

Unfathomable 271

Chapter 271

Beatrice opened her eyes, it took a moment for them to focus but soon she could see the room that the summoning ritual had been performed in. She felt a bit out of it, the whole ceremony was unusual. The summoned spirits mostly appeared as phantoms in this very room and then formed the contract. Something like being sucked into a strange dimension and then looking at a titanic giant before her was unprecedented.

She wasn't sure if it was a dream but when she looked at her right arm she noticed proof of it being true. On it she could spot a certain symbol, it looked like a magic circle with a specific rune in the middle. This was the proof of a contract being made and this magic circle would be used for channeling the summoned spirit's power.

The girl started standing up from the kneeling position that she was in. She felt a bit weakened after the ceremony and also disoriented. It felt like time was moving slower in that dimension and that here not that much had passed. Beatrice grasped her hand that had the summoner symbol on it, it was glowing for now but soon it faded away into her skin leaving it invisible to the eye.

'I did it...'

She held that right hand close to her chest, it was as if she was giving it a big hug. Before she could finish up with her moment of delight a knock on the door was heard. She turned to the sound, knowing well that it was probably one of the teachers checking up on her. Beatrice remembered that before the spirit summoned her to his dimension she did use up a lot of time. Other people were probably still waiting outside and waiting for their turn.

"I'm coming!"

Her feet shuffled quickly towards the exit, even if the time was close to being up the teachers wouldn't just barge in on a summoning ceremony. They probably noticed the surge of mana during the spirit binding magic. After it was finished they probably wanted her to hurry up, at least that is what she concluded.

"Lady Beatrice Hohenberg... were you successful...?"

A man in a teacher's uniform greeted her, he had a large scroll in one hand while in the other a large feather. He was an older gentleman with a beard and a monocle decorated his face. This very monocle gave out a magical light as it was used as an identification device. The man looked at Beatrice's right hand and could see that she did indeed have the magical insignia.

"I see, Lady Beatrice. Everyone that has passed the ceremony will have two days off. You may return to your family for the time being. I'm sure that you are aware of the next test."

Beatrice just nodded while the old man scribbled something into that large scroll. She was aware that getting a summoned spirit was just one part of the bigger thing. New classes would be formed after each student got their summon. These summons would be tested in a couple of days and depending on how strong they were they could move up into a higher position. Getting a white student uniform was even possible if someone was able to procure an exceptional spirit.

This was also something that Beatrice had some hopes for, the huge white-haired titan that she saw looked like some kind of special heroic spirit. Why it was interested in her was unknown, the girl didn't feel like she was exceptional. Her mana capacity was average and her grades were also somewhere in the middle of her class. Her position was also only of a branch family daughter, nothing really out of the ordinary.

"Yes I am aware, I will excuse myself. I need to go see my parents."

The students that completed the ritual were moving through the side exit as to not bother the ones that were still not done. There was nothing here anymore but as she moved deeper into the school grounds she noticed some sad faces. Not everyone was able to pass this test and would need to try a year later.

The longer it took the harder it was to get a contract, she considered herself very fortunate to be able to do it on the first try. Even more with the gifts reserved for the spirit that were mostly of bad or mediocre quality.

It was already late and most of the campus was silent. This place was called Lestallum's School Of The Arcane, it was further divided into smaller subsections. She was part of the summoner magic circle that was one of the more influential schools of magic in the kingdom she was in.

Beatrice, like most of the other students, lived in a dormitory. She was now heading towards it, on her mind, there was nothing else than contacting her parents. When they heard the good news they would probably praise her as their position would be secured.

She also hoped that this would stop them from trying to find her any strange marriage partners. As the only child from this family with a new summon, her worth would increase. Maybe she would be able to be the one in control of her life from now on.

While being excited she didn't even notice that her feet were shuffling quite fast. Beatrice was now running towards her dorm room while her head filled up with various scenarios. She could already imagine being praised and showered by adoration from her parents. But the person that she wanted to impress the most wasn't among them anymore.

"Isn't that Lady Beatrice? Why are you in such a hurry?"

"I bet she failed and is running back to her room to cry."

Her thought process was interrupted by familiar-sounding voices. She looked forward and saw a small group of three girls. All of them were wearing similar black school uniforms like her.

"Lady Adabelle..."

This was someone that she was familiar with. All of them belonged to Lady Isabella's entourage along with her. Even though they all were theoretically part of the same camp it wasn't of her choosing. It was something that was decided by their parents, the three here didn't get along with her that well. Lady Adabelle was quite antagonistic towards her in particular.

"No, I successfully made a contract with a summoned spirit."

Beatrice clutched her right hand tightly with her left one while slightly glaring at the three. Without Lady Isabella around there was no way of knowing what these three girls would do but she didn't think that it would get violent.

"A failure like you managed to make a contract?"

"Who are you calling a failure?"

Beatrice glared at the girl next to Adabelle that was sniggering around. She didn't really want to stay here and get belittled so she decided to just move past the three. Before she could move along one of the girls blocked her path.

"Why are you in such a hurry, why don't you show us your spirit?"

"Yes, I bet she is just embarrassed that she failed. She probably doesn't want to show us the proper respect!."

A person that didn't manage to summon a spirit was considered inferior to someone that did. Even if they were able to remain in the magical academy they would have to bow before the students that had a contract.

"You will see my spirit when the tests are taking place, now get out of my way!"

The three girls chuckled amongst themselves while continuing to block Beatrice's way forward.

"How about we do it like this..."

Lady Adabelle moved her hand forward and the back of her hand gave out a greenish glow. A magical circle with a large rune in the middle of it appeared, soon before her, a large snake materialized.

"What are you doing..."

"Just a little test Lady Beatrice, just summon your spirit, otherwise..."

The large snake slithered towards her while hissing. She backed away while looking at it with wide-open eyes, clearly feeling the danger.

"Fighting is forbidden on the school grounds! You will get in trouble!" The girls just looked at each other and continued to chuckle.

"Summoning a spirit isn't forbidden~"

The large monstrous snake was moving towards her. Beatrice realized that the three were just trying to egg her on. They were probably trying to scare her and wouldn't go overboard but the snake spirit was real. It was horrifyingly scary to look at and was moving towards her very slowly.

Beatrice moved her right hand forward, she didn't have any practice but she knew the theory behind it all. Mana was guided towards her right hand, the magic circle activated quickly and started glowing in bright blue light. This caused the snake to stop in its tracks along with its summoner that was surprised that Beatrice actually had a contract mark on her hand.

"She really made a contract?"

The three girls were surprised but the astonishment on their faces quickly turned into mocking looks of pity.

“Was that it?”

“She couldn’t even summon it?”

“Maybe she doesn’t have enough mana to summon a basic spirit?”

The laughing continued while Beatrice’s face sunk. She looked at the glowing mark on her hand but couldn’t feel that special summon of her reacting in any way. While panicking the snake resumed slithering forward, it was now directly in front of her moving around her legs.

“S-stop this!”

She wiggled around in indignation while the trio laughed but unbeknownst to all of them a fifth person was among them, this being Zhang Dong in his new spirit form.

‘Well, this is an odd feeling...’

He thought to himself while floating right behind Beatrice, no one, not even his summoner, was able to see his true form. When the summoning process started Zhang Dong felt a slight tug. It was as if a small child was trying to pull him closer. The person doing the beckoning was far weaker, this meant that he as a summon didn’t really need to abide by the call.

Zhang Dong did it anyway as curiosity got the best of him. After getting some basic information about this world from the new AI companion he wanted to give this a test. Being able to move around in this new world was something he had to do. Finding more of the cubes would be his most important quest as only those would help him go back to his wife and family.

It was a strange feeling, he followed that tugging sensation and appeared in this world. He was floating right behind his summoner but invisible to her gaze. This was a strange feeling, it was as if he was floating between two worlds. When he tried using his cultivation the world resisted him but there was a small spark of power that he could use. This was coming from the summoning mark that the girl had on her right arm. Through it he felt that it was possible to do something.

The snake started to slowly entangle itself around Beatrice but suddenly it stopped. It wasn’t out of its own volition but instead, there was something else stopping it. Right below the snake’s mouth a disembodied hand appeared. It was now holding the summoned creature and lifting it up into the air.

“What is that?”

Beatrice looked at the snake that was being dragged away. She was freed from the bindings before they could be sprung around her body. The hand that was holding the snake spirit looked like the one belonging to the giant that she made a contract with.

The snake was soon seen getting shocked by an electrical discharge before disappearing into thin air. This caused the girl named Adabelle to drop down to her knees. If a summoned creature was forcefully compelled to leave its owner would suffer a backlash. The other two girls looked at the disemboweled hand in fright and quickly helped Adabelle up to her feet.

“This isn’t over!”

One of them said while quickly escaping, Beatrice was surprised by the display as she had never seen those three flee so fast before.

“I see that you have peculiar friends. I guess young master types exist everywhere.”

A voice called out to her, it was coming from the floating hand. It was clearly her summoned spirit speaking. The summoning had worked and it seemed that the spirit was protecting her. Before she could ask a few questions she felt dizzy, the mana in her body was getting drained at a rapid pace and she was having trouble holding on.

“I guess we will have to build up your spirit before you can summon me... you should get some rest.”

The spirit said before the hand vanished into the void, it seemed that Zhang Dong’s new companion would need some training before he would be able to stay in this world for longer....

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Beatrice managed to return to the dorm room. Students with black uniforms were forced to share their space with others. The girl was feeling quite tired after the encounter with the group of girls and after using that summon for the first time her head was still hurting. She felt that she was suffering from drowsiness that came from overstraining herself and drawing out too much mana.

Her roommate looked sloppy as always. It was a short girl from the alchemist circle, due to this the room’s smell was always strange when she came back. The two did get along but the constant threat of explosions and poisonous mists spreading through this room was a thing that she had to live with.

“Hey, Beatrice.”

The girl called out while pouring some green liquid from one beaker into another.

“Hey Marry, I’ll be in my room.”

Even though they shared the same dorm room with each other they both had separate bedrooms. They were still nobles so the ones in charge decided to not make them share bunk beds or be stuck in one small room with each other.

‘Do summon spirits talk that much?’

Beatrice flopped on her bed, she didn’t even feel like taking a bath or calling her family. The summoned spirit that she made a contract with was on her mind. Normally the spirits that magicians summoned weren’t that intelligent.

They mostly followed their master’s orders in a robotic way. This one on the other hand was capable of holding a conversation. This meant that that heroic spirit was really rare as only the top shelf ones were intelligent enough to converse with their contractor. There was also another problem, this spirit never told her its name. Normally during the contract, the spirit’s true name would come to her naturally but instead, there was some kind of conflicting information that didn’t make sense.

‘Maybe I’m not worthy enough to know its true name yet?... I don’t think I can control it well...’

She thought back to the encounter with the snake spirit. When she attempted the summoning it worked but it took some time for her spirit to react. It was as if it only acted when its summoner was in danger but didn't follow specific instructions. It also left on its own accord when her head started to hurt, without the summoning being canceled by the summoner.

'I'll have to visit the library, maybe I can find an answer there...'

Beatrice gave out a yawn while curling up in bed. Due to the stressful nature of this day and lack of sleep the previous day she was really tired. Soon her eyes were closed as she floated off to dreamland. The person she was thinking about on the other hand was wide awake, looking at his 'contractor' from his void dimension.

'Her body can't take the strain of summoning me into that world, I need to do something about that...'

Zhang Dong was sitting on that column in the middle of the void. Shooting stars were flying down above him but not like he could move towards them. After further examining where he was in, there were a few conclusions that he was able to make.

For one this place was a small pocket dimension, similar to what the Dimensional Regalia was in the beginning. The whole space stretched out for about five kilometers in all directions. When he tried flying forward he ended up at this pillar again, if he tried going towards the shooting stars he would hit an invisible wall that he was unable to break.

It looked like there was nothing to work with here but that wasn't necessarily true. If he concentrated his spiritual energy, there was a way to change the scenery. He tested this out by creating a small patch of grassland, the field was small but this was just a proof of concept. It was as if this place was part of him, part of his soul, just empty and uninhabited for now.

'I guess I could create a house for myself, for the time being, just sitting on this pillar isn't very comfortable.'

Before he did any renovating though there were other questions that needed to be answered. Today's strange event of him being summoned to this world that his contractor Beatrice inhabited. Another question was concerning his ability to move through that other world. It was at least possible if his summoner called him but it was temporary.

The amount of force this young girl could exert on him was minimal, he attributed that to being much stronger than his summoner. If he compared the amount of energy that this girl was able to output, it would be around the lower levels of Qi condensation. With him being now really close to the late stage of the nascent soul there was no way of her forcing him to do anything.

'She is lucky that I'm not some kind of malicious spirit, I feel that a strong summon would be able to devour their contractor if they really wanted.'

He thought while looking to the side, there a small ball of blue light was floating about.

"Hey Bob, Is there a way of increasing the girl's spiritual energy? Though I guess they call it mana here."

He was still getting used to the new AI companion that he received. It came to life after the absorption of the previously corrupted cube. The trust between him and this construct wasn't quite there yet but

there was a use for it. This system wasn't something that he could wholly trust but without it, he would have still been stuck in that strange energy tunnel.

"I have finished scanning the host named Beatrice, sending data to the user."

Zhang Dong felt a jolt in his brain again, soon he had a detailed biometric profile of the person that he was inhabiting. The girl even had her own section in the system window from this point on. The blue AI had some other features that it could bring out, a holographic image appeared in front of him after he ordered it to produce it.

"I see... this world has a similar energy source as my spirit energy. Mana huh..."

Mana sounded like something that belonged to a high fantasy world that had elves and gnomes in it. From what he could tell it worked a bit different than Qi from his world.

A cultivator absorbed spiritual energy from the surroundings and nourished various parts of his body to get stronger. There were all kinds of cultivation techniques just as many as the stars in the sky. In the end, a cultivator ended up with an enhanced version of their body and soul. Even without specialized body refining techniques, their body would be transformed, more when a cultivator ascended into a higher realm.

In this world, on the other hand, mana wasn't absorbed in such a way. At least these summoners or magicians didn't strengthen their body, they went for the soul instead. Thus they only increased their casting capabilities and mana reserves while the body didn't change much from what a regular human would be.

'They can advance their mana faster than a cultivator would but at the same time they remain weaker...'

Zhang Dong wasn't sure but he figured that there were spells or ways that could enhance one's body. It looked like they were more of a temporary boost than something that prevailed even if the caster was out of mana. A cultivator on the other hand would be left with a certain degree of strength even if they used up all of their Qi. Even more, if they were practicing any body refining techniques like him.

'I don't really need to make her body stronger but I need her to have more mana...'

He rubbed his chin while staring at the hologram of Beatrice. He could see all her vitals and statics, due to the contract the system was able to gather all of this data. With it, he was able to analyze how people in this world differed from the old one.

There was a need for more information. The cultivation that he had amassed was for spiritual energy and not mana. The ones concerning a person's soul arts were a bit more similar to the techniques people used in this world, he still needed more information.

'Well, she needs to wake up first...'

He looked at the empty void with the patch of green grass that he made. For the time being, he needed to renovate here....

Beatrice woke up with her face on the ground. She had somehow rolled down from her bed and landed straight on the floor. The girl's original bed back home was much bigger and she was quite the high

roller. This wasn't anything new for the girl, she just climbed back up to her feet and moved towards the bathroom.

Her roommate was not here anymore so she would have it just to herself. The water faucet was activated with an infusion of her mana. She was now staring at the reflection in the mirror while brushing her teeth. The events from yesterday were going through her mind, the only thing indicating that it really happened was the magical tattoo on her right hand.

Thanks to passing the ritual trial she had the day off. The teachers had marked her down and the next round of tests would continue later. For now, she decided to relax in the bath after that it would be time to go home to meet up with her parents.

They were probably expecting her to come back soon, it wasn't allowed to use magical devices to contact people outside the school. She would need to go to the appropriate place and ask for permission first. But for now, it was time to relax, though while doing this she heard a disembodied voice call out to her...

"Beatrice was it? Could you hurry it up, I would like to gather some information..."

She raised her head while looking around, confusion was clearly on her face. The voice was familiar and soon she remembered who it belonged to.

"Honorable Spirit? Is that you?"

The spirit never told her his name so she still didn't know how to refer to him.

"Yes, it's me."

"How can you be here without being summoned?"

"I'm not really here, I'm just contacting you through our link. Our souls are partially connected but don't worry, you aren't in any danger."

This spirit had quite the soothing manly voice, it reminded her a bit of her late grandfather. For some reason it made her trust in his words, she still needed to clear one thing up.

"Great Spirit, could you give me your name... and tell me why you have chosen me?"

The latter part was more important than the first one. She wasn't sure why a powerful spirit like this agreed to a contract, there could be some ulterior motives.

"My name you ask? I guess I forgot to mention it..."

There was a moment of silence before the manly voice was heard again.

"Yes, I will tell you my name. The people have already forgotten me but I am the one and only Holy Lightning Emperor, Leigong!"

For some reason, there was a thunderclap sound the moment he disclosed his name. She had never heard of a being of that name before, it also sounded quite fierce. She wouldn't know that this Lightning Emperor only went with this name to sound cooler. He didn't want to go with the usual thunder god names and chose something closer to his current cultivator disposition instead.

“Respectable Leigong, about my other question?”

“You can drop the honorifics... for the reason I chose you... well... let’s just say that you aren’t ready to know the truth yet...Now, could we go to a place with some books?”

“Books? We have a large library with magic books at his academy... but I’m supposed to go home now...would the book at my home estate be enough?”

“Think that should be fine for now...let us depart, with haste!”

Beatrice just nodded, she wasn’t sure what this spirit named Leigong wanted but he was her summoned spirit. This meant that she needed to cherish it. The books did say that the better relationship that a summoner had with their spirit the stronger it became. So the time came to return home.

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Zhang Dong floated around in his new void dimension. It was looking quite different now after he figured out what this place actually was.

“Should I put more trees here? What do you think, bob?”

He was now standing on a small tropical island with nothing more than the deep clear ocean surrounding him. There was a certain lack of living creatures swimming in that water and it was clear enough to see the bottom.

With a flick of his finger, a set of palm trees with coconuts sprung out from the ground. Soon a nice sturdy hammock was placed between those two and Zhang Dong hopped into it.

“You’re not much of a talker, eh?”

The glowing orb didn’t react to the question as he had hoped for. The place that he was now looking at had changed to fit his vision. He could change it by sheer will as this small pocket dimension was in fact a reflection of his soul. Its size was tied to his cultivation realm, if he managed to reach the late stage it would probably expand further outwards.

“My soul realm eh?”

He glanced to the side and could see his soul beast taking a dip in the warm ocean. He could bring in some fish but they wouldn’t really be real, nothing more than a simple construct.

This was certainly new to him. Apparently, this was something that everyone in the cultivation world and other worlds possessed. It was just hidden deep inside themselves as it was inside of their soul. He was somehow forced inside of this soul world during the whole crossing over worlds fiasco.

Zhang Dong wasn’t sure about the logistics of being here. This was all done by his system that had functions that didn’t make much sense to him. From Bob’s explanation, it seemed that his soul was stuck between this world and the passage he was in previously. This was also the only way through he could survive as somehow souls wouldn’t be erased while existing outside their own world.

He already knew that there were more worlds like the cultivation one that he came from. Something brought him thereafter he clicked that email, the biggest question was why.

By how the system reacted it seemed that people weren't allowed to travel between these worlds. If they did they would be erased out of existence just like he almost was. The system was given to him by whoever or whatever sent him to the cultivation world but it was broken during the time he almost died.

It looked like the system thought he was dead as his designation number always came up as 'deceased' when he was scanned. There was someone else like him who made this possible and he had left that cube behind at the old secret ground that he had been.

This was also the reason that he was somehow trusting this blue orb thing. It was helping him for now, his secret helper was going against the being that created this whole mess. Though he wasn't sure if that being was malicious in any way, it could have just been playing games. It was giving people strange powers from a mundane world, from a certain standpoint it could be considered a blessing.

He profited from gaining this system. After coming to the cultivation world he gained everything, good looks, status, and power. He managed to turn his lesser than stellar life into something special.

The big question was, what was this being or god expecting to achieve from giving others like him powers and sending them to strange fantasy-like worlds. Would there be some payment waiting to be paid at the end of the journey?

'Sometimes living in a delusion is bliss...'

After giving out a sigh, his new partner in the form of a blond girl was still in the middle of traveling back home. Surprisingly the people in this world were quite advanced, they looked to be in a sort of renaissance era. Though instead of venturing towards more advanced technology they were investing their time into magic.

Mana was an abundant source of energy that was just filling up the air. It recycles itself whenever a spell is cast so it was hard for it to run out. He knew this thanks to Bob's help as well as to Beatrice that was happy to answer any of his questions. After being able to hear the girl's thoughts he thought that he might be able to download some information directly from her brain but it wasn't happening. He would need another way to get more information about this world and this would be done through books.

"Might as well try cultivating here..."

He jumped off his hammock and tossed the coconut that he poked a hole through. It was kind of weird but he was able to feel the sweet taste of the milky liquid inside. He could even make the coconuts taste like an energy drink if he wanted in here.

The weather was calm as he floated up while in the lotus position. Since the whole monster exterminated he wasn't able to cultivate. He concentrated on this soul realm, there was no way of advancing his regular realm but that wasn't true for his soul. Now while he was here the access point was at his fingertips.

The clear water that filled this ocean was quite calm and peaceful. Soon there was a change with that, the whole place started to distort and rumble. The soul beast that was Zhang Dong's dragon looked at its master floating up and glowing in a golden color.

His body started exuding powerful bolts of lightning that shot out in all directions. They collided with something and continued to push against it. This only caused the whole place to shake even more before Zhang Dong stopped his first cultivation attempt. His face was filled with sweat and he was panting.

“It did work... at least a bit...”

The whole locked soul dimension got slightly bigger, he could feel this. He quickly measured how much his cultivation advanced and to his surprise, this form of cultivation was very beneficial. His soul had gotten slightly larger and more powerful, this also pumped up his qi reserves by a tiny amount.

“This feels like it will be better than regular cultivation... with a stronger soul all of my techniques will get more powerful, my soul-beast will also start evolving further...”

He had something to do till his new partner in crime returned home but for now, it was time to cultivate.

Beatrice was now sitting in a carriage, she had gone through all the procedures to leave the magic academy and was now heading home. The teleportation circle that she used was something that she would never get used to. It always made her sick in her stomach and she always needed some time to regain herself.

This was the only way to leave the Lestallum’s School Of The Arcane. It was a very high-class place that was hidden away from prying eyes. It was apparently located on some kind of secluded island, even the students going there weren’t sure where it was. There were various magical illusion barriers and defensive ones around it to keep unwanted visitors away.

Thus anyone that wanted to come and go would have to go through a special teleportation device. Unregistered and unknown people would be stopped before anything could happen. She had transferred close to the city that her parents lived in and where their estate was. Beatrice’s full name was Beatrice Hohenberg of Dawn Lake and her family lived close to this very lake.

It had a grand name to it but in reality, there wasn’t much grand about it. Beatrice was now looking out of the carriage window and at this very lake. It had once been a focal point in the kingdom with many magical fish living in it that were a delicacy. But with bad management, the fish that had gathered were thinned out.

‘That happened about the time when grandfather was young...’

Beatrice remembered her grandfather that used to tell her stories. The lake fiasco happened before he was able to take over the estate after his own father. It was quite a hard task to manage it after they lost their main source of income. But due to being a strong summoner, he was able to get help from the main family but now he wasn’t here anymore.

Her father on the other hand couldn’t hold a candle to the late grandfather. Thus their house was in a pinch, the main family was giving them a chance if the new heir turned out to be promising. If not they would probably pull away most of the monetary help.

She was close, all the familiar-looking trees and landmarks were coming into view. The doors to her estate opened up and she was let in to her surprise there were a lot fewer servants than what she remembered.

‘Did some of them quit?’

Their reason for them moving on to a different noble house could be one, they weren’t offering much of a pay. With all the problems and even debt slowly crawling their way, there was no way of paying their servants their proper wages.

“Beatrice!”

“Mother!”

She disembarked from the carriage and was greeted by her mother. The woman was slightly taller with a different shade of hair that looked more brownish than blond. Right behind her was an older gentleman in his 40’s. His hair color was more in line with Beatrice and he had a matching mustache to boot.

“Good to see you but mother...”

The mother-daughter pair continued to hug, all until poor Beatrice felt like she was getting choked out. The older lady finally parted from her child, tears of joy clearly visible in her eyes. Before the two could converse further the father stepped forward, his greeting being far more reserved as he just nodded.

“Beatrice.”

He then glanced at his daughter’s right hand while squinting, the frown on his face changed into a smirk soon enough as he had confirmed it with his own eyes.

“Good, with this our expenses will be secured!”

“Dear...”

The mother jabbed her elbow into the father’s side while glaring at him. She then moved over to her daughter and started pulling her away.

“Come, I bet you are tired after your trip, we can talk inside.”

The father gave out a weak cough after getting hit in the stomach. He had to look as his daughter got pulled away into the estate.

“Wait Beatrice... what about the summoned spirit?...”

“We will talk about that after dinner.”

The mother responded with a shout while her husband frowned some more and followed after the two.

‘The mother is fine but the father is a bit...’

Zhang Dong commented as he had broken off his cultivation session the moment the girl arrived at this estate. While the girl moved through the estate he started examining it. The whole building was quite big and expensive-looking but it also was kind of run down. It was obvious that there weren’t enough people here to take care of everything.

The food that the girl was eating at least looked good. It looked like western style cuisine with some unknown meat. From what he knew there were some magical creatures in this world but they didn't differ much from regular farm animals. This made him wonder if these words were just being copy-pasted from some kind of preset. In his old and cultivation world, similar animals and beasts existed.

'I should bring up the library before these two decide to go on some kind of spa trip...'

He was kind of lost in the girly talk that this mother and daughter pair was having. The father was a bit to the side and very grumpy looking. It was obvious to Zhang Dong that he only wanted to talk about the summoned spirit. He might even have to make an appearance. He was even contemplating burning off this old man's mustache for looking this cranky...

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"That's enough!"

A loud banging sound could be heard that echoed through a large dining room. Beatrice along with her mother looked to the cause of this noise. They saw a rather angry-looking man with a mustache gritting his teeth and staring at them.

"Father, is there a p-problem?"

Beatrice stuttered a bit as she was in the middle of chatting it up with her mother. The older woman had been asking her all sorts of things. Mostly concerning her health and if she was doing well at school. It didn't seem that she cared that much about her managing to get that summoned spirit. Her father on the other hand was a lot more interested in that fact.

"Yes, we need to talk about your summoning ceremony."

"Dear! She just returned home, gave Beatrice some time to rest."

The older woman glared at her husband while getting between her child. She was certainly a doting parent which the fourth hidden person in the room noticed.

"Helena, we don't have time for such things. You know the importance of having a strong spirit, if it's a low-grade one we will have to think about the arranged marriage."

"Arranged marriage?"

Beatrice shot up from her seat the moment she heard what her parents were discussing. She could tell from how they were behaving that this 'arranged marriage' business was something that was previously discussed. But from her standpoint now with her summoned spirit, she would be exempt from something like that.

"Don't worry dear... we just talked about it, we haven't settled on a suitor yet."

Beatrice's mother patted her shoulder while continuing to glare at her husband that started this whole thing. Before more nonsense could be spoken another fist collided with the large dining table which caused the tableware to shake around. The two girls quieted down as the man of the house looked quite maddened by the fact that he was being ignored.

“Enough! Beatrice after you are done with eating come meet me out in the yard. We will test your summoned spirit!”

The older gentleman stood up from his seat and moved outside. The only servant that was in the room had to fix the chair that had fallen over. There were also some spilled dishes on the table where that fist landed along with a small hole in the wood.

“Don’t mind your father, he is just... worried about the estate...”

“I know mother...”

After a moment of silence, Beatrice looked to her mother with another question.

“What of older brother? Has he returned?”

The mother just shook her head.

“No, he became an adventurer before we lost contact, he could be in any of the many dungeons...”

While the two women talked Zhang Dong perked up at the mention of dungeons and adventurers. This was one of the staples of the fantasy worlds from more westernized novels. He started wondering if the adventurers had ranks ranging from F to S, maybe even SSS like in those stories that he used to read.

The two continued to talk while he listened in. The supposed brother had apparently gone on to become an adventurer. From what he had gathered there wasn’t anything like a leveling system in this world. There were classes and fantasy-like professions like mages, summoners, and magic knights. They gained their techniques and skills through hard work, there were apparently no shortcuts of killing monsters and gaining free skills and experience points.

It looked like he would soon have a chance to show himself to that noble-looking father. The man looked like he had a stick up his butt and that mustache made him look even more condescending. Though as a father he knew where the man was coming from. He was someone that had the weight of his family on his shoulders.

From what it looked like the man had some degree of magical power in him. Zhang Dong could somewhat feel the danger level by how much mana they were exuding from their souls. It wasn’t that much though, if Beatrice here was at the lower levels of Qi condensation then her father was maybe at the very early foundation establishment stage.

This was akin to an elder from a very small clan back in his world before he arrived there. Someone like that would have no way of starting a big family at most he could hope for an elder’s position in a smaller clan.

The father was also only a Baron, which painted a picture to him. There was a steady hierarchy in this world as in the one that he came from. This was almost the lowest noble title that one could achieve, the only one below it was a knight. Which would put this man as maybe the level of an outer sect elder.

Without a potential heir to the family techniques, it looked to be over. But at least it was fine for Beatrice to take over, though he wasn’t sure about that as he wasn’t planning to stick around for that long.

While he was thinking about the noble power dynamics Beatrice called out to him. She was now heading to the back of the estate. A large yard was back there where the guards and knights were training. With the loss of prestige, some of them were transferred out by the main branch noble house. What remained were mostly inexperienced youths and old knights that were past their prime.

“Um... Holy Lightning Emperor Leigong, are you there?”

He wanted to laugh at the long-winded name that he had given himself but it was better than being called Dong in this Western language-sounding world.

“Of course, where else would I be?”

“Wait... is that the sound of the ocean?”

“Ah...uh... don’t mind the small stuff, how can this Holy Lightning Emperor help you today my child?”

Zhang Dong started coughing while realizing that the ambient sound from his soul dimensions was getting through when the two were talking. With a wave of his hand the waves calmed down and his soul beast also stopped flopping around in the background. He had materialized some fish for the big guy to chase around.

“Would it be okay for me to summon you again?...”

He smiled a bit, the girl was really timid. She felt like a good kid and by being connected to her soul he knew that she had a kind heart. This made it easier for him to help her out but also made things more difficult. First, he needed to get her stronger as without her having a higher mana pool he wouldn’t be able to interact with the world for more than a few minutes.

“You can but... your body can’t handle the strain too well. I won’t be able to stay for long, you must increase your mana reserves with haste...”

This was the most important point, he needed to find a quick way to boost this girl’s mana reserves. He had a connection to her soul so there were a few approaches that he could take. Before he could do that he would need to be sure that it wouldn’t harm Beatrice in the slightest. There was also the possibility of something going wrong if he didn’t have the information. For this, he needed to get to that library.

“That’s why you must visit a library and procure all the books that concern magic, anything can be of use, the more the better.”

Beatrice nodded while listening to her summoned spirit talking about the library books again. She didn’t know what he wanted with those, normally a magical being as this should know more about magic than humans. Things like human magical theory wasn’t something other races could even use. Every race and being was slightly different and thus required a totally different approach.

“Of course Honorable Holy Lightning Emperor Leigong.”

Zhang Dong gave out a chuckle while they ventured forward, this girl reminded him a few of his disciples with how much prostrating she was doing. Finally, they arrived at the supposed training area where he saw an old man in a suit of armor standing next to Beatrice’s father.

“I am here, father.”

Beatrice curtsied slightly while holding her long skirt.

“Good. How is that spirit of yours? Can you show it to me?”

The girl evades her father’s gaze while holding her right hand on which her summoner insignia was. Her father had a similar one as she had which was also the proof of being the current family head.

“Ah yes... I can show him to you...”

“Great, before that. Sir Heinrich.”

The old man that was on the side moved forward. He placed himself in front of the young girl with about twenty meters of space between them. Soon the sound of a sword getting unsheathed could be heard.

“Heinrich will test your summoned spirit, you should have learned how to summon it by now, right?”

Beatrice nodded while still clutching her hand together. She had summoned this spirit once before but it was a peculiar one. For one he felt like someone from the older generation that wasn’t taking things very seriously.

Her hand was stretched towards the man in front of her. She infused her mana into it and made the summoner sign glow in a bluish light. The light flickered in a golden hue for a fraction of a second but just like last time, nothing appeared.

“Beatrice? What happened?”

The father looked from the side a bit surprised that there was no spirit there to fight the knight.

“Ah... the spirit is here... he is there father...”

Beatrice pointed toward a barrel in which some old wooden practice swords were stored in. It was close to where they all were standing and blocked part of the view.

“There? But I can’t see anyt... what is that?”

The blond mustache-wearing man leaned forward as he witnessed the form of his daughter’s summoned spirit.

“A boot?... ”

It looked to be a white boot that didn’t go further past than the ankle. It looked like it would connect to a leg but it was cut off. The strange summoned spirit started floating around while getting close to the knight.

“Um Father... the honorable spirit says that we can start the test...”

“The spirit told you that?”

The man’s eyes bulged out slightly as the bodiless foot floated towards his armored knight. The old man in the suit of armor was looking at this strange phenomenon as well. The man looked to the baron as he didn’t know what to do.

“Fine... go ahead, Heinrich.”

The old knight looked at the wobbly foot moving his way, it wouldn't be hard to slice something like that in half. The man felt anger that he was forced to be part of a silly test like this. He was a sworn knight though and had to follow orders.

His sword was raised and its edge was encased in flaming energy. The sooner he took care of this, the sooner he would be able to resume the training of the other guards.

This strange boot reacted to the charge as it flew towards the armored knight. It changed its trajectory and it was now looking like a flying kick was coming towards Heinrich. He reacted by swinging his magic-infused sword at the disembodied body part, soon the two collided with each other.

What was supposed to be an easy victory for the experienced knight captain, turned to shock. Instead of the foot getting cut in two pieces it smashed the knight's sword into tiny pieces. It flew even further and collided with Heinrich's metal armor sending the experienced warrior tumbling back.

"Impossible!"

Beatrice's father's jaw dropped as he looked at the floating foot that soon vanished into tiny mana particles. The armored knight was out cold with a footprint on his armor. It had a strange symbol in the middle that looked like a checkmark. The old man wouldn't be waking up for a while after this...

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Beatrice was concerned at first after seeing the foot appearing out of the blue. The floating hand made more sense as it could at least grab and punch things. This thing on the other hand was just a floating boot.

To her surprise, the floating body part that was wearing some strange otherworldly boots flew towards the old knight. She knew the old man as a respectful knight that was quite strong, not much weaker than her own father. He would be able to single-handedly take on a monster-infested lair and come out on top.

It was one thing going against Adabelle with her simple snake spirit. The young girl was untested in battle and didn't know how to use her summon properly. Sir Heinrich on the other hand was a trained knight. He was past his prime but he was still more than able.

This same seasoned knight was now slumped forward while leaning up against a wall. His arms were limp and he was foaming at his mouth.

"Oh sorry about that... I thought he would be able to handle it... I guess this world's strength standards are a bit lower than I anticipated, he was at most at a half step foundation establishment realm..."

She heard her summoned spirit rumble around in her head. Apparently, he was even going easy on Heinrich, she wasn't sure what that realm was but it looked to be some power measuring system that this spirit of hers had.

"Is he alright? If you have enough mana I could heal him for you."

"Honorable spirit can use holy magic?"

Beatrice perked up at this revelation. Healing was a secret art that was mostly only possible by devout priests that channeled godly energies. It wasn't something a regular mage could learn but maybe her spirit knew the lesser nature elemental regenerative arts of healing. Those could be performed by other magicians and shamans but weren't as potent as the miracles that a priest could perform.

"Yes... I think you don't really need to summon me for that... could you just walk over towards him and follow my instructions..."

She nodded and quickly moved over to the downed man whose body was twitching around. The sword that he was using had shattered into many tiny pieces as well.

"Beatrice, what are you doing?"

Her father called out from the side as he finally got over the shock of seeing his best knight go down in one hit. He was about to call out to some servants to come help but soon his attention was drawn back to his daughter that placed her hand on the knight's chest.

The summoning crest on her right hand lit up in a blue light that quickly changed its coloring to a more golden shine. He was an experienced summoner himself and someone that had worked with priests before so he could identify this mana pattern as holy healing light. This gentle light washed over Sir Heinrich that started looking better in a matter of seconds, waking up in a flash.

Soon after performing the healing feat, Beatrice started panting out loudly. She felt a familiar headache which signaled that she was running low on mana. The man was healed but the footprint was still denting his steel armor.

"What kind of spirit did you make a contract with... you need to explain everything to me."

Beatrice's father ran up to lend his daughter a shoulder to lean on. Soon the two returned to the house and she was able to rest on a couch. Her mother was already next to her with some mana potions to relieve the head pain. She was quick to explain the situation of meeting the spirit, from how she was pulled into a strange space to his size and to how he was listening to everything they were talking.

"Holy Lightning Emperor Leigong?"

Her father rubbed his chin while trying to remember if there was someone like that named in the past.

"It's not odd for certain powerful individuals with strong mana to be reborn as heroic spirits...I will have to do more research on that name..."

The man looked at his daughter and placed his hand on her shoulder.

"Listen well Beatrice, I know that you are happy about gaining such a spirit but this could bring unforeseen consequences."

Beatrice looked up to her father and then to her mother not really sure what he meant by that.

"Consequences? Won't the estate be secured when the main house from Dragonridge hears about this?"

The father furrowed his brows while looking at the mother and soon he spoke out while explaining everything to her.

“Beatrice, you probably don’t realize why the main house has stayed in power for all of those years.”

“Dear?”

The mother moved in from the side as if trying to stop him from saying more but the man raised his hand to stop her.

“She is a summoner now, one with a powerful spirit dwelling in her. She deserves to know the truth.”

“The truth? The truth about what?”

Beatrice asked while looking between her parents, not really sure where this was going. She came here hoping to only get good news but things didn’t seem to be heading in that direction.

“It’s about your grandfather, his death wasn’t an accident...”

“What?”

She jumped up from her seat, her eyes going wide at the revelation, from where the conversation was going there was only one possibility.

“Did the main house have anything to do with it?”

After a moment of silence, her father nodded.

“Yes, he had gotten problematic to handle for the main house. He was very talented... too talented for his own good...”

Her father disclosed what he knew. Her grandfather was considered to be a powerful summoner, he had managed to nourish his spirit into a dragon after many years of progress. Thus the main house which had the name Hohenberg of Dragonridge, started seeing him as a threat.

Zhang Dong listened in from the side, this whole thing sounded similar to how things were run in his own world. It was a similar situation to how he got too powerful in the Dark Palm Sect’s eyes. The ones in power couldn’t handle the thought of an upstart sect or clan sprouting in their territory.

It was a normal way of living in worlds ruled by the mighty. He wasn’t sure if soul binding magic existed in this world. This side family didn’t have anything like that attached to them, so maybe that was the reason why this grandfather wasn’t turned into a slave. They had to murder him to keep the status quo.

The story wrapped up with the father mentioning that he didn’t know how they did it. His father’s body was sent back to the main house and it was reported that he died fighting some monsters.

“Yes I remember that day...”

Beatrice moved her head down, now she realized why that story sounded strange. Her grandfather was far too mighty to be slain by normal monsters. She was young then as this had happened over five years ago. Since then the estate had been deteriorating slowly.

“But father, we must avenge grandfather! How can we sit still when something like this happens, we must report it to the other ducal houses!”

Beatrice started screaming out in rage. Something like this was unheard of, they were all nobles from the same kingdom. How could a ducal house kill someone from their branch family because they feared his might?

“We will do no such thing, you will do no such thing either! None of this can leave this room!”

“But father!”

Beatrice protested by her mother and started pulling her to the side by the arm.

“Listen to your father, the other ducal houses won’t help us. This is just how things work between the nobles dear...”

“But mother... What about grandfather’s death? How can we leave the perpetrators at large?”

The mother looked into her daughter’s eyes and Beatrice knew well why there would be no repercussions for those murderers. There was no way for them that were at the lower end of the totem pole to go against a Duke household that was the main Hohenberg line.

“You are a smart child, I think you understand the gravity of this situation. Even though that spirit of yours is strong you can’t show off its power... At least not till you are stronger...”

Zhang Dong continued to listen in, he wasn’t sure what he had gotten himself into here. He could somewhat feel Beatrice’s indignation at the fact that her grandfather perished like that. Even though she was nodding and now promising that she would be careful, but on the inside, she was like a powder keg.

The biggest problem was that he was stuck with her and he would probably be the person having to go against any enemies if this young girl decided to act. He would need to keep her out of trouble as letting a child die under his watch would be unheard off.

“Honorable Spirit...”

‘Ah, here it comes...’

The conversation between the family members had now ended. Beatrice had left the room as she wanted to digest this information and her parents let her have some space. Zhang Dong had a suspicion about what she wanted to ask him. Due to this, he was the first one to speak up.

“Don’t get blinded by rage child, that path leads only towards destruction.”

“But...”

“That doesn’t mean that you can’t get stronger. I can help you with that...”

Zhang Dong didn’t want to use a teenager bent on revenge for his own gains but he also needed to get this girl’s mana reserves up. She had to get stronger for him to be able to act in this world. If on the way there he would have to take care of corrupt nobles, then so be it.

"You can, great spirit?"

"Yes, but you will have to listen to my instructions. First, we have to get to that library..."

"Ah, yes."

Beatrice replied as she had almost forgotten about that promise she made. The library that her family had wasn't anything great but there were some books about magical theory here. Almost all noble houses that were related to magic had them.

"What do you wish to do here, great spirit?"

She pushed the large door open and was greeted by a dusty library. The lack of servants was showing.

"Can you go pick up one of the books?"

"Pick it up?"

Beatrice moved forward on a bookshelf and picked up one of the manuals for beginners. It was one that she had studied when she was a child.

"Like this?"

"Yes, just like that... now... do it with all the books in the library..."

Zhang Dong had absorbed the information the moment the girl touched the book. It was now in his system library along with all of his other knowledge. Now he just needed to get the girl to touch all the other books before he could start her training program. With more knowledge about this world's magical system, he was going to produce a fitting training regime and manual for his new host.

Chapter 276

"T-that's the last one, great spirit..."

Beatrice called out while slumping against a tall bookshelf. She was stuck running through her noble house's library touching every single book that was here. Even if it was a cookbook or one with poems, her summoned spirit requested her to give all the books a nudge.

The girl wasn't sure what this was all about by the spirit gave her a demand and as his summoner, she had to take care of it. She knew that a spirit could hold a grudge if their summoners didn't treat it properly, even more, if they were a highly intelligent one that could even speak directly to her.

"Was that it?... I guess this will do for now, when we return to that magic academy of yours we will have to go visit the library there."

"The a-academy library?"

Beatrice went pale in the face, the library at the academy was many times larger than this. It would probably take her ten times longer to touch every book there. Those would also only be the books that she was allowed to browse as a lower tier student. If the gates to the better books were opened this time would be doubled.

"Sure, the more information I get the faster I can increase your mana capacity."

“My mana capacity?”

“Oh, I guess I haven’t spoken to you about that part. How should I say this without hurting your feelings Beatrice... you’re kind of... behind your peers when it comes to many things, mana included...”

Beatrice flopped her head down in shame. She knew this fact well, her talent was mediocre at best. The three girls that were egging her on after the summoning ritual were all better than her when it came to mana and spells.

Even though she was a summoner there were certain low level spells that every mage type could learn. She had trouble maintaining those simple spells and she trailed behind most of the other students. The only way that she was able to make up for it was through slightly better grades that came at the expense of hard studying.

“Your mana capacity is too minuscule to summon me fully into this world, that is why at most I am able to materialize my body parts. Even then you probably noticed the headaches?”

Beatrice nodded with indignation, she had a suspicion that it was her fault that the spirit couldn’t fully appear. Though this brought another thing to light, just how strong was this heroic spirit? Even though her mana capabilities trailed behind most of her peers, it wasn’t by such a staggering amount. Adabelle was able to control her snake without much trouble, she felt like that would also be something that she could do.

“Yes... I’ll try to increase my mana, I’m sorry...”

“Don’t worry, I’ll take care of that. With these basic spellbooks I should be able to convert some of my own techniques... but you might have to prepare for some harsh training if you want to get stronger...”

When the word ‘stronger’ was uttered Beatrice thought back to what she and her parents discussed. Her grandfather had been disposed of by the main family that they were serving. Even if she didn’t want to admit it, in her heart there was only rage and vengeance.

“Don’t even think about that, at least not yet.”

“Great spirit?”

“We are connected, I know what you want but you won’t find any answers at the end of that road.”

“But...”

“Well, for now, go back to your family and rest. I have some work to do...”

The connection between the two was cut as if Zhang Dong turned off a phone. It seemed like she wouldn’t really be able to control this heroic spirit at least not till her mana somewhat matched his.

In his soul dimension, Zhang Dong looked at a tired Beatrice leaving the library. While she was touching the books he was able to absorb all the knowledge into his system. This knowledge was now part of his and thanks to it he already knew the situation in this world.

It wasn’t that different from where he came from, just as he thought before the noble houses here were analogs to clans in his own. The biggest difference was the size which was much lower, this world’s

planet was also much smaller than the immortal type world that he came from. It was about double the size of his old earth but compared to the giant landmass he traveled daily as a nascent soul master this place was quite tiny.

“I guess when the gaps in individual strength get large enough and a single person can topple governments by themselves, worlds like these are the results...”

He mumbled to himself while waving his finger around. As he did the scenery shifted to something more familiar, his old crafting abode. Instead of him now teleporting into it through the system it was created directly in this soul dimension. He needed the facilities here to combine a few things together, mainly some cultivation manuals with the magic manuals from this world.

“They are quite similar to the ones I’ve studied but it will be safer to do this through the system.”

Through the years he had become quite an expert but this didn’t mean that he was all-knowing. He had a general idea on how to boost Beatrice’s mana reserves through some soul arts but it was better to spend some points first. He had gained quite a bit of them after absorbing that corrupt cube.

Zhang Dong arrived at a familiar-looking desk with a lot of drawers. This was the device that he used to upgrade almost all of his and his sect’s techniques. With a little wave of his hand, he produced a book of magic. This one had the main mana technique that Beatrice’s branch family was using.

It didn’t seem like much out of the ordinary, he even tried emulating some of the spells that this place had to offer. With his massive amounts of spiritual energy, it wasn’t that hard to convert it into mana. It only required him to change a couple of things while using his soul as a medium to cast spells.

At least in theory as he was still doing this in his own soul dimension. He would also have to get the hang of this as he left, like utilizing his old techniques would be hard to reproduce in this world. Certain fundamental laws were different here but most of them were quite similar.

“I guess I’ll give her the old heavenly lightning treatment... it is my best technique...also there is also that one way... think it should speed things up a bit...”

He popped in the magical book into the shelf to put it up as the base while the other one had his Heavenly Lightning cultivation manual. He could add more points to get most out of it, things were dire so he decided to go all out. This wasn’t the time to be a miser, the faster the girl leveled up the sooner he would be able to go out into this world.

He still had no idea where one of those cubes could be at. Cultivators were people that lived long lives so he wasn’t panicking just yet. Before anything would be decided months or years could pass by. Everything depended on how well the Saint Fist Sect could hide the fact that they weren’t weakened.

Even then, the people from his own sect might not help them out if the Yggdrasil Sect came knocking. Which would give his family and friends more time, they were already quite strong without him. Qiang and Liena could somewhat contend with late stage cultivators and they would only get stronger.

“They will be fine... unless they offend someone...”

He shook his head while trying to bury his worries inside. The faster he got out of here, the better, it was time to see if he could get this girl up into fighting condition. If she was able to summon him fully, it would already be a victory in his eyes.

.....

Beatrice closed her eyes as she curled up in her large bed. The day went by quickly, after getting the library part done she took a long bath and then went straight to bed. She was tired but also couldn't really sleep due to the big revelation today. The death of her grandfather was still on her mind.

Her parents weren't going into much detail about it, not saying more than that the main family was responsible. They didn't mention anyone in particular so she didn't have a target to focus her anger on. The only thing on her mind now was to get stronger.

After rolling around in her bed for an hour her body finally gave out and she fell asleep. But what should have been a fast awakening in the morning turned into a strange dream event.

She found herself on some kind of tropical island with strange trees. Beatrice looked around and could see clear water everywhere. This all felt so real but something was off about it.

"Is this a dream... I never had a lucid dream like this before..."

This looked like a dream, the biggest telltale sign was the giant golden dragon in the distance. She could see it shaking its ass around like a cat before pouncing on some kind of strange monster fish.

"I've seen that you made it, we can begin the special training!"

Beatrice turned around to see a familiar figure. It was her summoned spirit but this time around he was regular sized. This didn't mean that he wasn't imposing, he was still a large man while she was a smaller girl.

"Training... how did ..."

"Ah yes, you're probably wondering how I brought you here? Well, let's just say that this Leigong has his ways."

He started talking while getting closer, she wasn't sure about this spirit's motives but he didn't seem like a bad person to her. He was also the only spirit that answered her call which made her see him in quite the good light.

"I'm not sure if you know this, but the mana techniques that you are using are just a form of soul manipulation... but the ones you are using are just imitating the real thing, quite ineffectively."

Beatrice perked up as he continued to speak. This heroic spirit seemed quite wise so if he was sharing some of his knowledge with her, she would listen. She wasn't really sure what he meant by soul manipulation.

Casting spells consisted mostly of drawing mana from the air and condensing it into magic circles. With the correct sequence of the circles, a spell would be produced. She never heard anything about the relation between magic and the soul so this was quite the interesting reveal.

"Well, it's better to just show you... this isn't your true body, I just pulled a shard of your true soul here... In theory, you should be fine..."

"Fine with what?"

She asked while Leigong her spirit moved over and gave her forehead a poke. The moment he did a jolt of electricity followed along with a torrent of information. This caused her pain followed by her face planting into the warm sand in front of her.

"Well... maybe not... but you are still here... so it was a success!"

The heroic spirit laughed while Beatrice was squirming on the beach sand while holding her head.

"Let us begin the training!"

Chapter 277

"L-like this, great spirit?"

A confused Beatrice asked while juggling two balls. These balls were created by her own mana after a short explanation from her summoned spirit.

"Yes like that, concentrate and visualize. The more of them you can juggle the more your spirit will increase... also don't just stand there in one spot..."

Zhang Dong snapped his fingers and a wolf appeared out of nowhere. The creature howled before running towards Beatrice. It looked quite ferocious with its teeth bared at her. The way it was charging also looked very menacing which caused the poor girl to ask for help.

"G-great spirit?"

The girl tumbled forward and the balls that she was somehow managing to juggle hit the ground. The wolf jumped to bite her but before connecting with her it turned into cold water that splashed in her face.

"Concentrate Beatrice, mana is just the expression of your mind and your soul. If you can't manage such an easy task how can you think about advancing as a summoner. Now do five laps around the island with at least two balls."

The girl was drenched in water but she stood up. The moment Zhang Dong mentioned her advancing as a summoner her eyes showed fire in them. He watched as the girl took off running while trying to balance the items that she produced from her own mana. This whole thing might have looked silly from the outside but the better she got at it, the more mana she would have in her when she woke up in the morning.

'This might take a while... but even without this training her soul is expanding.'

He noticed that the girl's soul was slowly adapting to his own. It was slowly absorbing his high grade energies and getting stronger. Even without the training, her mana pool would keep increasing. This could be increased even further by some training though. By pulling the sleeping girl's soul shard into his own soul world he could hasten the process.

This was already the second night that she was going through this drill. First, he needed her to visualize her soul into items. Only after being able to create one ball would the training continue. When this item was created it had to be maintained by concentrating. Thus by forcing her to move around the difficulty was increased, if she managed to get through this training her mana reserves would increase exponentially.

'Think it's time to go back to that school... this whole thing feels like one of those games for girls... there might be an otherworlder like me somewhere here...'

After thinking it through Zhang Dong came to the conclusion that this world was the same from which he came from. It was very possible for people from his original world to be here or them having been there. If such a person existed here he would need to ask them about the place they were summoned to. There he would probably find one of the cubes that was used as a teleportation beacon.

'I should probably go through some of the myths... maybe there were some old summoned heroes or powerful kings. Any of them could have come from another world like me...'

There wasn't much for him to do here. During the day he cultivated in his soul realm while during the night he helped his summoner progress. He also thought about certain ways of prolonging his stay in the outer world. For this, he told Beatrice to go to the yard and summon him when she woke up in the morning.

"I guess this is a tad better..."

Zhang Dong rubbed his chin while floating around, his upper body was fully visible but his legs didn't make it through to the outside world. He had dropped his cultivation level as much as he could which lowered the requirements for him to be summoned dramatically. The most he could lower himself to was the early stage of foundation establishment, even his body refining had to deteriorate for this.

"Continue with your training, remember to perform the breathing exercises that I taught you!"

Beatrice nodded while Zhang Dong's figure turned into many tiny blue particles. She was surprised by the progress she made. Even after only two days, she had already doubled her mana reserves and this wasn't the end. The strange tasks that her summoned spirit was making her perform seemed odd at first but they were working. She had already caught up to some of the summoners that were miles ahead of her not too long ago.

Soon the academy sent a message for her to return. The date of the next tests had been decided on and every young student that passed the ritual was to participate. She was now standing at the gate to the estate with everything already in the carriage. Her parents were here and she was just getting a big hug from her overprotective mother.

"Take care dear."

"Yes and remember Beatrice, try not to stand out..."

She looked to her father who had a stern expression on his face. Beatrice knew that things could get troublesome if that main house realized that her summon was special. They had already done something to her grandfather, it was possible that they would see her as a threat. If she could keep a low profile still remained to be seen.

The doors closed behind the carriage and she was off. The next stop would be the teleportation gate through which she would be transported back into the academy.

“Your father is right, it would be best for you not to stand out before your abilities advance further.”

Zhang Dong spoke out while taking a small break from his own cultivation. “When your mana advances I’ll be able to teach you some spells...”

He commented as there was a certain special feature that summoners had with their spirits. Depending on the elemental affinity of that spirit the summoner would be able to learn spells from that school faster. This didn’t stop with only elemental spells, if a spirit was good at illusion magic then the caster would also progress fast in that school of magic.

The two chatted for a bit before each one resumed their own training. Beatrice was taught a breathing method that was akin to cultivation but especially transformed to fit this magical world. With it, her mana reserves could be boosted even further.

Soon Zhang Dong and his summoner were greeted by a wide-open room. This was the teleportation chamber of the magical academy and she wasn’t the only person that was nowhere. The students were required to go through the teleportation circle at the same time to save up on mana. Thus all of them ended up in this chamber, this meant that she would be bumping into the old bully trio again.

‘Better not to start any fights, keep a low profile, and bring me to your library.’

Zhang Dong spoke to Beatrice who was eyeballing Adabelle and her three friends. He could see the three bullies flinching a bit when they saw the blonde girl. It was clear that his previous appearance and him choking up that ‘danger noodle’ was still on their minds.

For now, he needed more information. The books back at Beatrice’s estate were good to show him the basics but the good stuff was probably hidden away in this school’s library.

‘There shouldn’t be much trouble for the time being...’

Zhang Dong relaxed in his own soul dimension while sometimes glancing through Beatrice’s eyes. She was still a kid and was around other kids so he didn’t think that it should go out of hand. The small bullying incident was there but it was quickly resolved. In the future, he could just show himself as a floating hand to save on mana. The other summons didn’t seem to be too powerful, the snake he faced was at the qi condensation level.

It did seem that way as everyone got out of this large chamber without getting into fights. The further aptitude tests would be taking place on the next day so Beatrice was tasked with going into the library. She was still only seen as the lowest of low students so the books that she had access to weren’t that great.

She had to forget about her pride as she started going around and poking each book in the vicinity.

‘Great spirit, you never told me... but why do you wish me to touch these books?’

Finally, the question was raised. He expected the girl to get curious, he probably would too. For once he decided to tell her a bit of the truth as revealing this would probably show that he trusted her.

'By touching the books I am able to absorb their knowledge.'

She stopped in her tracks and the revelation.

'Just by touching them? How is that possible.'

This was an ability gained through the system so it did seem quite astonishing. Being able to absorb knowledge just by touching a book was probably every bookworm's wet dream.

'We spirits have our ways... I could even share the knowledge with you if you wish...'

Beatrice perked up at the offer.

'Just go to a book that you wish to learn and touch it but you might want to choose a thin one at first.'

The girl went over to one bookshelf and picked out a book about another country's history. It was something that she was interested in but never had time for it due to all the magical theory classes that needed to be taken.

'It's a bit on the thicker side but it will do... this is going to sting a little bit...'

He performed his usual technique to share knowledge. The moment he did Beatrice felt a stinging sensation in her brain. It was painful enough for her to drop the book she was holding to the ground. This was a similar experience to the time he infused her with the previously made mana cultivation technique.

'Even shortcuts have a price, Beatrice.'

Zhang Dong chuckled while the young summoner got over her headache. It didn't take long but he could feel the girl's bewilderment at receiving the information.

'It worked?...'

'Of course, it worked but this isn't something you should abuse.'

People in this world were different, their bodies didn't evolve as much as cultivators. A regular person like her wouldn't be able to absorb thousands or million of books like he was able to. An attempt at something like that could cause long-lasting damage, memory loss or brain damage.

'You can pick five books, for now, I'll help you absorb the knowledge but only after we are done with this library.'

Beatrice looked at the building with many shelves with all sorts of books. One tiny spell could have a giant tome written about it and there were many theories as well. Even touching them with her fingertip could take a while.

'Don't ignore history books and others, even those could have some hidden knowledge left behind by an author.'

Zhang Dong knew that sometimes masters of the craft left parts of their knowledge hidden in riddles. With the help of his system, he would probably be able to find hidden treasures like that.

'Now get to work, we need to finish this before your aptitude test!'

‘Yes, great spirit...’

Beatrice replied in a weak voice before moving forward, it was time to touch some books...

Chapter 278

Beatrice flopped on her dorm bed while rubbing her eyes. It was time to rest, tomorrow was her big day. She and the other students would be taking various aptitude quests with their summons. This was something everyone was preparing for years during basic classes so she wasn't the only person that was nervous.

A lot depended on this aptitude test. The biggest reason a person wanted to get a good result was status and power. By being rated higher a student would get access to better books, better teachers and would be prioritized.

Even though Beatrice didn't want to stand out she wanted all those things. Power was something she very much strived for only with that would she be able to avenge her late grandfather.

“So you want me to help you get better results? Didn't you promise your parents that you wouldn't stand out?”

Beatrice was now juggling three balls around while balancing on a log. This was inside the soul world that Zhang Dong created. The scenery had changed from a sunny beach to a river in a forest. The log the girl was balancing on was wiggling around in the stream while she practiced her concentration.

“Yes I understand but...”

“But you want to get stronger and to get stronger you require your academy's knowledge?”

Zhang Dong that was sitting on a large branch answered before flinging a pebble towards the log that Beatrice was standing on. This tiny rock traveled as fast as a bullet and caused the large log to shake around violently. What followed was a drenched Beatrice that landed in the shallow stream below, the balls that she was juggling landing on her head.

“You'll never get stronger if you lose your concentration like that...”

He looked at the wet girl that was shivering in the cold water. Normally he would be all for the slow approach. It was best to keep a low profile while slowly building up the power base. The girl wasn't really in a position where she could stand out too much. Even less with that crazy main house of hers looking over their shoulders. But he didn't have much time on his side, he needed to get back to his own family.

But still, he wasn't sure if risking the child's life would be such a great idea. If he was her summoned spirit, he could probably defend her from everything, but he didn't plan on staying that long. He had made some plans towards that, all this mana that this young girl was building wouldn't be just for show. Even if he left her she would easily be able to form a proper contract with another spirit or be a regular mage.

Due to this, he was on the fence on how to continue, the girl was probably willing to get herself in harm's way if it was necessary. It was still only an academy for kids, it shouldn't be that dangerous if she stood out a bit.

“Everything will be fine great spirit... if I make it to the special class, I’ll be able to visit the higher levels of the library... you’ll be able to get more books...”

Zhang Dong listened closely, apparently, a higher tier student had more privileges. The locked away library building would hand him the knowledge that he needed. What he now wanted was the location of a cube, with it his chances of getting back home would skyrocket.

‘I guess it should be fine...’

In the end, the feelings for his own family won over. If this girl was willing to put herself in harm’s way, then he wouldn’t stop her. At least she had him if something happened. The girl was already 15 years old, in his world, this was already the age of an adult. Most all the disciples in his sect were already battling ferocious beasts and putting themselves in danger. This all in the pursuit of power and prestige.

“Trying to barter with this Lightning Emperor are you?”

Beatrice shook her head in fright a bit but instead of rage, she could see a somewhat grin on Zhang Dong’s face.

“Good, I will help you but only if you can perform this next task!”

He wiggled his finger and the log that the girl was standing on started spinning in one direction. Beatrice was tasked to balance on it while he randomly pelted her with small rocks.

On the dawn of the next day, Beatrice felt tired. Not physically but mentally, the small dream training sessions did put a tiny strain on her spirit. With the increase of her soul energy though the effect was minimized.

Zhang Dong started thinking of how to get his eager summoner through these tests without making the other kids look bad. Even now Beatrice’s mana pool had risen tremendously, she was already surpassing most of the kids her age. The only ones that were still ahead of her would be the young master types that he loved so much. He hoped that those types of people wouldn’t get as easily offended as the ones from his old world.

“We have gathered here to perform the annual aptitude test for all you young summoners, please remember to...”

Beatrice had now moved to the gathering place with everyone that had passed the test. She was standing to the side with all the other black-uniformed youths. They were still segregated by status here. Zhang Dong had a feeling that even if those lower status youths were elevated by their test results, the original ones in power wouldn’t take kindly to it.

‘I hope this goes well... don’t really want Beatrice to be involved in the good old step ladder of generic baddies.’

In a cultivation world what would mostly happen in this situation was one thing. A young master would not take kindly to an upstart getting similar or better results. He or she would then begin hazing and making trouble for this individual which would then result in this prideful person getting defeated in some way. Then the real problem would begin, probably starting with the young master’s older cousin or uncle.

'Okay, let's go over it again. We will be aiming to get you into the top class but you must place lower than the top students.'

Zhang Dong spoke out from his soul dimension. He had decided to help the girl get a better placement in the test but that didn't mean that he wanted her to smoke the competition either. He wanted to have her place below the current top students like the prince or Isabella Hohenberg of Dragonridge.

Isabella posed the biggest danger as she was from the main house that Beatrice wanted to go against. It would be a direct slap to Isabella's prestige if someone like Beatrice did better at an aptitude test. It would probably bring various problems with it, he knew how those passionate youths operated.

'I understand great spirit...'

'Also you can stop calling me great spirit, it was funny at first...just call me Leigong.'

'But great spiri...'

Beatrice was a bit surprised by the sudden request to drop the honorifics. This was a world based on strength, so being respectful to a strong summoned spirit like she had was a must.

'It's fine, we are partners and partners need to be on a first-name basis!'

'I could never be foolish enough to refer to a heroic spirit in such a way...'

'Well, you will have to. Otherwise, I'm not going to answer your calls.'

This revelation caused Beatrice to sweat slightly. If her summon refused to be called during the test then she would end up in the lower class for sure. It could be even worse and they could call her even being a spirit summoner in question.

Beatrice had to begrudgingly accept Zhang Dong's request.

'Great Leigong... Mr. Leigong?'

Though it appeared that it would take some time for her to drop some of those honorifics. The place the test would be taking place was a large hall. With them were about two hundred other students. If Zhang Dong compared it to his previous world the numbers were quite small. When it came to sect testing the disciple number was always in the thousands of people.

The teacher continued the long-winded explanation of the tests that they would be going through. The first one was quite identical to what his own sect was doing just on a lesser scale. They would bring out some kind of measuring device that would show them how much mana each student had.

After that, they would test the elemental affinities of the spirit by having the summoner channel their energies into another device. The user of the spirit would have their mana be altered depending on their summon. Beatrice here would probably be shown as a lightning user.

The first ones that took the test were the students in white robes with the prince being first. It was clear that they didn't want the high nobles to be stuck standing around and waiting for others. The device that was measuring the mana pool looked like a regular round crystal ball. It was placed in the center of

some kind of magic circle and a number would light up above it. This number was the person's level of mana.

Zhang Dong looked through Beatrice's eyes as a green-haired youth walked over to take the first test. He even noticed the shouts of praise from the noble ladies at the side, this guy was clearly the biggest young master here. The hand was placed and after a moment a number appeared above it.

"489 points for prince Ludwig..."

The people from the side started cheering out, in Zhang Dong's eyes this youth wasn't really anything special. After training Beatrice for a few days her mana pool had reached a certain threshold that wasn't that far off from this so called prodigy.

'She'll probably surpass him in a month or two... for now it's fine for her to be slightly weaker...'

The people started going through the test and he took note. It was important for Beatrice to be slightly below the top students. It would be best if she made it in at the last spot but that would be a big gamble.

This green-haired prince was somehow able to keep the top spot, the person from the main family that Beatrice was cautious of achieved a result of 411 and she was the third-best from the bunch. There was another youth from a ducal house that received 443 points.

Most of the students in white uniforms had results between a 100 and 300 with the top reaching slightly over that. From his discussion with Beatrice, they would need to get from 150 to 200 to be sure. A person of lower status had to show more talent than a family that could buy their way in.

The students in the black robes mostly hovered below the one hundred mark with a handful going beyond it. In time Beatrice was in front of the measuring device by Zhang Dong's calculations if he didn't interfere she would get slightly more than a 100 points. There was a way to boost that result with the help of a certain technique he developed thanks to the books. The problem with this was that he didn't have much time to test it out and this would cause the first blunder to occur.

"Beatrice Hohenberg.... 7.... 798 points..."

The whole chamber got quiet after seeing the number above the device. No one could believe that a lowly daughter of a baron had more mana than a member of the royal family or from a ducal house.

On the inside of this here blond girl, there was a certain Patriarch scratching his head, not sure about what went wrong.

'Well... uh if you do bad at the other test your rating should go down... probably...'

He called out while shrugging, Beatrice on the other hand dropped her head down as she was feeling too many gazes on her face. She clearly didn't expect her super glorious summon to make a mistake like this.

Chapter 279

'Mr. Leigong... weren't we not supposed to stick out this much?'

Beatrice asked after moving away from the testing orb. The other students were looking at her with much interest after she had soundly beaten the crown prince's score.

'Ah don't worry everything is going according to plan... you'll just do worse in the other tests. They'll just think you have a large mana pool but are behind in skills...'

Zhang Dong quickly thought about something to salvage the situation. There were other tests ahead of them, if she only stuck out in one then it would probably be fine. They would just attribute her to having potential in mana and nothing else.

The testing continued but the stares didn't stop. He wasn't sure what went wrong but he must have misjudged the effect that his spiritual energy would have here. It was that energy that he was using and not this world's mana that was slightly on a different wavelength.

'I need to be ready for the next aptitude test and not make any more mistakes...'

The first test only measured the summoner's mana reserves. The second one would be testing another part, which would be the elemental affinity of the summon. For instance, if a person made a contract with a fire-based spirit like an Ifrit their affinity for fire would be high. Some spirits could have more than one affinity which he was expecting to get.

Prince Ludwig was the first one to go as well. Zhang Dong wasn't sure if it was due to the green hair but the youth's main affinity was wind with a surprising holy element as well.

"The prince managed to make a contract with a pegasus, as expected from a member of the royalty!"

Zhang Dong listened to some of the students with interest. The youth's summon was a flying horse and it was apparently also rare. He wasn't so sure about such a creature's strength in combat as it was just a horse with wings. But summoners could use certain summon specific spells depending on their spirit. Perhaps this was such a summon that boosted a person's magical capabilities instead of being a minion that fought in their master's stead.

Isabella on the other hand looked to be the owner of a water-based spirit. From the conversations that some girls were having it looked to be some kind of water nymph. Just as the pegasus this was a higher form of spirit that was also somewhat intelligent. It was clear that the top students had attracted the rare spirits.

Some with their own capabilities but most by offering better treasures for the contracts. Regular students were left with generic summon spirits like the snake that Beatrice's classmate Adabelle possessed.

After some time passed it was time for Beatrice to take the test. Previously no one had paid attention to her but now people were looking in. Some had expressions of disdain while others of curiosity.

'Okay... this should work...'

Zhang Dong tried to relax, the test should show the spirit's elemental affinities. He was a cultivator that studied the Dao of lightning and of the holy element. His lightning should be the primary one while the latter the secondary.

The magical device that measured this looked like a mirror. The student was tasked to concentrate on their summoning mark that was on their right hand. When they performed this task right the elements would appear on the surface of the mirror. They would look like small balls of energy, depending on the size it would be clear what the summoned spirit was best at.

Beatrice placed her hand on the mirror and concentrated. The sign on her hand appeared and the surface of the mirror started to react. The tests here were open to anyone to see, the students were sure to look at the results of this dark horse.

The mirror started to shine and soon a blob of electricity appeared in the middle of it. It was quite big compared to what the other student received and implied that Beatrice possessed the rare lightning elemental affinity, which was also quite high.

But then something odd happened, soon after the electrical bubble in the middle appeared a second one also materialized. This one was bright gold, similar to the color the prince had with his pegasus but much larger and clear.

“Lightning and holy?... wait... there is more?”

The students and teachers started murmuring again as multiple elemental bubbles started to appear. They circled around the two large ones in the middle as little planets. Green for wind, red for fire, brown for earth, blue for water. There were all there, the four main elements had shown themselves. There were even some colors that the teachers didn’t recognize.

‘...is it because of all the various Daos that I picked up through the years?’

Zhang Dong scratched his head again. He was a cultivator that had mastered a lot of techniques through the years. The Zhang Clan was versed in water techniques so he had picked up a few along the way. Huo Clans fire, Feng clans wind, and even some earth techniques from some side schools.

He didn’t focus much on them but considering that he was a nascent soul master he could master them to a certain degree in a couple of days or weeks. Thus the mirror showed a reflection of the Daos that he was proficient in, which was quite many.

This was something unprecedented as most spirits were only good at one thing. Rare ones had a secondary element to go with their main one. Then the legendary creatures had three of them. But he was already showing twice that number.

Thus the eyes were again on Beatrice for showing something never seen before. Where the first test might have been attributed to luck or one rare skill, this showed something more. Now she was far ahead of her competition and only two more tests remained.

‘G-great spirit...?’

‘A-all according to plan...’

Zhang Dong wasn’t sure what he could say, it looked like things were working against him. The girl had already aced two of the four main tests. She was already sticking out like a sore thumb and he wasn’t sure if he could do anything about it at this point. Even if she failed the other two quests she already positioned herself miles away from the competition.

He had tried to lower his elemental affinities during this test but even then the mirror showed all of his inner workings. It was as if something was working in the background to expose his secrets.

The teachers and the students were now paying attention to her. Through Beatrice's eyes, he could see everyone whispering. The teachers were taking notes and he could even see some of them going elsewhere. In time he would know that they went to get some higher profile, people, to come. This whole thing was getting out of hand quite quickly.

'Beatrice, the next test is to measure how much magical pressure a summoner can handle, right?'

'Yes Leigong...'

'How about you just pretend to pass out before the other students, just wait enough for it to not be too obvious...'

The master plan had been made, it was more or less the last hope. The next test would put the casters under pressure. From what Zhang Dong could tell it was similar to a popular test that cultivators liked to do. One of the stronger cultivators would release killing intent or their aura on the disciples. If the student didn't pass out and held on through a test like that they would pass.

This would be the same thing here. One of the mages would deliver magical pressure onto the young spell casters. They would feel strain to their souls and would have to last through it. He wasn't sure anymore but he felt like with him around Beatrice wouldn't really be affected by something like that. She would need to play dead otherwise she would probably outlast everyone else while yawning.

.....

Unbeknownst to Zhang Dong and Beatrice, there was some movement in the background. The two tests that the young girl ached brought unwanted attention.

"Is that the girl?"

"Yes... her results have been astonishing. Not since the Arch-mage has someone been able to get such results..."

An old man with a long beard and a classical wizard hat was talking to some teachers. They were looking at Beatrice through a hidden side window. This man here was the vice principal and he was called overdue to the troubling results.

"Could it have been a mistake?"

"Not likely sir, we have checked the devices and they haven't been tampered with. The girl also isn't someone with such resources to fool our teachers."

The man started rubbing his long beard with one hand while looking through the window. After some squinting, he spoke out.

"There is something peculiar about that mana... I will test her myself."

The man hit the ground with his long staff that looked like a large tree branch with a big green gem at the top. He was surrounded by a magical glow before his appearance changed to that of one of the teachers in this room.

“Could she be one of them? Wouldn’t they try to not stand out this much?”

“It could be a possibility... those results do look troubling.”

The vice principal placed his staff to the side and exchanged it for the one that the teacher was using. He then headed towards the testing room where a smaller group of students was waiting for him.

They were standing in a circle and ready to take the test. They were about ten meters away from the teacher that would be standing in the middle. The disguised vice principal moved to the designated spot and prepared himself for the test.

He was now looking in Beatrice’s direction. He could feel that there was something off about there but he couldn’t put a finger on it. There had been some troublesome things happening around this academy and this girl was being suspicious.

‘I need to test her... I will need to take a peek inside to be sure...’

The students were preparing themselves, all of them had closed their eyes to concentrate so no one was able to see him staring at Beatrice with deep interest. His staff connected with the ground and the mana pressure was released.

‘Interesting...’

A normal mage would have not noticed something like this but the vice principal was someone very experienced. He could tell that the pressure he used for the first test was just bouncing off the girl in front of him. He also noticed that she was pretending to be affected by it, this of course sparked some concerns.

‘Is she putting on an act?’

Due to this whole thing looking fishy the man decided to probe her more. He sent a direct mana probe towards this young girl. If she was a normal human being then she would at most pass out instantly but if she was one of the enemies they were looking for then the reaction would be more adverse.

“W-what is this?”

“Why hello there... I didn’t think I’d be having guests today.”

The man was surprised by a third result. The moment he tried probing the girl he felt something powerful pulling him inside. He found himself in some strange place face to face with someone powerful. This someone had clearly trapped him here as he felt that his connection to his own body was being blocked off and he couldn’t leave.

What he was looking at was some kind of man sitting on a golden throne. He looked like some kind of otherworldly being. There was also another problem, right next to this man was a giant golden dragon that looked quite fierce.

“You’ll have to give me a good reason about why you tried to do that to my little Beatrice.”

“Y-your little Beatrice?”

“Yes, the girl I’m contracted with, why did you try to damage her soul?”

The man started to sweat as he realized what this was. The person standing in front of him was clearly not the enemy that he was looking for. He was some kind of heroic spirit that made a contract with that student. The situation was dire as the vice principal knew well that the contracted spirits were very protective of their contractors. If he made a mistake he could very well have his soul erased by this powerful being...

Chapter 280

Zhang Dong was a bit maddened. He had made many blunders through these aptitude tests which caused Beatrice to stand out. The plan of getting into the special class with somewhat lowered scores had fallen through. Beatrice was looking like some kind of gifted child now, far above the other powerful noble houses. He knew well how those types of people reacted to upstarts, his only hope was that they wouldn’t go all out against a child till she grows.

Then there was this guy that was trying to pull a fast one. He felt the magic instructor attempt some underhanded attack during the third test. To him, it looked like he was out for no good as this attack would damage Beatrice’s soul. The two were connected with each other so he was quickly made aware of this intrusion.

The purpose of this underhanded attack was unknown to him. It certainly had a different purpose than the mana pressure test. He reacted fast by intercepting the attacker, he was injecting a soul fragment for some reason so it was easy to pull it into his own soul dimension. Through this, he was able to make contact with the old man’s own soul and trap him here for now.

The place looked like a giant castle with him sitting on a throne. He had played around during the last training session with Beatrice and had left it like this. The old man he pulled in was now trembling before him and down on his knees.

“I apologize for my transgression, great spirit.”

‘I guess he thinks I’m a spirit like Beatrice does... Did he want to harm her? Maybe some jealous young noble ordered him to damage her future prospects?’

Zhang Dong was thinking in line with what cultivators from his own world would do. It was normal for them to try to cripple the competition. If this was true then he was kind of at fault for getting Beatrice noticed by the other students.

‘It could also be a big misunderstanding as always...’

He also had enough sense and life experience to know that things weren’t always how they seemed. The old guy could very well be doing something else entirely. He wasn’t versed in these magic world’s techniques, he could only distinguish them on a basic level. A prodding towards the girl’s soul was done, if it would leave long-lasting effects or harm her, he wasn’t sure.

That is also why he didn't try to trash him the moment he got here. His own soul energy was far greater than this old man. Though the old fart was the strongest person that he came across here. His energy levels were akin to someone at the very early onset of core formation. For someone at the middle stage of the nascent soul, this was nothing.

"Explain to me... what was your reason? Who put you up to this? Are there people aiming for Beatrice's life?"

"Aiming for her life? N-no great spirit, you have it all wrong! This has nothing to do with the student that you made a contract with!" The man became quite chatty, this was probably because his soul beast was right next to him. The size difference between the small old man and the giant golden dragon was immense.

Zhang Dong was painted a picture during this explanation. There were supposed 'demons' in this world, ones that liked to infiltrate human locations like this magical academy. Due to Beatrice's strange boost in power during the test, he was called to check up on her. The attack that he intercepted was there to see if she was one of this form shifting monsters.

"So, these demons infiltrate schools like this to steal knowledge or to kill potential strong magicians?"

'Great now I have to contend with body snatchers...'

"Is there a way to detect these demons?"

"Yes great spirit, they are susceptible to certain magical spells. The same one that I performed on your summoner..."

It was strange to look at an old man that was kneeling down and looking up to him with glistening eyes. He was like a really old wrinkled up puppy that looked at his master after peeing on the carpet. It did seem like he was telling the truth, he had certain techniques to measure things like that.

"Very well... you may leave..."

"Thank you, great spirit! I will never forget your generosity"

The man's eyes opened up wide and he was all smiles but that turned upside down the moment Zhang Dong spoke out again.

"But to be sure, I'll have to leave you with a small present."

"A present, great spirit?"

Zhang Dong flicked his finger forward and a small golden bolt of lightning flew out. It connected with the soul version of the old man, the moment it did he could hear him scream out in pain.

"I will leave my mark on you, if you ever go against Beatrice in any way, your life will be forfeit! You don't have to worry, if you do a simple task for me your life will be spared."

The vice-principal opened up his eyes to find himself on the ground. The students that were taking the test were around him. It looked like he had passed out and dropped dead during the test. Even some teachers were coming from the side.

“Is everything okay?”

He shot up to his feet and checked for something. There was a certain seal placed in his body now, it wasn't something that he was capable of removing with his current power. The contracted spirit that lived in the girl had placed some kind of kill switch on him, of this he was certain.

“Y-yes... the test is over... now if you'll excuse me...”

The old man that was still disguised as the teacher quickly ran back into the back room where his associates were.

“Vice-principal what happened? You suddenly collapsed?”

“How long was I unconscious?”

“For about ten seconds...”

“Is that so...”

“What about the student? Is she a demon?”

“The student?”

The old man looked to the instructor that was asking him questions. Sweat was visible on his forehead the moment he thought about the person living inside of that young girl.

“No she is not... give her full marks for the test! Now... I need to talk to the principal! Stall a bit with the next test, don't let student Beatrice contend before I return! ”

The other instructors were surprised by the vice principal's exit. He looked like he had seen a ghost and was clearly afraid of the girl. This left everyone here with only more questions and even fear towards this young lady.

Beatrice was again the focal point of this test. Even the students that were together with her could see that for some reason the teacher was afraid of her. Zhang dong that was on the inside was slowly tearing out his hair. The vice-principal ruined his plans and Beatrice ended up with the highest marks again.

Now it was already too late to go back, it didn't really matter what would happen at the last test. From Zhang Dong's perspective, the students and teachers were already looking at Beatrice as some strange rare animal.

He placed a little soul binding technique on the old man so that he could listen in to what he would do. Through it, he could see the old man running towards some large tower that was further away in the magical academy.

‘Good he is following the instructions, hope the person in charge will listen...’

He rubbed his chin while Beatrice pestered him about what was happening.

‘Listen up Beatrice, it's probably not going to be possible to hide my presence anymore. We will have to change our plan... slightly.’

‘Um...’

He felt like the image of the glorious all-knowing spirit was dropping by the minute in Beatrice’s eyes. Nothing seemed to be working out so he decided to go out with a bang. The last test was going to be a practical one. The new summoners were supposed to call out their spirits and have them battle.

Their opponents would be the instructors and their summoned monsters. The only thing he could do now was to leave an impression on others. He needed to show off that he wasn’t someone that anyone could mess with. People were already aware that Beatrice had gotten a special spirit.

The only way to protect her now was to show that he was powerful enough to even go against the top experts of this world. This could be only achieved by facing off against the right opponent and that vice principal character would help him with that.

‘If you say so Leigong...’

He could tell that the young girl was starting to doubt his advice but for now, she was going along with it. Explaining the whole ordeal would take too long so for now he decided to remain mysterious.

After some time every student had gone through the third test. The results were posted on a large board outside of the testing chamber. The person that was first again was Beatrice, the girl had to contend with more surprised gazes.

Tests like this didn’t take that long and there weren’t that many people. The final test would be the longest as it required the young summoners to let their spirits clash. Before that, it was time for some arguing though as some of the young nobles weren’t having it.

“How did you do it, how can someone like you score this high!?”

A girl in a white uniform was now confronting Beatrice in front of the result board. Zhang Dong’s host was way ahead of the competition, the second place belonged to the young prince but it wasn’t even a close call.

“How would I even do that? Bring some proof before you accuse someone!”

Beatrice retaliated by glaring at the other female student. It was surprising to see someone from the less established students to shout back at someone in a higher position.

“You dare!?”

Zhang Dong perked up at the muttered words, it looked like this world wasn’t that much different than his. Now if the opposing side just continued with a ‘courting death’ line it would have been perfect. Before things could escalate another blond lady appeared. She was quite the beauty and known by everyone here, she was Isabella Hohenberg a duke’s daughter.

“Lady Godford, you should calm down and prepare for the last test... “

The girl looked at Isabella and instantly shrunk back. It was like looking at a small mouse that was confronted by a ferocious cat.

“I... if Lady Isabella says so... I’ll excuse myself...”

She was soon gone along with her own entourage of students.

“Thank you for helping, Lady Isabella.”

Zhang Dong could feel that Beatrice was surprised by the sudden aid. He could also see that it wasn't done out of good will. That look that Isabella was giving Beatrice was filled with malice. It was unknown what she was plotting but he didn't like where this was going. Luckily a green-haired young man appeared to diffuse the situation.

“That's quite the achievement, Lady Beatrice was it? I'll be looking forward to your next test.”

The youth looked quite friendly and he wasn't even jealous of losing out to Beatrice. There was a certain shiver that ran through Beatrice the moment the prince talked to her. It was followed by a snapping sound from the direction that Isabella was standing in. The fan in the girl's hand that she was holding had been cleanly snapped in two.

“Oh my, it must have been old, I will have to order a new one.”

She played it off with a laugh before walking away.

‘I don't think that girl likes you too much.’

‘I can see that Mr. Leigong...’

The gathering soon dispersed as it was time to get ready for the final test of the day.