

## The Immortal's Wine Store

### Chapter 411 - The Combat Training

Hidden within the shadows, a few individuals dressed in black robes waited outside the imperial palace.

"Look. Isn't that Cornelia?" One of them whispered while pointing at the sneaky figure going out of the palace through the back gate.

Their eyes glinted when they saw the familiar face of Cornelia.

These individuals were sent by the elders of the two families to assassinate the crown princess and heir of Emperor Balmond, Princess Cornelia. With the death of Prince Amon and the unknown state of the bedridden Artaurus, these men's goal was to kill the one who would most likely become the next ruler of the Great Demon Empire!

All of them were top assassins trained by the Lycan Family and the Torgrim Family. There were eight of them monitoring the palace and two of them are even experts at the Origin God Realm! This force was more than enough to assassinate the crown princess who was only at the early stage of the Nascent God Realm!

They swiftly trailed the crown princess while maintaining a safe distance. They didn't want to alert her since they were still near the palace.

They followed the crown princess while evading the eyes of the soldiers guarding the city.

Unbeknownst to these assassins, a chubby white cat had already noticed their presence. There was a sly smile on the fat cat's round face as she stared at the dark-robed individuals.

"They really came!" The cat muttered in excitement.

After tailing the crown princess for a few hours, the assassins finally discovered where she was headed to.

"This path leads to the forested area outside of Morlon City. There are quite a few strong savage beasts here, but most of them are deep in slumber. As long as we don't enter their territory, they wouldn't be alerted."

"You guys should be careful. There might be hidden experts protecting the crown princess."

"Hidden experts? We have two Demon Ancestors on our side. Even if there are people protecting the crown princess in the shadows, we could still assassinate her!"

Meanwhile, Cornelia was unaware that she had been followed by a group of trained assassins. She glanced at the map in her hands and then turned her gaze to the forest up ahead. "I'm finally here! Now, it's time to hunt for savage beasts!"

Cornelia sped up her flight. After arriving at the periphery of the forest, she slowly descended. It wasn't wise to fly straight into the forest as she might attract the attention of strong savage beasts.

"I should proceed carefully from now on." She muttered to herself.

Not far from her location, the assassins whispered amongst each other as they watched her figure with suppressed killing intent.

"Let's wait until she reaches the middle part of the forest. She might be able to escape if we are impatient. Encircle her silently and make sure that she won't have a path of retreat! Go!"

"Alright."

The assassins moved in different directions to seal off Cornelia's path of escape.

At this moment, the succubus was still unaware of the impending doom as she trekked the forest with an eager look on her face.

"What an idiot! So that's why Jiu Shen sent me to protect her in secret..." Ice muttered in disdain as she looked at the succubus.

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"Division Head Yang Zenke, where is this place?" A disciple of the Heavenly Sword Tower asked curiously as he stared at the man leading them. The other disciples were also curious and they could not help but glance at Yang Zenke with anticipation. They just came out of a beautiful lotus building and Division Head Yang Zenke was now leading them to a secret pathway. They were curious where this tunnel was headed to.

Yang Zenke glanced at them impassively as he replied with a solemn tone. "Alright. Since you guys are eager to know. I will tell you. We are currently in the Crimson Fiend Continent and you are here to train since you guys will be participating in a war."

What?! Crimson Fiend Continent?! This cursed land?!

So that's why they felt uneasy after leaving the lotus building. They were actually walking in the territory of the demons! However, these disciples were from the Blood Sword Division where the strongest and most talented disciples of the Heavenly Sword Tower gathers. After being stunned by the revelation, they soon composed themselves.

Among the disciples, Prince Dante, Princess Sylvia, and their friends were also present. Almost all of them were already at the 9th-rank Saint realm! Even the weakest disciple of the Blood Sword Division was at the peak stage of the 7th-rank Emperor realm! Prince

Dante in particular was already at the peak stage of the Saint realm! His true essence was even thicker than his father, Emperor Elyk!

At first, they were still on the same level as Yang Zenke, but the latter was now an Origin God Realm expert! The difference between their cultivation levels has become wider! To this, Prince Dante and the others could only sigh in their hearts.

"We're here!" Yang Zenke scanned his troops. He knew everyone here since they were his fellow disciples many months ago. Life was truly unpredictable.

After discarding the unnecessary thoughts, Yang Zenke cleared his throat before he said. "The Sect Master has commanded the Blood Sword Division to train for an incoming war! Everyone must do their best to cultivate!"

Hearing this, the eyes of everyone in the Blood Sword Division flashed with ferocity. They had experienced many battles and they knew the importance of combat training. They didn't want to slack off just because of their huge improvements during the past few months.

"Your enemies this time are bandits! These bandits are evil, so you don't have to hesitate in killing them. Besides, these guys are demons!" Yang Zenke announced with a grim smile.

The disciples felt slightly nervous when they heard this. They haven't fought with demons yet, so they were a bit anxious. Nonetheless, the desire for battle was still apparent in their eyes!

"This region will be enclosed by my spiritual power, so no one will be able to disturb our training! Alright. Begin!" After Yang Zenke announced the start of their combat training, the stone doors in front of the disciples finally opened, revealing the ferocious faces of thousands of demon bandits!

## Chapter 412 - Assassins!

Cornelia glared at the huge wolf in front of her. It was 9th-rank Saint Forest Wolf!

This wolf normally lived in packs, but there were also times when these wolves hunt alone. The Forest Wolf in front of her was among this type.

With a confident grin on her face, Cornelia adjusted her posture according to Jiu Shen's teachings. She then eyed the wolf while stimulating her anma.

Her true essence cultivation was already at the Nascent God Realm, so this Forest Wolf wasn't a threat to her, but she was planning to fight this wolf using her physical body.

At this moment, her physical strength was already at the peak stage of the 9th-rank Saint, so she was confident about beating this wolf!

Awoo!

The wolf was quite smart, and when it noticed the strength of Cornelia, it immediately decided to call for backup.

Looking at this, Cornelia merely smirked. It was more fun if there were more of them for her to practice on!

With a light tap of her foot, Cornelia dashed towards the wolf, catching it off guard. She then released a strong punch that hit the Forest Wolf's body.

It whimpered as it rolled a few times on the ground. When it stood up, there was a trace of fear in the savage beast's eyes.

Awoo!

It issued another cry before it bolted away. It was trying to escape from Cornelia after realizing that it was no match for her!

"Did you really think that I would let you escape?" The succubus grinned as she leaped aggressively towards the injured savage beast. She then released a kick that immediately sent the poor wolf flying.

Thud!

The Forest Wolf dropped lifelessly on the ground.

After that, more than a dozen wolves suddenly sprung into action!

"So you've finally come! Alright! Let me test the strength of my physical body!" There was a glint of excitement on the succubus' face as she stared at the pack of wolves.

When they saw their dead ally, the eyes of the wolves turned red and they abruptly surround Cornelia while eyeing her menacingly.

Most of these Forest Wolves were only at the 8th-rank Divine, but there were six of them who were at the 9th-rank Saint. Cornelia could even sense that the strength of the largest wolf was already at the Nascent God Realm! From her experience, she could tell that it was the leader of the pack!

"Not bad! Hehe!" Cornelia became serious when she discovered the alpha wolf. She wasn't sure if she could defeat this guy with just her physical body alone, but she was willing to try it out!

Awoo!



The alpha wolf issued a command and its subordinates growled threateningly as they pounced towards Cornelia. Their sharp claws and fangs glinted dangerously under the moonlight!

"That guy only taught me boxing techniques! I should have asked him to teach me a sword technique instead..." She muttered to herself as she stared at the wolves' sharp claws. She felt slightly reluctant to fight them barehanded as her skin might be injured. As a woman who was particular with her looks, she didn't want to have a scar that would make her ugly.

After more than ten minutes, Cornelia killed the final Forest Wolf with a quick punch. The only one left was the leader of the pack!

The alpha wolf glared at the succubus. Its deathly stare made her feel slightly nervous. Even if she used her true essence to fight this wolf, she would need a bit of time before she can kill it.

Awoo!

The huge wolf was like a blur as it dashed towards Cornelia. It opened its huge gaping mouth as it tried to bite off her neck!

Cornelia swiftly covered her arms with her anma as she abruptly backed off.

The two exchanged moved for a few minutes, and Cornelia ended up seriously injured.

"I'm still not a match for it if I only use my physical body..." She shook her head in regret as she wiped the blood at the corner of her lips.

After realizing that she was no match against the wolf using her physical body, Cornelia immediately released her true essence and attacked it using her illusion arts!

After another ten minutes, the huge wolf fell to the ground with a heavy thud!

Cornelia smiled and kept the corpses of the wolves inside her space ring. Their corpses can be sold for quite a sum, especially the Nascent God Realm alpha wolf!

Just as she was about to take a rest, Cornelia suddenly felt a dangerous sensation behind her! She hurriedly planted herself on the ground while looking at the individual who attacked her.

The person was dressed in dark robes that covered his entire body, making her unable to tell the guy's identity. She coldly glared at the robed person as she asked. "Who are you?!"

The robed individual didn't answer her and instead leaped towards her with another attack!

Cornelia shifted her head to evade the assassin's strike. She could still hear the wind whistling after that attack! This guy was dangerous! She was still injured after her fight with the alpha wolf, but even at her peak, she might not be able to defeat this assassin!

'Peak stage Nascent God Realm assassin!'

Cornelia's heart fell when she discovered the cultivation of her opponent. After that attack, she could tell that this guy was at least as strong as Leaf who ranked second in the Heaven Battle!

"You must be an assassin sent by Lycan Family or the Torgrim Family to kill me!" Cornelia could only buy some time at this moment. Her eyes darted around, hoping to see an escape route when a gloomy voice suddenly echoed throughout the forest...

"There is no use looking for a path of retreat, Your Highness. We have already blocked your escape routes."

Hearing this, Cornelia's hope vanished.. A few more robed individuals suddenly came into her sight. She even felt a few of them from behind her! It was a planned assassination!

## Chapter 413 - Bloody Night

Despite her dire circumstance, Cornelia didn't show a look of despair. A grim smile was plastered on her beautiful face. She then stared at the robed individuals while trying to identify them.

"It seems like the two nobles families are truly hell-bent on killing me!" She muttered without hiding her disdain towards them.

"Did you really think that I wouldn't notice that you're trying to buy time? Your Highness, you underestimate us too much." The person who seemed to be the leader of these assassins mocked her.

Hearing this, Cornelia's heart sunk. She then activated her illusion art to its maximum power, while also covering her body with true essence and anma. After observing these robed figures, she could tell that all of them were at least Nascent God Realm experts! As for their leader, she couldn't sense his cultivation level, but he should be at the Origin God Realm!

"Kill her! Don't underestimate her just because she is injured! Balmond might have given her a few defensive items!" The leader shouted with a cold look.

"Kill!"

"Die!"

Cornelia could only stare helplessly at the dozens of individuals dashing towards her. Even so, she still did her best to parry their attacks.

More injuries covered her body as the battle continued.

This time, the leader could no longer hold back his impatience.

"A bunch of useless trash! You guys couldn't even handle an injured little girl!" He scowled as he pounced towards the weakened Cornelia.

Suddenly, the eyes of the assassin leader constricted as he lifted his dagger.

Clang!

He was thrown back several meters before he managed to stabilize in midair. He then stared at the white-haired little human girl that launched a sneak attack on him. When he sensed the cultivation level of the little girl, the assassin leader was stunned.

Origin God Realm!

The other assassins were also startled when they saw the sudden turn of events. They couldn't believe that a little girl actually managed to push back their leader with one move!

Cornelia stared at the white-haired little girl with surprise. Isn't this the little child who was always in Jiu Shen's embrace? She was actually an expert at the Origin God Realm!

Aside from being shocked, the succubus also felt relieved in her heart when she saw the appearance of the little girl. This time, she might be saved!

Ice turned her gaze to the injured Cornelia and handed a bottle of medicine to her.

"You stay there obediently and wait for me." Her cute voice traveled to the succubus' ears like a soothing melody.

Cornelia unconsciously nodded her head while accepting the bottle of medicine. She then unhesitatingly consumed it.

"Why is a savage beast like you involving yourself in the internal affairs of the Great Demon Empire?! You might be strong, but there are more than a dozen of us here! You think that you can stop us by yourself?" The assassin leader glared at Ice with a baleful look. He sensed that this little girl was a savage beast based on the structure of her true essence.

Ice stood in front of Cornelia and smiled at the assassins, showing them her two rows of pearly white teeth. "Even if I'm alone, I could still defeat useless pieces of trash like you guys! However, I didn't come on my own this time. I brought a few helpers with me! Hehe!"

Hearing this, the assassins became alarmed and they could not help but glance around the forest. It was then that they noticed two strong auras.

Not long later, two figures slowly came into their sights.

One was an elegant woman with long purple hair. The other one was a man with similar hair color. They were Long Meili and Aren! Both of them were also at the Origin God Realm!

The assassins became nervous when they discovered the hovering figures. It was especially true for their leader since he could feel the cultivation bases of these two people. Their power was as strong as him!

Cornelia's eyes lit up when she saw the two figures. She recognized them since she had seen them a few times in the lotus building. They were Jiu Shen's subordinates!

'It seems like that guy ordered them to protect me in secret while my father is still away...' She muttered in her heart gratefully.

"What's wrong? Are you nervous now, demon? Hehe!" Ice smiled mockingly at the assassin leader.

The assassin leader gritted his teeth and immediately released his anma as he shouted to his subordinates. "Escape in different directions! If you survive, report the situation to the Demon Emperors!"

The assassins immediately dashed in different directions after hearing their leader's command. They were assassins trained by the two noble families for many decades and they were many times stronger than most Nascent God Realm experts. They activated their escape arts to flee with their fastest speeds!

Seeing this, Long Meili raised her hands and released an invisible and boundless spiritual force that enclosed the entire forest. The fleeing assassins immediately sensed the abnormality and when they tried to leave the forest, they soon noticed that there was an invisible force that trapped them!

"Good job, Sister Meili!" Ice giggled as she flashed a toothy grin towards Long Meili.

The dragon girl shook her head with a smile before she turned her head towards Aren. "You can take care of the rest."

Aren nodded his head at her with a confident look. He then disappeared to hunt the assassins one by one!

"Too bad! Now, I won't have the opportunity to exercise my fists! I shouldn't have told you guys to come with me..." Ice muttered with regret as she punched the air with her little fists.

"You will have every opportunity in the future, Little Sister Ice..." Long Meili rubbed her head gently with a smile.



Cornelia stared speechlessly at the two figures hovering above the clouds. Those strong assassins immediately fled when they noticed that they couldn't defeat the three. They were too strong!

It was destined to be a bloody night for those assassins....

## Chapter 414 - Threshold Of The Fourth Heart Realm

Aren had just recently broken through the Origin God Realm, but after becoming a Purple Winged Sword Eagle, his physical body's strength has increased several times! Even his true essence and spiritual power received a huge boost!

For Eren, the only one who could threaten him was the assassin leader and this guy was just slightly troublesome for him. As for the other assassins, it wouldn't even take him five minutes to kill those weaklings!

The eyes of the assassin leader flashed with terror as he gazed at Aren's incoming figure. He could tell that this man has the same level of cultivation as him, but there was something about this purple-haired man that made him feel inferior.

Suddenly, the assassin leader felt his back pressing against an invisible wall. He tried breaking it a few times, but he couldn't even leave a mark on it. In the end, he could only give up and put his guard up while looking warily at Aren.

"If you think you can kill me so easily, then I have to disappoint you!" The assassin leader put on a savage look as he madly flashed before Aren. He left behind afterimages in his path!

"Die!" He shouted while swinging his dagger with his full strength!

Aren's expression remained calm as he looked at this. He then took out a pair of exquisite-looking weapons that looked like metallic claws. Aren blocked the dagger of the assassin leader using one metal claw before he slashed the other claw to the assassin leader's head.

Puchi!

The assassin's head rotated in midair while his headless body dropped to the ground with a heavy thud.

Seeing this, Aren didn't even glance at his corpse and searched for the other assassins.

After more than ten minutes, Aren who was drenched in his enemies' blood came back and greeted the three ladies with a nod of his head.

"Everything has been dealt with."

Ice pouted upon hearing this, while Long Meili nodded her head calmly.

On the other hand, Cornelia stared at her three saviors with a grateful look on her face as she muttered. "Thank you, elders!"

Aren nodded his head at her.

Ice's smiling face turned cold when she heard how Cornelia referred to her. She then pointed at her face as she gritted her teeth. "Elders? Do I look that old to you?! Huh?! Do you want me to replace those problematic eyes of yours?!"

Even Long Meili was a bit displeased by this.

Cornelia chuckled awkwardly when she saw the expressions of the two women. She then reworded herself with a forced smile. "Thank you, big brother and big sisters!"

Hearing this, Ice nodded her head, clearly pleased.

"Aren, did you discover the identity of those assassins? Long Meili suddenly asked.

Aren frowned and shook his head helplessly. "I tried interrogating a few of them, but they all killed themselves before I could ask them questions. However, I kept their corpses in my storage ring. There might be someone who could recognize their identities after we remove their masks."

Hearing this, Long Meili nodded her head. It was the only thing they could do now.

"Let's go back. I want to take a nap..." Ice grabbed Long Meili's arms as she pleaded her with a sleepy look. The little girl yawned before she transformed into her cat form. She then leaped into Aren's shoulder and decided to sleep there.

Aren could only helplessly shake his head at this. He didn't dare push her away at all...

Ten miles away from them, hidden among the clouds was a figure wearing a transparent veil that covered the lower portion of her face. Her pair of beautiful eyes flashed with complicated emotions as she stared at Long Meili and the others. "Even his subordinates are also strong. I can even feel that the little girl could somehow threaten me just based on the thickness of her true essence..."

Sigh...

With a swooshing sound, her lithe figure vanished.

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Jiu Shen cut off his spiritual sight after seeing that everyone was fine. He then went outside his store and stared at the scenery of Morlon City with an unchanging expression.

"War is approaching, but my strength has already reached the pinnacle of this world. There would be no meaning if I intervene... My mentality has changed so much after staying in this mortal world. I could now sense the threshold of the fourth heart realm. So I was wrong all along... I thought that breaking off my emotions would be the key. I finally know why I was stuck in the peak stage of the Heavenly God Realm for billions of years during that time..." Jiu Shen muttered to himself as he placed his hands behind his back. He had discovered a way that might help him achieve a breakthrough in his heart realm, but there was no joy in his eyes, only regret...

Old memories surfaced in his mind and he could also see familiar faces appearing like a movie playing backward.

Love. Happiness. Sadness.

Jiu Shen immediately opened the gate to his Spirit World and walked inside. After finding a random cloud above the skies, he sat cross-legged and entered a state of trance.

True essence, anma, and spiritual power covered Jiu Shen's body as he entered into a deep state of cultivation.

Balmond and Yue Bo who were both inside the Spirit World was awakened in their solitary confinement. They could sense that the energy of the world was converging in a certain direction.

The surge of energy was so strong that it even startled the savage beasts who were living peacefully inside the Spirit World!

All the creatures inside the Spirit World could feel a sacred and archaic aura slowly enveloping the entire planet. They could not help but prostrate in worship when they sensed the imposing might of this deity-like aura.

Even Yue Bo and Balmond who were Void God Realm experts felt their minds going numb as they slowly kneeled. Their unfocused eyes stared in a certain direction.

If one would follow their sights, a figure seated cross-legged atop a cloud can be seen.. Divine light covered his entire body and it slowly became bigger as time went by.

## Chapter 415 - Disciples Breaking Through

I'm not seeking the void, so why am I forcing myself to be heartless?

Heartless Void?

So it was a trap. An abyss that trapped countless geniuses for billions of years.

Now, I can see it clearly.

Jiu Shen controlled a part of his spiritual essence and immediately located Balmond and Yue Bo. He then sent them a transmission.

"Wake up you two. I might be gone for a few months or even a year. I will open the gate of the Spirit World. Go out and win the war. I believe in you..." Yue Bo and Balmond heard Jiu Shen's voice inside their heads which abruptly cleared up their minds. They then discovered that a door was already opened in front of them.

They were confused as to why the energy in the Spirit World has suddenly become abnormal, but they didn't dare ask. Despite their curiosity, they still followed Jiu Shen's command and went out of the Spirit World.

They both wondered what was happening to Jiu Shen...

Meanwhile, Jiu Shen blocked his senses after noticing that they had already left. He then focused his mind on his recent discovery and sank deeper into a trance.

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Yue Bo and Balmond both came out of the Spirit World. They then stared at each other for a brief moment before they sighed.

The two had no idea what had happened. When they recalled the vast sacred aura that spread in the entirety of the Spirit World, they could not help but shudder. Was it Jiu Shen's true power?

"Maybe we should stabilize our powers first." Yue Bo smiled helplessly.

Balmond nodded his head. "You're right. I have broken through one minor realm, but I haven't stabilized my energy yet. We should find a secluded spot to fully incorporate our newly gained power!"

The two soon went their separate ways as they searched for spots to cultivate.

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Yang Zenke stared at the battle between the demons and the disciples with a solemn look on his face. He was also prepared to intervene when any of them would need his help, but he soon found out that this was unnecessary.

The disciples of the Blood Sword Division were taught how to fight in huge battles. They incorporated the grouping system into their fighting style which was uniting four individuals to fight as a team.



At first, the disciples had troubles in their teamwork, but they soon managed to learn how to effectively team up with their teammates.

At this moment, the number of demon bandits was slowly dwindling despite their huge numerical advantage. However, the incohesive bunch didn't discover this and continued to fight against the disciples of the Blood Sword Division with crazed expressions.

The area enclosed by Yang Zenke's spiritual power was filled with noises of battle. The ground was soon painted with blood, creating a field of crimson land that spanned more than several thousand meters!

Among the disciples of the Blood Sword Division, the one with the most number of kills was Dante Silveria. He was like a fiend god as he took the lives of the demons with a wave of his sword! His aura also showed signs of imminent breakthrough! After this live combat training, the young man would certainly summon his tribulation lightning!

Aside from him, many disciples also experienced massive leaps in their cultivation levels! From what Yang Zenke could see, there might be more than ten of them who would soon become Nascent God Realm experts!

On the battlefield, Dante Silveria who was covered in blood from head to foot could already feel his blood boiling. He knew that his breakthrough was coming near, but held back his desire to increase his cultivation and suppressed his incoming tribulation lightning. He wanted to accumulate more true essence to increase his chances of completing his tribulation!

"Fourth Sword Form: Boundless Sword Dance!" Dante Silveria muttered as he executed the fourth movement of his sword technique.

A strong sword will wrapped his sword and slashed through the tide of enemies as he performed a unique set of movements. Because of his beautiful strokes and sword moves, he looked as if he was dancing!

The eyes of the demon bandits were covered in fear as they stared at Dante's figure. They couldn't believe that such a young human could actually exhibit this kind of terrifying power! Even the geniuses of the Rebel Army weren't as good as him!

"Fifth Sword Movement: Blazing Sword Resonance!" Dante Silveria chanted as his sword was slowly enveloped by blazing golden flames! A resonant cry then echoed out as a huge sword manifestation appeared in front of Dante which reaped the lives of the demons!

When the disciples saw his performance, they also decided to use their sword techniques.

The battlefield was soon covered with dazzling radiance as the disciples of the Blood Sword Division released their sword techniques!

The demon bandits could only watch in despair as they were killed by the crazed charge of the disciples! Their seamless teamwork and strong battle awareness stunned the demons!

After a few hours of long-drawn-out battle, the massacre finally concluded. All the demon bandits were killed in action and none of the disciples died! There were only a few of them who were seriously injured, but they would soon recover several days of rest!

The result of their combat training exceeded Yang Zenke's expectations. He thought that some of them would need his help in dire circumstances, but they proved him wrong!

"Sect Master Jiu Shen would surely be proud of their growth..." He muttered with a look of excitement on his normally rigid face.

This time, the sky darkened and flashes of lightning covered the gloomy airspace.

Yang Zenke stared at the young man who had summoned this tribulation lightning. It was Dante Silveria, the most talented disciple among them!

However, Yang Zenke soon noticed a few more huge dark clouds converging in the sky. His eyes widened as he muttered. "This... From the number of the dark clouds, at least ten of them are ascending to the Nascent God Realm!"

Yang Zenke's eyes flashed with a fervent look as he stared at the young figures seated cross-legged.

## Chapter 416 - Ten Individuals Breaking Through?

Yue Bo and Balmond came out of their seclusion after stabilizing their realms. They chatted as soon as they saw each other.

"How's your cultivation Brother Yue?" Balmond asked with a wide smile.

Yue Bo chuckled as he released his aura. "After gaining mastery over the technique that Wine Master Jiu Shen passed to me, I'm not at the mid stage of the Void God Realm!"

Balmond was surprised when he sensed his cultivation level. He knew that Yue Bo had just stepped into the Void God Realm when he first saw this guy. To think that he had caught up to him in just a few months!

Balmond sighed and shook his head. "And here I thought that I was the only one who broke through..."

He then released his aura.

Mid stage Void God Realm!

Yue Bo was stunned, but he soon calmed down. Balmond also had his technique edited by Jiu Shen, so his growth wasn't too surprising for him.

Yue Bo changed the topic and said with worry. "I wonder what happened to Wine Master Jiu Shen? Before he took us out of the Spirit World, there was a phenomenon that blotted the skies! It was the first time I've seen that kind of thing!"

Balmond furrowed his eyebrows, but he soon relaxed. "What could happen to him? The huge eyeball that came out during his tribulation was scarier. That phenomenon must be related to his cultivation, so don't worry about him. He will be fine."

Hearing this, Yue Bo nodded his head.

Balmond suddenly slapped his thigh as he exclaimed. "Oh, right! Wine Master Jiu Shen asked me to pass the throne to Cornelia after I come out of the Spirit World. I should prepare for that. Do you have any suggestions, Brother Yue?"

Although Yue Bo once held a high status in the Alliance a few ten thousand years ago, he was no expert about imperial ceremonies. He thought for a moment before he voiced out his words. "Brother Balmond, to tell you the truth, I can't give you a good suggestion. However, we should first announce the ascension of Cornelia and observe the reaction of everyone. After all, you are still healthy and vigorous, but you are suddenly passing the leadership to your daughter. This would certainly make those nobles feel suspicious. I believe your Bloodfallen Family should have hidden enemies here, am I right?"

Balmond frowned as he nodded his head. "Indeed. Your words are spot on, Brother Yue. Our Great Demon Empire was built under the leadership of the Three Ancient Families with our Bloodfallen Family being one of the three. As for the remaining two, they are the Lycan Family and the Torgrim Family. At that time, our Bloodfallen Family had the strongest force, so the Three Ancient Families unanimously agreed that the first emperor of the Great Demon Empire would be from the Bloodfallen Family. However, the strength

of our Bloodfallen Family slowly fell after the death of the founder. Frictions between our three families started at that moment."

Yue Bo was silent as he listened to his story.

Just then, the two of them suddenly frowned and turned their heads in a certain direction.

They slowly hovered in midair and glanced at the dark clouds converging. It was quite far from their location, but with their level, they could use the power of space to reach the place in just a few minutes. However, the two men dared not do that. Because the phenomenon they were seeing right now was a tribulation!

"Who is breaking through this time?" Balmond muttered while looking at the dark clouds.

"I don't know, but from the looks of it, there isn't just one person breaking through. I could sense the aura of at least ten individuals trying to breakthrough." Yue Bo was slightly shocked. That was ten people breaking through the Nascent God Realm simultaneously! He was also confused since he somehow felt that some of those guys looked familiar.

"I wonder which faction is strong enough to nurture this many elites?"

"We will know soon..."

Meanwhile, Long Meili's group who was about to return suddenly stopped their flight. They then turned their heads and looked at the darkening skies a few miles away from them.

"Someone is breaking through?" Cornelia muttered.

"Not just someone. There are more than ten of them." Long Meili furrowed her eyebrows as she used her spiritual power to scan the place. Her expression then eased up as she chuckled.

When Ice and Aren saw her expression, they became curious. They used their spiritual perception to see what was happening.

Aren was confused when he saw the individuals beneath the tribulation clouds.

On the other hand, Ice revealed a look of surprise when she saw them. "To think that those kids are now a step closer to becoming peak experts..."

"Sister Ice, Sister Meili, you know those people?" Aren asked the two women as he looked at them with perplexity.

Cornelia who wasn't even strong enough to perceive anything could only stare at them with bewilderment. She was just a Nascent God Realm expert and her spiritual perception wasn't strong enough to see that far yet.

Long Meili smiled as she answered. "In the Profound Dragon Continent, the master created the Heavenly Sword Tower. Those humans breaking through right now are disciples of the Heavenly Sword Tower's Blood Sword Division. They are the most elite bunch amongst our disciples."

"That's right! I even taught some of those kids a few of my moves!" Ice who was in her cat form chimed in with a smug look.

Hm? Heavenly Sword Tower? Blood Sword Division?

'So that guy has a sect in the Profound Dragon Continent... From how it looks, this sect might be even stronger than our Great Demon Empire..." Cornelia thought in her heart.

"I see..." Aren nodded his head.

"We should go there and see the situation. We can also protect those kids if someone tries to cause trouble." Ice changed back into her human form and swiftly flew towards the direction of the tribulation clouds.

The others immediately followed her.



## Chapter 417 - Thousands Of Purple Feathered Flame Eagles

Inside the topmost floor of the Lycan Family's castle, Herald Lycan suddenly stood up and jump out of the window. He slowly ascended to the skies as he looked into the distance. His beast-like eyes were filled with surprise. "The location of the tribulation cloud is near Morlon City. I don't remember any renowned family or group in that place. Wait... Near Morlon City... Could it be..."

Herald Lycan's eyes narrowed as he immediately flew towards the direction of the Torgrim Family's castle.

Meanwhile, Torgrim Stormhoof also noticed the abnormality in the skies.

"More than ten people are breaking through the Nascent God Realm..." He muttered with a bit of confusion written on his face.

At this moment, the high-level experts of the Torgrim Family were hovering behind him with curious gazes. It wasn't the first time they've seen a tribulation lightning, but it was the first they've seen multiple people breaking through!

Suddenly, Torgrim Stormhoof noticed a strong aura coming towards them, but when he discovered that it was someone familiar, he soon eased up.

"Brother Stormhoof, you noticed it, right? More than ten are breaking through simultaneously! Doesn't that make you curious? There might even be hidden treasures that made those guys promote their cultivation. What do you think?" Herald Lycan smiled at the muscular demon leading a group of elders.

Torgrim Stormhoof glanced at him and scoffed. "Are treasures cabbages? Although there is only a small possibility of treasures being there, I am indeed curious about that group. Elders, send a few of our top experts to observe the situation. Remind them to not make any rash moves..."

"Yes, Your Majesty!" The elders nodded and left.

"You're as decisive as always! Hahaha!" Herald Lycan chuckled.

Torgrim Stormhoof stared at the smiling werewolf demon and asked. "I thought you were in seclusion. Why did you suddenly come out?"

Hearing this, Herald Lycan felt slightly embarrassed. He boasted that he would soon breakthrough, but when he entered into seclusion, he realized that he needed more time than what he told everyone.

"Haha! I haven't entered into seclusion yet. I'm still preparing a few high-level resources to help me speed up my breakthrough." Herald Lycan immediately came up with a random lie.

"You should go back. The war is coming and I wouldn't win this without your help."  
Torgrim Stormhoof patted his shoulder.

Herald Lycan's expression turned solemn at the mention of the incoming. He then nodded his head and said. "You're right. I'll enter into seclusion now, Brother Stormhoof."

The werewolf demon left in a hurry after speaking those words.

Torgrim Stormhoof glanced at his figure before he shifted his gaze to the congregation of dark clouds. He could already sense that the tribulation lightning is about to descend!

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Meanwhile, Yang Zenke furrowed his eyebrows as he stared at the west side of their location. He could sense a few strong auras coming towards them.

"Elder Meili and Elder Ice? And that guy, I think his name is Aren..." Yang Zenke heaved a sigh of relief after discovering the identity of the newcomers. He then went to greet them.

"Greetings, Elder Meili, Elder Ice, Brother Aren!" Yang Zenke then noticed that there was actually beautiful succubus with them.

"This is?"

"Cornelia, the crown princess of the Great Demon Empire." Ice lazily answered.

Hearing this, Yang Zenke's gaze moved towards the succubus. He then nodded his head at her as he greeted her politely. "Your Highness."

Although he was already a top expert, Yang Zenke retained his humble personality. He didn't let his accomplishments bloat his ego. He knew that everything he had at this moment was solely because of Jiu Shen.

After being greeted by this rigid and stoic-looking human expert, Cornelia smiled seductively while scanning the human from head to foot. He didn't look particularly handsome, but his sharp jawline made him look manlier. "Greetings. Who might you be, sir?"

Yang Zenke felt that this succubus' stare would be fatal to most men. Luckily, he had strictly trained his heart and mind. He extended his hand as a friendly gesture. "Yang Zenke, Division Head of the Heavenly Sword Tower."

Cornelia had a look of surprise. This human looked young, but he was actually someone of high status! "Oh, I've heard so much about you from Sister Meili and Sister Ice!"

Long Meili stepped forward and said. "Let's ignore the formalities. Elder Yang, how many among the disciples are breaking through?"

Yang Zenke glanced at her and replied in a solemn tone. "There are twelve of them now. This is a great opportunity for them, but it might be dangerous if their breakthrough will attract the attention of top experts..."

Ice waved him off and showed off her biceps as she said. "Don't worry about that! If someone with ill-intention comes, I will smash them into pieces! Hmph!"

"She's right. We must not allow people to cause trouble during these kids' tribulation. Wine Master Jiu Shen would surely get angry if we fail to protect them. Luckily, Aren is with us. He can just summon his Purple Feathered Flame Eagle tribe if there are many enemies." Long Meili muttered.

Aren nodded his head and added. "The strength of my Purple Feathered Flame Eagle tribe has received an upgrade with Wine Master Jiu Shen's help. With their presence, no one can disturb the breakthrough of these disciples. I'll go call them now..."

He then turned around and issued a sharp eagle cry that resounded throughout the skies.

Not long later, they soon heard the cries of eagles.

Looking at the thousands of Purple Feathered Flame Eagles, Cornelia and the disciples of the Blood Sword Division were shocked.

These eagles weren't weak at all. Most of them were at the 6th-rank King realm, with about a hundred at the 7th-rank Emperor, several dozens at the 8th-rank Divine, and more than ten at the 9th-rank Saint! There were even two bigger eagles at the Nascent God Realm!

Aren smiled when he saw the stunned looks of everyone.. In truth, he was also surprised by their massive improvements. He couldn't believe that so many changes happened after Jiu Shen gave them his miraculous pills!

## Chapter 418 - Descent Of Tribulation Lightning

"Greetings, Lord Aren!" The two huge Purple Feathered Flame Eagles transformed into their human forms and bowed towards Aren. They then greeted Ice and Long Meili.

"Elder Sister Ice, Elder Sister Meili..."

Aren glanced at the two with a proud look. After drinking Jiu Shen's pills, the bloodline of his tribe experienced a massive change. These two newly ascended Nascent God Realm eagles were among the most talented bunch and it wouldn't be long before they would evolve into Purple Winged Sword Eagles like him!

"Purple Sky, Purple Feather, the both of you will command our tribe. Your task is to defend this group of disciples. They are Wine Master Jiu Shen's people, so make sure that none of them would be hurt!" Aren said in a grim tone.

The two nodded their heads as they solemnly replied. "Yes, Lord Aren!"

They then swiftly flew and issued a series of bird cries towards the Purple Feathered Flame Eagles.

"Let's stay a bit further away or we might get hurt by their tribulation lightning." Long Meili said to the group and led them about two miles away.

After they had relocated, Ice turned her gaze towards them and said. "We should protect all corners of this area. If someone with ill-intention comes, make sure to notify the group!"

Hearing this, everyone nodded their heads and went in separate directions. The only ones left are the disciples of the Blood Sword Division and the stunned succubus who was looking at the tribulation clouds above the sky.

"Just what kind of elites did Wine Master Jiu Shen train? Their tribulation clouds don't look ordinary at all! Some of them even have superior tribulation clouds than I had when I broke through to the Nascent God Realm!" She exclaimed while curiously looking at the figures of Dante and the others.

"A demon? What's a demon doing here? Is she an enemy?" Cornelia suddenly heard a perplexed voice right behind her. She then turned her head and smiled at the one who had just spoken, but before she could speak, someone spoke again.

"I saw her talking with the elders a few moments ago. She should be one of us. I also sense no threat from her, so everyone can rest easy."

Hearing this, Cornelia chuckled and moved her gaze back to the skies. This tribulation might give her a few insights. Who knows?

The other disciples of the Blood Sword Division also kept quiet and watch the dark tribulation clouds as they summoned bolts of serpentine-like tribulation lightning.

Zapp! Zapp!

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"We're close to the area! Stay sharp everyone!" A muscular demon said to the group behind him. His name was Amar Torgrim, a peak stage Origin God Realm elder of the Torgrim Family. They were sent here to observe the individuals who had broken through to the Nascent God Realm.

Amar led his group a few miles away from the tribulation clouds. Even with his strength, he dared not challenge the might of the heavens...



"I can sense a few people at the Origin God Realm encircling the area. They should be the elders of that group who are breaking through. One of them is at least as strong as me in terms of cultivation. This group is not simple..." Amar frowned as he commanded his group to hide their aura.

Suddenly, the bellows of thunder echoed throughout the skies! Thick bolts of lightning swiftly struck the figures below!

Zapp! Zapp! Zapp!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Violent explosions rang out and huge clusters of flame lit the area ablaze!

Amar hid the look of fear in his eyes. The scene was very chaotic! Even for someone like him who had experienced tribulation twice, he felt that the tribulations of these people were much fiercer! That means, their potential was so much stronger than his own!

"Just who are those guys..." He muttered in shock. Even among the elders of the Torgrim Family, he could already be considered as one of those who had the best potential. Even his overall strength was just beneath Torgrim Stormhoof's! However, he was looking at more than ten people who might have a higher potential than he has!

"Elder Amar, what should we do? Those people protecting the area don't look weak. I could also sense thousands of savage beasts around them. There might be a strong savage beast among their group!" Another Origin God Realm expert said with a grim voice.

"I know! His Majesty merely told us to observe the situation. He didn't tell us to fight them! Just keep quiet and watch everything! We will report what we've seen to His Majesty, so make sure that you guys won't miss anything!" Amar said fiercely.

"Yes, Elder Amar!"

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"So those guys are also connected to these people. Jiu Shen, what are you planning to do with all these humans? Or are you really participating in the war?" A woman wearing a transparent veil muttered as she stared at the rampaging tribulation lightning.

Hovering behind her was a handsome demon. He had a look of shock as he spectated the tribulation. "Your Majesty, you mean Wine Master Jiu Shen might join the fight for the throne of the Great Demon Empire?"

If that truly happens, wouldn't Jiu Shen be the final winner? After all, he saw what happened to the Demon Empress. She also told him that she was no match for the man.

Demon Empress Ganda shook her head. "Even if he doesn't join the fight, whichever group he intends to help would win this war. Just look at his subordinates. Some of those who are here are even stronger than you..."

Lou Baiqing wanted to retort, but when recalled the frightening strength of Aren, he swallowed back his words. They only saw one person fight earlier and he had the weakest cultivation base among the group, then how strong were the others?

Lou Baiqing could only shake his head helplessly as he thought about this.

"You're truly wise, Your Majesty! Luckily, you've managed to discover Jiu Shen's strength earlier on... If not, our Narda Principality might have...." Lou Baiqing became depressed, so he no longer continued speaking.

## Chapter 419 - The Slut Is Alive?

After the bombardment of tribulation lightning was finally over, everyone hurriedly came to the newly ascended Nascent God Realm experts.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Dante Silveria slowly stood up as he dusted his clothes. He felt his whole body aching and he could even hear his bones emitting a series of cracking sounds.

"Dammit! It still hurts!" He cursed as he held his battered body. He then checked his dantian and smiled widely after noticing the changes.

Hahaha!

"I'm finally a Nascent God Realm cultivator! Hahaha! Cough! Cough!" He erupted into laughter, but then he choked and coughed excessively.

"Easy, boy! Take it easy!" Ice chuckled as she descended in front of Dante. She nodded her head with a look of approval as she stared at Dante and the other ascenders.

"Good job, everyone! At least you didn't waste the resources poured onto you by Jiu Shen and the Heavenly Sword Tower. But before anything else, we should first greet our guests..." Ice said as she looked into the distance.

Dante and the other newly ascended Nascent God Realm disciples were confused, but they followed her gaze out of curiosity.

"Hahaha!"

A burst of wild and loud laughter suddenly echoed above the skies followed by the arrival of more than ten muscular demons dressed in shiny battle armor. The demon leading

them had a peak stage Origin God Realm cultivation, while two were at the early stage Origin God Realm! The rest were Nascent God Realm experts!

"Congratulations on your breakthrough, friends! Don't worry! We bear no ill will." Amar Torgrim smiled as he slowly descended towards Ice's group. However, he didn't move too close to them and maintained a polite distance. He didn't want a fight to happen since the opposing party had more people than them.

"And who might you guys be?" Aren frowned as he glanced at the demons.

Cornelia, Dante, and the other disciples held their breaths as they stared at this group of demons. They could already feel their hearts beating wildly.

Amar signaled his group to relax before he stepped forward and answered Aren's question. "We are from the Torgrim Family, one of the three founding families of the Great Demon Empire."

Hearing this, everyone was startled. Other than Cornelia, none of them knew anything about the Torgrim Family, but upon looking at the people they sent, this noble family shouldn't be weak.

Cornelia furrowed her eyebrows as she carefully observed the muscular demon. Suddenly, she recalled the identity of this demon. "Are you perhaps Elder Amar Torgrim?"

Amar turned his gaze towards the succubus and narrowed his eyes upon seeing her, but he hurriedly concealed it. He then smiled at her and nodded his head. "That's right. I thought no one would remember me anymore after staying in seclusion for more than thousands of years! It seems like Your Highness is very well-informed!"

Cornelia didn't discover the changes in his expression. She didn't have a good impression of anyone from the Torgrim Family and the Lycan Family. Even if this demon was smiling like a friendly elder, she knew that this guy was just hiding his motives. "You praise me too much, Elder Amar."

"Amar, is it? As you can see, our disciples had just broken through the Nascent God Realm, and they still need to recuperate. Can you bring your people away, so they can begin to heal their injuries?" Ice put her hands on her hips as she eyed the muscular demon with a grave look. She also subtly released her peak stage Origin God Realm aura to intimidate the opposing party.

Sensing her aura which was even denser than his own, Amar Torgrim felt stunned in his heart, but he maintained a calm expression on his face. 'So the strong aura I felt earlier was from this little savage beast...'

"Of course! We apologize for bothering you guys. Farewell!" Amar gave them a deep look before he left with his group.

Dante and the other disciples heaved a sigh of relief after seeing them leave.

Ice continued to glare at the demons until their silhouettes could no longer be seen. She then moved her gaze back towards Dante and the others. "Hurry up and recuperate your injuries! More people might come if you dally any longer! Move!"

The disciples immediately squatted and took out healing pills from their space rings. After consuming their pills, the complexion of the disciples became rosier.

After seeing that they had already finished recuperating, Ice commanded them. "Alright! Let's go back to the lotus building!"

"Yes, Elder Ice!"

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Torgrim Family's castle.

"Your Majesty, we have discovered the identity of the group." Amar Torgrim kneeled as he reported.

Stormhoof glanced at him and said. "Oh! Tell me then..."

Amar didn't let him wait anymore and answered. "We found out that the people who broke through the Nascent God Realm was a group of human youths. They were wearing the same set of robes, so they should have the same origin. We also discovered Cornelia among them and she seems to be close to those humans. After our encounter, I can tell

that those humans aren't from the Rebel Army. They should be subordinates of that man named Jiu Shen!"

Hearing this, Stormhoof's eyes slowly constricted. "Are you telling me that the little slut of a succubus is still alive and kicking?! Which group of trashes did you even send to assassinate her?! Useless fools!"

His late stage Void God Realm aura exploded and almost suffocated the kneeling Amar. He gritted his teeth and said with difficulty. "Your Majesty, among those humans, there were three Origin God Realm savage beasts whose strength might not be weaker than mine. The assassins we sent must have been killed by them..."

Stormhoof snorted and sent Amar flying with a wave of his hand. "Go send a messenger to the Lycan Family and tell them about what you discovered!"

Amar climbed up from the ruins without even bothering to wipe the blood off his face.. He immediately nodded his head. "Yes, Your Majesty!"

## Chapter 420: Angry Balmond

Chapter 420: Angry Balmond



"What?! Someone tried to assassinate my daughter?!" Balmond's face darkened as fumes of turbid air gushed out of his nostrils.

The messenger had a nervous look as he glanced at the ground. He dared not lift this head at this moment or he might get killed by the Demon Emperor out of anger.

"Calm down, Brother Balmond. From what I know about Wine Master Jiu Shen, he should have sent someone to secretly protect Her Highness, Cornelia. You've seen his subordinates in the lotus building, right? Ordinary assassins couldn't beat them!" Yue Bo patted Balmond's back as he pacified the raging demon.

They just came back to the store and this was the first news they received. It wasn't good! Their originally joyous moods brought about by their recent breakthrough suddenly turned grave.

Balmond took a deep breath as he stared deeply at the kneeling messenger. He sent this guy to secretly follow Cornelia.

"Tell me the details..." Balmond muttered through gritted teeth.

The messenger nervously wiped off his sweat as he narrated the events he had seen that night. He was the only late stage Demon Ancestor left in the Great Demon Empire since their strongest experts were sent to do a secret mission. His only task this time was to protect the princess in secret, so he didn't come out when he saw her sneaking out of the palace. He only followed her to the forest and was stunned when the assassins abruptly came to surround her. Just as he was about to move right then, he saw three savage beasts in human forms who suddenly killed those assassins. He didn't even have the chance to show himself when the last assassin was killed!

Balmond heaved a sigh of relief after listening to his story. Luckily, Wine Master Jiu Shen had long since known the plans of the two noble families and he even sent three experts at the Void God Realm to secretly protect his daughter.

"Wine Master Jiu Shen is truly wise! He even foresaw that this would happen..." Balmond sighed with admiration.

Yue Bo also nodded his head in agreement. Indeed! Nothing can escape Wine Master Jiu Shen's eyes!

"Brother Yue, I'll go meet the three savage beasts who protected my daughter. I want to thank them in person." Balmond said before he went to the lotus building. Yue Bo soon followed right after him.

Balmond had seen the three savage beasts mentioned by the messenger since he had seen them several times during his last visits to the lotus building. He wasn't surprised about the guy named Aren and the dragon girl Long Meili. However, he never would have thought that the chubby white cat who was always sleeping in Jiu Shen's arms was actually a top expert!

After entering the store, Balmond ignored the greetings of the customers and scanned everyone inside. His gaze then stopped on a purple-haired man. Seeing him, Emperor Balmond's eyes lit up and he immediately walked towards him with a smile.

"Thank you for saving my daughter last night, Lord Aren!" Balmond grabbed the hand of the shocked Aren and shook it gratefully.

Aren immediately pulled his hand away as he shook his head. "It's nothing. Sister Ice asked Sister Meili and me to go with her, so you should thank her instead."

Hearing this, Balmond immediately said. "No! No! I still have to thank you, Lord Aren. I will also thank Lady Ice and Lady Meili for their help."

Aren shrugged as he looked at the Demon Emperor who had gone up to the second floor to search for Ice and Long Meili.

"That guy almost broke my hand..." Aren muttered while rubbing his aching hand.

Not long later, Balmond found the two ladies and also thanked them. He even took out his treasures and evenly distributed the resources between Aren and the two of them.

"Feel better now?" Yue Bo asked the Demon Emperor as he chuckled heartily.

Balmond nodded his head. His eyes then narrowed as he muttered. "Those dogs actually dared to send assassins after my daughter! I will kill them soon!"

"This is a great opportunity, Brother Balmond." Yue Bo suddenly said.

Hearing this, Balmond's ears perked up as he stared at Yue Bo in confusion. "What do you mean?"

Yue Bo smiled as he answered. "After you announce the ascension of Her Highness Cornelia, those two noble families surely wouldn't sit still. If my guess is right, they might even start their rebellion during Her Highness' coronation ceremony! Once that happens, we can kill them in one fell swoop! Of course, this is merely a guess of mine and it is also possible that they might do something unexpected. Still, this is a great opportunity! We can station experts in key areas during Her Highness' coronation ceremony!"

Balmond's eyes shone upon hearing Yue Bo's words. It seemed like he had underestimated his new human brother. This guy was actually a hidden tactician!

"Brother Yue, this idea is brilliant! I will announce the ascension of Cornelia immediately, so we should plan where to put the experts during the coronation ceremony! But before that, I would like to meet that stupid girl! I thought that she was a genius that was never been seen in the empire for thousands of years, but her actions truly disappointed me. I'll punish her first! Hmph!" Balmond gnashed his teeth as he spoke.

Yue Bo chuckled and secretly prayed for the succubus.

And so, the two went to the imperial palace, but they failed to see Cornelia there.

"Where did that stupid girl go this time?!" Balmond smashed the wall of the imperial palace, blasting through a massive hole with just a single fist!

The Demon Emperor angrily used his spiritual perception to scan the surroundings. He then ended up seeing his daughter outside of Morlon City standing shoulder to shoulder with a strict-looking young human.

"This.... Who's this little guy?" Balmond frowned when he saw Cornelia's shining expression as she looked at this youth.