

BloodLine 1071

Chapter 1071: Inspecting the fruit!

From MC's Perspective:

Duel Arena:

"Zack Lockwood is the winner," the referee said.

His voice sounded across the duel arena.

Everyone heard it loud and clear.

The next second, the announcement brought a round of applause and cheers.

Cheer!

My mouth curved into an arc.

The referee then took out the box before giving it to me.

I accepted the box and stored it inside the storage ring.

Swoosh!

A figure appeared all of a sudden, startling both of us.

The figure was none other than the Dark Variant Faction Leader, Vince.

His deep gaze fell on Zack Lockwood, trying to see through him.

On the other hand, I felt a sense of crisis.

An invisible pressure gripped my heart.

The old referee was even more petrified, not a word coming from his mouth.

Everyone was watching the scene on the big screen.

Among the audience, some of the warriors were sucking cold breaths of air.

Swoosh!

“Old Vince, what are you doing?”

A voice sounded, relieving me from the pressure.

Then I saw Faction Leader Clifford standing beside me.

Clifford looked deep into the eyes of Vince and said, “Are you going to make trouble?”

“Ha...Ha...Ha.”

“Clifford, you have given such expensive things to this kid.

Even this old man is envious,” Vince said.

He was speaking about the ring.

Old man Clifford understood immediately.

"If it's nothing else, goodbye," After saying that, he grabbed Zack Lockwood's shoulder before leaving the place.

Vince's eyes flickered.

He was putting psychological pressure on that kid.

If it were other low-order warriors, they would have fainted on the spot.

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But the kid was able to manage it for seconds.

"Interesting," his eyes flashed cold before taking Ronnie Seth from the platform.

Phew!

The old man referee breathed in relief.

He was facing the invisible pressure as well.

But the pressure was not directed at him; otherwise, his expression would have been worse than Zack's.

Old man Clifford took me directly to the Thunderflame Faction.

Fortunately, he arrived on time.

Otherwise, I don't know what would have happened.

I felt no good intentions from the old man earlier.

"Zack, you did well.

That old man earlier was the faction leader of the Dark Variant Faction.

Our two factions are deadly rivals.

Just a few seconds ago, he was putting psychological pressure on you."

"But you performed well," Clifford said with a smile.

Hearing that, a look of understanding dawned on me.

Meanwhile,

The Thunderflame Faction Main Elders left the viewing deck.

They had seen what happened.

Austin's face was ugly.

He hated the old man Vince of the Dark Variant Faction.

But he couldn't do anything to the Half-step Red Mark Warrior.

A firm glint flashed in his eyes.

After a long time, he felt challenged.

His old fire rekindled.

He wanted to reach Half-step Red Mark Rank soon.

Elder Ann, Leola, and Cathy followed him to leave the arena.

...

Bloodline Faction:

“Wow, that kid was indeed strong.

He performed better than the rumors.

His purple lightning electrocuted the lightning warrior.

It shows that even the opponent couldn't withstand the purple lightning element,” Bethany Sutton said with a smile.

Francesca Ball was carrying a solemn expression as well.

She found a strange commotion with Zack Lockwood, but she couldn't explain it.

Bethany noticed Francesca was absent-minded.

“Let’s go back to our faction.

It’s time for others to practice hard,” Bethany said.

Francesca recovered her thoughts and decided to leave.

Bethany didn’t say anything and left with her main elders.

Meanwhile,

The Elemental Factions were taken aback by the outcome.

Apart from the Blazing Fire Faction Elder Elmer, the others wore shocking expressions on their faces.

“Lightning is also an element, but ours is not this destructive,” one of the faction leaders commented.

“For the time being, no one should trouble this kid.

Clifford has shown his protectiveness.

It’s not wise to anger him,” a female faction leader said.

Swoosh!

Everyone came to an agreement.

Then they left the place one after another.

On the other hand, the warriors were leaving the spectator area.

Everyone had wished for a long duel, but the duel ended rather easily.

The opponent was not strong enough to defeat Zack Lockwood.

...

Meeting Hall;

Old man Clifford dropped Zack Lockwood in the hall before sitting back in his seat.

I controlled my emotions.

The power of the Half-step Red Mark was something.

He brought me here after taking one or two steps.

Swoosh!

One after another, the main elders landed inside the meeting hall.

After glancing at the Faction Leader and Zack Lockwood, they sat in their seats.

“Zack, you did well!”

Master Austin praised me.

After that, one after another, the main elders praised me.

It was the first time for me to see all of their smiling faces, including Elder Leola and Elder Cathy, who were smiling as well.

“Zack, give me the sacred fruit.

I’m going to check it,” Old Man Clifford said.

Hearing that, I gave him the box without saying anything.

Old man Clifford appreciated my attitude before taking the box.

All the main elders’ gazes were on the box.

Swoosh!

Clifford uncovered the box before taking out the Purple Lightning Sacred Fruit.

Gasp!

The main elders were all surprised.

It’s not like you can see this fruit every day.

Even Austin was tempted, but he erased his desire the next second.

Old man Clifford’s eyes brightened.

He was trying to check whether it was good or fake.

He knew about the old man Vince.

He didn't think that old man Vince would be willing to use the Purple Lightning Sacred Fruit.

His eyes scanned the fruit.

Austin and the others understood his intentions.

Their expressions grew serious as well.

They never thought of this possibility.

If the fruit was fake or something, then Zack Lockwood would have fought for nothing.

On the other hand, I was feeling bad as well.

I knew that the Dark Variant Faction Leader was unkind.

There was a possibility of him doing something to the Purple Lightning Sacred Fruit.

A few minutes later,

Old man Clifford said, "I didn't sense anything in it.

But my intuition tells me something is wrong.

Old man Vince was not someone who would give a sacred fruit for nothing."

Hearing that, everyone's expression turned worse.

“Elder, give it to me,” Austin said.

Hearing that, Clifford tossed it to him.

When Austin accepted it, he tried to see through it as well.

But he didn’t sense anything wrong with it.

Similarly, Elder Ann checked the fruit as well.

Followed by,

Elder Leola and Cathy.

No one saw anything wrong.

If they learned that old man Vince used the extremely rare single-horn lightning snake’s poison,

they would be shocked to the core.

That poison is something not easily seen by a Red Mark Warrior, let alone a Half-step Red Mark Warrior.

That’s why old man Vince was confident in doing what he did.

When everyone made their observations, the fruit finally came to my hands.

I immediately felt a throbbing sensation.

I stored the fruit in the box before placing it in the ring.

“Zack, you can leave now,” Old man Clifford said.

Hearing that, I nodded to him, the masters, and the main elders before leaving the place.

About 10 minutes later,

I returned to the residence.

The first thing I did was enter the bathroom.

The bath lasted for 20 minutes.

After walking out of the bath, I changed into comfortable clothes.

Then I returned to the room and took out the sacred fruit.

Looking at the purple lightning arc, my eyes flickered.

“Why do I feel something strange as well?” I said in my heart.

I felt no hurry in consuming the fruit right now.

I will do it tomorrow.

Then I placed the fruit back in the storage ring.

...

Meanwhile,

Dark Variant Faction Leader Vince was at his place.

His eyes flashed with a sinister look.

He couldn't wait to know whether that kid Zack Lockwood had consumed the fruit or not.

But he thought that kid would die in a few hours.

On the other hand, Ronnie Seth was undergoing treatment.

About 20 minutes later,

He was able to move his body.

Then he immediately checked his condition.

Seeing that there were no serious injuries, he sighed in relief.

Now, he seemed to realize something.

The purple lightning of Zack was stronger than before.

Last time, he hadn't felt such power.

He had even fought for a couple of rounds before losing to him.

But today, he was defeated in just a few more rounds.

Both of them were Lightning warriors.

Then why such a difference?

His dark lightning was supposed to be strong and corrosive to others' elements.

But his dark lightning had been completely crushed by Zack's purple lightning.

He then thought of the sacred fruit.

His eyes flashed with envy.

He realized it was difficult for him to catch up to Zack Lockwood from here on out.

He wondered whether their faction still had any sacred fruits left.

He decided to ask the main elder later.

But the faction leader and the main elders had left a bad impression on him.

He didn't know whether it was good to ask them.

Chapter 1072: Suspense is killing them!

From MC's Perspective:

The following day,

I reached the Golden Lightning Palace early in the morning.

After going inside, I made my way towards the Essence Chamber.

On the way, I saw a few warriors practicing in the courtyard.

My eyes flashed with surprise.

“Junior brother, Zack!”

“You did well by defeating the Dark Variant Faction Warrior!”

They said to me, Hearing that, I responded with a smile.

To think their attitude had changed all of a sudden.

I guess it’s because of the identity reveal.

Shortly afterwards,

I arrived at the essence chamber facility.

No one was here.

I walked to the first chamber before showing my ID to scan.

Creak!

The door opened.

I walked inside.

The door behind me closed automatically.

Then I walked up to the console and activated the chamber.

Buzz!

World energy started to come in from the inlet.

Slowly, white mist began to cover the essence chamber.

Seeing that, I stepped onto the platform and sat cross-legged.

I closed my eyes and focused on my strength.

My essence is at the Peak of SSS-ELITE, one step away from reaching the border.

I have this vague feeling that I could reach the Commander Rank – Early Stage in a few days.

So I decided to consume the fruit after reaching the Commander Rank – Early.

In this way, I will reach the General Rank – Early after the consumption of the sacred fruit.

After making the decision, I started running the lightning method.

The Star rune in my consciousness began to flicker.

Slowly, the purple energy from the world energy started entering my body.

If anyone from outside looked at the scene, they could see purple dots covering my body.

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When the purple energy entered my body, I began to circulate the energy.

The purple energy coursed through my veins, traveling according to the specified path mentioned in the lightning method.

After circulation, the refined purple energy entered my dantian and settled down.

I continued to repeat the process.

Time passed,

I forgot about the outside noise and time.

I got immersed in this slow process.

But I had this feeling that I would touch the barrier soon.

Meanwhile,

Austin was overseeing the warriors' practice.

He couldn't help but glance at the essence chamber when he first came in that morning.

One of the members informed him that Zack had entered the essence chamber early that morning.

“This kid didn’t inform me,” Austin muttered to himself.

Time passed,

When it was nearly noon, the other Main Elders inquired about Zack Lockwood.

They were eager to know whether Zack Lockwood had consumed the fruit or not.

Austin told them what he knew.

He didn’t know what was happening inside the chamber.

He could only wait outside until Zack exited.

Similarly, the faction leader Clifford inquired about Zack.

After learning that Zack was in retreat, he ended the call.

...

Dark Variant Faction:

The Faction Leader Vince and the main elders had gathered inside the meeting hall.

Old man Vince was close to biting his own nails.

The anticipation was high.

But there was no noise from the Thunderflame Faction.

“Faction Leader, that kid should have died by now,” one of the main elders said.

“We don’t know what’s happening in the Thunderflame Faction.

Ask members to find out the details,” old man Vince said.

They may not contact the Thunderflame Faction directly.

But there are other factions that were on friendly terms with them.

Time passed,

It didn’t take long for the elder to reply.

“Faction Leader, the Thunderflame is operating as usual.

There was no major incident reported,” he said.

“Impossible!”

“Did they find any cure?”

The Main Elders exclaimed.

They knew about the single horn lightning snake.

It's a rare monster among the lightning creatures.

Its poison was something that couldn't be dealt with by the Red Mark Warrior.

Old man Vince frowned.

The suspense was ruining his mood.

"Ask someone to gather news from the Golden Lightning Palace.

That kid must be practicing inside that place," old man Vince said.

Hearing that, the elder nodded his head before leaving.

...

Similarly,

There are other factions that are keeping an eye on the news.

In the Human Bloodline Faction, Francesca Ball was at her residence.

She was thinking about the duel arena, where she felt a strange connection with Zack Lockwood.

She didn't know why; she couldn't explain this feeling either.

Swoosh!

Bethany Sutton appeared without informing her.

"I knew it.

Something is on your mind.

Tell me about it," Bethany asked.

Francesca looked at her before saying, "Do you remember that kid Zack Lockwood?"

Bethany rolled her eyes at her and replied, "The one who won the arena duel yesterday.

You were there as well.

So what about it?"

"I felt a strange feeling from that kid.

I don't know what it is," Francesca said.

"Feeling?" Bethany muttered.

She then thought of something before saying, "It happens when there is bloodline induction."

Francesca was stunned.

Something clicked in her mind.

The strange feeling that had been bothering her was nothing but a bloodline induction.

“How is it possible?” she asked in surprise.

Bethany, beside her, seemed to think of something.

She said, “Yes, it’s impossible.

If he were a bloodline warrior, people would have known.

Certainly, he doesn’t have any bloodline in his body.”

“That kid won using the powerful purple lightning element,” she added.

Francesca collected her thoughts before replying, “You are right.

He is not a bloodline warrior.

The bloodline warriors need suitable methods to practice as well.”

“It’s impossible for the family method to exist outside,” she added.

“So that’s why you are confused,” Bethany realized.

“Yes, I can’t explain the strange feeling.

I hope it’s not a big deal,” she replied.

...

Essence Chamber:

When it was late evening, my eyebrows trembled.

I finally felt the existence of the barrier.

Once I break it, I will smoothly reach the Commander Rank.

But I opened my eyes and decided to continue from tomorrow.

I had already put a strain on my veins.

Anything further would damage me.

Creak!

After stopping the essence chamber, I walked out.

Swoosh!

Master Austin appeared before me.

His gaze seemed to see through me.

“What happened?”

“Didn’t you consume the fruit?” he asked.

“Master, I have touched the barrier.

I wanted to break it before consuming the fruit,” I replied.

Austin noticed that Zack Lockwood’s strength was Peak-SSS Elite with a stable foundation.

If he breaks through, then he can consume the fruit to reach the General Rank – Early Stage.

Another benefit of the sacred fruit is that it strengthens the foundation.

“Alright, your choice,” Austin said.

Hearing that, I nodded to him.

Then we spoke about a few things before leaving the place.

About 20 minutes later,

I returned to my room.

Then I went to the bath to take a shower.

The bath lasted for 20 minutes.

After stepping out, I changed into comfortable clothes.

Then I sat on the sofa and started to go through the online news.

Without surprise, the headlines were about me.

People were speculating whether I had consumed the sacred fruit or not.

Shaking my head, I continued to read the articles.

Shortly afterwards,

I received a call from Master Ann.

I attended the call and greeted her.

She wanted to know about my progress.

I told her that I would break through in one or two days.

After speaking with her, I continued reading articles.

...

Meanwhile,

Inside the Dark Variant Faction, people never left the meeting hall.

In between hours, they had summoned many warriors to inquire about the Thunderflame Faction.

Finally, they came to know that Zack Lockwood had entered seclusion.

But they didn't know what was happening inside, whether Zack Lockwood had consumed the sacred fruit or not.

"I wonder if that kid is dead or not," old man Vince commented.

He didn't know why, but he felt something odd, as if things wouldn't go as he had expected.

"Everyone, let's come back in the morning." After saying that, he left the place.

The main elders sighed in relief.

Not only could they not refute him, but they had to sit with him for hours.

On the other hand, one more person was depressed.

The person was none other than Ronnie Seth.

He had been practicing since morning, but he couldn't stop himself from thinking about the sacred fruit.

"I don't know whether he broke through or not," Ronnie muttered to himself.

He then thought about the Virtual Training Lab.

Something clicked in his mind.

He looked at the clock.

He didn't know whether the Virtual Training Lab was open at night.

He immediately left the training facility area and went to the Virtual Training Lab.

On the way, the warriors were surprised to see him.

Everyone was amazed by Ronnie's fast recovery.

Shortly afterwards,

Ronnie Seth arrived at the Virtual Training Lab.

He saw that the staff were coming out.

Seeing that, he realized the lab was closed.

"Maybe I should come in the morning to clear my doubts," he said to himself.

Chapter 1073: Commander Rank-Early (Essence breakthrough)

From MC's Perspective:

The following day,

I came to the Golden Lightning Palace and entered the essence chamber early in the morning.

The world energy filled the chamber.

The purple energy entered my body.

I started to guide the energy according to the lightning method.

After circulation, the purple energy entered the dantian.

As time passed, I continued to repeat the process.

I don't know how long it was, but I felt the presence of the barrier more firmly.

Then I continued the process to shatter the barrier.

Time passed,

Outside, people had gathered again.

They had learned yesterday that Zack Lockwood was attempting a breakthrough.

Nobody knew the true strength of Zack Lockwood so far.

Everyone was speculating that his strength was SSS-ELITE Rank.

Some said that his strength was Commanded Rank after witnessing the Arena Duel.

But none of them knew the benefits of the sacred fruit.

If they learned it could raise their strength by a whole new rank, they would be shocked to the core.

On the other hand, 4th Disciple Lola Garvin and 2nd Disciple Leah Downing were at Master Austin's residence.

"This kid has entered the chamber early again," Austin said to them.

"Master, do you think that junior brother will reach the General Rank?" Lola asked.

Austin let out a chuckle.

His other disciples didn't know about Zack Lockwood's tri-element and his body practice.

Before he could answer her, Leah Downing opened her mouth to say, "The sacred fruits are indeed capable of increasing strength by a whole new rank."

"But I think it can be consumed only once.

If junior brother wants to reach the Peak of the General Stage, then he has to rely on himself," she added.

"Leah is right.

It might help Zack reach the Early-General Stage.

But to reach Peak, he has to work for it," Austin said.

But he didn't plan on telling them about the purple lightning resources.

The Faction Leader was looking for the lightning resources privately.

It wouldn't be long before his 6th disciple became Peak General.

...

Dark Variant Faction:

In the meeting hall, people had gathered once again.

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But the atmosphere was gloomy.

Nobody wanted to anger the Faction Leader despite having many doubts.

Everyone was confused about whether that kid Zack Lockwood had consumed the fruit or not.

If he had consumed the fruit, news of his death would have reached them.

“Faction Leader, I suspect they have found out about the poison,” one of the main elders said.

Pfff!

A wave of pressure struck him and sent his body flying back.

His body smashed into the walls, destroying them.

Gasp!

Others took a cold breath of air.

The power of Half-step Red Mark Rank was not something they could handle.

One of them was taught a lesson.

Others didn't want to anger the Faction Leader further.

Old man Vince was lost in thought.

He was more tense than the others.

“What’s going on?”

“Did they find out about the poison?”

He was asking himself in his heart.

If others heard his inner thoughts, they would be shocked to the core, because the main elder who got injured had asked the same question a couple of minutes ago.

Time passed,

Old man Vince couldn’t help but leave the Dark Variant Faction.

He was going to roam around Star City before coming back.

He thought if the Thunderflame Faction had found his hidden hand, then they must be preparing something in retaliation.

So he didn’t want to get caught off guard when it happened.

...

Virtual Training Lab:

Old man Daniel was working with the staff.

There were no other warriors there because of Zack Lockwood; they had frequent visitors over time.

But this gradually reduced.

Right now, no one is there.

Creak!

Ronnie Seth stepped in.

His arrival startled everyone.

“Kid, what are you doing here?” old man Daniel asked.

He thought this kid would be practicing hard after getting defeated at the hands of Zack Lockwood.

Ronnie Seth smiled and walked up to him.

He greeted the staff and the old man.

“Elder, did you watch the duel?” he asked.

Old man Daniel raised his eyebrows in surprise and nodded his head.

“What do you think of his strength?” Ronnie asked.

“Zack Lockwood,” old man Daniel asked back.

“Yes,” Ronnie replied.

Old man Daniel fell into deep thought.

Not only him; the staff looked at each other in surprise as well.

Because they were exactly discussing this yesterday.

They came to no conclusion.

“Kid, it appears Thunderflame Faction has given Zack Lockwood some artifact that hides his strength.”

“No one knows his actual strength so far.

But I think he might have reached Commander Rank.

On top of it, his purple lightning is powerful to begin with.”

“That’s why you were defeated easily,” old man Daniel replied.

Ronnie Seth clenched his fist.

He knew it.

Otherwise, he wouldn’t have been defeated in a few moves.

He felt that the gap was high.

Now he understood it was because of the purple lightning.

Then he wanted to ask about the sacred fruit.

But seeing that the staff were there, he didn't bring the topic up.

Everyone thought that the sacred fruit was his, but in reality, it was given by the Faction Leader.

He still didn't know what their purpose was in doing this.

"Since I'm here, I'm ready to fight in the virtual duel," Ronnie Seth said.

"Good, we have a surprise for you.

After watching yesterday's duel, we have updated the data on Zack Lockwood."

"It might not be accurate, but it's better than before," old man Daniel said with a smile.

Hearing that, Ronnie was surprised.

The next second, his gloominess disappeared.

His eyes flashed with excitement.

...

Essence Chamber:

By evening, the barrier to the next rank started to crack.

When the small crack formed, it didn't take long for the crack to expand.

Many more cracks appeared on the barrier in the blink of an eye.

Click!

At one point, the barrier shattered, and a new flood of energy rushed inside my body.

My whole body was strengthening at a rapid rate, including the purple essence.

Commander Rank-Early!

I didn't want to get up and decided to stabilize the rank.

Time passed,

When it was nighttime, I found that I couldn't practice anymore.

The veins were in pain.

My new rank had stabilized as well.

Earlier, I thought of consuming the sacred fruit after my breakthrough.

But I think it's better to wait.

My veins were under constant strain.

It's too risky to take the sacred fruit right now.

After gaining some clarity in my thoughts, I stood up to leave.

When I walked out, I found Master Austin in front of me, as usual.

“Good!”

“You have reached Commander Rank-Early,” Austin said with a smile.

“Now, take a few more days’ rest before consuming the sacred fruit,” Austin said.

He still thought continuous breakthroughs were not good.

Hearing that, I hesitated.

I made up my mind to consume the sacred fruit tomorrow.

“Don’t think too much.

The Faction Leader has brought a bottle of condensed energy liquid into the action.

It was given to the warriors below Black Mark Rank to strengthen their foundations.”

“Now, it has come at the right time for you.

Consume the condensed energy liquid tomorrow and strengthen your foundation.

It won’t be too late to consume the sacred fruit then,” Austin said in a serious tone.

Hearing that, a look of understanding dawned on me.

“Thank you, Master,” I said to him.

I never thought a treasure resource would come at the right time.

The condensed energy liquid would remove the lingering doubts about the weak foundation.

It would definitely strengthen my base.

Then we spoke about a few other things before I left the place.

Shortly afterward,

I returned to the residence.

I quickly went to take a bath.

The bath lasted for 20 minutes.

Then I walked out and changed into comfortable clothes.

I couldn't help but think about the Master's advice.

Since he had advised me to take a few days' rest.

Maybe I should use this opportunity to get familiar with the Commander Rank strength.

Because if I consumed the sacred fruit, I would reach General Rank.

There wouldn't be a chance to experience the Commander Rank strength of mine.

Suddenly, I thought of the Virtual Training Lab.

The Virtual Training Lab might be a good place to try out my new strength.

I had already broken through.

Even if old man Daniel found out about my Commander Rank strength, it wouldn't be a problem.

After making that decision, I started reading online articles while sitting on the sofa.

....

Old man Vince returned to the Dark Variant Faction.

Soon, he heard that nothing happened in the Thunderflame Faction.

It immediately pissed him off.

He wanted to barge into the Thunderflame Faction to know whether that kid had consumed the sacred fruit or not.

He had never been this frustrated before.

The main elders heard about his return.

Those who were in the meeting hall left the place.

They didn't want to anger the Faction Leader.

Everyone thought that their plan had failed.

Chapter 1074: Returning to the Virtual Training Lab

From MC's Perspective:

The following day,

In the morning, I met with Master Austin and told him about my plan.

After hearing that, he became interested and decided to accompany me as well.

Compared to other universities, the start university didn't utilize the facilities of the Virtual Training Lab properly.

Austin was aware of the benefits of dueling against the virtual avatars of strong warriors, so he was looking forward to seeing the duel.

"Zack, the condensed liquid will be given to you later.

Let's go to the Virtual Training Lab," Austin said.

Hearing that, I replied, "Okay, master."

Shortly afterward,

We arrived at the Virtual Training Lab and both walked into the building.

One of the staff members who came outside was startled upon seeing us.

He immediately went inside to inform others.

Creak!

Old Man Daniel walked outside with other staff members.

Upon seeing Austin, his pupils shrank.

He recognized the person.

“I greet Main Elder Austin,” Old Man Daniel said.

“Elder Daniel, you are not weak either,” Austin said with a smile.

Hearing that, Old Man Daniel’s mouth twitched.

The staff behind him were all shocked.

They didn’t know why these two people had come here.

The same doubt flashed in Old Man Daniel’s eyes, but before he could ask the question,

Austin said, “My disciple wanted to use the virtual training facility, so I have come here to watch his virtual duels.”

Gasp!

A small exclamation sounded.

Never before had a main elder personally visited the place; they usually sent a request through someone.

This time, a purple-marked warrior made a visit.

Old Man Daniel was humbled.

Finally, he felt the Star University higher-ups were paying attention to the Virtual Training Lab.

“Elder, can we go inside?” I asked.

“Ha...Ha...Ha..., come inside.

I’m looking forward to your avatar duel as well,” Old Man Daniel said.

Then he led the two of us inside.

Old Man Daniel became enthusiastic and started explaining the Virtual Training Lab to Master Austin.

After a few minutes,

“Alright, you can fight now,” Austin said.

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“Elder, set my opponent as Commander Rank,” I said to the elder.

Hearing that, Old Man Daniel and the staff were not surprised.

They had expected Zack Lockwood's strength would be Commander Rank.

They and Ronnie had arrived at the same conclusion.

Zack entered the pod chamber and wore the helmet before closing the top cover.

Outside,

"Who is his opponent?" Austin asked.

"His opponent's name is Gibbs.

He is a fire elemental warrior of the Blazing Fire Faction.

He has broken through to General Rank, but we can generate his Commander Rank strength," Old Man Daniel explained.

"Blazing Fire Faction, good," Austin said to himself.

He then sat in the chair, looking towards the wide and big virtual screen.

He spotted the avatar of his disciple.

Inside the pod chamber, I felt the helmet scanning my strength.

Since the helmet was in contact with my body, the ring wouldn't be able to stop it.

When the scanning was done, I found myself inside the blue space.

I looked at my body and moved my hand.

"It's the avatar body," I muttered.

Swoosh!

The next second, a red flame appeared opposite me.

An avatar body of the opponent appeared.

My gaze fell on his body.

Seeing the flame and his figure, I felt the pressure of Commander Rank, but it didn't affect me in the slightest way.

Duel starts!

The next second, the voice sounded.

The opponent dashed towards me.

I took the black sword and covered it with purple lightning within seconds.

When the opponent was a few meters away.

Slash!

I slashed at his body.

The blade came in contact with the opponent's body.

Boom!

The blade went inside the opponent's chest, leaving a huge bloody scar.

Even though it's an avatar body, the visuals were realistic.

The purple lightning made the opponent's body further injured.

A scorching sound could be heard from the opponent's scar.

Outside,

Gasp!

A small exclamation sounded.

"One move," Old Man Daniel's pupils shrank.

Austin showed no emotion, but he was impressed with the avatar duel.

It appeared real.

He was also using mental calculations to see whether the avatar duels were reflecting the actual strength of the warriors.

He knew that his disciple had the blessing of the purple lightning seed.

No one could match his disciple's lightning power, especially when combined with Commander Rank strength.

There should be no rivals in the same rank.

But when he noticed the expressions of others, they were in disbelief and shock.

Austin knew that they didn't understand the purple lightning seed, so they were taken aback by its power.

But Old Man Daniel and the staff were thinking about something else.

What Old Man Daniel didn't say was that the virtual avatar of Gibbs was powerful.

So much so that it had taken some time for Ronnie Seth to completely defeat Gibbs's avatar body.

But here, Zack Lockwood had seriously injured Gibbs's avatar body in one move, showing that Ronnie Seth's loss was unjust.

Zack Lockwood had truly become strong.

Old Man Daniel turned towards Austin.

He said, "Main Elder, I think we should use a General Rank Warrior for the next fight."

"Okay," Austin replied.

He knew that his disciple was clever.

He was simply using essence power to fight.

If he had used his body strength, the opponent's avatar would have exploded into pieces.

On the other hand, the staff were working to collect the data of Zack Lockwood and the opponent.

They wanted to see how much power was involved behind the sword slash.

...

Dark Variant Faction:

In the meeting hall, people had gathered as usual again.

For the past two days, they had been under extreme pressure.

Nobody knew when the Faction Leader would attack them.

When the main elders were seated, it didn't take long before Old Man Vince appeared.

He sat in his seat and swept his gaze over everyone.

Everyone lowered their heads in fear.

He knew what was happening.

Others were affected by his temper.

"Does anyone know what's going on?" he asked.

The main elders looked at each other's faces.

To be honest, no one had checked on the Thunderflame Faction, apart from one of them.

Old Man Vince squinted his eyes.

His eyes reddened in anger.

Just before he could step out, one of the main elders spoke.

"Faction Leader, I heard from my disciple that Zack Lockwood is practicing inside the essence chamber."

"Practicing?"

"If he is practicing, then why is he still alive?" Old Man Vince uttered.

"Faction Leader, we still don't know whether he has consumed the sacred fruit or not.

But from my disciple, I heard that Zack Lockwood is yet to consume the sacred fruit," the main elder said.

Gasp!

Hearing that, everyone was surprised.

Old Vince's eyes flashed with surprise.

His mood became better.

“Good,” Old Man Vince muttered.

He thought that the kid was probably strengthening his foundation, which was the only explanation for this to happen.

Without a stable foundation, the sacred fruit’s energy could cripple a warrior.

“Harumph!

Here I thought they had found out the secret,” Old Man Vince said with a snort.

“Faction Leader, that kid will definitely die,” the main elder said.

Hearing that, the moods of the other elders improved.

...

Virtual Training Lab:

Pfff!

The opponent’s avatar body took a few more slashes.

Just as he decided to use a little more strength, the avatar exploded into pieces.

Seeing that, I was surprised.

I had yet to use my full strength.

Those slashes were random slashes made by me.

To think that the avatar body would fall under such a trick-it left me unsure whether to laugh or cry.

The next second, the broken body and splattered blood disappeared.

I realized Old Man Daniel had prepared the next opponent for me.

Swoosh!

An opponent wearing a red uniform appeared.

Seeing that, I knew the opponent was another Blazing Fire Faction warrior.

Boom!

The opponent raised a red saber to slash, and a fiery red attack shot towards me.

I brought the black sword up to block.

The blade was covered with purple lightning.

Boom!

When the blade made contact with the red fiery attack, an explosion occurred.

The fiery red flames were totally extinguished.

The aftermath swept across the surroundings.

The impact force didn't move me much, but I saw the opponent retreating a few steps backward.

Swoosh!

Seeing that, my eyes flickered.

I dashed forward to attack.

The opponent's eyes turned red like fire.

The opponent's avatar came forward to attack me.

Clang!

The sword and saber clashed again.

The next second, a metallic noise sounded.

Hearing that, I noticed that the saber was fully covered with powerful flames.

The flames had the strength of General Rank.

The abnormal power of the purple lightning easily withstood the red flames.

Seeing that, I stepped forward to attack.

Outside,

Old Man Daniel and the staff were petrified.

They were witnessing something unbelievable.

The General Rank Warrior's avatar was not ordinary.

The General Rank Warrior could fight across ranks.

To think that Zack Lockwood was making the avatar retreat, they were shocked.

Chapter 1075: Part 1: General Rank- Early (Essence)

From MC's Perspective:

Virtual Training Lab,

Inside the blue space, I dealt a few more blows to my opponent with sword slashes.

Every time, the power of the opponent's flame was extinguished by the purple lightning.

Not only did it has destroyed the element, but it also caused damage to the opponent.

As time passed, the General Rank Avatar received serious blows before he stopped moving because of his injuries.

This meant the opponent couldn't move.

"Zack Lockwood is the winner!"

A voice sounded.

The next second, I felt my mind go blank before my consciousness returned to my body.

I removed the helmet.

Then I opened the top cover to step outside.

I looked at everyone's faces before my gaze fell on Old Man Daniel.

His eyes were wide with disbelief.

"My disciple, you have done well.

Let's go back," Austin said.

He didn't want to say anything in front of others.

On the other hand, I heard the Master's voice.

I nodded to him.

I could tell he wanted to leave.

"Alright, Elder Daniel.

See you later." After saying that, I walked out with Master Austin.

Old Man Daniel didn't move from the spot until they left.

“How is this possible?” he asked himself in disbelief.

He then turned towards his staff and asked, “Compare his past duels’ data and check what has changed.”

Old Man Daniel was in total shock.

It’s one thing to fight across ranks and defeat a warrior.

But Zack Lockwood had defeated the virtual avatar of a person who was no less talented than him.

It’s simply unbelievable.

It shows that everyone had underestimated Zack Lockwood.

He is far stronger than normal geniuses.

Outside,

“You were so close to getting exposed.

That old man has arranged a talented warrior’s avatar who can fight across ranks.”

“If not for your purple lightning, you would have been defeated,” Austin said to his disciple.

To be honest, he was surprised by Old Man Daniel as well.

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He had heard a lot about him, but he never thought he could find some clues regarding Zack Lockwood's strength.

If Zack had stayed there to fight, his strength would have been exposed.

Shortly afterward,

We returned to the Thunderflame Faction.

"You go back to the Golden Lightning Palace.

I'll be back in no time." After saying that, he left.

On the other hand, I started walking towards the Golden Lightning Palace.

Shortly afterward,

I reached the Golden Lightning Palace.

The door opened automatically.

I stepped inside and started my way toward the essence chamber.

When I walked past the training courtyard, I saw everyone was busy training by themselves.

I reached the essence chamber.

After nodding at the warrior, I entered one of the essence chambers to practice.

About 10 minutes later,

Master Austin returned with a bottle of condensed liquid.

After receiving the liquid, I sat back cross-legged on the ground and opened the cork.

Then I drank until the bottle was empty.

I began to practice the lightning method.

The condensed liquid was white in color.

It immediately started to course through my body.

Instead of warmth, I felt cold energy rushing inside me.

Coupled with the purple energy, I could feel the veins, meridians, and inner organs strengthening further.

The condensed liquid is something that strengthens the foundation.

The refined condensed liquid entered the dantian.

Immediately, I felt the dantian changing.

Boom!

The whole dantian was getting strengthened at a faster rate.

Its defenses were becoming stronger.

When the whole energy was consumed.

I could feel a new profound energy hidden inside my body.

It might be imagination or actual strength of the foundation.

What surprised me was that it had reinforced the defense of the dantian.

In the future, even if I get injured, the dantian won't be affected badly.

Now, I understand why the Master wanted to consume the condensed liquid before the sacred fruit.

Now, with the dantian's strength, the sacred energy won't be able to burden the dantian.

I can achieve breakthrough without worry.

Then I removed the thoughts before continuing to practice.

I'm not in a hurry.

As I had planned before, I will use the sacred fruit a few days later.

...

Dark Variant Faction:

Old Man Vince and the other Main Elders were in the meeting hall.

They were waiting for news.

Like the past two days, today was no different.

They heard no noise from the Thunderflame Faction, which meant everything was going well for them.

“I want to see how long they can resist,” Old Man Vince uttered before leaving the place.

He was sure that the Purple Lightning Sacred Fruit had not yet been consumed by the brat.

The Main Elders left speechless.

Compared to before, the faction leader didn’t take his anger out on them.

They were happy.

They spoke about a few other things before leaving the place.

...

Golden Lightning Palace:

Time passed,

In the evening, I walked out of the essence chamber.

Once again, the Master was waiting outside the essence chamber.

He asked me about the progress.

Then I told him about the benefits of consuming the condensed liquid.

After knowing that my dantian was strengthened, he was happier.

Shortly afterward,

I returned to the residence.

I took a bath before going to sleep.

...

A few days passed by,

At 10 a.m.

in the morning, I left the residence.

Today is the day I'm going to consume the Purple Lightning Sacred Fruit.

These days I have been busy training to control my Commander Rank Lightning Power.

Now, I think it's the right time to reach the General Rank in essence cultivation.

Shortly afterward,

I reached Master Austin's residence and spoke with him.

After knowing my intention to consume the sacred fruit, he ordered everyone else to take the day off.

He didn't want the news to leak.

After initial excitement, people stopped thinking about Zack Lockwood's sacred fruit.

Then I entered the essence chamber under the watchful eyes of Master Austin.

He was going to guard outside.

I had consumed the sacred fruit for body strengthening.

I don't know why the Master is paying extra attention to essence strength.

After activating the essence chamber, I stepped onto the platform and sat cross-legged on the ground.

Then I took the box out from my storage ring.

I opened the cover and took the Purple Lightning Sacred Fruit.

Purple arcs could be seen floating around the fruit.

My breathing became faster.

Hiding my excitement, I began to calm my heart.

Then I took a couple of bites before eating the whole fruit.

When the sacred fruit was consumed, I started to practice the lightning method.

I closed my eyes and began to focus on guiding the energy.

A few seconds went by,

I felt something wrong with the sacred energy.

Instead of strengthening my inner body, the sacred fruit's energy was corroding my veins.

Wherever it passed through, it left behind heart-wrenching pain.

Argh!

A muffled grunt left my mouth.

I saw my inner veins getting damaged.

They were bleeding.

A sense of crisis hit my heart.

Pfff!

The next second, I coughed up blood before losing consciousness.

The Single Horn Lightning Snake's poison was causing irreversible damage.

If it were any other warrior, they would have died on the spot.

The terrible poison was mixed with sacred energy.

It was corroding the path where the energy passed through.

Buzz!

A drop of Guardian God blood hidden deep inside body buzzed all of a sudden.

The ancient spirit sleeping in it responded to the crisis.

A golden sacred light shot from the blood.

It immediately enveloped the internal body.

Wherever there were corrosion injuries, they were healing at a faster rate because of the golden light.

The golden sacred light fell on the sacred fruit and poison energy, immediately converting the poison energy to consumable energy.

In the blink of an eye, the golden sacred light cured the body, leaving behind no poison.

Boom!

The star rune in my consciousness began to flicker.

A trace of consciousness returned.

I was feeling no pain.

Slowly, my consciousness returned.

Then I noticed a golden sacred light covering my internal body.

The corrosion injuries were healed.

The veins were recovered.

There was no more bleeding.

I noticed that the golden sacred light had also stopped the sacred fruit energy as well.

Before I could check further, the Golden Sacred Light disappeared.

Boom!

The next second, like a floodgate opened, the sacred fruit's energy continued to rush.

Seeing that, I operated the lightning method.

After a few circulations, the barrier was touched.

I continued the process.

Click!

Commander Rank – Mid (Essence)

The barrier was shattered a few minutes later.

I broke through and reached a new essence rank.

The purple essence inside the dantian became more powerful.

The purple lightning's sacred energy had yet to run out.

It continued to course through my body.

30 minutes later,

Click!

Commander Rank – Peak (Essence)

Another barrier was broken.

A new breakthrough was achieved, Commander Rank – Peak Stage.

The purple essence in the dantian became more powerful.

It had turned a darker shade of purple.

Not only that, the growth type purple lightning seed inside the dantian became stronger as well.

My purple lightning had become more powerful.

Seeing that, my heart was filled with ecstasy.

But I knew this was not the end.

I continued to guide the remaining sacred fruit energy.

About 1 hour later,

Click!

General Rank – Early (Essence)

The final big barrier was shattered.

A new profound energy started to course through my body.

Starting from my veins, meridians, flesh, and inner organs, they were getting strengthened.

The major change was that the space inside the dantian started to expand.

The purple essence was getting transformed.

It was becoming liquid.

Chapter 1076: Part 2: General Rank- Early (Essence)

From MC's Perspective;

General Rank – Early!

Inside the essence chamber, the space inside the dantian came to a halt after expansion.

The purple essence had all turned into purple liquid.

Looking at the dense purple liquid, I'm getting heart palpitations.

Next, my gaze fell on the growth-type purple lightning seed.

It has become stronger as well.

I don't know what strength my purple lightning has reached.

I wonder whether it could hurt the Black Mark Rank Warrior or not.

I can't wait to try it out.

But before that, I have decided to stabilize the rank.

So I continued the practice.

Outside,

Austin is standing outside the chamber.

From time to time, he looks at the essence chamber.

"I don't know what's going on," he said to himself.

The reason he was worried was because of Zack Lockwood's foundation.

His disciple had consumed a body-type sacred fruit before.

His disciple's body was able to withstand the sacred energy power because of the foundation.

So he was worried the Purple Lightning Sacred Fruit could hurt his disciple.

That's why he had asked for condensed liquid.

With the condensed liquid's help, the chances of breakthrough success were higher.

Time passed.

When it was evening, the essence chamber door was opened.

I walked out of the chamber.

"General Rank – Early!"

"Good."

"Good."

Master Austin appeared in front of me.

His gaze pierced through my body.

I felt he was scanning my dantian.

“Dense purple liquid!”

“You succeeded without getting any foundation injury,” Austin said with a smile.

He found Zack Lockwood’s dantian was fine.

It looked even stronger than before.

The fully transformed dense purple liquid is a sign of General Rank.

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So he has confirmed that Zack Lockwood’s foundation was fine.

There had never been someone who consumed two sacred fruits and remained unscathed.

Austin thinks that his disciple’s potential is higher than he thought.

But he doesn’t know about the single-horned lightning snake’s poison.

Otherwise, he would have been scared to death.

Zack Lockwood’s change and successful breakthroughs were because of the ancient guardian blood hidden in his body.

“Zack, you can go back to your residence,” Austin recollected his thoughts before saying.

He saw how Zack Lockwood was covered with black impurities.

About 10 minutes later,

I returned to my residence.

The first thing I did was enter the bath to cleanse my impurities.

The bath lasted for 26 minutes.

Then I stepped out and wore comfortable clothes.

My skin looked polished and fresh.

I could feel power hidden in my flesh and bones.

I guess this was because of the General Rank power in both body and essence.

I'm getting close to becoming a Black Mark Warrior.

Once I become a Black Mark Warrior, then I will be called a true asset of Star University.

Since I have become a General Rank Warrior, I thought about my next course of plans.

I don't want to stay in Star University anymore.

It would be good if I pick up missions.

I hope Master Austin will let me go.

Suddenly, I recalled the scene before losing consciousness.

“What was that?” I muttered.

I knew something was wrong with the sacred fruit.

But I don’t know what exactly was wrong.

More than that, I saw the golden glow before it disappeared.

I have a strong feeling it must be connected to the drop of ancient god blood hidden in my body.

It has saved me countless times.

To think someone had tried to harm me using the sacred fruit.

I must ask Ronnie Seth where the Sacred Fruit comes from.

After gaining some clarity in my thoughts, I went to sleep a few minutes later.

...

The following day,

I’m taking steps carefully before exiting the residence.

The General Rank strength is difficult to control.

If I don’t control it soon, then I might destroy all the wooden furniture inside.

Then I started heading towards the Golden Lightning Palace.

Shortly afterwards,

When I arrived at the place, the door opened automatically.

Seeing that, I walked inside with a smile on my face.

Then I arrived at my Master's residence.

Creak!

I opened the door and walked inside.

I spotted Master sitting on the sofa, drinking tea comfortably.

"You are here," Austin asked in a calm tone.

I sat opposite him on the sofa.

"Master, thanks for the condensed liquid.

It worked well," I said to him.

When it comes to the abnormality of the sacred fruit, I don't think it's good to tell anyone.

"Condensed liquid is a good treasure.

But you have worked hard as well.

Next, what are your plans?" Austin asked.

"Master, I have decided to practice for a couple of days before doing missions," I replied.

"Missions," Austin's eyes flickered.

He was sure that his disciple's mission wouldn't be peaceful.

Like other disciples, Zack might have to face life-threatening situations as well.

"Are you sure?"

"You know there is a deep rivalry between factions.

Nobody likes a genius growing in the Thunderflame Faction."

"People might use this opportunity to kill you," Austin said without hiding anything.

Hearing that, I thought of something before asking, "Master, is there any way I could change my face and identity?"

Austin thought of something before replying, "There are indeed ways.

You could practice auxiliary techniques to erase your presence."

"When it comes to your face, you can use a mask," he added.

"Then I'm ready to take on missions, Master," I replied.

“Okay, go and get familiar with your new strength,” Austin said.

He could see Zack was having difficulty controlling his strength.

I stood up and bid goodbye before leaving.

I was going to use the training room here.

Soon, I arrived at the courtyard.

The warriors who were practicing there were startled upon seeing me.

Everyone’s gaze fell on me.

I could tell that they were trying to see through my strength.

But it’s an impossible task for them.

I’m wearing a Red Mark Warrior ring.

It could hide my cultivation and block prying eyes.

“Zack Lockwood has come!”

“6th Disciple of Master Austin?”

“I wonder whether he has made a breakthrough or not.”

“He is strong.”

“Don’t offend him.

His status is different now.”

“You are right.

We should mind our own business.”

The warriors in the courtyard were discussing among themselves.

But none of them had the courage to speak.

On the other hand, I left the courtyard and entered the training facility.

Then I found an available practice room before getting inside.

Creak!

The door behind me shut automatically.

My gaze fell on the console.

This time, I’m going to use the puppet with General Rank defense.

Boom!

When I turned on the function, a humanoid metallic puppet appeared above the platform.

The metallic puppet has a black luster all over it.

This time I had launched the basic settings.

The puppet won't be able to move from the spot.

Then I raised my right hand and pointed my forefinger at the metallic puppet.

“Lightning Finger Technique!”

A purple dot appeared before my forefinger.

Boom!

The next second, the purple dot shot at the metallic puppet.

The purple dot traveled in a straight line before hitting the forehead of the metallic puppet.

Ka-boom!

A deafening noise sounded.

The shockwave swept across the room, hitting all sides of the walls.

Because of the specially built walls, the impact force was contained just like that.

When the dust settled, the outcome came into view.

The metallic puppet's head was smashed into pieces.

The headless metallic puppet could be seen.

It was a clean strike.

Looking at my fingers, my pupils shrink.

A look of understanding dawned on me.

The purple essence has become liquid.

So my lightning techniques won't be the same as before, which is why a purple dot appeared earlier.

The purple dot contains the purple liquid, which is nothing but condensed purple lightning waiting to destroy.

On top of it, the purple lightning has grown stronger because of the purple lightning seed.

With my current state right now, I can kill average General Rank Warriors like cutting weeds.

Even though I have this confidence right now, I could hurt a Black Mark Warrior.

Then I pushed down these thoughts before starting to practice lightning techniques.

...

Dark Variant Faction:

In the meeting hall, the main elders are looking at each other's faces with worry.

They have learned that Zack Lockwood was spotted going back to his residence.

If he is alive, then what about the sacred fruit?

At this point, they don't dare to make any speculation.

Their previous speculation had ended up disappointing them.

Swoosh!

Faction leader Vince appeared and sat in the main seat before everyone.

His eyes were dull because he had learned the truth.

That kid is alive and kicking, and no one is there to confirm whether that kid had consumed the sacred fruit or not.

"Everyone, it doesn't matter whether that kid had consumed the fruit or not.

If the kid leaves Star University, he better not return."

"Make arrangements; that kid better die outside," Old man Vince said in a cold tone.

Hearing that, the main elders' faces changed drastically.

They became happier.

Now, they can go back to their normal lives.

Chapter 1077: Half month passed

From MC's Perspective:

More than a half month has passed,

Inside the residence, I'm making plans for the outside mission tomorrow.

After becoming a General Rank, so many things have changed.

I had spent a few weeks getting used to my strength and improving all of my skills further.

The two sacred fruits not only helped me to break through.

But they have improved my body and essence aptitude as well.

The changes were something I felt in the past few weeks.

I can think properly and make decisions.

My techniques and combat skills are smoother than before.

More importantly, I have perfect control over my General Rank strength.

I doubt whether Veteran Warriors had this level of control.

When it comes to the outside world and other factions.

My eyes gleamed with a twinkle.

After the breakthrough, I had never been outside.

So tomorrow is going to be the first time for me.

Then I shifted my attention back to the skills.

1.

Sword Divide: Perfect Wheel (Proficient)

2.

Lightning Wheel: Perfect Wheel (Proficient)

3.

Lightning Phantom: Perfect Wheel (Proficient)

4.

Blood Field Technique: Big Wheel (Proficient)

5.

Soul Tower Method: Big Wheel (Specialist)

6.

Soul Needle Art: Big Wheel (Specialist)

7.

Lightning Finger Technique: Big Wheel (Proficient)

8.

Blood Fist Technique: Big Wheel (Proficient)

9.

Healing Hand: Big Wheel (Proficient)

10.

Lightning Drop: Small Wheel (Specialist)

11.

Lightning Cage: Small Wheel (Proficient)

I'm beginning to think about all of my skills, including the body, soul, and healing skills.

I have improved them as well.

So I'm more confident about doing the outside mission tomorrow.

This outside mission is going to be the first outside mission for me.

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I had never taken a step outside Star City.

I'm feeling excited about it.

Fortunately, I had already made the necessary preparations for that.

...

The following day,

After leaving the residence, I went to the Golden Lightning Palace to inform the Master.

Austin was satisfied with Zack Lockwood's development.

He knows that Zack Lockwood had never stepped outside in this half a month.

Which showed his dedication and hunger to improve.

He is also aware of the outside mission.

It can be said that he was the one who recommended his disciple to do it.

"Alright, Zack.

If you encounter any danger, you can inform me," Austin said.

Then he added, "I have arranged a medium-sized aircraft with a pilot for you.

You can use it for your travels."

Hearing that, I smiled and thanked my master.

I was thinking about traveling.

But my master has solved it just like that.

Then we spoke about a few other things.

Especially, he warned me not to wander around other territories.

He wanted me to return right away.

I could sense worry in his tone.

I knew what he was worried about.

It's about the faction rivalry.

After saying goodbye to the master, I immediately left the Thunderflame Faction.

Then I quickly reached the Transport Area.

There I saw someone waiting for me in a trance.

“Lord Zack, it’s nice to meet you.

I’m your humble pilot, James,” a middle-aged man introduced himself to me.

Hearing that, I smiled and asked, “Are you the one my master arranged for me?”

James nodded his head and replied, “Yes, it’s me.”

“Okay, we can leave then,” I said to him.

Shortly afterward,

He guided me towards the medium-sized aircraft.

The aircraft was black in color.

It looked like a giant beast.

But from its size, I could tell that it was capable of carrying a small team of 5 people.

Creak!

James opened the cabin door.

I nodded to him before entering inside.

The door shut automatically.

I sat in the window seat.

“James, go to the bandit city,” I said to him.

“Bandit?” James was shocked.

But he didn’t ask back.

He knew that there was no such city called bandit city officially.

But unofficially, there is a city under Star University Administration that has become a den for all kinds of illegal activities.

So people who live in the nearby cities call it the bandit city.

James thinks that the Lord is going to that city for the mission.

So he decides to mind his own business.

He starts the aircraft.

Swoosh!

The next second, the aircraft rises above the ground before leaving the Star University.

Jeremy sees the Star University view through the window.

He doesn’t know when he will return.

The outside missions normally take a few weeks at least.

He is hoping to return soon.

....

Dark Variant Faction:

Faction leader Vince was at his place.

He was reading reports when a news message made him lose composure.

“So that turtle kid is leaving finally,” he said with an evil grin.

He knows how mad he has been for the past half a month.

He had been trying various ways to collect the news.

But the Thunderflame Faction was careful.

They had strictly informed their members not to leak any information about Zack Lockwood.

So much so that their miscellaneous elders are monitoring the Thunderflame Faction all day and night.

It immediately frightened the members.

So no matter what methods the Dark Variant Faction used, everything ended in failure.

More than resources, they value their lives.

Because of this, he was pissed off lately.

But he sees a hope right now.

Today, he will confirm whether that kid consumed the fruit or not.

He knows that the kid might be going for the outside mission.

He had no way to find out the information because the mission content was related to the Thunderflame Faction.

Only they have access to it.

If it was an Outer Hall mission, he would have easily known.

But he knows one thing for sure: the mission location must be inside the Star University Territory.

He doubts whether the Thunderflame Faction would allow their genius disciple to go to other regions to do missions.

After gaining some clarity, he decides to spread the news of Zack Lockwood carrying a sacred fruit.

There are always people who are not afraid of trouble.

If Zack Lockwood comes across such people, he would die for sure.

“Ha..Ha...Ha....Kid, it’s your fault for choosing the Thunderflame Faction,” he said with laughter.

If Zack Lockwood had chosen the Dark Variant Faction, he would have invested in him with rich resources.

But sadly, that kid turned out to be the genius disciple of the Thunderflame Faction.

...

One hour later,

Shocking news spreads across the Star University and Star City.

It didn't take long for the news to spread across the cities under the Star University Administration.

The news was so sensational that it was shown as breaking news on all news broadcasts and social media.

Zack Lockwood had been famous since he joined Star University.

The Star University people were aware of his records.

But it's a different story for the Star University and the cities under it.

Only a small amount of news reaches outside.

The Warrior Families and Clans learn news from their descendants studying in the Star University.

So they all knew who Zack Lockwood was.

When these families learned about the Sacred Fruit, their eyes turned green with envy.

Unfortunately, they could only dream about it.

It's something not unattainable to them.

But the breaking news has overturned their cognition.

The breaking news was about the genius disciple Zack Lockwood.

It was reported that he had left Star University for a mission.

The mission details and location were not disclosed.

An important piece of information was reported specifically in the breaking news.

It was that Zack Lockwood was still carrying the sacred fruit with him.

For some reason, he had not consumed the sacred fruit yet.

After hearing the news, the people of Star City were shocked to the core.

The warrior families and clans were especially having thoughts about it.

Most of them knew it was fake news.

Someone was deliberately making Zack Lockwood a target.

People still remember that Zack Lockwood was attacked by Gold Mark Warrior's coercion last time.

The news about that attacker is still unknown.

In such cases, this type of news has cautioned the people.

The major family heads didn't want to involve themselves in this matter.

Even if they have thoughts about the sacred fruit, they value their family and life many more times.

Since their lives are tied to the Star University, offending Zack Lockwood would only lead their family to destruction.

They were all aware of Zack Lockwood's Master.

He is a powerful Purple Mark Warrior who can destroy their whole Star City easily.

So these family heads became obedient.

But still, there are people who are not afraid of trouble.

There are rogue warriors, killers, and assassins.

Even some foolish people from the warrior families and clans thought about targeting Zack Lockwood.

As long as they do their job neatly, no one can suspect them.

So many evil Warriors couldn't help but entertain the idea of getting the sacred fruit.

Once they get the sacred fruit, the road to further warrior ranks would be opened to them.

So these evil warriors are tempted.

Chapter 1078: Central Fort City

From MC's Perspective:

One hour later,

The aircraft had crossed many cities after leaving Star University.

It's now heading towards the next city.

I was seated by the window.

Looking at the passing air cars outside, I turned towards James and asked, "James, how long will it take to reach the bandit city?"

"Lord, it will take half an hour," James replied.

"30 minutes, that's good," I thought to myself.

I wanted to settle down before starting the mission.

The bandit eradication mission is not an easy task, according to James and the information I had collected so far.

There are many illegal activities happening in that city.

It's impossible to dismantle the whole network overnight.

First, I have to find their hideout.

The destruction of the hideout will be the main evidence for completing my mission.

After gaining clarity in my thoughts, I closed my eyes.

...

Thunderflame Faction:

“Who dares to do this?” Austin shouted loudly.

His thunderous voice echoed across the Thunderflame Faction Territory.

The Golden Lightning Palace members and the other palace members were petrified.

They knew the reason behind such a scream.

In the past few hours, news about Zack Lockwood had been broadcasted as breaking news on several channels.

Someone had falsified the truth and spread rumors.

Now Zack Lockwood had a target on his back.

Most understood that someone was using a knife to target Zack Lockwood.

Everyone’s suspicion fell on none other than the Dark Variant Faction.

It’s their sacred fruit to begin with.

Now such rumors are spreading.

If it's their doing, then it shows the cruelty and cunningness of the Dark Variant Faction.

The palace members all felt a chill run down their spines.

Swoosh!

Main Elder Ann appeared above the Golden Lightning Palace.

Shortly afterwards, Main Elder Leola and Cathy appeared as well.

The scream had even alarmed the miscellaneous elders.

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But before they could inquire about the situation,

Main Elder Austin appeared above the Golden Lightning Palace.

He looked at the main elders before flying towards the meeting hall.

The other Main Elders followed him from behind.

Warriors became restless witnessing this. They knew something major was about to happen.

Meeting Hall:

Main Elder Austin and the others arrived and immediately took their seats.

“Who could be this cruel?” Ann said in a cold tone.

Undoubtedly, everyone had heard the breaking news, which was causing a commotion right across Star University and Star City.

“The timing is bad.

That kid is out on a mission.

The breaking news came right after that,” Leola said gravely.

“I think it’s the work of the Dark Variant Faction,” Cathy said with anger.

“How could they be so generous as to give away the sacred fruit?”

“It must be their conspiracy behind it,” she added.

“You are right, Elder Cathy.

I think it’s the work of Old Man Vince.

It’s impossible for him to have a change of heart and let Zack Lockwood grow peacefully.”

“He must have been threatened by the kid.

It’s a good chance for him to strike,” Austin said coldly.

“Don’t forget that the kid has the Red Mark Warrior ring.

It can protect him,” Leola said solemnly.

“I don’t think any major figures would take action.

Otherwise, Dean Jerome wouldn’t let them live.

But I’m sure warriors under Black Mark Warriors would go after my disciple,” Austin said.

“But that kid has consumed the sacred fruit.

There is no point in troubling him,” Cathy argued.

“I think someone wants to get rid of my disciple.

They can’t attack Zack Lockwood inside the university.

But there are chances they will hire killers,” Main Elder Ann said this time.

Swoosh!

Faction Leader Clifford appeared in the room and sat in the main seat.

“Faction Leader,” everyone stood up to greet him.

Once the greetings were done, Old Man Clifford looked at everyone before saying, “I think that bet of sacred fruit comes with a cost.”

“Now, I understand who was behind the scheme.

I knew it was impossible for him to give away the sacred fruit for free," Clifford said with dissatisfaction.

Upon hearing that, the main elders understood whom he was speaking about.

The person was none other than the Dark Variant Faction Leader, Vince.

"But don't worry, no Black Mark Warrior or above will go after that kid.

If it happens, they would receive a thunderous response from Star University," Old Man Clifford said in a serious tone.

Upon hearing this, everyone relaxed.

At least there was a chance for that kid to survive.

Austin still had lingering doubts.

Last time, Zack Lockwood was attacked by a Gold Mark Warrior's coercion.

He hoped nothing bad would happen this time.

"Austin, what's bothering you?" Clifford asked.

Hearing that, Austin told him about the last incident faced by Zack Lockwood.

"Gold Mark Warrior, harumph," Clifford said with a snort.

"Didn't I tell you earlier?

No Black Mark Warrior or above will go after that kid.

It's not my words but Dean Jerome's."

"I wouldn't be surprised if he sent out powerful warriors to protect Zack Lockwood," Clifford added.

Austin sighed inwardly.

Then he thought of something important before asking, "Can I go to the bandit city?"

"No!"

"No one should interfere in Zack Lockwood's first outside mission."

This time, a new voice sounded in the room.

The voice was none other than the Dean of Star University.

Everyone waited for him to appear, but he didn't show up.

The voice disappeared as well.

They understood that the Dean had heard their conversation.

Old Man Clifford let out a bitter smile before saying, "Now you believe it?"

"Yes," Austin replied.

But deep in his heart, he had made up his mind to rescue Zack Lockwood no matter what.

...

30 minutes later,

The aircraft reached the outskirts of the bandit city.

The official name of the city was Central Fort City.

Once upon a time, the place used to be a fort for the prince.

Now it has been reduced to a safe haven for those engaging in illegal activities.

When the aircraft touched the ground,

Creak!

The cabin opened.

I stepped outside and breathed in the fresh air of the wilderness.

I felt free here.

Then I turned towards James and said, "James, I'm going to stay here for some time.

Find a place to hide this thing.

After completing the mission, I'll call you back."

Hearing that, James agreed.

I then exchanged contact numbers with him before leaving.

I took the mask from the storage ring and put it on my face.

This city is known for illegal activities.

I doubt they would dare to stop me.

So when I reached the huge gate, which is the entrance to Central Fort City,

Several figures appeared in front of me.

My pupils shrink.

All of them were City Guards.

“Who are you?”

“What do you want?” one of the City Guards asked.

Hearing that, I calmed my heart before answering, “I came here to have fun.” This was the logical answer I could come up with.

The City Guards looked at each other before allowing me to enter.

For a second, I thought they would ask for ID.

But nothing like that happened.

Since it's a bandit city, they are not checking IDs to attract more customers.

My mission was to erase the banditry.

But here the City Guards knew about it as well.

So everything was happening under their control.

My eyes flashed with cold determination.

After entering, I quickly found an inn to settle down.

"Things are tougher than I thought," I said to myself.

I had planned to show my mission to the City Administration.

Since they are involved, isn't it foolish to expose myself?

Lying in bed, I fell into deep thought.

Buzz!

The next second, I saw Master Austin was calling me.

I answered the call.

“Zack, where are you?” Austin asked from the other end.

“Master, I have come to Central Fort City.

Now I’m staying in a small inn,” I replied.

“Good, Zack, listen carefully.

Someone has spread rumors about you,” Austin said, beginning to explain.

About 10 minutes later,

My eyes flashed with murderous intent.

I had consumed both the sacred fruits.

Yet someone spread fake news to target me.

Who could it be?

“Master, do you know the culprit?” I asked.

“Dark Variant Faction.

We think it’s the work of Old Vince.

He is the Faction Leader of the Dark Variant Faction.”

“Didn’t I tell you before that nothing comes for free?

He has certainly used the chance to get you killed.

But don't worry, Black Mark Warriors and above won't target you."

"That's the word from Dean Jerome.

You can relax and focus on the mission," Austin said from the other end.

Hearing that, I felt a huge weight lifted off my shoulders.

If the Black Mark Warriors and above won't target me, then I don't have any rivals.

"Don't worry, master.

I'll handle it," I assured him on the call.

Then only I could hear his relaxed tone.

Chapter 1079: Wolf team!

From MC's Perspective:

After ending the call with the Master, I stayed in the inn.

When it was sunset, I came downstairs to have some coffee.

I had already changed into normal clothes and wore a mask on my face.

The customers who were having food glanced at me before minding their own business.

Most of them were wearing masks and helmets to cover their faces.

Compared to them, my mask was good.

I ignored them and found an empty seat to sit.

Then I ordered coffee from the shop.

My eyes flickered.

Central Fort City is otherwise called the Bandit City.

Probably some of the customers here have a criminal background.

If I could eavesdrop on their conversations, it would be good.

Thinking about it, I decided to try.

I perked up my ears to listen to their conversation.

“Hey, have you heard the Star City news?”

“A disciple of the Purple Mark Warrior appeared outside.

He seems to have come out to do a mission.”

“Harumph!”

“What’s with that news?

It’s normal for warriors to go outside to do missions.”

“We have come across many people.”

A fierce discussion was happening at the nearby table.

Hearing my name mentioned startled me.

I had heard from the Master before.

But I didn’t expect the news to travel so fast.

Fortunately, my destination was not leaked.

If my destination had been leaked, people would have swarmed to this bandit city.

Then I would have been left with nowhere to go.

I pushed down these thoughts before listening to the conversation.

“This time the news was earth-shaking.

It was broadcasted as breaking news in several cities.”

“Because that disciple is carrying a sacred fruit with him.”

“Gasp!”

“Sacred fruit!”

“Are you sure it’s the same sacred fruit?”

“Sacred fruits are found in powerful secret lands.”

“It’s something that can’t be found at an auction as well.”

“What’s that young man’s name?”

“He must have consumed the fruit to break through.”

“Carrying it with him would invite trouble.”

“The young man’s name is Zack Lockwood.”

“He is the new star of Star University.”

More than four people were discussing it seriously.

A sacred fruit is not something that they can buy.

It’s only available through powerful forces.

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On the other hand, I was dumbfounded.

I came here to collect intel about the bandit hideout, but people were discussing me.

While I was feeling frustrated, the staff came with the coffee.

I thanked him before enjoying it.

Just as I thought, they had dropped their conversation.

I heard about the bandits.

“Hey, our boss must be interested in this sacred fruit.”

“He was just a step away from becoming a General Rank Warrior.”

“If he consumed the sacred fruit, then he would become General Rank Peak Stage.

Then his dream of becoming a Black Mark Warrior would not be far away.”

The warriors at the table discussed seriously.

Obviously, they were part of a bandit group.

But nobody speaks about it outside.

Unknowingly, they leaked information.

About 20 minutes later, the group decided to leave.

They stood up and left the shop without paying the bill.

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

I was worried about their identity.

But now I could be at ease.

I stood up and went to the counter to pay the bill.

After doing that, I immediately left the shop and started following the group.

Not long after,

“Hey, I think someone is following us,” a scar-faced warrior said to his companions.

They were a group of five people.

After hearing the scar-faced warrior’s words, the others secretly watched to confirm the news.

“Let’s change direction!” one of them said.

Then they took a different route to confirm their doubts.

On the other hand, my eyes gleamed with a twinkle.

I was starting to think that these five Commander Rank Warriors had found me.

But I wasn’t ready to give up yet, so I continued to follow them.

At the same time, the bandit team was able to confirm their suspicions.

“Hey, someone is indeed following us!”

“He must be an outsider,” the scar-faced warrior said with a grin.

“Hey, brother, it’s been some time since we hunted an outsider.

Since our boss is trying to break through, we have no other choice but to stay low-key.”

“Let’s go, lead him outside the city.

Then we can hunt in the wilderness.”

“You are right, brother.

I don’t think that an outsider is stronger than us,” the other two voiced their opinions as well.

“The outsider is wearing some artifact to cover his rank.

It must be expensive.

Let’s go; we should not miss this fat sheep,” the scar-faced warrior said.

Hearing that, the others tried to probe the outsider.

But they found that it was impossible to do so.

Then they realized that the scar-faced warrior’s words were true.

The next second, their eyes flashed with greed.

They had a good opportunity to earn money.

If they sold this type of artifact, they could rest for a full year.

The bandits looked at each other in understanding before moving toward the City Gate.

On the other hand, I noticed that the bandits were leading me to the City Gate after some turns.

“Are they going to alert the City Guards?” I asked myself.

My eyes turned cold.

Since things had come to this level, I didn’t mind investigating the City Administration here.

They were totally corrupt.

Shortly afterward, the bandit group arrived at the City Gate.

The City Guards and they had a tacit understanding.

They knew each other.

The scar-faced warrior went up to one of the City Guards.

“Do you see the masked person behind us?”

“Don’t stop him!”

Hearing that, the City Guard’s eyes lit up.

They realized another fat sheep had entered the city.

Now it was targeted by the famous bandit team, the Wolf Team.

The City Guards laughed and allowed them to leave.

This scene didn’t go unnoticed by me.

Seeing them laughing and chatting, I felt an urge to beat the City Guards.

I didn’t know how many victims had fallen to them.

I pushed down these thoughts for the time being.

Right now, I felt it was more important to collect intel from the bandit group.

When I reached the City Gate, the City Guards looked at me with smiles, as if they couldn’t wait to get their share from the bandit team.

My eyes turned cold.

Feeling my gaze, the guard was startled.

Before he could say something, I walked out of the city.

“Who is he?”

“To think the person who is going to die has such a glare,” the City Guard sneered.

He was pissed off by the unknown person’s attitude.

The other City Guard laughed at him.

It wasn’t the first time for them to encounter a fat sheep.

But a fat sheep dared to piss off the City Guard.

If not for giving face to the Wolf Bandit Team, both City Guards would have taken action.

On the other hand, I felt the fierce glare behind my back.

I knew it had to be the City Guards.

Taking action against the City Guard was not a small matter.

If I attacked them, the whole city would be alerted.

I would have to reveal my identity.

Meanwhile,

“Brother, the fat sheep is coming!”

“Ha..Ha..Ha..., I think he must be staring at us for a reason,” one of them raised the question.

Hearing that, everyone's face turned solemn.

Right now, they were walking toward a small forest.

Where they had committed so many crimes.

"Harumph, whatever the reason, he is just a single person," the scar-faced warrior said.

The faces of the others eased after hearing his words.

"Right now, there is no need to be scared.

It was not the first time for us.

There were times when others were considered fat sheep and got killed by us," one of them said.

"Right, brother.

If the person was a Black Mark Warrior and above, he wouldn't be following us.

He would have gone to the City Administration," another one said.

The others felt it was reasonable.

So there was no need to be afraid of the outsider.

Shortly afterward, they reached the entrance of the forest.

From there, only the top of the city was visible.

No one could see them.

That's why they were able to have successful plunder.

"Hey, the fat sheep is coming.

Let's go inside and prepare for the ambush," the scar-faced warrior said.

Hearing that, everyone entered the forest.

They were going to prepare for the ambush.

Their ambush method was simple.

They were going to attack the warrior all at the same time.

No matter how strong the enemy was, he would be killed by them.

Decades of expertise had given them the experience to handle the situation.

So they were not afraid.

After coming inside the forest, everyone chose their positions to hide.

Swoosh!

The next second, everyone found their positions and got ready to attack.

On the other hand, I reached the entrance of the forest.

For some reason, I didn't think it was safe to enter.

I knew the bandit team had found out that I was stalking them.

Instead of going inside, I should wait for them here at the entrance.

After gaining some clarity in my thoughts, I stood there.

Chapter 1080: Eliminating the Wolf Team!

From MC's Perspective:

Standing in front of the forest, I'm thinking about the next plan.

I activated the perception ability.

The next second, the area around me appears in my mind.

I could see further distances.

When I tried to see the area inside the forest, I immediately saw the warriors hiding inside to ambush me.

After confirming this, my mouth curved into an arc.

I raised my hand and pointed towards them.

“Lightning Cage!”

I executed the new lightning technique.

A dense purple lightning was released from my right hand and shot into the forest.

Buzz!

The purple lightning went into the forest in a flash.

Then it stopped in midair before covering the area underneath it.

In the blink of an eye, purple lightning spread around the area like a cage.

The purple lightning struck the bodies of the warriors hidden in the surroundings.

Argh!

One after another, mournful screams were heard.

The bandit warriors were caught off guard by the sudden strike of purple lightning.

The purple lightning was abnormally powerful to begin with.

In the blink of an eye, it scorched four of them to death, leaving one behind whose life was hanging by a thread.

This all happened within seconds.

When the screaming stopped, I dismissed the technique and went inside.

I knew about the purple lightning, and I was worried that they were dead.

Then I appeared at the spot.

The ground and the surrounding area were scorched.

As I began to look around, I saw scorched bodies.

Their clothes were totally burnt, and their bodies were exposed.

I saw smoke coming out from their bodies.

In a flash, I appeared before one of the bodies and started checking for a heartbeat.

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"The guy is dead," my eyes flickered.

But I'm not sad.

They were bandits to begin with.

They were going to die sooner or later; it's just that they died in my hands.

Then my gaze fell on his storage ring.

My eyes lit up as I removed the storage ring from his finger.

Then I spread my consciousness to check it.

Inside, I came across essence stones, herbs, weapon artifacts, and pills.

But they were for Commander Rank warriors and below.

They were useless to me.

Then I put the storage ring into mine.

I didn't know whether it was okay to leave the corpse here.

I thought of something important.

There are many lightning warriors in this region.

No one can trace it back to me easily.

Swoosh!

I left the spot and went to check another body.

The bandit's heart and inner organs were scorched.

Seeing that, my pupils shrink.

I knew my purple lightning had become stronger after the breakthrough.

But not to this level.

I guessed it was all because of the growth-type purple lightning seed; it must have grown after the breakthrough.

That's why the purple lightning was abnormally strong.

Then I pushed down these thoughts before removing the storage ring from the corpse.

Swoosh!

Then I went to check the other bodies before removing their storage rings.

Finally, I came to the last one.

"Hmmm," I raised my eyebrows in surprise upon sensing vitality.

"He is alive," I said to myself.

"Water," the last person muttered.

Hearing that, I thought of asking him for details.

"I can give you water.

Tell me, where is your hideout?" I asked.

Hearing that, the bandit unknowingly answered.

“City Administration!”

The next second, he lost his breath.

My eyes turned solemn.

The bandit must be telling the truth.

He was at his last moment asking for water, so he answered without resistance.

“City Administration, huh?” I said to myself.

I thought that the clash was going to be invincible.

I knew the City Administration was corrupt, but not to this level.

After removing the storage ring, I left the place.

In a blink of an eye, I left the forest.

I was on my way back to Central Fort City.

Not long after,

I reached the city gate.

The same two guards were stationed there.

Upon sensing me, they turned towards me.

The next second, their eyes filled with horror.

“He is alive?”

“How is this possible?”

One of the city guards uttered in disbelief.

“No!”

“He must have turned halfway before coming back,” the other city guard refuted.

Hearing that, the first one relaxed.

On the other hand, my mouth curved into an arc looking at their reaction.

They must be in disbelief.

“I hope they don’t attack me.

I’m not planning to kill them yet,” I said to myself.

When I walked past them, they didn’t stop me.

Just as I was leaving, I heard one of their calls.

“Stop!”

Hearing that, I turned around and asked, "What?"

The city guard snorted before asking, "What happened to the group of warriors?"

"Group of warriors?"

"Are you talking about that group that went before me?" I asked back in confusion.

The city guard was pissed off, but he controlled his urge to hit me.

But he didn't know how lucky he was to make this right decision.

Otherwise, he would have been slapped to death.

"Yes, it's them," the city guard asked.

"I don't know.

I returned halfway," I replied.

Hearing that, the city guard felt at ease.

He couldn't leave his post to check whether the statement was true or not, but he believed in the strength of the wolf team.

"You can go now," the city guard gave a glare before leaving.

I sighed inwardly.

This city was rotten to the core.

Unless I eliminated each one of them, no one could save this city.

Shaking my head, I started walking back to the inn.

Shortly afterward,

After entering the room, I sat on the bed and began to ponder.

Now that I know the hideout of the bandit group is related to the City Administration.

Either the hideout is located near the City Administration or someone from the City Administration knows about the hideout.

After gaining some clarity in my thoughts, I decided to check the City Administration building at night.

Then I shifted my attention back to the storage rings.

I took the storage rings of the bandits out from my storage ring.

I placed them on the bed one by one.

After nearly arranging them, I set my gaze on the second storage ring.

The first one I had checked was full of useless items.

I hoped that the second one wouldn't disappoint me.

Then I picked the second one and checked it using my consciousness.

My eyes flashed with disappointment.

It was all looted items, but there were no items in the General Rank category.

Then I checked the third and fourth storage rings.

They had similar items.

It appeared that they had divided the looted items equally.

Then my gaze fell on the fifth ring.

I didn't know whether the fifth ring would be any different.

I picked it and began checking with my consciousness.

Inside, I came across piles of clothes, daily necessities, pills, and weapons.

Just as I thought of leaving, I saw a piece of paper.

With a thought, I took the paper out.

I placed the fifth storage ring back before viewing the paper.

Someone had hand-drawn something on it.

When I started to go through the lines drawn on the map, a quick realization dawned on me.

These are not random lines scribbled by someone.

I remembered taking this ring from the scar-faced bandit.

Earlier, the scar-faced bandit was the one who spotted me.

He could be the leader of the bandit team.

I looked at the random lines before thinking of comparing them with the Central Fort City map.

There was a high possibility that the random lines were a map.

In the sci-fi watch of mine, I accessed the map of the city.

Any Star University can access the maps; it's one of the benefits of doing outside missions.

The Central Fort City map appeared on the screen.

I was looking at the top view of the city.

There were a few high-rise buildings.

The rest of the buildings were residential buildings.

A few high-rise buildings were built around the City Administration Building.

I understood that the city was not known for business activities.

The few high-rise buildings could be the property of some warrior families because no one else had the guts to engage in illegal activities.

There must be some kind of power behind it.

A quick gleam appeared in my eyes.

The mission was all about eliminating the bandit boss.

But after coming to the city, I realized that there were many illegal activities going on.

It was like a hornet's nest.

If I unknowingly poked my nose into other issues, it might cause unwanted problems for me.

So I should focus on solving this banditry first.

Then I started to check for similarities between the hand-drawn lines and the top view of the Central Fort City map.

Since the dead bandit uttered "City Administration" before his last breath, my eyes lingered around the City Administration Building.

But it was hard to compare simple lines with building structures.

As time passed, I couldn't get any single clue.

So I stopped wasting time on it.