BloodLine 1531

Chapter 1531: Challenge letter

Dean Office

Dean Jerome convinced her.

Francesca finally agreed to the words of Dean Jerome. She decided to take Zack Lockwood tomorrow. After some talk with Dean Jerome, she left the office.

On the other hand, the news of the secret land closing spread across the Tier-4 region. Everyone wanted to know about the fights and the treasures collected from the secret land.

There were some who wanted to know about Zack Lockwood. It didn't take long for the news to reach every warrior in the Tier-4 region.

First, the news about the secret land's danger was leaked. The survivors told the media that the secret land was filled with Class-13 Monsters everywhere.

These monsters have their own territory. They attacked anyone trespassing on their territory. The monsters are usually stronger than the human warriors of the same rank.

Especially when the fight took place in their territory. They are more aggressive and can fight harder. Because of it, a lot of casualties occurred.

When the public heard the news, they were shocked to the core. They didn't expect the secret land to have such dangerous monsters.

If the monsters were to appear in the Tier-4 region, these monsters could raze down several cities. The public were glad that the cities were safe from such monsters.

Now they understood the purpose of the secret land. If not for the secret land, the monsters would have roamed freely.

They were glad that nothing like that happened. Then they learned about Zack Lockwood. People had seen Zack Lockwood entering the second land.

He had entered the secret land later, so only a few people had seen him. Only when the secret land closed did they see him coming out.

But none of them had stopped Zack Lockwood. The elders were afraid to take action. None of them stepped up to stop him from leaving the place.

The news reached the ears of the universities as well. The Red Moon University was neutral. They didn't react much to the news, but they were surprised by the strength of Zack Lockwood.

The information coming from the secret land showed that it was a tough place to survive. Yet Zack Lockwood, with Gold Mark strength, had survived the place.

It was puzzling to many other people. It was the same case with other universities, but they were pissed off and angry. They had sent elders to target Zack Lockwood.

Yet they didn't take any action. They were intimidated by the presence of the Purple Mark Guard. The higher-ups had heard about that person before.

The Purple Mark Guard was close to Dean Jerome, so the higher-ups didn't punish them.

In the Dark Shadow University, the Dean of that university was pissed off. He had wanted to use the secret land opportunity to kill Zack Lockwood.

He had sent Purple Mark Warriors. They were close to becoming half-step Red Mark Warriors. With their strength, they could become elders in the university.

Not only had the mission failed, but he had lost such powerful warriors as well. It was a huge blow to their resources. They were already lagging behind other universities.

Now their strength was weakened again. While this was happening on one side, on the other side, the foreign creatures were pressuring them as well.

The foreign creatures had provided him with critical resources. He had used the resources to expand his lifespan.

Now he could not give back the resources. The Dean was in a tough position. The easiest way to solve the problem was to kill Zack Lockwood.

He decided to send a Faction Leader to kill Zack Lockwood because he understood that no Purple Mark Warrior could defeat Zack Lockwood.

But he needed a reason to send a Faction Leader to the Star University. He then thought of a competition. The inter-university competition would be a great idea.

He quickly made a plan. He decided to send 10 strong Purple Mark Warriors to Star University.

Let them challenge the strong warriors there. He was sure that Zack Lockwood would definitely appear. If not, he would instruct the Faction Leader to provoke them.

When the plan was finalized, he sent the orders to the Faction Leader. He released a public statement regarding that. He was sure that Dean Jerome would not neglect the challenge notice.

The news was like another shockwave. Various forces were shocked. They knew it was not the time for the inter-university competition.

Yet the Dark Shadow University released news like this. However, the public was excited. The news reached the Giant Tower University and the Eclipse University.

Not long after, they released the same news challenging Star University. The news shook the Tier-4 region. Every university had released a challenge letter except the Red Moon University and Silver Academy.

Everything was happening so fast. If the Red Moon University continued to remain neutral, the other universities would force them to act.

They were waiting for the Silver Academy to release the same challenge post. Soon, the Silver Academy released their challenge post.

Now the Red Moon University was forced to do something. They understood that the others were targeting Star University. They decided to cooperate on the surface, but they would not target Star University.

A few hours later,

They released their challenge letter as well. The other universities sighed in relief. Now they had a legitimate reason. No one could accuse them of targeting Star University.

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Dean Office

Dean Jerome was ready to send Zack Lockwood to Francesca's house a few hours later. But he didn't expect to see such developments.

He understood that Dark Shadow University was on the verge of collapsing. They were going to take an extreme step. He had a feeling that they were targeting Zack Lockwood.

But he was not going to let that happen. He decided to let Faction Leader Francesca take Zack Lockwood with her earlier.

If they were to ask about Zack Lockwood, he would say something to convince them.

Then Dean Jerome released the acceptance letter. However, the challenge was going to take place a week later.

He thought the time would be enough for Zack Lockwood to do something about the bloodline method. It is not easy to comprehend the method in just one or two days.

Chapter 1532: Campus reactions

Star University

The news about the challenge letter caused a storm on the campus. At first, the warriors were in disbelief. They saw the challenge letter as some joke.

Because they knew that the competition was several months away, they figured someone was creating tension for no reason. Yet everyone's tone changed quickly.

The news media started reporting on the matter. Only then did the warriors take the matter seriously. They didn't know why a challenge letter was issued now.

Those with influential backgrounds thought the other universities were targeting Star University, but they didn't know the reason.

The Purple Mark Warriors were under pressure right now. The challenge had been issued to them. They were going to fight against the Purple Mark Warriors from other universities.

But they didn't know who would be selected for the fight. The decision was up to the Faction Leaders of each faction.

The Black Mark, Silver Mark, and Gold Mark Warriors were excited. They were ready to watch the competition.

Meanwhile,

Dean Jerome gave orders to the Faction Leaders. He wanted the Faction Leaders to select strong Purple Mark Warriors.

They would be fighting against the other university warriors.

He also mentioned that there will be no internal competition, so it was up to the Faction Leaders to select the names.

The Faction Leaders were all surprised. They too were puzzled by the sudden challenge letter. Even the Dark Variant Faction Leader was confused.

He contacted his connections and tried to get answers from them. But the people from the Dark Shadow University avoided the matter.

Because they didn't know. It was their Dean who had issued the challenge letter first. Later, everyone followed the trend.

So they didn't know the real reason behind the Dean's decision.

...

Bloodline Human Faction

Faction Leader Francesca got the news as well. She was shocked. She was preparing to leave for her clan the next morning, but this task from Dean Jerome had come all of a sudden.

So she instructed the main elders to select suitable warriors first. She would make her own preparations to go to her clan. She was not planning to tell the main elders.

It would raise unwanted attention, and she didn't want others to find out about Zack Lockwood.

...

Thunderflame Faction

Faction Leader Clifford immediately convened a meeting. All the main elders arrived at the main hall. None of them knew that Zack Lockwood had returned.

They were here because of the challenge letter. The main elders seated themselves in their chairs.

Faction Leader Clifford looked at the others.

He said, "The Dean of the Dark Shadow University started this challenge letter. Then other universities followed it. Finally, the Red Moon Tower did it."

Austin said, "Red Moon Tower was clearly under pressure. They had no other choice."

Leola said, "These universities are up to something."

"Zack Lockwood was seen entering and exiting the secret land. We don’t know whether he was here," Cathy said.

"If Zack Lockwood were here, he would have come to see us," Ann interjected.

Rosie said, "Maybe the universities want to know our strength. Zack Lockwood has cleared out the traitors recently. It could be related to that."

Faction Leader Clifford heard everyone’s words and nodded his head. But he couldn’t tell them the real reason.

Only Dean Jerome might know the reason. He then thought of something and asked, "Where do you think the kid has gone?"

Hearing that, everyone was silent. They wanted to see Zack Lockwood, but they didn't know his whereabouts.

"I think Dean Jerome has his own arrangements," Austin said.

Sigh!

Faction Leader Clifford let out a sigh. He wanted to see Zack Lockwood as well. But he knew Dean Jerome; he wouldn't allow it.

Then they continued the discussion. They would make a list of the strong warriors who were going to participate in the competition.

...

Residence

I was in my room relaxing and watching the online news. The move made by the Dark Shadow University was really surprising.

My gaze sharpened. I noticed the trend as well. The other universities followed suit. Inside the secret land, they had teamed up to kill me.

Except for the Red Moon Tower, everyone was suspicious. I shook my head before turning off the device.

I sat cross-legged on the floor. Then I took a few water affinity essence stones out. I held them in my palm.

Then I closed my eyes and began to visualize the bloodline method. The water drop rune in my mind started throbbing.

As the intensity increased, I forgot about the outside news and began to comprehend the bright blue water force.

Slowly, the blue water force entered my body. I guided the force according to the route. The force flowed inside my body.

It then finally settled down inside my dantian. I continued to repeat the same process.

That night, I ended my practice and went back to sleep.

The next morning,

After getting out of bed, I started my morning routine. The routine lasted for one hour.

I went to the bathroom to take a shower. I spent 20 minutes in the bathroom before coming out. Then I changed into comfortable clothes.

Buzz!

Not long after, my device rang. I picked up the device and answered the call. I heard the voice of Dean Jerome.

He told me that a Purple Mark Guard would be here in a few minutes. He wanted me to be ready. I told him that I was ready right now.

Then he told me to come to the Dean's office. After saying that, he ended the call.

A few minutes later,

The Purple Mark Guard appeared outside the door. As usual, he took me to the Dean's office. When we got there, I saw Dean Jerome. But someone else was sitting opposite him.

The person was none other than Faction Leader Francesca. I was not surprised. After getting inside, I greeted both of them.

Francesca was seeing Zack Lockwood after a long time. Her gaze locked onto the deep purple aura behind Zack Lockwood. It was the sign of a Purple Mark Expert.

What's more, she thought it had been some time since he had entered the Purple Mark Rank. It shocked her to the core.

Chapter 1533: Bloodline Ball Family

Dean's Office

"Are you guys ready to leave?" Dean Jerome asked.

Hearing that, I nodded my head.

Faction Leader Francesca said, "Dean, what about the competition?"

"You can come back after letting him inside your ancestor site. Make sure no one in your clan knows about it," Jerome said.

"Especially since the bloodline will resonate. If the Elders find something wrong, they might try to probe," he added.

"I will warn them," Francesca replied.

We then spoke for a few minutes. After that, we left the place. Upon stepping outside, Faction Leader Francesca grabbed my shoulder. Then, we flew up into mid-air.

I could clearly see the campus infrastructure, mountains, and terrains passing away beneath us. It didn't take long for us to completely leave the campus area.

Time passed.

A bloodline clan founded by Ancestor Ball is located in one of the most prosperous areas of the Tier-4 region.

This prosperous estate includes building structures, training areas, a forest, and the surrounding flatlands.

Warriors from the Bloodline Ball Clan were stationed on all four sides of the border. The stretches between the borders were patrolled by their teams.

Because of this, no one from the outside could infiltrate the place. Many attempts had been made in the past, but all the infiltrators were killed.

Even foreign creatures had sent planted spies to infiltrate the place, but they were found and killed on the spot.

This was because no one left the border unmonitored. There was more than one border patrolling team; two teams conducted patrols simultaneously.

In the middle of the vast land sat an ancient building made of brick construction. The structure was like a castle, except there were no domes or towers.

However, the building was massive, with many rooms inside. The palace-like building alone could house all the family members.

It was one of the oldest buildings in the Tier-4 region, having been built during the era of the founding ancestor.

In the depths of the large building lay a hidden chamber. It was one of the most ancient chambers in the estate, and it was also the place where the founding ancestor used to meditate.

No one from the family was allowed to enter except the Family Head. Only Francesca Ball could enter the chamber, as she was the current family head.

She sat at the top of the hierarchy. Next to her was the council of elders, which consisted of 10 Main Elders and various branch leaders. They were followed by many family elders within the clan.

Apart from them, there were hidden members who were ancestors of the family. After retirement, they became part of this hidden group.

The hidden members consisted of both half-step Red Mark Warriors and full Red Mark Warriors. The Red Mark Warriors were old and no longer in their prime, but they would still act whenever the clan encountered a crisis.

Right now, the main elders had received news that the Family Head was coming back, so they informed the other family members not to cause any problems.

Meanwhile,

Francesca was explaining the family structure to Zack Lockwood. She didn't want Zack Lockwood to run into the family elders.

The main elders, especially, would notice if something was wrong because they could feel the bloodline resonance.

When it came to the hidden members, however, she wasn't afraid. They spent most of their time asleep or meditating. She then continued to explain her family estate and compounds.

On the other hand, as I listened to her, my heart was stirred. I didn't expect her clan to be this vast, or for them to own such an enormous expanse of land.

A few hours later,

We arrived at the border. We didn’t stop and continued to fly over the territory. Soon, we reached the main area of the estate.

A palace-style brick building was located there. We landed in front of the main gate, which was massive- over 20 feet tall.

Francesca swept her gaze across the area. She then led Zack Lockwood toward the main gate and touched the iron structure.

Creak!

The next second, the door opened. She led him inside to the main hall where all the elders gathered. This time, all ten Main Elders both male and female, were present in the hall.

"Family Head, welcome back."

One by one, the main elders greeted her. Francesca remained composed and responded to them.

"I’m back for a few days. You guys continue with your work," she told them.

Hearing that, the main elders were not surprised; they had heard about the challenge letter as well. Then, their gaze fell on the young man.

When they tried to see through him, their senses were blocked. Some of them felt the young man’s face was familiar, but they couldn’t recall anything at the moment.

On the other hand, I maintained my calmness. I covered my presence with the help of the Red Mark Warrior ring.

Francesca had been worried that they might recognize Zack Lockwood, but nothing of the sort happened.

The main elders then left the hall. Once they were gone, Francesca looked confused. Then, her gaze fell on the Red Mark Ring worn by Zack Lockwood, and she understood immediately.

"Come with me," she said.

She then led Zack Lockwood toward the hidden chamber.

There were several places in the building used by the founding ancestor, and the hidden chamber was one of them. It wouldn’t draw attention from others.

Apart from the Family Head, no one was allowed to come near the place.

After arriving at the hidden chamber, she explained the history to Zack Lockwood.

"According to historical records, this hidden chamber is a special place. He used to meditate here," she added.

Hearing that, I nodded my head.

She opened the door of the hidden chamber and told me to enter. I stepped into the room.

The next second, she closed the door behind me.

I was surprised. The room was spacious, much larger and wider than I had thought. I looked around and felt an ancient vibe inside the room.

Then, I sat cross-legged on the floor and decided to meditate.

Outside

Francesca stayed behind. She knew no one could enter this place because a formation existed outside, though she hadn't told Zack Lockwood about it.

Chapter 1534: Purple Mark Warrior (Bloodline Force)

Ball Family

The news about Family Head Francesca Ball's return had reached the ears of all the family members, from the oldest to the newest.

They didn't know why Head Francesca had returned, but they did know about the challenge letters issued by the different universities earlier.

But they soon learned about it.

They were shocked by the challenge letters. The family head was also the faction leader of the human bloodline faction.

They were curious about who would fight for the human bloodline faction. Soon, news spread that the Family Head had brought someone else with her.

The person seemed to be a warrior from Star University, but the Main Elders didn't recognize the identity of the young man. They didn't know who he was.

On the other hand, some Main Elders found the face of the young man to be familiar. They didn't just ignore it; the Family Head must have brought the young man here for a reason.

More than that, their senses were blocked by the young man, which only made them more curious about his identity.

Suddenly, one of the main elders jolted awake. He recognized the young man. He was the 7th Main Elder, responsible for diplomatic relations.

Because of his role, he had more contact with outside forces and knew about recent events. He had heard about the secret land.

The name Zack Lockwood was popular. Many had tried to eliminate the young man, but he had survived so far. Yet, the elder had never expected the young man to come here.

He figured the Family Head must have brought this person for a specific reason, likely related to the threats the young man faced.

He realized why the Family Head hadn't introduced the person to them, and why the young man was actively preventing their probing.

The Main Elder didn't want to reveal the matter to others. If it stayed among the Main Elders, it would be fine. But if the news were to reach the other family members, the consequences would be entirely different.

Who knew? Planted spies might come in search of Zack Lockwood.

"Since the Family Head is going back in a few days, there is no need to discuss this matter," he uttered.

Meanwhile,

Inside the hidden chamber, I'm visualising the bloodline method. The water drop rune continued throbbing. As time passes, I'm beginning to doubt if there is anything special about this place.

Suddenly, I thought of the Red Ring. I removed the restrictions the next second. I believe there will be some changes hereafter.

Right then, there are bloodline marks left by the founding Ancestor. It was not easy to trace the bloodline marks and locate them, as it requires a harsh set of conditions.

Only a warrior with a pure bloodline can locate the marks. So far, only the heads of the clan have been able to create some resonance, but no one has fully activated them.

Right now, the bloodline marks began to react. They are invisible to the naked eye. It was considered amazing if a Family Head was able to resonate with even one of the marks.

Only a few of the Family Heads were able to get a response from more than one bloodline mark. The current Family Head, Francesca, had been able to get a response from three bloodline marks.

A couple of bloodline marks moved toward the person sitting cross-legged on the ground. They came into contact with my body.

The next second, the ancient bloodline marks entered my body. Then they moved toward the blood. In the blink of an eye, the marks assimilated into my blood.

At the same time, I immediately felt a wave of enlightenment. My doubts regarding the bloodline disappeared. My understanding of the variant water bloodline is getting stronger.

The water drop rune is getting denser.

As time passes, I’m progressing toward the limit.

A couple of hours later,

Click!

The water drop rune broke the limit and entered the Purple Mark Rank. The next second, it shot mysterious energies to various parts of my body.

Purple Mark Rank - Bloodline Power

New information appeared in my mind-Chapter of the Purple Mark Rank. My body, soul, and inheritance force advanced further, entering the Purple Mark Rank.

The new breakthrough is transforming my whole physique. My heart was stirred. I didn't expect to break through this soon. I didn't need more than one day.

As time passed, I focused my attention on stabilizing this new, profound strength. The stabilizing process lasted for another few hours.

The space inside the dantian widened further, allowing it to accommodate more inheritance forces.

When I opened my eyes, I found a new layer of impurities covering my body. Then my gaze fell on my well-toned muscles. They held a hidden strength.

All my inheritances have touched the Purple Mark Rank, except for the Guardian God's Sealing Force. I paid attention to the dull golden rune in my mind.

I don't know when she will enter this place again, so I decided to comprehend the new route. I collected my thoughts and began to analyze..

As time passes, my understanding gets better. The bright blue water force from the surroundings entered my body. I guided the bloodline force exactly as the route dictated.

After circulation, the bright blue water force gathered inside my dantian.

I continued to repeat the process.

Meanwhile,

Francesca was in her room. She had been paying close attention to the hidden chamber. No Main Elder had disturbed her.

She was internally surprised. She had thought they would recognize Zack Lockwood, which might lead to the exposure of the bloodline in his body.

But nothing like that had happened. Yet, the news of her arrival had still spread across the family. Now everyone knew that she had returned from Star University.

Everyone was discussing the challenge letter. She had given a job to the Main Elders, and they would take care of it. Still, she couldn't shake the feeling that things weren't that simple.

The timing of the challenge letter wasn't good. Yet, Dean Jerome had accepted it. She believed Dean Jerome must have had a good reason for doing so.

Chapter 1535: Rumours spread

Ball Family,

A few days passed.

Faction Leader Francesca didn't open the hidden chamber. She was convinced that Zack Lockwood would need at least a week to achieve a breakthrough.

So she instructed the main elders not to disturb the main hall. No one was allowed to enter the main hall until she came back.

The main elders were taken aback by the instructions. One of the main elders understood the reason, but he didn't spill the beans.

Others thought that the Family Head was going back for the competition. They assured her that no one would go near the main hall.

They were not fools. They could tell that the young man must be inside one of the rooms in the hall. The Family Head was clear with her words.

She didn't want anyone to disturb the young man, including the main elders.

Francesca left the clan alone.

It didn't take long for her departure to be known to others. This time her stay was short. The family members were disappointed.

Because the Family Head didn't see others. She had been busy the past few days. Not long after, someone mentioned the young man.

The main elders' casual talk was overheard by the family members. The news quickly spread that the Family Head had brought a young man to their clan earlier.

But no one had seen the young man. Only the main elders knew about the matter. They were shocked. They didn't know who spread the news.

They had promised the Family Head that no one would go to the main hall. Now the news had spread. The family members might try to go to the main hall.

Usually, they were not allowed to enter the main hall. Only the family head could use that place. Even the main elders only went there to convene important meetings.

They wouldn't roam around the place. It was because they were not the strongest in the family. There were hidden members in the family.

They were the truly strongest. They followed the clan rules strictly. If they saw that the main elders were not following the rules, the elders could be punished.

What's more? They didn't know whether the Family Head had informed the hidden members or not. If she did, then they should not entertain the idea.

The main elders then gathered. They knew the developments in the family. They didn't know who spread the news.

They gave strict orders to the other elders and the family members. They didn't want anyone to go to the main hall.

The family members realized that the news was true. Someone from the outside was staying with the family. The older family members agreed to the instructions.

The main elders told them that it was an order from the family head. Knowing that, they realized that the young man must be someone important.

They were curious, but that was all. They wouldn't break the rules. But the young members of the family were different.

They wanted to know the identity of the person. But they were afraid of the Family Head. Like in other families, there were some unruly people who were not afraid of punishments.

They wanted to uncover the identity of the young man. A few of them were descendants of the main elders. They didn't listen to anyone.

Knowing that an interesting young man was probably staying in the main hall, they became even more curious. The Elders were mostly old and had Purple Mark Strength.

But there were many talented warriors in the clan with the same strength as the elders. They didn't have positions. They were only afraid of the Family Head and the Hidden Members.

Right now, a dark-blue-haired man in his early middle age was the most curious. He was a descendant who came from the main family as well.

His name was Rupert. He was a descendant of one of the siblings of Family Head Francesca. So, he was not that afraid of the family head either.

Since he had decided to act, he wanted to act alone. If he began to act secretly, then he could find the young man in the hall.

But if he went with others, there was a chance of exposure. More than exposing himself to the main elders and other family members, he was afraid of the hidden members.

The old ancestors were the true pillars of the clan. Some of them were Red Mark Warriors. They followed the rules strictly. He didn't want to anger any of them.

So he made up his mind to go alone. Rupert then waited for the night to come.

Meanwhile,

There were a few other reckless warriors who had decided to act as well. Unlike Rupert, they had formed a team. Even if they got caught, they would receive a collective punishment.

There were elders and families behind them. They wouldn't watch silently. So the punishment would be less severe. But they had not decided when to act.

That night,

Rupert left the family quarters. He was going to the main hall. It was not easy to enter the main hall. There would be guards as well.

He needed to bypass them. It was not easy. The main hall was empty. Only the Family Head was qualified to stay there. Since the young man was staying inside, he expected there would be more guards waiting outside.

When he reached the place, he saw exactly that. Patrolling teams were outside the main hall.

Rupert frowned. He didn't want to make himself known. If he showed himself, then word would reach the ears of the main elders.

He had thought he could infiltrate the place. But he didn't expect to see this many guards here. They were not giving him a chance to sneak in.

At least a couple of guards had their eyes on the main hall. Even if they didn't pay attention, then someone else would.

The guards were having a similar discussion about the young man. Now they understood why the main elders had ordered them to guard the empty main hall.

They understood it was not empty anymore. A certain visitor was staying inside. They had heard about the rumors as well. But it was not their place to comment and worry about it.

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When he reached the place, he saw exactly that. Patrolling teams were outside the main hall.

Rupert frowned. He didn't want to make himself known. If he showed himself, then word would reach the ears of the main elders.

He had thought he could infiltrate the place. But he didn't expect to see this many guards here. They were not giving him a chance to sneak in.

At least a couple of guards had their eyes on the main hall. Even if they didn't pay attention, then someone else would.

The guards were having a similar discussion about the young man. Now they understood why the main elders had ordered them to guard the empty main hall.

They understood it was not empty anymore. A certain visitor was staying inside. They had heard about the rumors as well. But it was not their place to comment and worry about it.

Chapter 1537: Sealing Force (Purple Mark Rank)

Hidden Chamber

Inside the cold and empty space of the hidden chamber, I forgot about the outside world. My entire focus was set on understanding the sealing force.

Compared to other inheritance forces, it was the inheritance force which I rarely used. But I knew the power behind it was not ordinary.

It was the power of the Late Guardian God. So far, no one had seen him using the power-not even the foreign creatures.

I feared that if people recognized the sealing force, I could face even more assassination forces.

But the sealing Inheritance force would help me deal with the terrifying foreign creatures in the future.

Time passed.

My progress towards mastering the sealing force was increasing. I forgot about the outside noise and continued with the practice.

Whenever I felt the limit, I opened my eyes and started training in my mind. It was a kind of mind training.

It was just that I couldn't release elemental force here. Otherwise, it could trigger the bloodline marks.

If something happened to the bloodline marks, then I wouldn't be able to answer to the Faction Leader. So, I continued with the mind training.

I could only imagine fighting against the enemy and improving my shortcomings. But to be honest, no one in that secret land had forced me to face a life-or-death situation.

Even the Class-13 monsters were not that threatening. I had simply overpowered everyone in that secret land.

It was just that I wanted to be low-key, so nobody had seen me fighting seriously.

Most of those who had seen me were dead. I did save a few people on a whim.

In the end, no one forced me to reveal my true strength. Next, I could only think of the foreign creatures.

Especially, the horned humanoid foreign creatures had forced me to use my full strength previously.

Now that I had entered the rank of Purple Mark strength, I thought even the horned humanoid creatures were no danger to me.

I didn't know whether there was any other dangerous existence besides the horned humanoid creatures on the foreign creatures' side.

I put away these thoughts and resumed the mind training. After some time, I rested for a few hours before I began practicing the sealing force.

I believed I would touch the limit in a couple of days.

Outside

The family members were busy doing daily training and missions, apart from a select few who were students of the Star University.

Most of the family members were adventurers. They had their own teams, and they did family missions as well as missions from the adventurer association.

The adventurer association was not that strong compared to the Six Universities, because all the high-class monsters were sealed away.

The public in the Tier-4 region did not face threats from Class-13 or higher monsters, but there were places where monsters at the Class-12 level could still be found.

Those with strong Gold Mark and Purple Mark rank strength went to the warrior camps, which were different from the Star University camps.

These camps were the places where most of the warriors from the families gathered.

The rest of the warriors were training here in the clan.

While they were training, news of the competition was causing a stir in the clan. The family members were selecting their favorite warriors, including Zack Lockwood and others.

As time passed, even the main elders began to pay attention to the competition. They didn’t know what the family head would do.

They supported the human bloodline warriors, but there were other famous names like Zack Lockwood and a few others.

A few of the elders frowned when talking about Zack Lockwood. They had seen Zack Lockwood's face on the news.

They suddenly found that the face of the young man resembled Zack Lockwood, which immediately jolted them awake.

These few main elders found it was possible, because they knew Zack Lockwood faced threats from the foreign creatures.

The foreign creatures had announced it before, and Zack Lockwood was also from Star University.

The few main elders became quiet. They didn't dare to share the news with others, though news about it had already reached the family members.

If they learned that the young man was none other than Zack Lockwood, it would cause an uproar in the clan.

What was worse, they feared the foreign creatures could target the clan. Now they understood the weight behind the orders of the Family Head.

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Inside the hidden chamber

As the days passed by, my understanding of the sealing force finally reached its limit. When I tried to break the barrier, I didn't feel any restrictions.

The barrier broke. The sealing force rune became denser and stronger. Like other runes in the mind, it shot out mysterious energies to strengthen my body, mind, soul, and Inheritance force.

In the blink of an eye, they were further strengthened. The sealing Inheritance power in the dantian entered the Purple Mark Rank.

My mind received additional information; it was the Purple Mark Chapter of the Sealing Force Power.

As time passed, I continued to stabilize my new strength.

Purple Lightning, Blood Energy, Shock Force, Bloodline Force, and Sealing Force had all reached the level of Purple Mark Inheritance Force.

Next was the healing force. If the healing force entered the level of the Purple Mark Rank, then I would have a method to heal my injuries in the future.

Time passed.

After stabilizing my new strength, I began to comprehend the new Purple Mark Chapter of the Sealing Force.

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Star University

Tomorrow was the day of the competition. The teams from the five Universities would visit the campus, and the faction leaders had forbidden their selected warriors from leaving.

They were told to be in their peak condition.

Faction Leader Francesa's Human Bloodline Faction was ready. They had selected six strong people to fight.

It was the same case with the other factions; they had selected six strong warriors each.

Dean's office

Dean Jerome was in his office. He was satisfied with the preparations. He had some idea why the other universities were targeting Star University.

He had already taken one measure: he had sent out Zack Lockwood earlier.

Next, he secretly gave the task to many elders to inspect the borders and other important areas of Star City.

He did not know whether the planted spies were completely wiped out or not.

Chapter 1538: Competition day

Dark Shadow University

The dean of this University wanted to target Zack Lockwood. But they didn't have any idea whether the target was going to participate in the competition tomorrow.

Through his connections, he found out that Zack Lockwood was not on the campus. He was likely in one of the warrior camps or a small secret land.

He was planning to send a six-man team under one half-step Red Mark Warrior and two Purple Mark Elders.

The half-step Red Mark Warrior was one of the hidden elders of the Dark Shadow University.

Since he had decided to take action against Zack Lockwood, he needed to send someone to withstand a sudden attack first.

He didn't believe the half-step Red Mark Warrior could defeat Dean Jerome.

But the task of the half-step Red Mark Warrior was not to defeat Dean Jerome, but to stop him.

In the meantime, the other elders would kill Zack Lockwood. But for that, Zack Lockwood needed to be present.

The Dean of this University discussed this with the Deans of the other universities. They had made a plan to provoke Star University.

The following day,

A large flying vehicle left the campus of each of the other five universities. They were heading towards Star University.

A few hours later,

The large flying vehicles reached the Star University border. There were many hidden figures who were paying attention to the border post.

They saw how the large flying vehicles had only a few people on the deck. But they were representing the face of their universities.

The hidden figures didn't move away from the place. Their job was to observe and collect information. If they found something suspicious, then they could inspect the flying vehicles.

But trying to do an inspection without evidence was not a good idea. It would cause problems between Star University and Dark Shadow University.

It was the same case with the other universities. They were allowed to cross the border. The large flying vehicles didn't stop anywhere.

They were going towards Star University.

It didn't take long for the flying vehicles to get closer to Star City. They flew over Star City.

One by one, the large flying vehicles reached the skies of Star University. The appearance of the large flying vehicles carrying the emblems of different universities caused an uproar.

The next second, several figures rose from the different factions. They were the faction leaders.

They were followed by the main elders who appeared behind them. Everyone was looking toward the five large vehicles.

They were from Dark Shadow University, Giant Tower University, Eclipse Academy, and Silver Academy.

The next second, the five vehicles disappeared and the warriors exited the decks. The five groups were wearing the uniforms of their respective universities.

Right then, Dean Jerome appeared in the sky.

His gaze swept across the five groups. All of them felt their chests tighten. Even the half-step Red Mark Warrior leading the group felt the tightness as well.

They suppressed the discomfort. They didn't want their intentions to be noticed by Dean Jerome.

More than that, they didn't want to give Dean Jerome an excuse to delay or stop the competition. So, they continued to endure the pressure.

After some time, Dean Jerome lifted the pressure. Everyone then gasped for breath.

The Faction Leaders and the Main Elders understood that Dean Jerome was testing them.

"Welcome, friends from different universities."

"Our combat arena is ready for the competition," Dean Jerome said to them.

Hearing that, the Half-Step Red Mark Warriors from the other universities responded as well.

He then summoned a Purple Mark Guard and ordered him to take them towards the combat arena.

The combat arena had private rooms. Hearing that, the five groups followed the Purple Mark Guard towards the combat arena.

The half-step Red Mark Warrior from Dark Shadow University was called Big Mark. He evaluated the Purple Mark Guard. He felt an unknown pressure from the person.

He had read about him in the intel. It was the same person who was also the protector of Zack Lockwood. Recently, he had brought Zack Lockwood back from the secret land.

If he was here, then Zack Lockwood must be here as well. He was not the only one evaluating the Purple Mark Guard.

The elders from the other four universities were evaluating the person as well.

They too thought that Zack Lockwood might be participating on the campus. The faction leaders and the main elders returned to their factions.

Dean Jerome told them to go with their selected Warriors. After saying that, Dean Jerome left the place.

Thunderflame Faction

Faction Leader Clifford and the Main Elders returned to the hall. They had serious expressions on their faces. They had just caught a glimpse of their opponents.

The other universities had really brought strong warriors with them. It wouldn’t be easy to defeat them.

"It appears they have called back some warriors from the warrior camps. They are taking it seriously," Clifford commented.

"What is their goal?" Austin asked.

"They have sent a half-step Red Mark Warrior with their team. There is no need for that much protection," Ann said.

"Their trickery will be exposed soon," Leola said in a solemn tone.

Cathy and Rosie remained silent.

"If that kid were here, he would have taken them down alone," Clifford said with a smile.

Hearing that, the others nodded their heads. They knew the Faction Leader meant Zack Lockwood.

"I don’t know what he is doing right now. But I’m sure that Dean Jerome won’t let him appear," Austin said.

"The kid has already suffered many assassination attempts. It’s good for him if his strength isn’t revealed," Clifford said.

Hearing that, the others affirmed it. Then they summoned the selected six warriors to the main hall.

They were going to take them to the combat area directly. Soon, the warriors appeared. They were all Purple Mark Warriors.

They were from the Golden Lightning Palace, Black Flame Palace, and Ice and Fire Palace. Only Elders Rosie and Ann hadn't sent any Warriors.

Elder Rosie didn't have that many warriors. The members of the Healing Palace were Healers; they were not good at combat.

Clifford raised his hand and observed the warriors one by one. He approved of their strong foundations.

Chapter 1539: Warrior selection

Star University

Everyone gathered inside the combat arena. The five groups first entered the private rooms. The rooms were shown to them by the Purple Mark Guard.

No one caused problems. Under the lead of the Half-step Red Mark, the groups entered the rooms.

The Purple Mark Guard frowned. Though the other University teams didn't show it, he clearly felt hostile intentions from them.

He was surprised. He thought the University Teams had come here with ulterior motives.

He decided to find out their plans. It didn't take long for the Elemental Faction Leaders to arrive with their entourages.

They brought their main elders and a six-member-strong team. They reached the combat arena and chose a spot to rest.

Male and female warriors were mixed in the group. They were all strong Purple Mark Warriors.

Next, the Thunderflame Faction entourage arrived. Faction Leader Clifford was leading the group. Main Elder Austin, Ann, Leola, Cathy, Rosie, and others were behind him.

Next to them, the six-member team walked side by side. When they entered the place, the Elemental Factions looked toward them.

They had internal competition, but this time they had to fight against the University Teams. The opposing University Teams had five groups.

However, the number of Factions here was large. They had to decide on the method of participation first.

For that, Dean Jerome had to arrive. The warriors from both sides looked at each other.

The eyes of the elemental warriors were fiery. They had suffered attacks from Zack Lockwood and had endured deep humiliation.

Since Zack Lockwood was not here, they had tried to get revenge by fighting against others, but it didn't satisfy them.

They all wanted to defeat Zack Lockwood, but the rumors about him had changed them. Zack Lockwood was getting stronger.

If they sought revenge from him, they would only face further humiliation. So, they targeted others nowadays.

It was the same case with the other Elemental Factions.

Faction Leader Clifford and the Main Elders received gazes from their Elemental counterparts. They simply smiled and sat down in their seats.

It didn’t take long for the two Bloodline Factions to appear. Faction Leader Francesca brought one group.

Another female Faction Leader brought her group. Her group consisted of bloodline warriors with traces of ancient monsters.

Both groups exchanged nods with the Elemental Factions and the Thunderflame Faction. Next, they went to their seats.

Finally, the Dark Variant Faction made an entrance. Faction Leader Vince brought his team. His face showed no emotion.

He simply glanced at the others before going to his seat. Everyone was aware of the Dark Variant Faction. They had a feud with the Thunderflame Faction.

Yet, he spared no glance at them. Everyone was puzzled. Only the Thunderflame Faction side felt something amiss.

Faction Leader Clifford knew about the rebellious nature of Faction Leader Vince. Dean Jerome had publicly hinted at it many times.

That’s why Vince hadn’t made any moves recently. But if he did something that hurt the interests of Star University, Dean Jerome wouldn’t spare him.

Faction Leader Vince sat in his seat. He received curious gazes from others, but he remained quiet.

Now all ten Factions were here. Each of them had brought 6 warriors, making a total of 60 warriors from the Star University side.

But the opposing side had only brought 30 warriors. They couldn’t fight against 60 warriors. They could only wait for Dean Jerome to arrive.

Shortly afterward,

The Purple Mark Guard came to the spot. He saw that everyone had gathered. He first looked at the faction leaders and the main elders.

Then, his gaze swept across the 60 warriors. He thought the numbers needed to be shortlisted to 30 warriors.

The other Faction Leaders and the Main Elders saw the Purple Mark Guard as well. They quieted down.

A few minutes later,

Dean Jerome appeared. Everyone stood up from their seats. Jerome simply nodded to them.

He then said, "We have 60 warriors. We need to shortlist them."

"There are ten factions here. I give you two options. First, select three warriors from your Faction. Second, we can have a small competition here, and we will have 30 warriors in the end," Jerome said to them.

Hearing that, the Faction Leaders and the Main Elders in every faction looked at each other. They had selected warriors based on their strength and internal rankings.

There was no need to conduct a small competition. It would only be a waste of time. Not only that, but the warriors' skills would be exposed to others.

It would be a disadvantage to them. The Faction Leaders and the Main Elders came to a decision.

"We will send our top three warriors," the Faction Leader of the Flame Elemental Faction said.

Hearing that, the others said the same thing. Dean Jerome nodded his head in approval.

"Others can watch and learn," he said to them.

He then turned toward the Purple Mark Guard.

"If they are ready, we can start the competition in a few minutes," he said to him.

The Purple Mark Guard understood. He went to their rooms to speak to them. Next, the Purple Mark Guard left the place.

None of the Faction Leaders said anything. Faction Leader Vince was displeased in his heart. It was Dean Jerome who had told them to select six warriors.

If he had wanted, he could have made it clear to select only three warriors. Yet, he deliberately made them select six warriors.

Vince could not fathom the plans of Dean Jerome.

Similarly, the other Faction Leaders were confused as to why Dean Jerome was creating trouble.

Thunderflame Faction Leader Clifford frowned. Like the others, he too was confused right now.

"Maybe he thinks the warriors could be compromised," Clifford said to himself.

Ten minutes later,

The five groups exited the rooms. They appeared and saw the ten Factions. In the blink of an eye, they exchanged looks and were ready to fight.

However, the five groups were looking toward the Thunderflame Faction side. They were looking for one person, but he was not there.

The person was none other than Zack Lockwood.

Seeing that Zack Lockwood was not here, they were disappointed.

Chapter 1540: First Shock

Combat Arena

The expressions of the four Half-Step Red Mark Warriors turned ugly. They were from the Dark Shadow University, Giant Tower University, Eclipse Academy, and Silver Academy.

Only the female Half-Step Red Mark Warrior from the Red Moon Tower remained calm, seeing that Zack Lockwood was not there.

She looked towards Dean Jerome. She understood that the Dean had long seen through the schemes of the universities.

Since they had come here, they could not go back without a fight.

"What happened to you guys?"

"Are you not here for the competition?"

"Everything will be live-streamed in a few minutes. The whole Tier-4 Region will be watching." After saying that, he swept his gaze across them.

They felt the pressure. If they did not agree, it would be disrespectful. Finally, they gave in. They agreed to start the competition right away.

Jerome sneered. He saw their gazes shifting toward the Thunderflame Faction. He was no fool; he could tell they were looking for Zack Lockwood.

So, he had been right to send Zack Lockwood away from the campus. Next, he had to watch them carefully to see whether they were making any moves or not.

Dean Jerome then told the Purple Mark Guard to start the competition. Next, the live streaming was activated.

Millions of people in the Tier-4 region were waiting for Star University's official announcement. When the link appeared, it surprised them.

They quickly clicked on the live stream. Then, they saw the combat area. The combat platform was empty for now.

Soon, there would be a battle.

As time passed, the matchups were decided by a random draw.

The first duel was going to be between the warrior from the Silver Academy and the Earth Element Faction from Star University.

Both warriors came to the combat platform. They stood opposite each other.

It was being telecasted live. Many in the Tier-4 region were watching the live duel.

Meanwhile, there were warriors on the campus as well. They were not allowed to enter the combat arena. These warriors were disappointed.

They could only watch the live stream of the fight like everyone else. But they did not know that Dean Jerome had done this for a specific reason.

He was wary of the universities. He was sure that they were here to cause problems. If the warriors were allowed to sit in the stadium, it could endanger their lives.

Time passed.

The fights between the Star University warrior and the warrior from Silver Academy were being watched online by millions.

The first match, however, went on for a long time. Both of them were going at each other toe-to-toe. Neither of the two was yielding.

The Silver Academy warrior was proficient in the metal element. His sharp attacks were targeting the Earth Element warrior, who relied on a powerful defense.

Their collisions created a huge shockwave each time.

The online viewers were gasping from time to time. They were fixated on the screen.

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Dark Shadow University

The Dean of Dark Shadow University was watching the duel as well. He had received a message from Big Mark a minute ago.

Zack Lockwood was not participating in the duel. He had anticipated this problem. He knew Dean Jerome would not allow that kid to appear.

The kid had been targeted by foreign creatures.

But he had already thought of something. He and the other university deans had discussed it. Now, the live streaming of the event made it easier.

He was going to instruct Big Mark. Zack Lockwood's name was popular, so their representatives would provoke Star University.

Only if Zack Lockwood appeared at the venue could the face of Star University be saved.

A few minutes later,

He instructed Big Mark at the appropriate time. It was too early in the competition. He then contacted the other deans and conveyed the same message.

But he knew not all of them were going to agree. Specifically, the Dean of the Red Moon Tower would not agree to it.

"Humph," he gave a cold snort.

He knew the Red Moon Tower liked to remain neutral. It was just that he could not target the Red Moon Tower. The backers behind the Red Moon Tower were powerful.

Like any other university, they too had a backer. But he had not been able to communicate with them recently.

After dealing with Zack Lockwood, he would think about it.

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Ball Clan

Like any other warrior family territory, the warriors here were glued to the screens as well.

Some were watching in their homes, while others were watching in groups at their training facilities. While watching the fight, they made their own commentary.

On the other hand, the family elders were paying attention to the duel as well, because they were concerned about their family head.

They wanted the Bloodline Human Faction warriors to win this competition. But the first duel itself showed that the opponents were absolute experts in the Purple Mark Rank.

They had mastered control over their elements and possessed exceptional skill in executing attack and defense techniques.

Boom!

Right then, the Earth Elemental warrior's defense was broken. A sharp metal attack created a wound on his chest. He was blasted off the combat platform and landed squarely on the ground.

Splat!

Blood gushed forth from the wound. He could not believe his defense had been broken.

Swoosh!

The next second, the Purple Mark Guard appeared and declared the warrior from the Silver Academy the winner.

Gasp!

There was a huge uproar on campus. Though the warriors were not in the stadium, they were in their quarters and other public areas.

They were shocked by the result. They had not expected their strong Purple Mark warrior to be defeated.

But they were sure that the opponent was not weak either. The Silver Academy had sent a deadly warrior.

His metal attack techniques were deadly sharp. If not for the earth element defense, the body would have been riddled with holes.

So, their Earth Elemental warrior had done his best. It was also a lesson for the others, because these opponents were not strong for no reason.

They had survived numerous battles on the battlefield against foreign creatures. Thus, the campus warriors had an opportunity to learn the gap between them.