

Thief 71

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 71: Foundation Of Heavenly Darkness!

Even after Ace 'True Soul' returns to its normal state and becomes more powerful he still was in a coma because the shock he sustains was too great.

But this didn't stop his dark void to keep devouring the heavenly qi at all. The density of Qi in the land of cities was quite low however, the dark void didn't seem to be fazed by it either because it was drawing Qi from heaven itself.

Suddenly, cracks began to appear on the dark void and Ace's Qi Meridians, because they were both connected. The cracks spread slowly but the devouring of heavenly qi didn't stop a bit. The next moment it was as if the dark void couldn't take it anymore and finally shattered with Ace's Qi meridians!

Ace's whole body jolt by this sudden shock and black blood began to flow out of his orifices.

Qi Meridians are like roads inside the body these roads were pathways for Qi to circulate inside the body smoothly. Without these pathways, the body can't use or store Qi.

It was common knowledge that if someone's qi meridians were to destroy, they would be cripple for life and never be able to cultivate again. And till this day not a single person can heal their cripple meridians.

Some higher-ups of the empire-level lands believed that the ancient sects have a way to heal destroyed Qi meridians but that method was too costly even for an ancient sect!

Since Ace Qi meridians were just destroyed didn't this mean he become a cripple for life and all his cultivation that he accomplishes till this day vanished in thin air?

But the strange thing was that even after his meridians were destroyed, his nine qi gates were still there, which means he was still a cultivator of the Qi Gates realm.

It's just that no qi meridians were connected to those gates to draw qi from heaven.

Just as the dark void shattered something else reveal itself, it was like a dark curtain was lifted.

A completely new dark void reveals itself however, it was much smaller than before and it was radiant darkly.

If the old dark void was like a palm-size ball this one was the size of a fingernail. This was not the end the fragments of the old shattered dark void started to form a space in his abdomen around his new dark void.

This new space was like the mind space but it was hundred cubic meters large from the start and the dark void was in the center of this space.

This is the 'Martial Space' forming after his body cultivation broke through for the first time just like his mind space. But this was not his true soul,

The moment this new space formed and the new dark void reveal itself the heavenly qi stop entering his body and a huge amount of HD-Qi began to flow in Ace's whole body.

But there was a little white lightning mix in this HD-Qi. This was the heavenly thunder that the dark void has devoured before.

Anywhere the new HD-Qi flows in Ace's body new Qi meridians form in the place of old ones. But this time the Qi Meridians were not transparent anymore they were pitch black and more refined than his destroyed meridians.

Qi Meridians also has many different and special types, it is just that it was rare to even find a single soul in the entire continent with it! And these forming meridians inside Ace's body were the Primordial Darkness Meridians!

Ace would find out the benefits of these meridians in the future.

Whenever someone broke through into the Qi Foundation Building realm, their Qi Gates that were open in the Qi Gates realm would be turned into 'slates'. Moreover, these slates would get reinforced or baptism from the pure Worldly Qi.

They called these slates 'Foundation Slates' and this pure 'World Qi' comes straight from the 'world's will' itself and would help build a strong foundation slate.

How much you'll get the 'World Qi' depends on the qi gates that you opened in the first realm of the cultivation. It is a type of recognition from the 'world's will' you live in as well.

Cultivator with five foundation or Qi slates would get only single baptism, meaning only a single Qi Slate would turn into a Perfect Slate with a single crack on it. And all the other four slates would turn into cracked slates with nine cracked on each.

Six Gates would get three baptisms. The eight gates would get five baptisms and no one knows what would happen at the ninth gate because they didn't even know this gate exists in the first place.

Five Slates means Cracked Foundation, Six Slates means Flawed Foundation, Seven means Complete, and Eight means Perfect foundation in the golden sky world.

Ace primordial darkness meridians were finally finished forming and now he didn't have a sliver of heavenly qi in his meridians, only pure HD-Qi was flowing inside his whole-body meridians channel.

Finally, the dark meridians began to connect with his nine open heavenly qi gates.

Ace's first five gates were not dark like his hidden gates of darkness however, at this moment the other five gates began to turn pitch black as well like his hidden gates.

The dark gates started to vanish from their positions and slowly one after another they appeared in his abdominal where the new dark void was floating in his martial space peacefully while suppling the HD-Qi in Ace's body.

The nine dark gates surround the dark void in a circle and the dark void released nine dark blue qi chains and those chains are connected to one dark gate each.

The moment this happened the gates started to turn into inky slates one after another.

This was forming of the foundation slates however the difference was Ace foundation slates were forming independently without any worldly blessing whatsoever. Because no one was qualifying to bless him only heaven has the right but it would rather kill him than give him 'anymore' of its blessing.

Moreover, Ace didn't need anyone's blessing because he was a heaven's stealer and heavenly qi was the biggest blessing he could ask, on top of that he has the advantage of the system.

Ace's final gate turns into a black slate and shockingly all the nine dark slates were perfectly formed, there was not a single scratch on them.

All nine foundation plates were floating around the dark void with a single dark blue chain attached to them moreover, white lightning would spark on those inky slates now and then.

This was the true Heavenly Foundation of Nine Heavenly Gates!

However, this was not the end from those dark blue chains, dark blue qi started to enter the foundation slates and different kinds of dark blue runic symbols started to be engraved on the dark slates forming different scriptures on every single slate.

If Ace was conscious he would be shocked to see these engraving scriptures because these were the full cultivation method of 'Heaven Stealer Martial Cultivation' that was being engraved on his foundation pillars right now.

After the technique was fully engraved on his foundation slates the writing vanished and they all returned into their clear dark state as if nothing happened. The black chains also returned into the dark void.

The foundation slates and the dark void finally returned to their peaceful nature but now all the dark meridians, dark foundation slates, and martial space were connected with Ace's dark void.

Void of Primordial Darkness (Dark Void) has become like a core of his martial (Body) cultivation now if it gets destroyed everything is over but it was night impossible. Ace will find out about this in the future and become astounded by this.

Outside of Ace's body. The moment his new meridians were formed his body started to heal at astonishing speed.

In the end, when the heaven stealer technique was engraved in his foundation slates Ace was completely healed his skin was giving a healthy glow and one would think he was sleeping peacefully if they see him now.

Only his charred and bloody clothes were telling the true story.

At this moment system's sweet and emotionless voice sounded in his mind,

"[Congratulation Host on building the Foundation of Darkness!]

[Host has reached the Early Stage of Heavenly Foundation Building Realm.]

[Rewards: 500 Thief Points]

[Host status has been updated.]"

But Ace still didn't regain his conscious he was in deep slumber. It was a blessing that in the core region there was not a single demonic beast or he would have become their food.

Just like that two years have passed after Ace fell into a deep slumber.

It was a sunny day like always and plants were born in this vast core region of the moon forest in two years.

Two years ago, it was just a barren place with a dark and cold environment so no life can bear here easily but after the heavenly punishment has shattered the dark 'sky' life has finally returned here.

Inside the core region central area, a young man's naked body was lying in a huge black crater. But there was not a single speck of dust on his body as if he was protected by some invisible barrier. He was 1.9-meter-tall with white skin and long black hair. His toned body was carved with sharp muscles.

Appearance-wise he was extremely handsome with his sharp chin and hollow cheeks. But his eyes were closed as if he was sleeping tranquility.

He was obesely Ace.

Two years have passed since he fell in deep slumber. He still didn't regain his consciousness. But his body was growing normally and sturdier than a normal human boy,

Ace was turned fifteen and his childishness has vanished from his handsome face. He has turned into a young man.

Since Ace was entered into foundation building realm he didn't need to eat as long as he has enough qi in the atmosphere. Dark void was always supplying his body with HD-Qi so he would not be dead until the dark void spot its task.

Suddenly Ace closed eyes sprang open. Dark current flashed past them the moment he opens his eyes!

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Chapter 72: No Time To Waste!

"Am I still alive?" Muttered Ace as he looked around and saw the black crater, disbelief filled his eyes.

"How?" But no was here to answer his question.

He saw himself naked and overwhelmed by seeing how much he has grown in his 'sleep'. For him, it was like a moment has passed since he lost his consciousness. This change in his body was a huge shock.

Ace quickly open the system panel and saw series of system notifications on the notification panel. After reading all the new information he was alarmed and next moment excited.

"Hahaha, it seems luck was on my side!" Ace roar as he laughs out loud.

Ace excitedly gets up from the ground and drees up in a white robe.

'Hmm? These clothes are too short I need to buy new ones.' Ace smirked as he thought about how much his body has changed.

He quickly closes his eyes and uses his heavenly sense to examine his new inner self.

Ace was startled to see his new dark meridians they were on a whole other dimension than his old ones. His HD-Qi was flowing like a free river in his whole body through meridians pathways.

Ace feels that with these meridians of darkness he was far more powerful than anyone in the Foundation Building realm.

After checking the qi meridians his focus turned to martial space that was connected with his dark meridians. It was like a huge black transparent glob and in the center of it was a new dark void surrounded with Dark Foundation Plates. Now and then white lightning would spark on them.

'Those slates should be foundation slates and there is not a single crack on them and they were not like the foundation plates that I read in the book. And the dark void is also much smaller than before well it is more powerful so it's a plus.' Ace was moved after checking his new inner self.

"System what is this black transparent space?" Asked Ace.

Since he didn't know where this space came from because he was unconscious when his heavenly foundation was created.

"[Martial Space]

[After reached the qi foundation realm every cultivation steps into the true path of cultivation and every marital cultivation will form this space with pure worldly qi. Since the host is a Heaven's Stealer, the host martial space is perfect and form from old dark void fragments.]

[Martial Space is the core of every cultivator, destroy it and they will be crippled for life.]"

Ace was shocked after he heard this new information because they didn't give this kind of information in that manual of the qi foundation realm.

He didn't dwell on it since he now knew what it was so Ace said in an excited voice, "Status!"

[Status Panel]

[Host: Ace White]

[Race: Human [No Bloodline]]

[Heaven: 1st Mortal Sky Heaven]

[Martial Cultivation: Heavenly Foundation Building [Early-Stage]]

[EXP: 0/500,000]

[Soul Cultivation: Yellow Wind Soul Core]

[SP: 999/1000] [Extra: 1031]

[Skills: 5]

[Stealth Basic: [Perfection]

Silent Steps Basic: [Perfection]

True & False Eyes Basic: [Perfection]

Pick Pocket: [Perfection]

Treasure Opening Hands [Basic Art]: [5th Form]]

[Cultivation Technique: 2]

[[Heaven Stealer Technique Volume 1], [Dual Shadow Swords]]

[Thief Points (TP): 1095]

[Mission(s): 1]

[Job Mission: Host has to do honorable thievery at a city lord's mansion of the No.1 City in the Low-Level Lands. (Lands of cities)]

[Rewards]

[Thief Panel will be unlocked]

[Shop will be updated]

[Other rewards based on Host Performance]

[Time: 14 months left.]

[Punishment on failing: System will stop working for 50 years]

Ace's excited face turns serious after he read the mission time. Now he knew he was unconscious for more than two years and he didn't have any more time to waste.

Because it would take him five to six months to reach the new moon city.

After closing the status panel. He looks around and like an arrow blasts towards the fog.

Ace's speed was so fast that even he couldn't believe that he has become so strong.

'With this speed, I can reach there in three months. Heh, let me test my limit this time.' Ace laughed widely as tangible black qi started to appear under his boots and his speed increased ten-fold instantly.

This is the manifestation of qi now he didn't need to use his weapon to manifest his qi. He can do it with just thought like this was the most natural thing to do.

The fog that gives him the trouble first didn't even faze him this time and he crosses the core region of the moon forest in ten minutes.

After confirming his position, then he starts his journey towards the new moon city at top speed since he has no time to waste.

Three months late, a silhouette appeared outside of the western moon forest.

Ace was looking at the clean path and grin broadly. He was rushed all the way and really cross the moon forest in three months at his top speed. He didn't tangle with any demonic beasts since they can't give him a fight anymore.

Ace takes the road that was probably heading toward the direction of new moon city because in the west side of the lands of cities were only top cities were located.

The reason was very simple because the Qi density here was ten times denser than all the land of cities. After all, the west side was a border between lands of kingdoms and cities. So, only the top cities have the right to remain here.

The very next day Ace spotted a caravan of five old carriages pulled by horses. They seem to be going in the same direction as him as he decided to prob some information from them since he has waste almost three years in wildness.

Ace was wearing a simple robe and if not for his handsome appearance he looks just like any commoner. He accelerates his pace and reached the caravan but before he could greet them two muscular men shoot out of the carriage with spears in their hands.

"Halt!" Shout one of the spearmen.

Ace immediately stops and but he didn't seem to be afraid of them because with his true and false eyes he saw the strongest person in the caravan was at the peak qi gate realm cultivator.

But since he was not here to cause trouble he simply raised his hands and said with an innocent face, "I'm only here to ask sirs if you are also going to the new moon city?"

The two spearmen looked at Ace's appearance and saw he was only a young man and since they both were third gate realm cultivators they didn't sense any qi from his so they thought he was really telling the truth and relax their stance.

"New moon city? that city and its subordinate cities got promoted one year ago and now all the people of those cities have been long shifted to the Golden Hammered Kingdom since they were under their judicial."

"And on the new moon city old territory was now located Luminous City the former number two city and now number one."

Both said one after another since Ace didn't look dangerous they decided to give him an explanation.

Ace frowned but he didn't lose his calm when he heard the new moon city has already gone one year ago and cursed the heaven in his heart since he was unconscious because of heavenly punishment.

If he just came a year ago he would've completed his mission now what was he suppose to robbed a kingdom-level power? NO! he simply can't because he didn't have time to go in the lands of the kingdom.

"So, boy where are you from? You didn't even know this big event you're not from western cities lands?" An aged voice sounded from the carriage. It was clearly an old man.

Ace snapped out his daze and reply politely with force smiled, "Sir is right I'm not from western lands. I came from eastern lands and wanted to visit new moon city it's a pity that the city is long gone."

Ace didn't lose his composure and wasn't afraid that they would find it difficult for a youngster like him to cross the vast moon forest alone.

As expected all of them gasps in shock and looked at the youngster more carefully but no matter how much they prob with their qi he simply seems ordinary, even that old man who the most powerful didn't find anything strange about him.

They were about to inquire further when Ace decided to retreat and think about what to do now since his target was gone. He active his silent step and vanished like wind.

New shocking gasps sounded in the area and one of the spearmen asked in a trembling voice, "E-elder t-that youngster..."

Before he could finish his word, the elder voice sounded again but this time it was grave, "Don't speak anymore! Someone of his age and if he really is at that realm we didn't have the right to talk about him and forget about all this we never saw anyone!"

Beads of sweat were forming on both of their foreheads as they shout in unison, "Understood!" and start their journey again.

"Grandfather, why are you so nervous?" A sweet voice resounded inside the carnage where the old man was sitting.

"Little girl stops investigating and don't ask about this event again." Retorted the old man towards the little girl as he closed his eyes.

'Just where the hell that youngster came from, is he from an empire?' Thought the old man gravely.

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Chapter 73: New Target!

Ace watched the caravan leave calmly from distance and transmitted his voice in mind, "System you heard what those men say right? What should I do?"

"[Host the mission is to perform honorable thievery at the number one city of the low-level lands! Meaning any city that is number one is your target. It doesn't matter if that city become number one today or tomorrow.]"

Ace felt relieved after he heard this, he also thinks this first and that's why he confirms with the system as well.

Now he has a new target: Luminous City!

If he wanted he could've just tag along with that caravan of carriages but he decided against it. Since he was here to robbed the city Ace didn't want to drag someone unnecessarily.

That's why he showed them his silent steps so they could think of him as a higher-level lands inhabitant and scared them to keep his existence a secret.

Ace has comprehended the most and only important rule of this cultivation world and that is 'Power'. If you have it you can do anything and no one will dare to stand against you and if you didn't then even a mortal would push you around like a slave.

He keeps going in the same direction and three days he spotted a towering city gate. It was much grander than any city gate he has ever seen in his journey. From outside one could vaguely see rows of colorful buildings.

Ace was astonished by this big city sight and immediately guess that this should be the Luminous City.

He saw guards at the peak of qi gates realm standing guard and checking the identity crystal cards of visitors. They were collecting toll from them and let them pass after verifying and record their identities in big red crystal.

This time Ace didn't wait like he always does to find a distraction and directly use stealth and silent steps to enter the city without any hitch whatsoever.

Those guards didn't even feel his wind. This was the terror of a qi foundation realm expert they can come and go as they pleased. And no qi foundation expert would go through such means to enter a city if they didn't have any ulterior motives like Ace.

After entering the city his vision fell on the crowded streets and beautifully carved houses and other buildings. This was his first time seeing these types of structures. The most eye-catching thing about these structures was on every single one of them was carved a symbol like a lion with wings.

This piqued Ace's curiosity, he saw this kind of symbol being used before especially on every building in the city. Alas, no one could answer his question so he decided to explore the city first since it was still daytime.

Ace saw many interesting and new things here in this city like, he saw an auction house and gambling den. These kinds of businesses were not normal in the eastern part of the lands of cities.

The most interesting thing he found here was mortal lives between cultivator like it was normal and the cultivators didn't dare to bully them for some reason. It was nothing like the eastern lands of cities where mortals were treated like ants.

Ace spotted a big imposing building and there were words carved on the wood plank that was hanging on top of the building. "Luminous Library".

He finds it strange after seeing this because he heard that libraries were like a luxury that only the kingdom level power could create so he was shocked to see that this city has dared to create a library here.

After some consideration, he decided to check this out since he was already here.

He reached the door and was about to open it when a light shone from the door. And it opens on its own.

Ace was startled by this, 'This is new.'

Without any hesitation, he enters the library and saw huge shelves inside and thousands of books neatly arranged in rows.

He dazes by this sight. It was his first time seeing these many books in a single place.

"Young man, did you lose your way here? Do you know you just committed a crime!" An old imposing voice sounded from the side.

Ace snapped out of his daze and turn his head to see the source of this old voice when he saw an old woman in her sixties was sitting on a chair behind a wooden counter.

Shockingly he felt high Qi ripples around her and used his eye skill. Just as he thought she was in the early foundation building realm just like him.

Ace calm down and replied politely, "I'm new in this city just saw this library here, I heard that libraries are only found in kingdoms so I was curious. I wonder which crime I committed?"

The old woman saw Ace's common clothes and find it amusing. 'A strange boy.' She thought because if it was someone else as young as him they would've piss in their pants after hearing they commit a crime.

"Oh, if that the case I'll not punish you for your crime and only charge you with 'fine'. What do you think?" Smiled old woman as if she was being kind to him. But deep in her eyes was an evil smirk.

Ace's soul sense was not just for show and saw through her kind act, but he didn't show any emotion in his face and asked politely, "What kind of fine lady wants if I may ask?"

The old woman was a little shocked by his calm demeanor this time but she was also an old fossil and remain calm, "Since you being so polite to this old woman I'll tell you what crime you committed. You enter the property of Luminous Kingdom without any invitation. Is this crime big enough? Now, pay Ten million ruby coins as fine!"

Ace was a little startled after he heard this and he thought of something, 'If this city is really under Luminous kingdom, then why is this city name is also Luminous? What is going on? No one would dare to use a Kingdom name like this.'

Ace didn't dwell on this and didn't say much since he was a trespasser here so it was his fault in the first place to not inquiry much about it first. He simply takes a blue crystal card of ten million ruby coins from his pocket and places it on the table.

He was most likely the richest person in the lands of cities so ten million was nothing from him.

"Thanks, you for being lenient. I'll take my leave now." Finish saying, he turns around and leaves without waiting for the old woman's reply.

The old woman was shocked to see this youngster taking out ten million like at was candy from his pocket and leave in such a manner.

'Did I ask for too little? No impossible a commoner like him should never be able to fork out this amount like cabbage. Did I offend someone closed to Grand Prince?' Think old woman in worry.

But now that young man was gone and she can't take her words back either so she could only pray that this was all just in her head and that youngster was just a rich idiot.

Ace exited the library and he was just taking few steps outside when he saw a young man waving his hands towards him. Ace looked around and saw there was really no one beside him so he points his finger at himself and looked at the young man.

The young man seems to know what Ace's signal means and quickly nodded.

Ace finds it strange he was new in this city and his first interaction with that old woman was not very pleasant. Now, this boy was come out of nowhere, but he didn't reject the young man's invitation and go to him.

"Hey, brother how did escape from that old hag hands?" Ask the young man in a hushed tone.

Ace immediately knew he was asking about that old woman. Now that Ace looks at the young man carefully, he was half of his size and normal looking with black eyes and hair. The most unordinary thing about this young man was a fingernail size mole on his nose tip.

"I paid the fine and she let me go." Ace find this young man interesting for some reason so he decided to answer his question.

"WHAT? Since when did they start to take a fine there? Bro, you get duped by that old hag. How much did she rob you?" Ask the young man in frustration, it was as if he was the one who got robbed by the old woman, not Ace.

Ace finds this young man more amusing and replies with a smile, "Ten million ruby coins."

"WHAT??!!" The young man's eyes almost popped out of his sockets when he heard the amount.

"S-seriously? T-ten m-million not thousand?" Shattered the young man with his eyes was wide open in disbelief.

Ace nodded with a grin.

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Chapter 74.1: New Information! (Part 1)

"Y-you just give her ten million ruby coins?" The young man shuttered as he thought the world is spinning around him.

Ace felt quite amused by this and nodded again.

The boy takes a deep breath and calm himself down and said, "Bro, you shouldn't have done this, I admit that there are rules about not going inside but there is no such punishment as fine. Much less ten million fines!"

"Well now that I already give away the 'fine' I can't get it back, can I?" Ace asked with a smile.

"You're right that old hag is not easy to deal with even this p... ahem. Where are my manners I keep asking you questions and didn't even introduce myself? My name is Bill" Bill first wanted to say something but he quickly changes the topic as if he didn't want to say it anymore.

"Asher." Ace didn't want to use his name so he just used a name that came to his mind first.

Asher was undoubtedly his first enemy who wanted his secret from the start and Eva was also his subordinate first but alas he should be dead by now because he knew Dulce's nature well.

Bill didn't think that someone would use a fake name here so he continues, "Asher you should be new in this city right or you wouldn't go there."

Ace also wanted to find some information about this and this Bill seems to rather amusing person so he decided to ask him.

"Yes, I just came here a few hours ago and I didn't know much about this city. Can you tell me why is a library doing here?" He asked.

Bill approached Ace before because of his personal issue and after seeing the common clothes he wanted to lend him a hand if he was in trouble. But when he heard him saying that he just gives away ten million ruby coins to that old hag he felt anger on her but he can do nothing about it so he has to let go.

After he decided to befriend Ace since he seems a good person and the same age as him. And most importantly he was definitely rich. So, in Bill's eyes, Ace was qualified to be his friend.

"First, we need to get out of here, since we are friends let's go to 'Jade Pavilion' it is the best restaurant in the whole lands of cities it's my welcome treat to brother Asher." Bill started to walk towards the direction of this jade pavilion happily. He was feeling quite pleased with himself as he thinks that he has finally made a friend.

Ace's eyebrow raised slightly when he heard 'best restaurant in the whole land of cities' and he frown when he heard 'friend'. But he didn't say anything since he didn't know anyone here and this Bill seems to be quite knowledgeable.

So, he followed after Bill to check this restaurant out because he was quite fond of good food and for years he was eating roasted meat of demonic beasts and he was tired of it now.

After walking for fifteen minutes he finally saw a luxurious building in golden color. There were fifteen floors on it and 'Jade Pavilion' was written on it in silver words.

Even Ace finds this building a little too exaggerated. It was too damn eye-catching and grand, now he really wanted to find out if this jade pavilion really is best out there or not.

Bill saw Ace's reaction and puff his chest a bit and felt proud of himself. Since Ace was his friend he would not treat him stingily. With proud expression he enters the building with Ace.

"We need a VIP room." He orders an attendant who seems to know him and she quickly takes both of them to the upper floors.

Ace saw this and think that his new 'friend' was quite famous.

That attendant takes them to the third floor where a total of ten private rooms and each one of them was decorated with jade and expensive ornaments. The inside of the building was, even more, exaggerating the outside.

They enter one of ten rooms when a jade table and comfortable chairs were placed in the center and the air inside was quite refreshing and fill with a mild fragrance that was quite pleasing.

Ace felt for the first time that he has a lot of money and he never even enjoy this kind of thing, he was constantly doing his missions and running around aimlessly. He wanted strength and think that solitude is the only key to that, he never thinks that life can be amusing if one has the heart to enjoy it.

He remembers the day he spends with Eva shopping and her beautiful smile. He felt he was happy at that time but now he was alone and finally understand the pleasure of having someone accompany him for the first time.

"Hey? Why are you dozing out?"

Bill's voice rang and Ace snapped out of his memories. He saw him sitting on a chair comfortably and looking at him in confusion. Ace didn't shake his head and sit in front of Bill.

"Bring out your best dishes and jade wine this is my friend and he is new in the city so I want to treat him to the best delicacies, do you understand?" Bill told the attendant lazily.

"Yes, young master I'll immediately pass your command to the manager!" She quickly left after that.

Bill shift his attention to Ace who was watching him with a calm smile. 'This guy is not normal.' Thought Bill happily.

He felt even more pleased with himself that he made this kind of friend. He wasn't afraid about Ace would kill him because in his eye he didn't do anything to offend him moreover, he was rich himself so Ace was not greedy 'probably'. And the last reason he treated a stranger like this was that he was quite a big shot himself. This city was like his personal backyard well it is another story that no one treats him with the respect that he rightfully deserves.

"Now that we are both comfortable I'll answer your question. You heard of Luminous Kingdom?" Ask Bill to Ace.

Ace nodded his head, he just heard of it from that old hag today.

"Good, then it will be easy for you to understand. This Luminous Kingdom is ranked fourth in the land of Kingdoms or middle-level lands. Don't to find it strange to this city using the name of this kind of power? Well, let me tell you this city is not actually normal, because in every generation a Prince of the Luminous Kingdom lives here for 150 Years.

"This city has no governor or city lord and everything is under that prince's control. That is why its name after the kingdom and a library were built here in the honor of the very first prince that comes here to live eight hundred years ago.

"That prince was the crown prince of Luminous kingdom at that time and he was the most cherished son of the King but for some reason even I don't know why that prince lives his whole life here and even discarded his crow prince title. Since then, a new prince would come here in every generation and the old prince would give this city to him.

"That's why the Luminous Kingdom symbol a winged lion was used in every house and building of the city, it was a symbol to represent the will of the Luminous Kingdom that no one should ever own anything in this city. That's why no clan dare to fight for the number one position in the city even if the

prince didn't cultivate no one can kill him or the kingdom would flatter the enter western lands of cities in vengeance."

Ace was shocked after he heard that, this is really a piece of big news for him who wanted to rob this city. He thinks that it would be easy this time since he has become a foundation-building realm expert.

However, the situation is grave and much complicated than he imagined because this city is too strange and there is too much at stake here. He didn't want to become the reason for the whole western land's demise just like the river flower city.

Bill saw Ace's grim expression and think that he was afraid after hearing this big of a secret so he quickly said, "Don't worry it's an open secret and no one will come after you even if you tell anyone just don't talk about it openly."

"Then this city is currently the one city in the whole low-level lands and I read that every city in top position has to take a trial in hundred years. It even gets destroyed or become a province of the kingdom to give a chance to lower position city." Ask Ace quickly, he read it about in Dulce's collection of personal books but that book didn't give much detail.

Bill frown and said, "You know a lot about the customs, well you are right about it but do you know why this custom was made? And who said that city would become a province? It's all bullshit to encourage the low-level lands.

"Since you're my friend let me tell you the whole truth, the city and its subsidiary cities will promote to move into province of a kingdom. Then the city lord of the number one city would be given a rank of noble and the city included its helpers would become a part of a county in a prefecture.

"As for the hundred years trial and top ten cities of the western lands that were also only part of a bigger truth."

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Chapter 75: New Information! (Part Two)

Ace's face darkens a little after hearing Bill's explanation.

If Bill was telling the truth doesn't that mean those powers were deceiving all the land of cities? Furthermore, it also seems that Bill was not just a random young noble because of his profound knowledge.

Bill smiled smugly as he glanced at Ace, he was very satisfied seeing Ace's reaction.

His fingers tapped gently on the table, and he continued, "Didn't you find it strange that the top ten cities of low-level lands are under top ten kingdoms? Why not other kingdoms why only top ten powers?"

Ace was startled and immediately thought about this and Bill was right, Ace finds it also strange now that Bill points it out for him.

"Young master Bill your knowledge is clearly far greater than mine so please enlighten me." A peculiar look flashed through Ace's eyes, but his expression remained unchanged.

Bill felt even more proud of himself after he heard Ace praised and think that he was finally winning Ace's friendship. He was just bragging in front of Ace with his deep knowledge that only he possessed because of his background. He didn't think someone could do anything with all this 'unnecessary' information.

However, this new 'friend' of his seems quite interested in history and 'useless secrets' of upper-level lands so he thought this is his chance to win Ace over just by bartering this worthless knowledge, and he would finally have a well-to-do friend of his age. He will not feel isolated anymore.

Furthermore, Bill thinks that Ace's calm demeanor is very much to his liking and he didn't seem like a bad person either. Because he gave ten million to that old hag just to stay out of trouble and this is greatly similar to him.

Bill was also giving away his power and belongings to others just to stay away from troubles. So, he thinks that he finally found a person similar to himself.

"Hahaha, Asher my brother you're far too kind, and don't call me young master it sounded distant just call be Bill we're friend after all." Bill said with an amicable smile, "Let me tell you what I know, the top ten cities will chance every hundred years and next in line will promote to a rank higher and the sequence is absolute.

"It is like this if the number one city got promoted to middle-level lands then the next in line will be promoted to number one meaning the number two city. The number three city will never be able to jump its rank and become the number one city.

"Because this is a 'thousand-year cycle law' created by Empires. Every kingdom will control a single ranked city according to its ranks. The number one city will promote to the kingdom territory that was controlling it from the shadows after hundred years trials and failure in the 'hundred years trials means destruction!

"After that kingdom turn is over they will control the new number ten city and pushed to the last position. Then they'll have to wait for thousand years for the number ten city to become number one again. For thousands of years, this sequence keeps repeating itself and this will be continued until this law is eradicated.

"The new moon city that just got promoted was under the control of rank fifth kingdom the Golden Hammered Kingdom and now that the city got promoted, its Luminous Kingdom turn that is ranked fourth. And the golden hammered is now pushed to the last position it has to wait for thousand years to swallow a new city.

"As for why this kind of law exists even I don't know, I only know that it was a custom that is being followed for thousands of years without any obstacle at all no one ever dares to try breaking it. As far as I could tell this law makes the top ten kingdoms stronger from the bunch and never give the lower-level kingdom any chance for revolt at all.

"The strangest thing is the locations of the top ten cities will never change, as you can see at this location was locate the former new moon city one year ago but now the luminous city is on its exact position. We can move our buildings with arrays that were built in every ranked city but we can't change these lands positions.

"Now the question is will luminous city will get promoted and the 'Prince Curse' will broke in hundred years? Even I don't know."

Bill finished his explanation and in end, there was a hint of sorrow and little expectation in his eyes. As if he wanted this city to get promoted.

Ace was stunned and fell deep in thought after he hears about this astonishing information.

Now he has some idea of the power structure in upper-level lands. Like you can't disobey the upper-level lands even if you're number one in lower lands. Or why would the first ranked kingdom wait to strengthen their kingdom for thousand years and give the lower-ranked kingdoms any chance at all?

Because according to Ace the low-level lands were a huge pie and in every hundred years a new powerful city will emerge with other powerful subsidiary powers and a kingdom would easily reinforce their forces with them.

That's why it was clearly a law set up by a huge power that no one can defy and didn't dare to try it either.

Ace knew power is everything in the world of the cultivation and there are no absolute rules if you don't have the power to make others follow them.

Ace didn't want to dwell on this for long since it didn't concern him and the most important thing now was how to complete his mission. This city structure of power is quite complicated and since it's the city rule by a prince of a top-ranked kingdom its defensive measures would be top class as will not like the normal cities of low-level lands.

"Young master Bill you really open my eyes and I'll make sure to never disclosed this information to anyone." Ace said with a smile on his face.

Ace finds Bill quite humorous and naïve like his past self. He could sense loneliness from his soul and a deep yearning for something. That's why he didn't want to get too close to him or he might drag this naïve guy into his affairs.

So, he decided to vanish after this meeting.

Bill smiled broadly after hearing Ace's words, 'He really is different from those mongrels.'

"Hahaha, brother Asher let's not talk about it anymore and call me Bill I insist. And by the way why are you here?" Ask Bill as he smiles.

"I'm was here for some business of my family and also wanted to visit the new moon city but I didn't think that the moment I reached this city it will change into the luminous city." Ace reply as he sighs fakely.

"Well, what can we do? It must be fate that we meet here and I can guarantee you that the luminous city is more beautiful than the new moon city. Let me tell you something interesting." Bill laughs as he starts to gossip, "This time in the hundred-year trail a princess came herself to oversee the trail herself. Do you believe it?"

Ace raised his eyebrow a little and killing intent flashed past his eyes when he heard this because he clearly knows who this princess was it ought to be Dulce.

"Oh, is that so why would she come here personally?" Ace asked smilingly and didn't show his sneer.

"I don't know but what I know is that when she returned after her visits from new moon subordinary powers she went on a killing spree and nearly massacres the new moon city. If not for the city lord being at the Qi River realm all the city would've raised to rubbles. This news shocked and angered all the ranked cities and even middle-level lands." Bill frowned as he recites this big incident.

Everyone knows that the princess of the Golden Hammered Kingdom is known for her smartness and scheming nature. Since she came here personally everyone was paying close attention to low-level lands and think that something is fishy going on here. But when she starts the unusual massacre everyone thing that she has gone mad or something possessed her body.

Even Dulce's father the King become shocked after he hears his intelligent daughter's deed and immediately sends the grand prince his younger brother to investigate the matter.

However, when he comes here and finds out the original problem, the rumor has it he beat Dulce black and blue and drag her back to the kingdom.

After that Dulce's fate was unknown.

Everyone thinks that this is just a bullshit rumor and no one believes it. After the big incident, the trails were complete smoothly and new moon city got promoted.

Strangely, the grand prince instantly comes back and goes towards the east after that incident.

That grand prince was exactly the alchemist that found the Blood Rose all those years ago.

For some reason when Ace heard this he felt extremely happy about Dulce and Golden Hammered Kingdom's misfortune.

He sneers in his heart and thinks, 'They deserve it.'

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Chapter 76: Jade Pavilion

Bill was going to continue when a knock resounded in the private room and he said casually, "Come in!"

Five beauties enter the rooms in a row, in their fair hands were trays full of aromatic dishes. They gracefully arranged those dishes on the table one by one with a radiant smile on their faces.

Between setting the dishes those beauties 'wink' toward Ace with a tingle of blush on their faces. He was extremely handsome and Bill seems like some toad hunkering in his presence.

Yet, alas Ace was like a rock and didn't even blink at their 'special signal' because in his viewpoint these girls were extremely average compared to Eva. It was like he was immune to these 'beauties.'

Ace's central focus was on those delicious-looking dishes. After all, he was traveling in the wild for years and only eat roasted meat, and even before never smells or saw food this good before. He salivates for the first time after he becomes a cultivator!

On the other hand, Bill narrows his eyes as he becomes disconcerted and a little angry after observing; those beauties looking at only Ace like some prey and ignoring him like he was some stone in the presence of a crystal.

'This Young Master is the most outstanding genius of lands of cities and they dare to ignore me! Unforgivable!'

Bill takes a glance at Ace and saw him completely ignoring those five 'blind' girls and become even more ashamed.

Bill pulls a long face while saying, "You five can go now and send some male servants to bring Jade Wine." After, he thought proudly, 'Since you dare to ignore this young master see how I deal with you. Hmph!'

Subsequently, receiving Bill's command those five maidservants glare daggers at Bill first and left grudgingly after taking a final glimpse of Ace's handsome face. This tode didn't even give them any chance to serve this Suave Young Master, how could they not be resentful?

Bill pretends to not notice those five beauties' hostile glare and cough to hide his embarrassment before saying, "Brother Asher please help yourself. These dishes are made by 3rd Qi Gate realm demonic beast and taste best while still hot." He introduces those steaming dishes to Ace, "This is your brother's treat so don't be shy."

Ace also didn't stand on ceremony either and begun to eat. After taking a bite his eyes widened a little and a hint of delight flash in his eyes, 'This flavor is out of this world! They deserve their reputation as the number one restaurant of the lands of cities.' He devours the meat even faster.

Bill grin broadly, watching Ace's delightful expression and felt it was worth it to bring his new friend here. 'No one can resist good food after all. Heh.'

After they were done eating, Ace has a blissful expression on his face. He never eats something this good before and really enjoys it.

'From now on I should enjoy these kind delicacies more since I have so much wealth. What is the point in being constantly on edge? Just like the system said I'm a free thief!' Ace considered seriously and begins to understand what it truly means to be 'free'!

Ace was deep in thought when Bill claps his hands and the door open, two manservants enter with a tray of a white transparent wine bottle and wine cups.

Bill's eyes instantly brighten seeing the wine bottle, "Leave the wine bottle and scram!" He didn't care about those manservants at all.

Those servants didn't mind Bill's blunt tone and do as he says. It was very normal after all they were in the number one restaurant of the lands of cities so almost all the customers who can afford to eat here were arrogant to the extreme.

Ace grimaces a little but didn't say anything, he can't expect to everyone be like him, right?

Bill didn't notice Ace's frown since all his focus was on the white wine bottle that looks like jade. "Brother Asher this is the jade wine! Only VIPs can order this wine and you can only get one bottle on

the third floor. If you want to drink more of this you have to go to the higher floors. But I can't since my cultivation isn't enough." He said regretfully.

Ace's eyebrows lifted a little hearing this. He didn't think, just to drink wine one has to be a VIP and was astonished by this restaurant's way of dealing with different kinds of people. Now he was quite interested in this wine.

Bill quickly open the wooden lid of the wine bottle and a sweet aroma spread in the air. Ace sniff the aroma and felt a hot feeling arouse.

Bill pours clear crystal-like wine in two crystalline wine cups, "Brother Asher this cup is in your welcome." He picks a cup and gestures toward Ace.

Ace didn't reject Bill's courtesy and pick the other cup, "Thank You."

Both of them drink at the same.

The wine enters Ace's mouth and a strong sweet yet sour flavor explodes within, "Good Wine!" He couldn't help but praise this wine even he never drinks wine before.

"Hahaha, Brother Asher really knows the taste of good wine. Let me pour you another cup." Bill laughs heartily and filled Ace's cup again.

Ace didn't reject it and drink again. He was really enjoying this wine, they were Qi in it but for Ace only taste matters since this Qi can't affect his cultivation. Even if it can, it would be neglected since he's a Heavenly Foundation Realm Cultivator!

After a few cups, Bill's face was bright red and his eyes were a little hazy, he was drunk even with his Peak Qi Gate cultivation. On the other hand, Ace was completely sober this wine does not affect him because of his HD-Qi.1

Ace looked at the empty bottle of wine and felt little regret since he can't enjoy that strong taste anymore. He saw Bill was completely drunk and smile, 'This guy is not bad.'

Ace claps his hand like Bill and those two manservants enter again, "Where's the bill?" He asked.

Those two saw this handsome young man completely fine after drinking the jade wine and were surprised by this, but they didn't dare to delay and one of them take a palm-size paper slip and handed it to Ace respectfully while saying, "Young master your total bill is 40,000 Ruby Coins."

Ace was a little surprised, forty thousand for a meal was not a small amount at all. He saw that paper slip and on it was a detailed account. 'That wine alone cost twenty-five thousand ruby coin. Heh, What an extravagance.'

"B-brother Asher what are you doing?? It's my treat!" Bill quickly said it seems he was a little sober up now. After all, he was a cultivator.

Ace smiles and pays the bill with a hundred-thousand ruby crystal card, "Don't worry you did treat me with all these delicacies, and to show my gratitude let me pay." He didn't give Bill any chance to reject and signal those two to take it.

Bill wanted to oppose but was still drunk so it was already too late. After the payment was done they both left in a huff.

Bill was now completely sober, "Brother Asher you didn't take me as a friend at all." He was quite bitter and ashamed.

"Don't worry you can pay next time." Ace chuckles lightly. He didn't care about Bill's remonstrance.

"You're really not like all those overbearing mutts. Sigh..." Bill sighs helplessly. He can't see through this friend of his.

"It's already late I should get going. Let's meet again if fate permits." Ace said with a smile. It was time to leave maybe he won't be able to see this naïve guy again. He still didn't consider Bill a friend but not an outsider either.

Bill didn't think much of it, since Ace was still in the city he can find him anytime, "Farewell Brother Asher, I hope we'll meet again."

Ace takes another road and vanishes between the masses.

'What a peculiar fellow.' Bill recalled with a chuckle and he was on his way as well.

After Ace and Bill left the Jade Pavilion, on the top floor of the building.

There was only a huge hall on the entire floor and was quite lavishing at that. The whole floor was decorated with jade and expensive marble.

In the center was a red jade round table with beautiful patterns. Around it were only four chairs.

Currently, two middle-aged men with lavishing robes were occupying two chairs.

"Why did the Pavilion Master summon us here at such short notice?" The middle-aged man with a long beard mumbled confusingly.

"What's the hurry, Colton? Don't tell me you're dissatisfied?" The middle-aged man with a deep scar on his left cheek sneers at Colton. It was clear these two didn't get along.

"You dare to slander me, Wes?!" Colton was a short-tempered person and on top of that didn't get along with Wes.

Therefore, after seeing Wes's smirking face he was going to attack when he felt a mountain-like pressure. His heart jolted and he quickly stood down.

Even Wes shut his mouth and his face turned ashen after feeling that mountain-like pressure.

However, the next moment that huge force vanished, and a graceful figure walked into the grand hall.

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Chapter 77: An Ancient Sect!

A veiled woman with a remarkable figure elegantly walks into the grand hall. Her silk-like hair was falling like a waterfall, she was wearing tight azure robes that showcased her hourglass figure. She was giving the feeling of aloofness.

But on her perky chest, there was a small peculiar embroidery on Azure Robe and the same kind of pattern in a larger size was also in the back. This pattern was of a 'Silver Pill inside the Golden Flame'!

Both Wes and Colton didn't dare to look at this veil woman's fairy-like figure with ill intent and when they saw that 'Flame Pill' symbol, there was a hint of terror in their eyes.

This woman was the Pavilion Master of the Jade Pavilion Restaurant and her 'Azure Flame Pill Robe' represented an 'Azure' or Fourth Grade Alchemist!

There were Eight Distinguished Grades of Alchemists below the Royal-Level Lands.

White and Green Grade Alchemists can be discovered in Low-Level Lands.

Blue and Azure Grade Alchemists in Middle-Level Lands.

Purple and Black Grade Alchemists in High-Level Lands.

Silver and Golden Grade Alchemists were like legends below royal-level lands, they can only be found in Ancient Sects.

Alchemists were very rare especially Blue Grade ones, even in Empires they were treated with respect and in Kingdoms, their status was equal to a King!

As for the Flame Pill Pattern, it symbolized the Flame Pill Organization! If anyone wanted to be recognized as a 'true' alchemist they had to join this organization or no one will consider them an alchemist even if they could produce Golden Grade Pills!

One can find branches of this organization only in the top ten Kingdoms of middle-level lands. As for the high-level lands, this organization was all over it.

One might wonder why only after joining this organization one considers a true alchemist and why not join any other organization? Well, the answer to this is very simple, there simply didn't exist any!

Because The Flame Pill Organization is created by an ancient sect, The Soul Flame Sect! And if someone wanted to contest against an ancient sect, they simply courting death!

Soul Flame Sect is a sect of Alchemists and Rune Crafters and almost all the alchemy and rune crafter talents in Azure-Wind Continent wanted to join this sect. Because It was not easy to find high-grade techniques and skills of these two domains easily especially Rune Crafters. Their techniques and skills were even scarce than Alchemists.

Now, this Jade Pavilion Master was a Blue Grade Alchemist and can create Fourth Grade or Four Circle Pills, and most importantly, she was an alchemist acknowledged by the Pill Flame Organization! With this kind of status alone even the Emperors of Empires have to give her some face.

Those two middle-aged men also know this and that's why they answer her summoning as quickly as possible. They both were big short of the Luminous City but in front of this Pavilion Master, they were nothing but drudges.

The reason for her being here was a mystery because she abruptly appears a year ago when New Moon City got promoted and she replaced the old master of the Jade Pavilion.

Everyone was appalled and scared out of their wits after finding out a Blue Alchemist recognized by Flame Pill Organization had come here to become the owner of a mere restaurant. And only then did the higher-ups of the city discovered that the Jade Pavilion was a business of Flame Pill Organization!

Furthermore, restaurants with the same name were spread almost in every city below royal land.

This gives them even bigger trauma and only then did the Grand Prince reveals; this restaurant was build here when the Luminous City was founded.

Now, every big shot of the city knows about the terrifying background of this restaurant and even more scary new Owner! Besides, this Pavilion Master was also a Qi River Cultivator and only the Grand Prince was a Qi River Cultivator in the whole city.

The Pavilion Master didn't even glance at those two horrified clowns and indifferently sit in one of two empty chairs. She closed her gem-like watery eyes after sitting as if she didn't notice or stop these two early squabbled.

Just as the Pavilion Master closer her eyes when the door of the grand hall creak opened and a handsome 1.8 meters tall man in his late thirties enters with a smile plaster on his face. His eyes were full of energy and his long black hair was flickering. He has a majestic aura around him, he was the Grand Prince of the city Dion Luminous!

Even this Grand Prince¹ of the Luminous Kingdom has to come here after her summoning!

Dion was also the sixth generation 'Cursed Prince' and has to spend 150 years before he could leave this hell hole. Meanwhile, his responsibility was to train the next-generation cursed prince who happened to be his nephew but he didn't have good feelings toward him.

Dion's life here was black and white until this beautiful Pavilion Master come. He fell for her at first sight even if he didn't see her face just by looking at her other features he could tell she was not ordinary at all.

After that, he begins courting her relentlessly, he didn't care about her status since he was stronger than her which gave him some courage. Although she always ignores him, this didn't discourage Dion, and he tries even harder to impress her.

Today she summons him and Dion came like storm winds, smiling ear to ear. He even found his dull nephew who he didn't like but since he was in a very good mood he gave him some pocket money.

However, now seeing those two 'old' fellows' sitting beside his heart goddess Dion's smile vanished and his eyes turn sharp.

'They dare to come between us! It seems I have to pay them a personal visit. Hmph!' Dion takes a mental note while smile grimly at Colton and Wes.

'He's also here??' This thought comes in both Colten and Wes's minds. Nonetheless, their tighten hearts loosen a bit, and were very happy since they were quite uncomfortable and frightened sitting with this terrifying woman alone.

But their joy spontaneously turned into bitterness after seeing his cold eyes and grim smile. They didn't know whether to laugh or cry because they know this Old Guy fell in love at this age and was extremely

narrow-minded when it comes to Pillion Master. Now, they could only pray; he could understand their complicated situation.

Since the Pavilion Master was present Dion didn't dare to show his displeasure and smile warmly at her even if her eyes were close. "Pavilion Master summoned this Prince at such short notice, I wonder if Pavilion Master miss me?"

Colten and Wes roll their eyes at some time as they snorted disdainfully in their heart, 'You didn't even know her name. So why are you being so shameless?'

On the other hand, they truly admire this lovesick guy's guts. He might be the only one who dares to tease a Blue Alchemist from Pill Flame Organization! He simply playing with death.

Pavilion Master finally opens her beautiful watery eyes and narrows them into a slit, since her face was half-covered with a thick veil no one can see her facial expressions clearly, but the look she gave Dion was icy cold.

Dion sits in the final empty chair around the jade table while still smiling genially as if he didn't notice that lethal glare, this fellow was truly brazen. If not for his cultivation being higher than her she would long ago beat him black!

The Pavilion Master decided to ignore this lecherous fellow and said solemnly, "I summon all of you here because I just receive a report about, why did Dulce Golden behave like an imbecile at hundred-year trails and why did Vance Golden beat his most cherished niece." Her mild voice was pleasant to the ears.

Nevertheless, the room atmosphere becomes solemn after she tells them the reason for her abrupt summons, even Dion's amusing face turns serious. Because this sudden event one year ago was actually quite odd and big.

Everyone was curious about this especially the top Ten Kingdoms since they all keep a tight eye on each other every single move.

Anyone with a brain can tell there was definitely something fishing about that event of hundred years trails, But the Golden Hammered Kingdom conceal it too well and no one could find anything about it.

This Pavilion Master also came here after this exact incident and this makes it even more mysterious in everyone's eyes. That's why everyone's expression in the room turns grave.

Pavilion Master approved after seeing everyone's serious expressions and continued, "I know this because Vance Golden contact me through Flame Pill Organization and tell me everything himself..." An ambiguous glint flashed past her eyes.

Those three fellows swallow their saliva because they clearly knew Vance; he is also a Blue Alchemist! Also, it wasn't strange for these two alchemists to know each other.

"He told me..." She takes a deep breath before saying, "There was an Herb higher than Golden Grade in Red Mountain City Blood Rose!" Even she's having difficulty believing herself!

"WA...WHAT?!" Everyone gasps in unison and inhales a deep breath of cold air!

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Chapter 78: Pavilion Master!

Pavilion Master was quite pleased after seeing those three dumbfounded faces and continued, "Yes, a herb higher than Golden Grade! But regrettably, it was stolen from Dulce by a petty thief and that's the whole reason for the event one year ago."

Her tone was serious but there was a hint of humor mix within. Because she was actually happy about Vance's misfortune.

Vance was quite egotistic and didn't place anyone in his eyes because he was a peak azure grade alchemist. Some people even believe that he's at the juncture of breaking into Purple Grade!

This Pavilion Master also came here because of the rumor about Vance being able to break into purple grade and most importantly the power behind her got an inside intelligence directly from the Golden Hammered Kingdom royal family one year ago. It was about the emergence of a mysterious herb that can help the Golden Hammered Kingdom leap in the sky with one step!

If the Golden Hammered Kingdom really manages to get that 'legendary' herb they could've easily exchanged it with an extensive amount of cultivation resources and any high-grade techniques and skills from the organization!

And what differ a Kingdom from an Empire? Exactly techniques and skills! But alas they meet with misfortune in the end.

After coming here Pavilion Master face another problem and that was no matter how much the power behind her tries it can't find anything more from the Golden Hammered Kingdom. Thus she finally decided to directly talk with Vance and see if she could fish in troubled water.

After a whole year her effort that arrogant old man finally gives in and told her about the Blood Rose! When she heard the truth from Vance she didn't believe it or dare not to actually.

But after some deep investigation, the power behind her verified it and she finally accepted it.

Now she and Vance decided to ally to search for that thief and that's why she tells these three goons about it. It is not like she can't do it without them it is just to show Vance her 'sincerity'.

As for the Luminous Kingdom finding out about it, she wasn't afraid at all, since she could control these three idiots' actions easily and this whole city was under the watch of the power behind her nothing could go out or in without their knowledge.

While Vance was coming here that thief portrait and as for their alliance, she didn't put Vance in her eyes because he was nothing in front of her background. What truly bothers them was Pill Flame Organization because they can't kill a blue alchemist of the organization easily.

In the end, she decided after getting her hands on that little thief portrait she's going to use her power's full network of information without Vance finding out and take that Blood Rose before vanishing for good.

She has the full support of the power because with that herb she might get a chance of going into Flame Pill's headquarters that was in the number one empire under Soul Flame Sect!

"S-stolen?!" Dion gasps in bewilderment.

A little thief dares to steal from a princess of the kingdom this news was really quite unexpected.

'This thief might have some kind of secret!' This was the thought of everyone in the room.

Especially the Pavilion Master because Vance told her everything about the event with Dulce three years ago. 'Seem like I can get a bonus after coughing that little thief.' She thought somewhat erratically.

What would happen, if she knows about that thief has just enjoyed a meal and wine in her pavilion? Maybe she faints from anger.

"I summon you all here because tomorrow Vance Golden would arrive with the portrait of that thief and I want all of your help and the cities under you."

She first looked at Wes and Colten, "I know you two have also some cities in western and eastern lands I want your full power and in return, I promise; you can become city lord of the second and third-ranked cities!"

Wes and Colten's eyes widen and nearly pop out of their sockets when they heard her promise and they were so stunned their breath become irregular. Because this was their dream and now someone was offering them how could they not be moved?

Even Dion was shocked by this offer because he knew even his kingdom can't do this. 'She's not as simple as I thought!' Outside he seems like a playful idiot but he was very sharp.

The pavilion master nodded in satisfaction seeing those two reactions and finally turn to Dion, "As for you I can end Luminous Kingdom's 'Descendent Cursed Punishment!'."

"Y-YOU! H-how did you know this name???" Dion lost all his composure and abruptly stand up as he points his trembling finger at Pavilion Master, there was deep fear and disbelief in his widely open eyes.

She simple sneer under her vile before saying disdainfully, "What? You don't want it?"

Those two on the side are also overwhelmed by Dion's reaction, they knew him for many years and never see him acting like this before. They are also curious about this 'Descendent Cursed Punishment' now.

Dion force himself to calm down and quickly said, "I ACCEPT!"

He didn't even think before agreeing to her because only the royal family of his kingdom know about 'Descendent Cursed Punishment', and if this woman knows about it then it means she really has a way to end this fiendish punishment.

The palace master wasn't surprised by Dion's response and coldly said, "Since you all agree to my conditions, I don't want any of this information getting out of this hall. I'll contact you again very soon, now you all can go."

Those three didn't say anything and were left flabbergasted.

After this little conversation, they were quite afraid of this unfathomed lady. Even Dion didn't dare to tease her anymore and forget about every fantasy he has about her.

As for silently leaky the information or taking that herb for themselves, they didn't dare to think about it because they can't handle this kind of precious treasure if someone like her knows about it.

They were quite satisfied with the conditions that she already offers them. Especially Dion just the thought of leaving this hell hole makes his blood boiled.

The grand hall finally returns to its peaceful state and the Pavilion Master sits alone.

"Aren't you going too far by offering the end of Descendent Cursed Punishment, my dear Zelda?" A charming mature voice of women resounded.

Zelda was the name of Pavilion Master and she wasn't surprised by this sudden voice at all.

Zelda said mildly, "Aunt Layla don't tell me you don't want our family to soar and this legendary herb is the only way."

Since she didn't know what grade came after golden grade this herb was legendary!

Suddenly a graceful figure flashed and appear beside Zelda, Her face was covered with a white muslin, revealing a pair of youthful and attractive eyes.

"Sigh... You little brat! You already knew the answer that's why you dare to promise that scoundrel. Hmph! He dares to tease you many times you're letting him off too lightly even giving him freedom." Layla was clearly displeased by Dion. After all, he dares to tease her beloved niece this whole year if not for she can't show her prowess in public she could slap that scoundrel to death long ago.

Zelda's joyful eyes turn icy when she heard Dion's name, "Don't worry after we are done finding that little thief you can help me get my revenge." She giggles like a little girl.

Layla sighed helplessly seeing her still acting like a little girl from all those years ago, but her eyes were filled with gentleness and love, "You little brat, you know I can't say no to you." She chuckles, "But that thief isn't easy to find in this big land of cities."

"Don't worry aunt where can he go? By Vance's story, he is just a peak qi gate realm ant, humph! That Dulce is a disgrace to all the kingdom to even got robbed by an ant." Zelda snorted in full of disdain.

It's not like she was looking down on a thief it's just that she can't imagine being robbed by someone from the lower realm cultivator much less someone from this desolate place!

Layla was completely agreed with her, "You are right. But I still can't put my finger on how the hell did that thief escape a formation?" She was very puzzle, "Vicon even said he was able to battle Dulce into draw even if that was in the moment of carelessness."

"She's clearly exaggerating to hide her embarrassment and escape punishment. How can someone from this barren place know about formations?" Zelda clearly didn't believe Vicon.

"I hope you're right. Let's see the face of that little thief tomorrow." Layla stroke Zelda's hair lovingly.

"I'm looking forward to it.." Zelda snickered.

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Chapter 79: Wealth Seeking!

Meanwhile, Ace was comfortably laying in a room of Inn that he found after sauntering around the city for a while. This Inn was not eye-catching and quite low key just like 'him'.

"Finally, I can sleep comfortably after three years." Ace mumbles.

The next day.

In the morning, Ace opens his eyes. He was full of vitality and all his fatigue of the long journey had vanished after a good night's sleep.

'Let eat something first then I'll collect the information.'" Ace mused with enthusiasm.

After eating his fill, Ace buy a map of the Luminous City and find where Prince Manor was located and decided to scout the territory.

Ace stroll around the bursting city, even in the morning it was quite busy. He finally reached his destination in thirty minutes.

In front of him was a big bronze gate surrounding by thick walls and guards. Ace could easily sense the guards encircling the walls were at the Peak Qi Gates and even senses Qi fluctuations of two Early Qi Foundation Experts on the other side of the bronze gate.

'This is not going to be easy.' Ace grimaced after seeing the tight security, 'So, this is the level of security of the number one city.'

Ace was truly perplexed. He didn't that this level of security was only at the Luminous City because it was a city established by a Kingdom and quite a powerful one at that. If he knew he would surely swear at Heaven.

Ace didn't try to go inside since he has no idea about the layout of the manor's territory and elected to observe from afar. He has some idea how to infiltrate Prince Manor but he wasn't sure if he should use it or not.

It has been hours now since Ace is watching the manor from shadows. He didn't find anything, it was extremely silent and no one was coming out or going in like it was a ghost manor. If not for all those guards' soul waves he might've thought it was empty.

Suddenly the tightly shut manor gate creak open and a lavishing carriage pulled by four horses came to Ace view.

Inside the carriage, he senses two peak qi gates experts and one 3rd gate cultivator and there were also three mortals, as one of them was managing the carriage.

'Finally! By the look of it, this carriage belongs to some noble and that person might be inside. I should tail it.' Ace quickly followed the carriage. No one saw him or sense his presence with the stealth, he was like a phantom.

After following the carriage for fifteen minutes Ace wasn't tired at all. That carriage stopped in front of a towering building that looks quite ordinary.

Ace didn't think much of it and saw an average-looking young man exiting the carriage grandly. He was wearing a blue silk robe with the symbol of the Luminous Kingdom embroidered with golden threads.

Ace's eyes lit up seeing that silkpants. He was searching for someone just like him. He saw that young man entering the building alone and followed him inside. No one detected a shadow following behind the young man.

An old man was sitting behind an old wooden desk. Ace was in stealth standing right behind the young man and heard their odd conversation.

"I want five this time old man!" Young Man said to the old man with a knowing smile on his face.

"You almost broke two last time! If you want five you have to pay double." That Old Man speaks in a non-negotiable tone.

"Fine. Money is the only thing I don't lack." That Young Man didn't try to barter and throw a crystal card toward the old man.

Ace cast an outlandish look at that young man, 'Don't tell me this idiot still play with toys at this age?'

Ace was after all still fifteen years old who never left his home before and live in slums for twelve years of his life. No matter how much he went through even crossing the heavenly punishment, he still didn't see the true color of this world. Consequently, his thought process was still kind of naive. But that was also going to change very soon!

Ace thought that this guy has really weird hobbies at this age and looked at the old man even more strangely, 'Why did this Old Guy's emotions become depressing and resentful when he talks about broken toys?'

Ace thought these two were retards but when he saw the amount on the crystal card that the young man just handed to the old man he was astounded because that was a 500,000 Ruby Coins crystal card!

'What kind of toys is so expensive? Really a silkpants.' Ace's interest was finally piqued.

After receiving the payment, the Old Man stood from his chair and walk towards the back door beside the desk. The Young Man follows him and of course Ace was behind them.

The old man was a peak qi gate cultivator but he didn't notice Ace's presence.

After the back door open, there were red lights illuminate the pathway that was going downwards.

Ace followed them curiously, 'This is quite some place for putting toys alright.'

However, Ace's humorous expression turns ghastly when he reached the end of the pathway because there were cages and inside were trembling young girls, and some of them were only ten years old! They all had beating marks and deep scars on their bodies they were clearly torture to the extreme, this was his first time seeing this kind of hideous scene.

"Here, select any five and you're not allowed to kill anyone or you're banned forever!" The Old Man gravely warns the Young Man whose eyes were shimmering with an ominous glint.

That Young Man darkly laughs, "Hehe, Old man you know me for some time did I ever kill anyone?"

"I know you that's why I'm warning you. The supply of girls is quite short lately so I won't tolerate your wanton 'limbs cutting' anymore even if you give more money. I have a business to run here." Scoffed old man.

"Fine, fine, don't ruin my mood with your nonsense." That Young Man began to select five girls gleefully.

Ace's eyes turn icy cold after hearing their conversation and seeing those innocent sobbing girls. He didn't want to interfere and involve himself in these kinds of affairs ever since he goes through the ordeal with Dulce. But now that he saw it already, he can't just ignore these animals. He was not a saint but he wasn't a heartless villain either.

Ace gloomily watches that young man selecting five little girls between ten and twelve and grinning sinisterly while watching them desperately cry as if he was enjoying their struggle.

'This psycho!' Ace's fury reached its peak but still hold himself back.

"Go to room number 3." The old man said while opening a door beside the cages.

The young man enters with the girls like it was natural, it was clear he had been here many times before.

Now that Ace notices this room he senses many new soul signatures in that pathway. There were twenty rooms and almost all of them were filled. His expression turns graver because he could hear the wailing of young girls and pleasurable roars of men.

A thick killing intent fills Ace's eyes and couldn't take it anymore. Two pitch-black swords appear in hands.

The old man and the young man suddenly felt they were deep inside an ice lake and abruptly turn around. They only saw two black beams flashed past their throats and the next moment their heads were rolling on the floor.

Their eyes were wide open with disbelief and unwillingness especially the young man who wasn't even twenty yet. Those two didn't even dream that they would die just because this guy was searching for a target and accidentally saw all this. In the end, he couldn't even control himself.

Ace didn't stop here and like a grim ripper enter the pathway fill with rooms. Ace manifest Qi blades with HD-Qi around him and like lightning sent them inside those rooms and one after other cold headless bodies drop.

Ace retracts his Qi while sighing again and again, in the end, he still did it and kill all those unknown animals but he didn't regret it not in the least bit. 'They all earned it!'

On the other hand, those girls were all dumbfounded, they never thought someone would save them and kill all those bastards who torment them in every way possible.

One of the brave girls said while shuttering, "T-thank y-you for sav...saving us big b-brother." Seeing her others also followed and thanked Ace while crying.

Their eyes were filled with hot tears and gratitude.

Ace sighs sadly seeing all these pitiful girls, "Where are your parents? Did they take you away from them?" He asked while looking at all those girls. They were thirty-three of them and every one of their condition was worse than the other.

"My parents sold me to that old devil." A sixteen years old looking girl speak sadly while crying.

"My parents pass away and my uncle sold me here."

"My..."

Ace didn't know what to say after hearing these girls' tragic pasts. He suddenly remembers Eva's story when her father friend sold her to Lyla Grant and felt even more poignant for all of them.

Slavery was common in the golden sky world hence even if he wants to he can't save all those slaves.

'Everyone seeks and lived for all kinds of wealth even if they have to trade their souls for it or even place oneself in danger.. What a phenomenal Race Humans truly are!' Ace lament and felt deep sorrow in his heart.

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Chapter 80: Two-Face Mask

Ace was perplexedly looking at all those girls' teary yet hopeful eyes. He knows precisely what they meant but he couldn't just bring them with him, because he was a loner and his 'profession' wasn't a team-friendly one either.

'Singh...'

Sighted, Ace looks at all those headless corpses and send soul treads towards them, and within moments collect all their storage bags,

Ace didn't get any thief points since you can't steal from the dead.

Collectively there were more than fifty million ruby coins considering everyone here was a rich pig and that old man's wealth alone was more the thirty million.

After sorting out the items, Ace browse the girls and point his finger at one of them and ask, "What your name?"

This girl was the most beautiful of the bunch. When Ace pointed at her, she was a little bashful and nervous but still answer him shyly, "Em-Emmie."

Ace look at shy Emmie, she was the oldest in the group and also a 1st Qi Gates cultivator. Moreover, he could sense she has a very strong soul, that's why he picked her.

A blue storage ring appeared in Ace's hands and he filled it with a hundred million ruby coins and all those 'useless' stolen techniques and skills and Alchemy Pills.

Considering he can't use all those techniques and books, he decided to give them to these needy girls. Moreover, he already remembered all of them in his long journey. As for the pills, he only gave them all the white-grade ones, since pills were his experiences, and even if he gave them higher-grade pills they simply can't use them yet. As for weapons, he didn't have any and money was just a number for him.

Ace also giveaway his self-created simplified version of the system's stealth skill!

Because system skills can't be taught to anyone; once he tried to teach Eva but failed. He created it after he awake from his slumber and wanted to give it to Eva when she awakes but these girls need it more.

'I can always create more for her.'

Ace didn't know his concepts can anger all those old monsters of sects to death!

Since Ace already saved them he would make sure they stay safe or what is the meaning of him saving them if they get captured again?

Ace placed the storage ring in Emmie's rough hand and solemnly ask, "Here this is a storage ring since you're a cultivator you can use it with Qi, never use it in front of others or it will be a disaster! There are ruby coins and cultivation techniques and skills inside. I also put some pills within, that will be enough for all of your to cultivate into Qi Foundation Realm. Now, I want you to take care of all your little sisters. Can you do that for me?"

Emmie was extremely shocked, she thought she's in a dream. She heard about those legendary storage rings because her parents were cultivators before they died in an enemy's hands and that person was also the one who sold her to that old villain.

"I-I'll take care of them!" Emmie solemnly nodded with a face fill with tears. 'He's so nice, even gifting us all these legendary treasures.' She was very grateful and somewhat know; this big brother can't take care of them, it was already very magnanimous of him to save them all, much less giving a storage ring away like it was nothing.

Ace signed in satisfaction, seeing Emmie resolve and gratified, "Now wait for here until nightfall, after I leave you can go to this place. Remember never to show your weak side or cry in front of anyone understand? If someone..." He takes out the city map and explains to Emmie and all the other girls where to travel.

Now, he could only teach them what he knows and could only pray they could survive this cruel world.

"There is a skill book called the 'Shadow Cloak' in the ring. It can help you hide from any 4th Gate cultivators. I'll explain it to you all, use it well." Ace describes the self-created skill thoroughly and gives a lecture on how to hide. All those girls learned earnestly, especially Emmie.

After teaching everything he could, Ace come to the headless corpse of the young man who was come here in the lavishing carriage of the prince manor and sighed regretfully.

'I want to inquiry about who he was and just want to lock him up for time being, but kill him in the end. Well, he deserved it.' Ace lament and smile bitterly but since the deed was already done what can he do.

Now he can only bite the bullet, a half black and half white mask emerge in his hand. It was precisely the two-face mask that he purchased from the system store years ago.

It was decisively the time to use it!

Ace looked at the two-face mask profoundly. He was unwilling to use this mask first because it can only save two faces. But this city prince manor's security level was giving him a headache and he also didn't know its layout, therefore he finally decided to use this mask.

That was also the whole reason for him to follow this dead young man. He wanted to 'borrow' his face and only kidnapped him first to scout the prince manor safely. After he was done scouting, he would've released him but alas his fellow was too sinister and killed by Ace because he can't control his nerve.

Now that he was already dead Ace can use his identity freely but the problem was he didn't know this guy's complete information. However, this change was too good to let go so he decided to take the risk.

Ace pour Qi into the black and white mask and the formation runes on it begin to shine brightly. That bright light envelops the head of the dead young man and his headless corpse completely. In the next few moments, the light begins to dim and finally faded.

The mask half white side was completely gone and replace it was the half face of that dead young man and other-half side was still black.

Ace was astounded by this. He only knows, he has to scan the full body of whoever face he wanted to 'borrow'. But this change in the mask was new to him.

Since the scanning was complete Ace decided to check the effects of this mask. He places the cold mask on his face and suddenly,

"[Two-Face Mask detected]

[Do host want to change appearance into the profile save in white slot?]"

=====

Ace was surprised for a moment hearing system sudden voice but still said, "Yes."

A white light enveloped his complete body. Suddenly, the height and structure of his whole body begin to change from outside. This was the work of formation engrave in the mask that can create a perfect illusion.

One could only see the illusionary appearance of the other party if their cultivation is below Qi River Core Realm and such is when they solely focus on Ace's face by using Qi. This is just how powerful the illusion formation on that mask was.

After the white light faded Ace's handsome face was completely gone and replace it was the face of that young man whose cold headless corpse was laying on the ground. Even Ace's cultivation aura was the same as him.

"[Two-Face Mask is active]

[Warning: Please watch out for the River Core Cultivators. They can easily see through your mask]"

"Ahhhhh!"

Ace was scanning the system's warning when an alarming scream suddenly resounded from behind and he immediately turns around to see what happened.

Ace saw Emmie was standing behind him with a face full of horror and she was trembling while watching him with hatred and panic in her beautiful eyes.

"What happened?" He inquired in confusion. 'Why is she so afraid of me all of sudden?'

'Y-you! Where is big brother?! What did you do??' Emmie collect her courage and roared like a brave lioness. Just like Ace taught her. 'Never show your fear!' But she was still shivering in fear.

Ace finally understood why this brat become so vigilant all of sudden and smile wryly it was his fault after all. "System turn off the mask."

Suddenly his face begins to crack and a half-human face and half-black mask replaced it. His figure returned to his actual height and slender self. He takes off the two-face mask and smiles at Emmie who was standing dumbfounded there.

"S-so magical! Big brother can even change his face. Wow!" Emmie exclaims while clapping her hands and all her fear were gone in smoke Her eyes were shimmering with adoration and awe for Ace. She was after all just fourteen years old girl and since Ace has saved them all he was her savior and most importantly an idol.

Ace scratches his face in embarrassment after seeing Emmie's worshiping eyes. It was a white lie if he said he wasn't feeling good to be worship by this little girl.

'Cough'...

Ace coughs to hide his reddening face and embarrassment, "I-it was nothing."

His voice turns stern again, "We already been here for five hours and it should already be dark outside. Do you remember what I teach you?"

Emmie's face also turns grave and slightly sad, "Yes! Emmie remembered everything big brother told us. After you leave we'll set this place on fire and escape towards the commoner region of the city and find a low-key place to stay." She recalls before continuing, "We'll only leave the commoner region after we become strong enough to protect ourselves."

Ace nodded in relief, hearing Emmie remember everything, and thought gratifyingly. 'She would be a great leader for this group of brats.'

Although Ace overlooks, he was a brat himself!