

Void 841

Chapter 841 Sky [1]

Before anyone knew it, the illusion trial was over. It was just long enough to leave a lasting impression on those who experienced it, but not quite long enough for them to completely adapt to it.

As such, it formed a small scar on their minds as they moved on to later trials.

The number of trials was unknown, but as Xinyue and Alexandra progressed through the tomb, they found themselves facing an impossible number of challenges.

Trials of the mind seemed much easier once the illusion trial ended, but it was nothing more than a facade. The proceeding mind trials were extremely dangerous on a far subtler level, setting up this illusion.

For instance, the 5th trial that the duo faced was a mind trial. In this trial, the goal was to "not remember."

The air gave off a nostalgic scent. The atmosphere made one think about the past and reminisce. However, the longer they thought about the past, the more of their past was erased.

If a challenger was unable to control their thoughts and suppress the reminiscence, they would eventually lose their memories entirely and become blank slates before descending into insanity.

Compared to the physical trials, the mental ones were far worse. Physical trials could be resolved through strength, and especially for Alexandra, who currently lacked a physical body, getting through the body trials was like cheating.

Conversely, the mental trials affected her far worse than they would any normal person.

If it wasn't for Xinyue's help, she would've gradually chipped away at herself until she went insane from these trials. It was truly an unfortunate experience.

Alexandra wanted to cry. It'd been many hours already, and the duo had passed through over 20 trials, yet they hadn't been granted a single reward.

'Even if I gain nothing from this place, can't I at least have my body back?' She lamented inwardly.

With the passing of time, 25 trials were completed. The number continued to climb until finally, the trial count surpassed 30.

Alexandra and Xinyue stood on an isolated trial ground. Their surroundings were desolate besides a single statue a few meters to their front.

As they entered the area and began to investigate, the statue slowly moved and opened its eyes.

"Challengers...identified..."

The mechanical voice rang out, and immediately after, it was replaced by a booming and lively bellow.

"Challengers who have reached this point, rejoice, for the general trials have ended! From this point forth, you will be considered successor candidates for my legacy. As long as you can complete the final 10 Sky Trials, you will be qualified to inherit my techniques, law comprehension, and even a portion of my true strength for yourself! Challengers, I wish you luck!"

Rumble!

The ground rumbled. The statue sunk into the earth like it was trapped in quicksand.

However, even with the disappearance of the statue, the rumbling of the ground didn't stop.

Xinyue coldly panned her gaze across the barren land and furrowed her brows.

'Nothing.'

Despite the grand earthquake that was taking place, she couldn't see or sense anything coming from the distance.

'In that case...'

Her attention moved to the ground below. Her eyebrows knit slightly.

In the next instant, bright blue mana surrounded her legs as she pushed off the ground below, flying into the air.

Boom!

The pressure of her step cracked the ground below, however, the damage was negligible.

After all, directly after Xinyue jumped...

BANG!

The ground burst apart as a massive organism broke through the surface. Its terrifying mouth was like a pit of hell filled with several tens of thousands of sharp teeth. With the creature's size, even swallowing a building in a single bite didn't seem impossible.

It flew up into the air, propelled by the massive momentum it accumulated below ground, and chased Xinyue's flying form. Its circular jaw pulsated menacingly as it tried to swallow her.

Snap!

Whoosh!

The jaw snapped closed, missing Xinyue, but emitting a fluctuation of wind that snapped the air and caused it to explode.

"Tch!"

Xinyue clicked her tongue as she was pushed back by the force. Her eyes remained trained on the ground below, taking into account the movements below the surface.

'Numbers are insignificant in front of strength.'

Her eyes narrowed. She flipped in the air, using her momentum and mana to force herself to fall vertically without a single variation in angle.

Xinyue became a meteor crashing towards the ground. Just as she reached the halfway point...

BANG!

The ground shattered once more, giving way to a new sandworm with its massive jaw agape.

Xinyue didn't back away at all. Instead, she pushed her mana even harder and loaded power into her leg, raising it above her head with peak flexibility.

A streak of blue light fell through the air like a shooting star. Its brightness eclipsed the sun, and when it finally made impact with the being below it...

BANG!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

It didn't matter the sand worm's size. Xinyue's heel came down like a divine axe and slammed into the creature's head, immediately sending a shocking amount of force spreading through its internals.

The first impact was only an appetizer. What followed was a series of massive explosions that spread within the sandworm's body, caused by Xinyue's expertly controlled mana sneaking its way into the worm's important life organs.

The "splat" sound of the worm exploding was particularly gruesome. Dark green intestinal fluids and stomach acids flew into the air along with bright red blood, painting the desolate landscape in a myriad of colors.

Xinyue jumped in the air and flipped backward, stabilizing herself a few meters away from the hole that the second sand worm burst from.

'10 total. A simple matter."

Xinyue moved like lightning, zipping across the battlefield so fast that even Alexandra only saw a streak of light.

Her legs were like hammers and axes of the highest order, cleaving apart enemies with ease. Her fists were weapons of mass destruction that couldn't be unveiled casually, lest all things be destroyed.

10 sand worms had gathered in the area, a number that was especially difficult to handle because predicting their movement path was nigh impossible.

With a large number of sandworms below ground, their movements formed an entangled web that would confuse a practitioner's awareness, therefore, even if one was able to sense them, sensing their attack took incredible skill.

Xinyue, however, seemed immune to this problem. She confronted the sandworms before they could confront her. She shattered the earth before they could exit, showering them with a rain of debris and fooling their senses into believing they were being attacked.

She used the habits of sandworms along with her own strength to dominate. Alexandra didn't even get a chance to move before the battle was over.

"Trial of Sky, much simpler than expected," Xinyue muttered to herself.

She walked into the distance, ignoring everything around her in the process. Alexandra trailed behind with mixed feelings, but at this point, there was nothing she could do besides follow and observe.

Nevertheless, the duo continued making progress.

Eventually, 9 Trials of Sky were completed altogether, and only the last remained.

Chapter 842 Sky [2]

9 Trials of Sky.

While the first was a mere matter of battling enemies, the trials became extremely difficult as time progressed.

And the content of the trials was even stranger. There didn't seem to be any rhyme or reason to the order or identity of the trials.

The 3rd trial was a matter of the arts. If one wasn't skilled in at least one of the four arts, it was impossible for them to pass this trial.

Among them, Xinyue was particularly skilled in music. She was professionally taught to play the zither and guqin from a young age, making it simple for her to pass.

Alexandra had a harder time due to her current state, but she wasn't at a major disadvantage in this trial. Due to Alice's continued insistence, she'd picked up painting as a hobby outside of battle long ago. After she was given the means to complete the trial, actually doing so was a breeze.

The 5th trial was a strange one in that it didn't seem to have any particular purpose.

The trial objective was simple: endure.

The challengers were subjected to an unholy level of pain that came from nowhere. Their bodies were broken and healed over and over again with the aim of driving them to insanity.

An endurance trial was understandable. Wanting to test a challenger's perseverance was actually far more normal than it was abnormal.

But it took passing 34 trials to even reach this trial, so wasn't it a bit counterintuitive?

That's what Alexandra thought as she lamented while enduring the trial's pain. However, as time passed, she began to slowly and wholeheartedly accept the pain.

Alexandra was currently a spirit body. As such, the level of pain she experienced during the deconstruction and reconstruction process was far worse than any normal person.

She felt the pain of her soul tearing to shreds countless times only. Xinyue couldn't help her this time, and after several minutes of torturous pain, she truly almost went insane.

But it was at this same moment that she realized the benefits of the trial. Her soul was being strengthened immensely, a benefit she wouldn't have received if she'd come physically.

The soul was a concept unexplored by even extreme peak 4th-class masters. While they were aware of the soul's importance, they couldn't touch upon its mysteries until crossing the final threshold to Divinity.

For Alexandra to receive a soul-strengthening at this juncture was amazing. Regardless of the pain she had to endure, Alexandra forced herself to do so quietly.

With the addition of incentives, it was like she became a completely different person.

The 9th trial was the next oddity after this one. After all, there was no trial at all.

Xinyue and Alexandra merely waited. They stood in place and, as they recuperated and recovered strength after the 8th trial, they suddenly received the message that they passed the 9th trial as well.

There was no mention of a trial task or even a sign that the trial started, only a message that it ended.

And after everything was finally over, the duo stood ready for the final Trial of Sky.

It was quiet, so quiet that one could hear a pin drop several thousand kilometers away with ease.

Heaven and Earth seemed to come to a standstill, the trial grounds becoming a sacrosanct location that none could intrude upon.

However, there were two beings ruining the sanctity of the environment.

The sky rumbled.

It wasn't an exaggeration or a figure of speech.

The sky truly rumbled.

It shook as if it was a physical concept. It quaked as the earth could quake, and almost as if an illusion, debris began falling from the sky in the form of comets and meteors.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

As the meteors fell and exploded on impact with the ground, Xinyue and Alexandra tried to move and leave the blast radius, but at that moment, they found that their movement was completely restricted.

Whoosh!

The winds whipped past their face as the smoldering heat of the explosions enveloped them. Heat surpassing the lava area of the Void Corridor almost melted the duo on the spot.

However, it was clear that this heat wasn't the main trial.

After all, the sky was falling.

The rumbling of the Heavens continued, and the sky came lower and lower to the ground. The clouds became tangible, scraping across the earth as they meandered in their usual manner.

VOOM!

An immense pressure descended on the two challengers, almost instantly crushing them.

Xinyue fell to her knees, and Alexandra's spirit body crackled unstably.

This was their reaction to the mere introduction of this pressure.

OOOOOOOH!

The air seemed to bellow with the force of the wind. The sky came in contact with the ground, and those who interrupted the reunion of two lovers would only meet death.

Xinyue and Alexandra were no different.

'Haaaaah!' Alexandra screamed out as she slammed her arms up at the sky. She felt like she could touch it. She felt like each cloud was a mountain that she had to destroy if she wanted to survive.

Xinyue was clearly the same. Her arms were by no means muscular, but the force she exerted through them was enough to crush stars and sunder worlds.

Xinyue's expression was fierce. It was a massive change compared to her usual stoicism, but sadly, Alexandra couldn't be bothered to notice.

Xinyue felt something within her burn as the sky collapsed atop her. Her eyes felt like they would spew flames at any moment. The bright blue irises that decorated her sclera like gems shined with iridescent light, directly clashing with the sky above and lessening its pressure.

"Haa...haa...hak...!"

She did her best to control her breathing, but it was impossible.

She tried to fight the sky, but it was impossible.

Her strength wasn't enough.

Even with the assistance of her eyes, she could only hold on for a few minutes longer.

RUMBLE!

The sky quaked again, and the clouds changed form. They blackened and became thicker. Lightning snaked through their interiors, sparking between clouds and creating a dangerous lightning field in the air.

"Khh...!"

Xinyue gritted her teeth as the sparks of lightning collided with her body. Despite the pain she was experiencing, she refused to back down.

And she refused to show the emotion that was desired of her.

Her eyes blazed with determination, but her face remained indifferent.

Alexandra lost control first.

Her spirit form sparked and dissipated. She screamed with everything she had, she clashed against the sky, but she couldn't change her fate.

As she faded from existence, her last thoughts were regrets.

She didn't want to die.

She wanted to live longer and build a happy life for her sister.

She was unresigned.

But at least she wouldn't be going alone.

Xinyue fell only moments after her.

In the end, she wasn't able to hold off against the pressure.

But she didn't react the same way as Alexandra.

She stared death in the eye coldly. She faced it with utter indifference.

If she died, then she would die. However, death was only acceptable if it was inevitable.

In this situation where she was suppressed and oppressed, it was impossible for her to fight back more than she already had.

She just couldn't win against the enemy.

She was unworthy of strength, therefore she was dying.

This unfeeling thought was her last.

Her body splattered into blood mist and meat paste a mere instant later.

Chapter 843 Sky [3]

"Ha!"

Xinyue's eyes shot open. Her body shot up and her mana mobilized as she spread her awareness and scanned her surroundings.

The confusion set in first.

Hadn't she just died?

The sensation of encroaching death was still fresh in her mind, and though the pain of being crushed only lasted for an instant, with Xinyue's perception, she was able to feel every spark of it clearly.

Her body shuddered involuntarily before she forcibly stopped it and righted her posture.

Her senses slowly acclimated to her new surroundings, and she slowly accepted the fact that she was still alive.

'Alexandra is not here.'

The spirit woman who'd been with her all this time wasn't present in the small room with her. Other than the bed she was currently standing on and a small table on the side, there was only a door leading further into whatever structure she was currently in.

'My awareness cannot pierce this door.' Xinyue realized with a frown.

She widened her eyes, causing them to glow brightly, but even then she couldn't see anything.

'Hmm...'

For her eyes to fail was an incredibly rare circumstance. It either meant that there was an immense opportunity behind that door, or an even greater danger.

"Tch."

Xinyue gritted her teeth and steeled herself. Regardless, she wasn't willing to stay in the room.

She carefully walked up to the door. She circulated her mana calmly so that every part of her body was energized in case she needed to move instantly.

And when all her preparations were made, she flung the door open.

Bang!

She was met with quite the anticlimactic scene.

The room she was in was part of a small nondescript cottage without many standout features at all. Just to be sure, Xinyue even thoroughly swept it with her awareness, but found that, besides her room, the rest of the house was completely normal.

Her next steps took her outside.

She was met with the same silence as before, a beautiful yet empty green plain splayed out in front of her.

"Where is this place?" She wondered out loud.

"This is my domain. You have earned the right to enter."

A booming voice echoed through the wind from every direction,

Xinyue's guard went up immediately. Her mana was already prepared, she just needed to find the enemy.

However, the voice was a step ahead of her.

"Quell your mana. I have no physical form. Attempting to attack me is pointless."

Xinyue's eyes narrowed suspiciously.

"Who are you?" She asked coldly.

"Hahaha," the voice chuckled lightly and said, "Junior, you've come for my inheritance yet you cannot recognize me?"

"...Sky Emperor?" Xinyue muttered with some shock.

After ruminating about it for a while, she realized that there really wasn't any other possibility. As she had "died" in the Sky Emperor's trial ground, the only culprit for her "resurrection" was the emperor himself.

To be able to pull such a stunt, one needed at least an emperor's strength.

"Xinyue greets Sky Emperor Wu Mo."

Xinyue bowed her body slightly and cupped her fists in respect.

"Mm, considering your identity, this much respect is expected. At least, compared to that person you are far better:"

"That person?" Xinyue questioned.

"You will meet them soon. There is still one final trial before you can obtain my complete inheritance, after all."

Xinyue nodded in understanding. About the whims of higher existences, she couldn't say anything at all.

Nevertheless, she still had a few questions. She wasn't an ungrateful person.

"I participated in the trial with a spirit woman. I do not see her now. Where is she?" She asked.

"This matter is simple. In the final trial, only you were able to pass. In the face of death, you remained stalwart with no regret or grievance. You showed the tenacity and drive to fight even after your last breath, something that woman does not quite possess."

"Your companion is currently resting elsewhere. As a reward for making it to the final trial, I have repaired her spirit body to peak form." The Sky Emperor answered.

"I understand, senior. However, that woman's physical body was destroyed at the entrance of this tomb. Rather than improving her spirit body, I believe it would be best to heal and empower her physique." Xinyue suggested.

"Oh? And why do you believe that?" The Sky Emperor questioned curiously.

Xinyue nodded her head and answered, "Alexandra has not yet broken the shackles of existence and ascended. A complete soul at her current juncture would only harm her progress rather than fuel it. It would instead be better to bring her body and soul to a balance so her future training path can be smoother."

"Hahahaha! How interesting!"

The Sky Emperor's laugh shook the air.

"Come, follow your heart and you will arrive at your destiny. After you've done so, I will return to initiate the final trial."

The Sky Emperor didn't continue the previous topic, and after giving Xinyue a final piece of instruction, his presence disappeared entirely.

'Merely a wisp of soul.' Xinyue thought to herself.

The Sky Emperor was long dead, but a wisp of his soul had managed to survive and maintain his legacy until people managed to arrive to claim it.

It had been at least 100,000 years since the Sky Emperor's existence.

Just how powerful was his soul for him to accomplish such a feat?

As she pondered on this, Xinyue began to move without any specified path. Just as the Sky Emperor's soul wisp suggested, she walked as her heart desired.

Only, her heart was void of desire.

It was better to say she walked aimlessly, knowing that she would eventually reach her destination. If the Sky Emperor wanted to start the final trial, he couldn't do so without her presence.

Unfortunately, she didn't quite follow the trial rules.

She didn't possess the heart's desires that she needed for it.

Actually, the void in her heart was the reason for her amazing performance in every mental trial she'd faced so far.

She saw nothing from the illusion trial but blackness. She had no desire to reminisce during the memory trial, and even in later mind trials that intrinsically dug into one's psyche, she experienced nothing.

It was such a rare situation that even the Sky Emperor hadn't accounted for it.

Nevertheless, just as Xinyue expected, she eventually reached the gates of a gargantuan palace, the place where her so-called "destiny" was kept.

She walked through the kilometer-tall open doors and traversed the halls until she finally reached the throne room.

With a push of her hand, she entered the trial location, which, as she was just learning, doubled as a treasure cove.

Shining jewels and golden antiques littered the floor like trash. An array of artifacts ranging from the most common F rank to the impossible-to-attain God rank was piled up in one corner, and spanning from there to the other side of the room was a vast hill of resources and materials that could greatly strengthen several tens of thousands of people.

Finally, on the other side of the hill of resources was a mound of spiritual fruits and other edible treasures. Xinyue even spotted several fruits with the effect of directly boosting levels. Fruits that could do so for when 4th class beings were one in a million treasures that one could never expect to see in their lifetime.

The stunning image these fruits produced, however, was entirely ruined.

Ruined by a man who sat atop the treasure mound and shoved those ultra-rare fruits in his mouth like a monkey.

Chapter 844 Sky [4]

"..."

Xinyue stood silently at the throne room entrance, literally speechless.

The first emotion that resonated with her was rage.

"What do you think you're doing?" She uttered icily.

She couldn't believe that some random man was squandering the resources here. Fruits that increased one's level could only be eaten effectively a few times before they stopped working, yet in the span of a single second, this man actually dared to eat six!

These were resources that, if taken out of the Void Corridor, could strengthen the entire Heaven's Army to a new level, giving them an edge on the Nox.

The selfishness of humans never ceased to baffle her.

The man, hearing her words, lifted his gaze lazily. When he saw her form, his brow raised in interest.

"You are?"

Xinyue almost attacked when she saw the man's penetrating gaze, but restrained herself after considering the environment.

"I am Xinyue, here to accept the Sky Emperor's legacy."

The man scanned her from head to toe, his perception easily piercing her defenses to inspect her internal body.

"I see. So that old guy has finally found a proper successor. You know, he was so unresigned with me being his successor that he added a new bullshit condition about how two people need to fight for the seat. Isn't that just hilarious?" He spoke, more to himself than anything else.

Xinyue's eyes were colder than ever before. This man seemingly had no consideration for her presence at all. He completely ignored her question and moved at his own pace, endlessly making her want to break her indifference and explode in rage.

Again, she asked, "What do you think you're doing right now?"

The man quirked his head and responded simply, "Eating?"

Snap!

Something within her snapped.

Xinyue's eyes glowed as her mana flared. "Do you not understand how pathetic your selfish behavior is? Instead of sharing benefits to save the universe which birthed and houses you, you would instead carelessly eat fruit that cannot provide you with anything? How dare you?!"

She began to walk forward slowly. She didn't know this man's strength yet, so she couldn't lash out, but she couldn't tolerate him either.

But the man disregarded her behavior entirely.

"Say, are you new here?" He asked casually.

"What does that matter to you?" Xinyue replied with clear hostility.

"Matters! Of course, it matters! Looking at you making a fuss, you must think this old fart's tomb is something special."

"Are you suggesting that the Sky Emperor's Tomb is something commonplace?"

"Sky Emperor? Haha, I didn't know that guy had such a cool title. But, yeah. Inheritances on this level are quite literally like clouds in the sky here."

Xinyue's eyes narrowed and she slowly retracted her hostility.

Judging from the man's causal behavior alone, it was clear that he didn't see her as a threat. Aside from that, he had information on the Void Corridor, something she needed more than vengeance.

"I arrived in this realm no more than a week ago, though the exact amount of time is unknown as there are many time distortions in this realm."

"A week ago..." the man muttered, "...how many days was the Void Corridor open before you entered?"

Xinyue furrowed her brows questioningly but still answered.

"Three days."

"Hahaha, three days, huh? That's actually insane."

"Insane?" Xinyue repeated.

The man nodded. "Right, I knew the distortion was big, but I didn't expect it to be that big. Xinyue, I can call you Xinyue, right? Anyway, do you want to hear something fun?"

The man sat up from his previous lazy posture and leaned forward, placing his head in his hands with a sly smile forming on his face.

Xinyue backed away slightly. "What is it?"

"Actually..."

Just as the man started talking, the atmosphere changed. A heavy pressure descended from the sky.

"Challengers, the time has come for you to compete for my legacy!" The Sky Emperor's booming voice roared.

The man covered his ears in annoyance and yelled back, "Old fart, stop putting on a show and get on with it already! We both know you won't accept me as your inheritor anyway!"

The Sky Emperor's grand momentum instantly faltered.

"Brat, keep your current attitude and see how I deal with you."

"It's been 3 months since you trapped me here already! 3 months, I say! Either give her your legacy already or just let me go!"

"Ahem, your stay here is of your own choosing. I had no part in that decision."

"Bullshit! You forced me into the Heavenly Suppression Chamber and killed me 3,752 times! I guess they titled you the Sky Emperor because your shamelessness is higher than the Heavens!"

"Tch, minor details. Regardless, I must test my successor, and you are a perfect being to carry it out. If you fight her, I will grant you freedom."

"I'm not your gladiator, old dog. Besides, can't you see the difference in our levels? She's clearly an extreme peak master, how do you expect me to fight her?!"

"I can revive you as long as you are within my domain."

"That doesn't help!"

The man and the Sky Emperor argued like a pair of old enemies, forcing Xinyue to take a supporting role as she watched them without knowing what to feel.

The esteemed image of the Sky Emperor she'd built in her mind collapsed instantly, and even her image of the man changed.

The time span he mentioned stood out.

Clearly, he had been here for a considerable amount of time. The lifespan of a 4th class expert could reach tens of thousands of years, but it definitely didn't reach the hundreds of thousands.

If so, just when did he enter the Void Corridor?

And aside from that, didn't he say he was weaker than her?

If so, couldn't she have directly beaten him until he spat out the answers she desired?

She really wanted to slap him for acting like an expert when he wasn't one.

'Yet, I truly cannot feel a hint of aura from his body. He reads in my perception as a regular human.'

Xinyue's eyes widened. Her irises swirled gently as she activated her power.

Her perception was instantly enhanced. Her gaze was like a godly force that no information could hide from.

Everything about every treasure in the room was revealed to her, and as she panned her eyes over to the man...

He looked back at her.

Bzzt!

"Ah!"

Sparks burst in the air. Xinyue covered her face with her hands as she experienced backlash for the first time in her life.

Tears of blood dripped from her eyes.

"What an interesting successor candidate." The man said with a smile.

"Don't hurt her too much. You know as well as I do that you are invincible in this space."

"If that's the case, then you should just hand over your legacy already."

"You know as well as I do that you have no need for it."

"Nonsense! Do you know how many subordinates I have? I'd totally put it to good use!"

"Even more reason to keep it from you."

"Tch."

The two resumed their conversation as if nothing happened, but Xinyue couldn't match their casual attitudes.

'What just happened?'

She experienced something that should've been impossible.

Somebody blocked the ability of her eyes.

No...

That man had the same ability as her.

Her eyes hardened.

A light of utter solemnity reflected in her cross-shaped pupils. They were unique pupils among the common people, but the man in front of her shared the trait.

Her thoughts whirled.

'This man...what is his relationship with the Ancient God Clan?'

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"Brat, keep your current attitude and see how I deal with you."

"It's been 3 months since you trapped me here already! 3 months, I say! Either give her your legacy already or just let me go!"

"Ahem, your stay here is of your own choosing. I had no part in that decision."

"Bullshit! You forced me into the Heavenly Suppression Chamber and killed me 3,752 times! I guess they titled you the Sky Emperor because your shamelessness is higher than the Heavens!"

"Tch, minor details. Regardless, I must test my successor, and you are a perfect being to carry it out. If you fight her, I will grant you freedom."

"I'm not your gladiator, old dog. Besides, can't you see the difference in our levels? She's clearly an extreme peak master, how do you expect me to fight her?!"

"I can revive you as long as you are within my domain."

"That doesn't help!"

The man and the Sky Emperor argued like a pair of old enemies, forcing Xinyue to take a supporting role as she watched them without knowing what to feel.

The esteemed image of the Sky Emperor she'd built in her mind collapsed instantly, and even her image of the man changed.

The time span he mentioned stood out.

Clearly, he had been here for a considerable amount of time. The lifespan of a 4th class expert could reach tens of thousands of years, but it definitely didn't reach the hundreds of thousands.

If so, just when did he enter the Void Corridor?

And aside from that, didn't he say he was weaker than her?

If so, couldn't she have directly beaten him until he spat out the answers she desired?

She really wanted to slap him for acting like an expert when he wasn't one.

'Yet, I truly cannot feel a hint of aura from his body. He reads in my perception as a regular human.'

Xinyue's eyes widened. Her irises swirled gently as she activated her power.

Her perception was instantly enhanced. Her gaze was like a godly force that no information could hide from.

Everything about every treasure in the room was revealed to her, and as she panned her eyes over to the man...

He looked back at her.

Bzzt!

"Ah!"

Sparks burst in the air. Xinyue covered her face with her hands as she experienced backlash for the first time in her life.

Tears of blood dripped from her eyes.

"What an interesting successor candidate." The man said with a smile.

"Don't hurt her too much. You know as well as I do that you are invincible in this space."

"If that's the case, then you should just hand over your legacy already."

"You know as well as I do that you have no need for it."

"Nonsense! Do you know how many subordinates I have? I'd totally put it to good use!"

"Even more reason to keep it from you."

"Tch."

The two resumed their conversation as if nothing happened, but Xinyue couldn't match their casual attitudes.

'What just happened?'

She experienced something that should've been impossible.

Somebody blocked the ability of her eyes.

No...

That man had the same ability as her.

Her eyes hardened.

A light of utter solemnity reflected in her cross-shaped pupils. They were unique pupils among the common people, but the man in front of her shared the trait.

Her thoughts whirled.

'This man...what is his relationship with the Ancient God Clan?'

Chapter 846 Sky [6]

15 days passed in an instant.

In the Sky Emperor Palace, a man sat calmly in a reclining chair with a bowl of spirit fruits in his hand. His whole attention was focused on the screen in front of him, depicting the valiant battle of a powerful heroine.

"Oooh!" He exclaimed lightly as the heroine slashed through another beast.

She'd been doing an extremely good job so far. She struggled at the beginning and faltered more than a few times, but she never allowed her momentum to completely die out. This way, she was able to find her second wind, third wind, and every wind after that until she eventually controlled the winds themselves.

'Compared to me, she's still a bit worse, but it's just a matter of combat experience. Once she's fought enough to learn how to properly use her strength, I won't be able to defeat her through normal means.'

He smiled at the thought. Unexpectedly, that old fart emperor was able to find a superb successor.

'That guy's legacy is a bit low-level, though...he was too greedy in life and didn't leave behind many strong techniques for his descendants. Even his remaining soul wisp was created without memory of those techniques.'

It was a silly thought, but the Sky Emperor's soul wisp was actually far more noble than the person himself.

'Hmm, it's clear that we have some sort of fate, so it wouldn't hurt if I passed a few things to her. I've collected too much to keep for myself anyway.'

In fact, with the number of techniques and skills he'd obtained recently, he was forced to build a library to house them all!

It had been an entire two years since he first arrived in this realm, but as he'd learned a few days back, only 3 days passed in the real world.

This kind of deviated time difference was only possible in a place like a Void Corridor. The Abyss' influence weakened the universal law, giving way to strange natural phenomena such as this.

'It's only been such a short time in the outside world. Will it be another ten years before the realm opens up again? But, I'm absolutely not willing to stay here for so long.'

With his abilities, escaping a secret realm had never been difficult, but for the same reason that the strange time dilation existed, he couldn't easily leave this realm.

His attention returned to the screen just as the heroine slammed her foot into the ground, generating ice spikes that annihilated several tens of enemies in front of her.

'Her eyes are the same as mine.'

She wasn't the only one who noticed it. He as well was someone who never expected to find someone else who shared his trait.

'But considering her surprise, these eyes aren't something I'm supposed to have.'

He smiled lightly, shoving another spirit fruit in his mouth.

'How interesting...'

His expression soured in the next moment.

"Dammit, old man! These fruits aren't even ripe yet! Meat, give me meat! I demand it!"

In the face of his rage, the Sky Emperor...

Remained entirely silent.

There was absolutely no way he'd waste more power on that brat. He knew full well that it'd only end with his mental defeat and descent into insanity.

Truly, he was a brat that made people unable to decide how to feel about him.

On one hand, he was an arrogant man with no consideration for others. He created the flow wherever he went and forced others to follow it. He had the makings of an emperor, but at the same time, he was more annoying than any sly old fox.

Yet, for people like the Sky Emperor, he held an irresistible appeal.

Those who remained in these legacy tombs were all remnant souls of old emperors. Despite their current state, they clearly remembered the wars they participated in.

They clearly remembered the terror of the Nox that even the strongest masters couldn't defeat.

They still remembered the universal destruction that was wrought while they remained helpless.

To them, this man was a godsend.

He was the universe's final effort, he was an unparalleled genius with unlimited growth potential, and with his speed of growth, it wasn't impossible for him to bloom into his potential before the Nox could suppress him.

For these experts who'd tasted defeat and ended up trapped in the Void Corridor until their inevitable deaths, this man was the true vessel through which their legacies could return to the world.

Only, he wasn't a simple person at all.

Tricking his eyes was impossible. Trying to scam him was even more impossible. It was like he could directly see into one's soul and extract their deepest secrets.

Through whatever strange method he used, he conquered the legacy tombs that could be conquered and stole the legacies of anyone he deemed worthy of being reintroduced to the world.

Those who had insidious personalities in life would not be allowed to corrupt the new generation as long as he was watching.

The Sky Emperor sighed. In fact, he could be considered lucky.

Because his current personality was so different from when he was alive, he was able to befriend this terrifying genius.

But from what he'd sensed...

Several of the remnant souls guarding other legacy tombs had been extinguished.

No trace of their auras could be felt anymore.

It made the Sky Emperor shiver in fear. He couldn't even rely on his previous standing to frighten this young genius, so all he could do was coexist peacefully.

Unfortunately...

'That brat is a grave robber! A scammer!'

Not only did he allow Xinyue to participate in the Sky Emperor's trial despite knowing that she wouldn't gain any major benefits from it, he even tricked the Sky Emperor himself into transferring control of the entire legacy tomb to him!

In some sense, it could be said that this man was the one controlling Xinyue's trial. It was his legacy that she was preparing to inherit.

Yet...

Was that truly a bad thing?

The Sky Emperor sighed. In the end, he could never decide how to feel about the young genius.

However, after the past 2 years, a certain name spread through the Wild Continent. Every emperor both feared and hoped to meet the genius who possessed purple eyes.

And to honor his achievements, they granted him a title.

The conquerer of the Wild Continent, the demon who terrorized fallen Divinities...

These remnant souls could think of no better title for him than Blight Rat!

Everywhere he went, he brought a scourge that robbed Divinities of their treasures and even sometimes their lives!

He was a cancer that polluted the peace of the Wild Continent!

Achoo!

"Who could possibly be thinking about me at this hour? I'm a pure man, you know? I don't do booty calls!"

The plague demon's murmur echoed through the palace.

The Sky Emperor's incorporeal body shivered.

...of course, everything he'd been thinking properly was thought with the best intentions in mind.

In fact, Blight Rat was a powerful name, and anyone who heard the name would agree that it was the greatest possible compliment.

Adding these statements at the end of his thoughts would save him from the plague demon's wrath, right?

Well, at least, that was how the Sky Emperor calmed himself while eagerly waiting for his inheritor to complete the trial so he could finally kick this demon out of his house.

An incorporeal tear dropped from his incorporeal eye.

Truly, he couldn't wait.

Chapter 847 Library [1]

"Haa..."

A sigh rang through an empty battlefield.

Aside from the woman who voiced it, there were only corpses littering the ground.

Hundreds of thousands, no, millions of corpses surrounded the body of a single woman as she stood and bathed in the bloody light of the red sun.

30 days.

It felt like an eternity, but now, it was finally over.

This hell, she never once thought she would experience something like it. Even in Eien, she'd never seen such a situation where a single being was forced to face the onslaught of countless enemies with similar strength to them.

If it wasn't a trial situation that wasn't inherently trying to kill her, Xinyue was sure she would've died.

But did she regret accepting the trial?

'Absolutely not.'

It was a definitive answer. Through the past month of battle, the most valuable thing she gained was experience. This level of battle experience was impossible to earn without strenuous situations to promote it, and since Xinyue was always sheltered as the Ancient God Clan's Young Master, despite her power and ability, she'd never truly had the chance to risk her life.

This time, she saw a comprehensive increase in strength, ranging from her physical body to even her law comprehension.

And as if that wasn't enough, she even felt like she was touching upon something greater, albeit faintly.

"Take me back."

Now that she'd squeezed the benefits out of this place, there was no reason to stay.

Her body turned into a beam of light upon her declaration, and in the next instant, the bloody smell she'd gotten so used to disappeared.

What greeted her was instead...

"Hahaha! What a show! Girl, I didn't expect you'd do so well!"

The call of a strange man.

Xinyue's face fell. She almost forgot about this man's existence during her time fighting. The small goal she'd made with him in mind held no stock against her true ambitions, after all.

"Where is the Sky Emperor?" She asked. She didn't want to deal with this man more than she had to.

However, he smiled slyly in response to her question. "That old man? Well, he's feeling a bit of shame for his living self's actions so he's hiding somewhere around here."

"Shame?"

"Right, right. See, hmm, how do I put this...aha!"

"You've been scammed!"

Xinyue's face fell even further. "Are you insinuating that a great emperor scammed me?"

"No, don't misunderstand me. I'm not insinuating anything, I'm saying it outright."

"Are you going to keep evading my question until I'm forced to be ruthless?"

"Ahhh! Senior Sky Emperor, help me! Your inheritor is trying to kill me!"

The man yelled with so little enthusiasm that it was hard to take him seriously, especially since he didn't move from his slumped position even once.

Nevertheless, he didn't leave Xinyue to seethe for too long.

After his little stint of teasing was over, he calmly explained the situation to Xinyue, allowing her to understand the truth behind this legacy tomb.

"Are you being serious right now?"

Despite the fact that she was the one asking the question, she knew full well the answer.

Merely, she was in such disbelief and rage that she had to ask again.

"Sky Emperor...how pathetic." Xinyue coldly uttered.

The air fluctuated as if the Sky Emperor's soul wisp twitched in response to Xinyue's changed opinion, but Xinyue didn't care at all.

She was irked, but she wasn't too offended. After all, the trial she'd endured was far more valuable than any technique the Sky Emperor could've given her.

Merely...

"Relax."

The man's voice rang out again, breaking her out of her thoughts.

"While that old fart can't give you anything, aren't I still here? While I'm not some great emperor, I don't have any problem sponsoring a genius. How about it, are you interested?"

The man lifted his body and smiled lightly as he looked at her.

There couldn't have been a more untrustworthy expression to use at this moment.

Every fiber of Xinyue's body was telling her to reject the offer purely because of this man's connection to it, however...

'He somehow got his hands on All-Seeing Eyes, a feat that should be impossible. Even if he isn't some great persona, the master behind him should not be a small force.'

"Okay, I will accept your offer."

The decision was made in a split second, causing the man to smile.

"Good! I like decisive people like you. I think we'll get along well in the future."

"I have no interest in getting along with you."

"Aww, come on, Xinyue. Haven't we become close comrades after this experience?"

"There is no such thing."

"Hm? How could that be?"

"I don't even know your name, let alone how you are as a comrade. With your unreliable appearance, I have no interest in learning either."

The man grinned slightly.

His body vanished, reappearing before Xinyue before she could even react.

"Aha, was that the only problem? Well, solving that is simple..."

The man's arm flashed. His hand was gripping Xinyue's shoulder before she could even process the sensation.

As her eyes widened, as her mana flared into the surroundings...

"...my name is Damien Void."

"What are you—"

A current of mana covered the duo, and they disappeared from the Sky Emperor Palace altogether.

Not even a trace of their existence remained.

"—doing?!"

Xinyue's body lurched forward suddenly. Unable to react to the sudden change, she tripped and fell to the floor.

The scent of grass filled her nose. She sat up, wiping the mud that stained her face.

'Wait...grass?'

Xinyue's eyes widened as she shot up. Her awareness spread into the surroundings, allowing her to witness a truly mystical sight.

A continent that spanned the entirety of her awareness filled with beings of many different races, the architectural style was a mix of extremely futuristic designs and more ancient classical themes, and due to the fact that elves lived in this place, the architecture was built into nature rather than overriding it.

This created a truly unique atmosphere unseen in any world.

The strength of beings was nothing much to brag about, with a majority of them being 3rd class, but there were still at least several thousand 4th class troops present on this continent.

Xinyue and Damien were standing at the edge of the continent, one of the rare pieces of land that remained purely natural.

Looking down upon civilization from this point, Xinyue didn't know what to think.

"This...what is this?" She asked, baffled.

Damien smiled and responded matter-of-factly, "This is Theavel."

Without explaining further, he started making his way down the cliff, entering the city below.

Without any clue what else to do, Xinyue followed.

The duo made their way through the city, allowing Xinyue to witness the pure innovation of this new society. As several very different races lived in harmony, civilization saw a huge boost and evolved into something great.

Whether it was for technology, politics, economy, or even social issues, this place seemed to have sorted out a system to deal with them all effectively without leaving anyone dissatisfied.

It was an impossible society.

Xinyue followed Damien through the city for almost half an hour before they reached the city center. Here, along with various skyscrapers, was one smaller building that took the very central position of the city.

Seeing it, Damien stopped and looked over his shoulder with a smile.

"Welcome to the Void Library. This is the greatest store of knowledge in Theavel, and also the source of your opportunity. I hope you enjoy your stay."

Chapter 848 Library [2]

While the Void Library definitely had a name that many long-time friends of Damien would criticize due to the laziness that went into naming it, he truly defended its name more than he did everything else that he...somewhat lazily named.

After all, unlike those abilities, this library was named after the Void Corridor, the place where all of its contents were plundered from.

This library was specifically built when Damien amassed far more resources than he felt like keeping with him constantly. Since he had no need for said resources, he established this space to pass them to his subordinates.

Of course, there were several procedures that went into guaranteeing loyalty and comparability before techniques were handed out, but it was still true that the library gave equal opportunity to all Theavel residents, from the original elves to the newest refugees from Calypto.

It wasn't just learning resources that Damien gained, though, and the library represented a second purpose as well.

It was a big juicy carrot that everyone wanted to take a bite out of, especially since the stick seemed to be taking a vacation.

The resources and materials that could be used for practice were all stored within the library, and a reward system had been established to hand them to those who earned them.

Through the gains he'd made during his 2 years in the Void Corridor, Damien was able to create a system that could stably build the strength of his army while slowly guaranteeing their absolute loyalty to him.

Usually, he only visited this place to cure his boredom and watch over those within, but today, he'd brought a guest with him.

"The Void Library has several legacies at the Demigod level and even a few God-level inheritances within. Along with those, there is an assortment of techniques for practically every natural law in existence, so you shouldn't have trouble finding material that suits you." Damien explained as he took Xinyue through the entrance to the library.

"You can pick one inheritance and three techniques from any part of the library, however, I'll only give you ten minutes to make your decision. Don't delay, don't hesitate, and don't overestimate yourself. In the end, make a choice you will not regret in the future."

The two walked through the library entrance unhindered, the security guarding the place acting like they didn't see the duo at all.

Damien flashed a small smile at the front desk attendant as he escorted Xinyue into the main building, causing her to smile and lower her head.

A smile from the sovereign, just how much was that worth?

She almost wanted to scream like a fangirl at that moment, but she knew she had to contain herself in front of the sovereign.

He was a kind and humble man. He saved everyone who lives in Theavel today, and afterward, he allowed them to live on their own without trying to oppress or control them.

Honestly, if it wasn't for the 5 Emperors constantly praising the sovereign and reminding the denizens of his existence, they would've forgotten that this was his world.

However, he was always helping them from the shadows. Even this library was something he built so they could grow stronger and fight the oppression that forced them into Theavel in the first place.

It might've been strange from an outsider's perspective, but to the denizens of Theavel...

Doubting the sovereign or questioning his authority was a crime above all others.

Still, he never tried to use his power over them to harm them, so they also acted respectfully about his preferences.

As he walked into the library and casually took a seat on a bean bag chair, those around him subtly gave him space and didn't disturb him.

Xinyue observed this reaction with a strange look on her face. She couldn't understand why everyone in this place seemed to revere the annoying man she'd been interacting with so far.

Yet, their feelings were not the reason for her visit.

'Ten minutes...if you dare to implement such a deadline, there must be something worth hiding within the library.'

"Can I start now?" She asked.

She remained indifferent on the surface, but Damien could clearly feel her excitement.

"Of course! Your ten minutes start the moment you take a step further than this point." Damien responded.

Xinyue nodded, and without hesitation, took her first step.

She dashed into the library and spread her awareness, but as soon as she tried to spread it more than a few meters, she found her senses blocked entirely.

Her eyes glowed blue. The strength and intensity of her awareness greatly increased, and her vision expanded to 360 degrees.

She rapidly intook all the information she possibly could.

'This...this...this...!'

Her eyes widened into saucers, and continued to pop further and further out of her head as she read through the different manuals that were present on the shelves.

'Forbidden Ancient Script, Hegemon God Body, Reticent Buddha Psalm...these are all precious godly techniques of the forgotten era!'

Even the usually stoic Xinyue was forced to exclaim from the sheer quality of material.

It suddenly dawned on her how short 10 minutes truly was.

All of a sudden, her pace massively increased. She stopped reading through the technique descriptions and only focused on their names and creators. This way, she was still able to sort them without wasting as much time.

She practically kicked up a duststorm in the library with her speed.

Even the others that were currently studying within were forced to evacuate.

At the moment, they crowded behind Damien like children complaining to their parent.

He smiled when he saw their expressions. "Don't worry, she'll only be in there for ten minutes. Even if she stays past her welcome, I'll drag her out. Just wait here for a bit and enjoy the show until then."

The denizens nodded hesitantly, but didn't move from behind Damien.

After all, what were they supposed to do for these ten minutes? It was too short of a timeframe to leave and come back, but too long for them to simply wait around idly.

Damien shook his head wryly. 'Really, I can't stop myself from spoiling these assholes when I come here.'

He snapped his finger lightly, and the scene changed. Several tables appeared from nowhere and the space expanded to accommodate them. After the chairs and utensils were all set, Damien snapped again, summoning several dishes onto the table.

"Alright, everyone! I don't come here often, but I have heard that we've established a stable beast population apart from just livestock. Since we have the stock now, let's feast!"

The denizens stood quietly for a second before...

"YEEEEAAAAAH!"

"WOOOOO!"

"Love live the Sovereign!"

""Long live the Sovereign!""

Raucous cheers filled the area as a lively atmosphere descended. The denizens rushed to the tables and started filling their plates, happily indulging in the impromptu party that their sovereign was throwing.

Around 6 minutes in, an unexpected guest arrived.

"You still love doing whatever you want, aye?"

A beautiful woman with flowing green hair walked through the entrance of the library. The celestial appearance she held along with her heavenly voice that soothed the soul and calmed the heart made it impossible for these regular denizens to not be infatuated with her.

However, for them, she was untouchable.

""We greet the 1st Emperor!""

The crowd immediately got on their knees to show fealty, but were waved off by Elvira, who never took her eyes off Damien.

Damien smiled. "It's been a while since we've seen each other. Why so distant?"

"Aren't we in public? Even if you are a friendly and approachable sovereign, I still have an image to maintain."

"Bleh, useless things."

"Only you can say so with such conviction."

Elvira smiled and sat down behind Damien on his bean bag chair, her body very clearly touching his.

Damien closed his eyes and leaned back.

"How's everything progressing?"

Elvira smiled lightly as she brushed her hands through his hair. "Progress has been smooth thus far. The militarization plans are especially progressing speedily since there is no small number of volunteers. According to our current projection, Theavel's complete development should be finished within 3 years."

"And the army's development?"

Elvira furrowed her brows. "As you know, we have sufficient numbers. What we lack is power. With your recent achievements, it won't be difficult to produce several experts, but they need time and space to grow. Theavel can't provide them a sufficient environment quite yet."

Damien nodded. As expected, mass-producing 4th classes was far more difficult than doing the same with 3rd classes. Theavel was developing rapidly now that it had a World Core, but it still needed time for these changes to saturate.

"I am currently unavailable, but once I return to Eien, I'll figure something out to help them."

Elvira smiled and nodded.

With such a considerate sovereign ruling them, who could those beneath him not fall for his charms?

When they first met, this man was ambitious yet incompetent. Yet, over the years, he'd shown his grit time and time again, growing into someone she could truly be proud to follow.

She was content with her current life.

Or at least, for the most part.

Chapter 849 Growth [1]

Theavel's main problems at the moment all stemmed from its youth. If there was sufficient time to develop, of course, all of these problems would solve themselves, but with the outside world's situation worsening with every day, time was something they simply didn't have.

Theavel's population was mainly made up of those from the 3000 Beast Mountain Range. Aside from them, the second largest group was the Calypto refugees, and the rest were stragglers Damien picked up during his travels every once in a while.

With this distribution, controlling the population was still easy. They were all either completely loyal to their respective leader, or they held absolute respect and reverence for Damien.

This factor was what united the world and allowed it to exist without internal conflict, but Elvira was sure that such issues couldn't be avoided in the future.

While she wanted to find a way to solve this problem, was there truly one? Other than mind control, there was no way to have such an absolute control over a population.

"Hm? That's what's bothering you? That's a simple issue."

These were the words her sovereign said to her when she told him her worries.

He sat there, his head in her lap, his posture relaxed to the utmost, and merely snapped his fingers.

"Done."

"Done?" She asked in astonishment.

"Done. Well, to some extent," he replied calmly.

"I just altered Theavel's World Laws a bit. Attacking another denizen directly or indirectly with hostile intent is now impossible, so at least violence will be quelled. Of course, it is still possible for dissent to develop, and I'm sure if someone truly wanted to, they could find a loophole to cause chaos, but this should be enough precaution until that situation occurs."

He explained his thought process to Elvira.

His main goal was the safety of the population.

At least now, it was impossible for the common people to be taken hostage or cruelly mistreated in the event of political conflict. Other similar acts could also be prevented, which meant that the consequences of suppressing threats were minimized by a large margin.

Elvira's eyes widened. After living in Theavel so long, she'd become accustomed to focusing on the political side of things. It was difficult for her to think of a solution like his, but at the same time, she never would've given consideration to such a nonsensical solution.

After all, wasn't what he just claimed to accomplish an impossible feat?

"Don't believe me?" He said, looking up at her with a smile.

Elvira looked away and replied, "It's not that I don't believe you, merely, this kind of phenomenon is unheard of. I can't quite wrap my head around it."

"In the end, you just want a demonstration, right? That's even simpler."

Damien checked the time. There were still 2 minutes left before Xinyue's time in the library ended. Knowing this, he grabbed Elvira and teleported elsewhere.

When the two emerged from the folds of space, they were on a vast field on the Western Continent.

Here, several beast packs roamed, and hunters commonly came to kill them for food and training.

Currently, there was a team of hunters fighting a ferocious boar. They worked as a unit and slew it with ease, however, a conflict arose soon after.

"What do you mean?! Didn't we agree to share the spoils evenly?!" A man roared.

"Haha, did you think I'd agree to that? My village needs this boar meat more than yours, so obediently hand it over!" His companion roared back.

"How dare you?!"

"Hmph. If you don't agree to the easy way, we can only use force!"

The second man drew his sword and covered it with mana. He kicked off the ground and slashed his sword at the other man...

Hong!

A barely audible bell sounded.

The man's actions were halted. He stood frozen in the air, completely unable to control his body.

The first man's eyes widened, but he wasn't going to miss this opportunity. He grabbed his knife and swung at his incapacitated enemy when...

Hong!

He encountered the exact same situation.

"Beasts are not classified as denizens unless they develop intelligence and pledge fealty to one of you five, and you five are not classified as denizens either, as you are rulers. Other than these few, everyone else will be subjected to the same punishment..."

"...at least, for the most part."

Damien's voice sounded in Elvira's ears as she watched the situation take place.

She turned to face him, her brow quirked in curiosity.

"Well, it's not right to completely limit people's freedom. If conflict truly reaches a tipping point, people can use the duel function to have a life or death battle that is registered in the database."

"There are a few more loopholes that promote conflict, but none of them are unregulated. I've given you partial control over this mechanism so you can adjust the laws according to the situation."

"My only ask is that you never make it completely impossible for conflict to occur."

Elvira watched Damien's back as he spoke. His mindset was truly not something that many people could possess.

She didn't know what he'd experienced for him to promote violence for the sake of strength with such determination, but she understood how beneficial his mentality had been for his growth.

She couldn't necessarily refute his reasoning, nor did she want to. She also faced death and conflict countless times to gain the strength she had. Without it, she may not have ever become the Elf Queen.

"Ah, look at the time. I should go fetch that lass before she raids my entire library." Damien suddenly said.

"Leaving already?" Elvira asked.

Damien smiled and patted her head, something the dignified Elf Queen had never experienced before. "I do have to leave early this time, but there's one more thing I have to do."

Elvira smiled warmly and nodded.

She understood his intent.

After all, her disciple had been eagerly awaiting his return as well.

It was only right for them to meet before he left.

The duo left the field in an instant, leaving the two frozen men to save themselves from their predicament themselves.

Just how long would it take them to learn that the key to escape was dropping their hostility?

Regardless, Damien and Elvira arrived back in the library and passed the lively party that was still ongoing. Damien opened his eyes wide and used the All-Seeing Eyes to scan the library, finding Xinyue's trace soon after.

"Haha, so she found it in the end." He muttered.

He vanished from Elvira's side, reappearing with a woman slung over his shoulders.

She barraged him with ice mana in a bid to escape, but how could she hurt him?

He was invincible in the Sanctuary.

Rolling his eyes, Damien put her down, placing a spatial wall between her and the bookshelves to prevent her from trying to re-enter.

"So, how did you like it? Did you find anything you like?" He asked teasingly.

Xinyue glanced away with a strange look on her face.

"Haa..." she sighed.

As much as she didn't want to confirm this man's ego...

"...several...things..."

The library's contents made her throw away a bit of her pride when she spoke to him.

Chapter 850 Growth [2]

Damien smiled lightly and looked through what Xinyue took from the library.

'Stagnant Universe Divine Canon, Temporal Freeze, and...Trait Enhancement? Interesting.'

The first was an ice law manual created by a supreme genius of the forgotten era. The man who created the technique was evil and insane to the extreme. His aim was to freeze the universe and keep it as a showpiece in his collection, however, the technique he created to do so wasn't inherently evil.

Rather, on his path to freeze the universe itself, his first discovery was how to freeze Spacetime. The Stagnant Universe Divine Canon was exactly this technique.

The first skill that Xinyue chose was also an ice skill relating to time, however, its use was more local. The manual and skill were equivalent to macrocosm and microcosm.

These were all skills that Xinyue had a great affinity with, so it wasn't surprising that she chose them. What surprised Damien was her final choice.

Rather than a skill, Trait Enhancement was a single-use technique that could intrinsically increase the grade of a trait, as suggested by the name.

This technique was useless to most, and since it was single use, not many considered it worth learning, but for Xinyue, it would yield an immense harvest surpassing anything else she could've obtained from the Void Library.

The All-Seeing Eyes were already an evolvable trait. With a qualitative boost from Trait Enhancement, they would become a true force to be reckoned with.

This was the skill Damien believed would be best for Xinyue, but he didn't know whether or not she would look past the short-term benefits of some more powerful techniques to choose it.

Seeing that she had, he couldn't help but smile.

"Good. Since you've made your choices, there isn't much else to do here. After I run a quick errand, we will return to the Wild Continent to have some fun."

"Fun?" Xinyue questioned.

Damien smiled slyly and glanced at her.

"Hasn't a large Nox Army come to explore the Void Corridor? Since the opportunity to feast is in front of me, do you think I, as a sane person, can reject it?"

Xinyue's eyes widened.

To view an army of several hundred million as a feast...

'As expected, this man is a maniac.'

Xinyue was never surer of a thought in her life.

Theavel was home to many different biomes, reflecting all possible environments one could imagine, but the most prevalent had to be the beautiful luscious plains that spanned great lengths of almost every continent.

These fields were the epitome of nature, representing Theavel's budding life as well as the vitality that the new world held.

Among the various environments of the world, this one was the elves' favorite.

They nurtured the flora, raised fauna, and turned these empty fields into thriving prairies filled with life.

Within one of these prairies on the Central Continent, a little girl ran free without a care in the world.

She looked about 13 years old. Her long black hair and big eyes gave her an irresistibly cute appearance that provoked almost everyone in Theavel to spoil her.

Compared to the environment she'd been born into, the environment that killed her family, the environment she'd grown up in for the past 8 years was like Heaven and Earth.

And compared to the naive child she was 8 years ago, she was now a willful teenager who was starting to become her own person.

"Big brother, you came!" She exclaimed as Damien's figure materialized in the field nearby.

She ran over and launched herself into his arms, clinging to him like a koala.

Damien smiled wryly. "Xue'er, you're already a big girl. How come you're still so attached to your big brother?"

Xue'er lifted her head off his chest and grinned widely. "Because big brother is the best!"

"Tch, excuses," Damien muttered with a smile, flicking Xue'er's forehead and peeling her off of him.

"Have you been doing well? Your teacher isn't bullying you, is she?" He asked.

Xue'er shook her head furiously. "Of course, not! If it wasn't for teacher, I wouldn't have been able to talk to my spirit friends so well! Don't be mean to her!"

"Oho, so you care about your teacher more than your big brother now? Elvira, it looks like we need to have a chat later."

Damien glanced back at Elvira, who he'd brought with him, and raised his fist in defiance.

It was also at this time when Xue'er recognized the existence of the two others who'd come with Damien.

"Teacher! And...a new big sister...?" Xue'er said, quirking her head as she scanned Xinyue up and down.

Xinyue looked away uncomfortably without saying anything. In the first place, she'd only been brought here so she couldn't raid the library while Damien was busy.

While she chose not to enter the conversation, Damien furrowed his brows in mock anger.

"What nonsense are you talking about?" He scolded, sending a fierce karate chop to Xue'er's forehead.

"Leave my forehead alone!" She exclaimed.

"If you want me to stop, you have to beat me first!"

Damien declared smugly.

"Hmph! I'm strong now too, big brother! I'll beat you up and chop your forehead back!"

Xue'er put her fists up as she spoke, and surprisingly enough...

A current of mana flowed from her body and flared into the surroundings.

Damien smiled slightly as he blocked the punches that followed.

Looking at her now felt surreal.

Time was truly an incomprehensible thing. While experiencing it oneself, it didn't feel like anything at all, however, witnessing a change as drastic as a child's growth grounded the concept and forced one to realize its passing.

Damien was currently experiencing this feeling.

When did that little Xue'er become so big? She was already up to his stomach in height, and even though she still displayed willful innocence, he could clearly see a light of maturity growing in her eyes.

He'd been so busy over the years that he'd never truly had time to take her growth into account. That is, until two years ago.

Two years ago, when Damien realized that he would be trapped in the Void Corridor for a considerable amount of time, he took a moment to enter the Sanctuary and rest his mind.

Unlike his previous small vacations, this one lasted an entire week. During this time, he truly realized that Xue'er was no longer a child.

It was time for her to make a decision for her future.

Whether or not she wanted to be a practitioner, Damien felt he knew the answer ever since he first saw her interacting with spirits.

Regardless, he had the conversation with her, and he received that obvious answer directly from her mouth.

From that point forward, Xue'er became Elvira's disciple and began studying mana and spirit control seriously.

The growth potential she'd showcased was something even Damien didn't expect.

It had only been 2 years, yet Xue'er had progressed far past her 1st class, and at this time...

"Haa!" She let out a fiercely cute war cry as she slammed her palm through the air.

A colorful swirl of mana and spirits formed before her and shot at Damien like cannon fire.

This attack was termed "Swirly Beam" by Xue'er, and was a skill she earned upon promotion to her second class.

A class which she was already halfway through.

It was unfathomable.

A future 14-year-old 3rd class being...

Just what kind of monster had Damien picked up from the Trial World?