

Unfathomable 281

Chapter 281

A loud knock on a white ornate door was heard. Behind that exquisite looking entrance there was a spacious room. On the sides, there were blue crystals that illuminated it from all sides while the windows seemed to be not letting much sunlight in.

Inside there, various bookcases with various grimoires could be spotted. But the most characteristic item that was there looked to be a large white desk. Behind it there was a person looking over some scrolls, this person seemed quite annoyed at the loud knocking at the door.

"Who is it? I said that I didn't want to be disturbed!"

"Excuse me Principal, it's me..."

"Vice Principal?..."

The person behind the desk grumbled while putting the scrolls back onto the desk. Within a few moments, a feminine voice replied.

"You can enter."

The Principal that was sitting behind the desk was wearing a baggy wizard robe but her head was visible. She had long snow-white hair very akin to a certain Lightning Emperor. Her skin was much darker though but the most characteristic thing about this person were the thin long ears.

"Thank you Principal, you have to help me!"

The woman that looked like your typical dark elf from a fantasy book narrowed her crimson eyes at the old man that came crashing through her door. He even tripped on the carpet and face planted onto the ground. It was clear that something had to have happened as she never saw him lose his composure like this.

"Vice Principal Elobarin, control yourself!"

The dark-skinned woman wiggled her finger around and some sparkles appeared in front of it. A torrent of wind surrounded the fallen man and brought him to his two feet.

"I apologize Principal, but the situation is dire... I have been marked!"

"You have been marked? By who? Who would be powerful enough to put a mark on a mage of your caliber?"

The woman frowned while standing up. She was the principal of this whole academy and also the most powerful mage in it. After her came the vice principals, there were more than one of them around. They were weaker than her but still should be amongst the best in this academy and even this world.

"Was it one of the demons? Did it infiltrate our academy!?"

"No.. it wasn't a demon..."

The man grasped his chest as he tried to calm himself down. In a few moments, he looked at the woman and started explaining. He told her about the strange boost in Beatrice's stats during the assessment test. How he tried testing her himself to see if she was one of the demons in disguise and then how he was confronted by a mighty spirit that left a mark on his soul with an ultimatum.

"A spirit you say? How powerful could it have been to do such a thing, a Spirit King?"

The man was finished with his explanation but was still sweating. In a moment he spoke up to correct the person he was working for.

"A spirit king... I don't think so... I think that spirit was much greater than that..."

"You don't mean?"

The man nodded while looking at the dark elven lady with a sweaty forehead.

"A Spirit Emperor? Why would a Spirit Emperor form a contract with that student, is there something special about her?"

"I don't know... but he gave me a message to pass on to you before he let me go..."

"A message? To me?"

The woman raised her brow, not really sure why a powerful spirit like that would even be in the picture. Though magical spirits had their own ways of doing things so this situation wasn't all that inconceivable.

"Well, not specifically to the Principal. The spirit wanted me to procure a strong summoner for the last test."

The old man started explaining some more. The spirit left a mark on his soul that could be triggered to kill him. Only if he brought over a strong summoner to face off against Beatrice in the coming test would he be able to get rid of it.

"I'm not sure what its purpose is... maybe it wants to fight a strong opponent?... He did look very ferocious and powerful..."

The elven woman started rubbing her chin while moving over to the old man. She touched his shoulder while concentrating. While using her knowledge she looked at the Vice Principal's condition. She could see some kind of strange spell being attached to his soul.

She wouldn't just let someone under her be exposed to something like this so she started casting some spells to get rid of this mark. Though the moment she attempted a removal there was an unwanted reaction in the form of electrocution.

A large explosion was heard from the office of the academy's Principal. This alerted the secretary that was working outside. The young woman quickly ran into the room to see what was going on.

"Principal are you okay! W-What happened!"

The woman was greeted by a partially destroyed room. Many torn up books pages were still floating around and falling down on two people that were down on the ground. Both the Principal and Vice-

Principal were twitching around their hair had been electrocuted which made the two look like they had afros.

“Elobarin... get Isilin to test that spirit...”

“Y-yes Principal...”

It took some time for the two to gather themselves but it was enough to prepare the stage for Zhang Dong and Beatrice. The other students were now going through the last test in the same order as previously.

Beatrice was in a side room with some other students. She was clearly getting strange looks from others, no one expected her to be at the top of the class after most of the tests were over. It didn't even matter how well she did in the last test, she would be getting into the prestigious class with the other high nobles.

‘Don't mind them, they are just surprised that's all.’

Zhang Dong spoke to Beatrice that was just sitting there. He had noticed that this young girl didn't really have any friends here. Even before she started these trials there wasn't anyone that she spoke to. The only person that interacted with her was that strange roommate but even that one didn't converse much with her.

She was truly the lonely heroine of this story, and now with him forcing the attention towards her, the other people were aware of her existence. He already knew where this was going and he didn't like it.

‘It's okay Mr. Leigong I'm used to it.’

Due to the soul connection that he had with the girl he could see some flashes of old memories. Even in those, she was the odd girl out, mostly hanging out in the back while the high noble ladies like Isabella chatted.

‘Look on the bright side, now no one will be able to ignore you, you'll be a hot topic in the noble circles!’

He tried shifting the conversation to a better place but the girl just gave out a sigh while grumbling. It was clear that the attention that she was getting was troubling her.

‘I thought we weren't supposed to stand out so much, Mr. Leigong.’

Beatrice replied in a somewhat cold tone, it was clear that she was on to his hogwash. He couldn't do much about it, the all-knowing spirit act wasn't something he was used to. There were too many variables so he made her rate above all the other students by a mile. What was done was done though, the only way to salvage the situation now was to make people fear her.

If not, any two-bit schmuck would try to test her true power. This was the biggest fault with people that liked to hide their true strength. They would be approached by anyone and everyone for any small discretion. He could already imagine Beatrice getting hazed by the higher nobles if they thought they could take her. On the other hand, if they knew that she was able to easily take them out, they would remain in their lane.

“Beatrice Hohenberg please get ready.”

Zhang Dong's train of thought was broken by one of the teachers that entered the waiting room. The other students looked to Beatrice with interest as she stood up, quite a bit of people were interested in this spirit that could make this average noble girl progress this fast.

'Don't worry Beatrice, just summon me and I'll take care of the rest!'

He called out to her while she got ready. The last test would be a practical one where summons would be pitted up against each other. This was also why he used the vice principal to his advantage. He gave him one order, to get a strong summoner to face off against Beatrice here. If not, he would be fighting a lesser spirit that wouldn't really be very impactful for his show.

To show off his power he needed the right opponent. If he faced off against a weak spirit like that one snake there wouldn't really be much impact on it. Only when the hero had the right villain could he shine.

'Calm down, I'm with you.'

Zhang Dong could feel that the young girl was getting nervous. After walking through a long corridor she arrived at something that looked like an arena. There were other students and teachers to the sides watching them.

'I'm fine... but why are there so many people here...'

'Oh? Are there usually fewer people at these events?'

'Yes...'

A smile appeared on his face as he heard that. This meant that the attention was on him and the girl. He would need to perform well now, from what he knew people were thinking that he was some kind of super-rare spirit. If they thought he was a rarity they wouldn't hurt the girl that managed to summon a legendary creature.

They would probably try to somehow profit from this event, try to control her first before any kind of violent act would be attempted. He would need to use the time given to progress the young girl further down her path of power. At a certain point even if someone tried something drastic she would be ready.

"Student, Beatrice Hohenberg. Are you ready to be rated?"

"I am!"

She nodded while looking up to the person that spoke out. Zhang Dong looked with her and noticed a peculiar looking woman with dark skin and long ears.

'Is that an elf? and a dark elf to boot?'

After Beatrice confirmed that she was ready a certain person walked out from behind from where that dark elven woman was standing. There was a spell cast to propel this person forward all the way into the ring.

"Isn't that Instructor Isilin?... isn't he a five-star summoner?"

"Why would someone like that..."

People started murmuring amongst themselves after the person performing the test was revealed. It was clear that his little blackmailing attempt worked and they were now facing a more powerful summoner.

With Beatrice on one side and the instructor in a dark robe on the other, the test was going to start. Instructor Isilin was a lanky looking man with glasses and a magic book in his left hand. He waved his right hand on which he had a summoning circle that began to glow. A myriad of magical circles started appearing before the spirit summoning started.

Soon the creature that Zhang Dong would need to face would appear. By the size of the magical circle it appeared that this creature would be quite large. The people moved closer, none of them believed that someone like Beatrice would be able to summon something that could stand against a five star ranked summoner. But soon they would be astonished by the being called the Lightning Emperor Leigong!

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More and more people poured into the training arena where the summoner test was taking place. Word had spread that a new top student had appeared that belonged to a lower noble house. This caused all of the black-uniformed students to be interested in seeing one of their own move up in social status. Also, the white uniforms were interesting in the new upstart.

Everyone murmured while they saw her walking out even more after they all realized that both the Vice Principal and the Principal were watching this test. This caused quite the uproar while also filling up the whole place with people. All eyes were on Beatrice, the young girl wasn't taking the attention too well as she dropped her head so that others wouldn't see her face.

'This test is between summoned spirits, so just leave everything to me.'

There was more than summoning a battle spirit to a fight between Summoners. Each of these mages could also support their creature with attacking and buffing spells. They could lend more mana to the spirit that could then perform some specialized attacks. Also with time as a summoner's mana capacity grew they could support more spirits.

Beatrice was facing a five-star summoner, this was someone at a quite advanced level. She on the other hand would be considered a one-star summoner after passing this test. So someone that wasn't even a proper summoner was facing off against a master. Most instructors in this school were at the three-star level. Thus this was quite the event, it was obvious for the people in the stands that there had to be something special about this Beatrice Hohenberg.

'Why is instructor Isilin here...'

Beatrice asked while her eyes went wide. She only now realized that the Principal and some high profile people from the academy were all here. Zhang Dong on the other hand knew that he was the reason that they were here. He had left a little shocking present in that Vice Principal's soul that would be impossible to remove for anyone below the nascent soul level.

When that person invaded his realm he was able to exert the maximum of his cultivation realm on him. He expected the old fart to go to one of the powerful mages to remove this mark that he placed. He also was sure to make it jolt people with some lightning if it was prodded too much. It looked quite

dangerous but the man wasn't really in any danger of his soul being damaged. Zhang Dong just wasn't that type of person but the people here didn't know that. So this allowed him to play as an eccentric spirit.

'They must be aware of my existence, probably just want to test the extent of my power.'

He replied while Beatrice bowed before the instructor. Zhang Dong was a bit worried about his summoner's mana reserves but she should have enough for him to show himself and defeat a higher caliber of summon.

If he actually failed to defeat his opponent then Beatrice's life could be in danger. Those people that were from the main house could get some stupid ideas. Which was also why he needed to make them at least think that he was more than even their strongest mage could handle.

"Begin."

It was time to start, the Principal gave the okay for the bout to start and everyone looked into the ring. Instructor Isilin started to perform his summoning spell by reaching out with his hand forward. A large round magical circle appeared in front of him and after a moment a creature started rising from within it.

Beatrice noticed that this already looked a bit different from what she did when summoning her spirit. When she performed the summoning her hand only flashed slightly and then Leigong's body parts appeared at a random location. There was no magic circle or anything he just popped out of nowhere instead.

Before she could think about it more, her gaze was drawn to the spirit that was emerging from the large magical circle. The first thing that she noticed was its face, it looked similar to what a toad or frog would look like. The toad-like mouth wasn't without teeth, there were omnivore-like chompers stacked nicely together.

This creature was quite large, many times larger than a human. The body was prolonged and there were more than two sets of legs. It had three legs on each side, the feet had large claws that dug into the hard ground beneath. If Zhang Dong had to chime in, he would tell her that this creature looked like a cross between an alligator and a frog with a bonus set of legs to probably keep that large body moving.

"It's Instructor Isilin's Land Dragon! Didn't think we'd get to see such a powerful summon spirit!"

"Isn't that spirit a king class summon? Why would they use it on someone that isn't even a one-star summoner?"

People started chatting with each other while the large monster emerged. Its tail started wiggling about and smacking the ground that caused some tremors to go through this arena.

"Student Beatrice, please summon your spirit."

It was finally time for the young girl to perform her summoning but with so many people watching her the only thing that she wanted to do was to run away. People started whispering some more after seeing her hesitate, some even started to laugh.

"Are you sure that girl can summon a spirit?"

“Maybe it’s a tiny slime and she is ashamed to bring it out?”

The mocking voices filled the arena building while Beatrice started shrinking back, the only thing that brought her back into reality was the voice of her contracted spirit.

‘Beatrice, ignore those kids, they don’t know you. Just perform your summoning like you practiced and leave everything to me!’

The confident voice of Leigong made her finally snap back to reality. She soon moved her hand forward while concentrating. The mark on her hand started to glow in golden color while everyone quieted down.

People that were the most interested in the girl’s spirit were the Principal and the instructors. They all could already see that something was off, this spirit was unique. They could feel the mana energy around that summoning mark and it had a somewhat different quality than what a regular spirit should have.

This summoning was a bit different as Beatrice saw a golden ball of light appearing in front of her instead of the usual foot or hand. The audience started at the ball of light while narrowing their eyes while calling out loudly.

“Is that a Will-o’-Wisp? ...isn’t that at the same level as a slime?”

Before they could laugh out through something different happened, the ball of light exploded causing a massive burst of bright light to blind everyone in the vicinity. There was also a loud explosion-like sound akin to a thunderbolt connecting with a tree. Everyone covered their eyes and ears that were in a world of hurt.

“W-what happened...wait who is that there...”

The people started shouting in pain at first but after recovering everyone started pointing down to the arena. There before Beatrice stood a man. He was quite handsome with a chiseled jaw, rippling pecs, and shoulder long snow-white hair.

“W-why is he like that?”

“Cover your eyes!”

There he was, Zhang Dong in all of his glory and in a white loincloth. The people that were facking his backside could behold those stunning rear cheeks that were only partially hidden by a thin white material.

‘Mr. Leigong... where are your clothes...’

Beatrice blushed as she was the closest person to Zhang Dong. The only thing hiding that package was a tightly placed loincloth but the spirit that was summoned didn’t seem to mind, it was as if this was all going according to plan.

‘Well my little Beatrice, let me explain. You see, my godly clothes are made from very rare materials. When you summon me with them you use up too much mana, so if I want to appear fully I have to show up like this. But don’t worry, I don’t mind.’

Zhang Dong's gear was all above the heavenly grade. When he tried to materialize in this world mana would be used up for those clothes to manifest. Thus the easiest way was to remove this problem and just use the smallest amount of fabric possible. He was mostly bare like this but with his enhanced body he didn't really need armor.

This of course caused the young ladies in the audience to squeal. He was quite the handsome man and looked to be in his early twenties and in the prime of his life. The other people here could not contend with all this manliness before them.

"How did that girl summon such a vulgar looking spirit..."

"Yes... look at that jawline and all those muscles..."

"And look at that indecent appendage down there... it's grotesquely large!"

"Do you think I could form a contract with a similar spirit? Is it some kind of new summon creature?"

The men in the arena started looking at the women that were talking loudly. At first, it looked like they were angered by this human-looking spirit's appearance but when continuing their true intentions shine through.

"Is that the spirit that put the mark on you?"

The dark elven woman asked the Vice Principal that was staring with eyes bulging at the half-naked man down in the arena.

"What? Ah yes, that was him... but he was wearing clothes... why is he almost naked?"

"I see... Instructor Isilin, please continue with the test!"

The Principal called out from the stands to the man performing the test. He was also stunned by the humanoid spirit that was before him as they were a rare breed. With a wave of his hand, he gave an order to his Land Dragon. The creature gave out a loud howl before charging towards this peculiar looking summon.

Zhang Dong squatted down while not really paying attention to the charging monster. He scooped up some sand from the ground and let it fall through his fingertips.

"Finally, I can interact with this world normally..."

After removing most of his clothes he was finally able to bring his entire body into this world. If he didn't use up too much of his spiritual energy he would be even able to walk around without Beatrice's mana running out too fast.

'Great Spirit... t-the Land Dragon...'

Beatrice sent him a massage while he was spacing out. He looked forward and could see a huge alligator-frog bolting toward his position. The monster's head was larger than his whole body, it could swallow him whole if it wanted to.

"Don't need to worry, it's but a tiny amphibian reptile."

He replied while slamming his arms into the ground before him. Zhang Dong remained in place with both his hands stuck in the dirt. Before the creature could get into biting distance he made his move.

Zhang Dong stood up while pulling the ground in front of him upwards. It looked as if he was flipping a table but instead of a table, it was a big chunk of the arena that the creature was standing on.

The people in the audience went slack-jawed as they saw the smaller humanoid spirit flip half of the arena with the Land Dragon standing on that part. The creature was tossed back with the huge chunk of ground and rock falling on top of it, burying it in the process.

“See? Nothing to worry about!”

Zhang Dong laughed out loud while looking back at Beatrice that also had a strange expression of astonishment on her face.

“I... I see...”

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After a moment of silence, the audience in the arena started to shout out. They just witnessed a half-naked man lifting up half of the arena’s ground and flipping it with the large dragon on it. It just looked like he dug his hands into the ground and pulled out a large part of the ground from underneath.

The Summoned Land Dragon roared loudly before all the noises stopped. Now everyone was looking at a big pile of rubble and with only the half-naked man before it. His long white hair was waving around from the wind pressure and he looked quite happy for some reason.

‘See Beatrice, what did I say? No problem!’

Zhang Dong looked at the rubble before him that he just flipped on his opponent. After being able to come out he started performing some tests. For one thing, he was quite a lot weaker than he would like to be.

At this moment he wasn’t even able to reach the core formation level if he wanted to remain in his full-bodied form. The monster that he was fighting was about at the strength level of a late stage foundation establishment beast.

He himself was a bit stronger while only utilizing his body refining technique instead of his Qi cultivation. There was enough mana for him to use from Beatrice to maybe perform one stronger Qi attack but that would probably tire his summoner out. He was already minimizing the strain on her by not wearing most of his clothes. The usual boxers he used were also replaced by a loincloth to lower the expenditure even further.

Before he could raise his fist high in victory he heard something. There was a rumble in all that rubble that he created. This made him also notice the instructor that Beatrice was up against. He could see the man injecting mana down where his opponent would be. In a few moments, he knew why as the Land Dragon showed his frog-like face to him.

‘The books did say that summoners have that utility as well.’

Zhang Dong had gone through the library books so he had more than the basic knowledge about magic and this world. What this summoner was doing was healing his creature with the help of his mana.

From what he could tell, summoners could be divided into a few categories. This man here was from one that specialized in high mana capacity. They mostly just used their summoned spirits for fighting while hanging back in the background. With more mana, the spirits could perform more spells or have a boost to their strength.

There was also a category that didn't rely on summoned spirits to fight for them. They just used their elemental affinities to produce their own spells and fight closer to what a normal mage would. Those types had some subcategories depending on their way of fighting. Some did it from close range while others from far away.

The students went quiet as they felt the whole place rumble. In a matter of seconds, the creature that looked like a mix between a frog and an alligator started crawling out from beneath that rubble.

"Hah, I guess it's time for round two! This Lightning Emperor Leigong will put you in your place!"

Zhang Dong shouted out, his words were clearly heard by the people around this large room. This brought everyone's attention to him instead of the Land Dragon that was crawling out from within the pile of rocks and dirt. He kind of knew why they were surprised as he wasn't acting like a normal summon.

Normal summoned spirits like him wouldn't be able to converse with other people than their summoners. He had a connection with Beatrice through her soul so learning the language was easy. The books that he absorbed through the days helped to fill in some holes and now he was more than able to speak in this world's language.

"Leigong? Was there someone like that?"

"Lightning Emperor? Did such a spirit exist? Is it some kind of new spirit?"

"That spirit hasn't used any lightning magic, is he really a lightning type? Why can it speak our tongue? "

The teachers that were gathered besides the Principal started talking with each other. Zhang Dong had thrown out his name on purpose. His intent was to make a big impression and he needed to have a grand name to go with it. Calling himself an Emperor was also on purpose.

He knew how the spirits were rated in this world and a spirit Emperor was a legendary type. His intention was to make himself look stronger than he actually was. With the label of a legendary spirit, Beatrice's life would be better protected. At least till he got enough time to get her to a high enough level where she could let him access his nascent soul level powers.

The lanky instructor named Isilin looked at the strange half-naked man before him. After hearing him speak out he became even more interested. This spirit that was being used by a young girl with zero fighting experience managed to deliver a devastating blow to his own summon.

This instructor was an experienced summoner though. He knew that defeating a single summoned creature from someone like him wouldn't bring victory. There was much more mana that he could spend to resurrect his creature along with summoning others to aid it in battle.

Before he did that he looked back to the Principal that ordered him to do this unique test. In his mind this test was already over, there was no reason to continue the newbie summoner had already proved herself. This test was just here to measure the spirits might and this one seemed to be enough to contend with the best spirit that he could offer. But, it looked like the Principal had other plans.

“Continue Instructor Isilin.”

This man wasn't very outspoken so he just nodded while looking back into the ring. His opponent that was wearing the silky white loincloth didn't seem all that afraid. He was just standing there with his hands crossed over one another, his chest puffed out as if he owned the place.

The second round was going to start, with the ground already destroyed Zhang Dong would have to take another approach. The dragon roared out like a maddened beast while opening his mouth wide.

He noticed that a lot of magical energy started flowing towards that opened mouth. It appeared that this monster wasn't called a dragon just for show. Even though it looked like a mix between a lizard and a frog it apparently also possessed the fabled dragon breath attack.

Normally an opponent would run away and try to hide, other times they would produce some kind of defensive magic to block. On the other hand, the one that called himself the Lightning Emperor remained in place without moving. Even Beatrice that was standing behind him looked worried but her spirit didn't seem that he was thinking about dodging.

The large mouth opened up wide and a torrent of energy escaped. It was a burst of orange flame that submerged Beatrice's spirit in fire. Beatrice was a bit to the side but she had to jump back a bit to not get affected by the residual heat. Even while being at a distance she had to look away while covering her face as the hot air was pushed towards her location.

“It's the fabled Dragon fire breath, is that person alright?”

“That wasn't a person, it was a spirit! But it probably had to retreat back to the spirit realm, there is no way it survived something like that!”

The young students started chiming in from the side. All of the people that were interested in Beatrice's progress were here. Both the prince and Isabella were together, the blond lady was looking between the arena and the prince. Her eyebrows were twitching around as she noticed that Ludwig was focusing his attention not on the battlefield but on Beatrice instead.

Soon the whole arena was filled with a cloud of smoke. The dragon continued to spit out fire which caused the ground underneath to melt with some polishing it could certainly look like a mirror. With the breath attack now halted the creature stood with head raised as if proud after defeating an enemy that shamed it.

Before it could relax though it noticed something odd. Someone was chuckling and that someone was the man that called himself Leigong. His form appeared out of the smoke as he took off in a sprint. When his foot made contact with that molten ground that turned into glass, it shattered in a fraction of a second.

The people here had trouble following Zhang Dong's speed but some of the more experienced masters could see it all. He just zoomed toward the large Land Dragon summon and delivered a swift kick to its

chin. Normally no human would even try that, even though this creature looked peculiar it was still a dragon.

It had rock hard scales that covered its entire body. It could repel swords, arrows, and even regular spells without flinching at all. But what they saw here defied logic, the kick went right through these scales and shattered them into small pieces. The huge dragon was propelled upwards by the force of this kick, its front legs clearly shot up as it started to perform a backward flip.

It performed a reverse somersault while causing its summoner to panic. This creature was huge and it was close to falling on him. Isilin was quick to jump back with the assistance of some lesser wind spirits that carried him into safety.

Everyone was baffled by how easy it was for this man to kick the huge dragon back. The teachers and the Principal started wondering what this heroic spirit's body was made of to perform such a feat. The dark elven lady, in particular, noticed a strange golden sheen that appeared on the man's foot right before the kick connected.

This wasn't quite over yet, after the Land Dragon was on its back Zhang Dong jumped up into the air. It was time to deliver the final blow and he had to make it count. He knew that he would need to borrow most of Beatrice's mana for this but it had to be done. Only if the people saw his true might would they begin to take him seriously.

A rumbling sound of thunder was heard as he rose into the air. Everyone watched with astonishment as the half-naked man turned into golden energy. Lightning and holy energies started gathering into one place before a massive flash of light blinded the audience members.

They opened their eyes to another strange scene, instead of the white-haired man there now was a dragon. It was a disembodied head of a massive beast with scales and horns. Even though it was only the head of Zhang Dong's soul beast it was many times larger than the Land Dragon below.

This golden dragon opened up his mouth and the people that were keeping watch of this fight started sweating. The Principal quickly rose from her seat while letting her magic power fly towards the arena.

"Quick, reinforce the barrier!"

Every able-bodied wizard in the vicinity lent a hand in reinforcing the protective barrier that kept the audience members safe. Soon a golden beam of plasma descended from the dragon head's mouth. It connected with the flipped over Land Dragon and caused another massive flash of light.

Everything turned white and the whole place began to shake. The loud noise of crackling thunder and lightning was the only thing that anyone could hear. This last attack signaled the end of this bout, the only thing left after was a massive deep hole in the ground, anything that was in it had vanished into the ether while leaving everyone here with a shocked expression. No one would be able to forget what they witnessed today and the name Leigong would be etched into their hearts for times to come.

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Beatrice covered her eyes along with all the other people as Zhang Dong was performing his attack. She felt rather small and weak the moment the giant dragon head popped out into the outside world. She recognized this as the golden dragon that she saw in her spirit's soul dimension.

It was unknown to her what this dragon was as it behaved like a dog. The dragon didn't really behave as the legendary beings that she read about in the books. These giant scaly lizards were supposed to be very prideful, wise, and domineering. This one on the other hand always acted like a big puppy whenever she was over for a training session.

This time around it was clear that this puppy had some sharp chompers. The moment it opened its mouth a giant torrent of golden light connected with the ground below. A massive explosion followed suit but for some reason, she didn't really feel the impact. A barrier of golden light surrounded her and gave her protection.

The moment the attack landed on its target Beatrice felt weakness taking over her. She could feel most of her mana leaving her along with another migraine coming alone. At this point in time, she was a bit used to this feeling of mana deprivation but she still had to focus, otherwise, she would surely pass out.

After the flash of light subsided everyone could finally see the aftermath. There was no Land Dragon in sight, instead there was a giant hole that filled out two-thirds of this training arena. The instructor named Isilin was passed out in the corner with part of his robe missing due to the blast. He was alive but just out cold.

The people outside the blast radius were protected by the magical barriers that barely survived this attack. This was mostly the case due to the dragon head aiming a concentrated breath attack straight down. The beam of light left a huge pit behind that stretched for an unknown number of meters, the bottom nowhere in sight.

"H-how is this possible?"

"W-was that a d-dragon? A g-golden dragon?"

"Why was it only a head? Why was it so big?"

The students and adults that were gathered here started reacting to what they saw. Zhang Dong used the rest of his energy to summon his soul beast to deliver its breath attack to finish the job. It was all done to be flashy, he knew that dragons were legendary beings in this world. They could also apparently change their appearance to humans, thus now everyone would think that the girl had made a contract with such a being.

'Beatrice are you all right? I'm sorry I had to use more mana than I previously anticipated. Maybe next time I'll put on a smaller loincloth.'

'W-what? Please don't do that Mr. Leigong...'

Beatrice held her forehead for a moment while taking in a deep breath. She could now see everyone looking in her direction. It was clear that everyone here had shocked expressions. From this point on it would probably be hard for her to be seen as one of the regular students.

'Don't worry, he is alive, I was sure not to hit him and just his summoned spirit.'

Zhang Dong said as Beatrice was looking at the passed out instructor. He was thrown to the side and his underwear was visible to anyone that was there. The man was wearing something similar to regular boxers but the coloring was a bit off with all the pink hearts there.

'Should we head back, or do we need for the instructor to wake up?'

Zhang Dong asked as he wasn't sure. From what he knew the teacher needed to announce the end of the testing battle. They would then give the young summoner a grade. Regretfully the man that was supposed to do that was out cold.

'I think we need to wait...'

'How about we asked that old guy?'

'Old guy?'

'Yeah, that Vice-Principal, I bet he could just give you the grade.'

'T-the Vice-Principal?'

Beatrice responded in fright as asking someone like a Vice-Principal was something a student in her position couldn't just do. She didn't know that the old man had met Zhang Dong and was now bound to him.

'Think they were sitting up in that booth, he should be right next to that dark-skinned elf lady.'

Beatrice looked up to where the Principal was sitting, both she and the old man were there. They were all looking at her as if she was some kind of rare animal. It was clear that Zhang Dong's little performance left quite the impact.

Still, she wasn't someone in a position to speak out, the Principal was also a noble and the strongest mage in the whole academy. Her noble rank might not have been of a Duchess but strength-wise she wasn't far behind.

'See they are looking at you, just wave them over but if you want I could talk to them.'

Zhang Dong called out while Beatrice started panicking. Coming into this she was already worried about what might have happened. Now she was looking at one of the most influential figures in the whole empire. She wasn't sure what her summoned spirit was planning but at this point, she felt like he might make things worse. 'I don't think I have enough mana for that...'

Beatrice replied while trying to talk Zhang Dong out of it.

'You don't need to worry about that, I can take on a less strenuous form, you won't even feel a thing.'

'Ah...t-that's reassuring Mr. Leigong...'

She slumped her shoulders forward after he replied.

"Silence!"

A loud booming voice filled the whole arena and everyone went quiet. It was clearly backed by some magic as it traveled through the whole place.

"Student Beatrice, report to my office immediately!"

The one shouting was the dark elven girl which was also the Principal. Beatrice wasn't in a position to refuse. Even though she just wanted to go back to her dorm room and lay down, she needed to follow the order.

"Y-yes Principal..."

She replied while nodding as she wasn't sure if the Principal heard her.

"Please clear this training arena out and someone get instructor Isilin to the priest. The other tests will be moved to another location!"

The

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continued as the Principal started shouting out orders for the other teachers. The test wasn't over for the other students but Beatrice was now obliged to follow the order.

After the

Announcement

, the students started leaving this place. Beatrice returned to the room she was previously waiting in. The students that were there were now looking at her with even more astonishment. It was clear that they were acting sheepish, clearly, her show of might was making them more submissive.

"Beatrice Hohenberg of Dawn Lake?"

"Yes?"

A man with a large white beard and of older age was waiting outside. Beatrice knew him as he sometimes made some long-winded speeches. He went by the name Elobarin and was one of the Vice-Principals from this academy. If they went by noble ranks this man would be akin to a Count.

'Don't worry, he is on our side, you can go with him. Tell him that the Lightning Emperor sends his regards.'

'W-why?'

'Don't worry, just do it.'

Elobarin looked at Beatrice that came out of the room. She bowed her head before him as a proper lady which caused him to wonder how someone like her was able to possess a special spirit.

"I'll escort you to the Principal's office, follow me."

"Ah yes Sir, also... uh..."

"What is it, young lady?"

Elobarin asked while the two were slowly moving away from the other students.

"Um,... The Lightning Emperor sends his regards?"

She said in a weak voice while trying not to offend the old man. She was having trouble with so many powerful people and beings around her. She didn't want to offend the Vice Principal but her summoned spirit was scarier. After the training fight she had with the instructor, this fact was cemented in her mind. Even she knew that what Zhang Dong did there was unprecedented.

The moment she uttered the words she could see the old man's face contorting in a weird way. He looked like he had seen a ghost, the old man almost tripped and fell as well.

"H-he does? D-did he say anything else?"

"Um... please wait a moment..."

The two started walking slowly towards the Principal's office. It looked as if Beatrice was looking up into the air but in reality, she was talking with her summoned spirit.

"Ah... he said that when we arrive at the Principal's office he will talk with you both..."

Beatrice and Elobarin both didn't like this reply. None of them knew what Zhang Dong was thinking and what his true goal here was.

"Is that so... let us continue."

"Yes, I'll be in your care..."

Both of them started laughing nervously while moving on. The people continued to whisper each time they saw the cute blond summoner, it was clear that her infamy was slowly starting to spread through the whole academy.

"The Principal is waiting for you."

A lady was sitting by the desk. She had glasses on and looked very professional. They were finally at the Principal's office after walking mostly in silence. The Vice Principal knocked on the closed door before going inside.

Beatrice and Zhang Dong could see more than one person inside. Besides the dark elf that was sitting behind the desk, there was a woman in a maid uniform. Beatrice looked out of the corner of her eyes at this person but then turned back to the dark-skinned lady. Zhang Dong on the other hand focused on this person's ears which were quite large.

'Is that a cat girl?'

He thought to himself while examining the whole place further. He could also feel that some of his own spiritual energy was still floating around in this room. It was clear that the little safety measure that he attached to the Vice Principal's mark had gone off here. Some books were still on the ground and the made was in the process of cleaning up.

"Welcome Student Beatrice."

The elf lady called out in quite the seductive voice while looking at Beatrice. Zhang Dong took note that this woman was quite seductive looking but not quite on the level as his own wife in the curves

department. Beatrice performed a proper curtsy before the woman of status while the Vice Principal remained in the back.

"You wished to speak to me, Principal?"

"Yes, you probably know why."

"It's about the honorable Lightning Emperor Leigong... he also wanted to talk with you..."

Before the elf could reply or agree to Leigong's arrival something happened. The mark on Beatrice's right hand started glowing. The two mages in the room backed away while putting up some magic defenses at this sudden surge of magic.

"No need to worry, This Leigong won't hurt anyone, unless they wish to do injustice against my contractor!"

A small golden orb of light appeared before Beatrice, the strange thing about this was that this summoned spirit was showing itself without its summoner's chant.

"Is that..."

"Yes, I am the great Lightning Emperor Leigong!" Zhang Dong pronounced his name with a thunderclap going off in the distance. Everyone in this room looked at the form that he took on. He wasn't full-sized or naked, nor was he a body part either. Instead, he looked like a tiny cute action figure of his original self in a white robe, standing at a very imposing ten inches of height.

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A chibi version of Zhang Dong with a somewhat bobble head was floating around the room. This form used up almost no mana as it was small and without much density. The design he went with was one that would make him seem cuter. His face looked quite cartoonish with enlarged eyes but still had some of his old face structure.

The people in the room looked at this 'Lightning Emperor' with mixed expressions. Most of them were baffled by the strange look that was inspired by animated movies from his old world. He wasn't sure if this was the right choice for the occasion but at least he was garnering some attention.

"Honorable Lightning Emperor Leigong?"

After a moment of silence, the dark elf Principal decided to speak up first. Her words were preceded by a cough that caused the Vice Principal to also straighten up.

"I see that your associate has mentioned our encounter."

Zhang Dong looked at the old man that was standing to the side. The moment he did he could see the Vice Principal's face twitching a bit.

"Yes, he did inform me about it. I would like to apologize on his behalf."

The dark elf looked to the side, where the old man was standing. She started wiggling her eyebrows a bit to make him aware of something. This made the Vice Principal move forward and perform a small bow before Zhang Dong and Beatrice that was behind him.

The young girl started flailing her hands awkwardly as she didn't know how to react to something like this. This was quite the normal response by someone on the lower end of the social ladder like a Baron's daughter. The person in front of her was akin to a Count and far above her status. Her summoned spirit on the other hand held his nose up high while nodding.

"I'm glad that you understand, I will let this transgression slide but only this once!"

Zhang Dong replied while slowly floating toward the old man. He had scared the old man into submission and he could clearly see the fear in his eyes. Even though he looked like a cute anime character now the man probably saw him as some kind of ferocious creature. He had given him the stick but now it was time for the carrot.

The people in the room could see Beatrice's spirit moving and reaching out towards the old man's chest with his tiny hand. Before they could ask what he was doing a strange magical pattern was felt by the two strong magicians.

"T-this... how unique... What kind of magical energy is this?"

The Principal called out from the side with awe. She could feel a small amount of energy moving from that small hand. There wasn't much power in what this tiny spirit was doing but the mana was different. Soon the purpose of this magical spell was clear as the Vice Principal let out a sigh of relief, the mark that was on him had been dispelled.

"T-thank you, great spirit!"

"I'm glad you understand my magnanimity!"

Zhang Dong laughed out loud while swishing his long sleeves around. He had made a more wavy robe variant with this form which made him look more like a traditional cultivator.

"Vice Principal Elobarin, is the mark gone?"

"Yes, Principal."

Both of the mages in this room looked at the small floating cultivator. It looked like a big weight was removed from their shoulders. They were probably glad that this strange Spirit Emperor could be reasoned with.

"This was the reason that you called us here right? Or was there something else?"

Zhang Dong asked while floating to the side. There were a lot of books in this room so he started giving them little pokes. While being here gathering more information was paramount.

He also wanted to make these two mages work for him, they were on the top of the totem pole here. They would be able to speed things up, he wouldn't need to go through the usual child games that would be happening in the classrooms if he did it the normal way.

"Yes, if the honorable spirit is willing to talk with us, we would like to give him some questions..."

Zhang Dong could see that there was a little glint in the dark elf's eyes. It appeared since he removed that soul binding technique from the man named Elobarin. It was clear that his unique cultivator Qi was different from mana.

After reading up on some of the spells he figured out a way to make it work in this world as well. The conversion rate wasn't as good as in his old world but there was a way to transform mana into Qi.

With this cultivation would also be possible here but it would take a lot more time. The people cultivating would also find it harder to recharge their energies after performing their Qi dependant techniques. The whole process was akin to emulation and a lot of energy was lost during it. That's why he was trying to come up with new ways of using his own Qi here, without the need of emulation. Learning magical spells wouldn't be that easy though so he needed a lot of research material.

"A few questions?"

Zhang Dong started rubbing his chin that was part of his new bobblehead. The two mages started looking to each other with some concern in their eyes.

"I guess I could answer a few questions, are they about those demons that you spoke about?"

Zhang Dong looked to Elobarin. The old man had previously mentioned that there were some shape-shifting demons running around this school here. Maybe if he took care of that problem he would have something to leverage for.

He didn't want to waste too much time but Beatrice wasn't strong enough. That attack that he performed with the help of his soul beast didn't even reach up to the nascent soul level. It was the most he could do at this point in time. From what he could tell this Principal lady was at about the middle or late stage of core formation.

She was apparently the strongest mage in the whole academy while also making her one of the strongest mages in the entire world. How strong was the strongest he didn't know but it looked like these people haven't yet taken a step into the nascent soul level of power. Which was good for him as if he recovered all of his strength he could easily flatten anyone here.

"Yes, amongst other things..."

Zhang Dong nodded, he could tell that the woman wanted to ask him about other things more. That look she had was something he was familiar with, it was very similar to what his junior sect members did. They were always trying to get pointers from him who was the most powerful cultivator in the whole sect. She was looking at him like a pupil that was eager to learn.

'I should throw her a bone but put some restrictions on it...'

He knew that he needed something to trade with. There was not much that he could offer for the information and resources that this academy had. The thing that he wanted to ask for were the cubes. Mages here would probably know some locations where these items could be located. If this world was like his previous ones the cubes had to be in places that previous 'players' like him were summoned to. For now, he decided to push the conversation towards the demons as this looked like a problem that could be tackled.

“Yes, I am sure that the great spirit is aware of the age-long battle between the demons and the coalition of races.”

“Mhm.”

Zhang Dong nodded as he went through some of the history books that this place had to offer. The setting looked to be very similar to games or other books that he had read before. It was quite generic, this ‘Coalition of Races’ was composed of various fantasy-like races, elves, humans, dwarves, and some others but those were the big three main ones with the most pull.

These humanoid races were in an aged long battle against the demon race. These demons came in various shapes and sizes but mostly had one thing in common, their red skin, horns, and a third eye right in the middle of their forehead. There were also existences known as the ‘Demon Lords’ along with a ‘Demon King’ that ruled over all of them.

From what the books said this ‘Demon King’ lived in some kind of secluded castle surrounded by rivers of lava. He didn’t leave this castle and only the demon lords were sent out as his generals. There was a certain reason for that.

This Demon King was supposedly the strongest being on this planet. The only reason that he wasn’t able to destroy the other races was a massive barrier that was surrounding a continent where all of the races gathered.

There wasn’t much explained on how it worked, but supposedly it kept the strongest demons out but weaker ones could somehow squeeze through openings in the net. Some of those demons that made it through could get to the level of the strongest people living on this side.

The gist of it was, that the weaker demons were slowly infiltrating these lands and trying to weaken the barrier. Sometimes they succeeded which allowed one of the demon lords to hop to this side. Thus the war continued to this day, the races were holding on for now but they were slowly losing land while the demons closed in.

“Before that, shouldn’t we do something about that?”

Zhang Dong said while pointing at the cat-girl maid that was listening to the conversation while cleaning.

“Don’t mind Gertrude great spirit, she is someone that has worked at this academy for years and we can trust her.”

The maid perked up at the conversation, she was putting some books back on the shelves. She turned around to give the whole room a warm smile that could melt icebergs.

“Is that so? Can you remind me again, the demons mostly have red skin, horns, and a third eye, right?”

“Yes great spirit...”

The principal replied while not being sure where this summoned spirit was going with this.

“That person has a third eye.”

Zhang Dong pointed towards the girl in the maid uniform while staring. He was someone that had a disguising technique that would even fool nascent soul masters. The demons were using something similar so these people that were below the nascent soul level were unable to detect anything. He on the other hand could see behind this disguise, the girl was clearly a transformed being.

“W-what? Are you certain, great spirit?”

“Can’t you check with that technique of yours?”

The cat lady started backing off while looking at the Principal and Vice-Principal. Both of these mages were looking at her in a strange way.

“W-what? Did I do something wrong?”

The principal looked to the great spirit with confusion in her eyes. The maid here was someone that she knew for a long time. She had worked here for many years and her loyalty had been proven but before she could act the spirit moved in first.

“Well, I can do it for you.. shouldn’t be too hard...”

The Principal looked at the small spirit performing some strange hand gestures while pointing at the cat girl. The girl started to panic but it was too late. The strange spell was cast and the girl’s form started to shift.

All of her hair started to fall off along with the cat tail that turned into some black sludge. What remained was a bald lanky humanoid that wasn’t even female in figure. Its face wasn’t pretty to look at and it had both the horns and third eye that any demonic being possessed.

The demon gave out a loud shriek that caused the windows to shatter. It then jumped out through it while the Principal and Vice-Principal were stunned by the reveal.

“You’ll have to catch it yourself though, I think you should hurry up before it calls more friends over or escapes”

Zhang Dong chuckled while floating around, the old man quickly jumped through the window to give chase while the others were left to discuss more in the Principal’s office.

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Zhang Dong watched the monster jump out of the window and the Gandalf look-alike Vice-Principal chasing after it. He was lucky that he noticed the cat girl’s transformation technique, this he achieved after he started poking some of the old-looking books.

As always he was looking for information but he witnessed the third eye flickering into existence after he got closer. His power was diminished so he couldn’t spread his senses into the surroundings to scan people. In this form, he was limited to a couple of meters, maybe more if he had Beatrice lend him some mana. Now after dispelling the disguise he had left the poor girl with another headache.

“Would you be so kind as to give Beatrice a mana potion?”

He asked the dark elf lady who was holding some kind of crystal orb. She was already sending out some orders to other teachers and academy enforcers to catch the shape-shifting monster.

“Ahh... of course...”

The interruption didn't go unnoticed and the mana potion was delivered. Zhang Dong in his smaller form pointed to a nice leather couch to the side while speaking to Beatrice.

“Beatrice, how about you rest there and I'll discuss a few things with the Principal.”

The blond girl just nodded while drinking the bitter mana potion. It was clear that she was reaching her limit after the stressful day filled with tests and trials. For now, she could take a nap while he maintained his form with minimal mana use.

The Principal looked to the blond lady that followed the spirit's instructions. It was strange to see a summoner listening to their spirit and not the other way around. It was also strange to see this spirit maintaining his form without the need for the summoner to concentrate much.

From where she was looking the girl named Beatrice was quite tired, a normal summoner would need to concentrate at least a bit for the spirit to remain in the material realm. Otherwise, they would be forced back into the spirit realm. This worked by the summoner feeding the mana into the spirit themselves.

Summoned spirits couldn't absorb mana out of the world themselves. They needed the help of their contractor to filter the energy for them and then inject it back for them to work. This spirit here was somehow able to either minimize the effect or go around it in some way. The way it changed its forms to suit the mana usage was also something unique, normally a summoner couldn't just summon a part of a spirit. It was either all in or nothing.

“While your subordinate chases after that three-eyed goblin we can discuss our new business venture.”

“Business venture?”

The dark elf replied while the small white haired Zhang Dong floated on top of her white desk. The two were now looking at each other. The woman had called Beatrice over here to get some answers and have the Vice-Principals mark be removed. Now after that was resolved she was left with many more questions, the biggest one being who this spirit was and how was it so intelligent. It didn't even feel like a spirit but more like a human.

“Yes, I already showed you some of my capabilities.”

Zhang Dong said while leaning back, his form was smaller so he could sustain his flight with minimal mana usage.

“Now I would ask you for something in return...”

“Something in return?”

The Principal narrowed her eyes as she had never heard about anything like this. Summoned spirits only came to this world to form contracts with the mages. Mana that was abundant in this world was the only thing they were interested in taking. The spirits didn't make any demands of other people after forming a contract, only when it was broken would they try to find a new summoner.

This one on the other hand was about to make some demands while offering his demon detection capabilities. The elf thought that this spirit was a lot more cunning, more like a person as it understood how to barter.

“Yes, please take a look at this.”

Zhang Dong replied while waving his finger. He produced a few cubes that looked like the ones that he was looking for. The ones that he had found didn’t always have the same shape and sometimes had strange runic symbols on them. He recreated all of those that he came across so the dark elf would have more to work with.

“I need you to help me find artifacts that look like this. They might not look like much but I’m willing to share some of my knowledge and services if you help me find them.”

The cubes that Zhang Dong produced were just holographic recreations of the originals. The Principal looked at them with interest as the runic patterns weren’t something that she was familiar with.

“This...”

“I know that it might be hard but any help would be appreciated, you would have this Leigongs eternal gratitude!”

“I don’t think that I have ever seen artifacts such as these honorable Lightning Emperor... I will have to consult the old scriptures...”

“That is fine, I would also wish to visit places where some old famous figures were first spotted... I think you also sometimes perform hero summoning rituals...”

Zhang Dong knew where these cubes could be hidden. They were probably buried deep underground where no one could spot them. It was normal for the elf to not know where they were.

The biggest problem now was his system that was severely underpowered. The map that he could use to help him scan everything was limited in range. If he was in his nascent soul realm he could just scan the whole planet in a matter of days. It wasn’t that large compared to the place where he lived.

Due to this, he would need to rely on the people here to take him to places where old heroes or sages were first spotted. Those were the most probable spots where one of these cubes could be hidden.

He also had an idea where one of the cubes could be, which would be on the Demon King continent. He had a sinking suspicion that he would find one in the Demon King’s castle or even inside of the monster itself. Similar to how it was inside of the Cthulhu that he faced.

Besides those spots, he also wanted to visit some of the dungeons that this world had to offer. Those were locations where adventurers set off to gain experience and increase their battle sense. Even though this place lacked a leveling system the people somehow increased in strength through battling many monsters.

After going through some books he believed that this place could have some kind of hidden leveling system that people didn’t have access to. Maybe only the people that were teleported here from other worlds would be made aware of that. Everyone sent here most likely had a similar system that he had to help them in their own adventure.

“Hero summoning? Famous figures?”

“Yes like sages of old... powerful kings, emperors, and maybe some heroes that lived long lives? I’m sure you’ll figure something out. In return, I could help you with that demon problem you are having...”

He had stated what he wanted and now it was time to offer something in return. His spiritual sense was several times weaker than normally so he couldn’t just scan the whole school. He would need to examine everyone up close and personal. This wasn’t his problem though as there were ways to go through everyone even with that limitation.

“T-that would be very helpful great spirit... Is this the only thing that you desire?”

“There are some other things, concerning Beatrice. I would like her to have access to the full library and maybe some pocket money for some items...”

Zhang Dong started listing some things that he wanted. Besides the books in the library, he wanted access to most places in the academy. This would probably be possible by having Beatrice achieving the white uniform status. Then he needed freedom to move through the teleportation gates without needing to pay, some money to get potions for Beatrice so she progressed faster. He also needed a pass for her so she would be allowed to travel through the lands unrestrained while not having to attend the tests and lessons.

“But that would cause problems with the other students; they might not accept a Baron’s daughter...”

“I’m sure you’ll figure something out, don’t you want to get rid of all the demons in your school? They could be replacing your people at this very moment, I don’t think you have the time to care about things like status...”

Zhang Dong shrugged while floating around. He knew that people like this adhered to the status quo. This wasn’t something that he was concerned with, the girl had already shown that she was above the rest during the tests. Her receiving a high reward after breaking old records was something only natural in his mind. If the other students complained he could just have them battle him and Beatrice. He didn’t think that he would lose to any of those youngsters in any shape and form. After defeating the instructor he was quite confident.

“Don’t you have some special exceptions for exceptional students? Where the heroes of old not exempt from the social quarrels and bureaucracy of this world?”

“W-well there is one position but I’m not sure if the noble houses will be too thrilled about something like that, I would need to consult with the other Vice Principals...”

“I’m sure that you will work something out!”

Zhang Dong replied while floating back towards Beatrice. The girl had fallen asleep during his talk with the Principal. The stress from the day had finally crept over till she just passed out.

“I will only aid you after you make the

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, not sooner. I'm sure that you realize that you shouldn't waste time as your student lives could be at stake here. I'll be awaiting your reply but for now, I bid you farewell!"

Zhang Dong's figure started to change into tiny golden bubbles of light that soon faded away into the ether. It was clear that he returned to his summoner while leaving the dark elven Principal in this room with a hard decision to make.

He found Beatrice sitting in a chair in his castle that he had made before. She had awoken in his soul realm automatically after falling asleep.

"Mr. Leigong... what did you discuss with the Principal..."

"Ah you don't need to worry about it, you should probably wake up and go to your dorm to rest, I'll send you on your way."

Zhang Dong snapped his finger which caused Beatrice to wake up on the Principal's couch. He then watched the blond be very apologetic before removing herself from the woman's office.

"Hope that Principal delivers, this could hasten up the process tremendously, hope I can find a cube on this continent but I'm not sure if that will be enough..."

From what he knew one cube would only give him like a 30% chance of returning home, if he got two then that number would double. To be sure he would need three but if there were even three of those around here remained to be seen.

"Well, I should relax. I'm sure they will accept my terms. I didn't ask for that much..."

He said to himself while snapping his fingers, his soul dimension shifted back to a tropical island location as it was far nicer to relax here than at a cold castle.

"Time to play the waiting game..."

Chapter 287

"The entrance ceremony is beginning soon, all new summoners please assemble at the auditorium. Please remember to sit on the arranged chairs."

A large bird that looked like a cross between a pelican and a parrot gilded above the academy while doing an

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. All the tests were now over and from the two hundreds of participants only about thirty made it into the prestige class.

This entrance ceremony was mostly there for these students. They would have their names and noble ranks announced to all the other students that didn't make it in. The ones wearing the black uniforms would have to take note of this as they would more or less be their subordinates in the future.

'I think we should hurry up, you are the girl of the hour Beatrice.'

At this moment a frantic Beatrice in a brand new white uniform was running towards this entrance ceremony. Due to the way the whole test debacle transpired the girl couldn't get much sleep.

The uniform that Beatrice was wearing looked strangely familiar to a regular school uniform. It was mostly white with a blouse, blazer, tie, a skirt, and white socks. The whole getup looked more modern and that it would fit into another setting entirely. This only made Zhang Dong attribute this to being another game or fantasy-like world that took inspiration from other works of fiction.

'They can't start without the 'star' student, now can they?'

Zhang Dong laughed while Beatrice groaned even more. A large shiny badge adorned her new uniform which signaled a certain rank. Each black-uniformed student that came across her stopped to take a double-take before dropping their head. It was clear that Beatrice had gained a special position by being first on the test.

He could almost feel the cold sweat that Beatrice was giving out the moment he mentioned her new rank. It was obvious that the girl was quite nervous about her new status. This was mostly his doing as he petitioned the Principal for more resources.

The only official way of doing such a thing was to give his summoner a special position in the school. This academy had some unique rankings for students that proved themselves to be exceptional. Thus Beatrice was given this position which made her soar above the rest, even above the high nobles and one of the members of royalty.

This was quite the big thing and also something that very rarely happened. Normally a person that was only a baron household would need generations to rise up in the ranks. Even then it was hard to get past the Count's noble rank.

But when a person with enough natural talent and strength appeared then it was slightly different. If the other high nobles weren't able to exert their status or power over such a person, the only way would be to have them join their ranks instead. Thus Beatrice was given a high position because Leigong the Lightning Emperor deemed it to be. "If it isn't the new star of our academy!"

'Ugh... it's that guy again... can't you just ditch him? I don't like that look in his eyes...'

Zhang Dong complained as after arriving at their destination they were greeted by a certain green-haired youth. It was this country's prince that went by the name of Ludwig. For some reason, he had been poking his head into their business after Beatrice had come out on top.

The youth was behaving strangely from Zhang Dong's perspective. He was supposed to be the top dog in this academy and even had the highest status around by being part of the royal family. After getting crushed by Beatrice's results he expected Ludwig to show some animosity but instead, he was showing interest in her.

"Ahh... G-good day your Highness!"

Beatrice panicked slightly and quickly performed the usual greeting that a noble lady would give to a prince. The grass haired prince just chuckled while waving his hands.

"You don't need to do that, you outrank me in this academy now, you are the star student and not me."

This was something that came as a perk. Inside the academy, there was a different pecking order that could be enhanced by a student's grades. Depending on how well they did they could even start ordering high nobles around even when being of lesser descent.

Even if this was allowed by the academy no one would really go through with it. The lower-ranked students were still trapped in the thing called the status quo which was mostly decided at birth. Breaking off from old habits wouldn't come easy.

"I wouldn't dare, your highness is still a prince."

Beatrice started wiggling around rather frantically which made Ludwig smile even more.

"Prince, we shouldn't bother Lady Hohenberg, she has to prepare for her speech."

Another attractive looking male stepped forward. This youth was a bit taller than the prince and had a more robust build, his hair was quite reddish-orange which somewhat reminded him of his old friend Huo Qiang. His name was Lucas and he was this prince's personal bodyguard and a knight. Even though he was a knight he was also part of an influential family that outranked Beatrice in every way.

'What's with those hair colors...'

Zhang Dong was a bit suspicious about what this world was. At first, he thought that every person was similar to this carrot and moss head but after further investigation, this wasn't true. Most people had regular black hair and quite the average looks. Some others like these two had the more unique appearances, it was as if they were important characters in a story that were made to stand out. It looked like the rest of the people in the world were nothing more than filler that were just there to make these people shine.

'This might really be one of those otome games that I've heard about in my old life, never really played them much but could Beatrice here be the main heroine? Wouldn't that make that other girl the villainess?'

Almost on cue he and Beatrice could feel some killing intent coming their way. With a quick glance, they could see lady Isabella Hohenberg glaring at them from afar. She was mostly hiding behind a wide pillar with part of her head sticking out. She didn't do much to hide her presence so it was hard not to notice her glare.

"Is that so? Lucas might be right Lady Beatrice, I'll be looking forward to your speech."

The prince just smiled while leaving Beatrice alone for the time being. With the two stooges gone the girl that was hiding behind a pillar decided to show herself. She wasn't alone though as there were two other girls right behind her that were also part of the special students.

"What is that pungent smell?"

"You're right Lady Anne, it's the smell of unsophistication."

The two girls that were behind Isabella spoke out while laughing. It was clear that they were here to cause trouble and were here to cause trouble. Beatrice frowned at the group of three girls as she knew what they were doing.

“What’s with that glare, a Baron’s daughter dares look at us like this!”

This was also part of this world, someone of lower status was supposed to not look directly at someone of higher status. Their head should be down and only moved up when the person of higher status allowed it, very similar to the cultivation world that he was from.

Beatrice on the other hand didn’t seem to be having any of it. She had clearly glared at one of the girls that were from a count’s house which normally would cause some problems. The only thing saving her was the fact that she was a star student who had a special rank here. While in school she wouldn’t need to bow her head before anyone besides maybe the instructors and the Principals.

“Why wouldn’t I dare! I am the star student, you should show your respect to me instead!”

Zhang Dong could feel Beatrice’s rage hitting a new high inside. It seemed that this mostly good-natured girl was finally reaching her boiling point. Even more when standing up against her biggest enemy, Isabella from the main house.

He could see the two noble ladies that were laughing at her being taken aback by the reaction. It was true that her special rank overwrote the previous placements but most of the people in this academy would still stick to the old roles.

“Don’t get ahead of yourself, you might be the star student now but how long will you hold on to it?”

This was another thing about gaining the special rank. The student holding on to it would have to be on top of his or her class constantly. If someone else came out on top then the rank would go to them. This was also why not many people took it that seriously as most of the time this rank was passed around between the top 5 students. It was difficult for someone to hold onto it for more than a few months before the next big test or trial.

While Beatrice was angrily staring at the two noble ladies the main villain was just holding a fan in front of her face. Zhang Dong was only reminded of his own wife who liked to carry around similar fans to cover her face. He could kind of tell by Isabella’s eyes that she was having a fun time and probably laughing while her two cronies fought with Beatrice.

‘That little vixen probably doesn’t want to get her hands dirty. It would seem out of place if someone from a duke household was seen fighting with a baron’s daughter.’

The insults continued to fall from both sides and it didn’t seem like it was stopping. Zhang Dong kind of knew what this was all about, the time for Beatrice’s speech was coming out, and if this continued she would be late.

His lovely summoner seemed to have forgotten all about it while getting in a shouting match with these young girls. Normally he wouldn’t care for something like this, he would even think it was fun to watch a little catfight. The problem was that time was of the essence, he was promised more books and more information about potential cube locations. Beatrice also needed to further increase her mana capabilities, without those he wouldn’t be able to fully protect her.

‘Beatrice, you’ll be late just ignore them and walk away.’

The girl was brought back to reality the moment he mentioned that. She gave the two girls one last glare before walking towards the auditorium. The two ladies of course blocked her way which caused Zhang Dong to groan inwardly.

‘Were these young master types always this annoying?’

Before the two could speak another word a burst of golden energy shot forward. It emanated from Beatrice’s whole body and caused the two girls to fall on their butts. The only person that managed to take this slight energy shove was Isabella.

“Who dares block this Lightning Emperor’s path!”

Soon the girls were treated to a rather cute looking version of Zhang Dong that he previously showed off in front of the Principal. The girls were rather stunned at his appearance, he was already able to get to this world on his own even without his summoner’s mana flow. The only downside was that with this forceful summoning he couldn’t exert much of his power. For that, he needed an official summoning from his contract. It had something to do with the laws of this world that even he couldn’t break.

“T-this spirit... is it that naked man we saw the previous day?”

“W-why is it so small now?”

Zhang Dong frowned a bit as due to the nature of this form he wasn’t very scary looking. Most of the people wouldn’t really take him seriously but he had to show up to move things along.

“The next time you block my way, your lives will be forfeit! Now let us depart Beatrice, you have a speech to present!”

The girls looked at the small cute spirit while Beatrice walked away, none of them were sure how to react. Everyone saw how overbearing this spirit could be.

“Lady Isabella... should we follow after her?”

The lady named Anna asked while glancing at the duke’s daughter but the only thing that Isabella muttered in response was.

“C-cute...”

“Lady Isabella?”

“Huh? Oh no, leave her alone... we should get to the auditorium with haste.”

The girls scrambled to their feet while Isabella went ahead, the two not sure why she ordered them to stand down as this was her idea in the first place. Soon every student was present and the long boring ceremony started.

Chapter 288

‘Huh, is it over?’

Zhang Dong called out with a sleepy voice while Beatrice was going down from the stage. The speech that she performed was rather long-winded and took quite some time. He as well as some other

students had dozed off during it. He could even see good old moss head and carrot top barely keeping their eyes open.

‘Mr. Leigong... that’s mean...’

Beatrice started pouting while carrying a stack of papers. She had spent quite some time preparing this speech that she was very proud of. From Zhang Dong’s perspective, it was a bit too much. He was also someone that performed some declarations or lectures. Thus he always made sure to make it swift and not divert too much from the main theme. His contractor on the other hand recounted most of the academy’s history while also thanking all the instructors she had studied with.

‘I told you that you made it too long... hope no one will hold a grudge....’

‘Why you!’

He laughed while safe in his soul dimension. It looked like the girl was slowly opening up her heart to him and treating him more as a friend than a great spirit. Being seen as an equal and not as some otherworldly being of power was something he was aiming for. After many years of that in his sect, he was a bit tired of being placed on a pedestal.

‘Now go take your new key and let us depart towards the library, we will be studying a lot!’

One of the perks of being a white uniform was getting a new dorm room. It would be more of a full apartment that she would have to herself. Her old roommate took the news rather well as she now could experiment more without worrying about any poison fumes getting to Beatrice.

The time started to pass, Zhang Dong was sure to use the library pass to get through each book that this place had to offer. There weren’t that many books and scriptures if you compared it to his own sect but for a world much smaller than his this was quite a lot.

His own family was constantly on his mind but he couldn’t do much about it due to his poor state. His power was limited as he couldn’t even map out the area he was in.

In his regular body, he was able to scan everything for multiple kilometers in all directions but now he could barely squeeze out 200 meters. His system just wasn’t working correctly with the limitations that were put on him here.

This left him wandering around the whole academy with Beatrice as his guide. The Principal didn’t get back to him with those special locations so this was the only thing that he could do. One of those dimensional cubes could be in this very academy or even under it.

The problem was that he couldn’t see any empty black spots on his map. Like before the zones where these cubes were at showed up as those black spots. After going through all the places in this academy he didn’t turn up with anything.

“I think that was all of them Mr. Leigong...”

Beatrice called out to him while looking at a large statue of a long-dead hero. Spots like these were visited by him throughout the entire school area. The only places left were outside this well-guarded academy. For that, he would need the permission of the one in charge and that would probably only come after he returned the favor first.

“Mm, let us go back to your class for now.”

There was not much else to do here. Zhang Dong felt dejected as he just wanted to return home. He couldn't just leave Beatrice though, the girl was far too weak for her current predicament. The other students weren't looking favorably at her and he had an idea why.

Isabella Hohenberg, she was probably the villain in this story. Her looks also fit with those long drill-like locks that she possessed. She was the typical lady villain that people could read in various stories or games. She continuously ran into Beatrice and him while they were trying to search for some clues or read books.

Sometimes it would be some other students that picked fights with Beatrice. His cute summoner didn't know it but he had marked this drill blond the last time they encountered her. Zhang Dong knew that she was always sneaking glances from afar while using some kind of hiding spell. It wasn't hard to spot for someone of his caliber but regular students would find it hard to notice anything.

The 'bullying' was quite standard, this whole academy was built like one big high school. The classes were larger with fewer students but the whole feeling was the same. In the cafeteria, they would try to put some diet pills in her food. While there were swimming lessons someone would try to steal her clothes or put tacks in her shoes.

It was all very childish and made him feel bad for the girl that he was contracted with. Luckily for her, she had him around to spot things like this. Though even he started to get annoyed by how these teenagers were behaving. If this continued he would need to punish them in some way. The reason why he didn't do anything yet was that Beatrice asked him not to. She was far too afraid of the higher nobles acting up if something bad happened to their children.

'Glasses guy is giving today's lecture but I've already gone through the whole library so this will be quite boring...'

The instructor that was giving the lecture was also quite characteristic. His hair was blue and he was quite the handsome young man. He was an elf of an unknown age but his beauty made all the girls in here blush.

'Together with carrot top, moss head, and glasses guy that would make it three capture targets... there might be another hidden one... maybe an exchange student will also arrive later...'

He was thinking in terms of an otome game now. These people looked quite flashy and were all gathered in one classroom. This all fit in a setting of a lesser noble like Beatrice being stuck with snotty higher nobles.

In games like those the player that was playing someone of lower status would try to befriend the capture targets. Things like events would pop out here and there, then depending on the player's choice one of the capture targets could come to like her more. In reverse, they could become more antagonistic if they went with the wrong route.

Isabella fit in as the person that was getting in the way of Beatrice's progress with the capture targets. She was the fiance of the prince which kind of made some of her reactions justified. No girl would like to see their future husband go after other ladies.

This made Zhang Dong look at the prince with less favor. He was already taken but he was still lusting for other women than his own fiancée. Isabella was quite the looker but she didn't seem to be good at talking to this prince of hers.

From what he had seen she remained stoic and reserved while Beatrice on the other hand was more animated. She found it hard to talk to this young pretty boy and the prince looked quite happy at the awkward reactions that she gave him.

'That prince guy is no good... he is too much of a ladies' man not sure if he is playing dumb or is doing this on purpose... reminds me of ol' gramps... at least he hasn't gone over the line yet...'

He was prepared to give the youth a good thrashing if he attempted anything funny. The only problem was that if he did that then Beatrice would have the whole kingdom after her. It would be fine in his eyes to leave this place but he didn't really want to destroy the life of this young girl.

"So then if the relationship with your spirits increases you will be able to perform spirit fusion..."

The lecture continued, this teacher was also a summoner. Most of the lessons that had been going on now were all theories but later there would be some practical classes where he would also need to participate.

'Fusion huh?'

Zhang Dong already knew the theory behind this but wasn't sure about trying something like this out with Beatrice. This technique was a strong one but it put a lot of strain on the summoner. It would increase his power by quite a lot, the problem was the backlash to Beatrice's own soul.

The summoner needed to be at a similar level as their summon. If they weren't then the magic-user could be injured as they would need to contain the force given to them. He was already someone far ahead of anyone here, even the so-called Principal that was the top mage here couldn't reach his toes.

'I should probably spend some points to see if I could better this technique... maybe with a better grade the strain on little Beatrice's soul will be lowered.'

"Beatrice Hohenberg please report to the Principal's office after the classes are finished."

He perked up at this notification that everyone in the room heard. This class consisted of about fifteen people all of them of high birth and status. Most of them looked with scorn at the blond daughter of the Baron. No one was willing to believe that an upstart like this was taking away their own glory.

'Good... think we can move things along now...'

Zhang Dong cheered as it was finally time to do some work. He had made an official contract with the Principal of this school. After helping them with finding all the stray demons in this school he would be allowed to leave and check out the world. They would provide him with a flying ship and some protection.

The only problem in this plan was Beatrice that was feeling skittish. This was quite the normal reaction as they would be traveling all over the kingdom. Luckily he had managed to somehow convince her, her mana was improving day by day.

“Hey Bob, go look into that fusion technique will you?”

“Affirmative.”

His system had started to evolve as well, this AI program that he was now stuck with could actually perform some simple tasks for him. He could just tell him to combine skills to improve some techniques and it would carry out the order to his specification. He was still unsure what this program was but he was stuck with it for now. If it would still be there after he got his regular body back was still left to be seen.

‘Let us go, Beatrice!’

After the lecture had ended a little ball of light appeared in the classroom. The students here had been surprised the first time they saw him but now he had been accepted as Beatrice’s unique summon.

“Make way you fools, the Lightning Emperor is coming through!”

He shouted out which made all the snotty students cringe. While they were being rude to Beatrice he made sure to return the favor twice fold. Taking on an overbearing persona was something he was familiar with. Since his little arena bout, he was seen as a powerful summon that shouldn’t be messed with. “Please Mr. Leigong don’t make a scene...”

Beatrice just blushed while quickly leaving the room. He on the other hand made it sure to glare at each and every person in the room. Though due to his cute appearance it could have been seen in another way.

“You’re no fun Beatrice... fine let us get some demons!”

Chapter 289

A glowing tiny version of Zhang Dong was floating beside Beatrice as they walked through a long corridor. Next to them was the Principal and the Vice Principal that looked like your regular white-bearded wizard.

“So you have everything prepared?”

“Yes, honorable Leigong.”

“No one besides you two and a couple more know what this is really about?”

“That is right, everyone that we trust have already been seen by you.”

Zhang Dong nodded while looking forward. A few moments ago at the Principal’s office, there were more people present. All of them were examined by him and deemed safe to work with. Now they were on the way to a secluded location where the screening process for the demons would be taking place.

“Fine, just remember that Beatrice is not to be seen.”

He looked to the side, his summoner was walking right next to him and going towards a dangerous location. There was no way of knowing how strong the demons here were. The catgirl that he discovered was a minor one that was apprehended by the Vice-Principal. If they others would be that easy to catch remained to be seen.

The most trusted people that the Principal brought over were just part of the staff and not very strong in general. The biggest threat to the students would come from the other four Vice-Principals. They were already posing as strong people of the races, if they were more powerful in reality defeating them would be hard.

“Don’t worry, we would never let any harm come to one of our students.”

“Oh really?”

Zhang Dong thought back to the countless times he saw students bullying other students in this magical academy. Was this dark elf just oblivious to things like this or did she just not care. This also made him think about his own sect and clan.

He was the leader there and quite similar to this dark-skinned lady. Were some of the disciples getting oppressed by the more influential sect members? What could a new member from a lesser clan do against someone from the main Zhang Clan line if they chose to terrorize them? Would any word of this reach his ears? Probably not, he thought.

“Is there a problem, honorable Leigong?”

“No... it’s fine, but you should probably do something about the power dynamics in this school.”

Zhang Dong mentioned to the surprise of the Principal that he still didn’t know the name off. They had finally reached their destination and were greeted by the people he examined before.

This was quite the varied bunch of individuals. There was a bearded dwarf, a smaller gnome, and even some half orc that was almost three meters in height. All of them were trusted retainers of this Principal and also instructors in this academy.

“Is everything ready?”

“Indeed.”

The dwarf answered while leading everyone to a side room. It gave him some law and order vibes, with him and Beatrice being on the other side of the mirror. The room was dimly lit with a large glass window. Through this window, they could look into the chamber beyond it. Inside of it would be the place where the instructors would gather.

These teachers would then be examined by Zhang Dong. If deemed clean they would just continue on with their day, if not they would be apprehended and questioned for details related to demon activities.

Beatrice looked around while the Principal moved over to the glass window. It had the function of two-way glass. The person on the inside would not be able to see what was inside this room while they had a clear view inside.

“Well, this might take a while Beatrice so you might want to keep yourself busy.”

The blond girl nodded while Zhang Dong floated away. There was a chair and some books for her to keep her busy but she decided to do something else. He had taught her some breathing exercises that would push her mana capacity forward. They would also boost her body functions as if she was cultivating a lesser body refining technique.

“Interesting...”

The Vice-Principal played around with his beard while looking at this blond girl. She sat down in a lotus position and started performing a strange exercise. He could see mana entering her body through passages that he didn't think were possible.

“Interested?”

The old man snapped back into reality after a small Zhang Dong floated over to him. The old man was a bit sheepish around him after he had placed a mark on his soul. Thus he thought the Lightning Emperor was angry with him after he looked at his contractor performing a secret art.

“Relax, I'm not going to do anything to you. We are allies now, if you help me find what I am looking for I could even part with some secret knowledge that just a spirit of my caliber is capable of!”

There was no way of knowing how long this would take. If he promised more rewards these people might prioritize helping him find the cubes.

Finally, the wait stopped and people started entering the room. This whole thing would take quite a bit of time. The magic academy wasn't as big as a sect from his world but there were still many people here. They were going through every instructor today and being safe by forcing them inside a closed-off room.

“Hm... she is clean...”

The person inside the room looked a bit surprised after walking in and even more, after she was told to leave after a few moments.

“What did you tell them this was?”

Zhang Dong asked while the old lady that was a teacher left the chamber through a different door that she came from.

“That it's just a standard examination. We sometimes have instructors make a report of their yearly work.”

He nodded and got back to work. The teachers and instructors were ordered to sit by a desk that was close to this mirror. Zhang Dong's scanning range had been diminished by quite a bit but this was enough for him to notice any third eyes that were being hidden. Even the blue-haired handsome teacher made his appearance but he had already seen him during the lectures so he was clean.

After about an hour the first demon appeared. It took the appearance of an old man that was similar to the Vice-Principal.

“Are you going to capture him here?”

The Principal shook her head while telling this demon to move to another room. There were actually more than one exit from this room.

“Follow me honorable spirit, I'll be counting on you to dispel the creature's disguise!”

“Sure, wait here Beatrice.”

He was able to move away from his summoner without feeling any losses in power. For now, it was about three hundred meters but if Beatrice continued with her training then it would only increase.

In the other room, the Vice-Principal was already waiting with two other mean-looking men. The old man that was the demon looked surprised but he wasn't blowing his cover yet.

Zhang Dong looked to the Principal that nodded at him. He performed the same technique that he previously used on the catgirl and the old man started losing hair and changing into a red-skinned goblin of a monster.

The monster performed a similar scream of anger at the people inside but before it could charge at anyone a magical circle appeared on the floor. This circle started glowing in green color and caused the red demon to drop down to its knees. It was as if gravity was pulling him down and he wasn't able to move.

Then the two men that were standing together with the Vice-Principal moved in. They placed some kind of collar on this creature that had some strange runic patterns on it.

"Is that?"

"Yes, it's a slave collar, with it on the demon will have to follow our instructions, the magic in the collar will compel it to act."

Zhang Dong rubbed his chin as there were versions of this slave collar in his own world. This one seemed to force people to follow the instructions of someone with a special command item. It was mostly a ring or some necklace that the person wore.

The magic item couldn't brainwash the person that was wearing the collar. It would send painful shocks down anyone's spine that wore it. It even worked on non-organic beings and could cause huge amounts of pain to anyone. It was possible to resist this collar but a slow death in agony awaited anyone who did that. The collar would also activate whenever a person lied or harbored bad intentions directed at their master.

"Place it in the dungeon!"

The elven lady called out while the creature was dragged out. This made it the second demon that had infiltrated the academy which didn't bode well for any other institution. This was one of the most prestigious places in the world. A place to train noble magic users, if demons got in here then they certainly would be able to infiltrate lesser guarded organizations.

"I used to play chess with that man..."

The Vice-Principal called out from the side with concern on his face.

"Let us continue... the sooner we get all of those demons, the better!"

"As long as you hold your side of the bargain, I'm all for it."

Zhang Dong chimed in from the side while the three went back to the room with the two way glass. He wasn't given much just yet but he was promised a flying ship to visit other regions that could hold the

item that he was looking for. The Principal didn't give him any other good news as she was not able to come up with any cubes.

This was something that he was expecting as regular people wouldn't really be able to distinguish them from other artifacts. These strange items could be anywhere and they also varied in size. One could be inside some volcano, while another down at the bottom of the sea. The fastest way for him to find them would be to get himself back up to the nascent soul level. Then to just use his map around this globe but this would take some time.

So the scanning process continued. The vast majority of the instructors and teachers came out clean but like the old man before there were some shapeshifters hiding around. The monsters were probably taking over the lives of these people before using the grand teleportation magic to get here.

Their technique was quite good as they could even mimic a person's soul and DNA to an almost perfect degree. The only reason Zhang Dong was able to see through this disguise was due to his own technique that allowed him to fool even nascent soul masters.

"Hm... you're not going to like this, but that one is also a demon... and I think it's a lot stronger than the rest..."

What he was looking at now was one of the Vice-Principals. The demon was masking itself as someone at the lower end of core formation but in reality, it was a lot stronger. By how much he wasn't sure as he was still limited with his senses.

"Well, if it's too hard to handle I'll be glad to lend a hand... for a little price of course..."

"Price?"

The Principal asked.

"Yes, how about instead of lending me a flying ship... you just give me it. Also some elixirs for Beatrice there would be nice..."

He smiled while the dark elf's eyebrows twitched in annoyance.

"I'll think about it, great spirit..."

"Well good luck then!"

A big thumbs up was raised by this small Zhang Dong while the two magicians pulled out their magic staves and got ready for the coming battle.

Chapter 290

"Watch out!"

"Keep it contained, increase the magic output!"

"W-we can't hold it, it's going to escape... We need to evacuate the academy!"

"All of you feeble flesh bags will perish within my flames!"

"Heh, this one is a big boy..."

Zhang Dong commented from the side as he was looking at a five-meter-tall horned demon. It had the classical look of a muscle-bound giant with sharp claws for hands. The legs were hooved and it also had the usual red pointy devil tail. It was covered in an aura of demonic flames that was making everyone here sweat.

For the past few hours, they had been going through the testing process. Most of the instructors and teachers came out clean with the occasional red goblin-looking demon hiding behind their skin. Without knowing what this was in reality the demons all followed the instructions and were captured in that magic circle.

It had some kind of demon binding magic infused in itself which was quite interesting. Zhang Dong made sure to add any spells and magical techniques to his own library. He already discovered that these skills could be used by cultivators, he only needed a better way to convert the energies that were involved in these magic arts.

It was going quite well with five goblin-looking demons being apprehended. This was until it was time for the Vice-Principals to participate. There were four others like the gray-bearded Elobarin. They were all at the lower levels of the core formation if he compared them to cultivators.

It started out well, the first one looked like a three-meter-tall man made of marble. It was some kind of special rocky race of this world. It was quite fascinating as this being was more akin to a body refiner than a magic-user. Following him, there was an old lady that had a nice large witch hat and a broom. She came floating in while sitting on it and complained quite a bit.

The last one was a gnome with a long white beard as well, it was clear that the mighty in this world had a certain amount of age to them. The elf Principal that he didn't hear the name off yet was actually the oldest person here. It looked like these guys were clean but that was until the last person showed up.

The man was similar to the Principal in the way that he was an elf, but a pale-skinned one. He had long golden hair that went down to his waist and a face that would make all the ladies squeal in joy. He looked like your perfect pretty boy but in reality, he was a form-changing demon.

They managed to get him to leave the room with the magic trap but then the problems started. He was a powerful being by this world's standards so he realized what this room was. Before the trap could be fully activated he revealed his true form by shedding his skin. It looked quite grotesque to see him expand in size while the fleshy skin he was wearing burst forth.

"How did an Archdemon hide itself in this school!"

The witch-looking Vice-Principal called out while throwing some hexes at the red beast. The other high level magicians were informed about what this investigation was about. Now all the four Vice Principals as well as their Leader were facing off against this red monster.

The problem was that this one was an actual demon lord. It was one of the powerful named monsters that was at the great circle of core formation. This posed a problem as all of the magicians that were gathered here were weaker with the dark elf lagging behind this beast.

"You will all perish here! The day of reckoning is coming and I The Lord of Pain Doth'tollen, will pave the path!"

It didn't look well for the people of the races gathered here. Zhang Dong used his small body to pass through the walls and back into the room that Beatrice was in. His body wasn't made of flesh and bone but of mana particles. He was more like a spirit than a real person in this world.

"Honorable Leigong, we need to help them!"

"How noble of you but you should think about yourself first, leave it to the adults to handle this."

He wasn't sure of the capabilities of the people of this world so the decision was made to let them handle this monster. The person that he needed to protect was Beatrice and not those four adults. His little cute summoner had leveled up a bit since his fight in the arena but she wouldn't be able to give him enough magic juice to battle this monster. At most he could perform a similar attack like last time before draining Beatrice of most of her mana.

"B-But..."

"No buts! We need to leave, remember our conversation. Your Principal told you to evacuate if any of the monsters get loose and that is what we are going to do!"

Zhang Dong blocked off the path and pointed to the door on the other side. He wasn't sure how that group of magicians would do but they had reinforcements coming. The alarms in the magical academy were going off everywhere after the demon threat was identified to be one of the demon lord class beings.

"Now let us go!"

He pulled on her hand while using some strength and forced Beatrice to go towards the exit. It was remarkable that she wanted to help out but this was out of her capabilities. On the outside, they needed to get through some stairs and winding corridors to finally arrive outside. On the way, they bumped into some other security personnel that was running towards the room that the demon was being held in.

On the outside, Zhang Dong noticed that people were slowly panicking. The young students were running like headless chickens without knowing what to do. It was obvious that no one really thought that something like an Archdemon could infiltrate this well-guarded location.

If he didn't come along to take off its hideous mask it would have probably been far too late to do anything. Now on the other hand the people here had a fighting chance. The strongest mages were already trying to contain the monster while more reinforcements were coming.

Everyone is to evacuate to the magic shelters as practiced, this is not a practice drill, please follow your teacher's instructions.

A loud

Announcement

was going off on repeat while people were evacuating. Some of the people who heard it were quick to change directions and move towards those shelters.

'Do you know where those are?'

‘Yes.’

Beatrice nodded and started jogging towards this shelter but before they could get anywhere close to it the ground started to rumble.

“Lower beings, accept your destruction.”

Both of them heard an imposing voice from the area that they left. Soon the whole place started shaking and Zhang Dong could somewhat feel that something was coming.

“Quickly, get to cover!”

He was still in his small form so he pushed Beatrice to the side with a lot of force. This was just in time as the earth below her started to part.

“I’ll bathe in your decaying flesh!”

The demon soon appeared from a large fissure in the ground and it looked a bit different than before. The number of legs had increased while the goat-like lower body was fully abandoned. This part now looked like some kind of fat worm with hooved legs. Its clawed hands were now elongated into sickles that looked black and razor-sharp. Its head was grotesque with a huge toothy mouth and three horns on each side of its large head.

‘Think Mr. Ugly is angry... where are that Principal and her lackeys? Are they all dead?’

Zhang Dong thought while helping Beatrice to her feet. This didn’t bode well for this entire school and the students living here.

‘Did I make a mistake and activate the final boss...’ He had thought that picking out the demons from the masses would hasten his progress. It seemed that his shortcut had a price, one that could cost other people their lives. If he was fully powered this monster wouldn’t be anything special, he could crush it with his pinky. Now on the other hand he would at most be able to injure it if he got a clear shot.

“Lady Beatrice, get behind me!”

His pessimistic outlook on the situation was brought to an end after the ‘cavalry’ arrived. It was the resident moss head prince and his carrot top knight. They had some other students and teachers with them along with their summoned creatures that seemed ready for battle.

‘This is a bad idea...’

Zhang Dong knew that these children wouldn’t be able to do anything about this monster. At most they could stall it till someone stronger appeared. Normally there were some sort of safety measures in place. This place was filled with noble sons and daughters, their parents should have been strong individuals. With time they would probably arrive to save the day but if there would be anyone left around to save was the big question.

Before the monster could charge at them something large delivered a blow to its side. It looked to be some kind of large stone creature similar to what a golem would look like.

“It’s Vice-Principal Varadath! We are saved!”

It was apparently the marble-looking man that he saw previously. He had changed size to match the monster and the two were now pounding away at each other. Soon some of the other Vice-Principals along with the Principal decided to show themselves. Every one of them was somewhat injured with the Witch lady being in the worst state. She was being carried by Elobarin that looked quite pale.

“Prince Ludwig, what are you doing here. Instructors bring the children to the shelter and leave this to us!”

“I can’t do that Principal, not when fair maidens are put in danger!”

Zhang Dong rolled his eyes and wanted to puke after hearing those words leave this young man’s lips. He was dressed up in some kind of emerald green armor and the orange head next to him in a red ruby one. They looked like two shiny gems that would go for quite the amount in an auction.

The Prince was holding a heavy rapier that had also some emeralds on it. He could feel that this weapon was earth grade and actually would be able to wound this red monster if used correctly. That is if it actually had a competent user, this youth wasn’t even around the foundation establishment level.

“It doesn’t matter how many weaklings you bring, you will all know pain!”

The monster gave out a strange wail that caused most of the people to back away. This attack carried some demonic energies with it and Zhang Dong noticed why. Soon every student and teacher that had yet to be apprehended started turning into three-eyed monsters. It was clear that this demon was calling for reinforcements, the battle was only beginning.