

Thief 671

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 671: Why Only Humans?

Adolph and Douglas could be seen walking in a thick forest behind the group of eight others. Furthermore, the leader of this squad was non-other than the same demon who appointed them in Squad #2.

There were five demons, two devils, one hunter, and two humans in this squad, and except for the two humans, Douglas and Adolph, the others could be said to be a league above them.

Especially the red hair hunter scout who was quite proficient in pathfinding and he was using a bow and arrows.

As for the demons, they were all holding long spears while the purple-wing devils were carrying dual long swords. This left Adolph and Douglas, who were too fragile in comparison.

"Brother Adolph, it seemed your decision to join them was right. With these guys around, we'll be safe in this beast forest." Douglas happily whispered to Adolph.

"It seemed to be the case." Adolph nodded in agreement.

But inwardly, Ace was not as optimistic as Douglas because he could sense far more than a mortal. Looking at the demons and devil following the hunter's lead, his lips curled up into a cold smile.

Just like that, the night arrived, and the group didn't encounter any danger or prey the entire noon. So, the demon leader named Johnnie ordered to set the camp in the open while the devils started to get busy setting up the perimeters. At the same time, the humans were ordered to collect firewood.

"I never thought this place was so peaceful. All those rumors about this place being filled with demonic beasts were completely baseless. I even suspect those demons and devils deliberately spread them to hoard all the benefits." Douglas articulated with Adolph while collecting the firewood.

"Maybe," Ace commented dismissively.

The hunting squads were filled with mostly demons and devils because of their superior physical trials, and that's why the food was controlled by them as well. They sold their hunt to the market for others commodities.

'Rustle...'

At this moment, rustling sounds were suddenly heard from the woods, drawing Douglas's attention while Ace merely glanced there without any hint of surprise.

"Who's there?" yelled Douglas as he threw the woods on the ground and pointed the spear in the sound's direction with vigilance.

'Rustle... rustle...'

More sounds started to ring from all directions.

"We are surrounded." Ace coolly stated.

Douglas's face turned ashen when he heard it and blurted, "Let's yell for help tighter. We are not far from the campsite. They will be able to hear us!"

Ace shook his head and nonchalantly uttered, "I don't think it's possible, Brother Douglas, because we are surrounded by none other than our squad members."

"What?!" Douglas exclaimed as he looked toward Adolph in disbelief.

Ace ignored him and looked at the rustling sound direction and said with a cold smile, "Why don't you come out and explain it to my companion here, Leader Johnnie?"

Just as Adolph's voice trailed off, Johnnie's guffawed voice rang as all the rustling sounds suddenly vanished, and only his strange heavy voice was left in the silent vicinity.

Douglas was flabbergasted since it confirmed Adolph's previous words. But he soon laughed dryly as he said, "Leader Johnnie, please don't scare us like this." He was relieved that they were not surrounded by demonic beasts.

"Good, very good. You are indeed somewhat special." Johnnie walked out from the woods while the other seven members of the group followed behind.

Ace looked at all of them and asked with a smile, "So, you lure us here in this barren vicinity just to scare us?"

Johnnie looked at Adolph's smiling face and couldn't help but feel something was not right, but it was just a feeling, so he ignored it as he had done this too many times, and this time won't be any different.

He replied mockingly, "When did you find out? If you knew I was luring you here, why didn't you do anything?"

"What are you guys talking about?" Douglas was bewildered as he started to have a very bad proposition.

Ace answered nonchalantly, "I found from the moment you have us instated in your squad as to why you lure us here. I got the answer a long time ago. I just want to make sure you won't commit such a heinous act again."

"What did you say? Ahahaha, are you an idiot..." the other demon suddenly laughed as he mocked, but his voice cut off, and the very next moment.

'Boommm.'

His entire body suddenly exploded, and all the other reaming seven were too shocked to care about the bloody gore on them. Douglas's eyes almost popped out of his eye sockets as if he was in a dream.

"Ambush!" Johnnie's face was ashen as he roared.

Everyone snapped out of their stupor, and they quickly took stances with horrid expressions on their faces. This was their first time encountering such a situation. From start to finish, they never even suspect that it was the doing of those two humans.

At this time, Ace spoke again as he looked at them with an icy gaze, "Leader Johnnie, didn't you enjoy hunting humans and feel thrilled when they begged you to spare them? Not to mention you enjoy the taste of human flesh above anything else.

"That's why you only gather your squad whenever a human comes to register in the hunting squads. I could've ignored you killing them, but I don't like anything else you do, especially the part about tormenting them and then eating them. Tell me, why only humans?"

Johnnie's heart trembled as he abruptly turned toward Adolph's direction, and so did everyone else involved with him.

"H-how do..." But before Johnnie could finish.

"Bang... bang... bang..."

Six more continuous explosions rang in the vicinity, and only Johnnie was left on this spot, standing there like a statue as he was now covered in his companions' flesh and gore.

But his eyes were now filled with terror as he looked at the human who was still smiling, and he felt he was too familiar with this smile because he used to smile this way whenever he was on a hunt for humans.

He never thought he would dread this smile so much that he wanted to wet himself right there and then. He always thought humans were inferior and only good for their food, but now he felt he was meeting a human first time.

"Since killing helpless humans have no consequences, then I'm sure killing you guys won't be any different." Ace nonchalantly said before Johnnie exploded right then and there, just like his companions.

Ace had long seen their memories, and he could've just escaped after confirming his conjecture, but when he saw their conduct against humans, he wanted to kill them in the same way they did with all those helpless humans.

Although he had killed many before, and many might fall in his hands in the future, he never enjoyed it, nor was he proud of it. He only enjoys theft and the process of it.

"Y-y..." Douglas was about to go mad when his eyes went blank.

'Art of Mind Stealing: Bronze Thievish Hand! Ace's pupils suddenly lit in bronze color before they returned to normal within a moment.

Thereby, Douglas, who was standing blankly, suddenly fell face-first on the ground.

Ace coldly thought while looking at Douglas, 'I guess this will do for now. He won't remember a thing from the point we stopped for rest.'

Stealing the memory of a mortal was child's play for Ace after he got the hang of the Art of Mind Stealing the first realm, Bronze Thievish Hand. Now Douglas will fill that small missing gap in his memories himself after he wakes up and finds himself alone.

After Ace was done, he started to fade like an illusion, leaving nothing but a bloody mess behind!

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 672: In One Month...

The Royal Lands of the Azure Wind Continent were famous for faint azure wind drifting there all year long. No one knows where this wind came from, but it wasn't harmful. On the contrary, it was rich in the wind element.

Five Ancient Sects were rulers of the Royal Lands, and the territories were divided into the east; the Soul Flame Sect, west; the Beast Tamer Sect, south; the Dark Nightmare Sect, north; the Yin Flower Sect and in the center was the Azure Wind Mountain Sect.

Each sect handles its own territories without interfering with each other's business. These territories were filled with low-level sects of humans, which were directly under the Ancient Sects' jurisdiction.

Normally the Ancient Sects were aloof and seldom interfered with these low-level sects' business, and they recruited disciples every three years from all over the royal lands. This was the only time when the entire royal lands were stirred.

However, for the past few years, the peaceful environment of the royal lands had completely vanished when a sudden announcement was made about mass recruitment in the five ancient sects, which would be held every month without any ending period!

How could those small sects miss such a chance to have their sect disciples join the ranks of an ancient sect? Especially those arrogant and ambitious youths who didn't think of themselves any less than those geniuses of the Ancient Sects.

This made the entire royal lands lively, but another piece of news started to spread just three months ago. It was the news of a thief who betrayed humanity and was the enemy of all living beings, and all races were going to collaborate to get rid of him.

Furthermore, that thief might appear in the azure wind continent to save his kin, who was captured by the Grand Elder of Azure Wind Mountain Sect himself.

No one knows who spread this news or if it was true or not, but it instantly spread like wildfire and became a very popular topic among the masses.

However, when a demon was spotted entering the five sects, followed by devils, it became quite apparent that it might not be just a piece of baseless news after all.

This was the first time for almost all humans to see the top two races of the world gathering in their continent, and many became curious about why a thief would get so much attention from those two races.

At this moment, in the territory of Dark Nightmare Sect, within a small sect city.

A person with long dreadlocks filled with dirt, as his face was hiding behind those dirty dreadlocks, this bare bonny torso was filled with all kinds of wound marks and soil, and barely covered lower extremity with a short rag. There was an empty old bronze bowl covered with dust resting beside him. He looked like a schnorrer.

He was sitting in an old dark alley that seemed quite secluded, and if not for his steady breathing, someone might consider him a dead body that was dumped there by someone.

At this moment, a small silhouette suddenly appeared in the only narrow entrance of this alley. As it walked toward the beggar, a short skinny boy with a pale complexion and big bright gray eyes around the age between ten and twelve came into view.

He was wearing rundown clothes, but they were clean, and he was holding a small loaf of bread in his hand as he walked toward the beggar with an eager look in his lively eyes.

The beggar seemed to be completely oblivious to his arrival as he didn't move, and only breathing could be there.

The boy, without hesitation, stopped a foot away from the beggar and fell onto his knees. With a serious expression, he put the loaf of bread into the empty bronze bowl, but there was a hint of reluctance in his eyes as he stole a glance at that bread.

Still, he didn't take it back despite wanting to and said in his childish voice, "Old Master, thank you for saving me the other day. I'm here to repay you, and can you please teach me how to fight?"

"I also want to fight back, just like what you did with those bullies, and I didn't want to suffer again. I want to protect my mother the most, so please teach me. I won't make you teach me for free, and I'll pay you with a loaf of bread daily!"

His eyes were full of resolution as he looked at the old beggar with eagerness and worry.

If anyone heard his words, they would say he had gone crazy since he was asking a beggar to teach him how to fight instead of going to the sect that rules this city.

However, the boy knew that this beggar was not ordinary at all as just the other day, he was dragged into this barren corner of the city and was about to get robbed of his hard earned money by some street bullies. Still, he was saved by this old beggar who suddenly appeared out of nowhere and beat those bullies black and blue without getting hurt at all.

The boy was fascinated by the old beggar's moves and his hidden prowess, but he was too afraid of getting robbed and wanted to buy medicine for his ill mother, so he ran away without looking back.

However, after he thought it over the entire night, he finally decided to ask the beggar to teach him since he couldn't leave his mother alone in this place. She was his only family, and he worked very hard to support her.

Even this loaf of bread was quite a steep price for him to pay since he earned only enough to buy all those expensive medicines, and with leftovers, he bought these cheap loaves of bread and ate one loaf of bread in three portions a day while gave his mother full bread three times.

If he could, he might think of joining a sect, but he didn't have the physique or skills to join any sect. The requirement was simply too high. So, he was not delusional enough to still try.

That's why he was here to seek this beggar's help and learn some self-preserving skills, so he didn't have to avoid those bullies. He learned his lesson the other day.

The beggar's face was covered under those dirty dreadlocks as silence regained the entire alley after the boy spoke.

The boy started to become agitated when no reply was given by the beggar, and he clenched his teeth and put in another offer, "I can even let you live in my house!"

Although it was quite dangerous, he had no other choice, and he believed his eyes more, and he knew this beggar was not a bad person after he was saved by him. That's why he invited him to live in his small house.

Because it was still quite safe to have such an expert living in his home, this way, his mother would be safe, and he won't have to worry about her all day whenever he left home.

However, still, no reply was given, and the boy lost hope since he had nothing more to offer, and he didn't want to anger the beggar. He was grateful he saved him, and he was just trying his luck anyway.

So, he stood up, leaving the loaf of bread in the bronze bowl, and bowed his head, "Again, thank you for saving me." He then turned around to leave.

However, when he was at the edge of the alleyway, he heard a husky voice from behind.

"In one month, if you are able to steal everything from that gang, I'll teach you!"

The boy was startled and frowned as he thought he had heard wrong. When he turned around to ask again, the beggar had surprisingly vanished from his spot.

But the bronze bowl was still there. However, the loaf of bread has vanished from his bronze bowl, and an eye-catching golden color book has replaced it.

The boy was astonished as his attention was drawn by that book, but he quickly regained his focus and looked at the empty spot where the beggar was sitting motionlessly a moment ago.

He suddenly thought, 'Could it be he was one of those cultivators?'

His heart raced as he looked at that book in the bronze bowl. But he didn't go there and pick it up instantly out of caution. Although he was sure that the old beggar wouldn't harm him, everything involved in cultivation couldn't be ordinary.

So, he found a broken tree branch first before he approached the bronze bowl and tried to touch the bowl and the golden book with the tree branch. After nothing happened, he ground his teeth and moved his hand to pick up the book.

But when his fingertip touched the cold book cover, he instantly retracted it and looked around vigilantly. After confirming nothing had happened, a massive sigh escaped his mouth, and he finally picked the book up.

With ecstasy, he looked at the golden book and saw a few silver words on the book cover.

'Achromatic Theft Cultivation Art (Nine Soul Gates Manual)!'

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 673: The Sun and Moon Ascension Gates (1)

Over a hundred miles away from the Servant Mountain City was the Official Mountain which was just over ten miles away from the Sun and Moon Ascension Gates.

In comparison to the Servant Mountain City, the Official Mountain City was like heaven as this place was filled with liveliness and joy. Furthermore, the people who live in the Official Mountain City were given permission to cultivate up to the Peak of Qi Gates Realm. Moreover, they were all provided with nine gate manual!

However, despite that, only ten percent among were able to ascend the ascension stairway.

The Sun and Moon Ascension Gates open every month, and anyone under the age of thirty can try to ascend the ascension stairway. There was no limit to tries as long as they were Official Union Members and could pay 100 Union Merits with every try.

The official members earn merits by cultivating Qi herbs, mining Qi ores, or Qi stones from the 'mortal domain.' This place was rich with all kinds of lodes and Qi soil, and all of it was under the control of the Union!

Although there were no major conflicts among the races here, the competition couldn't be avoided, especially when races like Devil, Demon, Hunter, Elves, and such were blessed with superior connate abilities.

Thereby, the arrogance of being superior couldn't be avoided, and there was a secret ranking among races in the Union that wasn't official. Still, everyone secretly agreed with it, and Union didn't stop them either.

This ranking was made according to the number of official members in the official mountain city as well as who controls the largest resources among the races.

Devils, demons, and hunters were still in the top three. However, humans' rank was much different than the ten continents. They were ranked ninth and fourth place was held by the elves!

If not for their talent in cultivation, they would've been dead last in this unofficial ranking.

Today happened to be the day when the Sun and Moon Ascension Gates would be opened, and like usual, thousands of youths from different races were gathered outside the colossal gates.

These youths were gathered together with their races, creating different large groups, and these groups occupied different areas outside the gates.

But the areas they occupied were different in their numbers like the devils were standing at the very front with over three thousand winged devils' youths. At the same time, demons were right behind them, with slightly fewer demons than them.

There were naturally a group of human youths which was only numbered 103.

Furthermore, this group was gathering behind two humans. One was a tall, handsome young man with a slim physique and long black hair. He was clad in a blue silk robe and gave off a solemn aura.

While the other was a dainty girl in a flowery pink dress with big bright eyes, and she had some resemblance with that handsome young man since they were both siblings.

As for why these two were at the very front, it was because they belonged to the Atlas Family of the Human Race, which was the number one family among the humans present in the Official Mountain City.

But the real reason why the Atlas family holds such status is that they held the honor of the household of the first human to ever become an official member as well as ascend the Ascension Stairway.

Every human in the mortal domain respects the Atlas family.

That's why these two siblings became the leaders of this human entourage despite the fact that it was their third try on the ascension stairway. However, this wasn't something humiliating since only genius among geniuses could ascend the accession stairways on the first try. Even the top three races agree with this fact.

If someone was able to ascend the stairway in their first ten tries, they already consider genius among the mortal domain.

Within this human entourage, at the very end, was standing a tall young man who was even more handsome than the youth from the Atlas family. However, there were many scars on his handsome face which made him stand out less.

He was wearing gray robes, and his long white hair and silvery eyes gave him a dreamy look while his eyes were sharp and astute. He has this inexpressible charm emitting from his person, which makes anyone feel closer to him.

This was naturally Ace, who had appeared here with his own face to take this test. It has been a long time since Ace wasn't wearing his mask in public and using some disguise.

The reason for his discarding the mask was that he was going to enter the union's true core area. He was quite sure they had high-level formations that could easily see through his mask especially when the ten-mile area around the ascension stairway was dyed black in the fate map.

That's why he didn't dare to approach this place while wearing his thousand-face mask, or he would be in huge trouble if, by any chance, those union guys found him.

However, he still has altered some of his unique facial features, like he has used a special ink to make his black hair white. At the same time, his eye color was the result of another special rare grade-6 herb called eye charmer water lily which could turn the eye color into anything the consumer desire for one year. This was its only function.

But Ace couldn't do anything about that natural charm of his, and despite creating scars on his face, many girls were glancing in his direction with a faint blush on their faces, and he could only smile wryly.

Still, since he was not using any formation or skill, he would not fall under the detection of anti-disguise formations. He had already tried such formation on himself before coming here.

As for his cultivation, he knew better than anyone. No one will be able to tell, and he would only appear mortal unless he showed his cultivation himself.

Right now, he was emitting faint undulation of a peak Nine Qi Gate Realm, which could only be sensed by the foundation realm cultivator or higher.

This method was something unique to Ace as he recently discovered it when he was still wandering in the endless sea.

Since no one can sense his real cultivation and they will be fooled by the mask fake cultivation, then what will happen if he himself shows the aura of a fake realm?

But it was easier said than done. It took him some time to figure it out, but with the thousand-face mask as a foundation and he has other skills that were created to achieve such an effect.

So, in the end, he managed to learn how to create a fake cultivation aura up to the late-stage foundation-building realm.

If another cultivator used an aura masking skill, they will be discovered by higher-level cultivators. But Ace can't because after he opened the hidden part of his cultivation technique, no one ever discovered his true cultivation, so no matter what others try, his cultivation would appear what he was showing it to be.

Lastly, Ace's true motive was never to stay in the union but to find a way to leave it, and the moment he managed to infiltrate into the core area, he would start right away!

At this moment, a solemn ethereal voice rang, drawing everyone's attention.

"Attention! The Sun and Moon Ascension Gates are about to open!"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 674: The Sun and Moon Ascension Gates (2)

"Attention! The Sun and Moon Ascension Gates are about to open!"

Everyone looked in the colossal gates' direction in unison.

Ace was also observing the bronze gates with sun and moon symbols, but he was more interested in the golden and silver wyvern statues standing at each side of these two gates.

Looking at those two statues, Ace's eyes gleamed in a dark light as a strange golden symbol suddenly appeared deep within his pupils, and it appeared slightly revolving.

The golden wyvern was standing on the side of the sun symbol, while the silver wyvern was standing beside the gate with the moon symbol.

He was feeling strange undulations from those two statues, which was quite compelling, especially for those Qi gates realm youths, as some of them were looking at them with worship.

Unlike others, he could see very faint crimson and purple haze emitting from them.

'According to some heraldry books, the Wyvern is a legendary beast of war, envy, pestilence, and strength. But they only appeared in symbols or statues like these two, and no one had ever seen a real one even the beasts in the beast continent worship them.

'It's even possible that they should be in the same class as Cyrus and from another heaven. As for those statues, they are quite unique as a massive amount of Qi is released from both of them. The silver one emits gentle soul Qi, and the golden is emitting fiery martial Qi.

'Even with my Intermediate Thief's Vision at an early level, I can only see those two-color Qi. Which could only mean they are at least Grade-7 treasures!' A thievish glint flashed past his eyes before vanishing.

Even if he wanted to steal those statues, he didn't dare to because he knew the moment he did, he could forget about getting out of here in one piece. Besides, since those union guys dared to place those two treasures on the entrance gates, they should be quite confident in protecting them.

Still, if they had placed two grade-7 treasures on the entrance gates, then just how rich were they exactly?

Ace quickly threw those dangerous thoughts outside his head as he knew he was not ready to raid a place with the possibility of having a grade-8 protection treasure.

The black color in the fate map was more than reason enough for him not to try anything foolish and only focused on finding a way to get out of here and head to the Azure Wind Continent!

This place wasn't going anywhere after all.

The solemn ethereal voice rang again, "I will repeat the three rules only time, so listen carefully. Even if you are no newcomer, make sure you get your facts straight.

"First, anyone under the age of thirty is eligible to ascend the ascension stairway. But if you are even a day older than thirty years, the moment you cross the gates, you will suffer a torturous death. So, leave now while you still can and save yourself the torture."

No one moved as they were well aware of this fact and waited solemnly for the voice to continue.

"Second, the ascension staircase has 1,500 steps and is divided into three levels which will test three aspects of you.

"The first level (1st Step to 500th Step) will test your strength!

"The second level (501st Step to 1000th Step) will test your willpower!

"The third and final level (1001st Step to 1500th step) will test your courage, strength, and willpower all together!

"The first two levels are not deadly, and you will be saved by the invigilators. However, the moment you step on the 1001st step, you will lose your chance to be saved as from that point on, it is either go forward or perish scenario.

"So, know your limit and don't die unjustly. There are always more chances to return in the future and take the test again as long as you are alive.

"The third and final rule, attack on fellow participants or using any underhanded tactics or treasures are prohibited. If found, you will be detained, including your loved one, and executed in the execution platform of the mortal realm!"

Everyone was silent as they had grave expressions since they were repeatedly warned about this particular rule because it wasn't a joke at all.

In the past many families, whether they were influential or run-of-the-mill, anyone was foolish enough to try underhanded tricks. They were instantly caught and then executed because of this exact rule.

This made this trial fair for everyone, and no one dared to play dirty, no matter how much guts they had.

Ace's lips curled up since he wasn't worried in the least since he had spent a whole month in the Official Mountain City to prepare for this trial.

At this moment, the ground suddenly started to shake as something huge was moving, and it was none other than the two sun and moon ascension gates.

The gates moved inward; dense Qi suddenly rushed out, but no one seemed to bother by it as everyone's shimmering eyes were affixed to the stone stairway that goes all the way into the clouds.

Although the stone staircase looked extremely ordinary, as if it was carved by an ordinary stonemason.

But everyone knew better than to belittle that 'ordinary' stone staircase because if they did, the moment they took the first step, they would be in a world of pain.

'The Qi is as dense as the imperial demon domain.' Ace's expression became solemn as he looked at the long stairway and the clouds blocking the other side.

The solemn ethereal voice sounded snapped everyone from their stupor, "Now, take out your Official Member Identity Token and cross the gates. If your Union Merit Points are below 100, then you better scam, or you'll be punished the moment you are discovered sneaking!"

Everyone quickly flipped their hands, and palm-size gray cubic tokens appeared in their hands. Some take them out from their pockets and start moving toward the ascension stairway.

Since the Official Members could use Qi, they naturally had lowest-grade storage rings available for 100 union credit, but only some rich family scions could afford them.

Ace also took out the same gray token from his pocket and followed behind the human group.

His lips curled up slightly, 'I had spent an entire month to forge this little thing. It better be worth it!'

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 675: What are you doing?

As those youths passed the gates one after another, the gray token in their hand shimmered for a moment before going dormant again.

With all the races ahead crossing, it was soon the humans' turn, and the two members of the Atlas family took the lead, and everyone else followed suit.

Ace, who was at the end of the group, calmly followed behind while holding his own gray token. As Ace walked by the two statuses, he felt a terrifying probing power wash over him.

But he didn't panic and continued to walk forward as if he didn't feel anything like those youths. Thereafter, the token in his hand suddenly shimmered garishly, and like others, it went dormant the next moment.

He had now walked to the other side of the gate, and his lips curled up in a content smile.

'Now, on to the stairs.' Ace didn't show any reaction like the others around him and walked toward the first stone step, which was over two hundred meters away from the entrance.

The devils, demons, and hunters were on the lead as some of their members were already stepped on the first stairstep. At the same time, some of them were still not ready and calming their nerves. Lastly, there were also some who were using wait and see approach.

As for the time limit, there was three days limit, so they weren't worried about not having enough time.

The humans belonged to the latter group as they all watched those other races' participants pave the way for them.

Although they knew it was meaningless since, in the end, their own abilities matter the most. But they still decided to wait. At least they wanted to see those powerful races using their abilities so that they could have a clear grasp of the situation.

Even those two from the Atlas family didn't take the lead on this one, as they were watching closely.

Unbeknownst to those participants, they were closely monitored by ten purple robe figures standing above the clouds right above them. They were all giving off a dignified feeling as they stood on flying swords with their hands behind their backs.

However, five of them had blazing golden sun crests on their robes, while the other five had full silver moon crests just like the gates. Furthermore, the five with the moon crest were all women, while the sun crest bearer were males.

"Sigh... nothing new." A wizened face human with long white hair sighed ruefully as he looked down in a particular direction.

"Heh, what do you expect, Elder Joseph? The ascension stairway trial is always like this. Only those with courage and strength could pass it, not those who are too afraid even to take a challenge." A mature demoness with purplish glossy skin and small curvy horns remarked with a hint of scorn.

Elder Joseph, as a human, knew this demoness was referring to those youths who decided to wait and watch, and humans were included in them as well.

However, before he could retort, a short elderly figure with a long beard directly snapped at her, "Jayden, how about you mind your own business? It's not like, your demon race has passed the test for three years. What are you so proud of your little 'goodies'?"

Jayden was startled at the end and didn't understand what 'little goodies' meant until it finally came to her as she instinctively glanced at her small chest, and fury replaced her bewildered expression.

"You little dwarf! You dare to spout a vile remark! Do you think I can't do anything to you!" Jayden aura instantly rose as killing intent flashed past her rageful eyes.

"It's not like you can't do anything, but you little slut don't dare to do a thing. Come, come, little bitch let's see if you have the courage to bite!" The little dwarf, unlike his elderly age, his mouth was quite vile, and he was completely fearless as he spat curse after curse at Jayden.

This action made the other four females frown in disgust while Jayden's eyes were bloodshot as she looked at the dwarf with full of murderous intent, wanting to chop him into millions of pieces.

But just as the dwarf said, she didn't dare to attack and could only ground her teeth in hatred.

"Alright, both of you, stop." A gray-winged devil coldly glanced at them, "Elder Jayden, please refrain from remaking on others. As for you, Old Willie, can you keep that vile tongue of yours in check? It's uncouth for a man such as your status."

Willie's eyes instantly landed on the devil, and he was about to snap back at him when Joseph placed his hand over Willie's shoulder and stopped him.

Joseph knew his friend's personality quite well, and he didn't want to make trouble for him since he was just speaking up for him.

"Old Willie, let's just watch. It's not worth it." He shook his head.

"Fuck, I'll spare those bitches for your sake." Willie huffed in exasperation.

He was not just speaking for the human race; his mountain dwarf race was also among those who were still standing behind.

The Mountain Dwarf Race was ranked seventh in the golden sky world, but here they were ranked tenth, and their population was quite low.

But their personalities were quite straightforward, and they only looked at the world as black and white and fearless of consequence. If it was anywhere else, those demons and devils won't even bat an eye before killing them, but here they can't do anything.

"Look, that little human doll is still moving?" A tall, burly figure with a wolf face exclaimed at this moment.

His words drew everyone's attention as they looked in the direction of humans, and they all saw a tall young man with white hair and a scar-filled face walking past the humans with a calm expression.

"How handsome. Despite his scars, he's so attractive." A female devil with a buxom figure commented with a peculiar glint in her black eyes.

Not only just the female devil but the other four women were also looking intently at the young man.

"Haha, good lad. If he manages to pass, I'll accept him in my runic smith department." Willie laughed in satisfaction.

The others rolled their eyes at him and didn't pay attention as they just watched the white hair human advancing toward the stairstep.

Joseph's eyes were shimmering with hope as he looked at the young human, 'There's something special about him.'

Ace had no idea he had just drawn the attention of ten invigilators above the sky just by advancing toward the stairway. Even if he knew, he would still choose to advance because he was not afraid of grabbing attention after passing through the sun and moon ascension gates.

On the contrary, he was now hoping to draw a powerful figure's attention since it was the easiest way to get crucial information about the union and how to exit it.

Soon, the other humans also saw noticed Ace walking forward instead of waiting behind the members of the Atlas family.

"Hey, where are you going?" A burly human youth with a bald head asked Ace, and his voice finally drew the attention of the people in front.

Ace looked at the bald youth and coolly said, "Of course, I'm going there to pass the trial!"

Eternal Thief

Chapter 676: Climbing the Stairway

"Of course, I'm going there to pass the trial!"

Hearing Ace's words, everyone was looking at him strangely. However, no one tried to stop him either. Many of them were taking this trial for the second or even tenth time, but they had never seen Ace before, which meant he was a newcomer.

Occasionally, someone like him would appear, didn't know how high the sky is and how low the earth is. These arrogant guys thought themselves superior to others and charged right down the stairs, only to end up more miserable than anyone else.

However, this kind of arrogant participant only appeared in the top three races. No human has ever done that before, as they always wait around to watch until someone passes at least a hundred stairs before moving.

But this human was going ahead when the participants were still at the third step, so this drew quite the attention of the others races.

Furthermore, despite his scary appearance, everyone has a good impression of him, especially those demons and devils. But it was too vague and hidden that no one found it strange.

As Ace walked under the eyes of everyone, he was not worried at all since he knew what he was doing.

Just as he was about to pass the humans, the young man from the Atlas family's impassive voice rang, "You're making a mistake."

Ace glanced at the young man with a solemn expression. He could tell he had kind intentions behind those words. So, he politely replied before walking away, "We'll find out soon, aren't we?"

The dainty girl was looking at Ace with curiosity and a tingle of blush as she wanted to say something as well but couldn't collect her courage since she was feeling shy in front of Ace.

The young man didn't speak anymore and merely grunted before returning to silence and watched the white-haired young man walking toward the stairstep, and there wasn't a hint of nervousness in his stature.

Some demons, devils, and hunters were also waiting around the staircase as only their most talented and confident youths had gone ahead.

They didn't block the incoming human's way since it was against the rules and only watched him with great amusement.

Ace was quite pleased with the union's rules as no one got in his way, or it was quite a hassle if he had to deal with these guys. He looked at the five-hundred-meter-wide stairway and over a thousand participants already on the first three steps while only fifty of them were on the eighth, and four were on the ninth.

Some of them were sweating as they were having difficulty just moving their foot, but no one was using their Qi yet because it was just the first ten steps, and wasting Qi at the start was a grave mistake.

Ace also picked up his step, placed it on the first staircase without any hint of worry, and climbed the first stairstep. However, the moment he did, a strong pressure enveloped him.

'100 KG force?' Ace was quite amused as this force was nothing to him, but when he thought how those participants were only Qi gates realm cultivators, it was enough to test their strength, especially when this force increased with every stairstep.

As for how much it increased, Ace took another step, and the pressure instantly increased by 10 KG, which was still nothing to him. Ace then took another step, and the force increased by another 10 KG.

'If this force increases by ten at every step until the five hundred steps, this makes it 5,090 KG force if I include the 100 KG force of the first step. How vicious only those with powerful physiques or a large amount of Qi could pass through this hurdle while reaming in the Qi gates realm.' Ace couldn't help but look at those demons and devils about to enter the tenth stairstep.

In his opinion, this test was not fair toward races with weak bodies like humans unless they increased the cultivation realm cap to foundation building. The passing rate would be extremely pitiful for races like humans.

Still, it wasn't his place to comment on it as there was no fairness in this world, and the union seemed only to want the best of the best from every race.

Ace then took the fourth and fifth steps as the force increased by ten kilograms with every step.

Although it was just walking on a normal staircase for Ace, for those spectators, he appeared extremely bizarre because even those demons and devils with powerful bodies were taking their time to take every step since just standing under that pressure would drain their stamina.

But Ace was ascending each step without even stopping for a second, like he was climbing a normal staircase. He was already stepped on the ninth step and was only a step behind the group at the very front.

"He's using Qi to show off. What an idiot!" A handsome elf youth sneered disdainfully since, in his mind, Ace was using Qi to climb the staircase so fast.

Every participant had the same thought, and they sneered disdainfully since they knew he would be exhausted before he could reach the twentieth step.

Even those participants at the very front snickered in scorn when they saw Ace passing them. They weren't worried at all.

Those humans, on the hand, were looking unkindly at Ace because his actions were implicating them as a whole. Still, they could do nothing but watch and wait for that guy to fail as quickly as possible to end this humiliation.

However, everyone's disdainful expression started to change when Ace stepped past the twentieth stairstep, and he was still expressionless, just like when he started climbing the staircase.

Their expression turned into bewilderment when he reached the fortieth step and still climbed without any hint of stopping.

Step by step, Ace climbed, leaving those behind dumbfounded as they were still on the fifteenth step.

When Ace climbed onto the hundredth step, they were no longer calm as they looked at Ace solemnly. But when he reached the 200th step, their face was somewhat pale.

At this moment, no one knew who said it, but this voice was like a thunderbolt in deadly silence, "I-is he cheating?"

The humans were also snapped out of their stupor as their expressions turned nasty, and someone within their group retorted, "Do you guys think the immortals above would allow someone to cheat for so long? He's a genius of our race, so stop spouting nonsense!"

Everyone nodded their head as they looked toward other races with cold expressions, and their attitude about Ace had turned upside down now. If they were feeling humiliated by his action before, now they were feeling pride as he was climbing the staircase so fast without breaking a sweat.

Even the youth from the Atlas family couldn't help but scoff, "They are just a bunch of losers. Let's go; we can't let that friend climb alone."

"Right, it must be lonely up there. Let's keep him company." A human boy scornfully remarked.

Those races' faces turned nasty, but they didn't have words to refute them. Even the top three races were silent. Some even think the trial this time might be easier, but when they saw their race's geniuses were still only at the fiftieth step and struggling, they threw that thought out instantly.

At this moment, all the humans were moved and riled up as they instantly followed the Atlas family, brother and sister. Ace's climbing figure gave them hope and courage to think caution to the wind.

In the sky, those ten invigilators were also looking at Ace's climbing figure solemnly.

Willie couldn't help but exclaim when Ace stepped on 301st, and his pace didn't decrease at all, "Is this guy really human?"

Despite his doubts, Joseph gave Willie a nasty look and retorted, "Do you leave your brain in your smithy? Of course, he's a human!"

Even Joseph first thought that Ace wasn't human and he was dreaming, but now that he knew it was not a dream at all and race finally gave birth to a prodigy after so many years.

A dark yellow-skinned demon beside the devil sneered, "Why are you guys reacting like this? He didn't even enter the second level yet. So what if he had a strong physique? Only by having a strong soul could he pass the stairway."

Jayden quickly nodded her head in agreement and scoffed, "Don't forget, in the past, our demon race also had a prodigy like him who passed the first level with pure physical strength but failed at the second level."

Joseph's expression was clouded by he didn't have words to refute even Willie didn't comment on this as their excitement died down!

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 677: Life History of 'White'

Ace, without looking back, kept going up as the pressure on him increased, but it posed little challenge to him.

At this moment, he was already about to step onto the 500th step, and from the 501st step, level two would begin the test of willpower, which should be about the soul.

Ace suddenly stopped on the 500th step as he looked behind and saw the other participants were far behind. The furthest participant was only climbing on the 34th step, and it was a pale skin devil youth who was looking at him with bloodshot eyes.

Ace snickered softly before he turned around and took another step. The moment he stepped on the 501st step, Ace suddenly felt a faint soul force attacking his mind.

However, this soul force wasn't even enough to hurt his skin, much less his mind, so he walked ahead without caring about the soul force. His speed neither increased nor decreased.

But his actions clearly alarmed those invigilators standing above the sky.

The gray-winged devil's gray eyes shone in dark hue as he said with great interest, "He's still not using any Qi and climbing only using pure physical prowess, and the soul force also didn't seem to be affecting him. Is it even possible for a human to have such a physique? How about we pull his records and see why he's so special and why he appeared only now?"

Ace's continuous climbing forward, even under the soul force, finally drew their curiosity, especially the elders from the top three races. They had never seen a human with pure physical strength, much less with a powerful soul as well.

Even among them, these kinds of juniors could only appear once every thousand years and not in the mortal realm.

Joseph, the only human among them, was also alarmed by Ace's astonishing performance, 'I need to get him to join the human sector!' He thought gravely before looking at the devil and said meaningfully, "Elder Clarence, don't tell me you are planning on inviting a human into your Devil sector?"

Clarence glanced at him before he smiled, revealing his sharp teeth, "As long as he's genius, his race doesn't matter. Everyone is equal in the union. It's the ironclad rule of the union, do you forget? Now should we look at information?"

"You wily bastard! You dare to bring out rules when you guys are the narrowest-minded among all the races?" Willie snapped instantly.

Clarence ignored him, looking at the demon elder and a red-haired hunter elder meaningfully. Those two knew what he was asking for, so they nodded.

"I agree to see his records." The demon elder nodded.

"He's quite interesting. Let's see where he was hiding all these years. I agree with Elder Clarence as well." The hunter snickered.

"What about you guys?" Clarence looked at the five women with a faint smile.

Including Jayden, the female devil, two huntresses, and a wise elf. All nodded in agreement as they were also interested in Ace's past.

Joseph and Willie's expressions fell the moment everyone agreed with Clarence's demand. They were all treating them like the wind.

Joseph didn't want them to see Ace's past because they might use this information to draw him into their ranks or even use his weakness to threaten him.

It had happened in the past, but it was the first time with the humans since they had never threatened other races' positions in the union.

However, Ace was clearly talented, and he might grow up to become a powerful figure in the union and earn resources for humans. But if these guys managed to snatch him from them, it would be a huge blow to humans.

But Joseph couldn't do a thing because he knew these kinds of schemes were normal in the union, and no one did anything to keep a challenging environment.

Everyone was free to make their decision. It was another case of the 'free decision' that could be forced as long as it wasn't found out it was allowed!

That's probably why the three races wanted to see Ace's past to discover his weakness and might use it to draw him into their entourage. All they needed to do was gather majority votes to see his information in the mortal domain.

They can only do it right now when Ace has yet to pass the trial, and there won't be any other chance the moment he joins the true union because his information will be sealed, and only the union master-level figure can see it.

As for how they could see someone's entire life history, it was because of the gray identity tokens. When someone joined the ranks of an official union member, they were given an identity token which was proof of an official union member's identity.

However, it had another function: to record the person's life experience. Even if they put it in the storage ring, it could still record it without any restriction since those storage ring grades were only 1-star!

It was done because an official union member could become a true union member. Those tokens can tell their entire life story and eliminate any chances of someone else using others' identities to sneak into the true union.

But in the history of the union, this never happened, so no one was on guard against someone try sneaking into the union. It was impossible since the union had a full grasp over the power level of the mortal realm, and any anomaly could instantly be noticed by a massive formation.

Furthermore, the union never stopped anyone from joining their ranks as long as they could pass the trial, so there wasn't any reason to take such a risk and get killed with their loved ones.

So, Ace being someone else, never even occurred to these invigilators.

However, this token could reveal all the secrets of the genius as well, including their personalities, without even them knowing. But no one cared about the feelings or privacy of someone from the mortal realm.

So, after getting eight votes, Clarence was free to check Ace's personal history from his token. He didn't delay, and a small crystal cube appeared in his hand. He poured his Qi before it shimmered in dark light.

He then moved the cube toward Ace, who was on the 558th stairstep, and instantly an impassive voice rang from the cube.

"Participant #4,349, Name: White (Human), Bone Age: 27"

Clarence's lips curled up as he spoke, "We want to see Participant White's token history in the mortal domain."

"Bunch of foxes!" Willie cursed as he knew it was too late, while Joseph remained silent and kept looking at those eight elders with cold eyes.

"Permission approved!" The same impassive voice rang in affirmation.

The very next moment, the crystal cube shimmered brightly before a projection started to materialize on the cube. Everyone looked at the projection attentively, even Willie and Joseph.

However, what they saw left everyone speechless. Because it didn't start from 'White's' birth but from how he looked the same as he was now and was walking out of a building.

The building's name was the 'Official Union Registration Center.'

"Don't tell me he just became an Official from Officer?" Clarence couldn't help but exclaim with a frown.

They knew the token was only given to official union members, not below-rank ones.

Furthermore, as they watched in fast-forward, they were completely speechless because they saw 'White' going into another building and exchanging his union merit for a soul cultivation technique available for official union members.

Afterward, the entire thing was like an absurd dream because they saw White leave the city and found a place in a forest and started cultivating, and in two hours, he opened his first gate and appeared extremely thrilled.

"So easy?" They heard his thrilling voice, and those invigilators' lips spasmed.

One day later, he opened the second soul gate, and two days later, he opened the third gate, and on the seventh day after he started to cultivate, he opened his fourth soul gate.

"So, this is a path to becoming immortal? How easy!" He laughed like crazy as he continued to cultivate it like he was addicted to it.

The entire thing lasted for only fifteen minutes because White time as an official member was only one month before he appeared here to take the trial!

Everyone was staring at the motionless projection in a stupor since they watched it in full fast-forward, but they spotted everything like it was in slow motion.

It had never happened before that a Union Officer had become an Official Union Member at such a young age and then, in a month, became a Nine Gates cultivator and came here to take the test.

Normally the newly appointed union member would settle down in the city and then have descended who was born with an official status and then cultivate them to become a true union member.

Joseph guffawed at this moment, "Hahaha... a one in a ten millennia genius has appeared amidst our humans!"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 678: The Union High Elders

At this moment, Ace climbed the 1001st step, and only half an hour had passed since the trial had started. So, Ace decided to slow down on the third level and 'use Qi,' or it would be too absurd if he passed the entire trial without using Qi.

'Qi Radiation!'[1]Ace was astonished as he didn't even see any traces of the radiation; only after stepping on the 1001st step did he feel it.

(AN: Qi Radiation will refer to both Soul and Martial Radiations)

Still, Ace showed a pale face under 0.01-point Qi radiation and started emitting faint soul Qi undulations equivalent to a peak soul gates realm cultivator.

After 'catching his breath' for around five minutes, he took the 1002nd step and climbed it. He again stopped for another one or two minutes before stepping forward.

In this exact pattern, Ace climbed to the third level. Sometimes, he fumbled as if he was going to fall, and sometimes he emitted a strong soul undulation before going back on climbing.

Everyone was watching him with complex emotions, while the humans were clenching their fists as they watched a fellow human keep climbing without looking back.

They were all climbing between step ten and hundred, and their blood boiled as they gritted their teeth and climbed like the white hair human youth. They knew today would be a history in which a human climbed the ascension stairway in one try and probably at the fastest speed ever.

Everyone wanted to know his name, but they had lost their chance and won't get it anymore because now there was no coming back from level three. He will either pass or die trying.

Even those ten invigilators were looking at Ace with different emotions. Joseph was fully anxious since he had seen with his own eyes that the 'one month' recorded in White's token.

If he died on the third level, it was a huge sin for humility since such a genius who could advance to peak soul gates realm in one month only appeared once in ten thousand years.

Even among the top three races, these kinds of genius could be counted on one hand, and they were all among the top figures in the union and qualified to vie for the Union Leader position.

Humans didn't have such a figure among them, but now Joseph saw hope in White, but the problem was he wasn't the only one aware of it.

While Willie was happy for Joseph since their races had excellent relations, the others were not as kind as him. They were all hatching a different scheme to pull this human into their ranks, suppress his growth, or get rid of him entirely.

However, where the former was the easiest way, the latter was too difficult because they couldn't openly kill or harm a fellow union member, especially if the other party was a once-in-a-ten-thousand genius who hadn't appeared in the union for over a thousand years.

It would be far better to have a good relationship with this kind of person than a grudge, or it won't end well if you plant a seed of hatred and then fail to get rid of him.

"What a good lad. Even under 1-point Qi radiation, he's never lost his mind and moving forward despite overdrawing his Qi. His determination alone can lead him very far in the path of cultivation. How about we report it to High Elders?" Willie suddenly spoke. Ace was now only fifty steps away from reaching the clouds.

Although he looked exhausted, and the steps were fumbling, he always managed to step forward, almost making Joseph and Willie's hearts jump a few times while others were disappointed.

Clarence gave Willie a side eye before he coldly spoke, "Do you really want to disturb High Elders? It is still not clear if he's a ten millennia genius. Unless he showed the same cultivation speed in the 2nd and 3rd cultivation realms, we can't jump the gun and disturb high elders."

Clarence knew once this matter reached the ears of the High Elder, especially the High Elder of the Human Race, the other race won't even get a chance to interfere and 'invite' him to their side.

The Union territory above the clouds was known as the 'Cultivation Domain,' and there were also different ranks like the mortal domain. Furthermore, the Cultivation Domain was divided into Sun Domain and Moon Domain.

Sun Domain was where men cultivated, while the Moon Domain was for women. But ranking was the same for everyone.

The lowest rank was Union Student, followed by Union Scholar, Union Instructor, Union Elder, and Union High Elder. Above these five ranks were Two Union Domain Lords (Sun Lord & Moon Lord) and One Union Leader.

Hundreds of thousands of union students were in both domains, and Ace would get this rank when he ascended the stairway.

Union Scholar rank was given to those students who reached the Soul Realm, while the Union Instructor Rank was for those who reached the early stage of the Soul Manifestation realm. In contrast, the Union Elder rank could be achieved upon entering the quasi-law awareness realm state.

The Union High Elder were authentic Law Awareness Realm cultivators. There were 28 of them, and there was a ranking system for those High Elders. The humans have a High Elder backing them by some miracle, and he ranked Eighth. That's why no one dares to seek trouble with them.

However, this didn't mean they were strongest because devils had eight high elders, and three of them were ranked among the top five, while demons had six and hunters four.

The remaining ten belonged to; three magic beast races, three from the elven race, one dwarf race, one from the Tree Race, one from Stone Golem Race, and the last was from Myriad Bee Race.

As for the two domain lords and the union leader, they were both mysterious figures and only High Elders had ever seen them. No one knows their race or cultivation ranking, and they never interfere with day-to-day union matters.

That's why the High Union Elder Council controlled the Union and made decisions.

Furthermore, when a race creates a High Elder level union member, they are given their own sector in the union, which is like having their own private territory, which is rich with cultivation resources.

There was no limit to how many sectors a race could collect from the Union, but the more sectors they had, the more and richer resources under their control.

Races without a sector lived in 'common union grounds,' and the difference between a sector and common grounds was like day and night. Just Qi in them was like sky and mud.

Lastly, a High Elder had another authority they could use three times in their life. It was they could take three students from their race whenever they wanted, and other races couldn't interfere nor the selected person.

It was another story that if the selected student was fancied by more than one high elder of its race. Then they can select between one, but the rejection was not an option.

However, those High Elders seldom use this authority since they only want the best of the best, and these kinds of genius only appear on a blue moon.

Not to mention, the Eighth High Elder of the human race was an ascetic, and he could care less about material matters and his race. He never showed any interest in their matter and had only appeared on three occasions among the humans since he became High Elder.

Although Joseph's eyes brightened by Willie's suggestion, he knew the Eighth High Elder too well, and there was less than a one percent chance he would show any interest in Ace.

They had previously tried introducing some geniuses of their race to the Eighth High Elder, but he mercilessly rejected them all.

'Still, it was far better than letting him end up in some other race's hand. From what I've seen, he seemed to crave power, and he might flip to the other side if they offered him more benefits than us. Or it was only my imagination, but I can't take risk he had to join our human race sector!' Joseph thought.

He then glanced at Clarence and others, who were clearly not pleased with Willie's suggestion since there was a chance that the eighth high elder really took interest, and this would be over for them at that time.

Joseph pulled a cold smile as he replied to Willie, "I think your suggestion is not bad. As for consequences, I'll handle it!"

Without hesitation, a yellow talisman appeared in his hand, and he used his Qi. The talisman started to burn, and he quickly transmitted his thoughts before the talisman was fully burned.

The next moment, a yellow streak materialized as soon the talisman was completely burned, and like lightning, it vanished!

The other three elders snorted before they also took out yellow talismans, and like Joseph, they also sent messages to their races' High Elders.

They knew there was a chance the eighth high elder won't react, but their races' High Elders will!

[1] (AN: Qi Radiation will refer to both Soul and Martial Radiations)

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 679: Passing the Ascension Stairway

At this moment, Ace was only a step away from climbing the 1500th stairstep. The white cloud was also a few inches away from him, and now he could feel a terrifying oppressive might from that cloudy white mist.

'The formation here is probably at the same level as the imperial demon domain over even stronger. No wonder this entire area is a black-fate location. I have to be more careful once I enter their core area.' Ace thought calmly.

However, his outward appearance was now haggard, as his face was pale, and he was filled with sweat as if he would fall down right at this moment. With gritted his teeth and his eyes filled with great mirth, Ace took the final step while trembling.

No one would believe that he was just acting as long as Ace won't reveal it himself.

With extreme difficulty, he pulled himself onto the 1500th step, and the moment both his steps landed on the stone stairstep, Ace felt all the Qi radiation pressure vanish.

The very next moment, the cloudy mist suddenly churned and directly encased Ace's figure. Ace was startled for a moment, but he didn't feel any danger, so he didn't try to resist.

His vision suddenly blurred, and when he regained clarity, he found himself standing in a great bright hall filled with white pillars on both sides, and a hundred meters ahead of him was a bright passage.

Before he could gauge his surrounding, an ethereal voice, which was the same voice he heard at the entrance, resounded in the great hall.

"Participant #4,349, congratulation on passing the entrance trial of Sun and Moon Sword Union!

"Participant #4,349 had broken the record of passing the entrance trial within 11 hours. You will be rewarded with 10,000 Union Merits and an Upper-Grade Mortal Skill!

"Hold your union token in your hand to receive your new identity and rewards!"

Ace was startled for a moment before he did as he was told and took out his identity token, which he had 'created' after manipulating some mortal domain union members.

The moment the token appeared, a golden light suddenly descended out of nowhere and shone on the gray token. Under Ace's astonished eyes, the gray token suddenly started to turn golden, and the plain surface also started to engrave with a white blazing sun crest just like the one he saw on the young man in blue robes.

Right under the white sun crest, white words started to appear, 'Union Student (White).'

But it didn't just end there. After the identity token's transformation was done, a golden storage ring slowly descended within the golden light and landed right above the golden token.

The voice rang again, "Your Union Merits are transferred into your Union Token as well as information about your new identity with a miniature map of the Sun Domain can be accessed through your token as long as you pour your soul Qi into your Union Token.

"Your union token now has other functions, and the details are all in there. Don't lose your Union Token, or you'll be punished heavily.

"Moreover, this 8-Star Storage Ring is a reward for passing the trial. Your Union Student Robes, Flying Sword, and 10 Soul Refinement Pills are also within this storage ring.

"Lastly, you can gain access to the Union Sun Domain Library through your token and claim your Upper-Grade Mortal Skill, as well as the Second Realm Soul Cultivation Manual and a Lower Grade Mortal Skill for passing the entrance test.

"Now, you may rest here before the entrance trial end, and only then can you leave this entrance hall!"

The voice vanished and no longer bothered Ace.

Ace was quite surprised by how resourceful the union was. Without wasting time, he quickly poured Qi into the golden token, and a projection appeared filled with information about the union.

Just like that, time passed, and on the last day, another person entered the hall. It was the pale skin devil youth with pale gray wings and a small pointy tail. He almost looked like a skeleton and was on the verge of collapsing from exhaustion.

However, when his gray eyeballs landed on the white hair human who was sitting cross-legged in meditation, he couldn't help but grit his teeth in humiliation.

It was supposed to be his spotlight since it was his third try, and he was very confident about passing, but somehow this guy appeared out of nowhere and, like a storm, passed the entire trial in less than half a day.

Furthermore, he was a human who they all looked down upon. But the fact was clear and right in front of his eyes.

Ace has already changed into gray union robes with a white sun crest on his chest, and he has already 'recovered.' He was just waiting for the trial to be over so he could exit this place.

Although the passage was right in front of him, he didn't dare to try to leave and waited as the voice said.

He didn't open his eyes despite sensing the newcomer's arrival. That was simply worth nothing in his eyes. He had seen many devils in these past two months in the mortal domains, so now he was no longer fascinated by the number one race of this world.

They were just like other races, working for the union like laborers, so they seemed as superior as they were in the ten continents. They only have a strong body and bloodline heritage.

But for some reason, the devils didn't seem to gain access to their famous blood heritage and were like any other race without any prior knowledge of the cultivation system.

Because if they could gain access to their blood heritage, those devils won't be mere servants. Ace was collecting information on these races, especially devils, and he was quite startled when he found the union could even control something like the devil's blood heritage.

But he wasn't too sure about it since the only devil he had ever contacted before coming into the union was his wife, who was now leagues above these devils.

He also noticed that the devils had too many similarities with demons, and the only difference was their wings and tails. Still, they were no longer as mysterious as before in Ace's eyes, just like demons.

He was only interested in the union now and how to get out of this place.

The same ethereal voice rang again and alerted the devil of his benefits like Ace.

The devil was instantly thrilled, and after getting his storage ring, he didn't approach Ace and only gave him a cold glare before he sat beside another pillar to recover.

Just when half an hour remained before the end of the trial, another person entered the entrance hall. It was another brown skin female devil as she was also on the verge of losing consciousness.

She only glanced at Ace before she quickly received the storage ring and sat beside the pale skin devil, and started recovering.

When only a minute was left, two more figures entered the hall. They were none other than the brother and sister of the Atlas family.

Those devils opened their eyes, and shock surfaced in their eyes when they saw two more humans made it into this place. They knew better than anyone that it'd been over six years since any humans had passed the trial, much less three of them passing altogether.

Because every time someone successfully ascended the ascension stairway, a huge celebration was held in every race.

The brother and sister were extremely haggard as they held each other hand to spot themselves.

But their eyes were filled with mad resolve, and when they saw the white hair human sitting ahead, respect and elation replaced their exhaustion.

They were only here because they were following this unknown guy's footsteps. If Ace hadn't continued to climb despite his fumbling figure, they were not planning on taking this risk at all.

But they did and somehow passed!

Just when they received their rewards and were about to go to Ace to speak with him, the ethereal voice rang again.

"The entrance trial has been ended. You all may leave the entrance hall!"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 680: Choosing a Side (1)

This voice was music to Ace's ears as he stood up. However, before he could take a step, an exhausted voice rang, "Fellow Brother, please wait!"

Ace had heard this voice when he was about to ascend the staircase; it belonged to the Atlas family young man named Klay.

He turned around and saw Klay and his sister Kaley coming toward him despite their extremely exhausted state. Their eyes were filled with reverence, and Kaley was even blushing and glancing at Ace with adoration.

"How may I help you?" Ace impassively asked.

Klay wasn't seemed as aloof as before, nor did he mind Ace's giving them the cold shoulder. He knew if it were him in Ace's shoes, he would do the same.

"I just want to congratulate you on our stunning achievement, and I hope we can be friends in the immortal lands. My name is Klay." Klay pulled an unnatural smile as he said those words. It was quite clear he wasn't good with speaking to others in such a friendly tone or putting himself below them.

However, Ace shook his head, "You and I are destined to be walked on different paths, so what is the meaning of being friends? I'm used to being alone, and I'm not planning to change that either. The name is White, though."

Ace merely stated the fact and turned around and walked away, leaving the dumbfounded Klay and Kaley rooted in their place. Even those two devils were baffled by Ace's cold attitude toward his own race.

Normally, the other races stuck together in the union, and they were very close with fellow race members.

But they all knew 'White' was telling the truth when he said about walking on a different path since Klay had barely managed to ascend the stairway while White had done in less than half a day.

Just the difference in talent was massive between them, and genius tends to stick with their own kind, and all of them had eccentric personalities.

"Hehe, how rare. Normally, it was the Atlas family that stood aloof among their own kind, and they only approached those they deemed worthy to stand beside them. Now, it seemed the tables have turned." The devil youth jeeringly remarked at this moment while walking past Klay and Kaley, with the female devil also snickering in disdain following him.

"Hmph, just a loser's words." Klay was not mad by Ace's cold attitude, but he would not let go of the devil.

The devil's youth expression fell instantly since it was the only sore spot in his heart right now, and Klay's words were like salt water.

Ace ignored those kids' quarrels and walked past the bright passage.

The moment he crossed the bright light, he found himself standing on an open mountain expansion. His attention was instantly drawn by two colossal mountains, and even he couldn't find their end.

Furthermore, those two mountains were golden and silver as rings of clouds surrounded their tops. It was like they were made out of gold and silver.

Then Ace noticed something extremely disturbing. He saw vague blackness behind those two mountains.

It was the same blackness one could see in the mortal domain, which was none other than the blackness ahead of the crystal lake and also from where Ace had come from.

'Don't tell me this entire place is surrounded by that same blackness? Didn't this mean I can't leave?' Ace's joyous mood to finally be able to enter the core area of the union plummeted when this thought appeared in his head.

Although the union was quite large, as large as a continent, it was surrounded by that strange blackness like a barrier, which made it no less than a prison.

Ace then looked at the golden sky, 'Should I try flying over? No, my wings won't even last until I reach the peak of that black wall. I need to gather more information. There has to be a way out.'

"Quite captivating, right?"

Ace was snapped out of his thoughts by this amiable voice and turned his head and finally noticed a ground of powerful beings looking at him with different kinds of light in their eyes.

Ace noticed fifteen of them were wearing purple robes. The only difference was that five of them were women with silver moon crests, while ten of them were men with golden sun crests.

However, the five figures, in particular, were giving off a terrifying feeling to Ace. At the same time, the remaining ten were completely inferior to them, but they posed an absolute threat to him as well.

'Those four should be law awareness realm cultivators while the ten are most likely quasi law awareness realm.' Ace guessed in his heart.

But he didn't dare to reveal his true thoughts in front of them. He looked at the tall crimson devil with fiery bat wings behind him. He was the one who had spoken to him before and was smiling amiably toward him.

He quickly bowed and respectfully stated, "Please forgive junior lack of manners, Lord Immortals!"

Ten of them present in this group were the group of invigilators, while the other four were High Elders from four different races. Devil, Demon, Hunter, Elf, and the last one was from the Magic Best Race.

Joseph and Willie's expressions were quite nasty at this moment since they got no response from their races' high elders, while these four came here almost instantly the moment they received the news about Ace from their races' elders.

If Willie knew this was going to happen, he would've never opened his big mouth and suggested alerting the High Elders at all.

Now, it was too late to cry as these five had already watched Ace's one month of cultivation history, and they had instantly become interested in him. As for them, they become side characters.

In front of a High Union Elder, a Union Elder couldn't show any disrespect, no matter the race difference. Even the fearless Willie didn't dare to open his mouth.

The black skin High Elder Demon who looked quite ghastly with his white eyes ball and white bullhorns, spoke with a smile, "No need to worry about formalities. Little guy, we are here to recruit you as a student. Are you interested?"