

BloodLine 1541

Chapter 1541: Furious Bloodline Warrior

Inside the hidden chamber

I have been practicing mostly. I have taken only a few hours of rest in between. I can tell it's been a couple of days. Yet, Faction Leader Francesca hasn't come back.

I tried to go out earlier. I found out that the door was locked from the outside. I don't want to use elemental power to blast it open.

Swoosh!

I collected my thoughts and brought the white staff out. I began to practice the staff technique. After practicing it in my mind, I began to test it in reality.

I gripped the center of the staff before raising it forward and bringing it down at high speed.

Boom!

It created a booming sound as I swung the white bone staff around. I have a feeling that my skill in the white bone staff technique will improve soon.

Time passed

I continued the white bone staff practice until my arms started hurting.

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Ball Clan

The people in the clan forgot about the young man in the hall. Even the guards patrolling outside were watching the live stream.

If anyone attempted to enter the main hall, they would succeed. Unfortunately, all the family members were engrossed in the duel.

Even the Main Elders were busy watching the live stream of the duel. They forgot about the person staying in the main hall.

The first match ended in defeat. The Silver Academy scored a point. They wanted the second duel to go in their favor.

They were waiting for the next matchup to appear.

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Star University

The first duel had ended. The Earth Elemental Faction people had ugly expressions on their faces. They really couldn't blame their warrior.

The warrior had done his best, but the opponent was extremely strong. He had used powerful, sharp metallic attack moves to defeat the earth elemental warrior.

The faces of the Silver Academy people were full of smiles. Their Half-Step Red Mark Warrior couldn't stop smiling.

Seeing that, the groups from the other four universities noted down the Silver Academy warrior. Although they were here to target Star University, there was also competition among themselves.

The Elemental Factions and the Dark Variant Faction noted down the warrior as well. However, the Bloodline Faction warriors were always arrogant.

Even they had serious expressions on their faces. They didn't have a defense like the Earth Elemental warrior.

If they faced him, they would have to pay more attention to their defense.

The Thunderflame Faction warriors noted down the information as well. If they faced such a person, they would change their tactics.

The next matchup was drawn randomly. This time, the second match was between a Giant Tower Academy warrior and a Monster Bloodline Faction warrior.

Gasp!

Another round of exclamations sounded.

A warrior with a lean physique stepped out from the Monster Bloodline Faction.

At the same time, a burly warrior stood up from the side of the Giant Tower University group.

Both warriors then went towards the combat platform. The faction leader, the main elders, and the team members looked at them.

Their eyes were filled with expectation. This competition was between absolutely strong Purple Mark warriors.

Like the Silver Academy, the Giant Tower Academy had brought an expert as well.

The eyes of the people from the Silver Academy, Giant Tower Academy, Eclipse Academy, Red Moon Tower Academy, and Dark Shadow University were fixed on the combat platform.

Though they had hidden motives, their expressions turned solemn. They had to admit to themselves that it was going to be a peak competition.

Soon, both warriors reached the platform, stepped inside, and stood on opposite sides.

This scene was shown on the big screen. Warriors in different parts of the campus cheered out loud.

They knew the Bloodline Factions were known for having strong warriors, and they expected the fight to be intense.

Time passed,

The fight between the two warriors went on for a long time. The Giant Tower warrior had his body covered in a golden shield.

The bloodline warrior carried the force of his bloodline power, which came from an ancient monster.

Boom!

Each punch landed squarely on the Giant Tower warrior, but they came into contact with the golden shield layer.

The shock force spread across the combat platform, but the force carrying the bloodline power failed to break the defense.

The burly warrior carried a wide grin on his face. He was simply using his defensive technique; he didn't even have to go on the offensive.

He believed the opponent would give up eventually.

The bloodline warrior was not yet at his wit's end. He tried various methods to break the golden layer, but he soon realized it was difficult to breach.

On the other hand, the warriors on campus began to worry. The second duel had been going on for a long time.

The warriors from various factions could tell that the bloodline warrior's close combat technique was absolutely powerful.

His fist and kick techniques were incredibly fast. If it were anyone else, they would have been hit multiple times.

Yet the opponent here was a Giant Tower warrior, who was using his Golden Layer to stay safe.

On the viewing platform, the group from the Giant Tower was already celebrating. They could tell that the bloodline warrior was going to exhaust his energy soon.

But on the side of the Bloodline Factions, they were absolutely confident. Especially the Monster Bloodline Faction warriors, who were still smiling as if the main duel had yet to happen.

Seeing how confident they were, the Elemental Faction groups raised their eyebrows. They didn't have a problem with the Bloodline Faction.

It didn't matter to them whether the Bloodline Faction won or not.

Duel Platform

The bloodline warrior finally got serious. He concentrated on the bloodline power flowing through his veins.

Suddenly, the bloodline power activated. A monstrous strength surged forth from his body, and he felt tremendous power.

Boom!

This time, he charged at his opponent with even greater speed. The burly warrior smiled, confident that his golden layer would protect him.

In a flash, the bloodline warrior appeared in front of him and struck with his fists.

Chapter 1542: Final Duel

Duel Platform

The fist came into contact with the golden layer. The next second, the golden layer split open and the fist landed a blow to the chest.

Boom!!

The burly warrior's smile froze. He flew backward before crashing into the ground, off the platform.

Silence

The audience was silenced. The next second, they roared out. The whole campus cheered out loud.

They didn't expect such a twist. The bloodline warrior felt pained. He had used overbearing bloodline power.

After defeating his opponent, the surging power reduced. In the blink of an eye, his bloodline power calmed down.

The Purple Mark Guard appeared in mid-air. He looked down at the fallen Giant Tower Warrior, then his gaze turned towards the bloodline warrior.

He nodded his head and said, "The winner is Bloodline Warrior Sam."

Hearing that, the Bloodline Warrior sighed in relief. Then, both of the warriors were taken to the medic centre for a checkup.

Time passed.

The next matchup was drawn and the duels continued to happen. The higher-ups had decided to end the competition in one day.

It didn't matter whether the duel stretched up to the night time; everyone was watching the duel with interest.

The warriors on the campus forgot about their work. They continued to watch the duel because it had become so interesting.

But the university groups weren't that happy. They were thinking about Zack Lockwood. Their goal was to find Zack Lockwood and kill him.

The half-step Red Mark Warriors had come for this exact reason. But they didn't expect the situation here to be so different.

There was no sign of Zack Lockwood. The half-step Red Mark Warriors looked at each other. They were thinking about how to provoke Star University.

Dean Jerome had already left the place. The only troublesome person here was none other than the Purple Mark Guard.

The Purple Mark Guard was doing the job of the referee.

That evening, the competition was coming to a close. Faction Leader Francesca was watching the duel, but her mind was on something else.

She was thinking about Zack Lockwood. She didn't know whether Zack Lockwood had succeeded in his practice or not.

After the competition today, she would leave for her clan. Nobody knew what was on her mind.

As time passed, the duel came to the final event. It was the final duel between the Thunderflame Faction Warrior and the Dark Shadow Faction Warrior.

Cheers!

The final matchup brought the loudest cheers to the camp. The warrior from the Thunderflame Faction could use black flame.

The black flame was a variant. It had a small attribute of Black Lightning. It gave him the power of both blazing flame and lightning.

The opponent was a female warrior. She could use shadow power.

They were both looking at each other. The Purple Mark Guard gave the signal. Next, both the warriors started to fight.

Boom!

In a flash, the clash happened. The shock force spread across the combat platform. The scorching flames covered the whole platform.

The female warrior used her element to withstand the power. But shadow power is known for hidden concealment.

Those with such power are good assassins, yet she was defensive here. The male warrior saw through her thoughts.

He wouldn't let her get close. That was why he used his element to cover the whole platform, the black flames obstructing her.

He was controlling the black flames. They were getting closer towards the female warrior.

Boom!

The next second, the female warrior brought out her dagger. She covered the dagger with shadow power and began to use her technique.

Boom!

The next second, she threw the dagger towards the target. The dagger tore through the black flames and went straight towards the middle-aged man.

The male warrior was stunned. Next, he took out his knife weapon to attack. He was able to block the attack.

Clang!

Both weapons came into contact with each other. A metallic collision sound occurred.

The black flames covering the platform dispersed. The female warrior was able to get an opening.

The next second, both of them started fighting using their weapons.

Cheers!

This clash brought another round of cheers. The warriors on the campus were impressed. The female warrior from Dark Shadow University was powerful.

She had won her duels with few moves. No one could stop her dagger in the previous matches.

As time passed, the female warrior took the lead. The male warrior was being suppressed. He wasn't able to use the black flame properly.

The male warrior's face turned ugly. He tried to get an opening as well, but he failed to do it. It didn't take long for injuries to appear all over his body.

If this went on, he would face a serious injury. He could face an unstable foundation. When that thought occurred to him, he was scared to the core.

He didn't want his foundation to be damaged.

He gave up in the end. He accepted defeat.

Upon hearing that, the female warrior took back her dagger. She smiled for the first time. She had won in the end.

The Purple Mark Guard turned towards the defeated warrior and then to the female warrior.

He declared the female warrior the winner in the end.

Quiet!

The faces of the viewers changed drastically. They didn't expect Star University to face defeat.

That, too, the Thunderflame Faction Warrior. No one was saying anything. The warriors on the campus especially didn't know what to say.

The Thunderflame Faction Warrior was strong. Yet, he was defeated by the female warrior from Dark Shadow University.

Dark Shadow University was the rival of Star University. There was absolute quiet. Next, they were taken to the medic centre.

The Purple Mark Guard then turned towards the viewing platform. He disappeared from the spot and appeared inside the place.

The faces of the outside university groups were smiling.

But the Star University factions were in a bad mood. They had lost the competition. That, too, against Dark Shadow University.

They didn't know what to say right now. They didn't know how to face Dean Jerome.

Chapter 1543: Part 1: Vince was exposed

Hidden Chamber

I'm standing in front of the huge door. I tried to open the door. I found out there is a formation outside. I tried to use force to open it. Then I felt a sense of crisis from it.

I moved backward. I decided not to use the elemental force again. It might trigger other hidden formations.

I decided to wait for her to come back. But I don't know what she is doing. She underestimated my talent.

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Star University

There was silence in the camps of the Star University. The Elemental Factions are looking toward the Thunderflame Faction with hatred.

As if they are responsible for the defeat alone. Even the faces of the two Bloodline Factions are not good-looking.

Faction Leader Francesca was in disbelief. She couldn't believe they lost the competition. According to her, the black flame warrior from the Thunderflame was strong.

But the female shadow element warrior was top-notch.

Even she was surprised by her fast dagger moves. It was the result of being more than proficient. She thinks that the female warrior had touched the limit of the Great Wheel.

The Dark Variant Faction side is also looking toward the Thunderflame Faction with an unkind gaze.

Faction Leader Vince smiled after a long time. He didn't expect such a turnaround.

He said, "Faction Leader Clifford, your faction should take responsibility."

"You have lost the face of Star University in front of my people," he added.

Gasp!

The warriors gasped.

Faction Leader Clifford was angry. The main elders are feeling bad as well. They understood that Faction Leader Vince is using the opportunity to insult them.

Main Leader Leola suppressed the anger in her heart. She saw through the skill level of the female warrior from the Dark Shadow University.

Her skill was greater than their own warrior's. So she was convinced of the victory. But she can't take the insults anymore.

"Faction Leader Vince, your warriors won nothing. At least we came to the finals," she retorted.

Vince snorted. None of them spoke anymore.

Quiet!

There was silence. The Dark Shadow University won the competition.

The members of the Dark Shadow University are full of smiles. The members are looking toward the Star University Factions with a grin.

Half-Step Red Mark Warrior Big Mark thinks about the next plan. Everyone was celebrating, but he is not in the mood.

The Half-Step Red Mark Warriors from the other four groups were looking toward him. They were all waiting for his next action.

But their main elders and the members were confused right now. They didn't know why they were not leaving yet.

Right then, the Half-Step Red Mark Warrior Big Mark spoke.

"Your Star University is weak. I don't know why your reputation outside is so loud," he said in a condescending tone.

Gasp!

The faces of everyone changed drastically, from the Elemental Factions to the Dark Variant Faction. Everyone looked toward him with surprise.

The person had the audacity to insult them in their own territory.

The other four university groups are enjoying the drama with smiles on their faces.

Thunderflame Faction Leader Clifford felt something was wrong. Main Elders Austin, Ann, Leola, Cathy, and Rosie are on alert.

From the beginning, everyone knew something was wrong with the challenge letter. They didn't know the real motive of the other universities.

On the other hand, the two Bloodline Faction Leaders were on their guard as well. Francesca's eyes flashed with a cold glint.

She made the right decision to lock the hidden chamber. She realized the other forces had come here with ulterior motives.

At the same time, the Dark Variant Faction Leader Vince smiled.

He said, "Elder Mark, what do you mean by that?"

"You have just won because most of our expert warriors are stationed in the camp. If they were here, do you think you would have won?" Vince said in a cold tone.

Others didn't expect Vince to speak all of a sudden.

Clifford felt worse. He doesn't like where things were going.

"Humph, it's not like your people are at the camps. We have our warriors in the camps as well," Mark replied.

"If you have someone else on the campus, you can call the person. We can have another duel. Let the winner be the true winner of the competition," Mark added.

Gasp!

A low exclamation occurred. The other university groups smiled. The Star University has taken the bait.

The Elemental Factions were confused. They are looking toward Faction Leader Vince. According to them, the Faction Leader was not that talkative.

Apart from being hostile to the Thunderflame Faction, he never acted in a way that harmed the interests of the Star University.

Though he might be saying things in support, they felt it was the opposite. As if he is helping out Elder Mark to convey his message.

"We too have an expert in our camp. He can take down your Purple Mark Expert. But he is at the Gold Mark Level right now." After saying that, he turned toward the Thunderflame Faction.

Faction Leader Clifford and the Main Elders understood everything. Their hearts boiled with anger. If not for the current situation, they would have attacked him already.

Big Mark grinned and said, "Oh, I heard there is a famous prodigy in that Thunderflame Faction of yours. Where is he right now?"

"I heard that while at the Gold Mark Level, he can fight across ranks. If he wants to participate in the competition, then he can. I'll ask our warrior to fight at the Gold Mark Level as well," Mark said.

He finally exposed his true intentions.

"Haha... he is truly a talented warrior. But he is not from my faction. You can ask Faction Leader Clifford here," Vince said with a smile.

"Faction Leader Vince, are you out of your mind?" Faction Leader Francesca said in a threatening tone.

Hearing that, Vince was taken aback. His expression turned ugly. He didn't expect to receive a retort from her.

Faction Leader Clifford said, "Vince, it appears you are helping Elder Mark more than our own. You have revealed your true colors."

He didn't mince words this time. Vince's actions touched a nerve.

Chapter 1544: Part 2: Vince was exposed

Star University

Dean Jerome and the Purple Mark Guard were in the viewing area, but they didn't show themselves. Dean Jerome was not surprised by the comments made by the Dark Shadow University people.

He knew they were up to something. But what infuriated him was the behavior of Faction Leader Vince. There was no need for an internal fight right now.

Yet Faction Leader Vince used Zack Lockwood's name here.

The Purple Mark Guard standing beside him remained quiet. If not for the orders of Dean Jerome, he would have gone there to teach them a lesson.

Meanwhile,

Faction Leader Vince heard the words of Clifford. He didn't get angry. Instead, he smiled and said, "Faction Leader Clifford, I'm just praising your warrior. If he shows his strength today in front of everyone, then no one will raise any questions."

"Shut up!"

"I know when to make my faction warrior fight. Besides, the competition is between the Purple Mark Experts; it's not the competition of the Gold Mark Warrior," Clifford said with anger.

On the other hand, Elder Mark didn't want things to calm down.

He said, "Hey, if you don't want to fight then say so, and we will leave. But we will spread the word that Star University refused to allow their talented warrior to appear."

After saying that, Mark signaled to the other University groups.

"Elder Mark is right. Why don't you tell the young man to appear? We will know whether the rumors are true or not," an Elder from the Giant Tower Academy said.

"Yes, if that young man doesn't come up, we will tell the world that Star University is creating a false image of a warrior," an Elder from the Eclipse Academy said with a chuckle.

Then everyone turned towards the Silver Academy elder.

He said, "You guys are right; a false image doesn't help you against the foreign creatures. If the kid fights today, we will know whether he possesses true strength or not."

Quiet!

No one expected the four university groups to sing in the same voice. Only the last person was remaining. She was the female elder from the Red Moon Tower.

Unlike the others, she said, "Since the competition has come to an end, I would like to leave."

Hearing that, the faces of the other groups darkened. The Star University side had some relief.

"Elder, what are you saying?" Mark asked.

Though he knew the Red Moon Tower might backtrack, he still wanted their support.

The female elder smiled and said, "We agreed to a competition between the Purple Mark Rank Warriors. I don't like forcing a Gold Mark Warrior to appear."

"We are interested in knowing his strength as well, but there will be opportunities in the future," she added.

Elder Mark's face turned ugly.

Swoosh!

Right then, Dean Jerome and the Purple Mark Guard appeared silently. When the others saw them, they stood up from their seats.

Jerome's gaze swept across the place. His gaze passed over the faction leaders. Eventually, his gaze paused on Faction Leader Vince.

A shred of killing intent appeared in his eyes.

Faction Leader Vince roared in his heart. The killing intent was directed at him. He felt unspeakable terror. In a fraction of a second, his whole body was drenched in sweat.

It was witnessed by the other faction leaders as well. Their faces changed. They were glad that they didn't make matters worse.

They knew Zack Lockwood was under Dean Jerome's care. They felt fortunate they didn't support Faction Leader Vince.

Dean Jerome then looked towards the university groups. The five University groups were tense. Especially the four Half-Step Red Mark Warriors who had made the comments earlier.

The female elder from the Red Moon Tower felt bad. She knew the fate of the others was not going to be good.

Elder Mark felt the gaze was directed at him. He saw undisguised killing intent in Dean Jerome's eyes. He knew their situation was bad.

Before coming here, everyone was resigned to their death. It's just that their target was not here at all. If Zack Lockwood was here, they would have made an effort to strike him.

The silence lasted for a couple of seconds. Yet everyone felt it for a long time.

Dean Jerome said, "The competition is over. You guys can leave."

His voice sounded extremely cold. The half-step Red Mark Warriors didn't know what to say. Their plan had failed.

If they insisted on staying here, they might get attacked.

The female elder reacted first. She thanked Dean Jerome before leaving with her entourage. The other four university groups made a decision.

They began to leave one after another. Jerome then turned towards the Purple Mark Guard and signaled to him.

Swoosh!

The Purple Mark Guard then disappeared from the place.

He was going to check on them. There was a possibility for them to pull some tricks midway.

Dean Jerome then turned towards Vince. Before Faction Leader Vince could say anything, Jerome appeared in front of him in a flash and grabbed his neck.

It all happened within seconds.

Aahhhh!

Vince tried to break free, but his strength was limited. He couldn't do well against an actual Red Mark Warrior.

Faction Leader Vince realized that he had crossed the red line this time.

"I apologize," Vince said.

But Dean Jerome didn't care. He was truly angry. He was disappointed with the other Faction Leaders as well. None of them had stood against Vince.

On the other hand, the Elemental Faction Leaders were terrified. They didn't expect Dean Jerome to take action right before them.

The two Bloodline Faction Leaders were shocked as well. Francesca knew it; if not for the Dean's order, she would have attacked him as well for endangering a clan member.

Faction Leader Clifford was calm, but his heart was in turmoil. He didn't expect Dean Jerome to act here. It showed that he was pissed off.

No one said anything right now. They were afraid that Dean Jerome would turn to them. But the members were all affected.

Especially the main elders and the warriors of the Dark Variant Faction didn't know what to do right now. They were scared.

Jerome didn't waste much time. He knocked down Vince. He said, "He will be imprisoned hereafter."

"There will be a new faction leader soon." After saying that, he took him away.

Chapter 1545: End of the competition

Star University

When Dean Jerome left the place, everyone heaved a sigh of relief. Then the Faction Leaders didn't wait any longer; they departed from the place.

In the blink of an eye, everyone went back to their factions.

Thunderflame Faction

Everyone gathered in the main hall. Faction Leader Clifford was angry. He couldn't believe Vince tried to use Zack Lockwood.

Fortunately, Dean Jerome intervened on time.

The Main Elders did not look good as well. Austin was on the verge of exploding earlier. He couldn't believe they were so close to falling into the trap.

Main Elder Leola collected her thoughts. Her gaze swept across the place. She then said, "Why do I feel that they are targeting Zack Lockwood?"

"The whole challenge letter drama was to make Zack Lockwood appear," she added.

"I think Leola is right. If not for Dean Jerome, Vince would have succeeded in his plot," Ann uttered in an icy-cold tone.

Rosie and Cathy supported the view. They couldn't believe the other four universities dared to do something like this.

"I'm sure Dean Jerome is more pissed off than anyone else. He will take care of the revenge. I'm glad that the young man was not here," Faction Leader Clifford said.

A few minutes later,

The anger in everyone's body was gone. They were cool-headed now. Then they began to discuss the competition.

They couldn't deny that Dark Shadow University won the competition. The warriors sent by them were experts.

It was the same case with the warriors from the other four universities.

"The skills of our warriors are not enough. They need more training," Clifford said to them.

Hearing that, the others agreed.

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Prison secret land

Dean Jerome imprisoned Faction Leader Vince not in an ordinary prison cell, but inside the notorious secret land.

The secret land itself is one of the secrets of Star University. All the traitors and notorious criminals were locked up here.

Jerome stood in front of Faction Leader Vince.

Vince was terrified. He didn't know his actions would lead to this result. He didn't expect Dean Jerome to imprison him.

What's more, he didn't know what to say. Since Dean Jerome had decided, his fate was sealed.

Jerome observed Vince's reaction. He thought Vince had given up struggling.

"Are you not going to plead?" Jerome asked.

Hearing that, Vince raised his head. He looked toward Dean Jerome.

He asked, "When did you find out?"

Jerome smiled and said, "Your actions have always been under my watch."

Vince's heart skipped a beat. He didn't know what to say.

Next, Jerome didn't say anything. He struck his fist at Vince's dantian. Vince couldn't even block; it was too fast.

Boom!

The dantian cracked. The powerful aftermath swept inside Vince's body. His meridians and veins were broken by the aftermath.

His internal organs were hurt. Vince endured the searing pain. Blood leaked from his mouth and orifices.

Thud!

The next second, he collapsed onto the ground.

Jerome snorted. He had long wanted to eliminate him. Today, Vince crossed the line. He let the other university groups take advantage.

Fortunately, Jerome was present there. If not for the situation, they would have summoned Zack Lockwood.

He then collected his thoughts and left the sealed prison secret land. The fate of Vince was sealed; he was going to die inside the secret land.

The secret land had other notorious existences. Still, Jerome decided to come and check tomorrow. Even if Vince didn't die by then, Jerome would kill him on the spot.

Then he returned to his office.

Meanwhile,

The internal competition between the universities came to an end. Everyone was surprised by the result. Dark Shadow University was able to win.

Everyone had hoped for a Star University win, but they had witnessed the duel. There was no foul play. The shadow element female warrior was truly strong.

But it didn't diminish the status of Star University. People still thought Star University was stronger because many famous warriors didn't participate in this competition.

The name of Zack Lockwood was heard as well. Some had hoped for Zack Lockwood to appear, but it didn't happen.

Especially, the foreign creatures were paying attention to the duel. They wanted to make use of the opportunity to find Zack Lockwood.

But they knew it was difficult. Dean Jerome must have hidden Zack Lockwood somewhere.

After watching the duel, they were sure that Zack Lockwood was not on campus. If Zack Lockwood had been seen on campus, then they would have gotten the news. But it didn't happen.

So the foreign creatures' side decided to re-evaluate their plan.

Meanwhile,

Faction Leader Francesca left the campus. She was on her way back toward the Clan. She didn't tell anyone about her departure except Dean Jerome.

Dean Jerome agreed. He wanted Zack Lockwood back on campus. He didn't want the other clan members to delay the matter.

A couple of hours later,

She returned to the clan. She arrived in front of the main hall next. The guards who were patrolling there were surprised by the sudden appearance of the family head.

She nodded to them before going inside the main hall. She then went to the hidden chamber. She removed the formations covering the hidden chamber.

She came to the main door and opened it.

Creak!

The door opened. The next second, her gaze fell on the person sitting on the ground cross-legged. For a second, she felt pressure radiating from Zack Lockwood.

"This?" She was shocked in her heart.

On the other hand, I opened my eyes and saw the Faction Leader in front of me.

I stood up and looked at her with slight displeasure.

"Faction Leader, why did you lock the door?"

"I felt a big formation outside. If not for that, I would have left early," I said to her.

Francesca collected her thoughts. She then closed the door before looking toward Zack Lockwood.

She then began to explain. The internal competition had come quickly and ended sooner as well.

10 minutes later,

I calmed my heart down. I didn't expect so many things to occur in the span of a few days.

Chapter 1546: New journey

I told Faction Leader Francesca that I wanted to go back. Francesca agreed. She had come to do exactly that. We exited the hidden chamber.

Francesca then activated the formations once again. The formations quickly covered the door.

After doing that, she confirmed that the chamber was safe. Then they exited the main hall.

Patrolling guards were outside. The main elders had come here as well. Some of them recognized the young man. They knew the young man was none other than Zack Lockwood.

"I'll be back," Francesca said to them.

Next, she grabbed the shoulder of Zack Lockwood. Then they left the place.

The patrolling guards and the main elders watched them disappear. They didn't know what to say.

The main elders who knew the identity of Zack Lockwood collected their thoughts.

"Don't say anything. She will be back soon," one of them said to the other elders.

Hearing that, the others realized. The competition had come to an end. Zack Lockwood hadn't participated in the competition.

Now that the Faction Leader was taking away the young man, they understood that the Faction Leader had hidden him here for safety.

The main elders left the place. Before leaving, they warned the patrolling guards not to leak the news. If the family members heard it, they would spread the news.

If it were any other news, they wouldn't mind. But the person here was Zack Lockwood. If the news were to reach the foreign creatures, they would send planted spies to the clan.

It could be bad for them. If their clan were to be targeted by foreign creatures, their strength would reduce.

They were glad that the news about Zack Lockwood hadn't leaked earlier.

A couple of hours later,

Francesca brought Zack Lockwood back to the campus. She didn't take him to the Thunderflame Faction. She took him to see Dean Jerome.

When they arrived there, they saw Dean Jerome was already waiting for them. Dean Jerome asked them to sit first.

Jerome saw the Purple Mark Aura behind Zack Lockwood. It was a dense purple mark aura. It showed that Zack Lockwood had entered the Purple Mark Rank in bloodline power.

"You are now ready. You can fight elders now," Jerome said with a smile.

Hearing that, I replied, "Dean, you overpraise me."

"I cannot send you to the typical warrior camps. The foreign creatures might take drastic measures. They could sacrifice the whole camp to kill you."

"Especially since you are now a Purple Mark Warrior. They will definitely increase their actions next time," he added.

Hearing that, my heart set off storms. It appeared I was finally coming into contact with confidential information, such as the threat faced by the world.

Francesca remained silent. She too agreed with the point of view of the Dean.

"So I have decided to send you to a place where your help is needed," Jerome said.

I raised my eyebrows. It could be the secret land. Last time, I went to the secret land where the foreign creatures tried to take over the resources.

But before I could ask anything, Dean Jerome said, "It's a place between the Tier-4 region and the Tier-3 region. It's a boundary."

"Some disciples of the faction leaders and main elders are fighting there. You will join them," he added.

"Boundary," I uttered. But my heart was in turmoil. It was something I was hearing for the first time.

Francesca was not surprised. One of her disciples was stationed at the boundary as well.

"Yeah, it's called the boundary. The foreign creatures have somehow infiltrated the point there."

"But they were able to send only a few Purple Mark Foreign Creatures."

"So the disciples are enough to handle them," Jerome said.

"What about other universities?" I asked back.

"This particular boundary is under our control. They too have a boundary to protect."

"But we don't know their information, just like they don't know ours," Jerome said.

My eyes flashed with understanding.

"When will I have to leave?" I asked.

"You can go tomorrow morning. I think you should meet the Faction Leader and Elders of yours," Dean Jerome said.

He then told Francesca to drop me off at the Thunderflame Faction. We left the office room.

A few minutes later,

She took me to the Thunderflame Faction entrance. She didn't take me inside.

After dropping me off in front of the place, she said, "If you go to the boundary tomorrow, you can meet my disciple. Her name is Stella."

Hearing that, I nodded to her. She then disappeared from the place.

I looked toward the entrance before entering inside. I began walking straight toward the residence.

On the way, I came across the members. They looked at me, but they didn't recognize me immediately.

I was a Purple Mark Warrior right now. The pressure was making them afraid. As I walked on the footpath, I saw other members.

Everyone was talking about the senior's defeat. Hearing that, I raised my eyebrows. I had heard of the person from Faction Leader Francesca.

A Purple Mark Warrior from the Black Flame Palace.

Interest appeared in my eyes. I decided to watch the duel. Soon, I reached the residence. I opened the main gate and went to the door.

Creak!

I opened the door and then I saw the room was covered in dust. I shook my head before going to the bathroom to take a shower.

The bath lasted for 20 minutes. Then I walked out and changed into comfortable clothes.

I sat on the sofa. Next, I took the device out and began to watch the competition.

As time passed, I was surprised by the skill level of the Purple Mark Warriors. Everyone had their skills at the Great Wheel.

Not only that, but they had exceptional control over the elements. If I were to fight against them at the Gold Mark Level, it would be difficult.

But I was a Purple Mark Warrior right now. I could defeat them with my current power from the inheritance forces.

I continued to watch the duel. The warriors of the Giant Tower Academy reminded me of past memories. They still relied heavily on their core inheritances.

Chapter 1547: Shocking the elders

Star University

At midnight, I finished watching the competition. The last duel was something. The warrior from the Black Flame Palace was not weak. He was a strong expert.

But the dagger technique used by the female Shadow Element warrior was something else. Her dagger attacks were extremely fast.

"She must have reached the Great Wheel already," I muttered to myself.

After watching the duel, I came to an understanding. I was lacking compared to others. I should improve my skills.

My only advantage was the ancient Inheritance force. Then I put the device away. Next, I went to bed to sleep.

The next morning, I woke up a bit late. But I didn't skip my routine. After completing the routine, I began to get ready. I was planning to meet the Faction Leader and the Main Elders.

When it came to practice, my dantian was filled with the inheritance forces. I had already stabilized my strength a few days ago in the Ball Clan hidden chamber.

So my strength was completely refined. There was no need for practice today.

20 minutes later,

I came to the hall. I picked up the device and went through my contact list. It was better to meet them all in one place. Then I found the contact of Faction Leader Clifford.

Next, I texted him that I would like to meet them before departing again. I selectively avoided mentioning the destination.

I got a reply a few seconds later. Faction Leader Clifford and the Main Elders were going to be present in the main hall in 15 minutes.

Seeing that, I smiled. My strength was one step away from the Half-Step Red Mark. The Main Elders were Purple Mark Warriors.

The Faction Leader was a Half-Step Red Mark Warrior.

I didn't know whether I could compete against the Main Elders. Their techniques must have reached the Great Wheel as well.

But I had confidence in my ancient inheritance forces. If I ever had to fight against them, then I wouldn't lose.

Meanwhile,

The Main Elders were shocked. They didn't expect to hear such news in the morning. Zack Lockwood was here, but he would leave again shortly.

He wanted to see them before departing.

A figure left the Golden Lightning Palace. The person was none other than Main Elder Austin. He received the message from the Faction Leader.

He understood Dean Jerome had made another arrangement for Zack Lockwood. He didn't know how far his disciple had progressed.

A few seconds later, the Main Elders left their places. They headed towards the main hall in a flash.

In the main hall, Faction Leader Clifford was seated in the main chair. Austin appeared next. He looked around before sitting in his chair.

Next, Main Elders Ann, Rosie, Cathy, and Leola appeared one by one. They went to their respective seats.

Everyone saw that Zack Lockwood had yet to come. They turned towards Faction Leader Clifford.

He said, "I'm going to call him."

He then made a call and informed Zack Lockwood that everyone was waiting for him.

"To think that kid has grown up to such a level. We even have to wait for him," Leola said with a chuckle.

"Dean Jerome sees him as the next Red Mark Warrior," Cathy said from the side.

"My disciple has all the qualities to become a Red Mark Warrior," Austin said with a smile.

"That's why other universities staged a plan to target him," Ann supported the view as well.

"He saved me and my disciple that day. So I support him," Rosie said.

"Alright, he was under the Dean's care. I'm curious about his strength right now," Clifford said to the others.

On the other hand, I left the residence and started walking towards the main hall. I crossed paths with the members, but none of them recognized me.

Maybe it had been some time, or they forgot my face. The pressure coming from me was making them stay away.

I glanced at them before going towards the main hall. Soon, I reached the main hall.

I walked inside the main hall. The next second, I felt piercing gazes on me. Everyone wanted to see through my strength.

Gasp!

Next, a low gasp rang out. The Main Elders were petrified. The shock was too much for them.

Faction Leader Clifford seemed composed, but his heart was already in turmoil. Everyone was seeing the Purple Mark Aura surrounding me.

The Purple Mark Aura looked strong. It showed that I was a Purple Mark Warrior right now. That too, I was a strong Purple Mark expert.

Faction Leader Clifford tried to calm down his heart, and so did the other Main Elders. In fact, the Main Elders were feeling pressure from me.

It showed that I could threaten them.

On the other hand, I watched the reactions of everyone. Everyone was stunned.

"Cough!"

I let out a cough to draw attention.

Hearing that, everyone broke from their thoughts and returned to reality.

"Faction Leader."

"Main Elders."

"Masters."

I greeted everyone one by one.

Main Elder Austin said, "Zack, when did you become a Purple Mark Warrior?"

Hearing that, the others turned towards me as well.

"I encountered opportunities during a recent secret land trip," I replied shortly, and didn't explain further.

Everyone heard that, and they had to believe it because they knew that I had gone to that secret land.

Faction Leader Clifford accepted the reality.

He then said, "I think Dean Jerome spared no effort to train you. You have become a Purple Mark Warrior earlier than we expected."

Main Elder Austin smiled and said, "Faction Leader is right. If you had stayed here, you wouldn't have achieved such fast growth."

"No wonder Dean Jerome didn't allow you to appear," Ann commented.

Leola, Cathy, and Rosie were still in shock. They didn't know what to say. Leola thought of yesterday's duel.

"If Zack Lockwood had appeared yesterday, then he would have won the duel easily," she thought.

Because she felt a threat from Zack Lockwood like the others. It felt unbelievable, but it was true. The Purple Mark Aura surrounding Zack Lockwood was dense and powerful.

Zack Lockwood could slay Purple Mark foreign creatures while being a Gold Mark Warrior. She could only imagine his combat power right now.

Chapter 1548: Boundary No. 5

Main Hall

I heard everyone's words. Then I decided to speak a few words to them before leaving.

"Faction Leader and Elders, I have to go," I said to them.

Hearing that, Faction Leader Clifford understood. Dean Jerome might be waiting for the kid. He eye-signalled to the others.

Main Elders Austin and the others understood. Zack Lockwood had work to do. They couldn't keep him here any longer.

"Okay, Zack, you can leave," Faction Leader Clifford said with a smile.

Hearing that, I bid goodbye to him and the elders. Finally, I bid goodbye to my two masters.

Then I left the main hall and went towards the exit.

"We can't teach him anymore," Faction Leader Clifford commented.

"He is already strong. I suspect he could even defeat legacy elders," Austin said with a hint of pride.

"Just now, I felt a faint sense of threat from him," Ann said from the side.

"He... He... He..."

"The other universities wouldn't have expected that Zack Lockwood has grown to the point where he can directly threaten them," Leola said with a small laugh.

"If he had appeared yesterday, he would have won easily," Cathy said.

"My disciple will be shocked if she sees him," Rosie said with a sigh.

The growth of Zack Lockwood left them speechless.

Meanwhile,

I exited the Thunderflame Faction Territory. I saw someone waiting outside for me. The person was none other than the Purple Mark Guard.

I raised my eyebrows in surprise. How did he know that I was coming here?

"Let's go. Dean Jerome is waiting for you." After saying that, he grabbed my shoulder and left the place.

A few minutes later,

He brought me to the Dean's office. We entered the office again. Dean Jerome was sitting behind the desk.

"Looks like you had a fun conversation with them," Jerome said with a smile.

Hearing that, my heart skipped a beat. I wouldn't be surprised if he heard our conversation.

"Yes, everyone was surprised by my growth," I replied.

"For this reason, I didn't let you participate in the competition. If your strength were to be exposed, then the Half-Step Red Mark Warriors from other universities would have attacked you," Jerome said.

Hearing that, my expression turned solemn.

"They were here to target me," I said.

"Spot on," Jerome said.

"They didn't hide their intentions. Faction Leader Vince helped them. So, I killed him this morning," Jerome said in a calm tone.

But I felt as if a thunderclap had struck my head. I looked at Dean Jerome in disbelief.

"I knew you would be shocked. But we knew about Faction Leader Vince's activities. We had been monitoring him for the past few years."

"He had done many things to hurt the interests of the Star University over the past few years. But I have repeatedly warned him all these years."

"But he chose to cross the red line this time. Earlier, he disclosed your whereabouts to the Dark Shadow University people. Yesterday, he tried to help their Half-Step Red Mark Warrior."

"He had long since forgotten about the interests of the Star University and the Dark Variant Faction. So, I had to remove him before he did something even worse," Jerome explained.

I sighed inwardly. I knew that person was rotten to the core. He had repeatedly targeted me. But I didn't expect him to cross the red line.

"Alright, you have one less enemy here. But it doesn't mean that you won't face challenges at the boundary."

"The disciples of the faction leaders and main elders will definitely challenge you. Be ready for that. And try not to kill others as much as possible."

"We need them against the foreign creatures," Jerome said.

"Okay," I replied.

Jerome then looked toward the Purple Mark Guard.

"Take him to boundary number 5," Jerome said.

To that, the Purple Mark Guard nodded his head.

A few minutes later,

We left the Dean's office. The Purple Mark Guard took me to the boundary. As usual, he was using extreme speed to travel.

For a second, I thought he was using space. But it wasn't like that. After reaching the Purple Mark Rank, I could see a lot better.

There was no blur in front of my eyes. At the same time, I could sense things around me. I perceived no danger right now.

We crossed many miles before reaching the location an hour later. We stopped in mid-air. The Purple Mark Guard was looking ahead.

Seeing that, I followed his gaze and saw an empty grassland that stretched across endlessly.

Then I saw him press his palm against the air. The next second, a blue-colored ripple went across, as if a barrier existed right there.

The Purple Mark Guard glanced at me.

He said, "You must have seen the blue ripple. It's a barrier. I have touched it, so someone must have been alerted right now."

Hearing that, my eyes flashed with understanding. Then we landed on the ground. The Purple Mark Guard continued to look ahead.

A hint of interest appeared in my eyes. As my strength grows stronger, I'm getting closer to the secrets of the world.

From the outer post to the inner post, then to the Tier-4 region—it has been a long journey.

While I was recalling past events in my mind, the blue ripple appeared again. A door manifested. The next second, someone opened the door and a female, black-armor-clad warrior greeted us.

"Stella, it's you. How are you doing?" the Purple Mark Guard said before signaling me to enter inside.

"We are under pressure. We need manpower to defend the place," Stella said before her gaze fell on the new person.

When she saw the dense purple aura around him, she felt a hint of danger.

I followed the Purple Mark Guard inside. I noticed that the woman was looking at me. If she was Stella, then she could be the disciple of Faction Leader Francesca.

But before I could think further, I was attracted by the scene before me.

Unlike the green, vast, peaceful land outside, the land here was cracked. The surface appeared to be scorched. Smoke clouds covered the sky. The place lay dead.

Chapter 1549: Not a warm welcome

Boundary

I took my gaze off the scorched earth and followed the Purple Mark Guard to the camp.

On the way, none of them spoke. Even the expression of the Purple Mark Guard was not good after seeing the situation here.

He knew that the place was not dead before. It was filled with lush green vegetation. Now it was completely dead.

Soon, they reached the camp. They saw numerous tents set up in a series. But they didn't step forward.

There was a formation in front of them.

Stella deactivated it first. Next, she stepped inside.

Swoosh!

Right then, several figures left their tents. They all had felt the deactivation of the formation. All of them were Purple Mark Warriors.

The purple aura surrounding them was denser and thicker.

One by one, they landed on the ground in front of us. Their gaze fell on the Purple Mark Guard before falling on me.

I immediately felt a cold, pricking sensation. They were all trying to see through my strength.

I immediately controlled my strength. Then, I poured mental power into my right-hand ring.

The next second, their mental probing was blocked. The ring was a Red Mark Warrior ring given to me by Dean Jerome.

I didn't expect it would be useful right now.

The warriors were all taken aback. There were male and female warriors here, including everyone from late teens to the middle-aged.

But there were no old warriors here.

Stella looked at them.

She said, "He is the Purple Mark Guard. He has brought a new member here."

"Everyone must have heard his name already. He is Zack Lockwood, a Thunderflame Faction member."

"He is a Purple Mark Warrior now. So Dean Jerome sent him to defend the boundary," Stella said in a calm tone.

But it felt like a thunderclap in their heads. They were in shock. Because they were all disciples of the Faction Leaders and the main elders here.

Not only the disciples of the top ten factions were here, but there were warriors from the medium and small-sized factions present as well.

But their numbers were small. Everyone had a change in expression. They looked toward Zack Lockwood with new probing, but their senses were blocked by the invisible wall.

Which further shocked them.

The Purple Mark Guard then said, "My job is over. I'm going back. Give him a uniform and a tent."

Stella nodded her head.

The Purple Mark Guard had already felt the strong auras among the warriors. They might want to challenge Zack Lockwood.

But he was not afraid of the result. He was just worried that they would be seriously injured.

He then turned toward Zack Lockwood and said, "Remember Dean Jerome's advice."

After saying that, he left the place. As he crossed the formation border, his back disappeared. The formation returned to normal.

"So, you are Zack Lockwood."

"I don't know what treasure you have consumed, but your current Purple Mark strength is not that great," a middle-aged man stepped forward and said.

He clearly didn't hide his hostility. No one stopped it. Everyone had a smile on their faces. They wanted to watch the fun.

More than 50 warriors had gathered here. There were some standing in groups, while others stood alone.

Even among the crowd, there were a few who were leading the groups. Their gazes were filled with contemplation.

They were neither arrogant nor humble.

At the same time, I didn't show any reaction. I had expected this trouble. I turned toward Stella. I saw she was quiet as well.

"Where is my tent?" I asked.

Gasp!

A low gasp sounded. No one expected Zack Lockwood to ignore him. He was not only trying to ignore the middle-aged man, but he was ignoring them as well.

This time, more warriors were pissed off. Even those who had a neutral stance were displeased.

Stella furrowed her eyebrows. She wanted to witness the strength of Zack Lockwood. She had heard his name before.

Right now, she was displeased as well.

The middle-aged man was called Stone. He was from the Gold Faction. He was known for having a powerful defense.

He was also one of the strongest among the defensive-type warriors. His contribution was significant in defending the boundary here.

So no other warriors made fun of him. They were in support of him.

"You ant!"

"You dare to disrespect me."

"Even your senior brothers and sisters from your faction don't dare to say anything to me," Stone said in a cold tone.

Hearing that, I finally had a change in emotions.

I turned around and looked at the middle-aged man. He was looking in his right direction. I followed his gaze and saw a few people standing in groups.

They were wearing the camp uniform. But they had the emblem of the Thunderflame Faction.

Seeing that, my eyes flashed with understanding. At this point, they should have supported me, but none of them stepped up.

They were looking at me with unkind gazes as well. What's going on here? I frowned.

"Ha... Ha... Ha..." the middle-aged man Stone let out a cold laugh.

He enjoyed the expression of the young man.

On the other hand, the middle-aged man's laughter irritated me. I wanted to fight right here, right now. But I could kill him here.

"Miss Stella, where is my tent?" I asked again.

"If you don't want to tell me, then I'll ask Dean Jerome," I added.

Quiet!

Hearing that, everyone quieted down. Now that I had used the name of Dean Jerome, I wanted to know what they were going to do next.

The middle-aged man Stone became quiet. He didn't expect the young man to use the name of the Dean.

They had just heard that Dean Jerome sent him here.

Stella collected her thoughts. She didn't want to offend Dean Jerome.

"Alright guys, I'm taking him to his tent." After saying that, she started walking forward.

Seeing that, I began to follow her from behind. The warriors stepped sideways to clear the path.

Everyone had expected some drama to happen. Yet things happened differently.

The middle-aged man Stone lost face. He couldn't wait there. He left the place dejectedly.

Chapter 1550: Eldest Disciple Kaiden Farley

Boundary No. 5

A few minutes later,

Stella brought him to the tent house. This tent house belongs to him. There is a modern tech door which is connected to the rest of the tent.

She gave me the key to the tent.

"You stay inside. I'll ask someone to give you the uniforms and booklets." After saying that, she left the place.

Then I turned around and used the key to open the door. After entering inside, I locked the door and began to walk around the tent.

The tent is spacious, but there are compartments. I went to one of the compartments and found out it was a bedroom.

Then I went to another compartment. It's a bathroom. Similarly, there is another compartment which has an advanced essence chamber.

A flicker of interest appeared in my eyes. I wanted to try practicing inside the essence chamber right away, but I decided to wait.

Someone will get me the uniform and booklet. I think it's better to understand the situation here first.

Then I walked up to the sofa and sat on it.

It didn't take long for someone to come in and knock on the door. I stood up and went to open the door.

Creak!

I opened the door and saw a middle-aged man standing outside.

"Hello," I said.

The middle-aged man nodded his head before giving me a storage ring.

"It has the necessary items and the uniform. If you hear the battle alarm sound, then it's time for the battle." After saying that, the middle-aged man left the place.

From beginning to end, he didn't introduce himself, nor did he show any arrogant attitude.

I shook my head before going inside. I shut the door and went back to the sofa. I sat down and checked the storage ring.

There are two sets of black uniforms inside. My gaze fell on the small booklet beside them. Then there are a few hundred essence stones.

I picked up the book and began to read it. It's about the rules here. Fighting with each other is strictly prohibited.

My mouth twitches, because that was not the scene yesterday. Everyone was ready to fight. If not for his actions yesterday, a fight would have happened.

Then he continues to read the information in the book. The warriors needed to be vigilant. The battle could occur at any time.

Even the tents have been targeted previously. Then I found the details were similar to the warrior camps.

It's just that we are fighting and staying in one place in the boundary, whereas you have to enter the battlefield using the teleportation platform in the warrior camp.

So the setup here is dangerous. No wonder only powerful Purple Mark Warriors are stationed here.

After going through the book once, I placed it inside the ring. Then I took one set of the uniform out and decided to wear it.

Meanwhile,

There is an uproar among the warriors. They couldn't believe a newly advanced Purple Mark Warrior was able to avoid the fight.

There are some warriors from influential backgrounds as well. They knew inside information.

When they had last been to the campus, they heard about the famous warrior Zack Lockwood. They had also heard that the famous warrior was under the care of Dean Jerome.

They didn't think much of it then, but they have changed their minds right now. They underestimated Zack Lockwood.

If they had offended Zack Lockwood, then they would have gotten on the bad side of Dean Jerome.

It's a wake-up call for them. They have decided to focus on their work. On the other hand, the Warrior Stone listened to his friends.

He too thought he was a bit impulsive. He shouldn't have been the first person to confront Zack Lockwood.

If the news were to reach the ears of Dean Jerome, it won't end well for him. Stone saw that some of his friends are planning to keep their distance from him.

They were all from the small and medium-sized factions. But there are others who didn't think much of it. They are disciples of the main elders and faction leaders.

They were not afraid of Dean Jerome. But it doesn't mean that they are going to offend him voluntarily.

If Zack Lockwood doesn't cause problems for them, then they will mind their own business.

On the other hand, the warriors from the Thunderflame Faction found themselves in a difficult position.

They didn't welcome Zack Lockwood. It might have created a rift already. They are disciples of the main elders and faction leader Clifford.

Among them, a brown-haired middle-aged man was particularly angry. He is the eldest disciple of Main Elder Austin. His name is Kaiden Farley. He is a Golden Lightning, Purple Mark Warrior.

He is also the senior brother of Zack Lockwood. Normally, he should have been the first one to greet Zack Lockwood.

But he didn't do it. Like others, he too didn't like Zack Lockwood. Especially now, the fame of Zack Lockwood outshadows others.

Including him, when he went to his master, he had only heard praises of him. This made him dislike Zack Lockwood more.

Not only that, he had learned one more shocking secret. His 5th junior brother, Ed Conrad, had died because of Zack Lockwood.

He was not on the campus at that time. During that time, he was stationed in those warrior camps.

The other brothers and sisters are fond of Zack Lockwood. For example, Leah Downing and Lola Garvin sang praises of Zack Lockwood just like Master Austin.

Only his junior brother Neil Smith remained neutral.

But Zack Lockwood's strength has grown beyond everyone's expectations. He achieved Purple Mark growth in a short time.

So much so, he is facing a threat from him for his position. That's why he had avoided Zack Lockwood today.

There are disciples of Main Elders Leola, Cathy, and Ann here as well. Main Elder Rosie has recently accepted disciples, but they were not strong enough to join the boundary team.

The other disciples didn't comment that much, but they have conflicted feelings. They have been friends with Kaiden for a long time, so they are not ready to disrespect him.