

BloodLine 1061

Chapter 1061: Intelligence Division

Rupert, the Gold Mark Warrior, is fleeing the Star University Territory.

The current identity of Zack Lockwood has made him not stop at all.

He is feeling frantic.

More importantly, he is not using any vehicles but is relying on his movement technique.

Currently, he is moving through the barren land.

He has gotten away from the crowded city.

If he wants to reach the border in a short time, he needs to cross the small mid-level towns.

The territory he is planning to enter is a city under another university.

But he is not going back to the Dark Shadow University.

Going back to the Dark Shadow University would be suicidal.

Not only would he be captured by the elders, but the Dark Shadow University Warriors would never stop following him.

So far, he hasn't spotted any sign of them.

But he doesn't want to take any chances.

Only after getting into another foreign territory would the Dark Shadow University Warriors stop their pursuit.

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From MC's Perspective:

Time passed.

In the infirmary, I slowly opened my eyes.

My mind was calmer and clearer than before.

There was no headache, and my thought process was faster.

"Hmmm," I noticed someone else standing beside the treatment bed.

"Master Ann," I called out.

"You are awake," Ann said.

Hearing that, I was stunned.

The last thing I remember was lying in a pool of my own blood.

Thinking about the enemy, a chill flashed in my eyes.

Ann suddenly felt the cold intent from Zack as well.

She said, "Looks like you knew the attacker."

I nodded my head and said, "If I'm not wrong, it must be related to my previous experience."

Then I told her about the Blood Shadow Force, Giant Tower Academy, and Eclipse Academy.

Among them, I'm suspicious of the Blood Shadow Force.

They had a mission to kill me.

A few minutes later,

"If I'm not wrong, then it must be the Dark Shadow University.

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They have this cruel policy of not allowing any failures."

"They usually deal with assassins and killing businesses.

The Blood Shadow Force appears to be their branch in the Inner Post Region."

"Don't worry; if the identity is confirmed, we will report it to the Dean," Ann said.

"Confirm the identity?"

"How?" I asked.

"This is what happened after your injury," Ann started to explain about Elder Lorenzo and the other Elders' reactions.

She then added information about the Mellow Cafe witness.

A few minutes later,

My eyes flashed with relief.

"So the killer was seen last night.

In that way, we can easily find him," I replied.

"I think the news has already reached the Intelligence division as well.

They must be verifying his identity," Ann said.

"Master, can I go now?" I asked.

"You should rest here for a few more days, at least until we find the killer.

We are not sure whether it's a faction's work or your old enemies," Ann said.

Then we spoke about a few things before she left.

When she was gone, a cold chill appeared in my eyes.

Master Ann was right.

I was fixated on my old enemies, but I had forgotten there are people here who want my life as well.

Especially since my identity was now known to the public.

Those factions that wanted to take action might have acted.

I frowned.

Meanwhile,

Dean Jerome was in his office, going through the intel report.

If Zack and the others were here, they would be shocked to the core.

The Star University Intel Division had found out the identity of the attacker based on the Mellow Cafe witness and a few footages captured in the city.

“Rupert,” old man Jerome said in a cold tone.

The profile information was thorough.

From his initial development and later posting in the Inner Post Region.

After reading the profile information, the old man understood what happened.

“It’s the same old cruel policy,” the old man uttered in an icy tone.

He knew how many victims had fallen for the Dark Shadow University’s policy.

This time, they had stretched their hands here as well.

It was forbidden for other forces to interfere or take action here.

But this guy boldly attacked a disciple of the Main Elder in the city.

The old man didn't know whether the attacker acted after learning the identity or not.

Zack Lockwood's identity had been made public.

One was to protect him from sharp daggers, and the other was to train him hard.

But old man Jerome was happy that no internal faction was involved in this.

When he first heard the news, he immediately thought of the top 10 factions.

Now the killer was known, and he could be at ease.

Currently, he has dispatched people to find this killer.

If he was still hiding in the Star University Territory, the killer would be caught in a couple of days.

After putting the profile on his desk, he picked up another report to read.

His eyes flashed with happiness.

"That kid has gained consciousness.

He is alright.

There were no serious injuries to his body or mind," old man Jerome said to himself.

He was most worried about this.

Like others, he had suspected it was impossible to survive the coercion of a Gold Mark Warrior.

And Zack Lockwood proved everyone wrong.

The old man knew the reason for that as well.

He knew Zack Lockwood possessed three elements and was a dual practitioner who cultivated both physique and essence.

"Should I release the news or not?" old man Jerome thought.

Then he shook his head.

He decided to keep this matter in suspense.

Right now, the factions must be on their best behavior.

He wanted to keep it that way for a few days.

Meanwhile,

Austin returned to Star University.

The first thing he did was visit Zack Lockwood in the infirmary.

“My disciple, you are fortunate this time.”

“I think it’s right for you to walk the dual path.

If not for the blood element strengthening your bones, I doubt you would have survived the attack,” Austin said.

“Yes, Master.

I decided to focus more on physique cultivation.

I won’t feel good until I reach the Black Mark Warrior rank,” I replied.

“Don’t worry; the days are not far away.

You should rest here for a few days before leaving,” Austin said.

“Master, about the killer,” I asked.

“Don’t worry about it,” Austin said before leaving.

On the other hand, I felt bored and restless.

I wanted to know who attacked me.

My instincts told me it was the Blood Shadow Force.

But Master and the Elders were suspecting the factions.

I sighed and lay on the bed.

Meanwhile,

Austin returned to the Thunderflame Faction.

An emergency meeting was arranged.

Old man Clifford arrived first at the meeting hall.

Then the others followed one by one.

Main Elder Leola, Austin, Cathy, and Ann arrived and took their respective seats.

Old man Clifford sat in his main seat.

He looked at everyone, all of whom wore solemn expressions.

Even he was outside when he first heard the news.

So he made a quick return.

Fortunately, the Intelligence Division had figured out the identity of the killer.

They provided a copy of the report to him and the Dean.

When he spoke to the Dean, the Dean had warned him not to make the news public.

The Dean wanted other factions to be on edge.

But he could share the news with the Main Elders.

“I got the report from the Intelligence Division,” he said.

Hearing that, everyone’s eyes lit up.

Each force had its own intelligence unit, and their unit was one of the best.

No unknown person could walk across Star City without their knowledge.

“I’m sending it to your I.D.,” the old man then shared the intel as well.

Austin and the others began to go through the intel.

Austin’s heart was already boiling with anger.

Ever since he had heard the news, he had been controlling himself.

He was wondering whether it was a faction’s doing or not.

Now the truth was before their eyes.

When he saw the killer’s name, Rupert, he realized he was the head of a small branch called the Blood Shadow Force.

It’s a branch of Dark Shadow University’s killing unit.

The reason Zack Lockwood was made a target was due to their cruel policy.

They do not tolerate incomplete missions.

They are famous for completing every unfinished mission.

This time, things had gotten out of their hands.

Zack Lockwood was targeted while he was in the Inner Post Region.

The Blood Shadow Force had made multiple attempts to kill Zack Lockwood.

Before they knew it, Zack Lockwood had joined Star University.

Not long after that, Rupert was removed from his post.

Ever since then, he had been traveling in their Tier-4 Region.

It must be that the Dark Shadow University wanted him to complete the mission or that he was acting on his own.

Because Zack Lockwood's identity had been made public just before the attack.

It's impossible for Dark Shadow University to know about this matter.

So it must be related to their cruel policy.

To think his sixth disciple was close to death made him furious.

“These gloomy b@stards dared to target my disciple,” Austin said in a cold tone.

Chapter 1062: Part 1: Rupert’s dead end

Meeting Hall:

“So, what do you guys think?”

“I suppose this guy has already left Star City.

He must be looking to leave our territory,” Old Man Clifford said.

“I have ordered people at the border to screen every Gold Mark Warrior strictly.

Unless the Gold Mark Warriors provide concrete proof, it’s impossible to leave our territory,” Main Elder Leola said.

“I have contacted some of my friends as well.

They are going to tighten the border on their side.

The only problem is our border with the Dark Shadow University,” Main Elder Cathy added this time.

Hearing that, no one was surprised.

The Main Elders are all Purple Mark Warriors.

They have their own connections and resources.

“What if this guy escapes back to the Inner Post Region?”

"I hope he won't target Zack Lockwood's people," Main Elder voiced her concern.

"Don't worry about this matter.

Dena Jerome has spoken.

That person can't slip away from us," Old Man Clifford reassured.

"When it comes to the Dark Shadow University border, they are going to pay a price for it.

They let such a criminal reach our territory to take action," Old Man Clifford said in an icy tone.

Then his gaze fell on Austin, who was silent.

"Austin, what are you thinking?" he asked.

Hearing that, others looked at Austin as well.

"Leader, I'm going outside to take his head personally.

Otherwise, my heart won't rest."

"More importantly, I don't want others to fish in muddy waters.

If we delay further, more unwanted things might happen," Austin said.

"You are correct.

You can go and leave the mission matter to us,” Old Man Clifford replied.

“When will the kid be discharged?” he asked again.

“I have told him to rest for a few days,” Ann said.

“Good.

The infirmary is the safest place for him right now.

Already, people are curious about that kid’s reason for surviving.”

“If he comes right now, people will try everything to find out the truth,” Old Man Clifford said.

Austin said, “Leader, what if we find resources that can help him reach the Black Mark Warrior rank quickly?”

“If he reaches the Black Mark Warrior rank, he can protect himself with Artifacts.

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He can’t use powerful Artifacts in his current stage,” he added.

His words immediately made others ponder.

Zack Lockwood is the personal disciple of Main Elders Austin and Ann.

Elders Leola and Cathy had no reason to help, yet they were concerned as well.

Old Man Clifford nodded his head and said, "I think it's our only option.

The Dark Variant Faction has yet to take any action.

They are bidding for the right time."

"My disciples are yet to come.

Some of your disciples are outside as well.

They can protect themselves."

"But if the same thing happens again, that kid won't survive.

So I will ask Dean Jerome.

He will definitely help," Old Man Clifford added.

Then the meeting came to an end.

Everyone left the meeting hall.

Austin didn't waste any time before leaving Star University.

He was going to search for the attacker at the border.

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From MC's Perspective:

A few days later,

In the infirmary, I was standing on my feet and walking back and forth to feel the movement.

My body had returned to normal.

The bones, muscles, skin, and veins had recovered.

It's like I had been reborn.

But I knew it was the work of an expensive pill or potion.

More importantly, I looked at my palm.

There was a white pearl.

According to Master Ann, it was given by Elder Leola.

It's a rare treasure.

Even a Purple Mark Warrior would fight for it.

I sighed.

To think the other Main Elders had used their treasures to help me.

I didn't know what to say, but I would remember their help.

Then I noticed that my essence strength had increased again.

But I knew it was not a breakthrough.

I was close to touching the next barrier.

Not only that, my red bones were different than before.

Though I didn't feel any increase in strength, I noticed the change in runes.

Compared to before, there were more runes on my bones.

It had spread all over the skeleton.

I didn't know what the function of the runes was.

But I thought it had something to do with strength as well.

It was a blessing in disguise.

I was so close to death, but I had survived and achieved benefits as well.

Then I sat on the bed and accessed online articles.

A quick gleam flashed in my eyes.

The news about me was a hot topic for two days.

Everyone was surprised by my survival.

So much so that people started focusing on me more than the attacker.

Fortunately, the topics had come to an end the next day.

Then the regular news began to occupy the space.

When it came to the killer, I knew the identity as well.

Master Ann showed me the intel report, and my guess was correct.

It was an old account I hadn't closed.

But now I thought that Rupert wouldn't have many days to live.

Master Austin had personally gone to hunt him.

I doubted he would return without killing him.

It felt good to have such a backer.

When was the last time I had felt such backing?

It was during my stay with Master Lowell.

He had protected me in the Inner Post Region.

He had even raised his hand a couple of times to save me in the Outer Post Region.

Speaking about life and death, you can only think of old memories during life-or-death moments.

I wondered what my old friends were doing.

Thinking about it, I let out a sigh.

Creak!

The door opened.

Lola Garvin and Leah Downing entered the room.

“Junior brother, how are you doing?” Lola asked.

“Senior sisters, you both are here,” I greeted them.

“You look fine.

But you have to spend one more night before returning to the faction,” Leah said.

“Sister Leah, what do you mean?” I asked.

“It’s not me.

It was told by the Master.

He has found the attacker.

He is going to take action tonight,” Leah said with a smile.

Gasp!

“So soon,” I sucked in a cold breath of air.

“Our Tier-4 Region is vast land.

Each force occupies a vast piece of land.

It’s difficult to find someone if they escape to the border.”

“But Master Austin is different.

He is a Purple Mark Warrior.

There are warriors who worked hard to collect intel.”

“Otherwise, it would have been difficult to find the Gold Mark Warrior this soon,” Leah said.

“I’m grateful to the Master,” I replied with a smile.

“Okay, we are going back.

If you need something, you can contact us.” After saying that, they left.

I looked at them before going back to rest.

I had never had such a peaceful time before.

Apart from Master and my sisters, no one came to bother me.

On the other hand, when the two sisters left the infirmary, they were seen by spies from other factions.

Not only the top 10 factions, but the other medium and small-sized factions had been waiting patiently for Zack Lockwood these days.

They had only one reason for that.

They didn't want to anger Dean Jerome.

These factions' leaders and main elders knew the whole Star University network was working hard to find the attacker.

They had never seen such a mobilization before, which made them even more scared to act.

The Dark Variant Faction, in particular, was quiet.

They were watching every movement of the Thunderflame Faction, especially observing the activities of the disciples of the Main Elders.

They had only seen two of them going to the infirmary.

Others were outside on a mission.

None of the factions had even sent elders to visit Zack Lockwood.

By doing so, it would raise questions.

People would immediately point at the Dark Variant Faction.

The Dark Variant Faction was already perplexed by the situation.

They didn't know how Zack Lockwood was attacked.

When they had tried to access the intel, their access was restricted.

Not only them; it was the same for other top 10 factions as well.

Dean Jerome never wanted them to relax.

He had used this opportunity to put them on edge.

These are some rare days where killings of warriors were not reported.

Otherwise, there would be daily reports.

One faction targeting others.

If not for the Star University rules that competition was allowed, Dean Jerome would have punished them already.

Now the situation will come to an end tonight.

Austin had spotted Rupert hiding in the border town.

The border town of any territory was the least suspected place because there was no transportation.

The world energy was low compared to other places.

No one wanted to stay here for a longer time.

Yet Rupert was here.

It's because he had experience before.

He had once escaped from the eyes of Dark Shadow University Warriors.

He wanted to do it again.

Chapter 1063: Part 2: Rupert's dead end

Old Town:

"Damn it," Rupert cursed out loud.

He was hiding in one of the old houses.

He couldn't help but feel bad about his own luck.

He was close to leaving the Star University Territory.

Then he had found so many people searching for his whereabouts.

The Star University Territory was vast.

It took him days to reach the border.

He had even successfully cut off the tail of the Dark Shadow University Warriors.

He knew that the Dark Shadow University Warriors were after him.

After cutting off their tail, he thought he was safe.

But he had never expected the Star University to dig out his identity this fast.

They hadn't given him a chance to breathe.

If it had been delayed by one day, he would have escaped this territory successfully.

But unfortunately, things didn't go his way.

He had to change plans at the last moment.

Since his identity was known, it was impossible to travel like before.

More importantly, it was impossible for him to leave through the normal checkpoints or teleportation platforms.

He was a Gold Mark Warrior.

He had years of experience.

He knew the borders were under the watch of the Star University.

He thought it was more probable that other Middle Towns were no longer safe for him.

The warriors of the Star University must be looking for him.

He was also aware that each organization has an intelligence unit.

His information must have been dug up by them.

If he went anywhere right now, the chances of him being recognized by people were high.

"I don't have a choice," Rupert muttered to himself.

He couldn't go to human gathering places anymore.

The only choices left for him were the dangerous forest and forbidden places.

The forbidden places were usually controlled by the forces.

They had the right security.

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But he could go to the dangerous forest.

It was open to the civilian population.

The hunters' and mercenaries' livelihoods depended on the dangerous forests.

Rupert's eyes shone with light, not knowing he was under the watch of Austin.

"I must go to the dangerous forest and hide there.

I don't think they will be looking for me forever," Rupert said to himself.

He knew this level of mobilization required resources and manpower.

He believed the Star University was using its full power to find him.

They couldn't continue it forever.

It would cost them resources.

"All I had to do was hide and stay low-key.

Zack Lockwood, I don't think the Star University would pay more for a dead genius," Rupert said in his heart.

He felt more confident at that moment.

Above the house, Austin was standing in mid-air.

He was observing and listening to every mumbling word of Rupert.

If Rupert knew, he wouldn't dare to sit for any longer.

He would have already fled for his life.

Austin didn't do it.

He waited for the enemy to let his guard down.

The enemy was a Gold Mark Warrior-one step away from the Purple Mark Rank.

He didn't know whether Rupert had any killing artifacts that could deal with a Purple Mark Warrior.

So he had to make sure Rupert didn't have anything with him.

There were examples where dying Gold Mark Warriors used their trump cards to kill Purple Mark Warriors.

At that moment, Austin was calm.

He didn't let anger take control of him.

Before coming here, he had been filled with rage and anger.

Right now, his mood was serene and calm.

Since the enemy was found, he was looking at Rupert like prey.

"I don't know whether Dark Shadow University is involved?" Austin muttered to himself.

If Dark Shadow University was involved, he didn't think they would let it go after one attempt.

So he thought it was better to get information from Rupert.

Time passed.

Rupert was not asleep at all.

More importantly, he didn't dare to sleep.

Austin's eyes flashed with appreciation.

Even though nobody liked the cruel policies of Dark Shadow University, their warriors were strong.

Even the average of their warriors had more life-and-death experiences than those of other forces.

Austin sighed as he looked at him.

He didn't want to waste any more time.

Especially since there were only a few hours left before sunrise.

He didn't want to alarm anyone.

He wanted to do it quickly.

Swoosh!

He disappeared from the spot.

When he appeared, he was already inside the old room.

"Who is it?" Rupert shouted.

Boom!

The next second, he felt a monstrous coercion tightening around his body.

He couldn't even speak or move a finger.

He was locked.

A flicker of fear flashed in Rupert's eyes.

He knew the attacker was not a Gold Mark Warrior.

"A Purple Mark Warrior," he thought, his heart shuddering with fear.

When did a Purple Mark Warrior appear?

The Purple Mark Warriors were rarely seen outside.

They were like heads of organizations-the top tier in the Tier-4 region.

In order to catch a killer, no organization head would go personally to apprehend him.

That's why he was surprised and terrified by the coercion.

He had thought the utmost top Gold Mark Warriors would come after his life.

Not a Purple Mark Warrior.

His thoughts were racing.

His heart was filled with fear at that moment.

He was thinking of leaving and hiding in the dangerous forest.

But who would have thought he would encounter bad luck again?

At the same time, Austin walked out of the shadows.

He walked toward Rupert, who was enveloped in his coercion.

Rupert couldn't even lift a finger.

Austin looked into his eyes.

This was the person who had dared to attack his new talented disciple.

Austin knew this person was a veteran assassin and a former branch head of a killing organization.

"I'm sure you have guessed my identity," Austin said in a cold tone.

Rupert's heart skipped a beat, especially after seeing the person.

He couldn't think of one possibility.

But it was absurd.

"That kid was accepted as a disciple by a Purple Mark Warrior only a few days ago.

Then how come his master would come here?"

"Are the Purple Mark Warriors that free?" Rupert thought.

Austin smiled and said, "I'm Zack Lockwood's master.

One of the main elders in the Star University."

"You dared to attack my disciple.

Fortunately, my disciple is alive.

Otherwise, I wouldn't be talking to you right now," he added.

"Impossible," Rupert thought.

"How come....."

"It's impossible...."

Rupert felt like he was going crazy.

He couldn't believe what he had just heard.

How could a low-level warrior survive an attack from a Gold Mark Warrior?

Even with coercion, it should smash low-level warriors' bones and organs.

He had even seen Zack Lockwood lying in a pool of his own blood.

Rupert's expression distorted.

He was going crazy.

Seeing this, Austin frowned.

He didn't want to talk to someone mentally disabled.

He wanted to get information.

He immediately destroyed Rupert's dantian and amputated his left hand.

Pfff!

Blood splattered on the ground.

Rupert's thoughts became clear as he felt the heart-wrenching pain.

He couldn't believe his end was near.

His dantian was gone.

His hard-earned warrior cultivation disappeared in seconds.

He totally forgot about his severed hand.

Tud!

The coercion disappeared.

The next second, he slumped to the ground.

"I'm not going to let you die easily.

I'm going to show you my specialty, which is torture," Austin said in a cold tone.

Rupert shuddered with fear.

He didn't want to imagine it.

But his body was trembling right now.

The loss of cultivation made him weak.

"I'm sure you have heard of foreign creatures, especially the Dark Worm.

It likes to feed on souls.

But it won't finish its meal in one day."

"It likes to eat one small part at a time.

But the pain coming from it won't let you sleep or lose consciousness," Austin said.

"No," Rupert uttered, his expression changing drastically.

Horror was written on his face, as if he had heard something more sinister and vicious.

The foreign creatures were a plague harming the world.

He hadn't expected the Purple Mark Warrior in front of him to have one in his possession, which indicated that his rank was not low.

He must be one of the most powerful in the Star University.

"Who are you?" Rupert asked in a trembling voice.

"Looks like you are ready to listen."

"I'm Austin, a member of the Thunderflame Faction," Austin said.

Hearing that, Rupert's heart skipped a beat.

He knew it was over for him.

But he didn't want to die a cruel death.

Especially, he didn't want to be eaten by a foreign Dark Worm.

He had heard the reports and seen some corpses.

Their deaths would be miserable.

Since this person was talking, it meant he wanted information from Rupert.

"I'm ready to tell you everything you want," Rupert said.

"Ha...Ha...Ha...," Austin let out a laugh.

“Good.

You have a brain.

Now tell me everything.”

“How did my disciple become your enemy?”

“What was the reason behind the incomplete mission?”

“Who ordered you to do it?”

Austin asked back-to-back questions.

He wanted to use this opportunity to learn about his disciple’s enemy, so that in the future, he could be prepared.

Chapter 1064: Body-General Rank- Early Stage (Breakthrough- 1 whole rank)

Old Town:

Rupert started to speak.

It all started when someone placed a bounty on Zack Lockwood.

Later, he involved because of the Supreme Elder of the Eclipse and Giant Tower Academy.

About 20 minutes later,

Austin’s eyes flickered.

Rupert had spilled everything, realizing that there was nothing for him to hide anymore.

Pfff!

Austin slapped Rupert's head.

It burst into pieces like a watermelon.

The former head of the Blood Shadow Force, Rupert, died on the spot.

Seeing this, Austin removed his storage ring and destroyed the corpse.

He then checked the storage ring out of whim.

"Thousand Refining Dark Fruit," his expression changed drastically.

"This fruit is a sacred fruit of the Dark Shadow University.

Their warriors train in harsh conditions to develop their physique so they can use forbidden techniques of dark elements more easily."

"Using forbidden techniques can take a toll on one's body.

That's where this sacred fruit helps them.

It can help a warrior's body cultivation to raise one rank higher," Austin said to himself.

He was still in disbelief.

This sacred fruit is given only to Main Elder's disciples.

They have more potential to reach Purple Mark Rank.

He thought if Zack consumes this fruit, his Physique rank would rise from Commander Early Stage to General Early Stage.

But this Thousand Refining Dark Fruit is only effective for warriors below Black Mark Rank.

Normally, Purple Mark Warriors won't lose their composure, but this fruit caught him off guard.

As long as Zack can reach General Rank in both body and essence, then he can request the Faction Leader to make suitable arrangements for inheritance.

Only after accepting the inheritance can one reach the next stage, which is the Black Mark Rank.

Austin's eyes flickered.

He stored the fruit carefully into his storage ring and left the place without leaving behind any traces.

Swoosh!

He was moving in mid-air at a constant speed.

His back was straight and relaxed.

He had eliminated his disciple's attacker.

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Next, they had to deal with the Dark Shadow University.

Their ThunderFlame Faction couldn't do anything alone.

Dean Jerome had to help them.

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From MC's Perspective:

The following day,

In the infirmary, I was feeling bored.

Even for food, I had to ask someone.

I didn't know why the Master was taking time to return.

Sitting on the bed, I couldn't help but ponder.

Hereafter, my every move would be under the eyes of various factions.

So far, they didn't know about my three elements.

If they learned about the secret, then they would send a Gold Mark Warrior as well.

Creak!

The door opened.

I saw someone walk in.

When I saw the face, I relaxed.

“Master, you have returned,” I said.

Austin showed a bright smile on his face.

He said, “My good disciple, you can be at ease.

I have killed Rupert.”

Hearing that, I felt a huge stone disappear from my heart.

My back went straight and relaxed.

“I was feeling my back was heavy earlier.

Now I’m feeling light,” I replied.

“Good, you don’t have to worry about unnecessary things.

Just focus on improving your strength.

Now you can come with me to our faction,” Austin said.

Hearing that, I got out of bed and got ready to leave.

Creak!

When we walked out, I immediately felt many eyes on me.

They were healers and their students.

“Don’t be surprised.

You have become popular,” Austin said.

A wry smile appeared on my face.

This attention I didn’t need right now.

Swoosh!

“Let’s go,” Austin grabbed my shoulder and left the infirmary.

They moved in the air before appearing in the ThunderFlame Faction Territory in the blink of an eye.

The faction members all saw Main Elder Austin and Zack Lockwood heading towards Golden Lightning Palace.

“Zack Lockwood is back!”

“He has returned!”

The news started to spread quickly.

In a few minutes, everyone inside the ThunderFlame Territory learned the news.

But they couldn't go to the Golden Lightning Palace.

Only the members of the Golden Lightning Palace were allowed.

Tud!

On the other hand, we landed on the ground.

I felt good coming back to the place.

"Zack, come to my residence," Austin said.

A quick gleam flashed in my eyes.

Then I nodded before following him to his residence.

Shortly afterwards,

We both sat opposite each other on the sofa.

I looked at Master Austin.

He seemed to have something on his mind.

"Master, what is it?"

"I don't know whether it's okay to call this a blessing in disguise," Austin muttered before taking out the sacred fruit.

My gaze fell on the fruit.

Suddenly, I felt it was a good thing.

"It's called Thousand Refining Dark Fruit," Austin said with a smile.

"Treasure fruit?" I asked.

"Yes, it's a treasure fruit, but not an ordinary treasure fruit.

It's a sacred one.

I got it from the storage ring of your attacker." After saying that, he started to explain the importance and benefits of the fruit.

About 10 minutes later,

My breathing became faster.

I had already gained benefits because of this disaster.

My body cultivation seemed ready for the next breakthrough.

But I didn't expect to come across such a fruit.

“Take it and go to the essence chamber,” Austin said.

“Thank you, Master,” I received the fruit before putting it inside my storage ring.

Then I walked out of the Master’s residence.

Shortly afterwards,

I came to the essence chamber.

After nodding at the senior, I entered the available room.

The senior was a Peak Sage General.

He was surprised to see Zack Lockwood here.

Boom!

In the room, I activated the essence chamber.

The next second, pure world energy started to fill the room.

I entered the platform and sat cross-legged on the ground.

Then I took the sacred fruit from my storage ring.

Looking at the sacred fruit in my palm, I felt a sense of yearning.

Master told me that this fruit was only beneficial for warriors under the Black Mark Rank.

“I hope this will help me reach General Rank directly,” I said in my heart.

Then I took a bite before eating the whole fruit.

A warm energy entered my stomach.

I had never felt this richness before.

I closed my eyes and started to run the blood element method.

The next second, the blood rune in my consciousness started to shine.

Then I began to guide the sacred fruit energy according to the blood element method in my body.

After the circulation, the blood light appeared above the bloodstream and started to convert the sacred fruit energies into mysterious white energies.

Time passed,

The mysterious white energies entered the bones all over my body.

It started increasing the strength of the bones, which in turn increased the strength of the flesh, inner organs, veins, meridians, and other body parts.

I continued to repeat the process.

Click!

Commander Rank – Mid Stage

A breakthrough occurred.

I went from Commander Rank Early Stage to Mid Stage.

But the refining didn't stop there.

The red runes all over the bones started greedily sucking the sacred fruit energies.

I now understood why the name was Thousand Refining.

The sacred fruit contained dark energy, which resonated with monster core violet energy.

These energies were suitable for the blood element method for some reason.

I pushed down these thoughts before continuing the process.

It didn't take long before the next barrier appeared.

Click!

Commander Rank – Peak Stage

The next breakthrough occurred.

At this time, the sacred fruit energies were reduced by half.

But I guessed it would be enough to break through the final barrier.

I concentrated and continued to repeat the process.

The red runes became darker.

The usual red skeleton now became dark red.

If one didn't look closely, they might think it was black-colored bones.

But undoubtedly, the inner organs, bones, flesh, and other parts were getting thousands of times stronger.

Time passed,

I didn't know how long it had been before I felt the final barrier.

I continued the practice.

The remaining sacred fruit energy shattered the barrier.

Click!

General Rank – Early Stage

A new flood of energy flowed through my body as my body evolved.

My heart filled with excitement.

But I didn't stand up.

I stayed and continued to practice the blood element method to stabilize the new rank.

The remaining sacred fruit energy was completely consumed.

I didn't know how many hours had passed.

But I used pure essence energy to stabilize the new rank.

When it was done, I opened my eyes.

An ominous aura was released from my body.

It was unlike my previous strength.

It was General Rank.

A bright smile appeared on my face.

"Master was right.

The sacred fruit did raise my strength by one rank," I said to myself.

The next second, a bad smell attacked my nostrils.

I immediately saw black impurities covering my body.

Seeing that, my eyes gleamed with a twinkle.

The sacred fruit gave me a solid foundation.

I felt I could withstand the attack of a Black Mark Warrior.

But I wouldn't take the risk.

I had underestimated them before.

"Wait until I get the inheritance," I muttered to myself.

Chapter 1065: Dark Variant Faction Leader Vince

From MC's Perspective:

Creak!

When I appeared outside, the morning sunlight fell on my head.

A look of realization dawned on me.

After seeing the timing on my watch, I realized I had spent one whole day.

A look of disbelief appeared on my face.

Then I realized it was not easy for me to control the sacred fruit energy.

I somehow managed to do it in the end.

Feeling the power of General Rank in my body, a bright smile appeared on my face.

Swoosh!

Just as I decided to take a step outside, someone appeared before me.

The person was none other than Master Austin.

“Master,” I greeted him.

“Ha...Ha...Ha...”

“You have done it.

You are a General Rank Warrior now,” Austin said with a laugh.

Hearing that, I smiled and replied, “Master, my essence has yet to break through to Commander Rank.”

“I’m hoping to receive the lightning resources as well,” I added.

Austin’s eyes flickered.

“There are indeed lightning resources.

But one like the Thousand Refining Dark Fruit is rare.

I had a couple of them, but I gave them to your seniors.”

“But they don’t have the growing purple lightning seed with them,” Austin said with a smile.

Hearing that, my heart skipped a beat.

“Master, do they know?” I asked.

“No one knows about this apart from the Faction Leader and the main elders.

So don’t tell anyone, including your senior brothers and sisters,” Austin said in a solemn tone.

My eyes turned serious.

Ed Conrad was against me because of jealousy.

If he knew that I had the growing purple lightning seed with me, I bet he would have leaked the information as well.

“Alright, you can go now and wash yourself.

I have spoken to the Faction Leader about the lightning resources; you will get them soon,” Austin said.

Hearing that, a bright smile appeared on my face, and I thanked him.

Then I left the place.

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“This kid?” Austin muttered with a smile.

He was happy that Zack Lockwood had reached General Rank in body cultivation.

But still, there was essence left.

He had decided to look for the purple lightning resources right away.

About 20 minutes later,

I returned to the room and quickly went to the bathroom.

The bath lasted for more than 30 minutes.

I cleansed myself of the dark impurities.

After stepping out of the bathroom, I changed into a fresh uniform.

Standing, I clenched my fists.

Boom!

A small force released from my fist.

My eyes twinkled.

Then I noticed something important: I had to gain control over my new General Rank Warrior strength.

Otherwise, I might hurt others unintentionally.

Thinking about it, I decided to go back to the Golden Lightning Palace after taking some rest.

...

Blazing Fire Faction:

The Faction Leader, Elmer Maddox, was in a meeting with other main elders.

They were discussing the Blazing Fire Faction affairs.

But someone changed the topic and spoke about Zack Lockwood.

“Faction Leader, what do you think?”

“Can anyone below Black Mark Rank survive a Gold Mark Warrior coercion?” one of the main elders asked.

Hearing that, others quickly became interested.

Elmer’s eyes twitched.

He felt that they had an ill-fated relationship with the Thunderflame Faction, as everyone was thinking more about the Thunderflame Faction than their own faction.

But that main elder’s question bugged him.

It’s not like he hadn’t thought about it.

When he first heard that news, he was shocked as well.

Then he thought it must have something to do with artifacts.

There are many rare life-saving artifacts.

Zack Lockwood might have used them.

“Change the topic.

That kid is probably alive because of a life-saving artifact.

So don’t waste time on this,” Elmer said in a cold tone.

Hearing that, the main elders nodded their heads.

They had the same thoughts as well.

...

Dark Variant Faction:

Ronnie Seth was in his room.

He had been training non-stop and had little time to sleep.

But he was able to get updates on things happening outside.

He heard about Zack Lockwood’s discharge as well.

He couldn’t help but think about him.

He didn’t know Zack Lockwood’s strength.

He wanted to fight him again.

Buzz!

Suddenly, his communication watch buzzed.

When he saw the message, his expression changed drastically.

He was summoned by the Faction Leader to their meeting hall.

Shortly afterward,

He arrived at the meeting hall.

When he walked inside, he saw an old man sitting in the main seat.

The main elders were seated on both sides below him.

“Faction Leader!”

“Main Elders,” he greeted everyone.

The next second, he felt everyone’s gaze on him.

Ronnie Seth was nervous.

The Dark Variant Faction could be called the most selfish faction.

For their own interest, they could even hurt their own university warriors from other factions.

No one would question them.

Ronnie feared that he might be forced to do something.

The Dark Variant Faction Leader was an old man.

His name was Vince.

He was wearing black robes.

His gaze was dark, as if he could see through anything.

When he saw the nervousness on Ronnie's face, he chuckled and said, "You are a good seed.

I heard you had a few fights against Zack Lockwood.

What do you think of him?"

Ronnie was scared.

He thought the elders were going to do something against Zack Lockwood.

But he didn't show anything suspicious on the outside.

"Faction Leader, I fought against him.

He is stronger than me.

He has no rivals in the same rank," Ronnie Seth replied.

The main elders' eyes flickered with surprise.

The Thunderflame Faction was their rival.

They didn't expect Ronnie Seth to have a good opinion of someone from that faction.

"Such a high evaluation," old man Vince said.

Ronnie Seth's heart skipped a beat.

But he replied, "I'm telling the truth.

He has a good record in the Virtual Training Lab."

"Virtual Training Lab," Vince's eyes flickered.

"Good, the reason I have called you here is that I want you to challenge him again for a duel," Vince said.

"Duel?" Ronnie uttered.

He suddenly felt a bad premonition.

But he didn't dare to refute anything here.

Otherwise, he would be killed on the spot.

The main elders here were all cunning.

He had heard that the Faction Leader was even more ruthless.

“Don’t think too much.

I want you to use him as a sparring partner.

You can only grow if you fight against the best,” Vince said with a smile.

The main elders remained silent, but their eyes were constantly flickering.

Ronnie replied, “Faction Leader, I’m ready to fight.

But Zack Lockwood doesn’t come to the Virtual Training Lab these days.”

“He was recently attacked.

I doubt he would come outside anytime soon,” he added.

“What an honest kid!” old man Vince thought.

He didn’t want to use Ronnie Seth because Ronnie Seth was a talented dark lightning warrior-a warrior they could compare against Zack Lockwood.

Both of them were lightning warriors, yet Zack Lockwood was the one stealing the limelight.

Ronnie Seth was scared by the sudden silence.

He knew that the Faction Leader was up to something, given their history with the Thunderflame Faction.

“If that’s the case, then I have something to offer.” After saying that, he took out a purple fruit covered with purple lightning arcs.

“Sacred Purple Lightning Fruit!”

Gasp!

A small exclamation sounded in the room.

The main elders lost their composure in front of Ronnie Seth.

Ronnie Seth was totally captivated by the purple lightning.

“I have something they want.

Especially that kid might be wanting this,” old man Vince said with a smile.

But his smile looked cunning and evil.

Ronnie Seth didn’t know what to say.

What did the Faction Leader want to do?

Before he could open his mouth, the old man Vince said, “I want you to make a bet.

The winner will get this fruit.”

Hearing that, Ronnie Seth was shocked to the core.

He couldn't believe what he was hearing.

The fruit was not an ordinary treasure.

Especially after the main elders' exclamation, Ronnie Seth figured out that the fruit was much more precious.

"What do you think?" old man Vince asked.

Ronnie Seth met his gaze.

He felt a sense of crisis.

"Okay, Faction Leader.

I will challenge him," Ronnie replied.

"I want you to do it right now.

Write a challenge post here, mention the bet, and post it online," old man Vince said.

Ronnie shuddered.

He immediately started doing it.

He wrote a challenge post and mentioned the bet before posting it on his media handle.

Ronnie Seth's heart was racing.

"Good kid, here, take this fruit.

Don't try to use it on yourself.

You are a dark lightning warrior; this isn't good for you," the old man said.

Then he placed the sacred fruit in a box before giving it to him.

Ronnie Seth accepted the box and stored it in his storage ring.

"You can leave, kid," old man Vince said.

Hearing that, Ronnie Seth left the meeting hall.

"Faction Leader, what's going on?"

"It's a Sacred Fruit.

I doubt whether Austin has one with him right now," one of the main elders asked.

Chapter 1066: Sacred Purple Lightning Fruit!

Dark Variant Faction:

The faction leader Vince noticed everyone's doubtful gazes.

"Ha...Ha...Ha...," he let out a joyful laugh.

The main elder who asked the question was stunned.

Old man Vince said, "Yes, it's a sacred fruit.

But it's tampered.

I have injected it with a single horn lightning snake's poison."

Gasp!

The main elders sucked in a cold breath of air.

Now they understood what their faction leader had done.

The poison of a single horn lightning snake is invisible.

Since it's a lightning snake, the poison would react more if it comes in contact with the lightning element.

The main elders shuddered, looking at their faction leader.

"So, are your doubts cleared right now?"

"No one below the Black Mark Rank can survive the poison of a Class-9 Monster.

Let alone that kid," old man Vince said in a cold tone.

...

Meanwhile,

Ronnie Seth's challenge post began to trend virally.

The Dark Variant Faction warriors who saw the post were shocked.

They thought Ronnie Seth was looking for a rematch, so they shared the challenge post.

In the blink of an eye, the news spread across the Outer Hall.

Both Zack Lockwood and Ronnie Seth previously had an arena match.

When they saw Ronnie Seth issue a challenge post again, they were surprised.

What shocked them even more was the bet.

The bet was the sacred lightning fruit.

At first, many of them didn't know the importance of the fruit.

They thought it was another elemental fruit useful for lightning warriors.

But when one of the Outer Hall elders saw the fruit's name, he was petrified on the spot.

He immediately recognized the correct name.

It didn't take long for the other Outer Hall elders to find out.

The news started to reach the ears of the faction elders as well.

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The medium and small-sized factions showed jealousy and envy.

A warrior below the Black Mark Rank was using a sacred fruit as a bet.

On the other hand, they didn't even have an ordinary elemental fruit to provide.

...

Blazing Fire Faction:

Faction leader Elmer Maddox was in his office room when one of the main elders urgently requested to see him.

He frowned.

The meeting had just recently ended.

He didn't know what the main elder wanted again.

He then allowed him to enter.

"Faction Leader, look at this," the main elder showed him the post.

"Challenge post!"

“Sacred Purple Lightning Fruit!”

Elmer’s pupils shrank.

He immediately recognized the fruit as well.

“How can an Outer Hall warrior have this fruit?”

“Did he have a fortuitous encounter?” Elmer said to himself.

The main elder widened his eyes in disbelief.

He thought he had recognized it wrongly.

Now, listening to the faction leader, he was even more shocked.

He was right from the beginning.

“Leader, it’s impossible to encounter this kind of fruit.

It can only be found in powerful secret lands,” the main elder said.

Elmer’s eyes narrowed.

He then thought of the Dark Variant Faction’s leader and the main elders.

“Don’t tell me they have already started to move,” Elmer thought to himself.

The more he thought about it, the more he felt it was right.

Not even a few days had passed since Zack Lockwood's identity was disclosed.

Yet Zack Lockwood was attacked by a Gold Mark warrior.

Now this negative thing was happening again.

He thought that it was the work of the main elders or leader behind that kid named Ronnie.

"Okay, forget about it.

It has nothing to do with us.

Ask our warriors to stay low-key.

Don't offend the Thunderflame Faction warriors for the time being," he said.

"Okay, leader," the main elder replied.

He didn't know the reason behind this challenge, but he could tell that the kid named Zack Lockwood was being targeted.

...

Thunderflame Faction:

"Here we go," Austin muttered, looking at the challenge post.

"Sacred Purple Lightning Fruit, huh?"

“Are you that generous, old man Vince?” Austin immediately thought of the Dark Variant Faction leader.

Like others, he was also aware that such a sacred fruit was only available in powerful secret lands.

Even if you find one, you would expect it to be in the hands of a Silver Mark warrior and above.

Just like how he had found the Thousand Refining Dark Fruit in the storage ring of Rupert.

But he doubted that the fruit in the hands of Ronnie Seth came from the faction leader and main leaders behind him.

Because he knew they wouldn’t allow a sacred fruit to be placed as a bet.

They had their own lightning warrior.

They might feel bad about it.

More importantly, the Sacred Purple Lightning Fruit fit perfectly with Zack Lockwood’s requirements for resources.

Like the Thousand Refining Dark Fruit, it could also increase a warrior’s rank by one.

How could there be such a coincidence in this world?

Two sacred fruits within two days.

If others learned that Zack Lockwood had consumed a body-type sacred fruit, they would be shocked to the core.

Buzz!

Suddenly, his watch buzzed.

Then he saw faction leader Clifford asking them to attend the meeting.

“This kid?”

“I don’t know how many meetings I’m going to attend because of him,” Austin said to himself with a smile.

Swoosh!

He then left his residence.

Meeting Hall:

Shortly afterwards,

Everyone arrived at the meeting hall.

Old man Clifford was already sitting in his seat.

“Austin, it looks like Vince has set his gaze on Zack Lockwood,” old man Clifford said in a solemn tone.

“If he really does something, then I might die along with him,” Austin said in a cold tone.

He knew that faction leaders were half-step Red Mark warriors.

They could easily kill Purple Mark warriors.

If such a thing happened, he was ready to die.

“He is just a dying old man.

He has been at the half-step stage for so many years.

I don’t think he will take the next step,” Leola’s voice sounded.

“They don’t know about Zack’s three elements.

If other factions learned this information, then everyone would attack him for sure,” Ann added this time.

Hearing that, the atmosphere turned solemn.

“Faction Leader, like we discussed before, why don’t we give resources to Zack to reach Peak General Stage?” Cathy’s pleasant voice sounded.

Austin’s eyes narrowed.

He thought of something important before asking, “Faction Leader, what do you think of that Sacred Purple Lightning Fruit?”

Hearing that, everyone turned towards Austin.

“Are you seriously thinking that they will use sacred fruit as a bet?” old man Clifford asked.

“I think it’s a scam.

They might want to use a duel to test Zack Lockwood's strength," Leola said.

"You are right, Leola!"

"Faction Leader, I think we should not allow Zack to accept the duel.

So far, no one has paid attention to him."

"If the other faction leaders and main elders see him in real life, then his three elements will be exposed," Ann voiced her concern.

"I agree with Elder Ann.

We should not let him go and accept the challenge.

Wait for him to become a Black Mark warrior first.

Then he will be considered an asset for the Star University," Cathy added.

Quiet!

The room went quiet for a moment.

Old man Clifford frowned.

"Why don't we use his injury as an excuse to avoid the duel?" Clifford asked.

...

From MC's Perspective:

Boom!

I pushed the humanoid metal puppet slightly.

It flung backward like a broken kite before hitting the wall.

Seeing that, my eyes narrowed.

I looked at my hand and clenched my fist.

The General Rank Body Strength was stronger than I had expected.

I had not even used any technique.

This humanoid metal puppet was capable of withstanding average Commander Rank strength.

Yet it flew back like dust.

I sat cross-legged on the ground to take a rest.

On a whim, I decided to watch the online post.

I was curious to see whether there were any articles about me.

I had left the infirmary; there should be some news by now.

When the news feed appeared, my gaze immediately fell on the trending topics.

The next second, my pupils shrink.

“Challenge post?”

“What happened to him?”

“Did he break through?”

I wondered about Ronnie Seth.

Last time, he was defeated at my hands.

Not only that, he lost to my virtual avatars in the first few rounds at the Virtual Training Lab.

Then my gaze fell on the bet.

I became curious.

But when I read the item he put up for the bet, my heart skipped a beat for a second.

“Sacred Purple Lightning Fruit!”

“Don’t tell me.

It’s the same thing again,” I asked myself.

I felt it was too good to be true.

I had just gotten one and used it to become Early General.

Now that I was searching for purple lightning resources, I saw the exact sacred fruit for my purple lightning.

For a second, I didn't know how to respond.

"Should I accept the challenge?" I asked myself.

Then I realized I had this abnormal purple lightning.

Even if he had a breakthrough, I should be able to defeat him.

Then I opened my handle and found Ronnie Seth's challenge post.

I smiled and began to reply to his challenge post.

"I accept your challenge!"

After writing it, I submitted the post.

Chapter 1067: Dean Jerome's solution

Star University:

Dean Jerome returns to his office.

His return was not known to anyone.

He has a worrisome expression on his face, as if a huge pressure has been weighing on him.

“The foreign creatures has been increasing lately.

On the other hand, we are losing the number of warriors.”

“If this goes on, we will face extinction,” Jerome muttered to himself.

He and the other forces didn’t have any other choice but to recruit more warriors and help them grow.

That’s why they have recruited young warriors from the inner post region.

From the recent reports, he thinks that he might have to recruit young warriors from the inner post region again.

After pushing down these thoughts, he activated the device and began looking for notifications and updates.

While going through it, he tapped on the screen.

He opened the latest news on the second tab.

His eyes immediately caught the headlines of the trending topic.

[Dark Variant Faction’s Sacred Fruit Bet on Zack Lockwood’s duel!]

“Hmmm,” Jerome raised his eyebrows in surprise.

Among the Outer Hall Warriors, he could only remember the names of a few people.

Among them, Zack Lockwood's name was first.

He knows Zack Lockwood's true talent, with the three elements and super grade above cultivation talent.

He believes that Zack Lockwood has the potential to reach the Red Mark Warrior level.

Maybe the future of the land rests on youngsters like Zack Lockwood.

So he plans on investing in Zack Lockwood.

He recalled the faction leader's latest request to provide purple lightning resources to Zack Lockwood.

The reason for this was that the Thunderflame Faction wants Zack Lockwood to become a Black Mark Warrior as soon as possible.

The old man was also aware of recent attacks on Zack Lockwood.

It was because of his order that the Intelligence Unit found the traces of Gold Mark Warrior Rupert quickly.

He had read the report about that killer Rupert as well.

At that time, he felt fortunate that Zack Lockwood's identity was made public on time.

It would provide a safety net for Zack Lockwood.

When it comes to the killer Rupert, he has decided to confront Dean Toby about this later.

Right now, he is more interested in this news.

He clicked the article to read it.

His eyes flashed with surprise.

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It was revealed that sacred fruits grow in powerful secret lands.

So he thinks it must have been given by Vince.

Otherwise, their Leader and Main Elders wouldn't allow that kid Ronnie to make a bet like that.

Dean Jerome's mouth curved into an arc.

"He does not have many years left.

Why is he stirring up trouble?" he said to himself.

Suddenly, he saw a new article appear on the second tab.

[New Update: Zack Lockwood Accepts the Challenge!]

"This?" Dean Jerome was taken aback.

"This kid, why is he so hasty?" Jerome shook his head.

Thunderflame Faction:

The Faction Leader, Clifford, and the main elders are discussing.

Their opinions are divided.

Austin thinks it's a good chance to obtain the Purple Lightning Sacred Fruit.

Because it's not easy to get from outside.

It's possible only when a powerful secret land opens up.

But still, there is a month left for that.

While Main Elders Ann, Leola, and Cathy were on one side, they didn't want Zack Lockwood to participate.

If the Dark Variant Faction learns about Zack Lockwood's three elements, then they would do everything to kill Zack Lockwood.

Old man Clifford was stuck between them.

He knows the danger of exposing Zack Lockwood's three elements right now.

But he couldn't deny Austin's opinion either.

If Zack Lockwood becomes a Black Mark Warrior, then no one could do anything to him.

Because Black Mark Warriors and above are important assets for Star University and their whole Tier-4 region.

Killings were forbidden over small matters.

Buzz!

Suddenly, old man Clifford gets a summoning call from Dean Jerome.

Seeing that, he stood up in excitement.

He was waiting for Dean Jerome's arrival.

Since he is here, he has decided to ask him.

The Main Elders are surprised.

"Dean is back.

He has summoned me.

I'm going to ask him about this," old man Clifford said.

"Okay!"

Hearing that, everyone agreed.

No one objected.

They knew that Dean Jerome had high hopes for Zack Lockwood as well.

He won't make any bad judgment.

Shortly afterward,

Faction Leader Clifford enters Dean Jerome's office.

"Dean," Clifford seated himself.

"Sit," Jerome said.

Hearing that, Clifford took a seat.

Both are old men, but Dean Jerome is many hundreds of years older than Clifford.

"I don't know whether you and the main elders are sleeping at the Thunderflame Faction," old man Jerome asked with a smile.

"Hmmm," Clifford showed a stupefied expression.

Seeing that, Jerome chuckled and turned the screen towards him.

Old man Clifford was confused.

But when his gaze fell on the headlines, he was dumbfounded.

"How did he make a decision without informing us?" Clifford asked himself in disbelief.

He and the other main elders had a meeting about this a minute ago.

Yet that kid had already made a decision.

When he saw it was posted around ten minutes earlier, he gritted his teeth in anger.

“Now, do you understand?” Dean Jerome asked.

“Dean, we were having a meeting regarding this.

But this kid made a decision without us,” Clifford said with a helpless smile on his face.

Jerome chuckled and said, “Looks like he was aware of the sacred fruit benefits.”

“Dean, it’s risky for him to participate in this duel.

If Vince sees him, then he would know about Zack Lockwood’s three elements,” Clifford said with worry.

“Don’t worry, I have this spare storage ring.

It has additional functions.

First, it can hide the ranks of warriors up to the Red Mark Rank.

Second, it can block three attacks from a Red Mark Warrior.”

“It belongs to my late friend who died in battle a hundred years ago.

Let that kid have it from now on,” Dean Jerome said.

Hearing that, Clifford’s pupils shrank.

He knows the power of the Red Mark Warriors.

He didn't expect such an existence to die in battle.

He believes it must have happened long ago.

Clifford then receives the ring, which is black in color with a simple design.

No one will suspect anything.

"Dean, about the duel!" Clifford asked.

"Let him participate; the purple sacred fruits are not easy to get.

You can't find them in large numbers.

Since he has an opportunity in front of him, let him use it."

"I heard his essence cultivation is still at SSS-Rank.

If he breaks through to reach Commander Rank, then I will give the rest of the purple lightning resources for him to reach up to the Peak Stage General," Jerome said with a smile.

Since he had decided to invest in that kid, he decided to start from this duel.

"Thank you, Dean," Clifford let go of his hanging heart.

"Okay, you can go now.

Make him wear the ring right away,” he said.

Clifford nodded before leaving.

When he was gone from the place, Dean Jerome’s eyes flickered.

“Vince, what do you gain from this duel?” Jerome asked himself.

He thinks that the Dark Variant Faction wants to test Zack Lockwood’s strength for themselves.

Even so, he thinks the purple lightning sacred fruit is too much for a bet.

Shortly afterward,

Old man Clifford returns to the meeting hall.

Surprisingly, everyone was waiting for him.

Since he had told them that he would ask the Dean’s opinion.

They waited to hear it.

“Faction Leader, what did he say?” Austin asked.

A hint of anger appeared in Clifford’s eyes for a second.

Then he told everyone what happened during the small meeting.

About ten minutes later,

Gasp!

"I didn't expect that kid to be stupid at times," Leola said.

"It was a bad decision," Cathy added.

"I think that kid is tempted by the purple lightning sacred fruit.

He has been complaining about the lack of purple lightning resources lately," Ann spoke her mind.

Austin broke out into a cold sweat.

Only he knows why his disciple made such a decision.

Zack had already experienced the benefits of the Thousand Refining Dark Fruit.

The Purple Lightning Sacred Fruit is similar to that.

But he didn't want to say anything about that right now.

Old man Clifford snorted while looking at Austin before summoning Zack Lockwood.

...

Dark Variant Faction:

Ronnie Seth saw replies to his post.

Seeing that, he was shocked.

Then he realized Zack Lockwood must be interested in the bet.

The fruit is something precious for the purple lightning warriors.

After coming back from the meeting hall, he had read so many posts where he learned about the true benefits of the fruit.

He couldn't help but show his envy.

He doesn't know why the Faction Leader and Main Elders agreed to it.

If they wanted to see the duel between him and Zack Lockwood, they could have given him something else for a bet.

But if Zack Lockwood wins the duel, then he would get a breakthrough by a whole rank after consuming the sacred fruit.

He doesn't know why he didn't get one.

Chapter 1068: Red Mark Warrior's Ring

From MC's Perspective:

Buzz!

"Hmmm," I raised my eyebrows upon hearing the notification.

I don't have friends.

It must be Master Austin or Ann.

Then I read the message.

My expression couldn't help but change.

The person who contacted me was the Faction Leader.

Suddenly, I thought of something important.

"It must be about the purple lightning resources that Master spoke about," I said in my heart.

Then I immediately stood up and went to freshen up.

About 20 minutes later,

I'm on my way to the meeting hall.

On the way, I came across other warriors.

They were all discussing something when they saw me.

I knew the reason behind it.

The challenge post reply could have been seen by them.

Shortly afterwards,

I arrived at the meeting hall.

The guard let me inside.

When I arrived at the main door, I opened it to walk inside.

I found that the Faction Leader and the Main Elders were inside.

So I closed the door before reaching the middle of the hall.

Everyone's gaze fell on Zack Lockwood.

Austin sighed.

He thought the Faction Leader would scold Zack Lockwood.

Ann didn't know what to say.

But she decided to interfere if the Faction Leader wanted to punish her disciple.

Main Elders Leola and Cathy said nothing.

But their gazes were penetrating.

"You, when did you breakthrough?" Faction Leader Clifford uttered in shock.

"General Rank Early Stage!" Cathy exclaimed.

Hearing that, Leola and Ann noticed Zack Lockwood's body cultivation as well.

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"It's true.

His body strength is Early General Stage," Leola said with surprise.

Among them, the most surprised was Main Elder Ann.

She thought it must have something to do with Austin.

She was glad that her disciple was able to increase his strength.

"With the Ancient healing method, he can protect himself," she thought.

Austin revealed a helpless smile.

Old man Clifford was about to scold Zack Lockwood, but Zack Lockwood's body strength had caught everyone off guard.

"What's going on?" Old man Clifford's gaze fell on Austin.

Not only him, but others looked at him as well.

"Ha...

Ha...

Ha..., I knew I can't hide it," Austin said with a small laugh.

Then he talked about his encounter when he had checked Late Rupert's storage ring.

Then he told everyone how Zack Lockwood had used the Thousand Refining Dark Fruit to reach the Early General Stage.

Gasp!

A small exclamation sounded in the room.

This time even Leola gasped as well.

How could one have back-to-back encounters?

Zack Lockwood had not only used the Body Sacred Fruit; now he had another opportunity to use the Essence Sacred Fruit.

"Sigh!"

"No wonder you agreed to that Dark Variant Faction kid's challenge," old man Clifford said.

Hearing that, I immediately understood that Master Austin hadn't told them before.

They were surprised to see me.

"Austin, now I understand why you wanted Zack Lockwood to accept the challenge.

With his current strength, he can easily win against the kid," Leola said with a little envy.

How come her own disciples weren't this fortunate?

Cathy felt envious as well.

But they both understood Zack Lockwood's situation.

Their disciples were safe compared to Zack.

Their lives weren't under any threat to the level of Zack Lockwood.

With that, they could find some relief.

"Thankfully, Dean Jerome had given me this storage ring," After saying that, old man Clifford took the black ring out from his storage ring and passed it to Zack Lockwood.

Then he started explaining the storage ring's functions.

I received the storage ring and looked at its simple black design.

I was impressed.

I used blood to recognize myself as the master.

Then I wore it on my left finger.

As I started to hear about the storage ring's function, my heart set off storms.

I looked at the ring in my left hand in disbelief.

When the Faction Leader finished saying everything, I was amazed.

"It can not only hide my strength from the Red Mark Warrior, but it can also block attacks from the Red Mark Warrior three times," I said in my heart.

The Main Elders were once again surprised.

They had heard it before.

But after seeing the ring in reality, they felt the ring was much more valuable.

"Zack, don't tell anyone about this.

It's a Red Mark Warrior Ring.

It's not easy to get.

Even those half-step Red Mark Warriors might not have one, let alone the Purple Mark Warriors," Austin said in a serious tone.

"Don't worry, Master.

I won't tell anyone," I replied.

"Okay, since you have agreed to the challenge, how are you going to fight?" Old Man Clifford asked.

"We fought in the arena duel last time.

It will be the same this time," I answered.

“Arena duel, huh?”

Good,” Clifford replied.

“Don’t show off your body strength at first.

If possible, try defeating him using essence cultivation alone,” he reminded.

“Okay,” I replied.

“Good.

You can go back now,” Old Man Clifford said.

Hearing that, I nodded at everyone before leaving.

Old man Clifford said, “We have to keep an eye on him during the duel.

There is a possibility that someone from the Dark Variant Faction might interfere.”

“We should not let something like that happen,” he added.

Everyone agreed.

Then they spoke about a few other things before ending the meeting.

Meanwhile,

The news of Zack Lockwood’s acceptance had spread across the University.

When the Dark Variant Faction Leader and Main Elders heard it,

Their faces were full of smiles.

No one noticed their conspiracy.

At this moment, they weren't even considering the possibility of Zack Lockwood's defeat.

They had full confidence that Zack Lockwood would win.

If Ronnie Seth learned this, he would be shocked to the core.

On the other hand, the other top factions were closely following the news as well.

Especially the two Bloodline Factions.

These two Bloodline Factions had always wanted to replace the positions of the Thunderflame Faction and Dark Variant Faction among the Top 10 Factions.

Yet they had failed to do so.

Recently, the Blazing Fire Faction was stirring up some noise, which annoyed them even more.

The duel between Ronnie Seth and Zack Lockwood would be a motivating factor for the warriors of the same rank.

Especially for those in the Bloodline Factions.

...

The following day,

After getting ready, I left the residence.

My training yesterday helped me control my General Rank Strength.

As per the Faction Leader's advice, I'm not going to use my body strength.

I will try to use the abnormal power of purple lightning to defeat Ronnie Seth once again.

With that plan, I started walking towards the exit.

While walking, I noticed there were a few warriors on the path.

"Don't tell me they went to the arena," I said in my heart.

Then I continued my walk.

I couldn't help but think about Ronnie Seth.

I wondered whether he had any breakthroughs.

Shortly afterwards,

I walked out of the Thunderflame Faction Territory and headed towards the Outer Hall's Duel Arena.

Meanwhile,

The Duel Arena was filled with people.

Most of them were from the Outer Hall.

All the factions had come here as well, from the top ten to the medium and small-sized factions.

Zack Lockwood had created an amazing story recently.

Not only did he gain the name of Rising Star after defeating a number of warriors in the same rank,

His identity as Main Elder Austin's disciple was also revealed.

Before that news could sink in, everyone heard the news that Zack Lockwood was attacked by a Gold Mark Warrior's Coercion.

Zack Lockwood not only survived that attack; after his discharge, he straight away accepted the challenge post.

People couldn't help but admire his recent feats.

If it were others, they would have been low-key, especially if a Gold Mark Warrior was after their life.

But Zack Lockwood had come out of that quickly.

In the arena building, the top of the viewing deck was filled with faction leaders and main elders.

There were four viewing decks.

The Thunderflame Faction Leader and Main Elders were in one of those decks.

The Dark Variant Faction people were on the opposite deck.

The viewing decks on both sides were occupied by the other Top 10 Factions.

Among the top 10 factions, the elemental factions stayed together, and the two Bloodline Factions sat together.

The medium and small-sized factions occupied considerable seats in the arena.

Old man Clifford couldn't help but smile looking at the atmosphere.

"I never thought for one Outer Hall warrior's duel there would be this crowd," he said.

"People are more interested in finding out how Zack survived from the Gold Mark Warrior's coercion," Cathy said with a smile.

"We know that it's all because of Main Elder Ann and you guys.

I heard that kid used a calming mind pearl as well," Old Man Clifford replied.

"My disciple should be thanking his physique as well.

He is also cultivating the ancient healing method.

Both of them combined give him chances of survival," Ann said all of a sudden.

"Let's hope no one finds out today," Austin said.

Leola smiled as well.

Chapter 1069: Part 1: Duel Arena (Second Fight)

From MC's Perspective:

About 23 minutes later,

I arrived at the duel arena.

I could see people going toward the entrance.

But for the challengers, there is a different entrance.

I started walking straight toward the office building.

The warriors who were walking past recognized my face.

I could see surprise on their faces.

I nodded at them before increasing my pace.

When I reached the office, I spotted the Outer Hall Elders inside.

After entering, I asked them about Ronnie Seth.

They told me Ronnie Seth was yet to come.

Hearing that, I decided to enter the arena first.

Then I began walking toward the back door.

Creak!

After arriving at the door, I opened it.

Then I saw a wide view of the duel arena.

The audience was seated on all four sides.

There was also a viewing deck on all four sides.

Compared to the last duel arena match, the crowd and hype seemed to be higher.

With a smile on my face, I entered the arena and made my way toward the duel platform.

On the other hand, Zack Lockwood's picture was shown on the big screen.

Cheer!

The audience started cheering loudly.

...

Dark Variant Faction's viewing deck:

"Faction Leader, that kid is here," one of the main leaders reminded him.

Hearing that, Vince and the other main elders shifted their attention to the duel platform.

Vince's old eyes were observing Zack Lockwood's every movement.

He saw that kid entering the duel platform.

He tried to see through that kid.

But he didn't find anything.

Then he once again tried to see Zack Lockwood's strength.

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Old man Vince felt a barrier.

"Hmmm," his mouth curved into an arc.

"The Thunderflame Faction invested heavily in that kid," he thought.

There are artifacts that can hide the strength of warriors.

But he was surprised by the fact that the Thunderflame Faction had given an artifact to this kid that could prevent his prying.

He thought that Clifford had given his own artifact to that kid.

As he figured it out, he sneered.

“They wouldn’t have imagined in their wildest dreams that the Purple Lightning Sacred Fruit was poisoned,” he said in his heart.

He thought it would be even difficult for Dean Jerome to find a cure.

“Ah!”

“What’s happening?”

“There is a barrier protecting that kid’s strength.”

The Main Elders had tried their best as well.

Then they immediately understood what was going on.

“Don’t waste your energy.

The old dog of the Thunderflame Faction has spent a lot of money,” Vince said in a mocking tone.

“So, that’s why!”

“The Faction Leader was right.

That kid is going to be dead anyway.

We shouldn’t get tense about small things.”

The Main Elders spoke to each other.

...

Elemental Factions' viewing deck:

Faction Leader Elmer is sitting with other elemental faction leaders.

Everyone is non stop questioning him about the recent actions against the Thunderflame Faction.

But he carefully avoided answering them.

Then commotion outside drew everyone's attention.

The Faction Leaders and Main Elders of the Elemental Factions' gazes fell on a warrior entering the platform.

"So he is the kid who got the nickname of Rising Star!"

"He is Zack Lockwood!"

"Not bad!"

"He doesn't look scared!"

"To think he was attacked by a Gold Mark Warrior a couple of days ago."

"Let's see whether the rumors about him are true or not."

The Main Elders spoke one after another.

...

Bloodline Factions' viewing deck:

The Faction Leaders of the Bloodline Factions are two middle-aged women.

They both have contrasting personalities.

It's also the first time for them to appear in public after a long time.

A woman whose eyes and face were cold was staring at the duel platform.

She was dressed in blue clothes.

When her gaze fell on a famous kid, an emotion appeared in her eyes.

She has the bloodline of a Human Ancestor.

His name was Dylan Ball.

Her name is Francesca Ball.

She has black hair and blue eyes.

Her skin tone is fair.

She is from the powerful bloodline family, the Ball Family.

The bloodline and inheritance passed down from the ancestor is the water element.

Compared to water among the elements, their bloodline water element was mutated.

It's dense and hot.

It's like boiling water.

Whereas the woman next to her has the powerful bloodline of a Monster.

She is wearing red clothes.

Her name is Bethany Sutton.

Her eyes and hair are black.

She has a fair skin tone.

Her height is similar to Francesca's at 5.9 ft tall.

Her Sutton Family has a powerful monster bloodline of a Celestial Fire Bird.

Both of them are powerful Red Mark Warriors despite their young age compared to other faction leaders.

The Main Elders behind them are curious like the other factions.

They wanted to confirm with their eyes whether the rumors were true or not.

Bethany casually looks at Francesca.

She finds her gaze unsettling.

She seems to be serious.

“Francesca, what happened?” Bethany asked.

Francesca recovered her thoughts and replied, “Nothing, I just tried to see through him, but that kid has an artifact to block the prying eyes.”

“What?

“Old man Clifford was really generous,” Bethany said with a smile.

What she didn’t notice was Francesca’s eyes flashing with a strange emotion.

“What’s happening?”

“Why do I feel a close connection to a random kid?” she said in her heart.

Her feelings were never wrong.

But she felt an intense connection just a second ago.

...

Duel platform:

I’m standing on the platform.

Ronnie Seth was yet to come.

“Why is he taking so long?” I said in my heart.

On the other hand, Ronnie Seth came to the arena entrance with a wide grin on his face.

Last night, he had broken through and become a Commander Rank-Mid Stage Warrior.

He had broken through the early stage not long ago.

But last night’s breakthrough was a coincidence and a surprise.

He thinks that the intense pressure he faced had helped him.

With a smile on his face, he enters the arena.

He then saw the Outer Hall Elders.

After learning that Zack Lockwood had come before him, he sprinted toward the back door.

Creak!

He reached the door, then opened it to walk into the arena.

The next second, Ronnie Seth’s image was shown on the screen.

Cheers!

A loud cheer sounded across the arena.

His gaze fell on the duel platform.

Seeing Zack Lockwood standing there, his mouth curved into an arc.

He didn't know whether Zack Lockwood had broken through or not.

But he thought that with his current strength, the chances of failure were not high.

He then quickly reached the platform and stood opposite Zack Lockwood.

On the other hand, my eyes flashed with surprise.

"Commander-Mid Stage!"

"When did he have two successive breakthroughs?" I asked in my heart.

Then I realized he might have broken through after the virtual duel.

The last time I saw him, he was at the SSS-ELITE Rank Peak Stage.

Ronnie smiled upon seeing Zack Lockwood's surprised gaze.

He had not only surprised Zack but also the Faction Leader and Main Elders in the Dark Variant Faction.

"This kid is good!"

"Provide him more resources.

He might reach the Purple Mark Rank quickly,” Faction Leader Vince commented.

Hearing that, the Main Elders were all shocked.

Then they realized they had underestimated their own talent.

At the same time, the other factions, from small and medium-sized to the other Top 10 Factions, were observing Ronnie Seth’s strength.

In the Thunderflame Faction, there was no tension.

The Faction Leader Clifford and the Main Elders were talking leisurely after learning about Zack Lockwood’s General Rank strength yesterday.

They were not worried about today’s result.

Ronnie Seth’s strength had piqued their curiosity.

They felt bad that such a talented warrior was on the side of the Dark Variant Faction.

On the duel platform:

Both of our eyes met.

I could see fighting intentions in his eyes.

“Zack, I will try my best to defeat you.

It will be better than previous duels," Ronnie said with a smile.

"Okay," I replied.

Swoosh!

An Outer Hall Elder appeared all of a sudden.

He was going to be the referee.

"Where is your bet?" the referee asked.

He was an old man in his seventies.

Ronnie Seth took out the Purple Lightning Sacred Fruit from his storage ring and gave it to the Elder.

The Outer Hall Elder already had a box prepared.

He stored the sacred fruit inside.

Then he placed the box in his storage ring before looking at us.

"Are you guys ready?" the referee asked.

We both nodded our heads.

"Okay, there will be no killing.

As long as one gives up, the other person will be declared the winner," the referee said.

We both agreed.

The whole arena was silent.

Everyone could hear the elder's voice.

Currently, the scenes were playing live on the big screen as well.

I looked at Ronnie Seth before taking out the black sword and holding it in my right hand.

A purple lightning arcs appeared around me.

Ronnie Seth cracked a grin.

He was simply going to fight using his physique.

The next second, a dark lightning arcs covered his body as well.

Chapter 1070: Part 2: Duel Arena (Second Fight)

From MC's Perspective:

Duel Arena:

"Fight!" the referee shouted.

In the next second, Ronnie Seth dashed forward to attack.

I held the sword and charged towards him.

When we got closer, I swung my sword, aiming to injure his fist.

Ronnie Seth confidently threw a punch to attack.

Swoosh!

The blade was covered with purple lightning.

In the blink of an eye, the sword blade made contact with the fist covered in Dark Lightning.

Ka-boom!

The abnormal purple lightning extinguished the dark lightning.

The next second, the impact force sent us both equally backward.

“Impossible!”

Ronnie looked at his fist in disbelief.

He knew that with each breakthrough in a warrior’s rank, the elemental power grew along with it.

His Dark Lightning was stronger than before.

People of the same rank should find it hard to withstand it.

Yet Zack Lockwood extinguished his lightning.

Ronnie's expression grew serious.

He suspected Zack Lockwood had broken through to the Commanded Rank as well.

So this fight wouldn't have any advantages or disadvantages.

Swoosh!

He then rushed out to attack again.

On the other hand, I used the purple lightning to cover the sword again.

The usage of the technique would deplete the purple essence faster.

So I decided to defeat him using simple purple lightning sword moves.

Ka-boom!

We clashed again, then retreated backward because of the impact force.

Cheers!

The audience was cheering loudly.

As they had guessed, the duel was not one-sided.

Both warriors were talented.

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It was just that Zack Lockwood was one step ahead of Ronnie Seth.

...

Thunderflame Faction Viewing Deck:

“Commander Rank Mid Stage indeed!” Faction Leader Clifford said to himself.

The other Main Elders appreciated the talent of Ronnie Seth, as not many could fight toe to toe against Zack Lockwood.

Austin was relaxed.

He knew his disciple had a growth-type purple lightning seed.

The powerful purple lightning could easily cause heavy damage to Ronnie Seth.

But he was watching as his disciple did not use Lightning Techniques.

He was simply channeling the purple lightning outside of his body to cover the sword blade.

It was a crude move without a technique.

He thought that his disciple wanted to take time before defeating his friend.

Ann was watching the arena duel with a serious expression on her face.

She had heard of Ronnie Seth as well; that kid had a good reputation.

So she didn't think any underhanded tactics would be involved.

...

Dark Variant Faction's Viewing Deck:

Faction Leader Vince was watching the duel with keen interest.

He was observing Zack Lockwood more than his own faction members.

He had caught a glimpse when the purple lightning extinguished the dark lightning.

That only happens when someone is fighting against a strong Lightning Warrior.

He couldn't see through Zack Lockwood's strength; otherwise, he would have planned something earlier.

Now they could only rely on the Purple Lightning Sacred Fruit.

...

The other factions were watching the duel with keen eyes.

Both warriors were fighting intensely.

Everyone saw them exchange a couple of moves within minutes.

In the Bloodline Faction, Francesca Ball was watching the duel with a serious expression.

Looking at her, everyone thought she was taking the simple duel more seriously.

Only Bethany Sutton thought there was something more to this.

Her friend normally wouldn't be interested in low-rank warriors' duels.

They had come here to join others, but Bethany didn't expect Francesca's expression to change.

She decided to ask later.

She then turned her attention back to the duel.

...

The Elemental Factions' people were dumbfounded.

Everyone saw that both warriors were just testing each other's strength; they had yet to fight seriously.

Blazing Fire Faction's Leader Elmer squinted his gaze.

He felt Zack Lockwood was worthy of the disciple's position.

Because Ronnie Seth had revealed his strength as a Commander Rank Mid Stage Warrior.

Though they couldn't see Zack Lockwood's strength.

He didn't think Zack Lockwood had reached Commander Rank as well.

When Zack Lockwood had been attacked a few days ago, everyone knew that his strength was at SSS-RANK.

So he didn't think he could reach Commander Rank in just a few days unless he had consumed a sacred fruit.

But he didn't think so.

That's why he was looking favorably at Zack Lockwood.

If Zack Lockwood was truly fighting across ranks right now, then no one could question his disciple status.

"Maybe my disciples can defeat him," Elmer said in his heart.

All of his disciples were Black Mark and above, so none of them were in the Outer Hall.

Otherwise, they would have crossed paths long ago.

It was the same case with other faction leaders and main elders.

Their disciples were all Black Mark and above.

Maybe Zack Lockwood was the first one in a long time who was accepted as a Main Elder's Disciple even before reaching the Black Mark Rank.

...

Duel Arena:

Purple lightning and Dark Lightning arcs covered the platform.

A few of the tiles were already destroyed.

They couldn't withstand the power of the lightning arcs.

The referee retreated a couple of steps from the duel platform.

He didn't want to get attacked by sudden lightning.

There was no formation covering the duel platform.

Only the audience was protected by a barrier that could block the attacks.

"Zack, I think we should start the real fight," Ronnie Seth said.

"Okay," I replied.

"Dark Lightning Palm!"

Ronnie Seth executed an offensive technique.

A big dark palm appeared above the platform.

Its appearance caused a stir.

One hit from the big dark palm could cause serious injury.

On the other hand, I smirked.

“Sword Divide!”

I performed the offensive technique as well.

The black sword in my hand absorbed the purple essence from my palm.

In the blink of an eye, the sword blade flickered with purple lightning.

It contained huge power.

Boom!

When the huge dark palm descended toward him, he saw the palm was covered with dark lightning.

Boom!

He simply swung his sword at the dark palm.

A purple sword beam burst out from the sword and shot at the dark palm.

In a flash, it reached the dark palm and tore through it like paper.

Ka-boom!

The dark lightning palm exploded in the sky.

Pfff!

The next second, it caused backlash for Ronnie Seth.

He coughed up blood and was forced to take a couple of steps backward.

“How is it possible?”

Shock and disbelief appeared on Ronnie’s face.

It was clearly a Commander Rank Mid Stage palm attack.

Then how could he destroy it?

He knew about Zack Lockwood’s strength, which was still at SSS-ELITE Rank before he got attacked by the Gold Mark Warrior.

“Did he consume any powerful treasures to recover from?”

“Then he must have recovered and raised his strength,” Ronnie Seth thought to himself.

He believed this was the most logical answer.

“Dark Lightning Walls!”

Ronnie Seth executed a powerful dark lightning technique again.

It immediately covered his body with dark lightning arcs.

Boom!

He then burst out with great speed.

Everyone saw Ronnie Seth leaving behind a trail of dark lightning bolts.

On the other hand, my eyes flickered.

I noticed he was not using a movement technique.

Rather, it was a powerful technique that temporarily raised the strength of his body.

So he was using his body strength to burst out with great speed.

After figuring it out, I realized Ronnie Seth had greatly improved since the last duel.

I had underestimated him before.

“Lightning Wheel!”

Then I executed my lightning defensive technique.

My mastery over the skill was better than before.

So when the purple lightning appeared, it quickly stabilized.

There was no risk of imbalance or poor elemental control.

It wouldn’t explode unless I wanted it to.

Ronnie Seth was startled.

He was familiar with the technique, but he was also confident in his own dark lightning technique at the same time.

Swoosh!

He appeared in front of Zack Lockwood in the blink of an eye.

He collided with the purple lightning wheel while dark lightning covered his body.

Ka-boom!

A powerful explosion occurred, sending Ronnie Seth flying backward.

His body soared before hitting the ground.

His clothes were torn apart.

There was no sign of dark lightning covering his body.

Instead, small purple lightning arcs could be seen rampaging over him.

Ronnie Seth was electrocuted by the abnormal purple lightning.

He was currently experiencing paralysis and couldn't move his body.

On the other hand, the impact force sent me a couple of steps backward.

His dark lightning failed to do anything.

His body was completely shattered by the purple lightning.

I stabilized myself before looking toward Ronnie Seth.

Seeing that he was down and twitching, I understood what was going on.

Ronnie Seth's physique was weak and not comparable to mine.

So the purple lightning was rampaging through his body.

He wouldn't be getting up anytime soon.

Cheers!

The audience let out roaring cheers.

They witnessed how both warriors executed their lightning techniques.

Ronnie Seth's dark lightning was destroyed by Zack Lockwood's purple lightning.

There was a clear gap in power between the two elemental lightning users.