

BloodLine 1021

Chapter 1021: Wounded Senior (Pride Everton)

From MC's Perspective:

The following day,

I woke up earlier.

Then I immediately went to the Golden Lightning Palace to cultivate.

I have a duel today.

So I have to recover the purple essence before the start of the duel.

About a few hours later,

I walked out of the essence chamber.

The Faction Warriors are yet here to come to train.

So I left the place and started walking towards my residence.

Shortly afterwards,

I arrived at my residence and went to take a bath.

Meanwhile,

The news of Arena Duel is known to almost all the warriors in the Outer Hall.

The Mid and Small size Factions are looking forward to the duel.

Including those who are experienced seniors above Black Rank Cultivation decided to pay attention as well.

In the Thunderflame Faction.

No one is talking about it openly.

But everyone was shocked by the match-up.

Because the Dark Variant Faction is their well-known enemy.

So at this moment, those who are dissatisfied with Zack Lockwood couldn't help but put aside their anger for a moment.

They wanted Zack Lockwood to win against Ronnie Seth.

If Ronnie Seth loses the duel, then it would piss off the Dark Variant Faction.

It can be considered a win over them, especially during this tense time when everyone is fighting against each other secretly.

At the same time, the situation in the Dark Variant Faction is tense compared to the Thunderflame Faction.

Those who are close to Ronnie Seth have told him to win a duel at all costs.

Even those elders who are just below the main elders paid him a visit last night.

Ronnie Seth was dumbfounded by the development.

He wanted the duel to be his personal.

Where he can duel against his fellow lightning warrior.

But he didn't expect the elders and members to take it as a faction rivalry.

If he loses the duel, then he might have to face consequences.

Last time, he won in a virtual duel with Zack Lockwood.

No one reacted that greatly.

But because of the arena duel, he got more attention than usual.

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But these problems won't hinder him from fighting against Zack Lockwood fair and square.

Just as Ronnie Seth got free time before the duel.

Someone visited his residence.

The person is none other than his Senior.

That too a Black Mark Warrior.

Ronnie was dumbfounded.

No way before the Black Mark Warrior and above paid attention to the warriors who were below them.

“Won’t you invite me inside?” The middle-aged man asked.

Hearing that Ronnie Seth invited him inside.

The middle-aged man’s name is Pride Everton.

After entering inside, he looks at Ronnie Seth.

He asked, “I heard you are a capable junior who has a black lightning element.”

“Senior is praising me too much,” Ronnie Seth replied.

“I’m telling the truth.

Your black lightning is highly evaluated by the main elders.

They don’t want you to lose against a Thunderflame Faction Warrior,” Pride said.

Ronnie Seth’s heart skips a beat.

The things he didn’t want to happen have occurred.

A simple duel challenge has attracted the attention of the main elders.

Now he has to take this duel seriously like a death match.

Pride saw Ronnie Seth's change in expression.

A cruel glint flashes in his eyes, thinking about the Thunderflame Faction.

"You see the Thunderflame Faction is our enemy.

If you could find a chance to disable or kill that kid it would be better," Pride said.

"What?" Ronnie asked out of surprise.

"I'm serious, don't worry.

Elders will protect you.

You just have to make him disabled," Pride said.

"You have no idea about his strength.

Zack Lockwood is strong.

There are hardly any in the same rank who can force him to use his full strength," Ronnie said.

Pride's face was contorted.

He couldn't believe someone was praising the Thunderflame Faction in front of him.

"It's like newcomers these days don't know the reality," Pride said to himself before leaving.

He can't attack Ronnie inside their faction.

Already, some people consider him an eyesore.

He doesn't want to give them any more chances.

Ronnie stood there like a frozen statue.

He doesn't know what happened to the senior after he talked about Zack Lockwood.

For a second, he thought he would die.

Fortunately, the senior has left now.

He can sigh in relief.

Pride Everton clenched his fist in anger while walking out of Ronnie Seth's evidence.

Others have yet to know that his Monster Squad was wiped out by Thunderflame Faction's Squad.

It was a total humiliation.

But he couldn't do it back then.

He was terribly injured.

When he heard about the Arena Duel.

He immediately came to meet Ronnie Seth.

But this kid has no clue how far the rivalry has gone.

“He will get his free time until he becomes Black Mark Warrior,” Pride said while leaving.

Time passed,

At 10.45 am, I left the Thunderflame Faction and started walking towards the Outer Hall Arena.

While walking, I found many warriors on the road going towards the same place.

“Looks like the elders and management have allowed the duel to happen,” I said in my heart.

Otherwise, they wouldn’t allow people to enter.

Shortly afterwards,

I arrived at the circular arena building.

The Arena has four floors of spectators’ spots.

People can sit and watch the duel from four floors.

After glancing at the place, I started walking towards the entrance.

Where I can see the staff are checking everyone.

“Ronnie Seth is waiting for you inside,” One of the Staff said to me.

Hearing that I nodded to him before walking inside.

The people who are standing in the line are shocked.

But upon seeing Zack Lockwood's face they quieted down.

I reached the office room.

Right now, it's open.

Only in times of duels does the staff come to this place.

When I walked inside.

I found Ronnie Seth.

"Are you ready?" I asked him.

Ronnie Seth revealed a bitter smile before replying, "I think our duel has attracted unwanted eyes as well."

"What do you mean?" I asked.

Ronnie Seth then told what happened to him.

Hearing that I don't know how to react.

Chapter 1022: Part 1: Arena Duel

From MC's Perspective:

Looking at Ronnie Seth standing in front of me.

I sighed inwardly.

I thought he was ready to face all the challenges.

But in truth, he is feeling the pressure because of the unwanted attention and expectations.

"Did you face any similar situation?" Ronnie Seth asked.

"Well, it's pretty much the same.

But no one said to me in person," I replied.

Especially after that incident, the seniors kept a distance from me.

Especially those who are weaker and have no say against the Top 10 Monster Hunting Squads.

"Alright, we should finish the duel early," I said to him.

Ronnie's eyes flickered.

"Are you that confident?" He asked.

"You will see it in a few minutes," I replied.

Then we both started walking towards the duel arena.

At this time, the four floors are almost filled with people.

After arriving at the platform, we stood opposite to each other.

Shortly afterwards,

An outer hall elder arrives at the platform.

His appearance didn't surprise me.

Which was already expected.

The elder was an old man in his sixties.

Looking at two famous young warriors in front of me.

He smiled and said, "Both of you should inform the elders before deciding on an arena fight like this.

Because this will be the last warning to both of you.

I hope next time you won't repeat it."

Even though he was smiling.

His words are like a piercing dagger.

We couldn't help but nod our heads in response.

“Then if you guys are ready, we can start the duel,” Elder said before giving the signal.

“Thunder Flash”

Ronnie used the movement technique instantly.

A black bolt rushes towards me.

“Lightning Phantom Technique”

I used the movement technique in response as well.

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A purple lightning arc covered both of my legs.

I vanished from the spot avoiding his attack.

Then, I immediately used the purple lightning to cover my right arm.

The purple lightning covering the right arm was powerful and denser than before.

I immediately started charging towards Ronnie Seth to attack.

On the other hand, Ronnie Seth understood the intention.

He used a similar trick to coat his right arm with black lightning.

Those warriors who are good at controlling elements can cover their bodies with elemental power.

They don't have to use their technique for that.

Swoosh!

We moved from our spot and came in contact with each other instantly.

Audiences can only see 2 lightning bolts going to touch each other.

Ronnie Seth's eyes flickered.

He was familiar with the power of purple lightning because of the virtual duels.

So he poured more black lightning essence into his arm.

Ka#boom!

When both of our lightning-covered fists came in contact with each other.

An explosion occurs.

The purple lightning destroyed the black lightning instantly by shattering it.

The next second, it struck the body of Ronnie Seth.

Boom!

Ronnie Seth widened his eyes in disbelief.

His heart set off storms so much he left numb to heart-wrenching pain.

His body flew backwards like a projectile before crashing onto the edge of the platform.

The audience was shocked.

They have been expecting a duel to happen for a long time.

But they were surprised to see Ronnie Seth's condition after facing one attack.

There are already warriors from the Thunderflame Faction and Dark Variant Faction here.

The Thunderflame Faction SSS-ELITE Rank Warriors are present here.

They were all cheering for Zack Lockwood.

A couple of seniors who came to watch the duel were reserved.

But they are smiling as well.

Their reactions pissed off the Dark Variant Faction members.

The Dark Variant Faction Warriors know that Ronnie Seth is a talented warrior.

Even talented and stronger than them.

But Zack Lockwood is showing a real gap between all of them here in SSS-ELITE Rank.

Especially those who knew Ronnie Seth weren't surprised that much.

Because all of them have seen Zack's Virtual duel and come to the conclusion that Zack's strength lies in powerful purple lightning.

It's a powerful variant of lightning stronger than other lightning attributes.

On the duel platform, I didn't continue to attack.

I stopped after seeing him crashing.

I still have a lot of testing to do.

So I won't be going to leave my punching bag like that.

On the other hand, Ronnie Seth was able to stand up despite suffering injuries.

The purple lightning strike did a number on him.

He had thought he underestimated the power of purple lightning.

So he used more black essence for the first attack.

Yet he was knocked down just like that.

He managed his posture and turned towards Zack Lockwood.

Now, he understands the meaning behind Zack's words about finishing the duel early.

Because Zack Lockwood was confident from the beginning to finish the duel in a few moves.

Instead of feeling down, a fighting intent rose in Ronnie's heart.

He was preparing for this day to pay back.

If Zack Lockwood was weaker, he would have been disappointed.

"Black Lightning Thrust"

Ronnie executed a powerful attack move the next moment.

A powerful black lightning ball appeared in both of his palms.

He then joins the 2 Black Lightning Balls and shoots it towards Zack Lockwood.

A force of powerful black lightning bolts tore through the air and got closer to the target.

On the other hand, my mouth curves into an arc.

When the attack got closer to me.

I executed the lightning wheel technique.

"Lightning Wheel"

A purple lightning wheel appears around me.

In the next second, a powerful black lightning force collides with the purple lightning wheel.

Ka#boom!

A powerful explosion occurs again.

The purple lightning wheel took the brunt of the attack.

The explosion neutralized the attack.

But the impact force was able to send me to the edge of the platform.

My eyes flash with a surprise.

“Black Lightning Thrust uh?”

I think it’s a powerful lightning attack technique.

It was able to push me this far.

I don’t know whether this technique can be practised by me.

Gasp!

The audience exclaimed in surprise.

This time they saw Zack Lockwood pushed to the edge of the platform.

Though he was not embarrassed like Ronnie Seth.

But still, everyone can tell that Ronnie Seth won’t give up.

Chapter 1023: Part 2: Arena Duel

From MC's Perspective:

After being forced to stand at the platform edge, I realised that it's time to test the new technique.

"Lightning Phantom Technique"

I used the movement technique to reach the centre of the platform.

When I got there.

Without further delay, I raised my hand and released the new technique.

"Lightning Cage"

A purple lightning bolt shot at Ronnie Seth.

The purple lightning bolts reach the target.

The next second, it covered Ronnie Seth from top to bottom.

He was completely enveloped by the purple lightning giving him no chance to escape.

At the same time, he is being bombarded by the purple lightning.

Argh!

The abnormal power of purple lightning begins to rampage on the body of Ronnie Seth.

Ronnie is experiencing heart wrenching pain.

So the scream unconsciously escaped from his mouth.

The purple lightning is paralyzing every part of his body.

Ronnie's is feeling like his flesh and inner organs were on fire.

They were burning.

He tries to move.

But he wasn't able to do that because of paralyzing body parts.

Gasp!

The audience exclaimed in surprise.

They are watching Ronnie Seth being trapped inside a purple lightning Cage.

At the same time the purple lightning is bombarding his body.

Meanwhile,

Someone important returned to Start University after a long time.

He was attracted by the news of the duel arena.

But when he came here to see.

He recognised Zack Lockwood.

“So he is my junior brother,” A young man in his late twenties uttered.

He has black hair and eyes.

His skin tone is fair.

He is wearing the Star University Uniform and Thunderflame Faction crest.

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His name is Ed Conrad, the 5th Disciple of Elder Austin.

While doing a mission outside, he has received news from his master saying that he has accepted the 6th disciple.

He was pleasantly surprised and curious.

Because Main Elders won't select disciples unless someone is talented enough.

When he recognised Zack Lockwood.

His expression becomes serious and begins to analyse his junior brother's strength.

Looking at the purple lightning Cage and the suffering of Ronnie Seth.

He furrowed his eyebrows.

Because he is hearing comments from the audience.

“According to these people.

Both of them are SSS-ELITE Rank,” Ed thought.

But he expected Zack Lockwood to be General Rank or close to becoming Black Mark Warrior.

But he didn’t expect to be a weak rank.

“Why did the Master accept such a weak rank warrior as his disciple?” Ed contemplated.

Because all his Senior Brothers and Sisters are strong.

They are part of the Inner Hall, Core Hall and Legacy Hall.

His eyes flashes with disappointment.

Then he turns back to leave.

He didn’t come here to watch childish matches.

He thinks the duels under Black Mark Warrior Rank are childish.

The real warriors are all above the Black Mark Warrior rank.

He left the place.

Soon he arrived at the Thunderflame Faction.

He feels good after returning from the mission.

But the presence of the youngest disciple spoils his mood.

He can't wait to go and confront his master.

After entering inside the Faction, he quickly heads towards the Golden Lightning Palace.

When he arrived at the place.

The main gate opened upon sensing his presence.

When he walked inside.

He saw other warriors passing by.

They are Golden Lightning Palace's Monster Hunting Squads.

These people recognised their 5th Senior brother as well.

Gasp!

The warriors gasped in surprise.

At the same time, everyone greeted him.

Ed Conrad greeted everyone before heading towards the Master's residence.

At the same time, the warriors went to the training courtyard to spread the word.

The return of the 5th Senior brother is joyful news.

Because the disciples of the main elders were doing missions outside.

Ed Conrad was the first one to return.

Which means other disciples might be returning as well.

On the other hand, Ed Conrad arrived at the Master's residence.

The door opened automatically.

Which means the Master has seen him already.

Seeing that Ed Conrad walked inside.

Austin is chilling on the sofa, watching the live duel between Zack Lockwood and Ronnie Seth.

"Master," Ed Conrad greeted him.

But upon seeing the live duel on the virtual screen.

His expression stiffened.

"Ed, looks like you broke through after accepting the tough Inheritance," Austin said with a smile.

Ed sat on the chair and replied, "Before I was just General Rank Warrior.

The inheritance helped me to reach Black Mark Rank during the mission."

"After achieving the Breakthrough, I have completed the mission as well," Ed said with a smile.

"Good, I guess it's time for others to return as well.

The Faction fighting is intensifying day by day.

Without you guys, it's getting difficult to handle," Austin said in a solemn tone.

But his gaze fixed on the live duel.

Where Ronnie Seth was almost done.

He couldn't withstand the power of Lightning Cage.

Ed Conrad saw this scene.

His eyes flashes with displeasure.

"Master, why did you accept someone with SSS-ELITE Rank as your 6th disciple," Ed Conrad asked.

Austin's eyes flickered.

"Looks like you have met him," He asked.

Ed shakes his head by saying, "No, I just came after witnessing the arena duel for a few minutes."

"Oh, that's it.

Now wonder," Austin muttered.

"You are looking down on him because of his current rank.

Don't forget you went through this stage as well," Austin said in a serious tone.

"Master, you misunderstood me.

If it were normal times, it would be okay.

But right now, the rival factions are working hard."

"They are recruiting Black Mark Rank and above into their faction," Ed argued.

Austin looked at him and said, "You don't know about his kid.

That's why you are underestimating him.

His growth rate is fast."

"He will soon reach the General Stage.

Then it will be a matter of time before he becomes eligible for Inheritance."

"So don't look down on him and treat him as your junior brother.

You can leave now," Austin said.

Ed Conrad remained speechless.

He feels it's fruitless to discuss anymore.

Since Master has accepted him as the 6th student.

It's impossible to change here after.

Ed Conrad then left the residence.

He decides to meet the Monster Squad Members.

When he arrives at the training courtyard.

He saw the members are training hard.

His arrival attracted everyone's attention.

"5th Senior brother you are back!"

"Senior Brother Ed!"

"Senior Brother Ed, what about others?"

"When are the Senior brothers and Sister coming back?"

One by one the warriors started to ask.

Ed Conrad smiled and responded to each of their questions one by one.

Meanwhile,

Inside the duel arena, Ronnie Seth falled down to the ground.

He tried as much as possible to withstand the lightning Cage.

But the purple lightning paralyzed and weakened him.

So much he lost strength in his legs to move.

Only after

recuperating can he recover his strength.

Gasp!

A loud exclamation occurs again.

Seeing Ronnie Seth down to the ground.

It can be confirmed that he was not in the state to fight anymore.

On the other hand, I felt Ronnie Seth won't be able to fight me anymore.

So I dismissed the Lightning Cage.

When the purple lightning Cage was gone.

Ronnie Seth felt immense relief.

He gasped for breath before fainting on the spot.

The Elder immediately confirmed that Ronnie Seth was unconscious.

He then said, "Zack Lockwood is the winner of the duel."

Cheer!

The audiences have thunderous applause and cheer.

I could hear the chanting of my name.

At the same time, the medic team quickly arrived and took Ronnie Seth with them.

He needs to be treated immediately.

Otherwise, it could threaten his foundation.

I gave him a look before turning around to leave.

I came here to test the lightning Cage.

The new technique was more efficient than I thought.

Ronnie Seth surprised me by withstanding the Lightning Cage for some time.

But if it were others, they would be seriously injured.

After pushing down these thoughts, I started leaving the duel arena.

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Golden Lightning Palace:

About 20 minutes later,

The commotion died down and everyone returned to their usual self.

Ed Conrad's mood becomes better after speaking to all of them here.

Suddenly, one of the warriors stepped forward.

He looks at Ed Conrad.

"Senior Brother, a newcomer in our faction, is troubling us," He said.

Hearing that Ed asked, "What happened?"

"A newly joined SSS-ELITE Rank Warrior defeated the members of 6th Monster Hunting Squad," He said.

"What?" Ed asked out of surprise.

"6th Monster Hunting Squad!"

Ed Conrad was taken aback.

Because the 6th Monster Hunting Squad comes under their Golden Lightning Palace.

So which junior dares to attack them?

He swept his gaze across everyone.

The warriors lowered their heads in shame.

“What’s going on here?”

“Who is he?” Ed Conrad asked back to back questions.

The warrior showed hesitation before replying, “He belongs to our Golden Lightning Palace as well.”

“Come again,” Ed asked.

His eyes flashes with seriousness.

“Yes, Senior Brother.

He is also a member of Golden Lightning Palace.

His name is Zack Lockwood,” The warrior replied.

Chapter 1024: A surprise attack

From MC’s Perspective:

Ed Conrad was startled.

He didn't expect someone to say his junior brother's name.

To think his junior brother defeated the Warriors from the 6th Monster Hunting Squad.

He finally started to realize the meaning behind the Master's words.

Maybe his junior brother is not an ordinary warrior.

He sighs inwardly before looking at the warrior.

"Don't worry, I'll take care of the matter," Ed replied.

Hearing that, the other warriors celebrated.

They didn't know the identity of Zack Lockwood.

If they knew Zack Lockwood was Ed Conrad's junior brother, they wouldn't dare to behave like this.

"Now, what happened to the duel?" Ed asked himself.

But before figuring it out, he decided to return to his residence to freshen up.

Meanwhile,

I returned to the residence.

After entering the room, I lay on the sofa.

Today's duel ended in my favor.

But still, I have revealed my strength.

Which may cause unwanted people to take notice.

But it can't be helped.

Apart from Ronnie Seth, I don't think others can handle the Lightning Cage Technique.

Looking at the ceiling, I fell into contemplation.

Now that I have improved my skills in the Lightning Cage Technique, next, I have to focus on essence cultivation.

Only when both essence and body are at the same level can I sigh in relief.

Then I got up and went to take a bath.

On the other hand, the news of Ronnie Seth's defeat began to spread across the Outer Hall.

Almost all the Outer Hall Warriors had witnessed the strength of Zack Lockwood.

Especially those who are not part of any faction.

They saw the gap between them and faction warriors.

It's not like Ronnie Seth was weak, but Zack Lockwood is too strong.

None of the warriors can win against Ronnie Seth, let alone win against Zack Lockwood.

This is where the Outer Hall Warriors saw reality.

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It's different for those in different factions.

The small and medium-sized factions saw how SSS-ELITE Rank Warriors of both Factions are this strong.

The gap is too big.

So much so that the SSS-ELITE Rank in small and medium-sized factions can't handle a few moves from Ronnie Seth and Zack Lockwood.

They might win against Outer Hall Warriors who are not part of a faction, but there is no comparison when it comes to the Top Faction Warriors.

Whereas the other top factions, the two Bloodline Factions and other elemental factions marked these two warriors as important warriors on their list.

If Zack Lockwood and Ronnie Seth pose any threat to them, then they would put their names on their kill list.

Everyone got what they wanted from this duel, which was information.

It's just the Dark Variant Faction Warriors are disappointed by the result.

Their mood has turned gloomy and complex.

Gloomy because they lost to their deadly rival, the Thunderflame Faction.

Complex because Zack Lockwood was indeed too strong for Ronnie Seth to win against.

Everyone clearly saw the gap, especially how the power of purple lightning completely suppressed Ronnie Seth.

Ronnie Seth's Black Lightning was unhelpful in that situation.

The Main Elders of the Dark Variant Faction took note of this.

Already, the main members of the two factions are fighting secretly against each other.

No one has shown their cards publicly.

The Dark Variant Faction thought the next generation would be different.

But Zack Lockwood has surprised the main elders of the Dark Variant Faction.

No one in their faction with SSS-ELITE Rank can defeat Zack Lockwood.

It was a conclusion they made, but it was a chilling admission that they failed to identify such talent.

Ronnie Seth was good.

They had seen his improvement.

So the main elders are not going to vent their anger on Ronnie Seth.

Instead, they plan to increase the difficulty of the training routine.

...

Virtual Training Lab:

“The kid does it again.

I knew he was hiding his strength.

To think the output of his last move would be this strong,” Old Man Daniel muttered to himself.

Ever since Zack Lockwood said that he wouldn’t be coming back anytime soon, he was sad and got bored.

He has been busy conducting virtual duels and updating the data of unknown warriors.

But he was most interested in updating Zack Lockwood’s data.

“Elder, Zack Lockwood and Ronnie Seth.

Both of them have surpassed their virtual avatars.

Now their avatars’ data is outdated,” one of the staff said.

“I know.

But don't delete them.

It will be useful one day," Old Man Daniel said to the staff.

Then he turned towards the holographic screen in front of him.

It was showing the virtual avatar of Zack Lockwood's profile strength.

"What to do?"

"I want the kid to come here again," Old Man Daniel uttered.

A female staff member heard this mumbling.

She turned around and asked, "Elder, why don't we pay Zack Lockwood for his virtual duels?"

Hearing that, Old Man Daniel stopped moving because her words clicked something in his mind.

"That's it.

Why haven't I thought of this before?"

"If we pay Zack Lockwood, he will definitely come here to fight in virtual duels," Old Man Daniel said.

But the problem was he didn't know what to pay with.

Suddenly, he thought of something.

The purple lightning reminded him of lightning essence stones.

The Lightning Essence Stones are rare to come by.

But they are important for Lightning Warriors.

Old Man Daniel's eyes flickered.

Now, he knew what to do.

He decided to call a few of his contacts to get Lightning Essence Stones.

...

The following day,

After getting ready, I walked out of the residence as usual.

My schedule today is to cultivate inside the essence chamber facility.

I have this feeling that the coming days won't be peaceful.

So it's important to raise my strength.

A few minutes later,

I arrived at the Golden Lightning Palace.

The door opened automatically.

Then I walked inside.

I headed straight towards my Master's residence.

After reaching his house, I walked up to the door to knock.

Creak!

The door was opened by someone.

He appeared to be a young man in his late twenties.

He was staring at my face.

"You are Zack Lockwood," Ed Conrad said.

"Yes, it's me.

Who are you, senior?" I asked.

Ed Conrad smiled and said, "I'm the 5th Disciple of Main Elder Austin and your senior brother."

My heart set off storms.

I thought Master's other disciples were on missions outside, but I didn't expect one of them to return.

Now that I realized the Master had been talking about them.

Master told me that his other disciples would return soon.

“Why are you spacing out?”

“Come inside,” Ed Conrad said.

Hearing that, my thoughts returned to reality.

Then I walked inside the house.

“Zack, you did well by defeating that kid.”

“And you used the Lightning Cage among your techniques to defeat him,” Austin said while sitting on the sofa.

“Yes, Master.

I have been practicing this technique for a while.

And the Arena duel happened to be the perfect spot to test it out,” I replied while sitting in the chair next to me.

Ed Conrad sat in the other chair.

Quiet!

The next second, there was an awkward silence.

Ed Conrad’s presence here was making me uneasy.

Austin looked at these two before saying, "He is your 5th Senior brother.

His name is Ed Conrad.

He was similar to you in the beginning."

"He is also a purple lightning warrior as well.

But the effect is different.

It's more tilted toward paralyzing.

If you get hit by his lightning bolt, your whole body will be paralyzed within a few seconds," Austin just finished saying that.

But Ed Conrad already shot a small and thin purple lightning bolt at Zack Lockwood.

Boom!

On the other hand, I was taken aback by the surprise attack.

A purple lightning bolt shot by a Black Mark Warrior was so fast that it struck my body before I could take a step away.

The purple lightning was similar to mine, but its color was not that dense.

Yet, I felt the new effect of my 5th Senior brother's lightning element.

I'm feeling my entire body go numb.

The purple lightning seed in my Dantian reacted after sensing foreign Lightning power penetrating my body.

Feeling the sensation in the Dantian, I immediately circulated the purple essence through my body.

The feeling of numbness alleviated a little.

But still, I showed no change in expression on my face.

“Ed Conrad, you are overstepping your boundaries,” Austin said with anger.

Boom!

The next second, he released a small part of coercion.

But it was enough to shake the whole house.

Ed Conrad felt a sense of crisis enveloping him.

Any wrong move, and he could die.

“Master, I apologize.

I got over-enthusiastic after seeing my junior brother,” Ed Conrad admitted his mistake, though he prepared this beforehand.

Austin saw through his thoughts and said, “Don’t you think I know that this was your plan all along?”

Ed Conrad's heart skipped a beat.

He thought he had fooled his master, but he was dead wrong.

"Master, I won't do it again," Ed Conrad seriously pleaded this time.

Chapter 1025: Hidden reality

From MC's Perspective:

Austin dismissed the coercion with a snort.

He was unhappy with the behavior of Ed Conrad.

He could tell that his 5th Disciple was still carrying the resentment.

"Ed, you can leave now.

I have something to discuss with Zack," he said.

Hearing that, Ed sighed in relief.

He felt like he had escaped death.

He had been truly rude in front of his own master.

He stood up and left the place.

After coming out of the residence, his demeanor changed.

A bright smile appeared on his face, though his actions were sly.

But he was able to teach that brat a lesson.

He thought Zack Lockwood would crumble in fear upon seeing him next time.

In such a good mood, he left the Golden Lightning Palace.

Meanwhile,

Austin immediately took out a healing pill from the storage ring and gave it to Zack Lockwood.

I received the pill and stuffed it inside my mouth.

The healing pill melted inside my mouth and started to go down my throat.

When the warm healing energy entered my body, I could feel the numbing sensation disappear a little.

Feeling that sensation, I sighed inwardly.

“Ed Conrad, I will remember your teaching,” I said in my heart.

I thought my 5th Senior Brother would be good, but it turns out he has a rotten character.

“Zack, I don’t know what got into his head.

So you should stay away from him.

If he does something next time, you are free to attack him,” Austin said.

“Attack him?

He is a Black Mark Warrior,” I said.

“It’s forbidden to attack low-rank warriors.

Even if he is my disciple, he will face punishment from the management,” Austin said in a serious tone.

“It’s okay, Master, I’ll keep that in mind.

But I hope my other Senior brothers and sisters are not as bad as him,” I said.

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“Don’t worry; they are good.

It’s just Conrad has gotten a little arrogant after receiving the inheritance,” Austin said.

Then he asked about my duel, and we started discussing it.

At the same time, I could feel my body returning to normal.

The paralysis caused by the lightning bolt was about to disappear.

About 30 minutes later,

When my body became normal, I left his residence.

Then I went to the essence chamber to cultivate.

On the other hand, the Monster Hunting Squad members showed varied reactions.

Some of them were gloating.

They couldn't wait to see the 5th Senior Brother teach a lesson to the arrogant newcomer.

But unfortunately, Ed Conrad was not there, so they could only put this matter aside for now.

On the other hand, Ed Conrad met with his friends, especially his Monster Hunting Squad.

He had been the leader of the 4th Monster Hunting Squad before.

Now he had broken through.

He could now become the official leader of the 4th Squad.

At the same time, his arrival became known to the other Main Elders as well.

They were all now expecting their own disciples to return.

In his palace, the Faction Leader, Clifford, was observing the bottles filled with dark liquid.

It was the dark liquid requested by Main Elder Austin.

Dean Jerome was kind enough to accept the request and gave him a few bottles of dark liquid.

Since it was only useful to Zack Lockwood, he didn't ask for more.

Because this dark liquid still had research value, Dean Jerome kept the rest for future use.

“What kind of monster blood is this?” he asked himself.

No one had been able to determine the monster’s identity.

All the skeletons were in unrecognizable shape, and most were found in a broken state.

He then contacted Main Elder Austin and told him to come and receive the dark liquid bottles.

Shortly afterward,

Austin arrived at the location.

Like the Golden Lightning Palace, it was the White Flame Palace.

The Faction Leader had his residence in the middle of the area.

Like everyone, he had built advanced training facilities for his disciples.

When Austin walked up to the residence, he saw the door was open.

He quickly reached there and walked inside.

Faction Leader Clifford asked him to take a seat and showed him the dark liquid bottles.

“I heard your 5th Disciple was back,” Old Man Clifford said.

While observing the dark liquid bottles, he replied, "Yes, Leader.

He is back.

But something is wrong with him."

"What happened?" the old man asked.

Then Austin told him about the incident.

A few minutes later,

"Maybe the inheritance is influencing him," Old Man Clifford said.

"I thought the same as well.

Maybe he was not ready to accept the inheritance in the first place.

I should have forced him to temper his character more," Austin said.

"There is still a chance.

As long as he gets used to the power, then he won't be influenced," the old man replied.

Austin decided to change the topic.

"Leader, now everyone will learn about the kid Zack.

He has already shown considerable strength to others," Austin expressed his concern.

"It's good that way.

I think Dean Jerome is showing interest in this kid.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have agreed to give me these dark liquid bottles."

"So don't worry about the factions," Old Man Clifford said.

"Rather, we should be discussing the annual competition," he added.

"Annual competition?

There is still time for that," Austin said.

"I know.

But I have this feeling that something major will happen," the old man said in a grave tone.

Austin said, "The boundaries are lacking manpower.

I think I should start revealing the secrets to Zack."

Clifford shook his head and said, "Wait until he breaks through to reach General Rank.

The kid is focusing on improving his strength."

"If you tell him right now, it might affect his mind," he added.

“Okay,” Austin sighed.

Then they spoke about a few other topics.

Before leaving, he collected the dark liquid bottles and left the place.

Clifford looked at his disappearing back and sighed.

“I’m hoping the next generation will be strong enough to wipe out the foreign creatures,” Old Man Clifford muttered to himself.

The secret is only available to warriors of Black Mark Warrior rank and above.

The Outer Hall warriors are living peacefully right now.

When they become Black Mark Warriors, then they will come to know the reality.

Chapter 1026: Monster Area (Outer Hall)

From MC’s Perspective:

Days passed.

The Thunderflame Faction Warriors are training as usual.

Some went with their Monster Hunting Squads to do missions outside of the University.

Others focused on improving their strength.

There will be a yearly assessment at the end of each year.

The assessment is done both by their Faction and University Management.

Though this assessment was not announced yet, the senior warriors who are familiar with this process explained it to their juniors.

About a week later,

I returned to the Task Hall to accept a mission.

My physical strength has grown slightly after consuming the dark liquid given by the Master.

My essence cultivation progress was on the right track as well.

So I decided to use this opportunity to undertake a difficult mission.

Who knows?

I might find my next breakthrough opportunity.

After walking up to the desk, I informed the female warrior that I wanted a monster hunting task.

She immediately showed me all available tasks on the virtual screen.

Last time, I went to the secret land under the control of the Thunderflame Faction.

This time, I wanted to go to a different place.

So I started going through the tasks one by one.

After scrolling through all the available tasks, I didn't find anything satisfying.

Most of the monster hunting tasks are difficult and require a team.

There are no solo missions.

A sudden idea came to mind.

The Outer Hall has a mission area as well.

Maybe I should go and check it out.

After making the decision, I immediately left the place.

About 20 minutes later,

I arrived at the Outer Hall mission area.

Unlike the Faction's task hall, the mission area here is large.

A large number of warriors are coming and going.

Seeing that, I immediately walked into the building.

Then I saw people standing in line.

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I stood behind one of the queues.

One by one, people accepted the missions and left the place.

When it was my turn, I told the middle-aged man behind the desk.

“There is a public teleportation area that leads to the outer monster area.

You can find tasks to collect herbs, fruits, and rare plants.”

“There are a number of monsters living there.

You can hunt them as well.

Basically, it’s a training ground for the Outer Hall Warriors,” the middle-aged man explained.

Hearing that, I accepted the task of hunting monster cores.

After completing the registration, I immediately left the place.

“Outer Monster Area,” I uttered in surprise.

Because it seems different from the secret land controlled by the factions.

Maybe it could be a training ground.

Otherwise, the University wouldn’t allow anyone to enter that place.

After walking out, I followed the route.

Shortly afterward,

I arrived at the public teleportation area.

There was a massive queue in front of me.

I thought of checking out this place, but the sheer number of warriors amazed me.

Time passed.

The queue started to reduce.

When it was my turn, I informed the guards about my destination.

Then I stepped inside the platform.

Beside me, there were a few other warriors going to the same location.

All of us were standing inside the platform.

Swoosh!

The guards activated the platform.

The next second, we vanished from the spot.

When I opened my eyes, I found myself inside a structured building.

“Hey, this person seems familiar.”

“Yeah, I thought so too.”

“But I don’t know his name.”

“Look at his badge.”

After walking out of the place, I noticed the curious gazes of people on me.

They seemed to recognize my face.

I walked away and started observing the surroundings.

There are brick-style buildings here, which remind me of a stronghold.

Did I come to the border?

Several questions appeared in my mind.

This place definitely seems to be a faraway location from Star University.

But I have to confirm the information before going out to explore.

As I started to walk around, I found various shops on both sides of the streets.

They were selling monster materials.

I continued to walk around and spotted a weapon shop as well.

“Damn, I’m feeling lost,” I thought to myself.

I’m one of the rising stars in the top 10 Factions.

At least, I should have some basic knowledge before coming here.

Then I found the nearest store and walked inside.

The middle-aged shopkeeper appeared to be a Commander Rank Warrior.

I could feel his piercing gaze trying to assess my strength.

I responded with a smile.

“Young warrior, what do you need?” the middle-aged man asked.

His tone was respectful because he recognized that the young man was mysterious.

He couldn’t see through my strength.

“Do you have detailed information about this place?” I asked.

The middle-aged man was taken aback by surprise.

“Young man, did you come here for the mission?” he asked.

I nodded my head.

“That’s right.

We have detailed information regarding this place, including a map, monster list, plant list, and treasure list,” the middle-aged man said.

“I need a map of monster lairs,” I requested.

“100 Mid Essence Stones or 1000 Credit Points,” he replied.

“I have credit points,” I said.

The middle-aged man nodded before asking, “Send me your contact.”

I provided it to him.

Then he sent me a digital map of this place.

After receiving it, I paid the credit points before walking out of the shop.

“Seeing that they are accepting credit points, it can be said that it’s the territory of Star University,” I thought to myself.

Then I found a place to sit down and study the map.

A virtual screen appeared, showing the large landmass.

The starting point was marked in green.

It’s the stronghold where I am right now.

It's also marked as the Star University Outer Hall Area.

So I let go of my worries and started to further study the map.

The terrain is complex with uneven land.

The monster lairs are located deep inside.

It appears that those near the entrance were cleared out long ago.

This place reminds me of a monster zone back in my hometown.

But it's a hundred times larger.

Chapter 1027: Unspoken rule

From MC's Perspective:

About 25 minutes later,

I stood up and started walking towards the wild area.

I had decided to go and check a few lairs first.

Who knows whether the monsters are completely hunted down or not?

Shortly afterwards,

When I arrived at the place, I saw a metallic fence as high as the walls.

I noticed a few warriors were here as well.

Most of them were with their groups.

“It might be the Monster Hunting Squad,” I said to myself.

I saw no one checking at the gate.

Anyone could come and go.

As I walked past these groups, I found their gazes on me as well.

I followed the people before me and entered the wild area.

There were various paths leading from here.

It reminded me of the monster zones.

I picked one of the routes that led to the monster lair and started walking along the path.

Meanwhile,

Gasp!

A commotion occurred behind the metallic fence.

“Hey, what is this famous person doing here?”

“The top 10 factions have their own secret lands.”

“It’s really too much for him to come here and rob us of our chances.”

“It’s the fate of weak warriors.

We can’t do anything against the Top 10 Factions’ warriors.”

These groups immediately recognized Zack Lockwood.

But they didn’t call out his name before him.

Now that he had gone, they had started discussing how it was unfair.

“We can’t do anything against him.”

“Why don’t we share this information with others?”

“There are plenty of them who want to test their strength against Thunderflame Faction’s genius.”

“That’s right, let him suffer a little.”

These groups of outer hall warriors came to a consensus and started posting this news online.

After doing that, everyone vacated the place immediately.

They didn’t want to be seen by other Thunderflame Faction warriors.

As time passed, the news started to spread across the Outer Hall.

Especially those in the Outer Monster Area found it interesting.

Not long after,

The medium and small-sized factions learned the news.

Some found it amusing, while others found it face-slapping.

Those who were not part of the top 10 factions thought that Outer Hall's resources belonged to them.

So whenever someone from the top 10 factions used their facilities, there were always some opposing faces.

But this time, Zack Lockwood's popularity had triggered this topic.

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For geniuses like Zack Lockwood, who lacked no resources in the Thunderflame Faction, his visit to the Outer Hall Monster Area pissed off others.

The warriors with intent, especially the Commander Rank and General Rank warriors, decided to take action.

Though they had witnessed how Zack Lockwood defeated another genius in the arena duel, these idiots still wouldn't believe it unless they experienced the taste of beating and defeat.

As time passed, an increasing number of warriors began using the teleportation platform to enter the Outer Hall Monster Area.

It immediately caused a commotion inside the mission building as well.

Those weak warriors standing in queue to accept missions left the place upon seeing bulky warriors from the medium-sized factions.

This news caught the attention of the warriors in the top 10 factions.

They knew another drama was unfolding.

Zack Lockwood had enthralled everyone with virtual duels and arena duels.

Now this task was considered another stunt by these warriors.

...

Inside the Dark Variant Faction, Ronnie Seth was training madly in the training room.

Puppet parts were scattered across the room.

They were all destroyed by his black lightning.

After some intense training, he sat down on the ground.

Then he started drinking water while reading the news.

But upon seeing the main headline, he spat the water out in shock.

[Thunderflame Faction Zack Lockwood spotted in Outer Hall Monster Area]

“What the f@ck is he doing?” Ronnie Seth asked.

He thought he was the mad one doing this type of training.

But he didn’t expect someone to be mad enough to provoke the anger of others.

There were some unspoken things in the university.

He thought that Zack Lockwood didn’t know them at all.

His actions might be seen as plundering the resources of the outer hall.

The Outer Hall Monster Area’s resources had been plundered for all these years.

Many of the monster lairs had been cleared out.

That place was not dangerous anymore.

Except for some monster lairs deep in the area.

But they were purposely left by the management so as not to wipe out the area completely.

He didn’t have Zack Lockwood’s contact.

Otherwise, he would remind him.

Then he thought of something.

A wry smile appeared on his face.

Nowadays, the faction members thought that he and Zack Lockwood were friends.

So he was facing some threats as well.

But fortunately, the main elders were aware of the truth.

So they didn't misunderstand him.

How could he be friends with someone from a faction that was against the Thunderflame Faction?

He learned from others that the two factions were fighting secretly.

There were some deaths reported as well.

Under these circumstances, he would not get close to Zack Lockwood.

His desire was to defeat him using his black lightning.

But after the virtual duels and the recent arena duel against him, he understood something.

Zack Lockwood's purple lightning was abnormally powerful for his rank.

He even learned from the main elder that Zack Lockwood must have consumed some treasures to make the purple lightning that strong.

Now even the main elders were reviewing whether to strengthen his dark lightning or not.

After pushing down these thoughts, he resumed his training.

...

Thunderflame Faction:

“Ha...

Ha...

Ha...” Ed Conrad laughed out loud.

He saw the trending news headline as well.

He was dumbfounded by the news.

He didn’t know whether his junior brother was dumb or not.

Because his junior brother Zack Lockwood had broken the unspoken rule in the Outer Hall.

Now the whole Outer Hall Non-Faction Warriors must be fuming against him.

“Master, I don’t have to do anything.

Junior brother is finding trouble for himself,” Ed said with a smile.

Chapter 1028: Idiotic Triplets

From MC’s Perspective:

After walking through the forest, I finally came to the monster lair.

But, to my disappointment, there was no sign of monster activities here.

As I was previously worried, the place had been cleared out not long ago.

I sighed and started heading toward a deeper lair.

Meanwhile,

The Outer Hall Warriors who were still inside the forest learned the news about Zack Lockwood.

Some of them had made up their minds to confront him.

They had a ridiculous plan to defeat Zack Lockwood to please the top 10 factions.

But they didn't know how wrong they were right now.

Time passed.

I was sitting on a boulder to rest.

Yet I noticed suspicious movements through perception.

It seemed I had encountered fellow warriors.

I didn't move from my spot.

I continued to sit.

Shortly afterward,

“Who do we have here?”

“It’s him!”

“Zack Lockwood is here!”

A trio of round-bellied warriors walked out of the bushes.

My gaze immediately fell on them.

“Commander Rank,” my mouth curved into a smirk.

“Zack Lockwood, did you lack resources to come here?”

“You should have stayed inside the Thunderflame Territory,” one of them said in a threatening tone.

Obviously, they had seen the news topics.

“Plunder?” I uttered.

What’s there to ponder?

I don’t know whether to laugh or cry.

I had been wandering around here for hours, but I had yet to find a single monster or any useful herbs.

On the other hand, seeing the smile on Zack Lockwood’s face, the triplets were pissed off.

They felt they had been slapped in the face.

“Let’s go, brothers.

We three should be able to defeat him.”

“I don’t think he can cover the sky single-handedly.”

The brothers spoke to each other.

The next second, they began charging forward to attack.

Their fists were covered with terrifying flames.

Zzzzz!

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The flames produced a tearing sound in the air, indicating it was unwise to come into contact with them.

At the same time, I drew back my punch at them.

It was a simple punch without any technique.

The person in the middle made contact with my fist.

The terrifying red flames were producing terrible heat, but it was not enough for me to use my full strength.

Boom!

Both of our fists collided.

The warrior felt a powerful recoil.

He received a tremendous force as a backlash.

Argh!

A muffled grunt escaped his mouth before he flew backward like a broken kite.

“Brother!”

The other two warriors shouted softly.

Seizing the opportunity, I landed my fist on another one.

Boom!

The powerful punch smashed his face.

The warrior coughed up blood before stumbling backward.

Pfff!

The last one realized what had happened, but it was too late.

I appeared before him in a flash and punched him in the abdomen.

Blood splattered on the ground.

The warrior widened his eyes in disbelief.

He didn't know what happened before he lost consciousness.

In the blink of an eye, the triplets lay on the ground.

Looking at them, I sighed inwardly.

The triplets were not evil but were too overenthusiastic.

I didn't know what had compelled them to charge at me.

After glancing at them, I resumed my journey.

Shortly afterward,

The triplets woke up and looked at each other.

There were no serious injuries on their bodies.

After checking that, they sighed inwardly.

Thankful that they hadn't suffered heavy injuries.

Now they realized that Zack Lockwood hadn't used his element from the beginning.

They were aware that Zack Lockwood was known for the purple lightning element.

“Let’s go back, brothers.

It’s not safe to be here,” one of them said.

“Hey, I seem to realize that Zack Lockwood is going in the direction of hyenas,” the second brother said.

The triplets had escaped from the pack of hyenas, and now Zack Lockwood was heading in that direction.

“Don’t worry about him.

He is stronger than us.

We should go back before the hyenas come here,” the third brother said.

Then they stood up and left the place immediately.

One hour later,

I had unintentionally entered the territory of the hyenas.

Growl!

There was a pack of hyenas looking at me with murderous intent.

Two of them were gnawing at the prey they had killed before.

I had disturbed their mealtime.

Growl!

They continued to growl at me.

Instead of moving away from the spot, I started observing them.

The hyenas were Class-8 monsters, with one of them being a Class-9 monster.

The hyenas were black in color, but they had shades of red all over their bodies.

Their height was average for an adult.

Their razor-sharp teeth could tear apart any object.

Swoosh!

Suddenly, one of the hyenas charged toward me.

The other hyenas became alert.

They were in position to attack.

Crackle!

A purple lightning began to cover my body.

The purple lightning immediately caused the black hyenas to retreat.

But one continued charging toward me.

The hyena in front reached me when it was just a few steps away.

“Lightning Cage!”

I executed the attack.

A purple lightning shot from my palm.

The purple lightning traveled in a straight line before appearing above the hyena.

Seeing that, the black hyena stopped in place.

It growled at the purple lightning above its head.

The other hyenas backed away in fear.

Boom!

The next second, the purple lightning engulfed the black hyena.

The hyena let out a whimpering sound before being ravaged by the powerful lightning.

Pfff!

Its internal organs were destroyed.

Flesh and blood splattered on the ground.

When the purple lightning disappeared.

Everyone saw the blood-mixed body parts of the hyena.

Seeing the miserable condition of their fellow pack member, the other pack members fled in fear.

Even the Class-9 leader hyena left the place with its pack.

Seeing that, I didn't know how to react.

I thought the monsters here were bloodthirsty, but it seemed the hyenas had encountered warriors before.

Otherwise, they wouldn't have left so decisively.

After pushing down these thoughts, I walked up to the pool of blood to collect the monster core.

Fortunately, the monster core was not damaged.

I picked it up and stored it inside the storage ring.

Chapter 1029: Iron brothers (Medium Sized Faction)

From MC's Perspective:

After collecting the monster's core, I left the place.

I don't know why I'm slowly losing interest in exploring this area, so I made up my mind to complete the mission as soon as possible.

Meanwhile,

A group of five warriors from the Blazing Fire Faction has entered the forest.

It's one of the top ten factions with Fire Elemental Warriors.

Their goal is to find Zack Lockwood and defeat him.

Recently, the Thunderflame Faction has been getting all the attention, followed by the Dark Variant Faction.

Everyone knows that these two factions are rivals, yet it has disappointed the warriors from other top ten factions.

They want their own factions to be popular as well.

Yet for some reason, the Genius Warriors in their factions are not coming out to challenge them.

There are many reasons behind it.

One of them is the Virtual Training Duel.

Those who wanted to challenge Zack Lockwood have tried their luck fighting against him in virtual duels.

After the loss, they dared not confront him in reality.

If they won against Zack Lockwood in a virtual duel, there would be no problem for them to challenge him in real life.

It's the same case with Ronnie Seth.

He won in the Virtual Duels, and only then did he decide to fight in arena duels.

But the inner thoughts of genius warriors are not known to others, so other warriors in their factions are looking forward to an opportunity.

Now Zack Lockwood has come to the Outer Hall Area, giving everyone a chance to target him.

"Ha...Ha...Ha..."

"Brother, do you think Zack Lockwood will win against five of us?" one of the warriors asked with a laugh.

They were chatting and laughing, having already decided not to fight fair and square.

They were going to team up to defeat him.

"Don't worry; if we combine our flame attacks, even if he has a powerful lightning element, it won't do anything," the leader of the group replied.

These five warriors are male warriors with well-built physiques.

They all have better control of the fire element and have a small reputation in their own faction.

So they are not worried about the confrontation.

But they don't know they are not the only ones who have come here with the same intent.

Groups from other factions have entered as well, especially the Medium-Sized Faction's warriors, who have come in large numbers.

Compared to the top ten factions, they need the reputation the most.

What could be better than defeating Zack Lockwood and making their own faction famous?

Time passed,

By the time it was night, I had killed a wild boar to make food and totally forgot about the mission.

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I can't remember being this relaxed inside a monster territory.

It's because everyone was sure that there were no Class-8 or 9 and above monsters here.

I roasted the meat over the fire before eating it.

While I was enjoying the food, I heard the sound of footsteps approaching me.

I immediately activated my perception to check.

My mental power spread across the surroundings, and I found four warriors approaching me silently.

After confirming it, I decided to wait for them here.

Shortly afterwards,

Four people arrived.

All four of them are middle-aged men.

My gaze immediately fell on their badges, but the badges looked unfamiliar.

Then I realized they were not from the top ten factions.

So my interest disappeared, and I resumed eating.

On the other hand, the warriors were shocked.

They are from the Medium-Sized Faction called Iron Bothers.

The faction members are their loyal friends, and even the elders of their factions are sworn brothers.

They have come with the same intention as well.

Four of them clicked a picture of Zack Lockwood on their communication watches.

They confirmed that the person on the screen and the person in front of them are the same.

“Zack Lockwood?” the leader of the group asked.

He is a middle-aged man with thick eyebrows.

“What do you want?” I asked without looking at him.

Seeing that they were being ignored, the four felt embarrassed.

“Zack Lockwood, we have come here to challenge you,” the leader said in a serious tone.

“Challenge...?” I uttered in surprise.

Then I looked at them and found that they were all Commander Rank.

“At least they are sensible for not sending an SSS-ELITE Rank,” I thought to myself.

“Alright, wait for me to finish,” I said before continuing to eat the meat.

The leader felt relieved, and the others showed happy expressions as well.

But that’s all; they don’t know whether they are going to win or not.

A few minutes later,

After finishing my food, I stood up and looked at them.

“Alright, let’s find an open field,” I said.

We walked to an open field a few minutes later.

The open field was spacious enough for all of us to fight.

“Brother, you should go first.”

“Yes, brother.

You are the leader.”

“Come on, brother; you are a veteran Commander Rank Warrior.”

The warriors were supporting their leader to step up.

On the other hand, I didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

I could sense that these people had no malicious intent.

They had come to challenge me out of curiosity.

The middle-aged man stood opposite me.

“Zack Lockwood, my name is Bob.

I’m a Metal Element warrior,” he introduced himself.

Then he took out a giant sword and held it in both hands.

“Good,” I replied.

Then I started to channel the purple lightning around my body.

If I used the purple lightning technique, it would end quickly, but I didn’t want to do that.

I was more interested in seeing their reaction.

“Start!” someone shouted.

Boom!

Bob burst forward with great speed to attack.

The giant sword was covered with the metal element.

In the blink of an eye, the blade edge glimmered with a silver metal element, increasing its sharpness.

Seeing that my opponent was using a giant sword, I took out the Black sword and channeled the purple lightning to cover the blade.

The other three warriors were serious, their eyes fixed on Bob and Zack.

Chapter 1030: Blazing Fire Warriors

From MC's Perspective:

When the Giant Sword got closer to me, I raised my sword to block it.

Boom!

When the two swords came into contact, the purple lightning immediately destroyed the metallic element, causing the explosion.

The leader retreated backward with disbelief on his face.

The recoil effect was stronger than he thought.

“Wasn’t he reported as an SSS-ELITE Rank Warrior?” he thought.

On the other hand, I sprinted forward to attack.

The sword in my hand moved; it went in a parabolic arc before striking the rib of the opponent.

The leader was caught off guard.

He tried to cover his body using the metal element.

When the metal element covered his skin, the next second, the sword blade struck him.

The purple lightning destroyed the layer of metal element, allowing the sword blade to penetrate further.

The rest of the purple arcs started destroying his skin and flesh.

Argh!

A muffled grunt escaped his mouth.

The pain was so terrible that he immediately retreated from the duel.

He underestimated the power of purple lightning; it was many times more dangerous than what he had felt from the other lightning warriors.

“Brother!”

“Leader, what happened?”

“Leader!”

The three warriors watching from the sidelines cried out in surprise.

They didn’t expect Zack Lockwood to use two sword moves to force their leader to retreat.

Fear!

Their eyes flashed with fear.

If he were their enemy, they would have died without knowing.

The middle-aged leader adjusted his posture before looking at his injuries.

His skin was destroyed, and now his flesh was scorched in the targeted spot.

His heart set off storms.

He was not dumb; he knew that Zack Lockwood didn’t use his lightning technique.

If it were a lightning technique, he would have been injured severely.

Sighs!

He let out a sigh before saying, “I admit defeat.

Your purple lightning has no opponent in the Commander Rank.”

Gasp!

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The other three warriors were shocked.

They didn't expect such a remark from their leader.

On the other hand, I lowered the black sword and looked at him.

These people are good guys; they know what to do and what not to do.

"Well, I enjoyed the duel as well," I said after that and left the place.

The leader immediately took out some healing paste to apply to his injury.

"Brother, what happened?"

The three warriors rushed to his side.

The middle-aged man sighed again.

"He is too strong.

Especially his Purple Lightning is abnormally powerful," the leader commented.

"So it's true as the rumors," one of them said.

“Yes, it’s as strong as the rumors.

See...

a small purple lightning spark has caused this much injury,” the leader said.

“Let’s go; there is nothing to explore here.

Those guys who were coming to test him are going to be bedridden,” he added.

“Ha...

Ha...

Ha...”

All four brothers let out joyful laughter.

Meanwhile,

The Blazing Fire Faction Warriors were looking for Zack Lockwood.

But their search ended in failure.

They decided to take a rest and continue the search 30 minutes later.

The following day,

I walked out of the hidden cave.

Looking around the surroundings, I was thinking whether to continue the hunt or not.

I had already lost interest yesterday.

There was nothing to explore here.

Those remaining monsters in the deep area were counting their days.

It would be a matter of time before some groups cleared them out.

After gaining some clarity, I decided to return.

Time passed.

I had crossed half the distance a few hours later.

Just as I thought the journey back would be smooth, I encountered another group on the path.

A quick gleam flashed in my eyes after seeing their badges.

“Blazing Fire,” I raised my eyebrows in surprise because it’s one of the top 10 factions.

I hadn’t had any encounters with them.

So, I ignored them and resumed walking on the path.

“Wait!”

“Are you Zack Lockwood?”

One of the five warriors asked.

Hearing that, I sighed inwardly.

Why does it feel like this happened before?

“Yes, it’s me.

What do you want?” I asked.

Hearing that, the five warriors showed happy reactions and smiled.

Seeing that, I felt bad.

I realized I had come across another crackhead group.

But this time, it’s one of the top 10 factions.

“Zack Lockwood, my name is Brody.

We have come here to challenge you,” one of them said while stepping forward.

“We?” I asked out of confusion.

“Yes, we are going to fight against you,” he said while grinning.

“Maniacs,” I felt goosebumps all over my body.

The next second, all five of them started using their flame techniques.

A hint of coldness flashed in my eyes.

“Lightning Cage!”

I used the lightning cage technique.

The purple essence coursed through my body according to the technique’s route before coming out of my palm.

Boom!

With a thundering sound, purple essence turned into purple lightning.

The next second, I shot it at them.

The powerful purple lightning caught them off guard.

Before they could fully release their flame attack, dense purple lightning appeared above them like a cloud.

Ka-boom!

The next second, the purple lightning bombarded them.

In the blink of an eye, the dense purple lightning cage appeared, trapping everyone inside.

At the same time, they were getting struck by the purple lightning.

Argh!

The next second, mournful screams started sounding.

All five of the Blazing Fire Faction Warriors experienced torture and heart-wrenching pain.

The purple lightning rampaged through their bodies.

Their physiques wouldn't be able to withstand the attack.

Their skin and flesh were getting scorched.

When the lightning cage ended, a burnt smell began coming from everyone's body.

Everyone's clothes were burned by the purple lightning, revealing their scorched bodies.

The pain and torture had left them unconscious.

Unless someone rescued them, it might take hours for them to regain consciousness.

On the other hand, I felt no pity for them.

They dared to gang up against me.

If not for them being university students, I would have killed them.