghastly pressure suddenly descended, which made Ace's heart tremble because he had felt this pressure before.

'The hidden expert of Demon Temple, but how did he discover me?!' Ace's scalp tingled with trepidation when he suddenly remembered something, 'Shit, could it be I took out that key and jade slip out? That's how he discovered my location?!'

This was the only possible explanation that could make sense, or it was all but a big coincidence, and this person might have been drawn here by the heavenly punishment and decided to check the entire area.

Ace thought that after the scepter was destroyed, it would be safe to take out that key and jade scroll, but if his guess was correct, he had invited the disaster himself!

Without hesitation, Ace ignored the pressure and headed deep within the cave passage since it was still silver. But his luck turned from bad to worse when a soul sense so deadly that he couldn't even move to comprehend the other party's strength locked on him.

Furthermore, those remaining two red fate points were heading his way.

Without hesitating, he commanded grimly, "System, activate Devi's Horn quickly!"

[Devi's Horn has been summoned!]

Devi's Horn (Intermediate)

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

-Ability: Undetectable Stealth in Mortal Sky Heaven!

-Status: Active

-Time: 00:00:59

After his breakthrough, his summon abilities also upgraded. But the Devil's Horn ability didn't increase its activation time but only experienced a decrease in its cooldown time by five days.

Still, it was too long, and Ace didn't want to use it, but right now, this was the exact situation where if he didn't use it, he'd better prepare for death.

Suddenly, a pair of ethereal black horns started to form on Ace's forehead, and they were 1 meter long and shaped like a crescent moon.

The moment those horns manifested, Ace experienced that the danger he was feeling vanished, and the soul sense also lost its target!

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Chapter 599: Impending Danger! (3)

Ace felt he had just escaped a certain death when that Soul Sense's oppression was gone. But he knew the party wouldn't be fooled so easily.

His only chance was for these three red fate points to draw the attention of this terrifying being while he found a way out of this sudden mess.

While the entire place was dyed in black on the fate map, with the exception of the silver area, it wasn't hard to guess anymore as this location might be the only way out of there.

'If this silver fate point was really pointing out a way to escape from this expert, which would've happened if I chose to ignore it. Or it is not the way out at all. I can still use the space step talisman to teleport my way in this one-minute window.

'Because if there wasn't any way out in this passage, then I'll have to use my instant flash talisman.' Ace knew he didn't have to wait as the black fate point was already at the entrance while the two red fate points were also close.

A deep voice reverberated at this moment like thunder, "I know you're in there., you, sneaky little thief! You can no longer hide that space fluctuation from me!"

Ace's heart palpitated when he heard this, and without hesitation, he used a space talisman to head deeper into the passage. He knew the other party was really here for him, and it wasn't coincidental.

He hadn't felt this threatened since the incident of treasure mountain in the land of Kingdoms!

This time, he appeared right behind those two red fate points and happened to see them storming toward the entrance.

His eyes contracted when he saw they were two white snakes with golden patterns on their scales. They didn't seem to notice Ace at all.

"Boommm!"

A massive explosion rang, jolting the whole passage.

The same cold voice snorted again, "Annoying beast get out of my way!"

The two snakes suddenly trembled as a terrifying aura engulfed the entire passage, and Ace felt like he was in a freezing lake.

The next moment, a giant figure appeared right above the teleportation spot.

Ace nearly forgot to breathe because the pressure was simply too terrifying around this giant person. A bright formation plate was hovering in front of this person.

"I know you're here. Just come out and surrender, and your life will be spared." The Demon Ancestor coldly looked around.

He didn't know how but his soul sense was no longer locked on Ace. He knew he had locked on him for a moment, but he suddenly vanished. Likewise, he thought that it was because of that space ability, but now he still couldn't detect Ace.

Which made him somewhat worried.

He had finally tracked Ace's traces because of the formation in front of him. This formation was the only thing that could detect space fluctuations from an extremely large distance.

This formation was borrowed from the Devil Race; with it, he found traces of Ace in the black mountains. But to his dismay, Ace had stopped using the space step talismans at that point, so he could only search without any clues again.

However, when the heavenly punishment case such a huge commotion, he was the first to notice it, and then he even sensed the key's position for a small period of time, making him come in this direction.

This led him toward this rift, and when Ace used the talisman again, it was picked by the formation, making him even certain that it was Ace!

As long as Ace wasn't teleported to an extremely long distance, he could easily follow him with lightning-fast speed. He was determined to capture him and reclaim the scepter while also gaining Ace's secrets!

Furthermore, he had a trump card which he wasn't sure would work or not, but he'll try it if Ace doesn't surrender!

Ace, on the other hand, was shocked to see the Demon Ancestor appearing a few meters above him.

'He can retract my talisman potions with space undulations?!' Ace was completely appalled at this moment. He had never thought about this possibility.

Gritting his teeth, he still used the talisman to go deeper into the passage. There were still over 50 seconds left before the horn's time ran out. He wanted to see why this place was still silver.

If it still does not work, then he'll use the instant flash to get out of there.

The formation plate trembled at this moment before the demon ancestor looked deeper into the direction of the cave.

"Stubborn!" He snorted as he again chased.

However, Ace didn't stop and kept using the talismans until he reached the end of the passage.

His eyes dilated when he saw a dark slit right in the middle of space, and he could feel a dense Qi coming out from this slit.

'A tear in space?! Could it be this is the fate location, and I can only escape using it!' Ace's mind raced as he could feel the Demon Ancestor approaching with a terrifying speed, and he'll be here any second.

'Fate Map has never disappointed me before!' Ace gritted his teeth and ran toward the space slit.

As he entered the space slit, it suddenly trembled before it started to get close.

But before it got completely closed, he was able to hear Demon Ancestor's fleeting voice, which made him flutter.

"If you surrender, I can help you save your Sister Alina from...."

"What?!" Ace twisted his head instantly as he looked behind and wanted to rush out, but the tear was gone. He fell into complete darkness.

At this moment, he finally felt he wasn't standing on solid ground, and before he could react, he felt a strange force gripping his body and started to pull him in all directions.

He felt like he was in a meat grinder as this force wanted to rip him into shreds while his body was being pulled in a particular direction.

At this moment, the System's voice rang in his mind, which was in a mess because he heard Alina named out of Demon Ancestor's mouth.

[Warning: Host has fallen into Space Turbulence!]

[System detects a safe Teleportation Channel!]

[Cost: 20 Space Step Talisman & 1 Million Thief Points]

[Continue?]

[Detecting Host mind state in chaos!]

[Sufficient Resources detected!]

[The cost has been automatically deducted!]

The next moment, Ace's body suddenly vanished from the darkness.

A few moments after Ace's body had vanished, a vertical eyeball appeared with a spiral iris that could make anyone fall into an endless illusion.

Seeing no one there, the spiral eyeball faded away!

A few moments ago, the Demon Ancestor felt a strange danger at the edge of this tunnel, making his eyes squint. He thought it was Ace's trump card, so he stopped to ensure he won't fall into his trap.

Ace's abilities were all terrifying, and to this day, no one knows what his cultivation was or the extent of his abilities. But underestimating him is the biggest mistake at this point.

So, he decided to use his trump card immediately to ensure that guy won't try the path of mutual destruction.

Although Demon Ancestor was a high and mighty expert, he was also afraid of death because of this exact reason, and he didn't want to fall into the trap of someone with Ace's reputation.

If he had known that Ace was only at the river core realm according to their standards, he would never have stopped out of caution.

He loudly said, "If you surrender, I can help you save your Sister Alina from Dream Shatter!"

Demon Ancestor didn't know if this was true or not, but an astonishing declaration had been made a month ago by the Ice Lord, one of the Five Element Lords of the Blood Continent.

He declared that his daughter, the famous Ice Sword Fairy had ties with the thief, and because of it, she was captured and held hostage by the Dream Shatter, the Ancestor of the Human Race.

Ice Sword Fairy Alina was quite famous within the upper echelon of the ten continents because of her talent in sword path and Heavenly Beauty.

So, this news naturally shocked the entire world because the Sky Stealer had long become a mysterious enigma of thievery. As a result, many dreaded him, especially after the rumor of Demon Temple theft started to rise.

But no one had ever thought that the thief had ties with the Ice Sword Fairy, and from the announcement of the Ice Lord, he also stated that the thief was most likely a traitor of the human race, not a demon or hex demon.

However, what shocked everyone the most was the humans dared to leak this fact.

Weren't they afraid of demons taking the fight to them to regain their prestige once they knew the elusive thief belonged to the humans and he even had a possible weakness?

The last part of the announcement was if Ace won't come to Azure Wind Continent in 5 years and surrender, then Dream Shatter will execute Aline!

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Chapter 600: Side Mission: 4

Unknown place, inside a dark space, rune symbols suddenly lit on the floor, illuminating the entire area, a ten cubic meter wide stone room.

In the center of this room was a formation engraved filled with ancient symbols, which were now lit in bright light.

At this moment, a cloaked figure suddenly appeared in the middle of this formation like a ghost before those symbols slowly turned back to their dormant state as darkness and silence returned.

After an unknown time, two dark blue pupils suddenly glowed in this dark space as a confused voice groaned, "Where am I?!"

It was Ace's voice!

Ace could clearly see despite the darkness as he saw a stone ceiling in a daze before his eyes became clear and turned icy cold when he remembered the words of Demon Ancestor.

'How did they know about Aline?! Don't tell me she came back to find me in the Azure Wind Continent and then got captured by someone who knows about our relationship? No, it's impossible. No one knows about my true identity....'

A dark current flashed past Ace's eyes as someone came to his mind, and he gritted his teeth in hatred, 'It has to be that clone bastard! He must've guessed it was me by my thief's name. But still, he didn't know about Alina!'

Ace felt his heartache as the cute figure of little Alina appeared in his mind, 'Why did she get captured? Don't tell me that bastard announced my identity, and that girl thought it was me and went back to find me.

'I was so obsessed with the missions that I forgot about paying attention to the outside world and how my identity could affect someone I cared about. I wanted to cultivate because I wanted to get united with her, but my terminus changed without even me realizing it. What a thief I am....'

Ace stared in the void for a long time as he didn't want to get up, as he thought about his past when he didn't know the truth about Alina, his parents, or himself.

But now that he thought about it, he started to change from a naïve kid to a cunning thief because he liked that feeling of being free from any restriction. He was even free from heaven.

He had come a long way, but he never thought he would feel that same pain when he was that naïve kid who lost his parents and grandparents and was also on the verge of losing his sister.

He never thought that even after learning to show a myriad of emotions and change his personality as he wished, he would still not get rid of this painful feeling he didn't ever want to feel.

'Sigh... I should've gone to her sooner...'

An oppressive glint shone in Ace's eyes before his lips curled upward into a dark smile, 'Since they knew her relationship with me, they won't hurt her, and they didn't know if I still care about her after all these years. They will wait until they verify it since she is the only person who has a connection with me.

'I don't know what kind of status Alina had in the blood continent. According to the power hierarchy of the Blood Continent, five elemental clans rule the continent, and one of them is related to Ice Element Bloodline.

'But if she was from that clan, then she should've been captured, or her status is low where they won't care about her being used as bait to lure me out. Or the person who captured her is far stronger than they could handle.

'However, from that temple guy's tone, he said he could help me save her, which means he's confident in going against whoever captured her. But if, against all odds, anything happened to her....'

Ace's eyes were extremely dark as a blood-curdling aura suddenly emitted from him before it vanished the next moment.

Ace knew he needed to figure out Alina's whereabouts, so he needed to get out of this place so he could rescue her or at least know who had captured her.

He then stood up, and now he was calm, too calm and cold, actually.

He looked around and noticed the rune formation under himself. Furthermore, he frowned since he had never seen these symbols before, and they were too profound.

Ace finally remembered hearing System's voice and opened the notification panel, and his eyes narrowed when he saw words like 'Space Turbulence' and 'Teleportation Channel.'

But he knew it had something to do with the space tear he jumped into because he thought it was the only way out, and it was also a silver fate point.

He sternly questioned the System, "System, where am I, and what is this space turbulence and teleportation channel?"

"[With the Host's current authority, the concept of Space Turbulence is restricted information. But since the Host has already experienced it, the System will give a basic introduction.]

"[In simple words, Space Turbulence exists deep within space, and by tearing open space deep enough, anyone could enter Space Turbulence. However, surviving in space turbulence is another matter entirely.]

"[Without a certain level of Space Law comprehension, the Space Turbulence is akin to certain death. Even for someone who has comprehended Space Law 100%, it is deadly because the longer someone exposes to Space Turbulence, the higher the risk of turning into Space Current.]

"[Space Current is an invisible force which exists in Space Turbulence, and if someone is not careful, they can turn into Space Current instantly.]"

"[Just as the Host had already experienced the feeling of getting exposed to just at the minor level of space turbulence. If not for your body being tempered by the heavenly punishment or the Space Step Talisman, only the life coin would be able to save your life.]

"[However, the space tear Host fell into was very close to a teleportation channel. A teleportation channel is like a safe passage within the space turbulence paved by mighty space cultivators.]

"[These channels were used to travel into different dimensions within space turbulence like secret realms, hidden spaces, or independent spaces! They are completely different from simple teleportation, which we used to teleport into a singular space plain.]

"[Host is currently standing on top of a Dimension Teleportation Formation and probably inside a secret realm or independent space hidden deep within the space turbulence.]"

Ace cocked an eyebrow with a grim look in his eyes, "So, you're saying I'm no longer in Golden Sky World?"

"[You are but no exactly. You are somewhere between the Mortal Sky Heaven and Space Turbulence!]"

"Then can I use this formation to go back?" Ace asked with a hint of anxiety. He wasn't in the mood to explore anymore right now.

All he wanted to do was to go back and investigate Alina and where she was.

"[Host required 3 Grade-8 Space Crystals and a corresponding Teleportation Channel Activation Key to activate this Dimension Teleportation Formation. Even if the Host collects them, there is still a possibility that the other side of the formation has been destroyed!]"

Ace knit his brows together with a dark expression, "Then how the hell am I going to get out of this place?!"

Ace was almost on the verge of losing it again because not to talk about the possibility of this formation being destroyed on the other side. But just finding three grade-8 space crystal were almost impossible, not to mention that Activation Key, which god know where it is right now.

"[Host can try looking for an Independent Space Core, which should be at the core of this space. As long as the Host destroys that Core, this space will merge into Mortal Sky Heaven. Any independent space will be devoured by heaven once it loses its Independent Space Core!]"

"You should've said that sooner!" Ace snorted since it was far easier than looking for something impossible.

"Where should I find this core?" Ace asked again.

However, instead of answering, he was greeted by a suddenly appeared panel and a notification.

[A side mission has been issued]

'Fuck!' Ace knew he had been had!

[Side Mission: Escape the Mysterious Space!]

-Mission Introduction: The Host has stumbled upon a mysterious space that is filled with the unknown!

-Requirement: Find a way to escape the mysterious space!

-Time: 3 Years

-Reward(s):

1. 10 Million EXP

2. 10 Million SP

3. 1,000,000 TP

-Conditional Reward:

1. Collect Independent Space Core to upgrade Living Thief's Space to 1,000 Cubic-Meter Space + 5 Humanoid Storage Capacity!

-Punishment: Living Thief's Space blocked for 50 Years!

"I knew you were being too nice by sharing that information, you scheming bastard!" Ace cursed and sighed while he closed the mission panel.

Even though he was indignant, he was grateful since the System had provided him with essential information about where he was and what he needed to do to escape this place, or he would've wasted too much time to find this solution.

Furthermore, the conditional reward is quite a boon, far better than collecting 100 grade-8 storage rings and paying 50 million TP to upgrade the thief's space through the upgrade scheme.

He didn't even know it was possible!