

World Mall 741

Chapter 741: Lucifania

"Hmm..." Aisha observed the data and the machine carefully.

"The brain is being stimulated..." Luci squinted her eyes.

They were watching the process from behind the glass door, as the ones handling it were the professionals that had been managing the projects the whole time. Considering Aisha's status in the facility, they asked for the best people to handle it.

"It looks like he has a good prospect for waking up." An aged voice echoed from the side.

Aisha and Luci turned their heads to the left, finding an elderly professor coming to them.

"Professor Xander." Aisha nodded politely.

'He... He is Professor Xander?' Luci's heart skipped a beat. 'Isn't he one of the eldest scientists who worked on the awakening liquid? If I'm not wrong, he's actually the leader of that project.'

"I never thought you would visit this place, Aisha. I was surprised when my assistant told me you came here not long ago." Professor Xander smiled.

"I couldn't let this kind of thing bother you." Aisha shook her head.

"Hahaha. What bothers me? For your contribution, I would have done it personally if you would have informed me."

"But aren't you supposed to be celebrating your grandchild's birthday today?"

"He's in school right now, so the celebration is tonight. Do you want to come?"

"As much as I would like to do that, I'm not in the position to accept that. I'm going to observe this kid."

"Heh? Who is this kid? To think that you would pay such attention to him." Xander smirked, feeling a bit curious.

"He doesn't really have any personal achievement you can find, but I'm simply helping my son."

"Oh!" Xander raised her eyebrows. "You always have a soft spot with your son... So, I guess I shouldn't bother you any longer. Still, it looks like the treatment is going to be fine."

"Yes." Aisha nodded.

"What a strong kid."

"To be more accurate, he also has a strong family. If not for the support of his family, he wouldn't have such a strong will to survive."

"Oh? Was he awake?"

"Yes."

"I see." Xander nodded. "I guess once he wakes up, it will be some therapy to make sure he can perform like a normal person again. It will take some time, but it shouldn't be too hard."

"Indeed."

Xander then turned his gaze to Lucifania. "And can you introduce me to this young lady?"

"H-Hello, Professor." Luci was a bit nervous. She politely bowed to him. "I'm Lucifania. I've read all of your papers."

"She's the doctor in my son's team. I'm here just to help her a bit," added Aisha.

"Hoho... I have heard a lot about your son recently. He has a unique ability and even has the power to fight above his tier against an opponent who also has a unique ability. The doctor in his group must also be exceptional." Xander smiled. "Which major are you?"

"I'm in internal medicine. I have been working for the army as a doctor for 6 years."

"So, a fellow? Not bad."

"Don't underestimate her. She's not a pure doctor like you." Aisha shook her head.

"Ah. You must have worked quite hard to balance both your study and your ability." Xander nodded.
"And you are also in the same field... So, what do you think about this treatment?"

"Professor Xander. Please don't bully a young kid." Aisha sighed.

"What? I'm not bullying. I just want to hear all kinds of opinions. After all, insight can come from everywhere. If I hadn't listened to you back then, I wouldn't have thought about the awakening liquid." Xander shrugged. "Don't worry. I won't criticize you or anything. I just want to hear your thoughts."

"That's..." Luci panicked and glanced at Aisha, who nodded her head. It looked like she had no other choice but to answer this question. Whether he liked the answer or not was a different matter.

Luci took a deep breath before saying, "This is actually the first time I've heard of this type of treatment.

"To be able to wake up a coma patient with the awakening liquid is a major breakthrough for all coma patients. No. It might be able to be extended all the way to paralyzed patients."

"Not bad, not bad." Xander nodded, since her assessment was accurate.

"It's just..." Luci scratched the back of her head. "Actually, I have been researching for my fellowship and most likely for my professorship as well.

"I'm thinking about using the essence, which is normally used to make one stronger, in order to cure people or boost their recovery.

"I haven't thought about the actual title yet, but it should be something about the alternative liquid for the recovery pod.

"Instead of the usual liquid, I'm thinking about combining the essence of a beast to increase the rate of recovery."

When Xander and Aisha heard the topic, they suddenly fell silent, not because they looked down on her, but because her topic was interesting and thought-provoking.

Luci noticed their intense stare and felt a bit nervous.

"Continue." Xander extended his hand.

"Yes..." Luci raised two fingers. "Each beast boosts a certain affinity more than the other. If that's the case, what if we add essence that boosts Blood Affinity or Heart Affinity?"

"There is actually an increase in the recovery speed. I have gotten a small breakthrough after learning about the new beast soul.

"So, I fuse four concepts: the superinjection, the new beast soul, the essence, and the recovery pod into one thing. And I'm aiming to use it not in the form of a recovery pod, but in the form of medicine. In other words, drinking it would suffice."

There was one detail Luci didn't reveal. The real inspiration was actually Clovis' recovery water. That was right. A normal drink that could boost one's recovery.

Clovis' recovery water was magical, but Luci wanted to create something that could be produced by this world.

The moment she finished her explanation, Professor Xander's eyes lit up. "Little girl... I mean, Doctor Lucifania. Do you want to work on your fellowship with me?"

"Eh?" Luci was startled. She didn't expect an offer from the leading scientist of internal medicine.

"Oi." Aisha's eyebrows twitched.

"Isn't it fine? For a topic like this, I'm better than you."

"She has to progress her skills as well." Aisha shook her head, reminding him of the other reason she came here.

"This kind of talent is a waste to be spent on the battlefield." Xander harrumphed.

"It's not a waste. She's my son's girlfriend." Aisha narrowed her eyes.

"Tsk." Xander clicked his tongue. "How about this? For a few hours every day, she can learn from me. As for the remaining time, you can take her with you. It's not like you're going to leave anytime soon, right? Besides, I will cover the entire research from my own pocket."

Aisha frowned before turning to Luci. "You should make your own decision."

"This..." Luci didn't expect that two giants in the medical field would take an interest in her research. In the army, people feared her because of her experiment, so this was the first time she was being valued highly.

Luci clenched her hands into fists before saying, "Please let me do it. I promise I won't slack off in the daily training as well."

Chapter 742: Wake Up

"Hnnh..." A very weak groan echoed as a person who had been sleeping for over a decade gradually opened his eyes, finding such an unfamiliar ceiling.

In his vision, there were three heads taking a peek at his condition. It had been so long that he had a hard time recognizing such a familiar face, but the reaction, as well as her voice, made it certain.

"Nhn." He tried to call her name, but his mouth couldn't open, letting out several weak groans.

"Dante..." Melody smiled, tears streaming down. She had been fighting for this, and finally, she accomplished it.

If not for her back then, Dante wouldn't have suffered such a thing. Even if she could wake him up this time, it wasn't enough. He had lost over ten years of his life just sleeping there.

That was why she was going to take care of him for the rest of his life.

Dante wanted to speak, but the only thing he could do was let out some groans.

Aisha calmly explained, "Don't force it out. You suffered some brain damage that had been hiding inside your brain for so long. Even though you can wake up right now, your body function hasn't been restored to normal.

"You will have to undergo therapy from your body to your speech. Even without saying anything, I'm sure your sister can understand what you want to convey."

Dante also got that feeling. He just wanted to thank her for not giving up on him all this time... for accompanying him, no matter how hard it was.

He had heard her crying so many times. Even though he wanted to reach out to her... he could do nothing. No matter how sad it was, he was trapped completely.

And this time, he was finally out. There were a lot of things he wanted to say, but unfortunately, he couldn't even utter the words that mattered most.

'Sister. Don't be too harsh on yourself. This is not your fault. Thank you for taking care of me this whole time. I know how hard it is for you, Sister.

'I'm sorry for being such a useless brother. I'm sorry that I could only be your burden in the past decade.

'Sister... Thank you. I miss you so much.' Dante, although still weak, managed to slightly change his expression to show her what he wanted to say.

Despite not being able to see anything, Dante could picture everything clearly. She had visited him a lot, whether it was during the night or during the day. Even someone who couldn't see her would know she often visited him while being injured, as her voice was hoarse or weaker than usual.

All of those memories flashed in his mind. And those memories felt like they had been conveyed by his expression.

Melody closed her eyes, as she couldn't control her tears anymore. He was the last family she had in this world. The guilt had been haunting her for so many years. All that burden was finally lifted up.

Aisha patted Luci's shoulders. Luci nodded in understanding and left the two of them alone.

...

Absalom.

"Is that so? That's good. I'm really glad." Kanaria smiled, listening to Luci's report. "She should accompany her brother for a while."

"Yeah. I will pass that message to her later. Still, I'm glad that those two can finally reunite." Luci smiled, relieved.

"Indeed. In that case, I will tell everyone about it."

"Yep. I'm going to be a bit busy here."

"Take care of yourself over there. Make sure you learn a lot." Kanaria smiled and hung up the call before shifting her gaze to the side.

Next to her, Erwin, Aileen, Christina, and Ragna were trying to listen to their conversation. Even Jay, who usually remained aloof, stayed in this room just to hear the report.

"You have heard it yourself." Kanaria smiled. "He is awake now. There might be therapy, but I'm sure that he will be persistent enough to do it and return to his daily life soon."

"Oohhhh!" Erwin pumped his fists as Aileen celebrated it by hugging Erwin, sharing their joy together.

Christina felt relieved and nodded. It looked like the burden that Melody had been carrying this whole time finally left her shoulder.

Ragna just smiled. Just looking at everyone's reaction, he knew, in his heart, the family that he once had... he found it again here. This place was definitely his home.

Jay said, "The news is good. I'm glad that he is fine now. However, don't forget that Clovis is training right now. Although we can celebrate, we have to remain sharp and get stronger."

"First, train your new techniques, and then continue with the expedition to evolve to a higher tier. We'll slow down slightly on this part and focus on honing our battle prowess.

"Once Melody calms down, tell her about it. At the very least, we can't let Clovis catch up to us."

"You're too serious. Are you so heartless? Training, training, and training! Give Melody a break. You heartless man." Erwin snarled, throwing one insult after another.

"..." Jay's eyebrows twitched, but he didn't say anything or even try to fight him this time. It was joyous news, and he didn't want to ruin it because of his pride.

That was why Jay simply stood up and said, "I have said what I'm supposed to say as the vice captain of this group. I'm going to train."

The others were surprised that Jay didn't fight back, but they were still speechless about him going back to training at this time.

"Oi!" Erwin wanted to stop him, but Kanaria grabbed the back of his collar. "Huh? Kanaria? Unhand me. I'm going to beat that shit."

Kanaria shook her head. As Jay's childhood friend, she knew Jay was someone who simply couldn't express his feelings that much.

In fact, she already knew once Jay exited the room, he didn't go to train right away. Instead, he would move somewhere quiet and take out his Skyphone, sending a message to Clovis.

"Melody's brother has woken up. Sorry, but the training plan you have in mind might be postponed for Melody. I'm planning to let her accompany her brother for a month or two. They definitely have a lot of things to catch up on."

Jay just leaned on the wall while looking at the ceiling after sending that message. He modestly pumped his fist.

Chapter 743: Secondary Affinity

Christina stood in front of the members of the Libation Fiesta. Because she hailed from the prestigious family, she was probably the only one who knew the 'peak' they were trying to pursue.

"All right. We'll begin the small lecture." Christina paused for a moment because Erwin and Aileen were sitting on top of a thread, training their balance. Kanaria was taking notes while Ragna listened attentively. Jay was standing next to the wall.

Christina raised one finger. "All right. We'll begin from the very beginning regarding the five Evolution Traits.

"By studying multiple unique physiques all around the world, when the awakening liquid came out, humanity divided evolution traits into five. They have used the beasts as the standard as well.

"Then again, we have one person who is used as the standard here." Christina glanced at Ragna.

"Huh?" Ragna pointed at himself while glancing back, wondering if it was someone behind him, but no one was behind him.

"Yes. You, Ragna. Specifically, your physique. They're using it as the standard for Heart affinity.

"The Muscle affinity is the most common because that's what humanity has been striving for this whole time, such as martial artists, boxing, and so on.

"Then, the Brain affinity derives from the sixth sense. While people call it a sixth sense, they just have much more powerful five senses that can cause them to think ahead or do something weird and get labeled as having a sixth sense.

"The Blood affinity originated from the beast itself. They're using the beasts as the standard. The essence, blood, and other things related to blood—it all comes from there.

"Last but not least, the Bones affinity. I don't think I need to tell you anymore since we have fought that guy previously. Strengthening one's body so that it can't be penetrated by anything... Martial artists have been practicing such a technique from the beginning.

"These are the origins of the five affinities. Why would the origin matter? It's to give you a small clue to what you should do and achieve in the future.

"For example, Muscle Affinity. In this place, it will be Jay and Erwin. Lucifania as well, but she's not here.

"For a low-level technique, they will practice it like that of a common martial art. However, the stronger one becomes, the better your senses are, even if you don't have the Brain affinity.

"Clovis might have the Blood affinity, but look at his speed... This is actually the Muscle affinity forte.

"The way you utilize muscle will determine your physical abilities. In other words, if you emphasize speed, your muscle will become a bit more flexible, causing your strength to diminish as well.

"On the other hand, if you strengthen your muscles, the opposite will happen. I have seen someone with the Muscle affinity that can destroy a tall building with a single punch. At the same time, there's another person who can't do such a thing, but he moves so fast that no one can catch him.

"That's why a foundation technique is required to pursue your path.

"Also, affinities are linked with each other. There is a reason for them to create a star diagram whenever they explain five affinities.

"As I mentioned earlier, the Blood affinity can release that kind of speed, and because of the characteristic of this affinity, the brain gets enough blood to handle such a high speed, which is the reason for Clovis to be able to handle that speed while you people who have the Muscle affinity cannot.

"And since we're talking about the star with each tip being the affinity, you will see that there's another line for the Muscle affinity, and this is connected to the Bone affinity. This is the path that the previous Tier 7 guy pursued. He strengthened his muscles to boost his strength as well as his defense.

"On the other hand, the Blood affinity has two lines to Muscle and Heart. I have explained about the Muscle, which is what Clovis is pursuing. And it looks like Aileen is doing the same, right?"

Aileen nodded with a serious expression. "Yes."

"Either way, there is another path that is linked to the heart. By utilizing your blood, you can boost your regeneration. All the affinities have this path, which is called the Secondary Affinity.

"Essentially, your original affinity will be your Primary Affinity, while the path you pursue will become the Secondary Affinity.

"That's why the tiers are classified into three classes. Low Tier or Tier 0 to Tier 3, Mid Tier or Tier 4 to Tier 6, and High Tier, which is Tier 7 to Tier 9.

"When you are at the Low Tier, this is where the growth matters, like a foundation, and finding your own path from weapon to fighting style.

"Once you reach Mid Tier, you are expected to start learning about your respective affinity. In other words, you have to harness at least 80% of the full potential of your affinity.

"Then, the High Tier... At this stage, you are expected to harness 100% of your affinity and even have trained your Secondary Affinity.

"If you notice, the Tier 7 beast we fought back then could ignore my Unique Ability to a certain degree, right? That's because of this Secondary Affinity, though we know it more than beasts being beasts. I'm just speaking in human terms.

"For normal humans, you are supposed to be able to harness 100% of your affinity and 60% of your secondary affinity and 20% of your tertiary affinity.

"In other words, if you have the Muscle affinity, you can only harness 60% of Blood or Bones affinities and utilize 20% of Brain and Heart affinities." Christina completed the diagram.

It wasn't just a star, but there was a circle that connected each tip, which was the reason she called it a diagram instead of just a star. She even added the number to make the explanation earlier.

"Do you have any questions? If not, I'm going to continue with how to harness the secondary affinity." Christina asked.

She waited for a moment. Surprisingly, Kanaria raised her hand. "How about the pseudo unique ability and the unique ability? Are they also linked to this diagram?"

Chapter 744: Training Method

"How about the pseudo unique ability and the unique ability? Are they also linked to this diagram?"

Christina smiled. "Good question. As you probably already know, the pseudo unique ability is something that humanity can achieve, or what they have known as the peak of human limit.

"Meanwhile, the unique ability is something beyond that point. At the same time, it's not something that is too outlandish to the point where you can understand it completely.

"For example, for a pseudo unique ability, to put it basically, you will be able to master 2 or even 3 affinities.

"For the one we fought before, he must have practiced his Muscle and Bones affinities to 100%, which is supposed to be not normal.

"For Aileen, it will be something similar to Blood and Brain. Your main affinity is Blood, so you're only supposed to have Muscle and Heart as your secondary affinity, right? However, the way to erase your presence is coming from Brain affinity.

"As a result, Brain, which is supposed to be your tertiary affinity, ends up becoming similar to the second affinity.

"Humans have been trying to raise the limit of this affinity, so I can't say it's impossible for humans to achieve that.

"On the other hand, the unique ability is slightly different but can still be explained in the diagram as well.

"My unique ability, Provoke, is something that is inhumanly possible, but it's still under the diagram. By utilizing the Brain affinity to the beyond 100%, you will achieve this result.

"According to my grandfather, the combination of sense, killing intent, bloodlust, fighting intent, as well as natural taunt is the foundation of my Provoke.

"However, not a single normal human can utilize beyond 100% of their utility. After all, how can you unleash what you're not supposed to have?

"Or if you take a look at the Berserker, whom we almost fought, he utilized Heart to aid his regeneration, but at the same time, this Heart is linked to the Blood affinity, which ultimately links it to the Muscle affinity.

"By taking advantage of this system, he will look like a berserker who can get stronger the more he's injured. This is the difference. I hope you can understand."

"Then, what about Clovis? The perfect state aside, can you explain anything about the mall?" Kanaria asked.

"Of course not. I can't explain that unique ability. Even though this unique ability is powerful, it's still related to the affinities. You aren't supposed to be able to take something out of nothing.

"That's why I wonder if his unique ability is really a unique ability. At the same time, there's no other explanation. There's also a mutation in his unique ability or something along those lines.

"For now, we have no idea. Meanwhile, his Perfect State allows him to utilize all 5 affinities to their full potential. It might not go beyond 100%, but he has control over all of them, including the combination.

"While others have their own unique fighting style, this kind of power will allow him to have the best flexibility in the world. This style is very similar to Mara Leverstrike, which is probably the reason for her teaching him."

Kanaria nodded in understanding. "All right. I don't have any other questions."

Christina then glanced at others, who didn't plan to raise their hands. "Since there's no other question, I will tell you about how to utilize your secondary affinity.

"Since the Muscle affinity is the most common, I will be using Jay or Erwin as an example a lot.

"Right now, to put it simply, you probably only have utilized... 30-40% of your primary affinity and less than 1% of your secondary affinity.

"To put it simply, if you want to maximize your potential, you have to focus on your physical abilities... Basically, techniques. This is the reason why Uncle Gerald, Clovis' father, is highly regarded despite not having a unique ability.

"That is because to create a technique and perfect it is something everyone desires. By having techniques, you will have your own way of developing your affinities.

"The technique itself is divided into two. The first one is the fighting technique, such as slashing, stabbing, blocking, and so on.

"The second one is the foundation technique. This foundation technique is rare and usually highly guarded.

"Why? The answer is simple. Because this is how you are supposed to train and increase the utilization of your second or even tertiary affinity.

"I'm sure you've got techniques from Uncle Gerald. If you look at it, you will find them different from the normal techniques you usually use. In fact, families like Jay's or Kanaria's should have a foundation technique, correct?"

Jay and Kanaria nodded. Kanaria added, "But it only has one affinity."

"Correct. It's different for Aileen's family, right?" Christina turned to Aileen.

"Yes. My family has a secret technique to build up Brain and Heart affinities, but because my main affinity is Blood, it's not very suitable for me," confirmed Aileen.

"That's how it is. A foundation technique that trains your main affinity might not be too rare, but if it allows you to train your main and second affinities, that's already quite rare.

"If a family possesses such a thing, they will usually have one Tier 7 human at the very least. If they possess multiple manuals, they will have a few Tier 7 or even Tier 8 humans in their family. After all, the problem will be similar to Aileen's family. She has the talent to be among the top of Tier 8 humans, but her affinity is not suitable for the foundation technique.

"However, if you look at the manuals Uncle Gerald gives you, it allows you to train at least three affinities.

"Depending on the scale of the affinity and the training method, the result can also be different. For example, sometimes you want to have 100% of Muscle and 50% of Blood instead of 60% so that it will be much more suitable for your fighting techniques or something.

"In my family, there's a secret manual that allows me to train Heart, Blood, and Brain to 100%, 60%, and 40%, respectively. The reason the Brain affinity only has 40% instead of 60% is because 60% will make the guardian get overwhelmed by the information, which ends up weakening them.

"The Heart will be the foundation of my regeneration ability, the Blood will accelerate my judgment and increase my regenerative power, and the Brain will allow me to have a wide field of vision. This is basically a holy manual of a guardian."

Chapter 745: Path

Christina looked at everyone's expression. For some people, it looked like they had figured out their path, while the others were still slightly confused.

Jay thought for a moment before raising his hand. "Still, what if the foundation technique doesn't match our goal? Even if it's aligned, it's not entirely perfect."

Christina shook her head. "You shouldn't think that way. The foundation technique is a much broader manual. Have you thought about your path?"

"Yes. It has never changed. I wish to cut everything. I might not be called the best swordsman out there, but I wish to cut everything in my way."

"Then, if you use the affinity as an analogy, how are you going to put it?"

Jay raised three fingers. "I'm thinking about Muscle, Blood, and Heart. Muscle is the foundation of my power. Meanwhile, Blood will be the supplement for the speed, and like Clovis, I will be utilizing momentum to increase the power of my attack.

"Last but not least, my tertiary affinity will be Heart instead of Brain. The reason I choose Heart is to regenerate the broken cell. In other words, even if I exert too much force, this tertiary affinity will allow me to keep going.

"Of course, this can also include stamina recovery and other stuff," explained Jay.

"What about the foundation technique that Uncle Gerald gave you?"

"According to the manual itself, it looks like it's focusing on Muscle and Blood. However, there's nothing related to the Heart."

She nodded in understanding. "In that case, you have two paths. The first is to find another foundation technique to boost your Heart or change another foundation technique.

"Most of the time, the former is preferred simply because it's much easier to find a foundation technique for one affinity. At the same time, you also need to have a good compatibility between that complementary technique and your main one.

"The latter is something that is possible only by large groups. Those who have foundation techniques with three affinities usually have Tier 8 humans. And this kind of secret is highly guarded.

"But if you ask Uncle Gerald right now, I think he will gladly give you one. But I don't think you want to do that, right?" She smiled.

Jay nodded without hesitation. As Christina said, giving such a technique to his son's vice captain wouldn't be too much for Gerald. But it was the same as telling him that he was too dependent on Clovis. Would such a person be worthy of being the most trusted comrade in his son's group?

Despite helping them, Gerald was also testing them.

Jay took a deep breath before nodding his head. "I now understand what I'm supposed to do."

Jay knew he should take advantage of what he had been given and utilize it properly so that he could grow strong enough to get the manual that could give him the last push to his path.

And he should do it with his own hand instead of relying on others.

"Besides, there is also one more path for us... Something that the world has never seen before. Clovis' unique ability can bring out the item that can boost our power.

"If you take another look at it, the item itself can boost our affinities. Even though it's labeled as defense, speed, and so on, it can also be considered as the five affinities.

"Even the food we consume can increase our evolutionary progress, which is also related to the affinities.

"Of course, there are things like the bookstore, medicine, and even Reolf that can't be explained yet, but his power can create a path that no one has ever seen before.

"Still, it doesn't mean we have to be too dependent on it. It's fine to accept his items, but at the same time, we still need to create our own foundation."

Christina had considered the possibility of having pseudo affinity through Another World Mall. If she managed to utilize her own talent through her foundation technique, she would get 100% of Heart, 60% of Blood, and 40% of Brain.

What if she used Clovis' item to boost the existing affinity? If it was Heart, would it mean she could utilize over 100% of her affinity?

How about things like defense or strength? Wouldn't that mean she gets to have a pseudo affinity of Muscle or Bones?

The moment she considered this path, it felt like their path became even more complex, but at the same time, it was more solid and stronger than anyone else's.

Kanaria and the others also carefully considered their choice.

Kanaria was probably the only one who didn't receive any manual, but that might not be really required.

Her foundation was in Brain affinity. She wouldn't have to do anything because her power came from her weapon. Even utilizing only her main affinity, she could reach her goal.

Christina smiled. Jay, Erwin, and Ragna had figured out their path, but it looked like Erwin and Kanaria had found out their own path after listening to her explanation.

"I can fork out some techniques from my family as long as it's not a secret manual. Or Hana will probably not mind if you ask for such a thing as long as the request is not excessive.

"While we have our own work, we still have to strive to get stronger... At least, strong enough so that no one has to worry about us." Christina turned to Jay. "So... Vice Captain?"

Jay nodded in understanding. "Yes. From my understanding, we need time. I have also consulted Clovis with Melody's situation.

"So, I decide that we will use the next 3 months to set up the foundation for our own path. After three months, we will occasionally hunt some beasts, which has become easier for us because we have access to this entire city.

"We have to make sure that our evolution progress isn't slowing down even without Clovis' food. We can't afford to have him with only a 15% evolution rate to pass us.

"Kanaria will also be quite busy with the management of this new city. While I can respect your goal, I hope you can grow stronger and respect the goal of the people who have helped you reach this point.

"That's why 3 months... The Libation Fiesta will pause any of its official operations for three months. You can return to your family or do whatever you want and return in 3 months. Let's get stronger together."

Chapter 746: Friends or Foes?

Lutvia.

"To think that even Mara Leverstirke would be entangled in this matter..." A middle-aged man furrowed his eyebrows.

"Yes, sir." Khain nodded helplessly. "We have done our best, but Mara Leverstrike appeared at the last moment, claiming that she was his teacher. So, we couldn't act beyond that."

"The Wandering Calamity, Mara Leverstrike." The middle-aged man pinched the bridge of his nose.
"How is her strength?"

"Terrifying." Khain gulped down. Recalling that hallucination alone made his body tremble. Khain explained, "Her killing intent is unlike anything anyone has ever seen before. It's to the point where she can make us think the landscape changes.

"The phrase 'When you stare at the abyss, the abyss stares back at you,' which is already popular to describe Mara Leverstrike... is something I can agree on. That's the most accurate description.

"In addition, her strength is indeed the strongest. Her offensive power, despite not being fully serious, can destroy a city in just a couple of swings."

The middle-aged man scratched the back of his head. "I have promised the president to bring him back, but I guess we have failed to do so."

"Sir... Even though it was a promise, we simply didn't know Mara Leverstrike would be in this. If we knew..." This content was first released on

"I know!" The man waved his hand. "It looks like they have deliberately hidden this fact. I see... It looks like Michael Hacfield orchestrated the whole charade.

"But no one would have ever imagined he would be insane enough to bring in another Tier 9 human."

"Yes. The alliance between two Tier 9 humans is already a big matter. In this scenario, the alliance is formed through marriage between Clovis Hacfield and Christina Elseingarde.

"In this scenario, people will turn a blind eye to a certain degree. After all, even though Michael Hacfield is a madman, he's not really aggressive. Unless you provoke him, you will probably be fine.

"On the other hand, Ezekiel Elseingarde is known as a guardian for a reason. Unless you harm his daughter, he will most likely not do anything.

"However, the moment Mara Leverstrike appears, the scenario has changed completely. Mara Leverstrike goes around the world without any plans. She can go to one country in one day and suddenly change to another country the day after.

"While she's passive, she can become aggressive at any moment. Besides, Mara Leverstrike is the youngest, so a lot of people want her.

"With just a slight invitation or even provocation, Mara Leverstrike might destroy one family or one organization in the blink of an eye. If that matter becomes bigger, she might level a city or two.

"Just like... that Bloody Sunday... A certain idiot wanted her to marry him to the point where he dared to use everything at their disposal to get her. But because that person had a lot of connections, including to the government, Mara Leverstrike ended up destroying a single city, killing tens of thousands of people.

"From that point on, she is known as the Wandering Calamity. So, if I didn't dare to continue my action after that," explained Khain.

Since Mara gave him the chance to retreat back then, he didn't hesitate to take it, unlike the Berserker, who was also a Tier 9 human.

It would have been a problem if Mara had focused on them.

The middle-aged man sighed. "Well, what are they up to now?"

"According to our information network, they have ceased their operations. It doesn't look like they're planning to go out of that city. At the same time, as long as they stay in that city, observing them won't be much of a problem.

"However, it looks like the Martial Genius, Gerald Hacfield, will stay there for some time.

"Although I'm not very sure about it, it looks like they know the Swift Blade from the Dark Moon Mercenary."

"Swift Blade? The left-hand man of the Dark Supreme of the Dark Moon Mercenary?" The middle-aged man narrowed his eyes.

"Yes, sir. I'm assuming he was the one spreading the misinformation, which made us unable to pinpoint Clovis' location for the past few months."

"Hacfield, Elseingarde, Mara Leverstrike, and even Dark Moon Mercenary... How in the world do they have this kind of connection?"

Khain shook his head helplessly. "I don't know. The Hacfield family is a kind of hidden family. Unlike others who establish their family or expand it, the Hacfield family might look like an ordinary small family on the surface.

"They never actively searched for allies, except for Elseingarde's case, since Michael Hacfield and Ezekiel Elseingarde were comrades in the past."

"Are you saying Clovis is the one expanding their connection?"

"I can't say for certain. Even if it's not him, Gerald and Aisha have a lot of personal connections due to their line of work."

The middle-aged man crossed his arms. "So... It looks like we don't have any choice..."

"Yes, sir. It's a shame we can't make a move on Clovis Hacfield anymore... at least for now.

"For the time being, I'm assuming they will take this opportunity to get stronger... much stronger than their current ability. I don't know when they will resurface, but at that time, they must be sure they can shock the whole world. That's how the Libation Fiesta has done it until now.

"We should step back right now and prepare for what kind of thing they will show next. Either we eliminate them at that time or change our approach to befriend them."

"Making amends, huh?" The middle-aged man's expression darkened. It would be quite hard since they tried to kidnap and threaten them before, but there was indeed a way to solve it.

Although Lutvia was one of the top 5 countries in the world, they wouldn't like to provoke a Tier 9 easily. The biggest miscalculation they had was Mara Leverstrike, which made them consider the possibility of reconciliation.

"All right. You've done a great job. For now, keep both possibilities open. Once we witness what kind of surprise they bring us at that time, we'll choose how to react. For now, monitor them and observe movements around them.

"If there are other fools trying to get them, stop those fools. We can use this as leverage for reconciliation later."

"Understood." Khain nodded politely.

Chapter 747: Beast Master

"What did you say?" The agent of Berserker couldn't help but drop his jaw to the ground.

"What? Do you think I'm lying?" Berserker shrugged.

"No... Mara Leverstrike's appearance is already surprising enough, but you're saying that a dire wolf is following him?"

"Yeah. I'm not just a fool who does things without thinking, you know?" Berserker raised one finger.

"The reason I fought against Mara Leverstrike might have been to test her, but that was just one of the purposes. The other purpose was to buy enough time.

"I needed to buy enough time to take on everything I had seen there. I saw a dire wolf, a Tier 3, but my instinct was telling me that wolf was much stronger than a normal Tier 3 beast. He might be similar to the rest of the people in his group.

"And one guy from Lutvia died at that time. When I examined the wounds, it looked like that guy died from a beast and a human. The beast most likely bit his neck while a human sliced his neck from the opposite side.

"If I were him, having a dire wolf as a pet was already something that couldn't be described, but the beasts were more intelligent than normal animals.

"Once we consider that possibility, I could think of something... That beast must have been hidden, and the enemy didn't expect the beast to appear, which meant the beast was smart enough to launch a sneak attack by coordinating with the group.

"Now that I think about it, what's the level of this beast? It's truly intelligent enough, but..." The Berserker looked up, staring at the agent.

He nodded in agreement. "For the beasts, we might not have direct classification, but it's said that a beast that has developed its beast soul is smarter. The more beast souls they have, the higher their intelligence is.

"From the looks of it, this beast must have multiple beast souls. From what I have heard, the Tier 9 overlord that Michael Hacfield killed to prove himself as one of the strongest humans in the world had 8 beast souls." To report errors, please visit the original post on M|VLEMPYR.

"If that's the case, this beast must have at least 3 beast souls. However, the biggest problem will be the hostility of the beast." The Berserker furrowed his eyebrows. "Do we have any idea of his unique ability?"

"After listening to this information, I can't really say the information is accurate anymore." The agent paused for a moment. "Originally, we believed that Clovis Hacfield's unique ability was similar to that of Mara Leverstrike.

"Besides, his grandfather's unique ability is the Indestructible Body. It allowed him to utilize Muscle and Bones affinity to 200%. That's why he's a man of offense and defense.

"By using all the information we have right now, including the case of his grandfather's genetics, we believe that Clovis Hacfield is moving closer to Mara Leverstrike, who could utilize all affinities.

"He had enough speed, which reflected the Blood affinity, to keep up with Tesron Khalika Melestviet.

"He had enough strength to rival the physical strength of a Tier 5 human while being a Tier 4 human. In addition, his Brain affinity was reflected in his sharp reflexes, which allowed him to react to Tesron's attack, which peeked into the future.

"Heart affinity was also present. Despite being injured, he had shown a sign that his injuries were healing on the spot. The only thing we couldn't test was Bones.

"While it might look like Mara Leverstrike in one case, Mara Leverstrike was unable to tame a beast. So, we couldn't determine what his true unique ability was."

The Berserker closed his eyes. "A beast master, huh? Is there a chance of him controlling beasts? But Unique Ability is supposed to be explained under the Star Diagram, no?"

"Yes, it's just that I can't come up with an explanation about taming a beast within the Star Diagram. I should bring this information first and ask others about this possibility."

"No, wait..." The Berserker thought about something. "Don't forget that the beast might be shocking, but isn't his group also kind of terrifying? At least stronger than other people of their level? Having a few of those people will bring your group to the very top.

"But all of them? It's unprecedented."

"Ah?!" The agent certainly agreed with it. They had been so blinded by the beast that they forgot about this.

He raised one finger. "What do you think about this? His unique ability might be something like an enhancement to his affinity, but this power is not limited to just him. It also affects the others. We also have to include the fact that this ability also affects beasts.

"However, it doesn't look like he can do it to so many people. If not, he would have raised an army of beasts. There must be a limit.

"As long as he doesn't reach that limit, his unique ability will continue to boost his teammates. In other words, as long as you are his teammates, you can become stronger."

"!!!" The agent was in shock. But it was reasonable enough.

"You can bring the information to the president."

"You're not going to meet the president yourself?"

"No way. I have something more important to do."

"Something more important?"

The Berserker took out his Skyphone and searched for sexy women.

"Watching porn is not something important, you know..." The agent's eyebrows twitched.

"What are you talking about? I'm searching for a girl to adopt as my granddaughter. I heard he has four women, so one more should be fine." The Berserker grinned. "I might not be able to become his grandfather, but I can be a grandfather-in-law. Besides, that adopted daughter of mine will become even stronger because of his unique ability, right?"

The agent dropped his jaw. On the one hand, he was completely speechless at how shameless this guy was. On the other hand, that idea was freaking genius.

Little did he know, they underestimated the beast himself. After all, the beast was going to be trained even further... a beast that would surpass even that overlord.

Chapter 748: Abyss Time and Another World Mall Synergy

Clovis was sitting on the ground, his eyes closed, but for the people who saw him directly, they would sense a killing intent directed at them.

Reolf stood in front of him as if he were clashing with the killing intent. In Reolf's eyes, it felt like there was a bigger wolf coming from Clovis' body.

This shadow was glaring at Reolf as if trying to oppress him, but Reolf stood still as though he weren't afraid of death.

No, it was more accurate that Reolf, too, was influenced by the killing intent, but in a good way.

Normally, nothing could train Reolf other than the painting. That was why Reolf had no choice but to rely on himself.

However, Mara's training was different. The killing intent from Clovis could be used to train Reolf.

For Reolf, his path had three hurdles. The higher the level of the beasts, the more beast souls they would have. After all, it was just a unique ability developed by the beast itself.

The second hurdle was the beast's strength. It was something Clovis could help with through Another World Mall. Besides, Reolf himself was training in his own way. More importantly, beasts got stronger by eating and growing their bodies.

"Huu..." Clovis took a deep breath before suddenly opening his eyes. The shadow of a wolf suddenly opened its mouth, increasing the pressure emanating from it.

Even Reolf twitched for a moment, but once the wolf was about to howl, the image disappeared.

"Kh." Clovis clutched his head before clicking his tongue. "I failed."

"Waaf!" Reolf looked excited, as though he was telling Clovis that he had accomplished it to a certain extent.

Clovis shook his head helplessly. "It's not there yet, Reolf."

"You've just started, so it's normal for you not to be able to unleash it." Mara spoke casually before munching her food again.

Clovis turned his head to Mara. "Still, it's a bit of a shame."

"Your progress is not bad, judging from your current manifestation. By gathering that killing intent and unleashing it in one go, you are able to manifest the power of the beast. Depending on the beast you choose, the power will be different.

"You and I have different beasts because of the nature of our parents. However, we can still gather new beasts by absorbing their essence.

"That's why rather than accumulating what you already have, it's better for you to get something even more beneficial for you.

"Even though you have a strong grandparent, you don't have any Tier 9 beasts in your genes."

"Yes." Clovis nodded. "According to the date, my grandfather was only a Tier 3 human when my father was born. After all, the apocalypse had just begun at that time.

"My father was a Tier 6 human when I was born. So, at most, it would probably be Tier 6."

Mara raised her finger. "There's one more thing. The inherited essence is weak even if it's a Tier 9 beast. Hence, it's better to gather the essence you can use right now."

Clovis thought for a moment. "Now that I think about it, does that mean you have a Tier 9 beast to boost your ability?"

"No. I don't have one. A Tier 9 beast is hard to find. Right now, I have 7 Tier 8 beasts that can boost my ability. Our ability can stimulate our physical ability to something similar to a beast soul.

"For example, among those seven beasts, I have one to increase my speed, one to increase my strength, one to increase my senses, and so on.

"It's better if you have essence that can boost all five affinities at the very least.

"Of course, there's one more thing you have to know. The more particular beasts' essence you have, the stronger the killing intent you're able to manifest.

"Your condition is much more special than mine. Normally, I can say that you are blessed to have a low evolution rate because this means you can get more beasts of the same species in your blood to take advantage of the unique ability.

"But having too low means too slow to evolve. You have to balance your evolution to a higher tier and this problem.

"And this is where your unique ability shows its uniqueness. Normally, I prefer to just absorb all beasts of the same species that I want to focus on. After all, if I get other species, it might clash with the killing intent from the ones I'm cultivating.

"That's where your unique ability comes in. You said to me you're able to increase your evolution rate, right?

"In that case, use that to fill up the evolution rate. At the same time, focus only on 5 to 8 species of the same tier to fill up the rest of the evolution rate.

"This way, Abyss Time can become much purer, which means exerting more power."

Clovis nodded in understanding. If he absorbed only a few species, it could strengthen the Abyss Time. Then, Another World Mall's food, which didn't contain beast's essence, could prevent the Abyss Time from getting weakened from introducing new beast essence into his circulation system.

"Is this the reason for you to give me your unique ability? Is it because I can master this power to its full potential by using my unique ability?"

Mara fell silent for a minute. "I don't think so. While you can do that, I'm not the type of person who will give you my unique ability for that kind of reason."

"I see." Clovis scratched the back of his head. "Well, we can think of the reason later. With my current situation, should I focus on evolving to Tier 5 and begin absorbing only a few species from that point on?"

Mara nodded. "That'll be for the best. Every tier, you can find new species since, more often than not, a certain beast can utilize its full potential only when it is grown to a certain tier.

"But because of this, you will have a hard time finding the specific beasts once you reach Tier 7 or even Tier 8."

"That's true, but you don't have to worry about that. Hana has enough money, the government has enough connections, and the Dark Moon Mercenary has a good information network.

"Unlike you or my grandfather, I'm planning to have a lot of connections and utilize those connections to achieve my goal."

"..." Mara certainly couldn't deny it. Clovis might indeed be able to utilize the Abyss Time to its full potential. "All right. In that case, you should focus on the basics first until you reach Tier 5 by using your own food. Only then will we visit another place. I get the feeling that we will find a good city with a delicious burger soon."

Chapter 749: Training

As Mara said, there were multiple things Clovis could actually try. If the killing intent was able to boost his ability, he first had to manifest that killing intent.

All this time, Clovis had been influenced by the killing intent helplessly. The more he got used to it, the longer he could use his Abyss Time. That was what he thought until he met Mara.

If Clovis trained his Abyss Time by getting accustomed to it, Mara's method was even crazier.

She used a method similar to that of super injection even though she hadn't received a single one in her life.

When Clovis received a super injection, he could sense the beasts coming at him as though they were trying to take over him. So, Clovis fought them in that state, which boosted his absorption rate.

Mara used this method. Instead of getting used to the killing intent, she actually dove into it, fought it head-on, and came out on top.

It was no wonder that she was able to become a Tier 9 human at such a young age. After all, one wrong method would definitely cause her to be controlled by the killing intent.

If she ever lost to those beasts, her mind might get broken. It made Clovis wonder what kind of life Mara actually had before becoming a Tier 9 human.

Clovis tried this method and confronted the beasts head-on. Once he defeated these beasts, he could feel their killing in its purest form. If he got used to this killing intent, he would be able to maintain the Abyss Time for however long he wanted it.

Yet, Mara told him not to just get used to it but to overwhelm the killing intent himself. The more killing intent he used to, the more killing intent he could exert. It was as if he were copying their killing intent and adding it into his own.

His killing intent gradually increased this way, and once it reached a certain point, his killing intent would grow strong enough that he could scare these beasts without even doing anything.

Now that he thought about it, Reolf looked a bit scared when he first saw Mara. It seemed that his instinct as a beast managed to feel her killing intent.

Despite having a physical body, he was that scared. So, if he was only the remaining trace of killing intent in the essence, he would probably be subdued.

Although Clovis felt he was gradually getting stronger through this method, to be able to achieve something like Mara would require at least a few months. Even then, he wouldn't be able to exert it to its fullest potential yet.

This was just the first lesson from Mara. Clovis had to train in two more things. Once he completed the manifestation of the killing intent, he could utilize it to boost his physical strength or even make his attack look alive.

Even Mara had shown it during her battle against the Berserker. Her swing became even fiercer once she infused her killing intent into it.

Last but not least, Clovis had to create a domain of himself from the killing intent, which made his opponent hallucinate from the killing intent and weakened his opponent.

Reolf also benefited from Clovis' training. The killing intent alone was enough to sharpen his own killing intent and instinct.

Since there was no one else here, Clovis and Reolf would take this time to have a sparring match again and again.

Besides, Clovis had to decrease his progression slightly since he wanted to fill up the slots of his essence.

He had thought about several beasts he wanted to complement his fighting style. Although his grandfather forbade him from getting a beast soul, this essence would act as a pseudo beast soul.

Since he didn't have to worry about food, Reolf could actually focus on his own beast soul.

That was right. If Reolf got more beast souls, he would become stronger and smarter. He would be a good addition to Clovis' combat prowess.

There was a debate about whether he should bring Reolf to the city or not. At first, he thought it would be fine to reveal Reolf because the enemies wouldn't dare to reveal that information, as they wanted to monopolize it.

Now that he was with Mara, the narrative would change. As long as he was with Mara, no one would touch him or his beast. He could introduce Reolf to the public safely.

He could probably introduce him as a mount first before slowly revealing his identity as a partner.

The only problem was that he didn't know how the people would react. The citizens would be astonished. Half of them would be scared, thinking Reolf would hurt them. The rest would think about it positively as a sign of a new era.

But the problem came once countries or big organizations entered the picture. How would they approach him?

Clovis could claim this was his unique ability, but would they see it as a threat? When that happens, they might be able to trick him into getting separated from Reolf or Mara, allowing them to seize Reolf.

On the other hand, if he waited until his training was over, he wondered whether his current strength would be enough to protect him or not.

That was why, for the time being, Reolf couldn't follow him to the city yet and had to hide in the wilderness whenever they visited a city.

However, Clovis was preparing for Reolf's appearance as well. But he approached it more delicately. Instead of stunning the people right away, he asked Hana and Vina to spread the rumor about Reolf.

Once this rumor died down, Clovis would then appear with Reolf, which would confirm the rumor. It would have been better if there had been a big training coming up from Mara so that he could disappear again, which made him more mysterious.

But with the rumor having been confirmed, the people would speculate a lot of things, and Clovis could wait for Hana and Vina to tell him about the reactions to know how to approach it next.

Nevertheless, there was something he could do later. If he could enter the mall with his companion after upgrading the mall, Reolf could hide inside the mall. To do that, he needed more money.

[Receiving Transfer from XXXX for 399,850,533 UD]

[Hana: I've sent the royalty for this month.]

Chapter 750: Expansion

OpenSky Company.

Normally, Hana would be working alone in her office, but this time, she got an unexpected visitor.

"Wow, look at this report. Those oldies are praising you like there's no tomorrow." Hana smirked while pointing at the screen she projected. "Look at this... The items have been prepared, the cost is quite low, and the management is swift and efficient."

"At this level, you can be a manager already, even though you haven't learned much regarding this project. At the very least, you can probably be a mayor or something once that city is finished."

"I guess we will be meeting a lot, big sister Kanaria." Hana grinned.

"What big sister? I could do all that thanks to your and Clovis' connections." Yes. The special visitor was none other than Kanaria. She was the head of the reconstruction project, while Hana was its biggest sponsor. "Besides, you're older than me."

"That's not fair, flaunting your youth." Hana pouted. "Besides, the position of big sister should be yours..."

"Whatever you say." Kanaria sighed.

"What's wrong? You're not jealous?" Hana asked.

Kanaria closed her eyes helplessly. "I once told Clovis about it. I would be lying if I didn't say I'm not. At the same time, I don't oppose it either. How about you? If I'm not wrong, there's a certain someone who claims that she doesn't want to have a man in her life because it will hinder her business."

"Ahaha." Hana scratched the back of her head. "I can't say much, but if I have to say it, I'm not really jealous or anything.

"I guess I was too occupied with money and investors that I didn't have time for that. It is a bit different now.

"But ultimately, I'm not really jealous. I know myself best. And I definitely won't be able to become a good mother."

Kanaria stared at Hana for a few seconds. "I personally don't care much about it. If I were to say that a conflict of interest won't appear, it would be a complete lie... I'm sure you know about it as well.

"As long as everyone has a certain bottom line, that's enough for me." Kanaria shook her head helplessly.

"Bottom line?" Hana raised her eyebrows.

"Yes. In the end, we'll be family in the future. If the family crumbles from within, hyenas from outside will break into the house."

"!!!" Hana felt chills down her spine. What she meant was that Clovis had been the beacon for their meeting. Without him, they probably would not be together.

If Clovis or the family he created were to collapse because of them, others would definitely take that chance to devour them.

In the future, she might want something, and Kanaria would request something else. There might be a conflict, but she shouldn't forget that rather than fighting Kanaria for it, she should focus on the outside.

As long as the outer threat remained, they should protect the family together, even if it meant sacrificing their needs.

"Hah... I'm really not your match." Hana scratched the back of her head.

Kanaria shrugged. "Well, that's all about it. As long as you keep that in mind, we'll be a big happy family. Rather than talking about such a topic, why don't we focus on my original intention?"

"Sure." Hana nodded and hurriedly shifted the topic without making it awkward. "Since the Libation Fiesta's headquarters has been found out by the world, there's no need to hide it anymore.

"Right now, we can probably bring in 2,000 workers. Will that be enough?"

"Not really." Kanaria shook her head helplessly. "That's far from enough. After all, we need a lot of specialists to make sure that all the infrastructure is completed.

"It's fortunate that this is a fallen city, so even if it means scraping the top layer of earth and replacing it with a better one, we can do it."

"That's a bit problematic. The cost will be too high."

"No, don't think of it that way." Kanaria waved her hand. "This will be the headquarters of the Libation Fiesta."

"!!!" Hana suddenly looked down, falling into deep thought. If that was true, it meant the Ardagan family would reside in it as well. "When you build your house, especially your bathroom, you should pick only the best materials. It will be annoying to replace it every now and then because the house is supposed to be your source of comfort."

"I guess I don't really have to add anything." Kanaria smiled.

"Yeah. I know. Still, to get all that money..." Hana raised one finger. "I guess I will have to expand my business even more swiftly. I have picked out the next five countries to build a branch, but I guess we will need more."

"I will let you take care of the cost. Besides, the cost will be recovered sooner or later. While the new city is a good source of money, don't forget that Clovis has a method to make that amount of money."

"His secret, huh? Wait. You are already aware of it?" Hana was confused. She managed to deduce it, so she didn't expect Kanaria to know it.

"Yes, I do. Is that a problem?"

"Just you?"

"No, everyone at the Libation Fiesta knows. Wait. Clovis hasn't told you?"

"What?" Hana gasped. "How could he...? Did he forget about me? I will have to complain the next time he calls me. He only told me that he would show it to me after he returns."

Kanaria only chuckled. "Well, aren't you a special one?"

"Huh? How could you say that? Let me correct your sentence. I'm the one being left out."

"I'm not talking about that. He told us everything. He mentioned showing it to us as well, but you are the only ones who will witness it without any information. In other words, you will be able to see everything and interpret everything with your own eyes, while we have to consider his previous explanations, which will create a bias."

"Isn't he just thinking that I will end up pestering him about it if I know about it?"

Kanaria paused for a moment before looking away. "I believe he wants to make you feel special. After all, you have contributed a lot even though you are not in the Libation Fiesta."

"What's with that silence?" Hana pouted. "Well, I will forgive him this once. Still, when will he return this time? One year? Two years? Or even more?"