

Thief 681

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Chapter 681: Choosing a Side (2)

Ace wasn't surprised by this recruitment at all because he knew once he showed his cultivation talent and accessed the ascension stairway in half a day, this was bound to attract the attention of the upper echelon.

Furthermore, the five Law Awareness realm experts seemed to have quick a status that even those ten quasi-law awareness realm experts were silent and didn't dare to speak when they were talking.

Lastly, he noticed there was only one human among the ten quasi-law awareness realm experts, and his expression was quite ugly as he looked at Ace with hope and apprehension.

'Don't tell me the bigotry is at its peak in here?' Ace made a wild guess.

But he still didn't let his actual thoughts surface and looked confused as he asked, "Recruit me? But according to my badge, I'm already a Union Student and a member of Common Union Grounds in Sun Domain?"

Ace was telling the truth because there was no information about sectors nor the ranks above Union Instructors.

According to the information recorded in his badge, he will live in the common union grounds with other fellow union students. There, he can climb the ranks with cultivation and earn union merits by completing Union Missions for students.

He can also attend the cultivation classes held by different Union Scholars or even Union Instructors as long as he can pay the lecture fee with Union Merits.

The blue hair hunter spoke with a kind smile at this moment, "It's only natural you didn't know about this since it's very rare for a Union Elder to accept a private student right after the entrance test, much less us Union High Elders..."

He then explained the higher ranks and private territories granted to the High Elders, known as sectors, and the benefits of living in a sector.

Ace instantly understood what was going on here as he looked behind those union elders and then those five high elders. He didn't think he would draw attention from High Elders, but it would be a lie to say if he didn't think of this possibility.

"... But only Union Instructors are qualified to live in their race's private sectors or a Union Elder or High Elder private student. There are even more benefits for being a student of a High Elder as you will get the richest environment with Qi in the sector and free access to the first four floors of the Union-Sun Domain Library.

"You can also choose a High Grade-3 treasure from Union Sun Domain Weaponry Tower right off the bat, and these are just the benefits the Union will give you. The benefits you receive from us is another matter entirely."

The hunter grinned as he was quite confident in swaying this new student from the human race.

"Heh, Old 13th, you are right about the last part." The Devil High Elder chuckled before he said to Ace, who was 'dazzled' after hearing about the benefits of becoming their private student, "Now, little guy, are you willing to follow me as my private student?"

"I'm ranked 10th in the ranking of High Elders, and if you choose to follow me, I will support your cultivation for one year without holding back. Then you have to pass my test to evaluate your cultivation resources further, and if you perform well, you will get even more rewards.

"I will also give you a small territory in my sector to cultivate, and you will have the devil race's backing to boot."

Everyone looked at Tenth High Elder with astonishment as his offer was really quite enticing. Even those elders behind were shocked since this kind of treatment was normally given to them.

However, all those resources were not free since he clearly said Ace had to undergo a test in one year, which means if Ace didn't pass it, he might not get anything from him at all.

It was like an investment in Ace's potential, which was still unclear because he was only a Soul gates realm junior now, and it was still unclear if he could achieve the same in higher realms that he did with the first realm.

Their actual purpose of drawing him into their ranks was that as long as there was a possibility that he was really a once-in-a-ten-thousand genius, then they couldn't let him enter the human sector or have anything to do with humans.

They wanted to brainwash him and mold him into their own race so he could bring benefits to their race once he grew up.

Lastly, once he chose to be their student, he couldn't leave them as long as they didn't kick him out themselves.

This was the biggest reason for them to act as soon as possible, and they were willing to postpone until he really showed his talent and that eccentric guy became really interested in Ace.

At that time, they would not be able to do anything if he turned out to be the genius they were all things about.

Thereafter, the demon also stated his willingness to take him as a private student, and his conditions were just the Tenth High Elder, and the only difference was he was giving Ace two years before he would test him.

The hunter was the same, and he also increased his test period by three years, while the elf was quite generous as he offered a Grade-4 treasure, and the testing period was five years.

Lastly, the magic beast, which looked like a humanoid vulture, offered a grade-5 treasure as well as a lower-rank earth-grade art and ten years of support without any test.

This shocked all of them as they knew the magic beast race was quite low in population, but they were quite protective of each other and seldom let anyone enter their ranks.

Their population was so low that in the mortal domain, there wasn't even a single magic beast descended present, and all of them were born here. Those demonic beasts were nothing but lowly rats in their eyes.

Still, those four high elders didn't raise any voices or increase their offers because they wanted to see who will Ace chose now. This wasn't about just offers but also about who could protect him better.

The three top races were clearly the optimal choice, especially the devil race and demon race. These guys have ample resources and sectors, so anyone with a sane mind will pick them.

Even those four participants who passed the trial with Ace were looking at him with daze and almost drooling at the offers Ace was given.

White also looked quite in a daze, but inwardly, Ace was unmoved as everything they were offering was nothing but chump change to him.

He even knew those tests were put in those conditions, especially so they could kick him to the curb once he appeared useless. At that time, he will be degraded to their thrall.

However, he wasn't here to stay as even the one-year offer by the devil was too much for him, and he needed to get out of there as soon as possible.

So, he knew how to proceed with this, and he looked at Joseph, who was pale with anxiety. He wanted to say something, but he couldn't, as he knew he couldn't offer anything like those races to Ace.

Because humans only have one sector and it was quite cramped, and the competition was too fierce, and without the High Elder's protection, he knew those greedy guys might even try to suppress Ace if he hoards all their resources.

Not all the human elders were like Joseph as they all put their families first and weren't united as other races because their high elders didn't care at all.

Now almost all of the human sector was annexed by the fifteen families of fifteen Union Elders, and Joseph was also a part of one of these families. Although he wanted to invite Ace into the human sector after seeing his talent, he knew those guys might try to control him.

White 'snapped out of his daze' and looked at those five high elders and said with pained expressions, "Um... High Elders, it's my choice, entirely right?"

"Yes, we won't force you." The Tenth High Elder smiled kindly while the others also nodded as they knew he would choose one of them.

Ace then said something expected that made even Joseph dumbfounded.

White bowed ninety degrees and stated, "Please accept my most sincere bow, Elders, as you guys were the first ones who show such kindness to me. But I won't be accepting any of your offers!"

The entire vicinity dropped into deadly silence.

Ace, at this moment, held his head high and stood straight while looking at the expression of those dumbfounded elders.

With a complicated expression, he explained with voice full conviction, "Please don't be offended by my words as I'm not planning on joining any sector at all because I would like to climb to those heights myself as I made a promise to my dying parents.

"Without hardship, there's no reward, and I have reached this place by following this exact principle. And I will continue to follow it as hardship make me stronger!"

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Chapter 682: The Path of Hardship

Everyone was looking at White as if he was some kind of lunatic.

No one expected that there would be someone who could reject five Union High Elders at once just because of some silly promise and beliefs.

"Do you even know what you're rejecting?" The tenth High Elder of the devil race's voice was somewhat cold now.

White nodded and said, full of bitterness, "I know. But I'm a man of my word, especially if those words are my last promise to my parents. I promised my father that I would never run from hardship and always strive to be better. While I promise my mother that I will become a righteous man.

"From that day onward, I also live by these words, and I know if I chose to abandon this path now, I would never have a path of my own. Besides, Elders didn't want someone who could flip to any side just because of some riches, right?"

Ace's words rendered everyone speechless, and they didn't know what to say anymore. They had never encountered such a scenario before.

"You are indeed valiant and someone with principles. But you are not abandoning your path by accepting our offers at all. If you want, you can still keep your word to your parents by following our teachings." The 13th High Elder kindly advised.

He was now looking at White in a different light because his character was quite straightforward, and he was a man of his word as well, which meant he wouldn't betray the power which showed him kindness.

People like him were quite rare, even among their races.

Just this trait of his was enough to earn him many people's respect, much less if he had the absurd talent to boot.

"Thank you, but I'm still going to follow the path that every High Elder took. Tell me, Elder, you were once like me as well, right? Or were there always High Elders who were keeping you safe from all hardship and showing you the right way?"

"Someone at your level will know better than anyone that power comes with experience and hardship. Those who persuade the easy path are bound to be mediocre!"

"So, I would like to follow Elders' footsteps and make the Union proud of me, not people. I hope Elders will only watch and not do anything. I will forever remember your kindness. Even if I perish, I will forever remember the kindness everyone showed me today, even as a ghost of union!"

White passionate words and righteous words rang in the silent vicinity, and they managed to stir everyone's heartstrings, especially those five high elders.

As White said, they climbed through the ranks with their own efforts, especially those high elders before them. There weren't always high elders to protect them or sectors for races.

Everything has a beginning, and in the beginning, everyone is the same.

They had forgotten why they started cultivating after they had a taste of authority and turned the union into their playground for silly racial games.

"The Union is for everyone, and everyone is for union..." The demon high elder muttered these words left behind by the founder of the Union.

Everyone's heart jolted hearing those words, which sounded empty before, but now they could feel that they somewhat understood the meaning behind them.

Then they looked at the human who was stubbornly standing there with a resolute expression, and his ambitions were as high as the sky. But he wanted to achieve those ambitions through his own effort, not by stepping over someone else.

This moved the heart of those four newcomers, and they looked at White with true admiration and respect.

The tenth high elder looked at White, who had 'bitterness' and 'reluctant' in his eyes, as if he was fighting the temptation with everything he had.

"Sigh... I never thought I would meet a human like you, a little guy who can convince me. I just hope you won't change like us..." He sighed ruefully as he remembered something from the past and shook his head before he suddenly turned into a dark streak and vanished from his spot; he left!

"I'll be watching you, little guy!" The demon also left after uttering those ambiguous words.

The other three also left after saying subtle words, but they no longer persuaded White. They all thought that since he could reject them and remain true to his path, he wasn't someone who could get involved or distracted by the matter of race.

In their eyes, a soul gates junior could never hide his true feeling from them, and that's why they were fully convinced that White wouldn't join them or the humans. He had a heart of a true cultivator.

But it didn't mean they would stop pestering him. The union environment was too competitive, especially for those guys who lived outside the sectors. They had to fight tooth and nail for resources.

If White showed signs of getting derailed, they would not let him off lightly, especially if his talent turned out to be as they suspected it.

As for those other four who passed with him, those High Elders didn't even look at them since they were only interested in White.

Now, only those ten Union Elders remained, and they were quite dumbfounded about this whole situation as they looked at the young human who had even convinced High Elder by his words.

In the end, they knew they couldn't sway this youth as well as they decided to do their duty as invigilators.

The five women from the moon domain take the two girls from the group toward the silver mountain.

While the five men enveloped the three boys and flew toward the golden mountain.

Elder Willie finally couldn't stay silent as he said to White, "Little fellow, I must say you might not get this kind of chance again. You might regret it for your life."

"I will naturally bear full responsibility for my actions, Elder." White solemnly stated.

Joseph was feeling far more complicated than anyone else as he knew better than anyone just how difficult it was for humans to keep their greed in check, and yet this young man had done it!

However, for Ace, it was nothing but a small play. He was taking advantage of his charm fully as well as using his acting skills to the fullest to achieve this end result.

The reason he didn't want to go into any sector was he didn't want to be under these guys' constant watch, while he also wanted them to have a strong impression of his 'character.'

This way, he'll be free as well as appear too righteous in everyone's eyes, and no one will suspect him for about to come!

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Chapter 683: System's Interference

At the foot of the golden mountain were magnificent golden mountain gates. The five Union Elders and the three Union Students landed a few meters away from these gates, known as Sun Gates because behind them was the sun domain.

Ace was watching everything with scrutiny while coming here, especially the silver mountain, which seemed closer in the distance to the golden mountain.

But now that he was up close, he knew these two mountains were at least over a hundred miles apart from each other. He can't even see the end of the sun domain mountain from here because of how big it is.

One thing that he noticed was the rings of clouds which seemed naturally formed but not anymore. There were a total of five visible cloud rings at five different heights of the sun domain mountain while the peak was completely encased in a layer of thick clouds.

Ace couldn't help but think about clouds surrounding the ascension stairway and was more vigilant about this sun domain.

At this moment, the sun gates slowly parted, making the ground under everyone tremble, and an instantly high-density Qi brushed past everyone.

'Just what kind of place could have such dense Qi?' Ace thought in astonishment.

"Alright, you little guy, you with me. Let's go. I'll take you to your family." Clarence impassively stated while looking at the devil youth, and without giving him a chance to speak, he enveloped him in his Qi

and then commanded his flying sword, turning into a streak, and vanished behind the sun gates. But before he left, he gave White a meaningful glance.

"Good luck. I hope you guys will not disappoint us, especially you, White." The Demon Elder smiled meaningfully before he also left.

The hunter merely nodded at everyone before he left as well.

Joseph, who was silent all this time, finally spoke while looking at White seriously, "I don't know if I should be happy that you rejected those guys' invitation or ashamed about human's inability in the union and High Elder's lack of interest.

"But I'm glad you didn't go with them. Despite knowing the answer, I would still like to invite you to the human sector, and unlike them, I can't promise you anything but my protection."

He sighed ruefully before he looked at Klay as well, "As for you, since your family is the number one family in the human sector, I need you to come with me."

Ace looked at Joseph and bowed before gratefully saying, "Thank you, but I would still keep my word and go through every hardship before one day I meet you again, Elder."

Klay looked at White with a complicated look in his eyes before he looked at Joseph, who was looking at White ruefully, but a hint of admiration was present deep within.

Klay then took a deep breath and said, "Elder, I would like to do the same as Brother White here. I will go through the common union grounds!"

Ace had the urge to roll his eyes at this guy but remain impassive as he knew Klay was purely driven by his emotions and wanted to be like him. But can he?

Joseph looked at Klay with a hint of appreciation, but he shook his head, "I'm afraid you don't have a choice in this matter. Like that devil, your family lives in a sector which means you won't be given access to the common grounds.

"The common grounds are placed for those who have no backing in the sector or if you don't have more than ten family members already living in the sector. But I'm afraid your Atlas family is not simple as the High Elder is also from your family, so you have privileges from being his bloodline.

"This was done, so students in common grounds have more resources. Besides, the private sector areas are just part of the Inner Sun Domain, which is behind the first ring of the clouds, as you can see, and closest to the core domain behind the third ring of the clouds.

"So, you will see him soon. I'm sure of it." Joseph smiled as he explained when he saw Klay's expression dim.

"Heh, just consider it. I'm giving you a head start. I'll meet you soon." White finally speaks with full of fighting intent.

"Hahahah... I like this boy. You can find me in the dwarf sector once you enter the inner domain. I'm 21st Union Elder of Dwarf Race, Willie, and I'm a 6th-grade runic smith. I'll make you a weapon for free." Willie guffawed as he suddenly threw something at Ace.

Ace saw it was a black rectangular badge with engraving, 'Runic Smith Willie' on it.

Willie said smilingly, "Just show it to anyone in the dwarf sector, and they will know where to deliver you."

Joseph gave Willie a meaningful glance before he also took out a yellow talisman paper and gave it to Ace, "This is a message talisman with my Qi mark. Just use your Qi, and it will start to burn, and then you can record any message in one breath of time, and I will get that message.

"If I had a choice, I could've given you treasures, but I can't do that unless you become my personal student, which you won't. So, I can only leave you with this message talisman. Just use it anytime you need my help. Don't hesitate."

Ace was instantly fascinated by this message talisman which was vastly different from communication cubes, and it seemed more reliable in different cases. Besides, he could tell this talisman was just a High-Grade-1 talisman.

"Thank you, I'll remember your words." White bowed to both elders as he placed those two things in his storage ring.

This made both men happy since they were afraid this little guy would reject their help as well. But they thought too much since these two things were only helpful if he used them.

"Alright, I'll wait for you, Brother White!" Klay then finally nodded solemnly. It was the first time he regretted being highborn as he really wanted to follow in this man's footsteps.

"You just need to cross the sun gates, and a union scholar will take you to your place and introduce you to common grounds. I hope to see you in the inner domain soon." Joseph smiled as he was now content with White.

He then enveloped Klay in his Qi and left with Willie before they nodded to White in goodbye.

Now Ace was standing alone at the entrance of the sun domain while he looked at his surroundings, which were filled with deep forests, and when he looked at the fate map, it was still black as ink.

'I guess this entire thing played out well. But this place is still hidden behind the blackness. I need to think of a solution just in case I don't find anything useful in the sun domain as well.' Ace thought with a cold glint in his eyes before he walked toward the open golden gates.

However, just as Ace crossed the gates, the system's static voice rang while an unexpected interface popped up, which made Ace's rooted in his place.

[System detects host has stumbled upon the Mortal Sky Heaven's Core Secret!]

[All conditions had been met!]

[All the active missions have been voided by the system!]

[Ramification: Any rewards included in the active mission(s) can now be bought from the System Shop!]

[Launching the Heaven's Stealer's First Heaven Mission!]

"What?!" Ace was gobsmacked by these notifications, especially the last one!

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Chapter 684: Heaven's Secret

Before Ace could inquire what was happening, the interface changed again, and the mission was revealed, which made his eyes widen.

[Heaven's Stealer Mission: Mortal Sky Heaven]

-Synopsis: Heaven's Stealer has a solemn duty to steal from Heaven, which includes the core secrets of heaven. These secrets could be anything and anywhere. But once Heaven's Stealer got closer to these secrets, Heaven's Stealer couldn't retreat without taking that secret or die trying!

-Mission Type: Heaven's Stealer

-Precept (1): The Heaven's Stealer Mission has mysterious conditions which will be all locked. There will be certain prerequisites before the Host can unlock the mysterious conditions and all the information about the conditions.

-Precept (2): The total conditions of Heaven's Stealer Mission are unknown, and they will last until the system divulge the final 'Heaven's Secret Condition' and prerequisites to activate it.

-Precept (3): Each mysterious condition will have its own prerequisites, time period, mission time period, and rewards.

-Precept (4): Failure is not an option; the punishment for failing any condition is Death!

-Precept (5): During the Heaven's Stealer Mission, any thievery done will reward with a 2X Thief Point bonus.

-Precept (6): New random items will appear in the system shop after every completion of a mysterious condition to aid the Heaven's Stealer in acquiring the Heaven's Secret.

-Precept (7): Mission Complete Tokens are invalid during Heaven's Stealer Mission!

Ace's expression was extremely gloomy when he saw the synopsis as well as precept 4, "System do you want to kill me?" He couldn't help but ask gloomily, but his voice was buried under the system's voice and the new interface.

-Heaven's Stealer Mission: Embarking the Path of Heaven's Stealer!

-Mysterious Condition (1): Locked (Unknown)

-Prerequisites to Unlock (revealed) this Mysterious Condition:

1. Fourth Realm in Marital and Soul

-Status: Complete

2. Heaven's Stealer Dismantler Rank: 5th Grade

-Status: Incomplete

-Time to complete Prerequisites: 1 Year

-Punishment: Death

(NOTE: There is no reward for completing Prerequisites)

Ace's expression was extremely dark as he looked at the mission's punishment. Although the prerequisites were quite not difficult to fulfill, he wasn't happy with this sudden deadly mission.

"System, what kind of shit are you pulling right now? If you want to push me to my death, then just do it already. There is no need to play the long game?" Ace coldly transmitted his gloomy thoughts.

It was his second time getting a mission with the death penalty, but this mission wasn't like the first mission at all. It was related to some core secret of heaven itself. Furthermore, this also had something to do with being a heaven's stealer.

If it were any other time, Ace would've been not so indignant, but he wanted to leave this place to save Alina, so he was naturally furious about the system pulling a fast one on him at this time.

Since this mission was triggered in this place, then it meant it had something to do with the Union, and he wanted to leave this place, not stay here to investigate these mysteries.

The system replied at this moment without any emotions behind its static voice, "[The Heaven's Stealer Mission is very important for a Heaven's Stealer. Any Heaven's Stealer would have to go through these missions if they wanted to prevail.]

"[When a Heaven's Stealer is born, they became sworn enemy of the Heaven and from that moment on, the last standing will either the Heaven's Stealer or Heaven. The host has chosen this path and was not forced by anyone.]

"[If the host wants to survive longer, the System suggests completing this mission, or there won't be a point in living anymore since death will come eventually. So, it didn't matter if it came sooner.]

"[The path of Heaven's Stealer is only forward; any other direction contains death. This is the true consequence of having the power to steal from heaven!]"

Ace was speechless as he didn't have any words to refute the system anymore because the system was right. No one forced him to choose this path. He was the one who decided to walk on it when he decided to steal from heaven.

From that day onward, his journey to this point has never been easy, and he became what he was today because he was walking the path of no return.

His rage dimmed down quite a bit. But it didn't mean he was going to jump the cliff without knowing what was down there.

So, he asked, "At least tell me what is this heaven's secret, and why is it so important, and why can't you reveal the details like every other mission?"

"[Host only needs to know is the Heaven's Secrets is key to Heaven's Stealer survival. As for why System can't reveal all the details, it is because Heaven's Secret can't be known to anyone unless the barrier hiding it becomes weak to the point where heaven's secret becomes apparent.]

"[As long as the host completes the mysterious conditions, this would weaken the barrier hiding the core secret of heaven, and only then can you know the final condition to get that Heaven's Secret.]

"[Even knowing the conditions of weakening that barrier without having the mastering over Heaven's Stealer skills is akin to death.]

"[That's why every mission contains the death penalty because the moment the host knows about the mysterious condition, you will only have a certain amount of time to fulfilling it before you will draw the Natural Order's attention and then die in a heart-wrenching manner soon after. So, the system could at least make it painless.]"

Ace was completely speechless when he heard the true reason behind all this, "So, I can either die painful or painlessly if I screw up, right?" He asked with a rueful expression.

This was really not the result he was hoping for, but he knew, as the system stated before, that death would come eventually if he didn't become stronger, so what is the point of living a little longer in some illusion?

"[Exactly!]"

"Hey, why are you standing there dozing off? Get out of the way, and let the gates get close!" A perplexed voice rang at this moment, awakening Ace from his daze.

He saw a green robe demon standing a few meters away from him, looking at Ace gloomily. The color of his robes indicated that he was a union scholar.

Ace finally remembered that he was so startled by this deadly mission that he had almost forgotten that he had yet to cross the sun gates completely.

"Please forgive me, senior. I was dazzled by the grander sun domain, so I was stunned on the spot!" White smiled wryly as he walked in.

Inwardly, Ace thought ruefully, 'Well, I guess this was going to happen sooner or later, and since the system said this secret is something related to my survival, I have to get it since without it, I'm as good as dead.

'The only good thing that happened from it is I got all the rewards of my last chain mission in my system shop now, and the precept five and six are also to my advantage.'

Ace felt somewhat better as he suppressed his urge to open the shop until he found the place in the common grounds!

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Chapter 685: My Stepping Stone!

The Sun and Moon Sword Union was like an empire that was divided into five large regions of the one colossal golden mountain. The five cloud rings marked these five areas and also separated them from each other.

The common union grounds were in the outer sun domain and also the first area which was at the foot of the golden mountain.

This place was the starting point for all the union students who were not from Union Elder Lineage. However, there are no cities in this place, but lands were divided into three sectors, the Living sector, Cultivation Sector, and the Union Enforcer Sector.

Although this sounds small, each sector contained at least over 300 miles of land rich with Qi.

Ace wasn't too optimistic after learning all this since he now had a sword hanging over his head by a hair, and the name of this sword of Damocles was the Heaven's Stealer Mission.

He was now even regretting stepping into this place, but he knew sooner or later he had to go through this since it was a matter of his life and death. At that time, he might not even know about what Heaven's Secret was or that it was important for his survival. He was led here by the fate map, which means it was important to him.

Whatever he had to survive against, but the system was serious this time. If he didn't activate this mission, he might not even know why he died unjustly. At least now, he knew there was some kind of danger that would take his life. He needs to get this Heaven's Secret to prevail over it.

Ace even remembered how Moira had warned him about some impending calamity when he met Livia. But he still didn't know if this calamity was what the system was indicating or something else.

At least he knew when Livia's fate point turned glittering golden again. It meant he was going to need her. But right now, she was still in his thief's space, serving Eva, and Cyrus like a good maid, so he had no way of knowing if her fate point had changed color again without taking her out.

But he didn't dare to take her out even if he had the chance because he was in the union, and this place was still dyed black. He could be under constant surveillance for all he knows after his entry.

So, he won't take such risks. At least not until he was absolutely sure of not being watched or if he would trigger something if some unregistered person appeared in this place.

"Look, newbie, since you weren't taken by the Elders, then this means you have no Elder Lineage backing you in the inner sun domain. Furthermore, you are from the Human race, and your kind could be considered a second-rate power in the outer sun domain.

"So, I would suggest trying joining a Union Company of Big Threes, which are Devil, Demon, and Hunter Races. We called them the big three here. However, joining a company of the big three is not easy. You have to be at least ranked 10,000,000 in the cultivation tower ranking.

"Only then do those companies of the big three show some interest in you." The demon who was leading Ace toward the living sector advised after he explained about the partitions of the sun domain, which was also in the map Ace was given upon passing the entrance, to begin with.

He was just doing his duty as a guide to a new student, which was actually a low-ranking mission that appeared out of nowhere a few moments ago, and he quickly accepted it since it was like gaining free Union Merits.

But Ace had already annexed all the demon's memories since he was only a peak Qi river realm cultivator. So, he knew what Companies were and about the big three as much as this demon.

The company was like a hunting team that was formed by the outer sun dominion members to complete missions and collect various resources or even control a rich area in the cultivation sector.

This place wasn't peaceful at all because fierce fights were fought over resources available in the cultivation sector, and large groups of individuals controlled those resources.

Most of these companies were controlled by Union Scholars or those Union Instructors who failed to pass the entrance test to enter the inner sun domain.

Some of the Union Instructors deliberately stay in the outer domain and hoard numerous cultivation resources for themselves and take full advantage of their superior power. Because they knew the inner domain power level was too high for them, and they won't be able to compete with those Union Elder Lineages or Union High Elder Lineages at all.

They were too used to living like Mountain Kings, so they won't leave the outer domain indefinitely and gain more power and subordinates so they could hoard more resources and control more areas in the cultivation sectors.

The big three shine here as well, especially devils, because, for some reason, the devils have full access to their blood heritage, unlike in the mortal domain, where they didn't even know about the true power of their bloodline.

With all this information, Ace ignored the demon, which made the other guy even happier since his lack of questions meant he just needed to send him to the living sector and didn't have to waste his time by answering his random questions since it was also part of his mission.

If he knew Ace even knew about where he had hidden his treasures which he was sneakily stealing from his mid-size company, he wouldn't be celebrating at all.

Nevertheless, those treasures were simply trash for Ace now.

While in truth, Ace was contacting someone who could be useful in his current predicament while walking heading toward the living sector.

Ace's voice rang in a particular space of his thief's house at this moment, "Freya, are you free for a chat?"

At this moment, Freya was surrounded by a strange, ominous aura while she was sitting in a lotus position; she was the embodiment of an Evil Witch.

Furthermore, in front of her were hovering two books, one had dark gray pages with black symbols, and it was giving off an extremely sinister aura, while the other book was pitch black and filled with mysterious crimson runes.

These two books were connected by a black translucent Qi thread in the center, and the other sides of the two books have two more Qi threads which were directly connected to a black spot shining over Freya's glabella. Creating a triangle.

Furthermore, the runes on the dark gray pages were vanishing along with the fragments of that dark gray page, and thereby, new mysterious crimson runes appeared on the black page.

However, the process stopped when Freya opened her eyes, and a black current passed through them, and that pair of bewitching eyes appeared extremely evil.

Her alluring lips curled up in a charming smile as she spoke, "How may I help you, Leader? I thought you forgot about me."

After she got her confidence crushed by Ace's heaven-defying cultivation method, it was the first time they talked again.

"Can I look in your cultivation space?" Ace's voice rang again.

He didn't like to sneak around in the private space of his thief's house members, especially since they were all women. He didn't want to appear as a creep as Winter made him be.

He was now even more careful because Eva was awake and would soon enter the thief's house.

Freya's smile widened, "Aren't you a gentleman? You can look any time you want. You have my permission." She said in a lubricious tone.

Ace then finally looked into her private space when he saw Freya. She seemed quite different from her usual self. As for how he didn't know, he could sense she was no longer arrogant like before, and she seemed more like a humble person.

If not for that strange, ominous aura emitting from her and her enthralling beauty, she would appear like a fairy.

Ace also noticed the two books hovering in front of her and also noticed the half-vanished page from the dark gray book and the half-filled page of the black book.

"Can Dark Grimoire really absorb your Ancestral Grimoire? And are you ok with it?" Ace asked in surprise.

He knew those books quite well, especially the dark gray one because it was the same Ancestral Grimoire of Witch Race he stole from the life demon auction, and after studying it for a while, he gave it back to Freya since it was useless to him.

Freya answered without having any intention of hiding it from Ace, "The Dark Grimoire is one of its kind, and it has the ability to devour the other grimoires and all the spells in that grimoire, turning them into its own spells, not to mention more powerful than the original."

Her lips curled into a cold smile at this moment, "Besides, the Dark Grimoire can only be used by me, and it's now like my heart. The stronger it is, the stronger my magic is. Most importantly, my cultivation seemed to be rising as well with the absorption of the Ancestral Grimoire.

"So, yeah, I'm ok with turning this grimoire into my stepping stone!"

Eternal Thief

Chapter 686: My Priority Is...

After hearing Freya's reply, Ace didn't pry into the matters of her dark grimoire. As long as she didn't impose on the thief's house, he won't interfere with her actions.

"Alright, I can feel you are about to break into the Soul Embryo Manifestation Realm very soon, and it's seemed it has something to do with your race's grimoire absorption." Ace coolly commented.

"You're as keen as ever, Leader." Freya giggled charmingly, "So, you're not here to just check on little me, right? Because if you are, then I'm really flatter." Stated Freya coquettishly.

Ace wasn't in the mood to indulge her, so he stated his purpose for contacting her, "As long as you're in this place, I know you're fine. The purpose of my bothering you is I want you to use your abilities to infiltrate into a very dangerous place. You just need to do your thing, like collecting information, finding weaklings, and sowing discord when it needs it. Of course, you have to do it while remaining in the thief's house."

Freya's eyes flashed with a peculiar glint, "Do you reached the azure wind continent?"

A hint of surprise flashed past his eyes, "It seemed Winter has informed you about her current task."

"Well, it's only natural for us fellow members to look after each other and keep tabs on their wellbeing. She's the only one who is not present in the thief's house right now, so it's only natural I would give her a call now and then to inquire about her situation." Freya smilingly stated.

"Fair enough." Ace didn't pry further and said solemnly, "No, I still haven't reached the azure wind continent. On the contrary, I have stumbled upon an even more mysterious place called the Sun and Moon Sword Union..."

Ace then divulged how he stumbled upon the union hidden deep within a thick fog of Qi radiation somewhere in the endless sea. He needed her to know everything so she knew what she would be doing and how dangerous it was going to be.

Freya was completely flabbergasted by this unexpected turn of events. Still, she was equally fascinated by the mysterious lands hidden under the Qi radiation and where all the races of the world live together.

"Hey, we are here. Tsk, tsk, you're going to suffer with your lack of attention." The demon's voice rang at this moment, drawing Ace's attention.

Ace then told Freya to wait and absorb all the information before he returned.

Right now, they were standing in front of a ten-story gray building with an ancient design while the black Qi barrier was on both sides like walls. He can't see anything on the other side of the Qi walls, and the only way in is this building.

Ace instantly knew from this demon's memory that this building was the registration building of the living sector where he would be allocated a resident in this place.

"What is this place?" Ace pretended to be marveled at the strange scenery.

The demon chuckled with a hint of disdain and said, "Heh, I guess for you little bumpkins from the mortal domain, this place is really like dreams. This is the entrance barrier to the living sector of the outer sun domain. And the area between the sun gates and this place is like an entrance courtyard.

"The true domains lie behind this barrier, and the only way inside or outside is four entrance passes around the foot of the sun mountains, and there are also four sun domain gates around these found passes. Each sun gate is separated from the other by at least a hundred miles apart.

"You have entered from western sun gates, which are closest to the moon domain, so this could only mean there should be a female mortal passing the entrance test with you.

"Anyway, if you ever leave the living sector for any mission and then want to return, then I would suggest never touching that black wall, or you will turn to ashes within a single breath.

"Oh, and if you lose your union token and then try to enter or exit this building, you will also be punished heavily. Only with a union token can you pass this building, and it's not free either.

"Only during missions required to exit this pass can you enter or exit without paying Union merits. Now keep your union token in your hand, and let's go. Since you are new, you will get your living quarters the moment you enter this building!"

The demon explained tonelessly before he moved as he took out his union token and held it tightly. Ace does the same, and they both move toward the ancient building.

The moment they were a few meters close to the building, their union tokens started to shine before a heavy sound of door opening rang, which came from the building in front.

The moment the door was opened, an empty white hall appeared without any staircase or anything despite the building having ten floors.

The demon, followed by Ace, entered the building while their token was shimmering in their hands.

"Union Scholar, Zarker: Free Pass!"

"Union Student, White: New entry!"

"You have been allocated a 3rd class cave resident in the Union Student Living Reign, 3rd class area. Cave Resident Number XXXXXX has been registered to Union Student White.

"Your one-time entry pass has been expended. You may enter now!"

This voice was the same voice Ace had been hearing from the ascension stairway.

"Let's go. I'll drop you to the union student region third class area. Afterward, you are on your own." Zarker snickered as he walked toward the newly opened entrance straight ahead of them.

Ace followed behind while he looked at the interior of the empty hall, which was as ordinary as it could get, but he knew it was far from being ordinary. Just breathing in this place gave Ace the feeling of being naked, as everything about him was on the verge of exposure.

Without the system, he was afraid to even the content of his storage ring was completely exposed within the space of this building.

This feeling only lasted until he exited to the other side.

The moment Ace walked outside the building, a vast golden incline road surrounded by lush forest with tall trees appeared. The pathway leads upward on the golden mountain.

Zarker remained dismissive as he had seen this scene too many times as he was used to it.

So, he flipped his hand, and a long silver sword appeared in his hand before he let it go and the next moment, blue runes shone on it before it suddenly hovered in the air, straight before it slowly started to hover down until it was at the length of Zarker's feet.

He stepped on the flying sword before the sword started to expand, turning into a broad sword. He looked at astonishing White and said, "Hope on and focus your Qi on your feet. I'm not like those Elders who could envelop you with their Qi to protect you.

"So, you have to focus your Qi on your feet while you are flying with me, and you will remain stuck on my flying sword, or I won't be responsible if you fall to your death!" He sternly warned.

Ace quite marveled at these flying swords from the moment he saw the blue robe youth flying over them. Now he even had one of his own, so he was planning to research them first. This was a very good means of transport, not to mention fast.

So, he did as he was told and stepped over the broad sword, and the moment he focused his Qi on his feet, they suddenly stuck to the smooth metal surface of the blade like magnets.

Zarker then controlled the flying sword as they started flying upward on the paved golden road five meters above the ground.

After getting the hang of standing over the flying sword using his Qi, Ace again focused on Freya, who was completely solemn. At the same time, he also paid attention to his surroundings while going toward the union student region.

"So, what do you think?" He transmitted his voice.

Freya was no longer playful as before as she gravely asked, "I don't know if you're lucky or unlucky since this place sounds even more terrifying than the All-Devil Continent. But it's also quite an opportunity for us.

"I just want to make one thing clear before I would suggest something. Are you planning to rob this place or leave?" She solemnly questioned.

Ace truthfully replied, "That's the thing, actually. I received a mission that is related to this place. But my priority is still Alina. So, I want to leave this place before coming back. At that time, Winter will also be here, and she can provide even more help in this place."

Freya remained silent for a moment as she already had some idea about how important Alina was to Ace after she had chatted with Winter.

But she also agreed with the statement about Winter. The Faceless Thief could really do wonders in a place like Union and make this mission much easier.

So, she said after mulling over the situation, "Do you remember about the Yin Soul Possession Technique...!"

Eternal Thief

Chapter 687: I have No Solution!

Ace stood on the golden road as he looked at the numerous cave entrances up ahead. It was like a honeycomb.

All of those cave entrances were blocked by light barriers, and occasionally, someone on a flying sword would fly out of those caves and fly upward while flying over a five-meter altitude on a paved road.

Those who preferred were walking below, while those on the flying sword were flying above them without anyone bothering anybody. It was quite a novel sight for Ace despite having already seen it in Zarker's memoirs.

Zarker stood over his flying sword without having any intention to overstay. He said impassively, "As you can see, all those caves are at the outermost area of the living sector, the union student region, third-class area, and the higher you go, the deeper you are in the living sector.

"But remember, you are only allowed to fly or walk over this road, and you are not allowed to wander into any area which forbids your entry, like the second-class area of the union student region, which only allows foundation-building students.

"If you want to enter the cultivation sector, where lies the library and unique cultivation resources, as long as you walk on this road for twelve hours, you'll be able to find the boundary of the cultivation sector.

"So, you better learn how to control your flying sword if you don't want to waste time by walking between your cave resident and the cultivation domain.

"The union scholar and union instructors usually give special cultivation classes for Union Students or even Union Scholars in Public Halls in the center of the living sector.

"But those classes are not cheap, especially the classes from the Union Instructors who seldom leave the cultivation domain. Anyhow, some union students can be hired for private lessons so you can learn how to control your flying sword from them if you satisfy them."

Ace knew all this, but he pretended to be in awe as he suddenly asked, "What about you, senior? You are also a Union Scholar, right? How much will it cost to hire you for flying sword lessons?"

Zarker smiled in disdain as he said, "Newbie, I'm not cheap. It will cost you at least 1 thousand union merits to hire me for flying sword classes for only three days. Now tell me do you want to?"

In Zarker's mind, Ace was a newbie who came from the mortal domain. There was a unique rule for anyone who descended from the mortal domain that all the union merits they bought from the mortal domain would be voided upon entry into the true union.

It was done so that some rich guys from the mortal domain would also go through the same hardship as their peers.

So, how could White have 1000 UM?

But if Zarker knew Ace had received 10,000 UM after breaking the entrance record. He won't be so disdainful towards him and even treat him seriously.

Right now, the fact about White's talent was only known by the inner sun domain. If he wanted to make a name for himself in the outer sun domain, then he needed to do something which was noteworthy enough to draw the attention of millions in the outer sun domain.

Anyhow, Ace already had all Zarker's knowledge, which included the information about the flying sword, so he didn't really need to take any lessons from those guys who were even weaker than him.

"I have no money. It's a shame." White sighed with a reluctant expression.

Zarker's lips curled up into a mocking smile, "It's a shame, really. Alright, I have done my part. You are on your own now."

With that, the flying sword under his feet swished, and he flew upward toward the mountain.

After Zarker left, Ace's expression returned to be impassive as he looked at all those mountain caves like honeycombs and sighed ruefully, 'If people from the ten continents knew just this outermost area for the union students are as lavish as the demon domain, it would cause them to go bonkers.

'But it's a shame I don't have the luxury to enjoy all this since I still don't know if those caves will be under surveillance. Yet, I needed to gain mastery over my haven's stealer dismantler principles as quickly as possible, so I could gain some clue from the condition about how to leave this place.

'Freya will also be able to break into the soul manifestation realm by the time I would complete the perquisite of the Heaven's Stealer Mission.' Ace grimly thought before he activated his union token.

A white map projection appeared of the third-class area with a black-marked location. This mark indicated to his cave resident.

After finding the general location, he started to move toward the residential area. No one paid any attention to him as they were all minding their own business.

Especially since White was only a Qi gates cultivator like them, so they would rather waste their time cultivating and breaking into the foundation-building realm to go into the second-class area.

The Union Students were all 1st Realm, 2nd Realm, and 3rd Realm cultivators. The higher their cultivation realm, the better cave resident will be appointed in the higher-class area.

However, to leave the Union Student Region and get a cave resident in the Union Scholar Region, they needed to pass a test to evaluate their rank in Union Scholar First.

Any union student qualified for this test after they break into the third realm, or they can skip this test by directly becoming fourth realm cultivators.

However, these prerequisites were quite difficult, especially the latter, because every union student had to buy cultivation manuals of different realms from the library with every major breakthrough. They needed union merits for them.

This process was even more lengthy, not to mention it was also a matter of talent. Although the union provides its members with the best cultivation techniques, talents still matter.

If someone without any talent can break into the foundation-building realm within one or two years, then someone with talent could do the same between three and six months or even sooner.

That's why the competition in the common union grounds was always fiercest since most of these people were not as talented as the descendants of the elder lineages in the inner sun domain and had limited resources.

That's also why most of these guys are always busy cultivating to reevaluate their status and get a better life for themselves and their descendants. But only if it was that easy.

Ace walked for half an hour before he found himself walking in a remote area where all the cave residents were closed off with a golden barrier that could completely block off anyone's sight.

However, not only Ace's thief sense was working, but he could also use his fate map to spot fate points inside despite the terrain dyed in black.

To his surprise, almost every cave resident in this area was empty. It wasn't either occupied, or the owners were gone out.

After walking for another half an hour, he finally found his cave residence, which was in the middle of nowhere. Still, Ace liked this place as no one was around this place.

He then placed his token over the black barrier, and like a bubble, it burst open, revealing a 10X10 space with a stone bed, and that's it. There was nothing else!

"What a scam!" Ace sneered in disdain before he used his token to close the entrance again.

Although this place was too humble for someone like him who had been visiting high-end places for fifteen years and hadn't seen a poor city ever since he left the lower lands.

He always preferred to enter those rich cities since they always had more things to steal, and he had developed a mentality that if he was going to steal and reveal himself, then he better make it big because the consequences would always be the same.

Still, he didn't forget about his roots since he had lived in the slums for over a year after he sold the house his parents left him in the common district of the river flower city.

Suddenly he transmitted his voice, "I don't think anyone would bother to place some surveillance in this shitty little place. Still, I need to be as careful as I can get because this is still a black fate location while his indicator is still pointing toward the top of the mountain.

"It might be pointing me right where heaven's secret is. But I'm not so sure since even the system couldn't reveal its position to me straight, much less an incomplete grade-4 Eternal Soul Provenance Treasure, right, Moira?"

"Sir, Ace, you're being rude." Moira's unhappy cute voice rang, "But, you're right, even I don't know what a Heaven's Secret is. Still, fate works in mysterious ways."

Ace chuckled and jokingly said, "I was just joking with you and also checking on you to see if you've been paying attention and have some solution."

"Thank you, and I'm always paying attention and available at any time for Sir, Ace." Moira solemnly stated, "But I have no solution!"

Ace was speechless after hearing the last part!

Eternal Thief

Chapter 688: The Three Ghosts

Azure Wind Continent, on a colossal mountain peak, surrounded by azure winds. At this moment, three figures in dark mantles with capes appeared outside the small shack on top of the mountain peak.

However, before they could step further, another tall figure appeared wearing bronze color Taoist robes. He was a human who appeared to be in his early thirties with a handsome face with a long goatee and sharp eyebrows and astute sky-blue eyes. His long black hair fluttered as he stood before the three figures.

He was surrounded by the aura of mystery; this human had a distinguished identity among the human race and held absolute authority over them, and he was as old as five ancient sects. He's the Grand Elder of Azure Wind Mountain Sect, Dream Shatter Ancestor!

Dream Shatter's peaceful expression crumbled into a faint smile on his handsome face as he said to those three capped figures in greeting, "I was just wondering when you guys will show up. It's been a long time, Senior Devil Ancestor, Senior Demon Ancestor, and Senior Blood Ancestor."

"Tsk, tsk, and here I thought we managed to sneak into here without getting noticed." An eerie voice chortled from the 2'5-meter-tall figure stood in the center of the three as the cape on his head suddenly blew back, revealing a bewitchingly handsome face of an otherworldly man.

The crimson devil horns complimented his long hair of blood color, and so were his eyeballs, while his irises were white and pupils black, and two long sharp fangs were revealed from his crimson lips.

After his face was revealed, he started to give off a devilish aura. The aura he was giving off was extremely sinister, as if he was walking straight out of hell.

This devilishly handsome person with an aura like a true devil was none other than the most powerful person known in the Golden Sky World, the Devil Ancestor, Edward!

"Heh, he's probably allowed you to sneak here to give you a false sense of accomplishment, like he always does, right little Dream Shatter?" A coquettish voice rang from the 1'9-meter-tall capped figure standing right beside the Devil Ancestor.

The cape on her also flipped black, and a transparent veil-wearing beauty appeared as her skin was pale white while the outline of her bewitching face was quite apparent. Her hair was purple while her big round bright purplish eyes shimmered in shrewdness, giving the sense that she was scheming something nefarious.

She was the most powerful Huntress of the Hunter Race and the third-strongest expert of the Golden Sky World, the Blood Ancestor of Blood Continent, Margret.

"Humph!" Lastly, the 5.1-meter-tall giant burly figure grunted coldly before revealing his face.

A wizened black face of a demon appeared with pitch-black eyeballs, and his two twisted gray antelope horns were 10 feet long while his head was bald. Still, his demonic aura was only the slightest bit weaker than the Devil Ancestor. He was the second-strongest expert of the Golden Sky World and the Ancestor of the Demon Race, Albert.

"Seniors, you guys know I don't have the capability to fool any of you guys." Dream Shatter humbly replied with a smile. He was like a junior standing in front of those three terrifying experts.

But none of them believed Dream Shatter's words as if they knew just what kind of thing this guy was capable of, but they had no intention of exposing him either.

"Alright, stop with your façade." Edward dismissively said, "I hope you don't mind me bringing along two friends, right?"

"I won't dare. In fact, I'm glad you bought two seniors with you. This way, those guys from the White Crown will get crushed for sure." Dream Shatter chuckled.

Margret spoke at this moment, "Heh, again, with your humble act? You clearly knew Edward would come since he's too greedy while Albert is desperate, and you have my student captured and even used her as bait, so I was going to come, no matter what."

Margret's voice was somewhat cold at the last point.

Dream Shatter didn't deny her words and coolly explained, "Trust me, Senior, I haven't harmed a hair of her, and she's living even more lavish than me. You can even ask her yourself and can take her away any time you want to."

A faint smile appeared on Dream Shatter's face, "Besides, I've done all this after informing you through the Ice Lord since I don't dare to bother you. And since you didn't contact me to stop me, I consider that as your approval, and your student also cooperated after she found out I'm your acquaintance."

Margret's purplish eyes lips as her faint purplish lips visible behind her veil curled up, creating a breathtaking scene, "That better be the case, or you know me well, Little Dream Shatter."

"That girl is your student?" Albert looked down at Margret with a hint of shock.

"Heh, I was as surprised as you when I found out." Edward chuckled.

"Why the hell am I the only one who finding it out now?" Albert pursed his lips as he felt betrayed.

"Because you're a self-centered idiot." Margret giggled as she commented without holding back.

Albert's expression turned nasty as his aura spiked, "You, Harlot, I dare you to say that again!"

"Why wouldn't I dare call an idiot who lost the key an idiot? IDIOT!" Margret retorted while giving Albert a side-eye.

Before Albert flew into a rage, Edward stepped in, "You two, behave."

Without giving them a chance to speak, he then looked at Dream Shatter, who was silently watching the scene play out like a spectator; he coolly said, "Where is he?"

Albert and Margret could only stop as they knew it was not the time for bickering among themselves. They were all here for something, especially Demon Ancestor Albert, who wanted to find Ace no matter what.

Dream Shatter replied with a faint smile, "I'm afraid Prime One is not here."

Edward's dismissive expression turned rather cold as an extremely eerie aura started to envelop Dream Shatter, "Do you think you've grown to such a degree that you can make me unhappy? Even your Master wouldn't dare to make me unhappy." He questioned impassively.

Dream Shatter didn't seem to be bothered by the aura at all, but he still bowed his head in front of Edward and respectfully said, "I'm still a nobody in front of Senior Devil Ancestor. However, Prime One had told me to receive you guys with utmost respect before he left three days. I have no idea where Prime One had gone, but before leaving, he gave me all the things necessary to handle the raid at the White Crown hideout."

"I only want my key in that thief's possession. It doesn't matter if I meet with that eccentric or not." Albert coldly declared.

Edward looked at Dream Shatter with scrutiny before he glanced at the shack behind him. He nodded, "Alright, that guy always seemed to avoid my friendly intentions. So be it."

Dream Shatter smiled wryly as he replied, "It's not like Prime One didn't want to meet you guys. It's just that something came up abruptly, and even I'm not aware of the matters of Prime One. Still, it's been quite a long time since he left the azure mountain. But he'll soon come back, I'm sure. He's as interested as us in the White Crown and that Thief's secrets."

"Heh, even Little Dream Shatter didn't know about someone's origin? I don't believe you." Margret scoffed.

"Believe it or not, I'm telling the truth." Dream Shatter shrugged, "Furthermore, before leaving, Prime One told me that the Beast Ancestor and Eleven Queen might come here in half a month to cause trouble."

Edward seemed quite intrigued when he heard this, "Oh? Are those two coming together? Did something interesting happen that we are unaware of?"

"Yes, something like that. The Wise Elves seemed to have lost some kind of ancient inheritance they had been hiding for over two thousand years, and they're blaming humans for that." Dream Shatter sighed helplessly as he had no idea just how a human could appear in the elven continent and even snatch an ancient inheritance that they had been protecting for over two thousand years.

"Something like that happened? Don't tell me it's that thief?" Albert instantly blamed Ace as, in his mind, only he was capable of such a thing.

"No possible. They said that person didn't hide his identity, nor did he use any skills like the Sky Stealer. I don't know about the full matter, but I'm sure we'll find out once those guys arrive. So, I hope you guys can lend a hand." Dream Shatter shamelessly asked for their help.

"You only told us about it so you could have us do your chores, typical Dream Shatter." Margret sneered.

"It doesn't matter. It's been a long time since all of us gathered together. Especially that old cowardly snake. He probably thinks of us as dead. Let's give him a big surprise." Edward playfully stated, especially when he thought about the Beast Ancestor, a ruthless glint flashed past his devilish eyes.

Dream Shatter smiled as he said, "Alright, let me escort you guys to the palace. I'll give you details that Prime One left!"

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 689: Blood Ancestor's Offer

Within a luxurious grand hall, a veiled woman in body-tight white armor, flaunting her perfect figure, was slashing her thin long silvery sword aesthetically in a strange rhythm. With every slash, she would gracefully move around the hall as if she was dancing.

As her long silver hair danced in the air like silvery flames with her sensational movements, her silvery eyes were like pristine pearls which didn't have any emotions in them. Her movements were fluent and graceful, while her sword aura was sharp and frigid. She looked like a sword fairy dancing on her own rhythm, completely oblivious to worldly affairs.

She was none other than Alina!

"Princess, you should rest. You've been practicing your sword dance for an entire week now!" A fidgety crisp voice rang from the corner of this hall.

Another graceful silver-haired woman with an oval bewitching face and 5'11 feet tall, wearing a blue flowery dress, was looking at Alina with antsy. Her name was Lillian, and she was Alina's Royal Maid as well as a close friend.

Alina seemed to didn't hear Lillian's concerning voice at all and continued to dance around with her sword.

Lillian chewed on her lips as she saw Alina was ignoring her again and cursed, 'It was all that bastard Dream Shatter's fault that Alina became so distant! If I had known, I wouldn't have allowed her to come here even if it killed me.'

Alas, if only there were medicine for regret.

But it wasn't Lillian's fault either. She only thought that Alina's fake brother was a mortal human, but not even Alina had even thought that he would turn out to be the enigmatic Sky Stealer!

Although Dream Shatter didn't do anything to them and treated them like esteemed guests, the fact remains that they were still prisoners.

Not to mention, Alina was now part of a huge scheme to capture the Sky Stealer, and even her own race was playing a huge part in it. Even if they wanted to escape, where could they go exactly?

Although Dream Shatter assured them that Alina's execution was an act, at this point, Lillian won't believe anything as long as she won't confirm it herself.

"Oh, you've improved, my little disciple." A melodious voice suddenly rang within the hall at this moment.

Lillian was instantly alarmed when she was a tall, veiled woman with purple hair in a black dress appeared out of nowhere a few meters away from Alina. If Alina's figure was perfect in every way, that woman's buxom figure was perfectly monstrous. Any man would drool after a single look.

Alina was also startled by the appearance of this woman as well as she knew that playful tone quite well. She stopped and confronted the woman with a hint of surprise in her beautiful silvery eyes.

"Who are you?!" Lillian was alarmed as she quickly started to circulate her Qi to confront the intruder. She didn't trust anyone among the humans.

However, she wasn't foolish enough to charge at her since she knew this woman had to be powerful since she could sneak right behind Alina without even alarming her.

"Leave us." Alina softly spoke in her mellifluous voice.

"But..."

"Leave us." She repeated in the same manner, but her tone was somewhat colder.

Lillian bit her lips, and after giving that woman a piercing gaze, she quickly left while thinking gloomily, 'I have to find and tell Grandpa Herman!'

"Sigh... even my own race couldn't identify me anymore. So much for being Blood Ancestor, huh." The veiled woman was non-other than Blood Ancestor, Margret sighed ruefully.

The sword in Alina's hand vanished before she bowed in front of Margret in greeting, "It's good to see you, Mistress."

"Why are you still calling me Mistress? Call me Master." Margret retorted.

"No. I won't be your disciple." Alina shook her head.

Margret wasn't seemed to bother by Alina's reply as she said while smiling, "Are you still angry about the fact that I killed your Grandfather and Grandmother? Or are you still dwelling on the fact that I'm the one who was behind your childhood exile?"

"As I've already told you when the last time we met, I'm not the villain here, but your family nearly destroyed our race's sacred treasure. So, I have to step in, or trust me; I wouldn't be bothered by anything else.

"Besides, haven't I already compensated your family enough for you? Are you still going to remain stubborn even with your current situation? Your Father and Mother begged me to send you back, and I can make it happen right now.

"Just accept my inheritance, and you can do anything you want, even control the entire hunter race." Said Margret as if she were talking about some small matter.

Alina's eyes shimmered in coldness as she replied, "I don't want any of that, and I wouldn't dare to hate Mistress. You are our sacred mother, and our race was born from you. Whatever you do, it's for the greater good of our race. I'm just not qualified to inherit your legacy."

Margret couldn't help but giggle at this moment while she clapped her hand amusingly, "You're as stubborn as your Grandparents. I have warned them once to stop looking into a secret that would annihilate them if they got too close. But they never listened, and the Silver Ice Clan nearly got annihilated.

"But you, on the other hand, seemed to be the opposite. You are not interested in authority or secrets and always mind your own business while cultivating like a maniac.

"I've been observing you for years now, and I always wonder why you rejected the power which is right in front of you on a silver platter all this time. Now, I finally understand. It's probably because of that boy named Ace, right?"

Ripples appeared in Alina's cold eyes when she heard that name, but she quickly returned to being indifferent, "So, you knew I was leaving the continent, yet you didn't stop me?"

Margret nodded, "What would I stop you? Do you think I would've let anything happen to you? I could've taken you back the moment Dream Shatter discovered you, but I wanted to see why you were so desperate to search for that boy. However, I discovered something even more interesting, which was out of even my imagination."

Margret eyes shimmered in a particular light, "So, how about this if you inherit my legacy, I'll spare the boy and his kin as long as he hands over the secrets to him. Both Devil and Demon Ancestors would give me that much face.

"Even if he didn't come for you, he wouldn't abandon his parents, would he? But if he did even abandon his own flesh and blood, wouldn't this also mean he didn't care about you anymore and had become a heartless ingrate?

"But if you remain stubborn, you might never see him again, and even if he didn't come. Do you think he would still like you if he found out that you had the power to save his kin, yet you chose to look the other way?"

Margret playfully said while she turned around gracefully, "You have time until the date of your so-called execution. If you remain stubborn, I can only guarantee your survival, but someone will be going to get executed that day."

With that last sentence, Margret vanished from her position just like she appeared without waiting for Alina's reply.

Alina looked at the empty spot where Margret was standing a moment ago as terrifying killing intent surfaced in her eyes, and the temperature of the hall started to decrease at a terrifying rate.

But that ghastly aura only lasted for a moment before anxiety replaced Alina's cold expression, 'I need to escape and somehow warn Ace...!'