

## Vampire 931

Chapter 931 Mayzin's Words Have Weight And Value

?Dracula Castle, Milano.

"Phew. He didn't do anything stupid." Fiona gently wiped the sweat on her forehead with a cloth and said as she watched Dennis on the screen defeat the old lady, then rested in the Bakers' City Embercrest, awaiting the Prince's arrival.

In this world, there was nothing that stressed Fiona more than her own son.

His way of doing things was really stupid at times and way out of the norm. They were so bad that even a dumb person took better paths than him.

It was not that Fiona didn't love her son. She loved him with all her heart and soul, he was her everything... but that didn't mean she would go along with his dumb shenanigans.

Every child had the right to freely soar high in the skies after they got their wings. Fiona let Dennis do whatever he wanted as well.

However, despite having wings, this idiot was choosing a path to crawl.

How was she supposed to stay calm while this happened!?

He was literally wasting his potential!

But thankfully, in this broadcast she was watching, when it came to actual survival, Dennis did not do anything remotely stupid and was being a good boy throughout.

Fiona actually felt proud for her son for once!

The way he delivered those cool lines to the old lady and then defeated her, it made her proud.

But what made her even more proud was the fact that he was actually using his brain this time and not thinking by his muscles.

The fact that he knew he should wait at Embercrest and not leave, this was a really beautiful scene Fiona had seen in a while.

While Fiona fawned over her child's growth, Avelyn had a solemn expression on her face.

Her boy was chained from the start and not given a single chance to fight back. There was literally nothing he could do.

It was not that Ralph lacked brawns or brains, it was just that his opponent was way stronger. It was unfair, but such was the cruelty of the world.

This was the real world and not an academy's mock survival test or a game.

From the broadcast, Avelyn got to know that after a hundred and one days, Ralph would die if he wasn't saved in that meantime.

This worried Avelyn to death.

She was restless and thinking up ways to go save her son.

Fiona had consoled Avelyn quite a lot of times and stated that nothing would happen to him. He was not alone and had the backing of the very Royal Clan itself!

Things should be fine in that regard.

Still, a mother's heart would never be at ease while watching their child be chained and tortured.

Avelyn swore in her heart to destroy this place once her boy was back. There was no going back on it.

In the meantime, Ralph's parrot Sky, he was letting out demonic screeches whenever he saw the chained Ralph on the screen.

For being a nuisance, he had to be put in a soundproof cage. He was given enough food, water, and even a laptop to play online games on.

All of this was taken care of by the Draculas. They had their expert alchemists make a comfortable soundproof cage for Sky.

Apart from them, Duke Reynolds Dracula and Mu Mu were calmly watching the stream.

Duke Reynolds barely had any change on his poker face, but his eyes shined or drooped whenever something happened to Dennis.

When Dennis was taken by the old lady and walked into her trap on his own, his eyes drooped. But after watching her be killed and smartly wait for the Prince in Embercrest, his eyes shined.

He too shared the same emotions as Fiona and was genuinely proud today to see Dennis not do anything stupid.

As for Mu Mu, he criticized every move of Dennis and also asked a lot of questions to Duke Reynolds with his moos.

How in the world did the Draculas understand cow language, that still remained a mystery to everybody.

Meanwhile...

On the Royal Castle's rooftop in Nightingale.

"There are deities, interesting..." Mayzin said softly.

Lucifer's ears perked up. She turned to Mayzin and asked, "You seem to know something about them?"

Mayzin forked a bit of her pastry and said calmly, "I do."

"Tell us." Agalea said and cutely took a small bite of a croissant.

Lilith sipped on some tea and looked at Mayzin as well.

The maids seated on the ledge unprofessionally turned to look at Mayzin too, making her the centre of attention.

"How do I put this? Well... The deities are normal people just like us, with a sole exception." Mayzin answered. "They are way stronger. Strong to the point where we cannot even fathom their cultivation."

Lucifer, the chatterbox, did not comment on things yet. She had matured and could feel that Mayzin had some more things to say, hence kept quiet and stared at her.

Mayzin continued, "Everything about them revolved around their cultivation. They do not possess a life like we do. If something is not connected to their cultivation, they would not bat an eye to it."

Mayzin's words were crisp and concise. She knew the weight and value of her words unlike a certain demon by the round table.

Whatever she wanted to convey was conveyed. She did not impose her own comprehension of things on others, but left them to come to a conclusion on their own, awaiting their opinions and points on this topic.

The area fell silent and after a few minutes who knew what struck Qingyue, but she chimed in and said, "Lady Mayzin, then do you mean to say that those deities are waiting to reap something from that world and watching every move of His Highness and the rest?"

Everyone raised their brows up in surprise, while Lilith had a soft smile form on her face.

She had definitely not chosen random people as the Royal Servants!

"Wow, I really like this Human maid." Lucifer suddenly said.

The level of thought process Qingyue had shown was astonishing, becoming one of the smartest minds Lucifer had come across till date.

Not letting this opportunity slip by, Lucifer turned to Lilith and asked, "Hey, can I have her?"

The rest of the maids covered their faces and said under their breaths, "Oh my...", while Mayzin and Agalea shook their heads with a sigh. Lucifer was about as shameless as one could get.

Shame did not fill stomachs or helped win wars. Lucifer did not care about the opinions of these two bitches beside her.

Lilith, instead of answering Lucifer straight, turned to look at Qingyue. She smiled softly and asked, "Do you want to go?"

"Woah..." Everyone on the rooftop gasped in surprise while Lucifer stared at Qingyue with starry eyes, hoping to charm her.

Her face read: yes, yes, please come to Lady Lucifer, she'll treat you with the best of candies and pamper you till death!

Qingyue had a slight blush form on her face from embarrassment.

This was the first time she became the center of attention on something.

"C'mon, we are waiting for your answer!" Lucifer exclaimed.

Qingyue fidgeted in her place and said, "I-I... well... I..."

Chapter 932 Lucifer Gets A Maid

Needless to say, Qingyue rejected Lucifer's offer as politely as she could.

Lucifer was not disheartened. She expected this and shook her head. "As loyal as ever."

Lilith chuckled. "What else did you expect? If you ask them, they won't come. They have to be ordered."

Lucifer raised an eyebrow. "Oh? Then can you order one? If I remember correctly, your son was promising me a maid from your clan."

"He did?" Lilith was surprised.

"Yes. Why would I lie?" Lucifer answered flatly.

Lilith smiled and took a sip of tea. "Well, if he promised you, then as his mother, it's my duty to go along with his wishes."

"Hehe," Lucifer rubbed her hands. "Fulfil it quickly then. I'm waiting."

Agalea squinted her eyes at Lucifer and Mayzin stared at her too.

"Aren't you being too greedy?" Agalea asked. "What are you even giving to sis in return for it?"

"Why would I give something in return?" Lucifer asked, surprised.

"It's only natural for it to be an equivalent exchange," said Mayzin.

"Hoh..." Lucifer covered her face. "This was never an equivalent exchange. I promised nothing to Lith yet he agreed with sending a maid my way."

"Wow..."

"Wow..."

"My baby got scammed..." Lilith's gentle face turned into a worried one.

Lucifer pointed her nose at the sky, proud of whatever she did. "I'm built different."

"Greedy. Prideful. Envious." Mayzin said three words and accurately described Lucifer.

"Duh. They don't call me the Demon Queen for nothing. Anyway, where's my promised maid, Lilith-chan?~" Lucifer said in a happy tone.

Lilith put her teacup down and shook her head. Her baby definitely needs some lessons on Lucifer so that he understands how to properly handle her.

Nothing could be done now though. A promise had to be kept, and in any case, Lucifer was officially affiliated to the Royal Clan, whether through being Lith's lover or Lilith's sister.

Lilith turned to look at Qingyue and asked, "Who's free among you guys?"

Qingyue thought about it and answered in a professional neutral tone, "If it's someone to be sent to Lady Lucifer, then only one is fit for the job, Madam."

"Oh? Who?" Lilith asked. She did not mind Qingyue answering in a different way.

At her question, the odd one among the maids stepped in front of Lilith.

"That should be me, Madam," the pink-haired Supreme Rank Fairy Queen, Bella, answered in a soft tone while bowing.

"Hm? But aren't you busy managing your race, Bella?" Lilith asked.

Bella nodded. "I am, but that's the only thing I'm doing currently. I also do not have as many personal tasks as the rest."

Her statement was an indirect one, but Lilith got the meaning.

Currently, on the rooftop, there were four maids: Bella, Luna, Qingyue, and Freya.

Three of them shared a common thing while it was Bella who did not.

The common thing was that Luna, Qingyue, and Freya were personal maids while Bella was not.

Bella used to serve Lilith, but then she was gone out on business for quite some years and got replaced by Luna, then eventually by Qingyue after Lith's birth.

She was also the perfect person for this job because she did not handle any matters related to the Vampire Society or administration as a whole.

Her job was to look after her three masters and keep an eye out on the world, then inform the Royal Servants of the changes.

She could do the latter job from anywhere. As for the former, those three already had personal maids so it would not be too big of a problem. Plus, there were quite a lot of maids in the castle already and the Prince even had a few personal ones of his own.

Things were all sorted in this regard and hence, Bella was the right one for this job.

Lilith nodded lightly. "Very well. Then from today onwards, you shall serve Lucifer."

Bella bowed. Then turned to Lucifer and bowed again while having her palm on her chest. "This humble Fairy shall be in your care from here on and serve you to the best of her abilities, Lady Lucifer."

"Oh my..." Lucifer facepalmed and was almost in tears. "Such obedience and goodwill... I'm touched."

Lilith chuckled softly. "That's just a formal statement. It won't be said again. Also, Bella is a Supreme Rank and not in an official contract or anything with you. She can whoop your ass if I ask her."

Agalea and Mayzin giggled hearing that while the maids covered their smiles with their palms.

Lucifer scoffed. "If you order such a thing, I'll personally come here and spank your cheeks."

"Ahem. You've gotten yours turned red twice, Lucifer." Mayzin gave a gentle reminder.

"Twice due to me too." Agalea coughed lightly and reminded as well.

"..." Lucifer's eyes twitched. "You two lil bitches... I'll take my revenge one day. And it'll be served really cold."

Mayzin yawned. "There's a reason you're saying one day and not today or tomorrow, Lucifer. That day is never coming, we all know it."

The ladies giggled while a vein popped on Lucifer's forehead.

"How about I give you a demonstration of my revenge, Maymay?"

Mayzin took the plate of half-eaten pastry and forked the sweetened goodness. She turned to Lucifer and taking a bite, said, "If you're horny, you just got a new maid. Do it with her. Leave me alone."

Lucifer's lips twitched. "Bitch, I am not looking to fuck you. Why do you always think I want to rub onto your lips?"

"Because you're the one harassing us every time we meet." This time Agalea was the one who said it.

"Me? Harass?" Lucifer was shocked! When did she, a mighty Queen, do such a thing!?

"Okay, not harass." Agalea replied.

"That's right—"

"You assault us. Sexually." Agalea corrected.

"..."

Mayzin nodded her head. "If you weren't together with Lith, I'm sure you would be forcing me into some scissoring."

Lilith took a sip of tea and said, "May, if I'm not wrong, you were the one who told Lucifer she can come to you anytime."

"Oh yeah, that's right! You tell 'em sis!" Lucifer suddenly fired up, knowing she wasn't the culprit anymore.

Agalea did a light nod and said, "I remember May saying something like that too."

Mayzin rolled her eyes. "It was out of goodwill. If everyone had rejected her that day, she would be making a big fuss. It was all to have less drama."

"Oh." Agalea got enlightened.

"Fair enough." Lilith said and chuckled softly.

Lucifer wanted to retort, but did not have a good comeback.

She was thoroughly annoyed by Mayzin right now and wanted to do nothing but slap her fair dragon cheeks into swelled up red peaches!

"Have some tea, Lady Lucifer." Bella chimed in this time and offered.

She was now Lucifer's maid and looking after her master was her job. Since the lady was too annoyed and angry, a good cup of cool cloudy tea was all she needed.

Tea wasn't usually hot and even if they were, they provided the complete opposite sensation after drinking.

Cloudy tea was a type of tea leaf grown on clouds, then harvested, dried and fermented for consumption. It was extremely rare and not found in this world.

It came into this world after it got unsealed. Lucifer thus may not have had it yet.

Lucifer did not reject Bella's offer and took up the teacup.

She did not say anything to her sisters anymore and took a sip of the tea.

A cool sensation spread throughout her body and mind, making her let out a soft moan.

"Mhm... So good..."

Her moan caught Agalea and Mayzin's eyes, making them squint and stare at her.

If this pervert moaned like that after eating or drinking something, then it meant,

The food was absolutely amazing!

No matter how spiteful Lucifer was, her talent at finding and recognizing good food was otherworldly.

While Agalea and Mayzin stared at her, Lilith noticed their reaction and smiled softly.

She turned to Bella and said, "Bella, give them a cup too."

Bella nodded and gave them a cup. They eventually let out a similar moan like Lucifer and asked about this tea to Lilith.

Their conversation however was cut short as on the broadcast, Lith and Dennis got kidnapped.

Putting the teacup down, Lucifer said with knitted brows, "How are these boys falling into problems left and right?"

"They are being watched by deities," said Lilith. "It was inevitable from the start."

"But they're not even getting a chance to fight back."

"Don't worry, they will. Soon." Lilith assured.

Mayzin took a sip of her tea and putting the cup down, said with a calm gaze, "If I'm not wrong, many may have realized their talents by now due to their display of cooking skills and wits. Half of the deities now would stand against them and half with them."

"Sadly, they seem to have mingled up with the ones who stand against them." Agalea said with a sigh.

Lucifer scrunched her nose. "It's a pity. I hope those shitty deities do something about this and not simply watch."

Lilith, with a poker face, said, "They should be moving now."

"What?"

"Just watch..."

Chapter 933 Sacred Celestial Realm

Groggy.

Lith felt a sense of grogginess as everything around him seemed to be spinning, and was dark, blurry.

Trying his best to hold onto his last sense of alertness, Lith had a look at his shadow.

On the ground, there was no snow anymore and after a few seconds of wakefulness, Lith felt that it wasn't cold anywhere either.

As his vision turned somewhat clear, Lith saw that he was strapped to a log and was being carried by two people like a sacrifice.

He turned his gaze sideways and saw that there was another person being carried in a similar fashion.

In his drowsiness, Lith connected the dots and realized he was captured, and was now on his way to either be sacrificed or eaten.

This was a bad thing and the situation was dire. Lith had to do something, but his body and mind were not supporting him.

Despite trying his best, after a few more seconds of being alert, Lith's body gave up and he slept.

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The drowsiness eventually vanished and as Lith opened his eyes, he saw himself resting in a dimly lit place.

"You woke up?" There was an unfamiliar voice.

Lith turned around and saw an unknown person adding wood to a campfire.

Under the intense orangish-red light, his face had a gentle expression and he appeared quite charming.

Now, in such an unfamiliar situation, anyone would've panicked or be on guard, but Lith simply stretched and sat by the bonfire, warming his hands.

This was the same underground place as before where Dennis and he had been resting. This was also the same bonfire.

The only thing that was out of place was this man here, but Lith did not brood over it.

"I did. It was a good nap," said Lith, totally relaxed despite the strange situation.

"Heh... You're one interesting lad," said the unfamiliar man. "It's no wonder everyone has eyes on you."

The corner of Lith's lips curved up. "I know right?"

The unfamiliar man laughed softly. "You seem so relaxed, I really can't tell whether you're on high alert or just a fool."

Lith shrugged. "One shouldn't stress in a situation one has no control over."

The man nodded. "I agree with that. Anyway, I'll cut to the chase. You may have guessed it already, but this is a dream. You are currently being carried by devils of the Verdant Harmony World, on your way to get eaten."

Lith used a stick and shifted the burning wood in the bonfire. "I see."

The man blinked and stared at Lith, wondering what's with this calm reaction. He shook his head and said, "If you don't do anything, you and your friend will die."

Lith nodded and said nothing else in return.

The man's eyes twitched. This was sure a difficult fellow. "Young man, do you know who I am?"

"A deity?" Lith guessed.

"That's right. If you are meeting me, then it only means you've struck a fortune," boasted the man shamelessly.

Lith did not comment on it and listened.

"I'll cut to the chase. I'll take you out of this situation and even have you reunite with your companions. But in return, you will find the mythical ingredients, make the stew and give a bowl to me."

"I refuse."

"..." The man was dumbfounded.

Lith turned to look at him and asked, "Are all deities bad at asking something? Or is it just you?"

The man fell silent.

Lith continued, "The stew is out of question and what you're offering is too little for what you're asking."

The man squinted his eyes. "Do you even know what benefits the stew gives?"

Lith shrugged. "It doesn't take a genius to figure out why so many deities are after a single bowl of stew. I may not know what it is, but I sure do know its importance."

Sighing, the man said, "Fine. How about this: I'll help you get out of this predicament, also have you reunite with your friends, and help you with your cultivation once you reach the Sacred Celestial Realm."

Lith's eyes flashed with a curious glint. Sacred Celestial Realm? He did not miss the keyword.

"What's the place you just mentioned?" Lith asked.

The man laughed softly. "It's a secret."

Lith kept calm and replied, "So it's a realm right above my own?"

The man rubbed his chin. "I don't know which world you come from, but that place is far better than this world or this realm."

"Then, what makes you think I'm not already in the Sacred Celestial Realm?"

The corner of the man's lips curved up. "The very fact that you do not know of that place is proof. Everyone who lives in the Sacred Celestial Realm is aware of it."

"I see." Lith said softly. "Then, what makes you think I would want to go there?"

The man's eyes flashed with seriousness. "Because it's not up to you to decide. If your cultivation reaches a certain threshold, you'll automatically ascend to that realm due to the laws of Heaven and Earth."

"Interesting..." Lith said. Now this was all news to him.

He did not find any such information from the Grand Lust Sovereign's inheritance and the system did not mention anything about it either.

'System, are you listening?'

[The system is listening.]

'What is the Sacred Celestial Realm and where is it?'

[Host's cultivation is insufficient to know it.]

'When would it be sufficient?'

[King Rank.]

'I see.' Lith thought. It was not too far away.

Looking at the man in front, Lith said, "If I'm going to reach that place anyway, what makes your offer so special?"

The man chuckled. "Do you think you'll be safe once you ascend? There's a lot of big sects, clans, and families who keep an eye on newcomers. They'll force you into joining them and say you don't do it, some or the other day, you're going to be assassinated. It's a cold world."

"Why would I be assassinated? Are these guys not afraid of providence? Cause and effect? Karma?" Lith asked, curious.

The man smiled. "Those are some heavy words you're using, but no, they're not really afraid since the methods of assassinations don't have their direct involvement."

"Hmm... If they aren't involved directly, then there's ways to survive, yes?" Lith asked after some thinking.

"You're not wrong. But it's really difficult to survive and not many are able to do it." The man answered truthfully.

Lith chuckled. "What happened to the ones that did survive?"

"Well..." The man fell silent. He did not want to answer this question because, the ones that did survive, they turned into some of the biggest powerhouses ever to exist.

However, the number of such people were really few as the guys who've achieved greater heights would take themselves out of the immortal world's affairs.

Very few would ever try to actively compete in a realm consisting of big sects, clans, and families.

By telling Lith about the ones who survived became great people was riling him up for no reason.

What if he wasn't as great as he seemed? What if he got assassinated after ascending? This would be a big loss for his own clan!

The man did not come here with the goal of recruiting Lith, but with how the situation seemed and how amazing Lith's way of handling things was, he couldn't help himself from offering a place in his clan.

Lith looked at the speechless man and asked, "No answer?"

The man shrugged, just like the way Lith did a while ago. "I have it, but I am not saying it. However, take it from me that most of the guys who rejected the offers are dead. So you may want to listen to this senior here."

"Are you done talking to me now?" Lith asked, trying to end this conversation. He did not see much benefits from this man and even if there were, he already profited by getting some information about the Sacred Celestial Realm.

The man nodded his head. "I'll tell you one last time—there's no coming out of this predicament without my help. It's also not safe up there, so you better think it through. You won't get a backer like this again."

Lith shook his head. "We'll see about that."

The man smiled and without saying anything else, disappeared.

The world around Lith revolved and soon, he was back to feeling groggy.

'System, can you look around?' Lith asked.

[Yes.]

'How can I get out of this situation?'

[Host cannot get out on his own. External help is needed.]

'Oh... Then what that man was saying was correct?'

[More context is needed to answer Host's question.]

'I am asking, was the man that came in my dreams the only one who could help me?'

[No. A lot of deities are watching the Host. With a few gestures, the Host can get any of them to help him.]

'If I ask them, won't I lose out on things?' Lith asked.

[System cannot comment on it.]

'Phew... What a hassle...'

'Anyway, will I be eaten if I don't act fast enough?'

[Negative.]

'Oh, nice. I'll wait and watch then.'

#### Chapter 934 Slipping On A Snail And Accidentally Assassinating

In a jungle, Hyunsuk woke up and looked around, scratching his head in the process. "Man... I am once again at a random location. I should stop drinking so much..."

There were stains on his clothes that reeked of alcohol and he also only had one shoe on him. However, apart from the mild loss, everything else of his was intact.

Shrugging, Hyunsuk said, "Welp, can't do anything about it now. I guess I'll just walk and see how it goes."

With that being said, Hyunsuk picked a random location in the jungle and began walking.

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Swish! Swish! Swish!

"Catch that bastard! Don't let him go!"

A group of angry soldiers mounted on beasts threw spears and chased after a young man in tattered clothes, who was panting but running as if his life depended on it.

Truth to be told, his life did depend on it because if he were to be caught, those soldiers were going to skin him alive!

"Huff... Huff... How do I always... huff... get into such... huff... situation?" The young man cursed.

"Stop at this instance and we may think about sparing your life!" One of the soldiers said while charging at the youngster on a giant tiger-like beast.

"I am telling you, I did not do anything! It was all a coincidence! For fucks sake!" The young man shouted.

"You still dare to say that! After almost trying to kill our leader!?" A soldier roared!

"I swear! I swear! I really just slipped on a snail and he coincidentally was near me!" The youngster cried out.

A while ago, the youngster was in a small town square. He was absentmindedly walking on a random street when he slipped due to a snail being in his path.

The poor snail was crushed to death, but as the youngster slipped, in reflex, he grabbed onto the nearest thing he could find, which was a man in luxurious attire walking beside him.

The youngster grabbed the man's collar and took him down with him, but coincidentally, there was a guy selling knives on the street side.

The man in luxurious attire got stabbed by a few of those pointing knives, but thankfully, none of his vitals got hit.

As the man cried out in pain, people from the shadows emerged out, which were none other than these soldiers chasing after the youngster.

The rest was pretty self-explanatory.

"Charge! We must get revenge for our sire!" The soldiers exclaimed and threw some more spears at the youngster.

The youngster could do nothing but cry and continue to run. He did not know how he would always land in one trouble after another!

This time, the trouble was too big and he really may not survive it!

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Hyunsuk, who was peacefully strolling in the jungle, stopped at this instance.

He looked down and wriggled his legs.

One of his feet had a shoe on it and the other one was bare.

"Man, it really is difficult to walk like this. I shouldn't have worn thick heel shoes." Hyunsuk stated and took off his shoe.

The walk was uneven and he felt uncomfortable due to the heels, but taking it off now, his feet were properly planted on the ground and he felt balanced.

Hyunsuk nodded. "It's a bit weird to walk barefoot, but it's better than walking with one shoe."

Saying so, Hyunsuk tossed the shoe aside and continued to walk as peacefully as ever.

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"Kill him! Kill him!" The soldiers continued to scream and threw whatever they could find at the youngster.

"Waaaa! I don't wanna live anymore!" The youngster cried out.

"If you don't want to, give yourself to father here!" The leading soldier cursed.

"I don't wanna die too! Waaaa—Iyaaaa!"

The youngster slipped on something again and fell down.

Thinking it was the right opportunity, the soldiers rejoiced in happiness and their beasts roared; just then, something small and brown flew their way.

"Rooaaarr—cough! Cough!"

The leading beast felt something strike its throat and began choking on it.

In its gasping for air, it thrashed around and accidentally hit the rest of the beasts running alongside it.

"Whaaaat!?"

"What the fuck is happening!?"

The soldiers tried to control the beasts by pulling on the reins, but alas, they crashed into each other and let out angry roars.

The youngster found his opportunity and continued to run once again.

After a few seconds, the leading beast coughed out the thing stuck in its throat and it turned out to be a brown shoe!

"Curse the man's mother who lost his shoe in the middle of a jungle!" The soldier who watched the shoe being spit out exclaimed.

"Don't let that kid run away!"

"After him!"

The soldiers once again ran behind the youngster.

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Hyunsuk had been walking for a while now and decided to take some rest.

His feet were hurting slightly due to walking barefoot, so he thought it was better if he rested.

He looked around him to find a relatively clean place and saw one near a tree.

Hyunsuk walked towards the tree and stretched. "I'll sit here for a bit and then continue walking."

Thinking so, he kicked the pebbles on the ground to clear it and to have proper balance, took support of the tree's trunk.

Just as he placed his hand on the trunk, the wood caved in and his hand went inside, giving him a few scratches.

"Owf..." Hyunsuk exclaimed and turned to look at his hand.

As he did so, he raised his eyebrows in surprise as inside the tree, there was an empty space and within it, Hyunsuk could see a black rock idol of something.

Wondering what it was, Hyunsuk took the idol out.

Under the tree's canopy, it was relatively dim, so Hyunsuk looked around and saw a bright spot of sunlight a few meters away from the trees.

He walked there and stood under it to check the black rock idol.

The black rock idol was that of a cloaked figure. Hyunsuk couldn't properly figure it out, but there were a few ancient looking symbols on it.

Right as he was about to check those symbols, Hyunsuk heard some rustling of leaves.

Thinking some animal may be approaching, Hyunsuk was about to put up his guard when...

"ROAAARRRR!"

"FUWAAA!"

Hyunsuk heard a loud roar and then heard a loud shout of a man.

Before he could even grasp what was happening, a figure came flying towards him while screaming and in the matter of a few breaths...

THUD!

"OWW!"

"OUCH!"

That figure crashed onto Hyunsuk.

The black rock idol fell under Hyunsuk's bleeding arms and the flying figure was on top of him.

The blood oozing out of the scratched arm grazed against the black rock idol and soon...

Rumble...

The black rock idol began shaking under Hyunsuk's arms.

"ROAAARRRR!"

"We will not leave you!"

The soldiers and their beast jumped above a few trees and landed close to the youngster and Hyunsuk.

Their gaze fell on the fallen young man and thinking this was their chance, they shouted and decided to strike with all their might.

However, at this very instant, the black rock idol shook violently and broke down, emitting a bright light.

The bright light engulfed Hyunsuk and the man on top of him, then turned brighter and brighter, almost blinding the soldiers and their beasts.

The beasts roared as they couldn't see anything and thrashed around, but the soldiers were able to properly control them after they hit a few nearby trees.

Crack...

Eventually, as the blinding light dimmed, the soldiers regained their vision and turned to look at the spot the youngster was in.

Finding there to be nobody, the soldier clicked their tongue and said, "What is up with this dogshit luck?"

Crack...

As he said that, a cracking sound which was faintly heard before, was now heard clearly.

The soldiers were confused and turned to look at the source, but just then...

CRACK!

BOOOM!

"Ahhhhhh!"

"Ahhhhhh!"

"ROAAAARRRR!"

A giant tree fell down on the soldiers and their beasts, crushing them to flat like an omelette.

This was the same trunk which had a hollow trunk and contained the idol, which was then broken by Hyunsuk accidentally.

After the thrashing of the beasts, it cracked up further and in no time, fell down fully.

"I'LL KILL THAT MOTHERFUCKER WHEN I FIND HIM!"

"AHHHHHHH!"

.....

In a dark, ominous forest where the trees were gnarled and twisted, tall ancient trees surrounded a small clearing, wherein a five meter tall black rock idol of a cloaked figure was present.

Towards the base of this altar, Lith and Dennis were placed as offerings, still attached to a log like a koala.

There was a group of humanoid figures, having black tails and horns, possessing sinister auras, and cloaked in a similar way like the idol.

They surrounded Lith and Dennis, and had a wide grin on their ghostly pale faces.

"With these offerings, we can finally prepare a feast and do a summoning call! Kekeke!"

"With this, it won't be a mere legend anymore!"

"Kekeke! Let's begin, shall we?"

"Yes!"

Chapter 935 Hyunsuk And Shi

The unconscious Lith and Dennis were about to be cooked by the devils, however, at this moment, the black rock idol began trembling.

The devils froze on their spots as they watched that.

"What..." They were all baffled.

The black rock idol of the cloak figure trembled and soon, from the pendant it was wearing, a bright beam of white light shot out, blinding the devils and blocking their senses.

THUD!

[Ding!]

[A Jinx is around!]

[Ding!]

[A Charm is around!]

A loud crashing sound resonated in the area but the devils could not hear it because of their senses being blocked momentarily.

"Owf..."

"Ouch..."

Two youngsters cried out.

Meanwhile, the logs on which the two youngsters crashed before falling down on the ground broke apart, freeing Lith and Dennis from it.

Lith, who was already awake internally and chatting with the system, felt his consciousness return and opened his eyes.

He was surprised to find out that he didn't have to ask for someone's help, but also had a thought as to how he suddenly got saved.

In any case, since he was free and the devils were around, Lith focused on them first and put away his other thoughts.

It had only been a second since the time Hyunsuk crashed on the log and he woke up.

This one second was enough to change the tides!

Lith's eyes flashed with a murderous glint and using his Space affinity, he used the martial technique [Nine Steps Beat Lightning].

This was a movement technique collecting dust with Lith and was a way advanced form of Short Jump that he used everyday.

It was a quick movement martial art that, once mastered, could let a person move faster than lightning within a short distance.

This was so quick that a person could only see a series of bright flashes in front of their eyes, which is exactly what happened with the devils around.

They simply saw something bright for the second time, then collapsed one after another on the ground.

This was how efficient the movement technique was!

The technique was designed by an expert who wanted to beat lightning. He mastered it to a degree where he could strike at the source of lightning with just nine steps and extinguish it!

That's right, this technique was an autonomous one, meaning it could activate itself with some trigger and make Lith move.

The trigger was fluctuations in the Lightning element in the surroundings.

The fluctuations, once detected by the cultivator's spiritual sense or body, would trigger the technique and have him take nine consecutive steps towards the lightning source!

It was the worst nemesis of Lightning Path experts and at the moment, even though there was no lightning, Lith felt it was the fastest movement technique with him currently and activated it.

It did not take nine steps to strike the devils. All it took were three steps!

In one step Lith struck two devils at the same time!

The strike was enough to make them unconscious and it happened in less than a breath's time.

In this meantime, Dennis woke up from his unconscious state and looked around.

He saw the same bright flashes as the devils, but then saw his Prince's blurry figure moving around a few spots.

Eventually, he saw his Prince's figure properly and right in front of him, there were four figures tied up.

"Your Highness?" Dennis called out.

Lith turned around and before he could respond, his gaze fell on two guys grunting in pain a few metres away.

Dennis turned his head to see where his Prince was looking and saw two guys.

Surprised, Dennis asked, "Who are you two? Wait, who are they four? Where are we? And why's there a big black... rock statue?"

Hyunsuk, on the ground, got up and patted his clothes. He nodded his head and looking at Lith and Dennis in a worry-free manner, asked, "I would like to know too."

Hyunsuk was relaxed and talked as if he knew the two of them already; as if the previous rock idol incident did not happen at all!

"Son of a bitch, it hurts!" The youngster cried out while rubbing his butt.

"You are?" Lith asked Hyunsuk and then turned to the youngster. "He is...?"

Hyunsuk was as tall as Dennis and had a gentle expression on his face while the youngster seemed a bit taller than Miwa and possessed an annoyed look.

From his clothes, Lith could make out that he was involved in some accident, and sensing the two's cultivation, they were roughly Half Saint Ranks.

Right... There was also a system notification a while ago.

Checking it again, Lith saw that it stated something about a Jinx and a Charm.

Lith was surprised by the notification and wondered internally, 'Who's the Jinx and who's the Charm?'

[The one standing is the Charm and the other is the Jinx.]

'I see.'

Hyunsuk looked at Lith and answered calmly, "I'm Hyunsuk and this man... I do not know."

The youngster knitted his brows. He got up and patted his clothes, then said, "I'm Zhao Shi."

"You crashed into me before we arrived here, right?" Hyunsuk asked Shi.

Shi nodded and said with a frightened gaze, "I am glad I hit you, otherwise I was dead meat today!"

Dennis walked close to Lith then whispered, "Your Highness... What's happening?"

Lith shook his head. "No idea."

He then turned to the two and said, "You lot, just in case you don't know, you're in the devil's territory and this bunch here, they're the devils."

Hyunsuk frowned hearing that while Shi jumped in fright.

"What!? How!?" Shi exclaimed. How could his luck be this terrible to have left one calamity and then fallen into the pits of hell in the next instant!?

"Me and him were kidnapped by these devils and were about to be sacrificed, but you two crashed into us and freed us from their clutches. Then naturally, as I was free, I captured them," Lith said.

Hyunsuk and Shi raised their eyebrows in surprise and looked at Lith with admiration. This guy alone could defeat such foes so easily?

It was really an astonishing thing they've come across!

"Are you an expert by any chance, Senior?" Shi's personality took a flip and he automatically assumed himself as Lith's junior.

Lith looked at him and blinked his eyes, wondering how in the world he looked like a senior?

Hyunsuk bowed and clasped his hands. "I thank Senior for saving my life."

Hyunsuk was a step ahead of Shi. He could feel that the devils were stronger than him and had he encountered them, he would've been sacrificed.

Since Lith could defeat them, then it meant that he was stronger than them, which eventually meant he was a powerhouse!

Hyunsuk thus delayed no further and expressed his gratitude!

"It's alright. Just be careful out there from here on," Lith said and ignored them.

He squatted down to look at the devils, then began examining them.

Dennis followed suit and ignored them too. He squatted down to chat with Lith about the devils.

As long as his Prince was with him, there was no need to rack his brains. He just had to follow his commands and everything would eventually fall into place.

Dennis thus did not engage into a conversation with the two and began talking to Lith instead.

The two were dumbfounded when they heard that.

Where are they supposed to go from here on? How are they supposed to survive? They did not even know a single path home!

"Umm... Senior... If you don't mind... Can I tag along?" Shi was the one who asked this time.

"I want to tag along too," said Hyunsuk with a calm nod.

Lith looked at them and shook his head. "You two are strangers, it's risky to have you two tag along. What if you assassinate me and my friend in the midst of a battle?"

Hyunsuk and Shi were taken aback. Well, if Lith put it that way then... It did make sense. But, they were as harmless as a caterpillar!

They were the ones who would be in trouble most of the time and did not cause trouble!

Shi walked up to Lith and kneeled down to his level. He joined his hands and said with a saddened face, "Senior, please understand, I won't do such a thing. I haven't even killed an ant till this date!"

Hyunsuk walked up to Shi and kneeled beside him, joining his hands as well. "Me too."

Lith was baffled by the two's response. He did not think they would do such a thing out of nowhere.

What Lith had in mind was that the two would split up, then Lith would follow them, then save them from their danger, and eventually, he would coax them into becoming his slaves or servants or something.

After all, who in their right minds would let go of someone as rare as Jinxes and Charms!

With their responses though, things turned out to be a lot different than Lith had thought. He actually gained some respect for the two as they analyzed the situation properly and knew it was out of their control.

Hence, the best course of action was to team up with Lith, which they were trying to do now.

Lith looked at them and said with a neutral look on his face, "Well, I can accept you two, but there's a condition."

"What condition, Senior?" The two asked.

The corner of Lith's lips curved up. "Become my disciples."

"What!?"

Chapter 936 A Mere Stick Cannot Decide Future!

The idea of turning into a disciple of a random met they just met baffled the two.

Lith expected such a reaction and was ready with his next line. "Don't worry, as I'll be your master, I'll teach you a lot of good things. You'll be learning many new martial arts and various other cultivation techniques from me. I am the one who's at a loss here for accepting you two, but given how you've helped me during a critical time, I'll give this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to you."

Hyunsuk and Shi fell silent. This situation was taking a turn in a direction they couldn't even fathom!

From randomly finding a rock to now having a powerhouse offer to be their master... It was truly fantastical.

Their silence made Lith faintly smile and say, "You don't have to rush and answer me. I'll give you two exactly five minutes to think it through."

What do you don't have to rush? Giving five minutes to decide was exactly rushing the situation! Shi cried out in his heart.

While Shi was worried about things, Hyunsuk calmly looked at Lith and stared at him for a good few seconds.

Lith didn't budge and stared back at Hyunsuk, wondering what this dude was up to.

Hyunsuk then nodded for who knows what reason and squatted down.

There was a twig beside him and using it, he drew a line on the ground.

Beside the line, he wrote a simple "Yes" and "No", then placed the twig right above the line and let it fall freely.

The stick was stationary for a second, but then fell down on the yes section.

Lith, Dennis, and even Shi saw the scene, but did not say anything.

Hyunsuk nodded again and getting up, looked at Lith with his expressionless face. "I'll be your disciple," he said flatly.

"What!?" Shi exclaimed. This easily!?

Idiot you're relying on a damn twig to choose your lifelong fate? Are you okay in the head!? Shi cursed internally.

Lith and Dennis were dumbfounded by this too, but Lith smiled and said, "Come greet your Master then, disciple."

Hyunsuk nodded and walked up to Lith. He kneeled down and touched his forehead to the ground. "Please accept disciple Hyunsuk's greeting, Master."

Lith nodded. "Get up. You're officially my disciple now, Hyunsuk."

Hyunsuk got up and rubbed the mud off his forehead, then looked at Lith.

Lith took out a talisman from his space ring which was in the form of a cloth. He rubbed it and turned it into a string, then wrapped Hyunsuk's wrist with it, turning it into a bracelet.

"This talisman has my aura to it, being a proof that you're my disciple from here on. It'll transfer you to a safe place when you're on the verge of death." Lith gave a short introduction.

Hyunsuk bowed and clasped his hands. "Thank you, Master."

The expression on his face barely changed but his words appeared sincere.

This made Lith wonder, 'Is this dude a kuudere or what?'

Looking at Hyunsuk be swayed so easily, Shi gritted his teeth. This fellow... Just what was he up to?

He decided his life's fate just from a simple twig, how stupid!

Do you think that a twig is accurate? It could literally change direction with the blow of a wind, what would you do then?

Shi was really annoyed for some reason and disliked Hyunsuk for doing things so leisurely.

He racked his brain hard on what to do in this situation, but no answer came up.

The only thing Shi was good at was surviving. His brain only knew things related to survival and hence, when he was actually given a good offer and not put in a life or death situation, his brain refused to cooperate.

Shi was still gritting his teeth and wondering what he should do. Eventually, his hate for Hyunsuk rose up due to watching him make a decision due to a twig.

Thinking it was really silly and that he shouldn't have done that, Shi went to get an answer from the twig himself.

He wanted to prove to Hyunsuk that he shouldn't play with fate like that.

There was a fifty-fifty chance of the twig falling on the no section. If that would've happened, would he have simply gone about his ways in this dense jungle?

Shi wanted to prove how dangerous this process was and wanted to show that Hyunsuk should not take help from such a thing.

It was momentarily luck that gave him a yes in the first try. If that wouldn't have happened, he really would've gone away and gotten himself killed.

Shi squatted down at the Yes and No's area. He looked at Hyunsuk, then knitted his brows.

Hyunsuk stared back at him and at this point, Shi conveyed from his annoyed face: 'that's right, look at this, idiot. This is going to fall at the No section.'

Thinking so, Shi placed the twig on the dividing line, then let it fall freely.

The twig paused in mid air for a second, then eventually...

It fell on the Yes section, dumbfounding Shi.

Lith and Dennis were surprised by this too while Hyunsuk stayed unfazed as always.

'Wait... It's merely a coincidence,' thinking so, Shi placed the twig again on the divider and let it fall freely.

This time, it fell on the Yes section once again, shocking Shi.

'No, that's not possible! How can it always fall in the Yes section? There is only a 50% possibility!'

Thinking so, he once again placed the twig on the divider. This time, he decided to cheat a little and gently pushed the twig to the No section's side.

The twig leaned at the No section while pausing in mid air, then due to a sudden gust of wind, fell on the Yes section again.

'What the—' Shi was stupefied! Was the heavens playing a big joke with him right now or what?

Thinking this was an unacceptable situation, he repeated the process, but the twig fell on the Yes side again.

"Ahhh!" Shi was seriously annoyed and broke the dam twig, then threw it away.

A mere twig cannot decide his future! He would do better—'wait a second...'

Shi suddenly had a flash of inspiration. At all times, he was asking the wrong question. Maybe he should change things a bit and see the result.

Getting riled up, Shi immediately went to pick up another twig and then did the experiment again. This time, he thought, 'I'll be running away from this man wanting to be my master. It's a good decision, right?'

He let the twig fall freely and eventually...

No.

"..."

'I won't run away and join him. Good decision?'

Yes.

"..."

'Hyunsuk did a bad job joining, right?'

No.

"Whaaaaaat—" Shi lost his mind and screamed.

Lith, Dennis, and Hyunsuk had no idea what happened and were dumbfounded to see Shi do that weird thing.

What was going on in Shi's mind was not something they could read. All they saw was him letting the twig fall repeatedly, then start screaming like a maniac.

Lith did not say anything to the shouting Shi and stared at him till the time limit of five minutes was over.

Exactly about five minutes later, Shi breathed heavily and calmed down.

'Okay... This last thing... This last thing... I'll do a coin flip, if its heads, I'll join—no wait, heads is too common. If its tails, I'll join him. Yes, that's right...'

Thinking so, Shi took out a coin from his pocket and tossed it.

The coin fell down and Shi's heart began beating frantically. He did not want to look at it and closed his eyes, but his legs moved towards the coin subconsciously to see the result.

Shi sneakily opened one of his eyes to look at the coin, as if it would change the result and what he saw was—tails.

Shi shut his eye and took a deep breath. 'Okay... This is not what it seems...'

He took deep breaths and mustered up courage to look at the coin again, then...

.

.

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.

.

"Alright, stick close, we are heading towards a cave." Lith said softly.

Behind, three figures followed him.

Hyunsuk was expressionless as ever while Dennis had a calm look on his face and carried an unconscious person on his shoulder like a sack of potatoes.

This fainted dude was exactly Shi. He had dried up tears on his face and even unconsciously was frowning hard.

The other noticeable change on this dude were his dangling hands, one of which had a bracelet similar to Hyunsuk.

Lith was deep within the devil territories by now and with the help of the map, entered the region with the highest number of caves.

There was a cave every few hundred metres and Lith knew walking inside each one wasn't feasible.

Thankfully, he had seen what Hyunsuk was capable of doing and decided to take his help.

Lith guessed that divinity was a natural thing for a Charm like him and although he did not know the same thing about Jinxes, Shi seemed to have a similar outcome as Hyunsuk.

Though, since he was unconscious, he would make do with Hyunsuk's prowess.

Lith turned to look at Hyunsuk and said, "Hyunsuk, come here and help."

Hyunsuk nodded and walked up to Lith.

Lith gave him a slender stick and told him, "Think about a human girl with short brown hair and height a tad bit shorter than Shi, then drop the stick."

Hyunsuk nodded and began picturing such a girl.

He then dropped the stick and it fell in a certain direction.

Lith nodded and said, "Let's walk in this direction."

With that, the master-disciples and Dennis began journeying to find Miwa.

Chapter 937 A Canon Fodder Poses No Threat

Hyunsuk's luck was heaven-defying.

It was not even an exaggeration but a reality.

His stick fell randomly on the ground and following its direction, everyone eventually arrived at a cave emitting a malevolent aura.

Lith had gone past many caves and to arrive at a specific one such as this, it just meant they had reached their destination.

Lith heaved a relieved sigh. If this was true, then there was a lot he needed to prepare for.

Hyunsuk and Shi were definitely not someone who randomly bumped into him. As mentioned a lot many times before, there were no coincidences. He had to wait until his return back home to thoroughly check into this matter.

Until then, Lith had to be on guard and move along with whatever was being thrown at him.

Lith looked at the rest and said, "Prepare yourselves. This place may have a devil within it. Judging from the aura, if it's powerful enough, it may have already guessed our presence."

The rest nodded their heads and prepared themselves.

Lith walked inside the cave and the first thing he noticed was the stickiness at his feet. The humidity was high and it was damp everywhere.

The deeper Lith and his party ventured, the stronger the malevolent aura got.

Their path became narrower too and eventually, they entered a tunnel with nothing but darkness in front.

Shi hesitated from venturing further, Hyunsuk had no reaction, and Lith simply charged without bothering to talk or comment.

Through experience, he knew that if it seemed dangerous, then they were on the correct path.

After a while...

"Ugh... I can't move..." Shi desperately tried to lift his leg and cried out.

"Same," Hyunsuk added.

Lith and Dennis looked down. They were having difficulty too but not to a degree like those two.

"Have we fallen into a trap?" Dennis asked.

As if he made a command instead of a question, an eerie laughter resonated in everyone's ears.

"Keke... Have you?" The voice came from a figure nearing towards the four from the dark path ahead.

Soon, the four saw a half-human half-mantis figure. The face and upper body except the arms was that of a lady while the rest were that of a mantis.

There were thin green wings behind this figure, and a faint smile flashed on her face, as she knew everything was under control.

"W-w-what is that!?" Shi cried out. This was the first time he was looking at a monstrosity like this!

The expressionless Hyunsuk also had a small change on his poker face with his brows knitting up.

Lith and Dennis, unlike the two, were calm.

One had the constitution of an Emperor Rank while the other had a Legendary Rank's.

There was no monster or aura under Emperor Rank that could scare the two.

The female mantis however had other thoughts. It thought that the four in front were terrified of its presence and smiled.

"I like the fear in your eyes. Unfortunately, even if you beg for mercy, I'm told to finish the two of you non-humans off. As for you two humans, you'll become my master's meal, keke."

The mantis dashed at Lith who was at the forefront, its wings fluttering and creating afterimages of it.

"NOOOOOOO!" Shi screamed. He didn't want to die! And neither wanted to become a devil's meal!

Hyunsuk took a few steps back as sweat dripped down his forehead. From the mantis' aura, he guessed that it was a powerful foe he had no means to defeat.

The two did not have immunity to auras like Lith and Dennis, neither did they have rich battle experience to stay calm in the face of calamity.

What the two saw was the afterimage of the mantis, and in the next few seconds, it neared them.

Their hearts pounded intensely and their brains screamed at them to run.

However, their legs were glued to the ground below and they couldn't move.

Sweat dripped from Shi's forehead and he was about to scream again when,

Clang!

A loud metal-hitting-metal sound was heard by him.

He was looking at his master's figure and saw a flash of spark.

The afterimage of the mantis stopped and in the next instant, the humanoid mantis' baffled figure could be seen by Shi and Hyunsuk.

"How—" The mantis exclaimed and fluttered its wings, distancing itself from Lith. "How is this possible?"

Dennis shook his head and said, "Do you think a canon fodder will pose a threat to His Highness?"

"What..."

The mantis was about to ask a question when it saw Lith's figure disappear from the front.

In this instance, the mantis' instincts screamed for it to run. There was grave danger and its life could be extinguished at any moment!

"Ahhhh!" The mantis screamed and was about to run when darkness flashed in front of its eyes, cutting off its scream.

With a loud spurt, blood gushed out of its neck and its head flew away.

Lith was right behind the mantis and with a sword slash, he did not just cut its neck, but also chopped the female mantis into multiple pieces.

"Uwaaaghh..." Shi puked looking at the grotesque image of the humanoid mantis getting cut.

Hyunsuk covered his mouth as well and tried not to empty his stomach's content.

The two had never encountered such a scene!

Dennis looked at the two and said, "Why are you two acting like that? Get a hold of yourself."

Despite his comment, Shi continued to puke. The scene of a woman being chopped into pieces was not something he thought he would see.

Even though it was only half a woman, it was still a human nonetheless!

Lith, who was at the front, did not see what was happening with Shi and the rest.

Instead, he squinted his eyes and stared at the darkness in front. There was a faint rumbling sound he could hear from there.

The rumbling sound amplified itself as seconds passed and in no time, the ground and the walls around Lith started shaking.

"Oh no!" Shi exclaimed once again. "I can't move! Am I going to be crushed by a boulder!?"

In a narrow passage, if there was a rumbling, anyone could guess that a boulder was charging from the front.

The glueing of their feet was also another hint for it.

It was exactly as Shi had guessed— a boulder covering the whole narrow passage rolled towards Lith and the rest.

From the looks of it, the boulder seemed ordinary, but Lith frowned and immediately turned back, running towards Shi and Hyunsuk.

Lightning flashed beneath his feet and a streak of purple light formed a trail as Lith rushed towards the rest.

He took Dennis, Hyunsuk, and Shi in his embrace and cast a Space spell to teleport outside.

However, there was no element of Space around. The spell failed!

"Shit." It was Lith who cursed this time. Dumbfounding Shi and Hyunsuk.

'I am really going to die now!' Shi cried out internally.

## Chapter 938 Confronting The Boulder

?Shi and Hyunsuk tightened their hold on Lith's arms holding them. They were being hugged from behind and dragged away.

Dennis was in the mix too and was dumbfounded. He did not need rescuing, so why was the Prince holding him?

Your Highness I can face the boulder, it's just a rock! Dennis wanted to scream, but his vampire instincts didn't allow him to refute his Prince.

Lith could feel his two disciples' panic, but there was no time to comfort them.

The boulder was bad news. It was even worse than the mantis as there were a few dangerous runes Lith could feel on it.

Lith did not have much idea about runes and his knowledge was limited, but his instincts were never wrong and facing it head-on was asking to be killed.

Lith did not want to resurrect back home. That would be too shameful and he would become a laughing stock.

Not to mention, he would be the first among the two siblings to have died! This would take a big hit to his pride!

Lith clicked his tongue and ran as fast as he could, using a movement technique that involved the Lightning element.

Lightning element was the best of the best when it came to movement.

The overall death rate of cultivators having this elemental affinity was the lowest in Lith's world. It was because they could easily escape in time.

The Royal Castle naturally possessed a diverse library of various martial arts suitable for all elements. The library at home had something for everything, be it sword technique, movement technique, or even a sexual technique.

Lith had access to such a place, he was bound to have a solid foundation with a wide variety of martial art techniques to choose from.

The movement technique he was currently using was called [Lightning Shadow Flow]. It was one of Lith's most used techniques and was great to make swift zigzag and zapping movements like a lightning strike.

It had not even been a few seconds of running when Lith felt the passage in front of him lengthen. It was not a good thing, but Lith still ran as fast as he could.

The boulder was still closing in on him and it seemed to match Lith's swift pace.

Another few seconds of running later, Lith suddenly realized the passage had no end to it.

By now, he should've exited the cave, but it did not happen. This was not good and shouldn't be possible to accomplish by a mere devil.

Lith's thoughts were running at full speed to analyze this situation, but the rumbling sound of the boulder distracted him.

Lith set the three free and turned around. Dealing with this boulder was more important otherwise he and the rest would be crushed to death.

Vampire regeneration allowed recovery, but that was as long as some part of the body was intact and the Magic Core wasn't hurt.

This boulder would crush everything, regeneration would definitely not work!

The only way out of this was to crush the boulder. To do so, Lith had treasures on him in his space ring. He tried to take out a gauntlet, but failed to do so immediately.

"There is no Space element!" Lith cursed internally.

How this passage was devoid of any Space element, Lith could not understand.

Since treasures could not be summoned from his ring, he ran at the front and yelled, "Dennis, use your defensive artifacts and come with me to punch this boulder."

"Yes, Your Highness!" Dennis began running as well.

He did not know what would happen if he tried to punch a boulder even his Prince thought of evading at first, but Dennis was mentally prepared for it.

His Prince had given him a command and his brain was programmed to not think about anything else but that.

With this, the only worry Dennis had was to not be able to punch the boulder. What if the Prince did it before him? He would fail to answer his calls!

That was absolutely unforgivable!

Dennis tried to take out the items from his space ring but failed to do so just like Lith. It was not a problem for him though. He had most of the important treasures already equipped.

Dennis was a battle maniac through and through, meaning he was ready to fight at any given moment. If he didn't already have treasures equipped, he may suffer a big blow in a conflict.

Thus, Dennis was always ready!

He used his spiritual power and channeled it to the defensive item on him, which were his robes, and activated them.

An armour manifested over his clothes and next, Dennis took off his bracelet and held it tightly with his dominant hand.

A lot of spiritual power was channeled to it and the bracelet glowed with a silver sheen.

Lith could feel the changes happening behind his back and knowing Dennis was ready, exclaimed, "Prepare for assault in 3..."

As Lith did a countdown, from the dark passage in front, a faint something closed in on the two.

The rumbling intensified and the aura of death loomed over Lith and Dennis's head.

"Haaaaaa..." Dennis channeled all his power into his fist with his scream.

Lith continued with his countdown, "...2... 1!"

RUMBLE! RUMBLE!

BOOOOOOOM!

The two punched the boulder with all their might and a loud shockwave spread through the passage.

The shockwave passed through Shi and Hyunsuk, making their hearts skip a beat and their ears ring with a whistling sound.

The passage around them cracked and in no time, they saw the ground beneath them start to collapse.

Crack... Crack...

"Ahhhh!" Shi yelled as his ear felt a splitting pain. He clutched his head and squatted down.

Hyunsuk felt a loud whistle in his ears and covered it with his palms, trying to suppress the sound.

Nothing helped them.

Crack... Crack...

The two failed to notice the deeping cracks beneath them. It was dark and their entire focus was on their splitting pain.

In a few seconds...

The ground collapsed and the two fell down.

"Ahhhhhh!" Shi yelled.

"Nooooo!" Hyunsuk exclaimed too.

The two fell down and thought their demise was near, but to luck would have it, splashed down into a water body of some sort.

Their yells abruptly stopped and Shi, who was as unprepared as ever, widened his eyes in surprise.

He was alive! He didn't die!

Right as he thought that, in front of him, he saw two figures sinking down in the water.

Hyunsuk saw this too after he regained his senses.

The water around the figures got dyed and despite the low light, the two knew it was blood!

They did not even need to guess who they were and immediately began swimming towards them.

As Hyunsuk moved towards his sinking Master, he felt something shine in the corner of his eyes.

Turning to the source, Hyunsuk saw a crystal within a cave.

This cave was wide and had a floor without water on it!

Hyunsuk's luck was as good as ever and he notified Shi about it, then swam towards Lith.

Shi got Hyunsuk's signal and swimming towards Dennis, took hold of him and moved towards the cave.

The two eventually rescued Lith and Dennis and went to the floor within the cave.

"Huwaaaa!" Shi gasped and dragged Dennis on the cave's floor.

Hyunsuk reached the place as well and with Shi's help, placed Lith above the floor.

Shi breathed heavily and after giving a hand to Hyunsuk, brought him out of the water.

While Hyunsuk gasped for air, Shi turned to look at his Master's condition.

In this very instant...

"MASTER!"

Chapter 939 Shocked Hyunsuk And The First Mythical Ingredient

Shi's scream made Hyunsuk turn his head to look at their Master.

The moment he did so, his eyes widened in horror.

In front, his Master's ever so handsome face was disfigured. Half of his body was gone and only now did he notice that his organs were spilling out.

A chill went down Hyunsuk's spine and he puked. This time, he couldn't stop himself from doing so.

Shi, after his initial scream, felt the scene to be too unbearable and passed out on the spot. He wasn't as strong-willed as Hyunsuk.

After puking until he couldn't anymore, Hyunsuk wiped his mouth and once again turned to look at his Master, wanting to see whether he was dead or alive.

Even though Hyunsuk did not have any glimmer of hope, he still decided to confirm it for himself.

As he turned back, the horrifying scene was back in his vision.

However, much to his surprise, the spilled contents of his Master's body were slowly pulled back within him. This shocked Hyunsuk and made him rub his eyes.

'Am I dreaming?' Hyunsuk thought to himself and continued to stare.

Slowly but surely, the intestines and everything were back in their place.

The missing half of Lith's body started repairing itself and his disfigured shape was slowly recovering too.

It took around fifteen minutes, but he recovered fully and there seemed to be no signs of any damage on him.

Hyunsuk once again rubbed his eyes and even pinched himself to check whether he was daydreaming or something.

How can this be possible? He wondered. Not only was his Master's body recovering, even his clothes did so!

What sort of magic was this?

Soon, Lith's eyes fluttered and he opened them with a grunt.

The first thing Lith saw was Hyunsuk's worried face. "Oh, you're alright. Good."

Hyunsuk was dumbfounded again. Master, it's not me who you should worry about, but you yourself!

Even though Hyunsuk had many things to say, in the end no words came out of his mouth.

He lent a hand to his Master and made him get up.

Lith patted his clothes and looked around.

There, he saw Dennis's disfigured body.

"Ssssss... That's too much damage." Lith gasped.

Hyunsuk blinked in befuddlement and wondered whether his Master didn't just say that.

He was the same guy a few moments ago! Master, do you have any self-awareness!?

Lith's gaze then fell on the passed out Shi. Even from a distance, he could feel his breathing and guessed that he was just unconscious.

Being a Vampire, Lith was really sensitive to Humans, and guessing Shi's vital status wasn't difficult.

Lith ignored Shi and then walked up to Dennis.

He tried to summon some healing pills from his ring, but found it unable to do so once again.

Shaking his head, Lith decided to use Life spells to heal Dennis, but on another thought, decided against it.

It was better if he concealed his elemental affinities. He had already displayed that he possessed Lightning and Space ones, and he didn't want to increase this number to a great degree.

Since Dennis was a Vampire, Lith simply cut his own wrist and let blood flow into Dennis's mouth.

He made the blood flow properly into his mouth, then into his stomach, and when was done, waited and watched.

Hyunsuk watched the whole scene without blinking even once. He was too curious to know what his Master was doing.

In front of Hyunsuk's eyes, he saw Dennis's disfigured body speed up its healing process.

It was already healing like Lith's, but the process was much faster now.

The all broken bones were joined back, all tissues were put together, and the disfigured shape was back to being normal.

From a cold pale to a healthy pale, Dennis's complexion returned to normalcy.

And like Lith's, his clothes repaired themselves too.

Soon, Dennis's eyes fluttered open and he saw Lith and Hyunsuk staring at him.

Unlike Lith, Dennis let out a relieved sigh and said, "We succeeded."

Lith nodded. "Seems like it."

Hyunsuk blinked his eyes and wondered whether it was him who found this situation crazy or was he himself crazy.

In any case, he couldn't help but ask, "Master... How are you alive?"

This was not asked with ill-intent but out of pure curiosity. Lith could feel it from Hyunsuk's tone.

He smiled and was about to answer him when,

"Ahhhhh! Ghost! Ghost!" Shi suddenly woke up and started screaming.

Hyunsuk turned his head to look behind Lith's towering figure and saw Shi scream after having a look at Dennis.

Then, Shi passed out again.

Dennis tilted his head in confusion. "This is one strange fella."

'You're the strange one!' Hyunsuk exclaimed internally.

Even though Shi had shown cowardice repeatedly, Hyunsuk felt it was a justified reaction now.

Anyone would be shocked in such a situation, this was nothing out of place.

Ignoring Shi, Lith shook his head and then turned to Hyunsuk. "Well, the reason why I'm alive is—"

"Your Highness, look at that!"

Lith's words were once again cut off, this time by Dennis's comment.

Hyunsuk's eyes twitched and he wondered why only during this instance something had to come up.

Was it a coincidence or was it on purpose? He couldn't figure out.

Lith turned to look at the place Dennis was pointing at and saw a bright orange hue in a passage.

"I'm sure of it. That's an entry to the outside!" Dennis said and started walking towards the passage, carrying Shi on his shoulder like a sack of potatoes.

Lith and Hyunsuk started walking as well and soon, they saw stairs leading to a bright, warm place to an entrance.

Dennis was excited and began walking towards the entrance. Unfortunately, the moment he took a few steps, he activated a trap and got an arrow to pierce his head.

Thankfully, Shi was dangling on Dennis's shoulder and didn't come into the line of fire.

Now, in normal circumstances, a person should've died immediately, but in this one, Dennis turned around and said with an awkward smile, "Be careful, Your Highness, there are traps."

Dennis then pulled the arrow out of his head and blood spurted out like a waterfall, but stopped in a few seconds and he was back to normal, as if there was never an arrow that went through his head.

Hyunsuk was completely shocked out of his wits and did not know what to even make of this.

Who even were these guys? How come they didn't die from arrows straight to their heads? What was this? Where could one have a body like this? Hyunsuk couldn't help but wonder.

Lith patted Hyunsuk's shoulder and said, "You don't try this. You'll immediately die."

Of course I would! Hyunsuk cried out internally, but had no change in his expression on the outside.

Hyunsuk did not express himself much, but today, he was feeling one shock after another. However, due to his personality, all the emotional changes were internal.

It was a pity that Lith and Dennis couldn't see it. They would be really amused and entertained otherwise.

For safety reasons, Lith passed the unconscious Shi to Lith.

Lith sent a small electric current to shock Shi and eventually woke him up with a stupor.

Needless to say, Shi once again screamed after watching his dead Master come to life, but Lith slapped him and shut him up.

Eventually, Shi shut his mouth and began quietly following behind Lith while poking Hyunsuk and asking him how come these two are alive with hand gestures.

Hyunsuk merely shrugged and continued to walk. He had no idea himself.

While walking, Dennis warned about a series of traps and evaded all of them.

He wholeheartedly believed in the saying: Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.

Thus, he did not commit the same mistake twice.

The four passed through the entrance and stopped to look at the scene in front.

A bed of rocks lay in front of them, and in the middle of this bed, through the cracks, bright orangish light seeped out.

Not only that, they found themselves in a cave with an exit.

At the end of the bed of rocks, they could see the setting sun and a sea.

The breeze from the sea echoed in the cave, amusing Lith and Dennis.

At this moment, Lith recalled the riddle:

"In the caverns where whispers echo, find the gem that cradles the fire's glow. Amidst the silent stones, it slumbers deep, a treasure guarded by shadows' keep."

"Seek the southern reaches, where the sun bids farewell to the day. A hidden entrance unveils the path; venture with courage and the gem will reveal its warmth."

The setting, the situation, the sight... It all matched the contents of the riddle.

This cavern had properties that made even the breeze from the sea echo in their ears, it went without a doubt what would happen if they were to whisper.

Next, the gem being talked about was probably beneath the bed of rocks and it was what emitted a fiery glow.

Lith had come to the south, in the devil territories, and the sun was setting in front of him. They had also come here through a hidden entrance, and as for the line which said: "...treasure guarded by shadows' keep..."—Lith guessed that it meant it was shrouded in mystery, its whereabouts unknown.

It was true, its whereabouts really were unknown. Even the natives of this world did not know about these ingredients.

As for the devil which caused Lith and the rest to come here, Lith had a feeling that even he did not know.

It was because Lith could not feel any aura besides the gem's in this place. It had been like that since the time Lith was near that water cave where he and Dennis were unconscious.

Looking at the gem, many emotions swelled up within Lith. He sighed and said, "We finally found one mythical ingredient."

Chapter 940 Lith's Speculations

Flames raged in a crystal prison.

This was the gem beneath the bed of rocks Lith harvested.

Contained within the red gem were blinding white flames, burning even an immortal's hands that touched it.

With great difficulty, Lith held it in his palms and grunted due to the intense heat spreading from his palms towards his whole body.

Within seconds, he felt as if his whole body was lit on fire and grunted.

Dennis, Shi, and Hyunsuk who watched the scene were silent. They could feel the intense heat from afar, it went without a doubt how problematic it would be to hold the gem.

Gritting his teeth, Lith cast layers of barriers made of Earth, Wind, Water, and Light on the gem.

First, a square-shaped Wind layer enclosed the gem. It made the heat dissipate uniformly in all directions and provided proper ventilation.

Next, a Light layer reflected the intense light coming from the white flames. Since the Wind layer was present before, it didn't overheat the gem enclosing the flames.

After it was an Earth layer to absorb heat. This layer also gave a proper shape for Lith to hold onto.

Lastly, the Water layer at the very end kept the Earth layer moist and ensured it didn't break after turning brittle.

It felt a bit muddy to hold this square box containing the gem, but it was much better than feeling one's body being burnt.

If Lith had access to the Space element, he would've placed it into a different dimension, but in its absence, this was the best he could do.

Holding the gem, Lith said, "The first ingredient is acquired. Three more are left."

"Three? But weren't there five riddles, Your Highness?" Dennis suddenly asked.

If there were five riddles and they found one, shouldn't they be left with four more ingredients?

Lith shook his head. "The last two riddles are there to confuse people. The fifth riddle which you're talking about, it's not really a riddle, but a clue to the fourth riddle."

Dennis rubbed his chin. He did not understand anything. But oh well, if His Highness said three, then it's three!

Hyunsuk and the now conscious Shi were flabbergasted. Their hands were trembling and even though both were strangers to each other, they couldn't help but look at themselves.

The two's shocked eyes met and without saying anything, they understood everything the other party was feeling.

They had just watched their Master find a thing out of legend and then even contain it with his magic.

A thing... of the legend... a thing... of legend...

These words echoed in their minds and they both were frozen on their spots.

"Hello? You guys good?" Dennis waved his hand in front of the two's faces.

They woke up from their stupor and looked at Dennis, blinking their eyes repeatedly.

The two's gaze then fell on the mud box their Master was holding and it went without a doubt—he had actually successfully acquired an item of legend!

Hyunsuk and Shi were residents of this world. No one knew about the cursed child's legend better than them.

Despite eons of searching, no one was successful in finding the ingredients for the mythical stew. Then how come... how come their Master found it in one go like this?

The two could not help but wonder.

It was not just the two, even Lith and Dennis were slightly surprised with how efficiently they found this.

However, Lith had some speculations as to why the path was easier.

Truth to be told, it wasn't actually easy, but filled with sacrifices and hardship.

Miwa and Ralph were in grave danger. One was captured by a devil while the other was in the hands of the church. Their circumstances were really unfortunate.

Not only that, before this last quest, they had suffered through two centuries of hardship. By no means was it a joke and it was serious training.

Not only were Lith and the rest learning cooking, but also cultivating simultaneously.

Their attainments in various elements had increased sharply and despite having their own paths, the Cooking Path acted as a supplementary and only helped them further.

It did not clash and it helped them a lot. It's precisely for this reason that Ralph, who cultivated the Lust Path, could go about so many days without sleeping with anyone.

If he had abstained for so many days under normal circumstances, he would've gone crazy and turned into an incubus that only worked on instincts. He would've fucked any and every breathing thing he could find.

But such circumstances never appeared as eating food made out of rare beasts and herbs helped sustain and alleviate his cultivation.

Likewise, it was the same with the rest and they hadn't wasted their two hundred years in mere cooking.

Their reflexes, ability to handle huge crowds, not faltering under pressure, willpower, tenacity... Everything had been sharpened and increased to a great deal.

There was an old saying: sharpening the knife won't delay the cutting of the watermelon.

Their growth or cultivation had not been delayed due to cooking for so many years.

After going through such hardships, the four had entered this world for their last quest.

They were not natives of this place and naturally had knowledge and a perspective different from these guys.

The people of this world were afraid of venturing in the devil territories. Even if someone was caught and if some hero emerged out, they would stick to the rescue mission and not go elsewhere.

Likewise, the devils barely cared about the mythical ingredients. What mattered to them was the desires and ambitions of the humans.

Lith also speculated that the reason for them finding this ingredient was due to deities and a few other external factors.

It was no coincidence that Miwa fell in the hands of the devil that was near the gem.

The deity that was impressed by the vegetarian food and gave clues to Miwa's place was also another factor.

If Lith and Dennis hadn't practiced and perfected their cooking techniques, this deity wouldn't be impressed and they wouldn't be able to find Miwa.

Add to that, if they weren't kidnapped by the devils in the devil territory then Lith wouldn't have met Hyunsuk and Shi.

As for how Hyunsuk and Shi arrived here at the precise time, it had something to do with the 'external' factors. What force made them meet, Lith didn't know yet.

But there was something greater at play with not just a Charm meeting Lith, but also a Jinx coming together as an added bonus.

Who in the world possessed two complete opposites like this as disciples?

Even Lith's mother, who had many powerful subordinates, did not have anyone as special as this.

This was no mere coincidence!