

BloodLine 1521

Chapter 1521: A New rift appeared

Star University Territory

On the way, I found an isolated cave. I decided to spend the night here. I'm sure the news about Brook Bridge City must have alarmed other cities.

Hereafter, I have to be wary of the foreign creature spies. Dean Jerome had wiped out most of them. Still, there might be a few people hiding and waiting for my appearance.

I collected my thoughts and checked the passages inside. Then I sat down and leaned against the wall.

Both the Purple Lightning and Blood Method have reached the Purple Mark Rank. Next, I have to select the Shock Force.

With the help of the shock force, the power of the other two inheritance forces would be destructive. If other students learned about his inheritance forces, they would be terrified.

They might wonder why there is a need for more inheritance forces. But these inheritance forces are needed to eliminate the foreign creatures.

Only the warriors with Ancient Inheritance Force can pose a threat to the foreign creatures. Those with other inheritances can only fight against the weak foreign creatures.

Those humanoid foreign creatures can easily kill talented warriors with average inheritances. So more strong inheritances mean more survivability.

That's why I'm not worried about having more inheritances. The one I didn't expect was the inheritance of the bloodline.

After figuring it out, I closed my eyes and began to comprehend the shock force rune in my mind.

Buzz!

The next second, the shock force rune began to throb in my mind. As time passed, I forgot about the outside noise.

I was fully immersed in the shock force Chapter.

Outside

The Star University Territory was alarmed. The City Lords of the various cities were alert. They had given strict orders to the guards.

They didn't want foreign creature spies to enter the cities. Because they didn't know where Zack Lockwood was present right now.

They didn't know which city Zack Lockwood was going to enter next. On top of this problem, the city lords had to monitor the families.

They had found out that Zack Lockwood destroyed the families who had betrayed the Star University and humanity.

They had chosen the side of the foreign creatures. This was not a secret anymore. The news had spread across other cities.

Everyone had become alert as well. Those families who had betrayed them began to lower their activities.

They didn't want Zack Lockwood to find them. But that didn't remove their fear.

They were afraid that Dean Jerome might have gotten their details already. It was just that they were waiting for the right opportunity.

It was not only warrior families who had betrayed them. There were a few City Lords who had chosen the sides of the foreign creatures.

Those City Lords were scared as well. They couldn't leave their cities. If they did anything right now, it would raise the eyebrows of the families in the city.

So they had no choice but to stay back in the city.

Meanwhile,

The news was widespread across Star City and the Star University Campus as well. Everyone knew that Zack Lockwood was outside, cleaning the spies from their territory.

The warriors in the top ten factions, medium-sized factions, and small-sized factions were worried and alarmed.

They might be innocent. They didn't know about the actions of their families behind them. There were some who had doubts about their own families as well.

They were scared right now. Some of them couldn't help but seek help from their elders.

The Main Elders noticed the situation as well. It was grave. Because among the families which were destroyed, one or two of them were connected to the Star University.

The Main Elders didn't know what to do. They were anxious as well. They hadn't paid too much attention to the members in the factions.

There were more than a hundred warriors depending on the factions. They couldn't spend their time monitoring them and the families behind them.

They could only take this problem to the Faction Leaders. The Faction Leaders could unite and request help from Dean Jerome.

Dark Variant Faction

Faction Leader Vince was not in a good mood. The news coming from the ground was not making him happy.

He didn't expect Zack Lockwood to survive the assassination attempts. Not only was he surviving, but he was doing successful missions as well.

It was like a slap to their faces. He had tried many times to kill Zack Lockwood, but he failed.

What was more frustrating was that he was getting calls from other territories. They were terrified by the growth of Zack Lockwood. They were afraid that they might see another Dean Jerome in the future.

For example, the Dark Shadow University and a few other universities wanted Zack Lockwood dead. They already didn't like the growing influence of Zack Lockwood.

They had tried to kill Zack Lockwood in the skylands rift, but they failed in the task. Dean Jerome had blocked the borders.

Only important people were allowed to come in and go out. Because of that, they couldn't send their men inside to attack Zack Lockwood.

Dean Jerome had long since found out about the intentions of these universities. The deans of other universities knew about it as well.

Unfortunately, they couldn't do anything right now. They were helpless. None of their warriors were able to defeat Zack Lockwood inside the warrior camps.

They could only pin their hopes on like-minded people. Faction Leader Vince was one of them. Out of desperation, the forces offered many resources.

This resource list could make the entire region boil.

With those resources, Faction Leader Vince could easily reach Red Mark Warrior. Vince was tempted as well.

That's why he had agreed earlier to help them. But Vince too had failed. These forces became even more restless. They thought Vince had been compromised.

Dean Jerome might have found out about Faction Leader Vince. If they didn't do anything soon, then they could only watch Zack Lockwood grow.

Meanwhile,

Boom!

A rift appeared in the neutral land of the Tier-4 Region. When the rift appeared, it alarmed the forces there.

The forces gathered their men to reach the rift area. Everyone suspected that it could be an old secret land inside the rift.

Chapter 1522: Small Break

Star University

The next morning, I exited the cave structure and resumed my travel. On the way, I took my device out. I checked the map.

I saw there was a medium-sized city next. If I went at this speed, then I could reach the city in a few hours.

While moving through the mid-air, I was keeping an eye on the surroundings as well. I was flying at a considerable speed. Yet I could spot anyone on the ground.

I knew the enemies could find me anywhere.

Not long after crossing a few miles, my perception caught the appearance of some warriors. They were coming towards me.

When they got closer, I saw there were three warriors. Three of them were old, but they had a purple aura behind them. It showed that they were Purple Mark Warriors.

The purple aura behind them was strong. It also meant that they were strong Purple Mark Warriors.

I paused my movements in the mid-air. Then I waited for the three of them to come. In the blink of an eye, the three warriors appeared before me.

I saw the three warriors were old men. They appeared to be sickly and weak. But their gazes were firm and strong.

"Zack Lockwood."

"You have got nowhere to escape."

"This time, we three brothers will put your life to an end right now," an old man said in a threatening tone.

Hearing that, I didn't react but circulated the purple lightning force in my body. Before they could do something, I attacked them.

"Lightning Cage."

Purple lightning bolts shot from my palm. In the blink of an eye, the lightning bolts fell on the three of them. It trapped them like a cage.

Boom!

The three of them were caught off guard. Their bodies landed on the ground with a heavy thud. The purple lightning completely charred their bodies.

Already their old skin was weak due to old age. Because of the sudden lightning attack, their skin and flesh were completely burnt.

Their internal organs were hurt as well. Smoke started coming out from their bodies. From a single attack, the three of them were seriously injured.

Argh!

The three of them roared out in pain. The next second, I released the lightning attack again.

"Lightning Drop."

The lightning balls dropped on their bodies one by one. The charred bodies were once again smoked by the lightning attack.

Argh!

This time, the scream of the old man was their last breath. The three of them had died. After confirming their death, I continued on my way.

A few hours later,

I saw some infrastructure ahead. It didn't take long for me to reach there. I saw the name of the city outside the city gate.

[Welcome to Maple City]

After reading the city name, I walked up to the city gate. The guards were standing outside. They were surprised to see my appearance.

"Stop!"

"Who are you?" one of the guards asked.

Hearing that, I touched my mask. I realized that their question was valid. Then I showed them my badge.

Upon seeing the badge of the Star University, their faces changed drastically. The next second, they dared not waste time.

They immediately opened the gate. Because both the guards were Black Mark Warriors, they felt an unknown pressure coming from the person before them.

The pressure was greater than the City Lord's. I entered the city. The backs of the guards were drenched in sweat.

My gaze swept across the place. There were not many big buildings. I could only spot a few towering buildings. I casually walked on the footpath.

I didn't know whether any transport services were available to Star City. If I went alone, I would attract enemies.

Then I saw a few shops open. I entered one of the eateries. I looked around before finding an empty table.

I sat on the chair. An old woman staff member came to take my order.

I ordered a coffee. Then I listened to the conversations around me. Only a few locals were here in the eatery. Their faces were filled with worry.

They were discussing the situation at Star University. Though the attacks and fights were happening in the big cities, the matter still concerned them.

There were warrior families here, but they were all small-sized families. The City Lord was only a Silver Mark Warrior. The family heads of the other families were at the level of the Black Mark.

So they doubted the small families would betray Star University. They couldn't help but discuss the name of Zack Lockwood as well.

The name of Zack Lockwood was popular in this medium-sized city. They had rarely seen a Gold Mark Warrior.

But Zack Lockwood was a Gold Mark Warrior, yet he had defeated Purple Mark Warriors. It had fascinated them.

They wanted to see him. But unfortunately, they couldn't leave the medium-sized city. They didn't know whether Zack Lockwood was staying outside.

There was no home outside Star University for Zack Lockwood.

On the other hand, my coffee had come to the table. I took the coffee and started drinking it. When I was done, I went to the counter and paid the bill.

Then I exited the shop and turned around. I started going back towards the city gate. Soon, I reached the place.

When I was about to leave the place, I saw someone block the path. The person was a middle-aged man. The aura coming from him was similar to a Silver Mark Warrior.

The middle-aged man was none other than the City Lord.

"Hello, I'm Calum. I'm the City Lord of this Maple City," he said to me.

Hearing that, my eyes flickered with understanding.

Then I nodded to the person and said, "I'm going somewhere. But I came across this city midway. I had to stop by to have some drinks."

City Lord Calum heard that and nodded his head. But he was feeling the unknown pressure. He couldn't help but suspect the masked man could be Zack Lockwood.

"I'm leaving the city now," I said to them.

Hearing that, Calum thought of something and asked, "Are you not going to enter the secret land?"

Chapter 1523: Back at the Star University

Star University Territory

Hearing about the secret land, I paused my footsteps. I was hearing it for the first time. I turned around and looked at City Lord Calum.

"Has a secret land appeared in our territory?" I asked him.

Calum smiled and said, "No, it's not in our territory. A new secret land appeared in the neutral area of the Tier-4 Region."

"Neutral Area," I uttered in surprise.

Then I realized it was more important to go back to Star University.

"Thanks for the information. I'm heading back to the university now," I said to Calum.

After saying that, I threw a pill bottle at him. It was one of the spoils. Calum caught the bottle. He opened the cork and inhaled the scent of the pill.

A hint of relief appeared in his eyes. Now he was sure of the identity of the masked man. He thought the person was Zack Lockwood.

On the other hand, I turned around and resumed my journey. I began to use the lightning phantom technique.

The speed improved drastically.

A few days later, I reached the territory of Star City. I had not faced any obstacles so far, but I had come across a few cities along the way.

The news of the secret land was widespread. Everyone was talking about it. So much so, my news was suppressed. It was no longer a hot topic. The sudden situation had indirectly helped me.

Swoosh!

Then I continued on my way. It didn't take long for me to reach the city. After going inside the city, I immediately went to the official cab platforms.

The cab service from Star University was available all the time. My arrival didn't draw attention. I expected at least one or two people to recognize me.

But no one recognized me. Then I went toward the cab platform area. I saw the official cab from Star University.

I approached the cab. A middle-aged man was sitting in the driver's seat. Upon seeing me, the driver raised his head.

"I want to go to Star University." After saying that, I showed my badge.

The middle-aged man recognized the badge. His expression changed drastically.

"Young Master, get inside. I will take you back to the campus," the man replied.

Then I entered the cab and sat down in the back seat. The man started the cab.

Swoosh!

The cab rose from the ground. After appearing in mid-air, the car went towards Star University.

20 minutes later,

The car reached the campus. The car landed on the platform. I stepped out of the car and thanked the middle-aged man.

Then I began striding towards the Thunderflame Faction. I didn't use the flight ability. Instead, I walked on the footpath.

I entered the main area inside the campus. I came across the members. But the members were busy. They didn't pay attention to the outside.

As I was walking further, I noticed there were a few people using the footpath. Usually, that was not the case. I guessed it was related to the secret land.

Since there were no obstacles on the way, I reached the territory of the Thunderflame Faction.

I entered the Thunderflame Faction. Then my gaze fell on the area. I saw the movement of the members here.

My appearance drew attention. Since I was wearing a mask, none of them asked anything. I started going towards the residential area.

When I reached the place, I saw there was no one standing outside. I opened the gate and walked up to the door.

I used the key and walked inside. I shut the door and scanned the place. The room was covered in dust. I entered the bathroom to take a shower.

Meanwhile,

Dean Jerome learned the news about Zack Lockwood's return. He had eyes and ears all over the campus.

When the cab landed on the platform and Zack Lockwood stepped outside, he learned about the news then.

He sent a text message to Zack Lockwood. He wanted to meet Zack Lockwood. So, he sent a message stating that if Zack Lockwood was ready to meet, he could text him back.

Since Zack Lockwood had just returned from the mission, he didn't want to disturb Zack Lockwood's rest.

Time passed,

That night, I lay down in bed. I had cleaned the room earlier. There was no dust or debris in the room. I took my device out.

Then I thought of Dean Jerome. I read the message sent by him earlier. I replied back that I would meet him the next morning.

I had this feeling that I might go to the secret land. Then I closed my eyes and fell asleep.

The next morning,

I woke up. After getting out of bed, I started doing my morning routine. Compared to before, I was a bit more relaxed and better.

The morning routine lasted for one hour. Then I began to get ready.

20 minutes later,

After getting ready, I exited the residence. Then I closed the door and left the main gate. I was about to turn around when I saw a Purple Mask Guard appear in front of me.

Seeing him, I was not surprised. The next second, the Purple Mask Guard grabbed my shoulder.

Swoosh!

The next second, we disappeared from the place.

It didn't take long for us to reach Dean Jerome's place. The Purple Mask Guard didn't speak along the way.

After reaching the dean's office, I walked inside the room. Dean Jerome was sitting behind the desk. The Purple Guard stood next to him.

Jerome raised his head and observed Zack Lockwood. He saw a Purple Mark Aura behind Zack Lockwood.

It confirmed that Zack Lockwood had entered the Purple Mark Rank.

"You are a Purple Mark Warrior right now," Jerome said.

"You have no threats now. The half-step Red Mark Warriors won't be able to take action against you," he added.

Hearing that, I thanked Dean Jerome.

"You must have heard about the secret land. The minimum requirement is the Purple Mark Rank. You can enter the secret land now," Jerome said.

Chapter 1524: Part 1: Secret Land Journey

Star University

Dean Jerome then thought of something and said, "No one will target you from outside. But once you are inside, people might act against you."

Hearing that, I understood the danger. But I was confident in my strength.

"Don't underestimate your enemies. They might employ underhanded tactics such as poison, hidden weapons, and artifacts."

"They can endanger your lives," Jerome warned again.

I nodded to him. I had a sealing inheritance power. But I couldn't tell him that.

"Okay, he will take you to the secret land entrance. This time there is no limit to entry. Those who have attained the Purple Mark Rank have entered the secret land."

"Some of them have already entered inside. We don't know how long the entry time will last. It's better for you to go there immediately," Jerome said.

"Okay," I replied.

The next second, the Purple Mark Guard and I left the Dean's office.

A few minutes later,

The Purple Mark Guard grabbed my shoulder and started moving through the mid-air. In the blink of an eye, we left the Star University campus.

We were moving toward the secret land. After some time, I told the Purple Mark Guard that I could match his speed.

"Let's keep your Purple Mark Strength hidden for now," the Purple Mark Guard said.

Hearing that, I remained silent.

One hour later,

We arrived at the neutral area. There was a big rift in the sky. Warriors could be seen entering the secret land.

"You can go. I will wait outside. You still have a target on your back," the Purple Mark Guard said.

I felt numerous gazes from everywhere. Because of my mask, everyone did nothing but probe.

Swoosh!

The next second, I flew towards the rift in the sky. I saw warriors who were outside entering inside the rift one by one.

I followed them towards the rift. The rift was nothing but a black crack. I stepped inside the black crack. The next second, I felt myself descending down to the ground.

I didn't feel any danger. It didn't take long to touch the ground. After landing, my gaze swept across the place.

It was a rainforest with a heavy downpour of rain. Certainly, it was not a good place for a fire elemental warrior.

But the world energy in this place was dense. It was a good place for a retreat. If I could spend a few more days here, then my other inheritance methods would reach the Purple Mark Rank as well.

A quick gleam appeared in my eyes. I decided to find a secluded spot first. For others, they needed to find resources.

But for me, the retreat was important. I had already collected resources from the loot. There were treasures which I had not consumed yet.

I turned on my perception and began to survey the surroundings first. I wanted to know about the place.

The rainforest was strangely quiet. Then, I picked a direction and started following the path.

Buzz!!

Suddenly, I heard a buzzing sound. My perception caught the appearance of an insect monster. The size of the insect monster was over the size of a fist.

When it got closer to me, I finally caught the appearance of the monster. It was a mosquito with a long, needle-like nose. It was coming in my direction.

I recognized the strength of the monster. It was a Class-13 Monster. I extended my hand and released the purple lightning force from my palm.

The purple lightning bolts came into contact with the mosquito, landing on its body. The next second, the mosquito was completely charred and fell down to the ground.

After killing it, I resumed my journey. It didn't take long for more buzzing sounds to be heard. In my perception, I spotted a swarm of the mosquito monsters.

They were coming at a fast speed. I turned around and was ready to face them. If it had been earlier, I would have been worried, but not now.

In the blink of an eye, the swarm of mosquito monsters got closer to me. Still, I didn't use a technique.

I manipulated the purple lightning force externally and attacked the swarm of mosquito monsters.

Boom!

The purple lightning bolts landed on the swarm of mosquitoes one by one. One after another, explosions occurred.

In the blink of an eye, the swarms of mosquito monsters were roasted. One by one, the dead bodies fell down to the ground with a heavy thud.

After killing all the mosquito monsters, I resumed my journey. On the way, I increased the threat level of the place in my mind.

The swarm of mosquito monsters earlier was made up of Class-13 Monsters. It was equal to the Purple Mark Rank of the warriors.

No wonder only the Purple Mark Warriors were allowed to enter the secret land. After a continuous journey, I finally exited the rainforest.

Then I entered a barren land. My gaze swept across the place. Compared to the rainforest, this place seemed to be fine. The downpour of heavy rain had stopped.

I continued to travel through that barren land. Soon, I found a good, secluded spot. There was a small, cave-like opening behind a bedrock. It led to an underground passage.

Seeing that, I walked inside the passage. My perception scanned the passage. There was no one inside.

I found a spot and sat down. Then I leaned against the wall. I closed my eyes and began to comprehend the shock force rune.

Buzz!

The rune in my mind began to throb. As the throbbing increased, I slowly immersed myself in the practice.

The doubts regarding the shock force power began to clear. Slowly, I was getting a deeper understanding of the shock force.

The shock force energy from the surroundings entered my body. Slowly, I guided the shock force inside my body.

Finally, it settled down inside the dantian. The circulation was also giving me clarity about the shock force power.

If this continued, I would reach the limit soon. It would only be a matter of time before my shock force power entered the Purple Mark Rank.

Chapter 1525: Part 2: Secret Land Journey

Secret Land

In the secret land, more than 200 Purple Mark Warriors have entered. Most of them are here to find the opportunity to reach the Red Mark Rank. It's the ceiling of the Tier-4 region.

If they could find the opportunity to reach the Half-Step Red Mark, it would already be a success. So, they are searching for that opportunity.

Whereas, there is a small section of groups here for another purpose. They are here to find Zack Lockwood and end his life in the secret land.

This small section of groups is divided into various teams. Different universities have sent their teams to eliminate Zack Lockwood.

They didn't contact other universities about this matter; they are taking individual action. At the same time, the Foreign Creatures have used planted spies in large numbers.

They have increased the threat level of Zack Lockwood. They wanted to eliminate the genius warrior before he became a Purple Mark Rank Warrior.

They knew if Zack Lockwood became a Purple Mark Warrior, they would lose the opportunity to target him further. Zack Lockwood would leave the Tier-4 region.

Then, they could only leave the opportunity to the higher-ups.

Meanwhile,

I lost track of time while practicing. I felt the limit and opened my eyes. I found out the place was dark. It was nighttime.

I forgot about the time while practicing the shock force power. But I was not without gain. I felt progress in the shock force rune.

It won't be long before I can reach the limit. Then, I stood up and went to the exit. Just then, I felt a sense of crisis.

I immediately left the place. My perception caught the appearance of a monster. It was coming towards the cave.

When it got closer, I saw the appearance of the monster clearly. It was a Class-13 Black Scorpion Monster.

Seeing that, I understood where the sense of crisis came from. I then looked towards the cave passage and then at the monster.

The cave passage was wide enough for the Scorpion Monster to go inside. I decided to leave the place. I didn't want to waste energy by fighting against the monster.

Boom!

Not long after taking a couple of steps forward, I found out the scorpion monster was coming at me. It set its gaze on me.

Seeing that, I cursed under my breath. The massive size of the monster was over 7 meters. I understood that a fight was inevitable.

When the monster got closer to me:

"Purple Lightning Cage!"

I executed the technique. I released purple lightning from my hands. In a flash, the purple lightning bolts landed on the body of the big scorpion.

Boom! Boom!

The purple lightning bolts blasted away the big scorpion monster. The monster fell sideways. Its body was riddled with holes.

Almost half of its body was charred and smoking. Now, the beast didn't move from the spot. It was like a statue.

When I checked its condition, I found out that the monster was dead. I sucked in a cold breath of air. I used to fear such giant monsters.

Now, I could kill such monsters in one move. Then, I collected my thoughts and left the place. I intended to find another spot to spend the night.

It didn't take long for the border of the barren land to arrive. I saw a semi-forest with tall-growing trees.

I landed on one of the branches of a tree. Then, I used a sword to dig a hole in the trunk. After doing that, I went inside to rest.

The following day,

After waking up, I didn't leave the place. Instead, I closed my eyes and began to focus on the shock force rune.

The shock force rune in my mind flickered. I once again lost track of time. The dense world energy in the secret land was giving me inspiration.

I forgot about the time.

Meanwhile,

The warriors were looking for opportunities everywhere. They had come across monsters while looking for them.

The monsters here are at the level of the Purple Mark Rank. They clashed against the warriors.

On one side, severe fighting was taking place. On the other side, warriors were looking for Zack Lockwood. They knew Zack Lockwood had entered the secret land.

Some of them had witnessed Zack Lockwood entering the rift earlier. If they could complete the task, then they would get rewards from the higher-ups.

There is a competition among the teams as well. Everyone is acting separately and looking for Zack Lockwood.

Right now, one such team is near the semi-desert.

They are going towards the barren area. This team has four Purple Mark Warriors. All of them are past middle-aged.

They landed near a place not far away from here. Since then, they have been looking for Zack Lockwood's traces. They are not even looking for opportunities.

When they got closer to the tall trees.

At the same time, I heard the conversations of the warriors. I hadn't paid attention earlier, but I heard my name. I stopped practicing and opened my eyes.

Then, I listened to the conversation clearly.

"They are looking for me," I said in my heart.

I never expected to come across enemies so quickly. Then, I decided to try something else this time.

I circulated the bloodline force. A bright blue water drop formed at the tip of my right hand's index finger.

Then, I left the hole and stood on the branch. My gaze fell on the backs of the four warriors.

Boom! Boom!

I pointed my index finger at them. Then, I shot water drops at them one by one.

In a flash, the water beams pierced the bodies of the warriors one after another.

"Aahhhh!"

A blood-curdling scream left their mouths. The four of them were caught off guard by the sudden attack. One by one, their bodies fell down to the ground.

Pfff!

They were severely injured. Blood spurted from their wounds. The four warriors are terrified right now. They thought some monster had attacked them.

Chapter 1526: Purple Mark Warrior (Shock Force)

Secret land

The four warriors on the ground were injured. I appeared behind them. I saw blood flowing out from their wounds.

It was slowly forming a pool of blood around them.

The four warriors turned their bodies with great difficulty. Then they saw the face of the person.

They were stunned. It was not what they expected.

The person was wearing a mask. He seemed calm, but they could feel an unknown pressure radiating from him.

"Who are you?"

"Why did you attack us?"

The warriors started asking questions. Hearing that, I looked down at them with disdain in my eyes.

"I should be the one asking these questions," I replied.

"What do you mean?" one of them asked.

"I'm Zack Lockwood," I said.

Hearing that, the faces of the four changed drastically. They were terrified. Their eyes flickered with understanding.

"I apologize."

"We were offered great rewards to target you," the injured warriors said with great difficulty.

But they were not genuine. Each of them harbored terrible intentions.

At the same time, I felt the malicious intent radiating from them. The next second, my heart turned cold.

I had thought of sparing them, but they proved that such a thought was wrong.

"Lightning Drop."

I used the purple lightning attack. Powerful lightning bolts landed on their bodies one by one.

None of the four could even open their mouths to scream. Their bodies were paralyzed by the lightning power.

The destructive lightning power was hurting their internal organs. They were slowly getting weaker.

Even the blood flowing out from their wounds stopped. The wounds were drying up as well.

A few minutes later.m,

Their internal organs failed. Their hearts stopped. All four of the warriors died.

Dark smoke rose from their charred corpses. Seeing that they were dead, I left the place in the blink of an eye.

I was going to cross the semi-forest this time. As I traveled through the forest, I came under a green canopy from time to time.

My perception covered the area. Suddenly, the scent of a fruit attacked my nostrils. For a second, I ignored it.

As I continued to move forward, the scent of the fruit grew stronger. This time, I paused my movements. I turned around and moved toward the source.

It led me toward a dense area. Then, I came across one particular tree. The tree was short and had a thick trunk.

My gaze fell on those strange, red-colored fruits. I moved toward them. My gaze locked onto a single fruit.

I felt a craving for the fruit. To think a fruit could make a Purple Mark Warrior stir. I collected my thoughts and began to harvest the fruits, storing them inside my storage ring.

After doing that, I didn't destroy the tree. I left the place. I planned to find a good, isolated spot to continue my secluded practice next.

As time passed, I continued on my journey.

Soon, I found a secluded area. There was a small crevice located between the bedrocks. I entered the crevice. It was just large enough for someone of my size to enter.

Not long after entering the place, I checked the area using my perception. The place was found to be safe. Then, I leaned against the wall and sat cross-legged on the ground.

Then, I took a fruit out and began to observe it. I didn't recognize the fruit, but there was a distinct craving coming from my body.

I have an incomplete ancient healing technique. I decided to take a risk. I ate the fruits one by one, before fully consuming them all.

The red energy entered my body. The energy flowed across my body. I began to guide the energy through myself by using the shock force method.

As time passed, my understanding of the shock force skyrocketed all of a sudden. The unknown fruit brought an unexpected surprise.

The energy settled down inside my dantian. It was assimilated into my inheritance forces.

Soon, my understanding of the shock force power reached its limit. It was one step away from breaking the barrier. Then, the shock force power would enter the Purple Mark Rank.

But I had no trouble. I had a few other fruits. After refining the current fruit's energy, I consumed the other fruits from time to time.

The fruit energy brought an increase in my comprehension power.

Click!

Purple Mark Rank - Shock Force Power

It didn't take long for the barrier to shatter. The shock force rune strengthened again. It shot out a mysterious power which entered my body, mind, soul, and dantian.

Another shackle in my body was broken. In my mind, additional information appeared.

The additional information was about the next Chapter of the shock force integration method.

Now that the shock force power had entered the Purple Mark Rank, the shock force power in my dantian improved again.

I began to comprehend the new Chapter of the shock force.

As time passed, I stabilized my new strength. Each improvement and inheritance breakthrough brought an overall improvement to my physique.

My body strength was now stronger than before. When my gaze landed on my hands, my eyes flashed with a hint of regret. I had consumed all of the unknown fruit.

But it was not without gain. Next, I will focus on getting a breakthrough in my bloodline power.

After figuring things out, I looked outside. It was a bright day. The next second, I exited the cave and appeared outside. Then, I picked a direction and started moving along that path.

Soon, I came across a group of Purple Mark Warriors. The Purple Mark Warriors didn't hide their hostility. Seeing someone traveling alone, they decided to target him and loot his fortune.

When they blocked my path ahead, my gaze fell on the five warriors. I had wanted to use my shock force power earlier, and I never expected to get the opportunity so soon.

Swoosh!

The next second, I disappeared from the spot. I appeared before them in a flash. Before they could do anything, I circulated my shock force power and attacked them one by one.

Chapter 1527: Bloodline Method Training

Secret land

Boom!

The five warriors were attacked by me. The shock force punched and tore through their bodies, obliterating their internals.

Until their deaths, their eyes were wide open, filled with shock and fear. Five of the bodies dropped to the ground.

My gaze fell on their corpses. I had completely crushed them. The power of the shock force was overbearing. The word "crushed" seemed to lack the full intent. It was absolute obliteration.

Then I pushed away the thought and began to collect the storage rings from their bodies. After collecting the rings, I left the place.

Time passed.

I entered another territory. I used the red ring to hide my presence. Then I carved out a hole in a tree and hid inside it.

I closed the gap with twigs and branches. I took the looted storage rings out and checked them one by one. I found a few treasures, including a treasure leaf.

It was useful to me. I consumed the treasure leaf and began to visualize the bloodline method. The bloodline drop rune began to throb.

Buzz!

As time passed, I began to focus on the rune, completely forgetting about the noise outside.

Meanwhile,

The warriors were looking for Zack Lockwood everywhere, but it was no easy task. The secret land was vast, and Class-12 and Class-13 monsters were roaming freely across the land.

Some of the warriors came across the monsters, resulting in a few casualties on both sides. There were others who didn't face any monsters at all.

Among them, a few had collected treasures, while the rest were still hunting for them.

...

Outside the secret land

The Purple Mark Guard was waiting outside. His strength was at the Half-step Red Mark level, but it was hidden; others could only think of him as a standard Purple Mark Warrior.

The Purple Mark Guard swept his gaze across the area. He detected several hidden auras in the skies.

They were not showing themselves, but he knew they were from different universities. He was getting the feeling that the place would soon be overturned.

Once Zack Lockwood came outside, he could face a massive threat from the people gathered here. The guard could tell that there were already warriors probing his own strength as well.

On the other hand, there were Purple Mark Elders from the Dark Shadow University, Giant Tower University, Eclipse University, Red Moon Tower, and a few other powerful families.

They had come here with motives of their own. The Elders from the Dark Shadow University wanted Zack Lockwood dead.

They had tried different methods earlier, but each method had failed. Now, they have been given another chance.

The Elders from the Dark Shadow University were determined to eliminate Zack Lockwood this time, but it was not going to be easy.

They had seen the Purple Mark Guard. They had heard about him before—he was the closest person to Dean Jerome.

If anything happened to Zack Lockwood, it was highly possible that Dean Jerome might show up personally. So, they had to complete the task before it was too late.

The Dark Shadow Elders alone couldn't handle it, so they got help from the Giant Tower University and the Eclipse University.

The other two factions could block the Purple Mark Guard while they handled the execution.

At the same time, they were not the only ones after Zack Lockwood. The foreign creatures had sent their killers as well.

They stood alone, completely aware of the universities' presence, and made up their minds to reap the rewards before anyone else could.

...

Inside the secret land

I ended my practice a few hours later and waited for morning. When the morning light finally appeared, I exited the tree hole.

Once again, I resumed my journey, moving through the forest while evading all the dangerous vines and dense vegetation.

After crossing the area, I came across a large team this time. There were more than 10 warriors traveling together.

Seeing that, my eyes flashed with a glint. How was this possible? Then I saw something that explained it.

It was a badge belonging to their specific institutions.

"Giant Tower, Dark Shadow, and Eclipse University," I muttered to myself.

Normally, these warriors wouldn't band together unless they shared a common goal. In this secret land, there was only one possibility.

They had teamed up to hunt me down. My heart stirred. If I caused a bloodbath here, I was certain the powerhouses outside wouldn't let me leave alive.

I didn't want to risk that yet. Changing my direction, I quietly left the area.

On the other hand, the warriors traveling together didn't even notice that someone had been probing them.

Not long after, my path was blocked by a Tree Monster—another Class-13 beast.

Boom!

Massive roots came shooting straight toward me. I circulated my bloodline power alongside the shock force power.

The two forces fused together. A bright blue water force with a tinge of gold materialized at the tip of my index finger.

"Purple Lightning Condensed Finger!"

I released the finger beam at the target. In a flash, the beam slammed into the incoming tree roots, destroying them instantly.

The remaining power didn't stop there; it continued forward until it struck the core of the Tree Monster. The monster's defense shattered completely.

The massive tree crashed heavily to the ground. After dealing with the Tree Monster, I left the area.

The ambush had been sudden, but fortunately, I had managed to handle it.

Days passed.

From time to time, I found secluded spots to cultivate, but my progress was slow. My bloodline strength wasn't improving fast enough.

So, I ended my seclusion and went to look for raw resources. Along the way, I repeatedly crossed paths with enemy warrior teams.

After fighting them off, I collected their storage rings. I did find a few genuine treasures inside them, which proved helpful.

Some were incredibly useful for my cultivation. Though my overall progress remained slow, each treasure was steadily strengthening my body.

Chapter 1528: Part 1: Corrupted Warriors

Secret land

Days passed.

I don't know how many days have passed, but I lost track of time. Still, I think there are only a few days left before the one-month time limit.

The bloodline training was taking longer than I thought. The visualization method is harder, but there is daily progress.

Right now, I'm staying in the old ruins. After exploring the secret land for weeks, I stumbled across this place. It shows that this place was once inhabited by humans.

Rustle!

Just as I was resting, I heard a rustling sound, followed by the sound of footsteps hurrying to the place.

I spread my perception and found out that warriors were coming towards the place. I really didn't want to fight them here.

The already ruined building would collapse completely.

Next, the Purple Mark Warriors appeared before me. They were wearing the uniform of the Dark Shadow University.

Behind them, the warriors from the Giant Tower University were there. In total, ten of them were here. I had been avoiding the warrior teams from these groups.

But I came across them finally. I stood up and touched my face. I was still wearing the mask.

"Who are you?"

"What are you doing here?" a burly middle-aged man asked.

He had already covered his body with gold elemental power. It's the inheritance of the Giant Tower Academy.

The other warriors looked towards me with the same expression. They were already showing hostile intentions.

Fortunately, I'm not wearing the uniform of Star University right now.

"I'm resting here. Our teams got separated. I found this place a day ago," I said to them.

The burly man frowned. To be honest, he wanted to attack, but he felt an unknown pressure from the masked man.

He looked toward his team. They were quiet. They felt the pressure as well. The ten warriors thought that the masked man was not easy to deal with.

None of them wanted to take action. If they were injured, they would become a burden to others.

And there was no need for a fight. They had come here to rest as well.

Then they entered the ruin and found a place for themselves to rest. Sitting down, they couldn't help but glance at the masked warrior.

Everyone felt the danger radiating from the masked man. It showed that the masked man was a veteran. He could be close to the half-step Red Mark Level.

They knew most of the wandering warriors had entered the secret land as well. Everyone wanted to look for an opportunity to break through.

Only they were looking for Zack Lockwood to complete the task given to them. Unfortunately, they hadn't found him so far. They thought Zack Lockwood was hiding somewhere.

"It appears we are going to fail in the mission," one of them said.

"Yeah, the secret land is too vast. It's not easy to find him," a female warrior said.

"I heard he can fight across ranks. Reports say that he can kill across ranks. He has already killed Purple Mark Warriors before," a middle-aged man said.

The group continued to discuss, but they didn't know that the person they were looking for was right near them.

On the other hand, I heard their words and smiled inwardly. I don't even know how many warriors I have killed so far.

Boom!

Just as we were resting, a noise from outside disturbed us.

"What's going on?"

"Is there any fighting happening outside?!"

The warriors raised these questions. Then they stood up and went outside to check. It could be people from their universities, so they had to help.

The ten warriors quickly increased their speed.

But when they appeared outside, they were stunned by what they were facing.

On the other hand, I used my perception. My perception spread across the area, and then I saw someone standing at the entrance.

I frowned. I felt a sense of crisis. Ever since I stepped into the Purple Mark Rank, I rarely felt threatened. So, the threat from this person intrigued me.

I went outside to check as well.

Then I saw the ten warriors had surrounded a person. I don't know whether it's okay to call him a person. The figure was not from the university; he seemed to be a lone warrior from outside.

When I looked at him clearly, my expression changed drastically. It was because the person did not look ordinary. Half of his body was covered in black energy.

The black energy gave off a familiar vibe. Where could I have encountered this energy before? It belonged to the foreign creatures.

My heart turned cold. The next second, I circulated my purple lightning force and shock force. The two mixed forces began to flow through my body.

In the blink of an eye, a mixed force finger beam appeared at the tip of my index finger.

"Lightning Condensed Finger!"

I extended my hand and released the finger beam.

Boom!

I shot out the finger beam. In the blink of an eye, the beam traveled in a straight line before landing on the body of the figure covered in black energy.

Boom!

The power of the mixed force obliterated half of the person's body upon contact. The remaining half collapsed onto the ground.

The attack was so sudden that it startled the others. The ten warriors were terrified as they looked at the half-obliterated body on the ground.

They were shocked and terrified to the core. Then they turned toward the masked warrior. Just as they had suspected, the masked man was a powerful warrior.

The next second, the warriors looked at each other. They understood that the masked man could be a half-step Red Mark Warrior.

Their backs were drenched in sweat. The ten warriors made a swift decision.

Swoosh!

The ten warriors then fled from the place the next moment. They didn't want to fight against a half-step Red Mark Warrior.

When they were gone, I returned to the ruin. I didn't give chase. They had completely misunderstood me for a half-step Red Mark stronger warrior.

I shook my head before heading back inside. I found a good spot, leaned against the wall, and sat cross-legged on the ground.

I decided to take a few more hours of rest.

Chapter 1529: Part 2: Corrupted Warriors

Secret Land

The next morning, I left the ruins and continued the journey to explore the new place. But this time, the terrain was vast, open, flat land. Everything was visible.

If any monsters were to appear in the land, then I would be directly exposed. But I wasn't afraid. I was waiting for the secret land to send me out.

Right then, my perception caught something. I heard a commotion coming from ahead. I increased my pace and moved towards the spot.

In the blink of an eye, I reached the place. Then I saw a group of warriors fighting against each other.

When I paid closer attention, I found out that seven people were present. Three of them were fighting against four warriors who were covered in dark energy.

The dark energy was similar to the person who fought me earlier. The dark energy was similar to the foreign creature.

I decided to help out the warriors.

Swoosh!

I disappeared from the spot. I got closer towards the place. My arrival surprised them. The three warriors looked towards me.

They saw the newly arrived masked warrior. They sighed in relief.

Boom!

On the other hand, I directly confronted the four warriors. My hand snapped out fast before striking the warriors covered in the dark energy.

I used the purple lightning power outwardly.

In the blink of an eye, my fist made contact with a body. The next second, the lightning power blasted away the warriors one by one.

In a flash, the bodies of the four crashed back to the ground. Their bodies were charred by the purple lightning power. The dark energy diminished.

Yet, their bodies still had a lingering breath.

The three warriors who were recovering were terrified. They didn't expect the masked man to be so powerful.

They didn't dare to breathe out loud.

I saw that four of the warriors were close to death. Then I turned towards the three warriors.

"Care to tell me what happened here?" I asked them.

The three warriors collected their thoughts.

One of them said, "We are traveling as one team."

"During our exploration, we came across another team. We decided to work as a team. But not long after, their bodies changed. They started to behave differently," he added in a solemn tone.

But his voice was filled with a trembling tone.

The other warrior was shocked as well.

Then he said, "The black energy has increased their strength. They began to overpower us. Fortunately, you arrived on time."

I heard their conversation. I understood that they didn't know about the black energy. But I was alert.

The foreign creature had found an unusual way to corrupt the warriors. If they intended to harm others, then they could easily achieve their objective.

Then I told the warriors to take care of themselves before leaving the place. It seemed the corrupted warriors were popping up everywhere.

I guessed the secret land's closing time was near.

As time passed, I continued going through the forest. My perception caught a new group of warriors again.

But this time, I felt the group of warriors was strong. They were not old, but middle-aged. Yet, their strength seemed to have touched the limit of the Purple Mark Rank.

Soon, we crossed each other's path. I saw five of the warriors wearing the emblem of the Dark Shadow University.

My heart stirred. It was the first time I was coming across such a strong group of warriors from the Dark Shadow University.

I glanced at the five warriors before deciding to walk past them.

Suddenly, one of them blocked my path. He was a short-haired, middle-aged man with a heavy build.

"Take off your mask," he said in a threatening tone.

The other four warriors then came to his side. They were looking at me as well.

"Why should I?" I asked back.

"We are looking for one person. Show your face. If you are not that person, then we will leave," a thin-physique warrior said.

"Don't make us kill you," a female warrior said.

Hearing that, my mouth curved into an arc behind the mask.

"I heard the warriors of the Dark Shadow University were arrogant. Now I have seen it myself," I said to them.

Hearing that, the faces of the warriors changed drastically.

The burly man made a move. He brought his axe weapon outside to cleave.

Swoosh!

I disappeared from the spot. Before they knew it, I got closer to them. I circulated my blood and shock force.

Then I rocketed my fist towards them. When the fist landed on their bodies...

Boom!

A deafening noise occurred. The shock force broke their defense and the blood force power assaulted their internal organs.

In the blink of an eye, their internals were squashed. The five warriors were scared. They were in disbelief and shock.

Their vitality slipped away. Their bodies then collapsed onto the ground. Blood was flowing out from their injuries.

The bleeding made their deaths faster. It didn't take long for them to take their final breath. All five of the warriors from the Dark Shadow University had died.

Until their deaths, they didn't know who the masked man was. I looked down at them. My gaze fell on their storage rings.

A quick gleam appeared in my eyes.

I collected their storage rings and checked their contents. Then I found a vial filled with a black, squirming liquid.

I immediately found this bottle suspicious. I couldn't help but think of the black energy corrupting the warriors earlier.

They might have gotten it from the higher-ups. If the thing was related to the black energy, it confirmed their involvement with the foreign creature.

But I didn't know whether it was useful to take it with me. I took only the useful items from the rings before throwing them on the ground.

Outside

The number of elders had increased. From time to time, they were looking towards the Purple Mark Guard.

The Star University emblem was eye-catching. The rumors had already spread that Zack Lockwood was inside the secret land.

There were other talented geniuses who had entered the secret land as well.

Chapter 1530: Francesca's worry

Secret Land

I found another isolated spot. Fortunately, the secret land has many cave-like structures. I went inside and covered the entrance with small rocks.

If anyone makes a forceful entry, then I will know.

I sat cross-legged on the ground. Then I checked the storage rings. My gaze was drawn toward a yellowish root. I didn't know whether it was the root of a tree or a plant.

I consumed the tree root and digested it. The warm energy entered my body. Once again, the strange root made my thoughts clear.

I focused on the bloodline visualization method.

As time passed, my focus grew stronger. The bloodline in my body stirred. A bright blue water force from the surroundings entered my body.

The force mixed with the energy of the strange root. I guided the energies according to the route mentioned.

After circulation, the energy settled inside the dantian. I didn't stop and continued with the process. The energy of the strange root disappeared.

Yet I still circulated the bright blue water force in my body.

Time passed.

I opened my eyes two hours later. I felt the limit. Over-practicing could hurt my veins. I ended the practice. I thought I was getting closer to the limit.

But I didn't know whether I would get a breakthrough in the secret land. If I wasn't wrong, there were only a few days left.

I decided to stay here until the secret land's time limit ended. In the meantime, I could focus on the visualization method.

Besides, I doubted anyone would come here to disturb the peace.

Outside,

The warriors were still looking for Zack Lockwood. Some gave up after spending so many days. They had started collecting resources instead.

Only a few academy teams who had rich backgrounds were looking for Zack Lockwood. If they could eliminate Zack Lockwood, then they would get a lot of benefits.

They would get fame. Their university would provide them with resources. The families behind them could climb up the ladder further.

Unfortunately, none of them were able to find him. They didn't even doubt whether the intel was good.

They had entered the secret land earlier, so no one had seen Zack Lockwood.

A few days later,

The secret land shook. It ejected the warriors who had entered it. One by one, the warriors exited the sky rift.

They were then taken by their elders.

The Purple Mark Guard moved closer toward the sky rift. Those elders didn't stop him. It wasn't that they didn't want to; they were simply weak.

They had heard of his reputation. If this person escaped, then they might face punishment from their own universities.

Shortly afterwards,

I exited the sky rift and appeared outside. I looked around and immediately found the Purple Mark Guard. He didn't say anything.

He appeared in front of me and grabbed my shoulder.

Swoosh!

The next second, we left the place. The hidden eyes which wanted to stop Zack Lockwood from leaving could only watch helplessly.

Soon, the remaining survivors left the sky rift. There were casualties, but not at an alarming rate. It was well within their calculations when it came to completing the task.

Everyone reported that they didn't come across Zack Lockwood, because the secret land was vast and there were Class-13 Monsters everywhere.

It was hard enough for them to save their own lives.

Boom!

The sky rift abruptly closed itself. The space returned to normal. The secret land would be drifting, and it would be difficult to locate again.

The group of warriors left the place.

...

Star University

An hour later,

The Purple Mark Guard brought me to the Dean's office. Jerome was waiting behind the desk. When he saw the Purple Mark Guard, whose aura was even deeper, he smiled.

"It appears you had a successful trip," Jerome commented.

Hearing that, I shook my head and said, "My bloodline is lagging behind. It's really difficult."

Jerome was taken aback. He then realized that only Bloodline Faction Leader Francesca could help him.

"Faction Leader Francesca can help you. But for that, you have to visit her home. I will talk to her," Jerome said.

I nodded to him.

We then spoke for a few more minutes before the Purple Mark Guard dropped me back at my residence. I went inside and shut the door.

Meanwhile,

Dean Jerome summoned Faction Leader Francesca. She arrived, not knowing why.

"Dean, is there something you need my help with?" she asked.

She knew she was rarely summoned by Dean Jerome, so he must have something important to say.

"You are right. I need you to help Zack Lockwood. He is facing difficulty reaching the Purple Mark Rank in bloodline power," Jerome said straightforwardly.

Francesca was stunned. A storm set off in her heart. She didn't know what she was hearing. How long had it been since Zack Lockwood became a Gold Mark Warrior?

Breaking through ranks wasn't easy; even for the best warriors, it would take decades. Even though her bloodline purity was only slightly lower than Zack Lockwood's, it had still taken her decades to achieve her rank.

Jerome saw through her shock and turmoil. He let her calm her heart.

Francesca then figured it out. She realized why the foreign creatures were forced to use their assets here.

Because of the foreign creatures, the planted spies were exposed. They were rooted out from the Star University territory.

She then collected her thoughts and turned toward Dean Jerome.

"His growth rate is shocking," she commented.

"Yes, but he got opportunities along the way. It's not possible without resources and training," Jerome said.

She nodded her head and said, "I will take him to my clan. We have an ancestral site. Maybe he can get inspiration from there. But..."

Jerome said, "You are worried that his bloodline will be exposed."

Francesca nodded her head and said, "Not only that, but the foreign creatures will turn their anger on us. So far, Zack Lockwood's background profile states he is an orphan from the outpost-the remotest part of the world."

"If they knew he was actually from our clan, then the hostile forces would turn their anger against us," she added.