

## Vampire 951

Chapter 951 Mysteries Of Cause And Effect, Karma

Back in the mountain range.

Lith was still sitting on the rock. He contacted Dennis and got to know that the church officials were wiped out, and Ralph's whereabouts were known.

Lith told him to not worry about Ralph and asked him to get the ingredient and meet at Jenna's place in the forest.

He put away the communication talisman and turned to Helen again.

Helen looked back at Lith with a neutral gaze.

Lith smiled and said, "Your sacrifice was in vain. How do you feel about it?"

Helen closed her eyes and took a deep breath. "If you wish to kill me, just do it. But don't forget to leave this world alone."

Lith rubbed his temples and walked towards the lady. Her obsession of having everybody saved at the expense of herself was strong.

Lith held the lady's hand and imbued some of his spiritual power into it, analyzing her bone age. It came out to roughly five hundred years old.

She possessed strength similar to a Half King Rank.

"You're five hundred years old and still lack so much common sense and intelligence." Lith scolded the Saintess.

Saintess Helen stared at Lith as if he was an unknown creature, not understanding what he meant.

Lith shook his index finger. "Your way of dealing with a devil is wrong. It always was. When you put yourself up for a sacrifice and asked me not to harm others, did you really think I would do as asked?"

Saintess Helen shook her head. "I was going to have you sign a pact, but was unable to do so."

"Oh? Did I perhaps capture you too early?" Lith rubbed his chin.

Saintess Helen sighed. "Yes. My head was spinning the whole time, I wasn't in the right state to bring it up quickly."

Lith chuckled and shook his head. "I fail to understand how you're so experienced and still mess up so badly."

Saintess Helen let out a wry smile.

Lith willed the Earth element beneath him and made a block of rock erupt out.

He sat on this rock, cross-legged, and was positioned face-to-face with Helen.

"I also don't understand how you're talking so freely. Shouldn't you have emotions such as fear or anger or grief? You were captured, and about to be sacrificed too. I also did not make any promise

to let the people live." Lith didn't actively try to instil despair, but his words passively did so anyway.

Saintess Helen closed her eyes and sighed again. "What use is there to despair? What's supposed to happen, will happen. You can't change fate or destiny. From the start, the situation was not normal. The church was prepared for a full scale holy war, but the enemy turned out to be far more dangerous than we initially thought."

"The church's legacy is deep, we have many ancient treasures and protective artifacts. However, even if we had used everything, you wouldn't be defeated. Others may not know it, but you proved it to me by breaking free of the formation's effect. Add to that, Light did not burn you. It was very strange."

Lith nodded. "In the face of absolute power, schemes, deceit, treasure, formations... nothing works."

Saintess Helen nodded as well. "That's why I tried to dissuade the situation and offered myself, but the negotiations never happened as I did not get to have you sign the pact."

Lith chuckled. "How do you feel now? You're going to be killed and no one's going to survive. I'm really bad, don't you think?"

Saintess Helen let out a pained smile. "What I think doesn't matter anymore, does it? As I said, what's going to happen, will happen."

Lith shook his head and index finger. "You're wrong about this fact. Your fate and destiny can be changed. What's going to happen, doesn't always happen. You can stop it in due time."

"If such was the case, wouldn't I have already done everything to stop you?" Saintess Helen asked.

Lith blinked and stared at Helen. He fell into thinking.

What she's saying isn't wrong. However, I never had any plans to kill the people of this world or harm anyone. My sole goal was to make the stew and leave.

It's probably because I wasn't going to harm her did she not get a premonition of death and prepare beforehand.

Thinking till this point, Lith suddenly asked, "Answer me honestly, do you think I'm going to kill you?"

Saintess Helen stared at Lith with a dumbfounded gaze, surprised by the sudden question.

After a few seconds of thinking, she shook her head. "If you wanted to kill me, you would've done it already. If you wanted to, you could've attacked the church in Thames itself, but you didn't."

Lith smiled. "Do you think I can't kill you at this very instant?"

"You can." Saintess Helen said flatly. "As I said, I'm powerless. Whatever decision you make is independent of what I think."

Lith found this woman really interesting. She was suicidal, but also really rational at the same time.

Before Lith could ask her anything, Helen continued, "Before you kill me... Just think of it as my last wish. Can you answer a few questions of mine?"

Lith stared at her curiously. "Sure."

"How are you unaffected by Light? Aren't you a dark creature? Shouldn't you burn due to it?"

Lith chuckled. "While it is indeed true that dark creatures are affected by Light and holy things, it's not exactly accurate. You see, after countless years, some bloodlines have become immune to all this. Not to mention, there's nothing in the world that says a dark creature can't have an affinity to Light. Meaning, a dark creature can use Light magic too."

Saintess Helen raised her eyebrows in shock. "How is this possible?"

"All beings are equal. There's no one superior to the other." Lith dropped some profound wisdom. "Ever since an infant, you're taught as a human that dark is bad, light is good. Evil is bad, always do good things, always follow virtue, and so on. However..."

Lith's gaze turned serious. "That's just something society made to shackle everyone into following a proper order. Let me simplify it."

"The more things you do, the more you'll increase your cause and effect, the more your karma will be affected."

"If everyone did more things, these two principles will have a major stir in them, thereby collapsing order and giving rise to chaos."

"Now, with the rise in chaos comes destruction. It's a natural principle of the universe and no matter what you do, it won't change."

"With destruction comes a big wipe out. You may lose everything you love, and even the universe could collapse due to it, including yourself."

Helen's face contorted. She had a twisted expression as she did not understand a single bit of what Lith was saying.

Looking at her, Lith stopped speaking and rubbed his chin. "Am I bad at explanations? That's the simplest I could go though..."

Helen didn't respond, but her slight rosy cheeks indicated she was slightly embarrassed. How could she tell Lith that it was her who had trouble digesting everything and not him?

Thinking that his explanation was overly complicated, Lith thought of something else and said, "Okay, I'll simplify it further and tell you. Listen closely and interrupt if you don't understand."

Saintess Helen nodded obediently.

Thus, Lith began with his complicated explanation once again.

#### Chapter 952 Bird Nest Analogy

After ten minutes of explanation, Lith saw Helen still did not understand.

Shaking his head, as a final ditch, Lith said, "Just think that everyone is equal in nature's eyes, that's it. It does not discriminate and a demon or devil could have Light affinity. In any case, the teaching that dark creatures cannot possess Light affinity is wrong. It still somehow rapidly spread everywhere because..."

Lith paused and looked around.

He saw a bird resting in a nest.

Pointing at that, Lith said, "Look at that bird and tell me, did it build that nest?"

Saintess Helen turned her head and saw a small cuckoo. She did not think much about Lith's question and said, "Yes?"

"Why do you think so?" Lith asked with a small smile.

"It's laying there and all birds naturally build nests." Saintess Helen answered.

Lith nodded. "That's right. But you're wrong. Cuckoos don't build their own nests. Keep watching."

Saintess Helen continued to watch.

A while later, a few eggs dropped from the nest, then the cuckoo flew away.

Another bird arrived at the scene and it seemed to gaze at its nest, then realized its eggs were missing and began crying out loud.

The melodic cries were heard by Saintess Helen and baffled her.

"Did you see that? That cuckoo not only laid its egg in that other bird's nest, it also kicked a few of the existing eggs down so that the bird provides its undivided attention to the remaining few. With this, the cuckoo ensured that its offspring won't be discriminated against or killed in the long run." Lith explained.

Saintess Helen was speechless. She really had no idea that birds could be like this too.

Lith smiled again. "Now do you understand? Not all birds build nests and not all demons are without a Light affinity. It's still a new concept for you, it'll take time for you to comprehend it. Anyway, anything else you'd like to ask?"

Saintess Helen nodded. She put on a forced smile and asked, "Can you please not make the stew? Please consider it as my last wish."

Lith chuckled. "That's not happening. But I wonder, why are you so against it? How come a stew can become a reason for the world's doom?"

Saintess Helen sighed. "I do not know. It's just a prophecy that Saintess Selena passed down."

"What prophecy?"

"It's like this..."

Saintess Helen told Lith the whole prophecy and made him ponder over this matter.

After a while, Lith said, "Hm... What the prophecy stated doesn't necessarily mean the world's going to be destroyed. You could think that two paths emerging into a third path could naturally be metaphorical instead of literal. If it's not the case, do two paths and the blind mountain actually exist in this world?"

Saintess Helen shook her head. "There are no such records in the church."

"That's right." Lith clapped his hand. "It's metaphorical and not literal. So you shouldn't worry about it. Anyway, it's up to you whether you wish to continue worrying or move on. I'll do what I want afterall."

Saintess Helen let out a tired sigh. "I understand. Then please kill me. I do not wish to hear the cries of innocent worshippers when the apocalypse descends."



Lith chuckled and extending his hand out, rubbed Saintess Helen's head, dumbfounding her.

"You're way too suicidal. As a punishment, you'll stay confined by this rope until we finish making the stew."

"Nooooo..." Saintess Helen knitted her brows and cried out.

Lith shook his head. "Anyway, time to go save Ralph. You quietly stay here until my return."

Saintess Helen bit her lip and a drop of tear leaked out from the corner of her eyes.

"Oh Light... Please be merciful..."

In a helpless situation, Saintess Helen could do nothing but pray for the well being of everyone.

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Artisan's City Pumice.

Lith was back in this city and went straight to the church located here.

Ralph was right under his nose all this time and he cursed himself for being negligent. He should've scanned the church in this city before leaving.

It was an oversight on his and Dennis's part because they were too focused on saving Miwa.

Thankfully, all was well now and Ralph wasn't in grave danger.

Lith went to the church and made his way towards the basement.

Five church disciples were in the midst of torturing Ralph, who was half awake and grunting in pain. His hair was a mess and there was some bleeding from his lips. It was unsightly.

Lith frowned and used the Lightning element, sending controlled bursts of it to the heads of these disciples, knocking them unconscious and burning the skin where the Lightning touched them.

In his half conscious state, Ralph saw a blurry figure walk up to him.

Then, this blurry figure said, "Sigh... Sorry it took so long."

Ralph felt a sharp surge of coolness within his body and woke up from his half conscious state.

As his vision returned, he saw that it was Lith who had arrived and rescued him.

"All better?" Lith asked.

Ralph did a light nod. "Thank you."

Lith chuckled and patted Ralph's shoulder. "You don't say that."

Lith captured the five disciples and bound them together with a spell.

He carried the five with him and walked out of the church with Ralph.

On their way to the mountain range, Lith told Ralph everything that had transpired while the latter was silent and listened intently.

After half a day of flying, they reached the mountain range where Saintess Helen was.

Lith threw the disciples beside her and introduced Ralph to her.

Ralph was still silent and simply nodded. In his mind, he was still trying to figure things out and was wondering how he became so useless.

Lith had emphasized that it wasn't Ralph's fault and he was just unlucky, but being a master strategist, his brain worked in ways no one else could comprehend.

Now that Ralph was rescued, they could go to find the final ingredient and complete the stew.

Watching the church's disciples, Helen pleaded to show them mercy and release them, but Lith ignored her cries and went to Jenna's location.

It took them a whole day of flying to reach Jenna's place.

Once they reached, Lith and Ralph saw Dennis and Miwa standing on a flat grassland.

There were also three figures Ralph did not recognize, namely Jenna, Yuma, and Hyunsuk.

"Your Highness! Ralph!" Dennis called out cheerfully.

"You two finally arrived..." Miwa said with a tired sigh.

"Master..." Hyunsuk called out.

Descending down, Lith threw the church's disciples away and gently put Helen down.

Helen's heart ached watching the mistreatment of the disciples, but she could do nothing about it. For the past twenty four hours, she had been consistently pleading but her diligence had no value.

She thus gave up and succumbed to misery.

Looking at the new people brought, Dennis couldn't help but ask, "Church guys?"

Lith nodded. "They were the ones who summoned Ralph."

Dennis knitted his brows hearing that and a killing intent erupted from him.

Lith quickly put his hand on Dennis's shoulder and said, "You can deal with them later. For now, let's go and discuss the last ingredient's location."

Dennis retracted his killing intent. They were orders from his Prince, he couldn't defy them. Sighing, he dropped the matter.

"This way please, we have prepared many delicacies for you all." Jenna said cheerfully.

Lith and the rest nodded and were about to go with Jenna, however, at this point, Hyunsuk who was looking around, walked up to Lith and gently tugged on his sleeve.

"Hmm?" Lith turned around and asked.

Hyunsuk looked around once again and calmly asked, "Master, where is Shi?"

"Shi?" Ralph, who was beside Lith, asked.

"..." Lith facepalmed hearing Hyunsuk's question. "Don't tell me... The thing I was forgetting..."

Hyunsuk looked at Lith with a befuddled gaze. "Did Master forget to bring him along?"

Lith's lips twitched. Damn it! How could he forget such a thing!? He internally cursed.

This was so bad...

What impression would his newly appointed disciple even have of his Master?

A peak Half King Rank Master... Prince of all Vampires... he forgot nothing trivial but his own disciple!? A living being of all??

Hyunsuk felt something was amiss. "So Master did forget..." He said softly.

"Aha ha... ha... no." Lith forced a laugh and scratched his chin. "Shi actually had something important and stayed behind."

Hyunsuk tilted his head. For some reason, he doubted this.

"Aha... I actually realized I have something important to do too. You guys go ahead, I'll be here in a bit." Lith laughed nervously and said.

Extending his wings out, he quickly flew away and disappeared from their sights.

Hyunsuk sighed and shook his head. It's probably Shi's misfortune that made their Master forget about him.

Thinking it was just a minor inconvenience, Hyunsuk didn't dwell on it much and went along with the rest to Jenna's place.

While on their way, Dennis saw Ralph's poker face.

Although it was expressionless, Dennis could feel that he was sad.

Instead of asking what was up, Dennis wrapped his hand around Ralph's shoulder and then did the same with Hyunsuk, who was walking beside him.

Laughing loudly, Dennis said, "Bloody hell, do you know about Hyunsuk here? This guy's luck is just too good! You know, we actually ended up having so many fortuitous encounters!"

Trying to uplift Ralph's mood, Dennis began loudly narrating the things they went through while bringing some minor inconvenience to Hyunsuk.

Since these idiots decided to walk ahead, it was Miwa who had to drag the disciples Lith brought and Helen to Jenna's hut.

She cursed Dennis and Ralph both loudly, but dragged the church members nonetheless.

"I'll beat those slackers up once they settle down!" Miwa exclaimed in her heart.

Chapter 953 All Ingredients Acquired

Jenna's Hut.

Lith was back with Shi and everyone sat around a round table, discussing their future plans.

Shi's clothes were in tatters, and he was one step away from becoming the talk of the town.

He was sleeping and recovering on a chair beside Lith's. Nobody bothered him and actively ignored his unsightly state.

"So where to from here on, Your Highness?" Dennis sipped on tea and curiously asked.

"To the location of the last ingredient." Lith looked at a map and said. "We need to find the areas with high density of serpents, and not just any, but river serpents."

"Oh! I know of them!" Dennis put the teacup down and clapped his hand, his eyes twinkling. "In the memories of the church officials, there were locations of river serpents."

The group of church members roaming around Dennis's group were killed and their souls went through a thorough memory search.

Dennis was speaking from knowledge obtained through the search.

Lith nodded. "Then it's decided. We'll obtain that and finish this quest as quickly as possible."

Dennis, Miwa, Ralph, and Hyunsuk nodded their heads.

After doing some small talk with Jenna and her mother Yuma, Lith and his party left to get the final ingredient.

The last riddle was relatively simple and it did not take them long to find a group of river serpents.

The habitat of these creatures was peculiar. They made nests over a flowing river's strong currents and lay in them.

These nests were made from some earth that radiated warmth.

Lith and his party passed by many such nests and eventually found an earth vein in the middle of a jungle.

Guarding this earth vein was a giant white serpent with red eyes. It emitted a powerful aura and was sound asleep.

The riddle stated that they needed the tears of its laughter blended with something.

Lith didn't know what something it was, but given how there were a lot of rare herbs growing beside the earth vein, the only viable option was to blend the morning dew on these plants with the serpent's laughter.

The challenge Lith and the rest now faced was to make the serpent laugh. They had never done such a thing and it was really weird.



After racking their brains for a while, Dennis got an idea and quickly said it to everyone.

The idea made everyone's lips twitch, but nobody smacked Dennis in the head for it.

Everyone was out of idea so it wouldn't hurt to try what Dennis was suggesting.

Thus after getting a green signal, Dennis went to fetch a few river serpent's and came back.

He mind-controlled these creatures easily and made them go in front of the giant river serpent.

The giant river serpent woke up as it noticed intruders. However, possessing superior intelligence, it did not kill these guys and watched.

The river serpents Dennis was controlling hissed and began coiling around whatever they could find.

Some serpents slammed their heads onto the pillar they were coiled at, some hissed melodically, and some tried to stand as tall as possible.

The scene was far too stupid and made Lith as well as the rest cringed.

They closed their eyes and couldn't bear to watch the embarrassment being put up in front.

Dennis ignored them. He made the river serpents perform an orchestra full of hisses and ssssss. He also made them dance and wriggle around like caterpillars.

The giant river serpent had never seen such a thing before and it stared at the group of stupid serpents.

After a while of watching, the giant snake hissed and began thrashing around.

At first Dennis thought it went mad because of the stupidity of the weaker serpents, but then he saw tears glisten around its red eyes.

The tears flowed out of the serpent's eyes and fell on the plant near the earth vein.

Dennis saw one drop get mixed with the dew present in a plant.

Thinking this was it, he went ahead and fetched the plant as swiftly as possible, moving right under the nose of this giant serpent.

Dennis's level was higher than the river serpent and that guardian didn't take notice of him.

Finishing his task, he showed it to the rest and had a look at their surprised faces.

"You thought my idea was stupid? Who's laughing now? Hahaha!" Dennis laughed out loud and praised himself happily.

Lith and the rest had seen what Dennis did. It was a surprise to find out that a serpent could laugh too. It was a strange sight for all.

Nonetheless, everyone heaved a relieved sigh.

Without any problems, the last ingredient was obtained and they could finally make the stew and leave.

It was still a bit unbelievable how smoothly everything went.

Things were definitely suspicious and everyone put their guards up and meticulously moved towards performing the final few steps.

There wasn't anything that specified about the venue or time to make the stew, so Lith chose a random flatland and began preparing to make the stew.

Ralph seemed dejected throughout their journey and Lith could tell why was such the case.

The guy wasn't the best at expressing himself, but Lith could understand that his sadness stemmed from his uselessness.

Ralph wasn't useless, just really unlucky in this quest. He was captured at the start and also rescued at the last moment when the ingredients were almost gathered.

He couldn't help anyone and only helped cause more problems.

The sadness did not stem from out of nowhere and everyone could understand.

Thus, to cheer him up, Lith gave the stew making duty to Ralph.

From preparing the ingredients to cooking it fully, Ralph was the one who would do everything, the rest would simply sit down and watch him.

Ralph accepted the duties and began preparing to make the stew.

"Hey, if you mess up, me, Miwa, and His Highness will take turns to whoop your ass." Dennis heckled and laughed.

Ralph didn't even try to actively ignore Dennis's comment. It just happened naturally.

After so many years, Ralph's hearing was fine tuned to ignore everything Dennis blabbered. His brain only processed some useful information that may occasionally come out of his mouth, otherwise he was simply ignored everytime.

Dennis did not know about it and thought he was doing a good job motivating Ralph. He thus sipped on tea and continued to heckle.

Lith, Miwa, Hyunsuk, and the now conscious Shi patiently waited for Ralph to finish. They were very curious to see if the stew of the legends would actually be made or not.

Ralph put on his apron, chef's hat, lit up the fire below a big cauldron, and used the Ignisite for flames.

Once the setup was ready, he took a deep breath and sharply gazed at the cauldron.

"I'll start the cooking process now."

Chapter 954 The Stew Is Ready!

Ingredients flew overhead in an arc, falling straight into a giant cauldron.

A vortex, appearing due to forceful stirring, absorbed all the ingredients like an abyss, not letting anything spill out.

Ralph effortlessly chopped veggies with one hand, and stirred the stew with the other.

Two centuries worth of cooking experience showcased themselves in the skillful moves Ralph portrayed, his bearing elegant, and his style etched with grace.

Hyunsuk, and Shi stared at him with an awe-struck gaze, their jaws threatening to drop from the amazing maneuverability Ralph displayed.

After ten minutes of chopping and stirring, the cauldron was covered by a lid and everyone waited for the stew to be cooked.

No one said a single thing and stared at the cauldron, which contained enough stew to feed a whole village.

An hour later, a savoury aroma hit the nostrils of everyone nearby, making them unconsciously drool.

The aroma smelt like a blend of spices, neither too overpowering nor too bland. Each individual spice could be felt even by laymen like Hyunsuk and Shi, who did not know a single thing about cooking.

There were no instructions on how the stew should be made, but the four experienced chefs could feel that it was ready.

Walking over to the cauldron, Ralph uncovered the lid and steam erupted out from within, disappearing in thin air after a few breaths of time.

The stew appeared cream-like yellow, containing many colorful ingredients within it.

Every chef tasted their food to check for flavours, but the four did not have such leeway.

They were strictly told to not taste it before sacrificing a bowl.

This sacrifice would be the ultimate proof of their completion of this quest—a badge that would honour the four as Master Chefs, making their two centuries worth of efforts come to fruition.

It was a cumulative work of the four and hence, they all took a ladle of stew within their respective bowls and went to sacrifice it.

Lith let Hyunsuk hold his bowl and went to inscribe a hexagram on the ground, enclosed within a circle.

Many treasures were added to it for activation and once everything was in place, on the circumference of the circle, Lith wrote something in a language he had no idea of.

Those words fit perfectly on the circle, appearing in a loop. It was not an inch more or a centimetre less.

Lith went to take the bowl back from Hyunsuk and called Miwa, Ralph, and Dennis.

The four stood on four equidistant points on the magic circle, and Lith said calmly, "I'm activating the magic circle. Just follow what I'm doing."

The three nodded their heads and Lith began chanting something in a foreign language.

A few moments later, the magic circle glowed with a greenish tinge and the words written on the circumference glowed with a golden sheen.

The circle started levitating and soon reached Miwa's waist level and stopped.

Lith indicated to the three that it was time.

He gently placed the bowl down and the three did the same.

When Lith took his hands off it, the bowl surprisingly did not fall, but hovered on the magic circle.

Once the last person, who was Miwa, put their bowl down on the magic circle, thunder rumbled in the sky.

The sky darkened and a heavy downpour followed.

Lith cast a barrier around the giant cauldron to keep it warm and fresh while he took notice of the bowls placed on the magic circles.

Nothing happened to the stew in these bowls. They were protected from the rain.

Lith, Miwa, Ralph, Dennis, Hyunsuk, and Shi turned their gazes up to look at the sky, wondering why it just started raining.

The thunder flashing within the dark clouds reflected within their calm eyes.

At this point, the vitality of the whole planet could be felt soaring.

The beasts in the jungles made frantic noises, their echoes audible even miles away.

All around the world, every being got out of their house and stared at the sky, not caring for the rain or thunder.

Humans, devils, ducks, snakes, elephants... There was no exception, everyone was outside.

Something strange was going on high up in the skies.

The thunder continued to rumble, but nobody showed any signs of fear. Everyone's gaze was expectant as if they instinctively knew something awaited them beyond the dark skies.

Moments later, the thunder died down and the rain stopped.

The dark clouds began disappearing, however, instead of a warm sunny day, what awaited the individuals of this world was a vast starry sky.

For the first time in their life, the residents of Two Path Blind Mountain World had seen such a sight.

The stars in the skies twinkled brightly, as if trying to communicate with the residents.

None knew what was happening with them and could only stare with awe at it.

However, unlike the rest, four figures were hearing a series of words in their minds, and saw lines upon lines of words in front of their eyes.



[Serpent King of the Cobblestone World is greeting you.]

[Wanderer of the Spirit Serenade Realm is greeting you.]

[The Vermilion Clan has taken notice of you.]

[The Black Tortoise Clan has taken notice of you.]

[The Gourmet Association has taken notice of you.]

[The White Tiger Clan has taken notice of you.]

[The Azure Dragon Clan has taken notice of you.]

[The Ouroboros Clan has taken notice of you.]

[The Cerberus Clan is gazing at you with confusion.]

[The Frost Devil's lips are curved up.]

[The Blazing Devil is staring at you in confusion.]

[The Scarlet Devil is staring at you in confusion.]

[The Undead Devil is staring at you in confusion.]

[The Lich King is staring at you in confusion.]

[The Samsara Devil has spent a great deal of providence and is wondering why you possess his mark.]

[The Sin of Gluttony is staring at you.]

[The Gourmet Gatherer Gerald is staring at you.]

[The Night Goddess licks her lips as she stares at you.]

[The Martial Master is scratching his chest intensely while staring at you.]

[Tens of thousands of deities are currently staring at you.]

The series of words made Lith's head spin and his vision darken.

However, the tantalizing aroma from the stew kept him awake.

Turning the side, Lith could see something similar happening with Miwa, Ralph, and Dennis.

Wondering if it was just him or were they hearing system notifications too, Lith asked in his mind, 'Are they looking at the same things as me?'

[Answering Host: Yes.]

[The Sacrificial Circle Host has inscribed lets one connect to the higher deities.]

'What!?'

## Chapter 955 Offers From The Deities

Amidst Lith's confusion, more series of words rang in his head as well as appeared in front of him.

The most peculiar out of it was:

[The Devil of Gluttony laughs heartily.]

[The Devil of Gluttony is pleased with the legend repeating.]

[The Devil of Gluttony burns a great deal of providence and casts a protective shield around you.]

Lith saw a blue haze around himself as well as the rest.

[The Devil of Gluttony looks at everyone.]

[The Devil of Gluttony burns providence and becomes the middleman.]

"Hahaha! What a sight to behold!" A crisp laughter resounded in everyone's ears.

A twinkling star shot through space and descended down at Two Path Blind Mountain World like a meteor.

It only took a few seconds for it to streak across the boundless space and descend down.

The landing was not explosive as one may have thought. It was rather soft.

A blinding radiance spread out and after a flash, a figure wearing a suit and a black top hat could be seen walking towards Lith and the rest.

The figure's face was blurry, and he was tall, slender in appearance.

As the figure neared, Lith could smell a distinct sweet aroma he had never felt before.

Stopping right in front of Lith and the rest, the figure faced the stew hovering on the magic circle.

He took a bowl and did a deep inhale.

"Haaaaaah.... So nostalgic...." The figure's crisp yet melodious voice rang out in everyone's ears.  
"Hehe, I must say... It's almost similar to what mother made."

"!!!!" Lith and the rest froze on their spots and stared at the figure with wide eyes.

The figure ignored the four's reaction and drank the stew in one big gulp.

Lith only saw the stew disappearing in the blurry face. There seemed to be no mouth or any distinct feature that could be seen by him.

One by one, the figure gulped down all four bowls of stew. His slender figure turned into a healthy bulky figure.

"Good job. You've done what no one else was able to accomplish. I'm thoroughly impressed, so much so that I burnt some providence to see you four youngsters."

The figure clasped his hands behind his back and said in a deep, melodious voice.

"Now, let me briefly tell you what's happening. You may have guessed it, but I'll still tell you. I'm the child who was always hungry in the legends. Yes, I do exist. And don't worry, as per the legends, I did not eat my parents or the empire. My parents are alive and well. I may be a devil, but I only do dark things if it's related to food." The man answered various questions which nobody had asked him.

He walked in between the four and wrapping his arms around Lith and Ralph who were standing at the back, the man looked up.

"Ladies and gents, I, the Devil of Gluttony—not to be mistaken as the Sin of Gluttony—greet you all."

The stars in the sky twinkled and there was a particularly bright star amongst the thousands, twinkling aggressively.

[The Sin of Gluttony snorts.]

Lith and the rest did not need to guess for long as the answer appeared right in front of them.

From the looks of it, the Sin of Gluttony and the Devil of Gluttony seems to be at odds, thought Lith.

"Have a look at the beautiful world I was born in, the Two Path Blind Mountain. Don't worry, the name is not metaphorical, there's actually two paths here that lead to a blind mountain. A blind mountain is actually a range that phases in and out of existence. If you wish to know more, give my birth world a visit, haha!"

The man was surprisingly talkative, and also really sweet with his words.

Lith and the rest wondered whether this was actually a Devil near them or a game show host.

"Now, now, all of this aside. Let's talk about why I burnt so much providence and decide to be a middleman. I'll give it to you straight. I don't want these amazing fellas to fall into the wrong hands. Their cooking skills are astonishing, way better than any youngsters under the age of five hundred from the famous clans and families."

"I want them to go to gourmet related houses and hone their skills further. Of course, as the middleman, I shall reap a lot of benefits from this. I did not burn my providence for nothing, did I? Haha!"

[Many deities are snorting coldly.]

[The Gourmet Association is interested.]

[The Wanderer of Spirit Serenade Realm is interested.]

[The Gourmet Gatherer Gerald is interested.]

[The Night Goddess is sipping on wine and looking at the show.]

[The Samsara Devil is looking at the show.]

[The Martial Master is interested.]

[The Martial Master wants to offer a contract.]

'So quick!' Lith and the rest thought.

"Hahaha! Martial Master, I'm afraid I can't let you have them. You'll only make them train and not cook. I won't be able to have delicacies." The Devil of Gluttony responded.

[The Martial Master states cooking won't be a problem.]

[The Martial Master states he has a long history with one of the four.]

"Oh? History? Now this is interesting." The Devil of Gluttony chuckled. "At the end of the day, there's no such thing that can't be bought. If the benefits are good, I'll consider handing them to you, Martial Master."

[The Martial Master sends you a contract.]

A ray of light shot out from a star and quickly descended down on the Devil of Gluttony's palms.

The light turned into a scroll and opening it, the Devil chuckled again.

"Fine, it seems like a good deal for everybody involved. Let's hear what these kids have to say. If they're okay with it, I won't stop them."

[The Martial Master nods.]

[Many deities are dissatisfied with the flow of events.]

[Many deities show their hostility to the Devil of Gluttony.]

[Many deities show their hostility to the Martial Master.]

[The Martial Master picks his nose.]

[The Gourmet Association asks for a taste test.]

[The Gourmet Gatherer Gerald asks for a taste test.]

[The Night Goddess asks for a taste test.]

[The Wanderer of Spirit Serenade Realm has an offer.]

"Ho ho? Some want a taste test while the Wanderer is bringing up an offer? Interesting. I like such risk-takers." The Devil clapped his hands and laughed.

Lith and the rest felt this was truly a bad situation. They had not expected such a development to occur.

All they wanted to do was finish this quest and go home, but things developed to a different level and now they had to bear through it.



Lith felt like a treasured item being sold at an auction. Except, he did not know whether the person he was being sold off to was good or not.

What level these deities were, Lith did not know. He just knew that he hadn't been around someone with this devil's aura.

The aura this man was emitting was scary strong.

"Alright, since asking for a taste test is not wrong, I'll let you all have some of the stew these guys prepared. Beware though, it's so amazing that you might wish to invade this world for the ingredients. It's a big no-no since it's my home, so tread the path carefully, haha!"

With that, the devil walked to the big cauldron and took out a few bowls of stew from it.

With a ray of light, those bowls shot up at the stars and disappeared.

A few breaths later...

[The Gourmet Association has sent an offer.]

[The Night Goddess's mouth is full of stew. The Night Goddess still manages to send an offer.]

[The Gourmet Gatherer Gerald sends an offer.]

[The Wanderer of Spirit Serenade Realm snorts.]

[The Wanderer of Spirit Serenade Realm is looking at the Devil of Gluttony.]

"Don't worry, fellow deities. All the offers are being shown to these four. It's totally up to them now. By the way, if anyone else wishes to step up, do so now, because it'll be considerably difficult in future." The Devil meticulously seduced the deities watching.

[The Sin of Gluttony snorts and sends an offer.]

The words of the Devil worked wonders in an instant.

"Haha! Knew you won't stay quiet for long." The Devil of Gluttony mocked, but in a melodious, hearty tone.

[The Cerberus Clan sends an offer.]

[The Vermilion Clan sends an offer.]

[The Black Tortoise Clan sends an offer.]

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One by one, thousands of deities sent an offer and flooded the Devil of Gluttony.

The Devil, as usual, possessed the last laugh and filtered out the offers he did not like.

The majority of the offers were untouched and sent to Lith and the rest.

Lith did not know where to begin. There were just so many people saying they'll give him this, give him that and so on.

There were surprisingly a lot of Devils and beast clans in the mix, offering certainly valuable benefits.

All were enticing and rejecting any would mean losing out big time.

While Lith was confused with everything, the same was the case with Miwa, Ralph, and Dennis.

They did not get the same offer from the many beasts and devils, but their offers weren't any less than Lith's.

While everyone was busy sorting contracts out, the space around them fluctuated.

"Hm? Guests?" The Devil of Gluttony looked at the front and said with a confused tone.

Lith and the rest's attention shifted to the spatial fluctuations in front.

A portal opened up before them and out of it appeared two divine figures. One possessed lush silver hair and amethyst eyes while the other had red horns, raven black hair, and abyss-

like dark eyes.

Lith raised his eyebrows in surprise while the rest did so too.

The Devil of Gluttony stared at the arriving figures and tilted his head, confused about the sudden appearance of strangers on this planet.

"Who might you be, dear guests?"

Chapter 956 Dream Devil Falls Into Eternal Sleep

"Who might you be, dear guests?"

To the Devil's question, the silverhead faintly smiled and pointed at another silverhead behind him.

"Look at him, then look at me. Who do you think I might be?"

The Devil of Gluttony did not need to turn to see Lith's figure. Everything in this world was under his watch—it was his home after all.

While the Devil tried to guess the guests' identities, the stars in the sky twinkled intensely and a series of messages popped up.

[The Vermilion Clan stares at the newcomer with red horns.]

[The Black Tortoise Clan stares at the newcomer with red horns.]

[The White Tiger Clan stares at the newcomer with red horns.]

[The Azure Dragon Clan stares at the newcomer with red horns.]

[The Ouroboros Clan stares at the newcomer with red horns.]

[The Cerberus Clan stares at the newcomer with red horns.]

[The Blazing Devil stares at the newcomer with red horns.]

[The Scarlet Devil stares at the newcomer with red horns.]

[The Undead Devil stares at the newcomer with red horns.]

[The Lich King stares at the newcomer with red horns.]

[The Samsara Devil stares at the newcomer with red horns.]

[The Dream Devil burns providence to check the identity of the newcomer with red horns.]

Right as the last message appeared, Lilith stopped in her tracks and craned her neck to look up in the sky.

Her serious purple eyes shined with slight murderous intent, and for the first time in a while, her gentle expression disappeared.

A star in the sky radiated with intense luminosity and eventually, it dimmed, disappearing completely from the starry sky.

[The Dream Devil suffers a backlash for divining the identity of the newcomer with red horns.]

[The Dream Devil's providence is burning exponentially.]

[The Dream Devil's existence is fading.]

[The Dream Devil falls into an eternal sleep as a last resort.]

[The Dream Devil's providence has stopped burning.]

The intensely twinkling stars in the sky suddenly dimmed themselves, completely shocked by the sudden turn of events.

Looking at the starry sky and the now dimmed stars, Lilith, with utmost seriousness, said softly,

"There won't be a second time."

Lilith turned her head back to look at her son and smiled, as if nothing had happened a second ago. She walked close to him and hugged him from behind.

"My baby~~"

Lilith swayed side to side as she glued her face with Lith's. Oh how much she had missed him!

Lith was genuinely dumbfounded by his mother's appearance. He wasn't a fool to have not seen the threat she just gave to those deities above.

The stars in the sky had still not dared to twinkle. They were emitting a faint lustre and were in the same place as before, as if afraid to even breathe.

The newcomer with red horns, Lucifer, was genuinely amazed by her sworn sister's abilities.

She saw a series of messages in front of her eyes as if there was a game interface, and then suddenly things turned silent.

She could make out that Lilith had made a threat to someone high up in the sky, and it was for this reason they turned silent.

Lucifer's appearance garnered a lot of attention from the many beast clans and the devils, she naturally knew the reason for it.

Keeping this topic aside for now, Lucifer walked past the Devil of Gluttony and arrived at Lith's side.

Staring at him from head to toe and ignoring Lilith who was hugging him, Lucifer squinted her eyes and said, "You... After two centuries, you're still not a King Rank?"

Lith was dumbfounded by his aunt's words. Did she know what she was talking about? Was ascending to a higher realm a joke or something to her?

Keeping his annoyance suppressed, Lith firstly patted his mother's arm around him. "Mom, we can be intimate later. Can you leave me now?"

"No!" Lilith exclaimed. She had not seen her baby for two hundred and eleven years, forty seven days, sixteen hours, twenty-two minutes, and fifty-four seconds!

How could she let him go like this now? He was in serious need of hugs and cuddles and kisses and love!

Lilith knew her baby the best, she naturally knew what he needed the most!

Being watched by so many deities and getting hugged by his mother so lovingly, Lith, for the first time, felt himself blush.

His shamelessness could rival even Grand Lust Sovereign's, but this time, he wanted to do nothing but dig a hole and bury himself in it!

Suppressing the rosy blush appearing on his face, Lith ignored his mother and turned to his aunt.

"Aunt, do you think ascension is a joke? There's no one in the world who has ascended to King Rank within three hundred years." Lith protested.

Lucifer looked at Lith with a befuddled gaze. "You are three hundred years old? I thought you were five hundred already..."

Lith's eyes twitched. "You don't even know my age?"

Lucifer scratched her chin and whistled, evoking her right to remain silent.

Her gaze then fell on Ralph, who was right next to Lith. "Oh, Avelyn's son!"

She closed the distance between Ralph and herself to chat, and went past Lith.

Lith shook his head. His aunt was a gone case.



The Devil of Gluttony stared at the sudden shift in events with an amused gaze. He wasn't angry or annoyed, simply interested to see how this whole situation would unfold from here on.

After hugging Lith for a solid five minutes, Lilith broke the hug. She wanted to kiss his lips, but refrained from doing so as she didn't want to expose her intimate affairs to so many people.

Lilith decisively kissed Lith's cheek and turned her head to look at the Devil of Gluttony.

Her gentle expression was replaced with a neutral look as she stared at him.

"The offers are still up, yes?"

The Devil of Gluttony gently nodded his head. "That's right, ma'am. Do you wish to see them?"

A Devil's greatest power lay in their art of talking. This species was notoriously shameless, having no bounds whatsoever.

Pride meant nothing to them and they would flip their personalities as per their situation.

The Devil of Gluttony had seen the Dream Devil's encounter with Lilith. He had a rough estimate of the former's power, but being forced to go into eternal sleep, this spoke volumes about the lady in front's strength.

The Devil of Gluttony dared not offend Lilith and retained the same humble act as before.

Lilith nodded and the Devil gave her a small blue orb, similar to a marble.

Lilith held it and checked the contents.

After a while, she turned her head up to look at a specific star. Squinting her eyes, Lilith said, "You are one of the fools who sent an attack in the astral realm?"

[The Martial Master jumps on his seat.]

[The Martial Master burns providence and states it wasn't an attack, but a small test to gauge the new genius's strength.]

[The Martial Master argues that it was sent with goodwill.]

Lilith narrowed her eyes and continued to stare at the star.

The star twinkled faintly, like a guilty child fiddling his hands.

A few seconds later, Lilith said, "Very well. I'll send him to you. Be his master, teach him everything. However, why do you want the other child?"

[The Martial Master burns providence and states the other child is interesting.]

Lilith shook her head. "You are not suitable for that child."

The twinkling star dimmed, as if dejected.

Lilith ignored it and turned to look at another star hidden within the boundless space. "Frost Devil, come out."

A star suddenly twinkled faintly.

[The Frost Devil is looking.]

With a calm gaze, Lilith said, "You hurt the child, you'll look after her. Come back with her after a hundred years."

[The Frost Devil's lips are curling up.]

[The Frost Devil is wondering whether it has been found out.]

"No." Lilith replied. "It's still a well-kept secret."

[The Frost Devil cackles.]

[The Frost Devil sends an offer.]

A streak of light flew down into the orb Lilith was holding.

She walked over to Miwa holding it and rubbed her head. "Child, accept the contract. You won't regret it."

Miwa stared at Lilith with a stupefied gaze.

Lith, Ralph, and Dennis turned to look at her and wondered what was happening.

The deities and the Devil of Gluttony stared as well and were wondering something similar.

Miwa did not know what her fate was. She also did not know how she suddenly landed in such a situation. However, looking at the gentle gaze of Lith's mother, Miwa felt everything would be alright.

Lilith's serene eyes calmed even the tumultuous of waves in Miwa's heart.

For some reason, she felt a great clarity within her mind. She did not need to think much and nodded her head lightly.

"I'll do as aunty says," Miwa replied.

Lilith faintly smiled and rubbed Miwa's head again. "Since you believe in aunty... Aunty would naturally not disappoint and look after you."

With that, Lilith gave the orb to Miwa. She held it and with a thought of accepting the contract by the Frost Devil, a streak of light shot into her glabella.

Miwa shuddered and eventually, a line of words appeared in front of her eyes.

[You have accepted the Frost Devil as your Master.]

A star in the sky twinkled brightly and a ray of light shot out from it.

It enveloped Miwa completely and in an instant, she disappeared from the Two Path Blind Mountain World.

The twinkling star in the sky disappeared as well after a second, leaving many confused.

## Chapter 957 Invitation To The Celestial Banquet

With Miwa gone, the attention was back to the Martial Master.

Lilith did not seem pleased by him, but the deity kept urging to send Lith to him. He wanted to see what this genius was capable of and how far he could go.

If there were things that brought emotional changes within Lilith, then this meant it was something new for her. She had a vague idea of future events, but nothing in complete detail.

Lilith wondered whether she should send her son to this baboon or not. After a quick glance at Lith, she sighed and gave up.

Like how it occurred with Miwa, Lith got an offer too.

To his dismay, it did not contain anything heft or heaven-shaking. There were two lines.

— Ascension till Demigod realm.

— Introduction to Sacred Celestial Realm and xxxxxxxx.

Some information was hidden for reasons unknown to Lith. But he took up the offer nonetheless.

Unlike Miwa, Lith did not immediately shoot up in the sky. Confused, he looked at his mother.

Lilith patted Lith's head and said, "You can't leave the chaos you created back at home unmanaged. Wind it up, then you're free to go."

'Ah...' It dawned on Lith. He had been so busy with everything that he forgot about the seeds he planted back at home. They should've grown by now and ready to harvest.

Lith nodded his head in understanding. "I definitely can't."

Next, Ralph and Dennis took up on offers given by a few deities.

Ralph took up the offer given by Night Goddess as it seemed more promising.

Dennis was about to take an offer, but the Devil of Gluttony chimed in and said, "Dear youngster, I just got detailed on a new offer. Would you like to know?"

Dennis shrugged. "Sure."

"Amazed by your talents, the Wanderer of Spirit Serenade Realm and Gourmet Gatherer Gerald have come to a consensus to look after you together."

A new line of words appeared in front of Dennis's eyes.

[The Wanderer of Spirit Serenade Realm and Gourmet Gatherer Gerald offer to be your Master and introduce you to the Sacred Celestial Realm. Ascension till Demigod Realm guaranteed. Ascension to True Culinary Master. Can take it to Pseudo Culinary King as well, depending on the potential.]

Dennis had no idea what any of those words meant. He had not heard about any such thing before, but this made him guess that they were powerful realms way beyond the norms of his world.

Dennis agreed to the offer and took up those two as his master.

With that, the contracts came to an end.

"Before we depart, there's another piece of news I have just been given." The Devil of Gluttony clapped his hands once and said.

Right as he finished, a line of words appeared in front of the trio's eyes.

[The Gourmet Association invites the promising youngsters to the 1703rd Celestial Banquet.]

"Hehe, you youngsters are lucky. The invitation is not given to just anybody and is limited to a really small group of powerful cultivators and gods. I suggest you accept it and have a look. Simply participating would get major rewards you would not want to miss." The Devil of Gluttony seduced the gullible lambs.

Not wanting to make a rash decision and believing the big bad wolf, one innocent lamb turned to the mighty mama lamb.

Mama lamb spread her hands out, indicating she did not know anything, and the decision was theirs.

Thinking about it carefully, the innocent lamb had a discussion with the other two, and eventually gave in to the devil's seduction.

[You have accepted the 1703rd Celestial Banquet's invitation.]

[Ding!]

[The Host is being marked!]

[Resist the marking? (Y/N)]

Lith chose No and let the marking be there.

A ray of light shot from a twinkling star and landed on the back of Lith's palm.

A black lotus formed itself in between the thumb and index finger area.

[Ding!]

[You are an official invitee of the 1703rd Celestial Banquet.]

The lotus tattoo did not bring any change on Lith's body. He also could not feel anything from it and thought that it was probably a simple marking as stated by the notifications.

Once the invitation was accepted, the starry sky soon twinkled and the dark clouds reappeared.

The Devil of Gluttony did a courteous bow and said, "Feel free to travel the lands of Two Path Blind Mountain, dear guests. I shall take my leave now."

Like a meteor, the Devil shot up in the sky and disappeared.



The dark clouds eventually disappeared as well and everyone saw the familiar sun once again.

"Let's go—" Lith stopped himself from speaking as he saw his aunt Lucifer was still staring at the sky, with narrowed eyes. "Hm?"

The rest turned to look at her as well.

Lilith walked up to Lucifer and patted her shoulder. "Don't worry, you'll see them soon, in some way or another."

Lucifer stopped looking up and sneered. "I know. And I sure do hope I see them soon, otherwise they won't be able to put up a fight."

Lilith giggled softly. "Who knows? Maybe you won't even need to fight."

Lucifer shrugged. "Only time will tell. I better prepare myself."

Lilith smiled and didn't dwell on it further.

Lith looked at his mother and aunt, who finished their conversation, and said, "The last task is completed. It's time to leave this place."

Lilith nodded. "Yes. You have a lot to tell me."

"Indeed. But before that, let me introduce a few people to you. Two of them are my disciples by the way." Lith smiled and said.

Lucifer raised an eyebrow. "Just yesterday you were training under me and now you have disciples for yourself?"

Lith shrugged. "Fate, I guess. Well, it's a good thing that at least they are getting somewhat of a competent teacher, unlike a certain someone here."

Lith squinted his eyes at Lucifer.

Lucifer narrowed her eyes. "What are you trying to say, lil runt? Say it clearly."

Lith smirked. "Nothing needs to be said more. We all know what I'm implying."

"Hmph!" Lucifer snorted and decided to not bicker with this guy anymore. There were important matters she had to tend to, it was better to leave this world quickly.

Ralph, standing a bit away from Lith, had his eyebrows quiver slightly.

His expressionless face barely showed any emotions, but with this quivering, it indicated how awkward and uncomfortable he was feeling.

Lucifer was his Queen, he should be paying her respects. But, Lith was bickering with her and it felt rude to interject.

The atmosphere was tense and Ralph could only just stand and watch.

With some light-hearted talks, Lith brought the rest to Jenna's place.

Hyunsuk and Shi were there, stuffing themselves with a wide variety of foods.

As Lilith walked inside the hut, surprise flashed within her amethyst purple eyes as she took notice of the Jinx and the Charm.

'What heaven-defying luck does my baby even possess?'

## Chapter 958 An Unfortunate Accident

As Lilith and Lucifer walked into the hut, Shi's fork dropped on the ground along with his jaw.

Such ethereal beauties! He marvelled and gazed at the ladies. Jenna and Yuma, who were in the room, had a similar expression.

Hyunsuk on the other hand had the same poker face as before. His pupils dilated a bit as he saw his master arrive, but nothing other than that.

Lilith and Lucifer were used to stares, but were really sensitive to the gaze of men.

The two turned to look at Shi, who was gawking at them and couldn't keep his mouth shut.

Lilith raised her eyebrow in interest and watched him, but Lucifer suddenly felt an itch and walked up to Shi and beat him up for staring.

'Oh my...' Lilith thought to herself.

Lith, Ralph, Dennis, Hyunsuk, Jenna, and Yuma all facepalmed as they saw Shi getting beaten up.

The ones who knew thought to themselves:

'The Jinx's misfortune affects even himself!'

"Ahhhhh! I'm sorry! Stop hitting me!" Shi cried out as Lucifer hailed a series of slaps.

Shi had done nothing wrong and just let out a normal reaction. He wasn't even perving or anything, but Lucifer still beat him up. This was his misfortune working in full blast.

"Aunt, stop hitting him. He's my disciple." Lith intervened and stopped Lucifer.

Lucifer stopped beating him up and snorted coldly. "Don't gawk."

"Poor boy." Lilith shook her head and shot a healing spell through her fingertip at Shi.

Shi's body and clothes recovered immediately, and a warm current flowed through him, dumbfounding him.

For some reason, Shi felt that his cultivation had slightly increased. Was he dreaming?

With everything settled, Lith let out a relieved sigh and introduced everyone to each other.

As Lilith had expected, this Jinx and Charm were indeed her son's disciples.

As for Jenna and Yuma, Lucifer showed some surprise and asked, "How did you two even arrive here?"

The world was sealed. There were no portals that led elsewhere, then how come these two got stranded in this world?

Jenna and Yuma let out a depressed sigh. They didn't even know where to begin...

"Please have a seat, I'll get tea for everybody." Jenna said and let her mother Yuma handle the talking while she walked away.

Yuma sat down and began narrating her tale while the rest listened intently.

Many thousands of years ago, her, her daughter, her husband, and their pet duck were wandering at a lone island near Uklov in the Neutral Continent.

They had heard the scenery here was good, the surroundings were warm, and hence they decided to have a picnic in this place.

Unknowingly, Jenna, being a little girl, wandered off deep in the woods with her pet duck.

Somehow she had found a strange rune with various ancient inscriptions on it.

"God knows what got to my daughter that day, but she began inscribing the same rune on the ground. The pet duck didn't sit idly and fetched some fruits for it and Jenna to snack on. The duck was somewhat intelligent." Jenna narrated.

Then, after a few hours when Jenna didn't return, Yuma and her husband got worried and went to fetch her.

When Yuma neared and saw Jenna inscribe something on the ground that seemed to be glowing, she panicked and made a run towards her.

While running, her arm got scratched by a sharp branch of a tree nearby, but she didn't think much about it and went to grab Jenna.

At this time, the fruits were laying on the glowing inscription, and Jenna was happily inscribing some more because the glow effect felt amazing to her.

When she saw Yuma rushing towards her, she felt guilty and panicked.

The duck felt the same and started running.

Jenna was yet to run when Yuma grabbed her. She was about to take her away from the glowing magic circle when a drop of blood fell from her scratched hand.

The inscription glowed intensely and the next thing they knew, they vanished from their spots.

What happened after, they didn't know. They simply found themselves stranded in this world.

Thankfully, they stumbled across the Jenkos, the tribe consisting of small people.

It took some time, but assimilated with them and even became their leader. They opened up their restaurant here and served adventurers of different races.

Humans were vile and the interaction with them wasn't good, so they forbade anyone from entering this place.

Any human that was found would be instantly killed upon entering the Jenkos's territory.

Lith was lucky to be a vampire. The Jenko he had met at the start did not find any human trace within him and didn't kill him.

Later, Lith seemed harmless so he brought him to the hut.

The rest was something they all knew.

"I see." Lith said, finding the overall events too amusing.

Whatever happened was far too unfortunate. Nobody would believe such a series of events could happen, but Jenna and Yuma were living proof in this world.

Lilith smiled softly and said, "Be at ease now. We'll take you back."

Yuma, and Jenna who had returned in the middle of the conversation, both shed tears of joy.

Not being rude, the two bowed and said, "I cannot express my gratitude enough. If there's anything —"

Lilith raised her hand. "Don't mention it."

With their story being over, Lith introduced the church people to his mother and aunt.

He did not say what they did, just told the two that he wanted to bring them home too.

Lilith naturally agreed and told Jenna and Yuma that they would leave once they finished packing their stuff.

There was nothing other than a few ducks that Jenna and Yuma wanted to take back home.

Eventually, they packed up, and left the Two Path Blind Mountain World.

A lot had happened here and it would be something Lith would definitely remember.

The things about deities was something Lith had to research more on. How strong they were and whether they posed a threat or not. It was something that needed attention, but since he would be going to Martial Master's place later, he would get a brief understanding, so he shelved this topic to the back of his mind for now.

With all things said and done, Lith teleported back to the Royal Castle, within the outer ring's banquet hall.

There was a feast ready and everyone's loved ones were in attendance.

Lilith did a short greeting and left with Lith and Lucifer.

Dennis got dragged to the backrooms by Cecilia, who was previously standing with his mother Fiona and Mu Mu.

Fiona couldn't let her boy get stolen so easily. She hadn't seen him for two centuries, she had a lot of things to talk to him about.

The Crimson Clan girl could wait.

With that thinking, she went to the back rooms as well.



Ralph got dragged to a special soundproof room assigned for them. His butler Robert was escorted to some unknown place with the church disciples that had been brought in this world.

Ralph's parrot Sky, who was previously perched upon Avelyn's shoulder, was kicked out of the room.

He cried loudly, but then saw Mu Mu and went to bully him.

Only Saintess Helen was left in the room, surrounded by a group of Royal Servants who did not have any idea what to do with her.

At this time, a man with serious yet gentle bearings, wearing a chiton and sandals walked towards the maidservants.

He had blue hair and seemed like a divine being banished to the world of mortals.

The Royal Servants made way as he was senior to them and the man stopped in front of Saintess Helen, who was seated on a chair.

Saintess Helen's gaze fell on the man and all of her worries disappeared.

'Such pure aura of light!' She couldn't help but be shocked.

No man who possessed such an aura was a bad person!

Noman, the Seraphim butler, calmly analyzed the girl and said, "Virtuous. Pure. Kind."

Noman very rarely spoke, let alone give praise.

The Royal Servants nearby were surprised by it and looked at Saintess Helen, wondering who this might be.

In the mix of this servant group, there weren't the maids who were looking at the live stream.

Noman got a message from Luna and rushed here as fast as he could. His trip was not in vain.

Unbinding Saintess Helen, Noman said, "Follow me."

#### Chapter 959 Not The Usual

After two hundred and eleven years forty-seven days and some hours, Lith was finally back home.

The familiar scent of roses in the air, the darkness of the night, the silver-crimson moon, the Victorian-styled gothic castle...

Everything brought peace and calmness to Lith's Vampire's heart.

Before he even knew it, three centuries had passed in this new world.

It certainly felt long, but also not as long. Things were strange, his perception was changed.

There were many things Lith had to reflect on now that he was home, but he put all the matters on hold and thought of spending some 'quality' time with his family first.

To Lith's dismay, he wasn't taken to the bedroom, but to the biggest rooftop of the castle.

There, his aunts and maids were sitting and having a tea party of some sort.

Lith smiled and waved at them, but before he could speak something, something wrapped around his waist and he felt a strong pull upwards, as if he had been slingshotted.

"What was that performance, nephew?" The first one to speak was surprisingly his dragon aunt.

"Yeah, what was that terrible performance? You could've done so much better." Lucifer, the one controlling a whip of Darkness element that hung Lith upside-down in the air, added.

"Nephew... There's so much you have to improve upon." Agalea too didn't say anything comforting this time.

Lith slightly furrowed his brows. What was this situation? Like usual, after an adventure, shouldn't there be a rain of kisses and beauties falling into his embrace because they missed him?

Well, he was joking, but that certainly was what happened every time he went out and came back home.

What's with the unusual atmosphere? Lith turned to look at his mother for an answer.

Lilith's eyes were lowered, she focused on her tea and not Lith, making his furrow deepen. It seems even his mother was on this time!

'What did I do though?' Lith wondered.

Mayzin took a step forward and locking eyes with Lith, said, "Recklessly charging at a boulder... Recklessly Recklessly charging into a Devil's dwelling... Recklessly charging at the church...."

The more Mayzin spoke, the more Lith frowned. 'Shit... They really are lecturing me...'

This was a surprise. After being so used to gentleness, getting scolded the first thing after coming home was like getting a sweet lollipop replaced from one's mouth with a bitter gourd.

It was anything but good.

Thankfully, the lecture lasted only for the next three hours.

Initially his aunts scolded him for being reckless, but then they handed out a lot of useful insights and things he could've improved upon.

A bit into the lecture, Lith realized on the surface his aunts seemed annoyed, but internally everything they were saying was full of concern and love. They wanted him to improve and be his best, hence this time around, they didn't hug or greet him, but went straight to the point.

They also mentioned that Lith was older now, a young adult to be precise. He had to take things more seriously and not be rash.

Being older meant having added responsibilities. Lith also took in disciples, he also had many wives and lovers to look after. If not for himself, he had to think about them while doing things.

Dying was not an option anymore. Lith had to be careful and weigh the consequences of his actions properly.

Lith's head felt heavy. Whether it was the weight of his aunts' words or the blood rushing to his head due to being hung upside-down, Lith didn't know.

A lot of teachings were given today in the span of the last three hours from all his aunts.

All things were noted down, thanks to the system in his mind. It came handy at times and was quite useful.

The maids stood with a professional neutral face at the sides, but their slight grin didn't go unnoticed by Lith.

A new comment was added in his to-do list as he watched them. It was to punish some mischievous damsels.

Eventually, Lith was let go, and Lucifer stretched her palms over head.

"I'm parched after talking so much."

Lilith put the teacup down and flashed a small smile. "Me too."

The maids stared at their madam as she said that and tried to hide their knowing grins.

Agalea and Mayzin were too innocent to understand the innuendos.

Mayzin massaged her shoulder and said, "Well then... I should get going. There's a lot of work that needs to be done."

Lith looked at her and said, "Why don't you stay for a few days, aunt? It's not everyday that everybody is in one place. Let's have a small party."

Despite the many years, Lith hadn't given up on pursuing his aunt. He couldn't outright ask her to spend time with him as that would be too weird, but he could for sure use this reuniting opportunity as a means.

Lith's tone didn't contain any malice. He didn't seem to possess any ulterior motives and nobody on the rooftop felt it, not even Lucifer.

Mayzin shook her head and said, "I would love to, but there's a lot of work piled up. Oh and, your crowd control was subpar at best. The way you put pressure on the church members was alright, but not the best. Come to the castle at a later date, I'll give you some pointers."

Lith blinked his eyes and stared at his aunt. He didn't achieve what he wanted to... but he was somehow still on the right track.

Mayzin bid everyone farewell and Lith gave her a hug before she left. There was nothing more to dwell on this topic and he could only watch her leave.

Once she was gone, Lucifer cleared her throat and said, "I don't want to be that person, and I've changed a lot in the past few years..."

Everyone turned to look at her, puzzled.

Lucifer looked back at Lith. "Why are you looking at me like that? As per the norms... Aren't we supposed to fuck now?"

The maids facepalmed at Lady Lucifer's bold comment, having heard it for the first time from her while Lilith and Agalea shook their heads with a smile.

Lilith got up and held Lith's hand. She looked at Lucifer and said gently, "You need to wait, Lucifer. I haven't seen my baby in a long while, there's a lot we need to talk about."

Lucifer clicked her tongue. "Can't you wait instead?"

Lilith raised her eyebrow and said with a smirk, "If I talk to him, he'll break through the King Rank. Can you assure me you can achieve the same?"

A flicker ran through Lucifer's eyes. She ignored the last question Lilith asked and focused on the breakthrough part.

"Are you sure?"

"100%."

"..." Lucifer fell silent and weighed the pros and cons. After a few seconds, she asked, "How long will it take?"

Lilith thought about it and said, "Not more than a month or two... I guess?"

Lucifer's hands trembled. "Shit... Alright. It's just two more months. I can control myself."

Lilith let out a soft chuckle. "I suggest you focus on cultivation and stay away from triggers. Also, don't breastfeed in the coming two months. It'll help you more."

Lucifer gritted her teeth. "I'll manage. Bye."

Without waiting, Lucifer took off like a rocket and left the castle.

Agalea tilted her head in confusion and asked, "What was that all about?"

"Something important to her." Lilith said with a soft chuckle. "Anyway, I'll be needing your help in Lith's ascension."

"Mine?" Agalea asked, confused.

"More precisely, Alea's. This breakthrough would be beneficial to both." Lilith said.

Agalea nodded in understanding. "I'll bring her here then. I feel she should be breaking through as well."

"Lovely." Lilith clapped her hand. "Bring her over, I'll talk with baby until then."

Agalea nodded and vanished from her spot to get Alea.

Lilith then gave some instructions to the maids and walked away with Lith.

Lith was quite surprised by the sudden change of events. He didn't know where his mother's confidence stemmed from, but she sure was right.

He was feeling it himself. The breakthrough was near. He was a peak Half-King Rank and it shouldn't take long until he was a King.

However, that short time still amounted to a few years.



There were some laws he hadn't comprehended yet. He lacked in the aspect of Destruction, Wind, and Time.

Light was taken care of after his visit to Two Path Blind Mountain World, but those elements were something he barely touched after his ascension to Half-King.

Keeping affinities hidden to be used as trump cards was making Lith lack in them. He would forget to cultivate or look for opportunities about those elements in private or care about them only when his ascension was near.

This was not the first time it has happened.

In any case, his mother's confident comment made Lith wonder how the breakthrough was going to happen.

Would she teach him those elements and make his breakthrough? Or would she give him some potion or sort? Lith didn't know, but he was looking forward to it.

## Chapter 960 Beings Born From Malice Know Nothing But Evil

Vines cascaded down towering marble pillars. Frost flowers bloomed everywhere, showcasing the magnificence of winter.

In this ethereal wall that radiated with white and blue, the androgynous Frost Devil stood like an erect spear in front a five foot two inches tall Human with short brown hair, his gaze neutral.

Miwa, looking at the devil, blinked and stared at it in confusion.

The Devil did the same and stared back at Miwa.

An awkward silence befell with neither of the parties speaking. They simply stared at each other.

After a long silence, it was Miwa who broke the ice, asking, "So... you are my Master now?"

The beautifully handsome Frost Devil nodded its head lightly.

"You were the one who put me in an illusion?" Miwa took a step forward and fiercely stared at the Devil, unafraid of the consequences.

The Frost Devil nodded its head again and didn't speak, what was going in its mind was something only it knew.

Miwa's eyes moistened. She took another step forward and held the Devil's collar. "Why... Why did you..."

Miwa's throat felt heavy, a drop of tear threatened to leak out, and her breathing turned into short gasps as she struggled to contain her emotions.

The Frost Devil maintained an expressionless gaze, unlike its previous self that talked with Lith in the cave.

"...why did you play with me like this?" Miwa clutched the collar tightly. "What did you gain?"

The confines of her eyes could not contain the tears any longer. "Why... Why... Why did you do it!?!"

Miwa aggressively shook the devil, and her sobs reverberated throughout the frost hall. She kept asking why and did not loosen her hold even slightly.

The frustration, anger, and sorrow she had previously bottled up erupted at once like a volcano.

Miwa had tried her best. She thought the feelings had been washed away after Lith comforted her, but no, such wasn't the case. The emotions were still there, just highly suppressed.

No one could relate with the loss Miwa suffered. From losing her parents to having hope rekindle to save them again, and then being told it was all just a dream...

It was too cruel.

Miwa's sobs turned into wails. Her hands clutched into fists, and she furiously punched the Devil.

The eyes, the nose, the jaw, the chest... She did not see where she was hitting or wondered what the aftermath would be for her actions.

Whether it was a powerful Devil or almighty God himself, it mattered not. Miwa was angry and agonized. Her emotions took over her rationality and after a point, she did not know what she was doing. She kept punching, kicking, sobbing, and was zoned out.

The Frost Devil was still calm. It took all the hits from Miwa, but there was not a single scratch on its body.

After what felt like a long, long time, Miwa's hits slowed down. She felt weak and powerless, a stark contrast to the Devil that stood expressionlessly in front of her.

At this point, as her motions slowed down, the Devil finally showed some movement.

It extended its hand out and gently brought Miwa in its embrace, hugging her softly.

Miwa continued sobbing on the Devil's chest as the Devil gently patted her back, a gesture completely unexpected from a being associated with evil.

A while later, when Miwa's sobbing ceased, and she felt herself fall into slumber, the Frost Devil's lips parted, and it said,

"A Devil shows no mercy. Beings born from malice know nothing but evil. Don't blame me for being cruel, young lady. Like how it's natural for you to breathe, the same is performing cruelty for us."

The Devil's whisper fell in Miwa's ears, but she was half asleep already, tired from the outpouring of her heart.

The Devil did not care and continued, "I am your Master now. I bear your responsibility, and for being my disciple, I'm showing you my true nature."

The expressionless and serious face the Frost Devil was showing now was partly its true nature. None but Miwa possessed such a privilege in this universe.

The Frost Devil's eyelids drooped as it lowered its gaze on the almost asleep Miwa.

"What I did and what you suffered from, I have no regrets about it. I am not apologizing, neither am I asking you to forgive me. As your Master, I'll train you, and make you powerful. By the end, if you have the strength, feel free to execute me."

Miwa was asleep by the time the Devil finished its words. Its comment fell on deaf ears, but it wasn't bothered by this.

The Devil snapped its fingers and a bed as well as a chair appeared before it.

Miwa was put to rest on the soft bed and the Devil sat on the chair, gazing at her.

The Devil with an unknown gender crossed its legs and pondered out loud, "It's my first time taking in a disciple. As a Devil, am I supposed to continue being cruel to her like everyone else? Or am I supposed to show kindness?"

"Kindness... hm... Devils don't show kindness to anybody..."

The Frost Devil rubbed its chin and stared at Miwa's sleeping figure.

"Oh well, it doesn't matter. Since others don't show it doesn't mean we are restricted from doing it. Being a Devil means gaining freedom to whatever we want to do. In that case, I'll make my only disciple an exception and show some kindness, I suppose."

The Frost Devil had never been in such peril before where it had to think of things so deeply.

With an expressionless gaze, it continued, "Very well. I'll begin with teaching you ways with which you can kill me. That should be a good starter for you. This way you won't develop a heart demon and also calm those raging flames in you."

Saying so, the Devil took out a quill and a parchment. It began writing down the things it would teach Miwa and the things she had to do.

A while later, Miwa's eyes fluttered and she slowly woke up.

Her hazy vision soon cleared up and the first thing she felt after waking up was...

"Phuuu... So cold..." Miwa rubbed her arms and shivered, her sleep finally vanishing and her vision becoming clear.

"I hope you had a good sleep, young lady." A gentle voice rang in Miwa's ears, startling her.

Miwa yelped and fell back on the bedrest, then saw the Frost Devil's blue-haired face.

"You..." Miwa knitted her brows. Sparks of anger were starting to ignite, but they extinguished eventually and Miwa did not get angry.

"If you're awake, shall we begin our lesson? In case you don't remember, I'm your Master now, young lady," said the Devil with a poker face.

"Why would I—"

"I'll teach you ways to assassinate me. You can even use artifacts from my treasury. How about it?" The Devil's seductive whispers rang in her ears.

"Huh?" Miwa rubbed her eyes, wondering if her ears were playing a trick on her. "What?"

The Frost Devil tilted its head. "Is there some problem?"

"You said you're going to teach me... me..." Miwa pointed at herself. Then at the Devil, and continued, "you... kill you..."

"Indeed. Is this not what you want to learn?" The Frost Devil asked, curious.

Miwa rubbed her temples and felt a headache coming. Just what was happening?

A few breaths later, she sighed and said, "Right. You are the one who played with me, and then you became my Master, and now you want to teach me how to kill you?"

The Frost Devil nodded. "I believe this is something you would want to learn, since you resent me."

"Yeah. I loathe you. Hate you from every inch of my being. However, if you can get me my parents back, I'll stop doing that." Miwa said, unfazed.

At the end of the day, Miwa was not an ordinary girl. After the venting, her mind was back to normal and she was thinking rationally, thus negotiating with a Devil was nothing out of the blue, but something normal for her.

The corner of the Devil's lips curled up. "Interesting. You appear nothing like the girl a while ago."

Miwa didn't comment on it and continued to stare at the blue-

haired man/woman devil.

The Devil leaned back on the chair. "If this is my disciple's request, as your Master, it's my duty to fulfil it. Though, I shall make no promises. And... You must have strength equal to a Basegod first."

"Huh?" Miwa was dumbfounded and rubbed her ears. "Come again?"

The Devil merely flashed a faint smile and said, "The days to come are sure going to be interesting, hehe..."

