

BloodLine 321

Chapter 321 Part 1: Collecting Intel

Tier-8-Iron Post City,

When I reached the exit gate, I saw warriors were lining up in a queue. And the city guards were maintaining the order and a few of them began to screen the warriors. For identification, I noticed warriors showed their ID.

As for me, I decided to use Hansen Campus' ID. Since I'm a student, there won't be any problems for me going outside. Soon, one by one, warriors exited from the gate, and eventually my turn came up.

The city guard said, "Show me your identification card!"

Then hearing that I gave him the ID. The city guard took the ID from me and began to verify the details. Soon after confirming the identity, he gave back the ID to me and let me pass. I placed the ID card back on my storage ring and then walked towards the exit.

Unlike I had imagined, the walls of the city were built like other cities. There are also four monitoring towers at the four corners of the city. With such strong patrolling, it's understandable that bandits couldn't be able to stir commotion inside the city.

The outside of the city is covered with pure vegetation. There is only one road that can be seen leading somewhere. Seeing that warriors were walking along the same route, I believe it's the usual trade route where banditry often happens.

"I need to find a camp as soon as possible," I grunted.

For accommodation, I don't think there will be any temporary huts. I guess everyone has their own camp to stay at night. Compared to Liz's lonely mountain trip, this trip is very different. There I spent time without worrying about anything.

Other than the troublesome pseudo-monsters, the mountain Liz lives on is actually quiet.

Next, I followed behind another warrior. Both sides of the path are covered with green vegetation. It's difficult to see what's behind them. But according to the city map, I knew the city was very close to an insect forest.

Time went on,

After half an hour of walking, I spotted a few large camps. The Warriors can be seen taking a rest there. Seeing that, I increased my pace and in a few minutes, I reached the camp. This is actually a very large open area. I believe it's specifically cleared out for the missions.

I found there were many groups looking in our direction. Seeing their behavior, I guess they are looking for warriors to recruit into their team.

I didn't make a hasty decision after realizing. First, I'm going to figure out their strengths. If the boss of the group has Initial Trainee Warrior strength, then it is fine. Then I will join that group.

But if the strength is above that criteria, I won't join. In this atmosphere, the heart of man is difficult to understand. Who knows if there is a situation inside where people might turn against me? So I feel it's better to be on alert.

Then I found a tent where they were selling energy drinks. I decided to take this opportunity to figure out the situation around here. When I came near the tent, I found a middle-aged person behind the counter.

At first glance, I can't see through his strength. which means he might be a trainee warrior.

Behind the counter,

Seeing a new person coming towards the tent, the seller raised his head to see. But upon noticing it was a very young warrior, his face lit up with surprise. In curiosity, he tried to probe his strength, but his effort ended in vain. As there was a giant fog covering the person's body, the seller failed to notice anything.

Then suddenly a thought came to his mind. Recently, this insect forest's outer area has seen lots of crouching tigers and hidden dragons. And the seller thought this young warrior might be one of those with a rich background.

After figuring it out, the seller praised himself.

On the other hand, Zack Lockwood

I noticed the stranger was looking at me with a strange gaze. Then I immediately coughed to break the atmosphere.

"Cough" "Cough"

The seller immediately breaks out of his dream. Then, looking at the person before him, he asked in a polite tone, "Young Warrior, What do you need? "

Seeing the seller's friendly attitude, I was slightly surprised, but I didn't show it on my face.

"Give me one energy drink," I said.

Hearing that, the seller immediately went inside to bring the drink.

Next, I focused my attention on those groups. I can see the teams are talking to lots of warriors who are coming out of the city for bandit missions. The reward for bandit head is such a lucrative reward. Suddenly, a specific group attracted my attention, where as many as twenty warriors could be seen in this group.

"20 people in a team?" I muttered in surprise.

"Yeah, they are the fire crow team." A voice sounded from behind.

When I heard that, I turned to see the seller who had returned with the energy drink.

A quick glint flashes in my eyes; this guy might be the right person to ask.

I asked, "Do you know everything?"

The seller smiled and replied, "Well, I know a few things about the teams. If you want to know, you can come inside. "

I nodded and walked inside the tent. The seller told his helper to watch the shop on behalf of him. We came to the back of the tent, where the seller's own tent can be seen. Looking at the tent, I guessed this guy was actually staying here at night. I thought these people would return back to the city at night.

Then I entered his little camp along with him.

After sitting cross-legged, the seller said, "Let me introduce myself. I'm Remington Talley. I'm a fire element trainee warrior. I'm a native of Iron Post City. So you can tell, I knew a lot of things since I grew up here."

Hearing that, I nodded, but I didn't believe him because of his words. After getting his information, I needed to find its authenticity.

Seeing the calm expression of the young warrior, Remington realized one thing. It's not easy to convince others. Especially in this place where banditry is rampant.

Thinking about it, Remington reveals an embarrassing smile & takes out his ID card to show.

I took his ID card to see.

I muttered, "Burke Trading Centre."

This guy is currently working at Burke Trading Centre as a clerk. So I can see that in order to earn more profit, they had set up a stall here to sell their items. From this energy drink, I can infer that their main commodity is beverages.

After taking a look at the ID one more time, I gave it to him.

"Young warrior, are you convinced?" Remington asked while taking back the ID.

"To be honest, I don't care about your background. As long as your information is fine, I can pay you with credit points. " I said with a smile.

"Straight to the point," Remington uttered.

Then Remington added, "As long as the young warrior is willing to pay 2000 credit points. I can tell you everything that I know. "

I replied, "1000 credit points no more. Because I'm not in a hurry, I can spend a few more days collecting the information. So you can think about it. "

Remington was displeased, but again he realized the information which he knew was not that secret. If this young man spends some time in the city to ask around, he will eventually know. After realizing this, he sighed in his heart, "It's not easy to fool young people these days."

Then Remington compromised in his heart and said, "Alright, 1000 credit points is okay for me."

Because the beverages he sold were at a cost of 10 points/energy credit. and his monthly salary is 3000 credit points. He's thinking about earning 1000 credit points by selling known information. He feels it's worth it. Only secretive information sells for higher prices.

After figuring it out, he looked at Zack and said, "Well, I'll start with hunting teams. Currently, there are a total of 10 teams in this camp. The top three teams were exceptionally strong; each team killed at least 40 bandits."

"40 bandits!" I exclaimed in surprise. What is the concept? How many warriors are actually involved in banditry?

Remington wasn't surprised to see Zack's reaction. He said with a bitter smile and replied, "I know what you are thinking. The City Lord's negligence led up to such a calamity. A few years ago, the city did not look like this. There is no strict law whatsoever. Bribery and corruption are everywhere. And there is no strict screening of people coming over here. Slowly, the city has turned into such a state now."

From his explanation, it's still hard to believe the number of bandits in the forests.

I looked at him and asked, "Do you know the approximate number of bandits still hiding in the forests?"

Remington took a moment to reply, "I heard there are still 500 bandits hiding in the forests."

500 bandits The number is quite astonishing. How do these people tackle these numbers with just 20 hunting teams? Uncle had previously warned me not to get too involved in this matter.

Chapter 322 Part 2: Collecting Intel

(From MC's POV)

When it comes to 20 hunting teams, apart from those 10 teams I believe there are also a few other unknown teams in this area. which may be suitable for me to join those teams.

And also, I came here to hone my skills, not for a mission. So, as my Uncle said, I need to mind my own business.

Then looking at Remington, I asked, "I don't think there are only 10 teams in this mission. What about others? "

A quick glint flashes before Remington's eyes. From these few conversations, he understands that the young man in front of him is not dumb.

So he decided to answer truthfully, "Well, obviously there are others. But the strength of other teams was low. And their leader's strength may range from peak special trainee to initial trainee warrior. "

A small smile rose on my face. This is what I wanted. As I guessed earlier, there were other teams who took the same mission.

Seeing changes in Zack's expression, Remington asked, "Young man, do you want to join any team?"

Hearing that, I nodded. One thing I noticed so far is that the previous Star Tower's competition spotlight has faded away. And people didn't remember me that much.

But if I join any strong team, there might be some unnecessary trouble. Various thoughts run in my mind.

On the other hand, Remington Tally wasn't surprised by Zack's answer. If not for the mission, he doubted there would be any valid reason.

The problem is that he couldn't see through this young man's strength. So he couldn't think of any suitable teams.

Besides, it's not easy to join those top teams just like that. He knows that behind those top teams, there is usually someone behind the top support.

They include their own men in their mission team. As a result, he doubted that there were many openings for newcomers.

Remington didn't think about other teams. There is nothing to gain by joining weak teams. Even if they do earn something, later they will be bullied by strong teams.

Some are even forced to transfer their credit points. So there is also one thing for warriors to join top teams; it's about their safety.

Top team members can keep their money. No one would bully them. There is no theft or killing faced by strong teams. So there are numerous advantages for warriors if they join a strong team.

Seeing Remington's silence, I thought something was wrong. So I asked, "What happened?"

Hearing that, Remington Talley set his gaze at Zack and replied, "Young man, I don't know your thoughts. But it's not easy to join top teams. "

Then he continues to say, "To join the top teams, you need to pass their test. In particular, you need to get the approval of the backer behind their team. "

I was taken back by his answer. I immediately replied by saying, "I'm not thinking about joining any strong team at all."

Remington Talley was dumbfounded by his words. Usually, warriors die to join a strong team. But this young man, Remington, couldn't understand him at all.

Seeing the stupefied expression of Remington, I said with a smile, "I won't stay here for long. I came here to gain some fighting experience. So it's not good to join a strong team where their goal is to complete the mission. "

Remington is enlightened by Zack's words. "As expected, a young man from an influential background." He muttered in his heart.

He heard heirs of influential backgrounds go to the outside world to gain experience. So this is the first time in his life that he has met such a person.

So there were some changes in his attitude. He coughed twice to break the silence.

"Cough" "Cough"

"Young man, if you just came here to gain fighting experience, Then I can recommend a team," Remington said in a calm tone.

His words piqued my interest. Actually, I'm quite waiting for this. I know how come these trade people don't have any contact with warriors.

So I asked with some surprise, "Oh, can you tell me about the team?"

Remington smiled and said, "Iron Hammer Team."

Then he continued to say, "Actually, the leader of the team is Mervin Waller, a water element-peak special trainee warrior. He is also one of our trade center's protector"

A surprise glint flashes in my eyes. Well, this is a very close connection to their trade centre. Usually, these protectors were employed to safeguard their goods and staff from bandits.

It's really surprising to see such warriors take up the mission.

I commented, "He is really daring." I neither said it in a humble nor an arrogant tone. I said with appreciation.

These people usually keep to themselves. They don't do anything that would jeopardise their careers. But this Mervin guy was actually on such a perilous mission.

Remington reveals a bitter smile by hearing that he replied, "Young warrior, Mervin Waller, lost some of his good friends due to these bandits. Some of them were killed while he was acting as the protector"

I sighed internally, then nodded in understanding. Speaking of his team, if this guy really is a peak special trainee, then none of them can force me.

I can do my business. There is no pressure whatsoever. After thinking

about it, I realised this is a suitable team for me to join. In particular, the background of the person is also not scary.

Especially when comparing this team to a strong team with backers. This team is very suitable for me.

I asked, "This team is good. Can you tell me everything about the team?" including their competitors and supporters. "

A hint of appreciation flashes in Remington's eyes. He realised this conversation felt more like some kind of business deal than a natural conversation.

Shaking his head, he answered, "Well, it's natural to have competitors. However, in this forest, the most important thing is to avoid these venomous bugs rather than bandits"

Then he added further, "Even if you somehow survived from these bandits. Later, you will be robbed by other hunting teams. "

My face condensed a little bit by hearing this. This is the nature of the human heart. By robbing the same teams, they will earn some extra money.

Well, every team has their own advantages and disadvantages. So I'm slightly aware of the dangers. Besides, I'm not planning to bond with the team.

If there is an opportunity, I will look for those bandits alone.

I sighed internally, I looked towards Remington and answered, "Well, I'm ready to join this team, but I'm going to leave after a month."

Earlier, I thought about staying here for one or two months. But after knowing that it's even hard to survive here, I changed my mind.

It's better not to get involved too much in this mission.

After hearing Zack's confirmation, Remington smiled. because he also has some interest in this help. He wants to have business contact with Zack.

"There is a good opportunity for growth. I can get some kind of business deal, I can get a promotion for sure," Remington said in his heart.

Then he looked at Zack and said, "Young man, since you had decided. Let's not waste time here. You can return to the city. I'll arrange a meeting with the team tomorrow. "

And taking a look at the surroundings for the moment, he added further, "This place is not suitable for meetings. If some people knew, then it would cause some trouble."

I nodded, then we talked about a few other things before I left his tent.

At first, I came here to look for a good team to join. Now that I have joined. I decided to go back to the city.

Seeing the disappearing back of Zack, Remington said in his heart, "I made a decision on behalf of Mervin. That guy has a lot of temper. I don't know whether he is going to agree with this."

Later, he decided to have a conversation with Mervin before the meeting. Because right now, Mervin is doing the mission inside the forest.

It will take some time for him to return. Once Mervin comes back with his team, Remington decides to convince him somehow.

On the other hand,

I returned to the same hotel an hour later. Fortunately, there was no accident while coming back.

After coming back to the room, I took a shower. I'm glad that the first hurdle is solved. And I'm looking forward to the meeting tomorrow.

Time Progresses,

Late evening,

Three burley middle-aged men walked out of the insect forest. Damn, these pigs. I couldn't wait to hack them to death, "one of the warriors gnashed his teeth in hatred."

Hearing that, the other two kept silent. These three people were none other than members of the Iron Hammer team.

After walking out of the forest, both of them walked towards their camp area.

Soon all of them came to Remington's tent. All of their faces looked a little bit solemn.

Remington, who was behind the counter, noticed three of them. Seeing their haggard expression, he feels something is wrong. Suddenly, he thought of something. "Why did three of them only come back?" What about the other two?"

Chapter 323 Manager Peter

Tier-8 Iron Post City,

Remington Talley couldn't digest the fact that his worst nightmare had come true. The Iron Hammer team lost two more members. Now the team is left with just 3 members.

From looking at their haggard expressions, Remington gets the feeling that it's difficult for them to continue the mission.

Among three of them, the middle one is the leader and his friend, Mervin Waller. And the one who sat right beside him is Spencer Gill, Fire element Middle Level Special Trainee, and the last one is Gavin Cowen, Earth element Middle Level Special Trainee.

The atmosphere became solemn. Remington saw no one was ready to talk about what happened back in the forest. From his experience, he has already seen through some things. Remington thought they suffered from the backhand of those guys.

The iron hammer team is not weak. So why the state of their current condition? It's because of their unwillingness to give in.

Remington knows that whenever this team faced oppression from those strong teams, they fought back.

Which led to the loss of lives and resources. Thinking about those previous events, Remington sighs.

On the other hand, Mervin Waller clenches his fists in sheer anger. The sheer anger that he feels towards himself The inability to fight back and the later consequences faced by the team His friends and colleagues, whoever joined because of him, were reduced to bones.

Seeing the state of their leader, the two warriors beside him also kept silence. They were not in the right state of mind to console him. It's already a miracle for them to escape alive with their leader.

Time went on.

Finally, Remington broke the silence by asking, "Mervin, can you tell me now?" What exactly happened?
"

Hearing his words, Mervin retracted his thoughts from his painful memories. Then he raised his head to look at Remington.

He slowly opened his mouth and said, "It's all due to the Black Fist Team."

"Back Fist Team, 9th strongest team?" Remington muttered.

Mervin nodded his head and continued to say, "Yeah, it's actually those guys. When we were fighting against those bandit groups, These people from the Black Fist Team are actually waiting behind us. "

Then he added further, "When we finally killed those bandits, these guys ambushed us." Ron and Jackson died in their hands. We were forced to escape from them. Fortunately, three of them succeeded in slipping away from their hands.

Remington breaks out in a cold sweat. Typically, the top five teams engage in this type of bullying. teams don't have any courage at all. So he is surprised by these changes.

Looking at Mervin, Remington asked, "Is it true?" If this news is true, then the survivability of other teams also becomes questionable.

Mervin said, "Yes, at first I was too surprised by them." Before this incident, whenever we encountered other teams, we would separate from them. But these guys targeted us right from the start. "

Remington thought this was a very serious development. Before the next mission, it's best for the team to find the reason behind this.

Remington thought about something and asked, "Did any of you offend them in any way previously?"

Mervin shook his head, then he glanced at two members beside him. Spencer and Gavin shook their heads at the same time.

For Remington, the information is important to him. either for the iron hammer team's safety or for collecting intelligence. Both of the proposals were crucial to him.

Shaking his head, Remington asked, "What is your plan?"

Mervin sighed and said, "I'm going to quit and disband the team forever."

Remington wasn't surprised; he had expected this. This blow is very hard. For a bandit hunting team to get approval, they need to have a minimum of three members in the team.

Remington had already promised this to the young man (Zack). Seeing the current situation, he didn't have the heart to convince them. It's better for Mervin and others to drop this mission and get back to their previous lives.

I'll try to persuade the young man tomorrow. This bandit hunting mission is getting more and more dangerous. "I don't want that young man to lose his life on this mission," Remington said in his heart.

Then, looking at three of them before him, Remington answered, "Okay, I'll talk to the manager about this tomorrow." You can go back and rest. "

Mervin simply nodded his head and left with his two team members to rest.

Seeing the disappearance of these two, Remington sent a message to Burke Trade Centre's manager.

Then, in order to collect details about the Black Fist Team. Remington decided to contact East Wood Company.

East Wood Company sells weapons of all types. Remington believes they must have been aware of the recent changes taking place within the city.

decided to visit them tomorrow. When it comes to the young man (Zack), he has been demoted to second priority.

The following day,

(From MC's POV),

I woke up early and later had breakfast at the hotel's restaurant itself. Then, after getting changed to good attire, I waited in my hotel room for quite some time.

"Remington told me to wait for the meeting with the team." But so far I hadn't received any calls from him. " I muttered to myself.

Then I thought about something. Maybe the iron hammer team has not yet arrived. Shaking my head, I decided to contact him. Yesterday, I got his contact info.

I called him via Sci-Fi Watch.

Time went on.

Unfortunately, the call was not connected. "What's going on?" I grunted. Won't the guy backtrack all of a sudden?

My expression turned a bit solemn.

Shaking my head, I thought that wouldn't be the case. I should wait a few more hours to see Meanwhile, I decided to contact Uncle James.

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On the other hand,

Remington Talley closed his tent and left the camping site with other team members.

On the way, all of them avoided contact with other team members. In particular, everyone increased their pace when they spotted top teams.

Soon, four of them entered the city. Remington directly led them towards Burke Trading Centre.

On the way, Remington received a call from Zack. After noticing it, he cancelled the call. He decided to accommodate them first.

Three of them followed him silently. just as they continued to walk. Remington received another call from Zack. This time it rang continuously.

Seeing the call, Remington cancelled it. But Mervin noticed the changes and asked, "What is happening?" Do you have any other work? "

Remington smiled and answered, "No, this call is related to a business deal. This call would take hours to attend. That's why I cancelled it and decided to attend later.

Mervin nodded in understanding.

Soon they come across the Burke Trade Centre building.

This building structure looks like a tower. It has 10 floors. When they came inside the building, Remington contacted the manager.

After getting his reply, Remington confirmed that the manager is still in the building.

Then he led everyone inside, after arranging for them to stay in the waiting area. Remington walked towards the manager's room.

"Creak," the door opens.

Inside the cabin,

An old man is sitting behind the desk.

Seeing the person, Richmond greeted him and told him about the situation.

Manager Peter, He is 60 years old.

Since the launch of the company, he has been part of it. After hearing the situation, Manager Peter's expression condensed.

From the beginning, he opposed the idea of forming a bandit hunting team. It's not their cup of tea, but unfortunately, some of the protectors sided with Mervin and joined his bandit hunting team.

After several gruelling defeats, their team is now left with three members.

On the other hand, Remington is really tense. Forget about the bandits' hunting team, he himself is not sure whether they can secure their old jobs.

At the very beginning, the old man opposed the idea. But everyone sided with Mervin. They were on the same page as Mervin to eradicate bandits.

Now that he thought about the old memories, Remington sighed inside.

The atmosphere becomes solemn for a moment. Neither of them were ready to speak about the issue. Where Remington hoped that the old man would give another leash of life to them.

He also stated that if he disagrees, Mervin will spend his entire heart seeking vengeance. He will add a few other members to the team. Then he will lead others on the mission.

Remington sighed, imagining it. He is afraid it will repeat the vicious cycle again.

Without knowing about the recent developments, it's foolish to think about the mission.

On the other hand, manager Peter fell into contemplation. Actually, he doesn't want them back as a protector. But the current situation of their trade centre is in a critical condition.

Burke Trade Centre urgently needs well-trained protectors. Since there is a vacancy, he finally agreed to reappoint them. But he also hopes that Mervin will listen to his words.

Manager Peter sighed and looked at Remington, "Alright, our trade centre urgently needs protectors." I'm ready to reappoint them, but on one condition. "

Remington was surprised by his words and asked, "What condition?"

Manager Peter replied, "They should forget about the bandit hunting mission."

Chapter 324 East Wood Company?

The City of Iron Post,

Burke Trade Centre,

Remington Talley is glad that the manager agreed to appoint them. And also, his condition was not so excessive. Even he does not want them back in Bandit Hunting Mission.

Shaking his head, Remington decided to leave. But suddenly, he thought of something. He had intended to contact the Black Fist Team.

But he decided not to talk about this. He is just another employee in this trade centre. He doesn't want to take too many liberties.

Even if he crossed their bottomline, it might cause some problems for his career. Then he talked about a few other things with Manager Peter before leaving the room.

Manager Peter, then continued to do his previous work.

Remington Talley arrived at the waiting area. Observing three of them nervously waiting He smiled and walked towards them.

"Mervin?" He called out his name.

Seeing that Remington had arrived, Mervin asked with hopeful eyes, "What happened inside?" Did that old thing agree? "

Remington smiled wryly. His tone is the same as always. "Manger Peter agreed to appoint all three of you back." But he doesn't want any of you to return to the bandit hunting mission. "

Mervin's eyes were pained." Actually, he is helpless right now. since he doesn't know how to get revenge. For the time being, he decided to get back to his old job.

But now that he has thought about the conditions, Mervin is silent.

At this time, Spencer and Gavin looked at each other. "Leader, we will support you on whatever choice you make," Spencer said, looking at his leader.

Hearing that, Remington's face condensed. "These guys, Last night I had a good talk with them. But still they are not able to overcome. "

Then he thought about the place. Walls have ears; it's a good place to comment on bandit hunting missions.

Remington said, "Alright, let's walk outside."

Then four of them walked out of the building after leaving their premise.

Remington impatiently asked, "Mervin, I can help you with this much." But if you still had plans for revenge, Then you should forget your old job.

Mervin glanced at his teammates. He seems to have made some decisions at this point. Then he looked at Remington and said, "Thank you for your help, Remmy." But I realised that I needed some alone time right now. I'll meet you a few days later. "

After saying that, he left with his two team members.

Remington sighs, looking at the disappearance of three of them.

"He still has two minds." Remington muttered.

He thought about others since the first thing was done. It's good that he didn't arrange the meeting.

Remington assumed that the young man (Zack) had transferred to another team. And he doesn't have much contact with other teams. He knows a few guys in other teams, but he doesn't trust them at all.

Shaking his head, he decided to call that young man

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(From MC's POV)

My eyes opened suddenly after hearing the notification buzz. After looking at the time, it's been more than an hour since I shut my eyes off.

I looked at my communication watch and found that it was a call from Remington Talley.

"Looks like he didn't forget his words," I muttered.

Next, when the call is connected Remington told me about the meeting spot.

Then, after ending the call, I exited my room right away. I'm curious to see how these teams fared.

I know this bandit hunting team is different from the usual monster hunting teams. I believe some warriors had experience of killings.

After walking out of the hotel, I walked towards the location. It's a cafeteria, which is quite close to my location.

I appreciate his choice of spot. I thought he might choose some famous restaurant or landmark.

But this cafeteria is not that famous. Soon, I arrived at the cafeteria, where a huge billboard can be seen above the shop.

"Blue Leaf Cafeteria," I exclaimed. nice name. After stepping inside, I found Remington was waiting for me at the counter.

Seeing me coming, he led me towards the other area.

"I already booked a private room to talk," Remington said.

A slight glint flashes in my eyes. Why is he alone? What about others? I looked around and found that no one was following us.

I thought he came with the iron hammer team. That's why he is late.

Soon, two of them entered a room. There is a simple sofa chair to sit on and talk on. After taking their seats, Remington told the server that he would order later.

Remington sighs, seeing Zack's surprised face. He helplessly commented, "I know you must be surprised right now." But it's impossible for you to join the iron hammer team. "

Hearing that, my expression bit condensed and I asked, "What happened?"

Hearing that Remington told everything that happened yesterday and the current state of Mervin's mind.

After explaining everything, he further added, "So without knowing what is happening right now, It's not safe for you to join any teams. The Black Fist team must be planning something. If they find an iron hammer team, they will surely target their team members."

This?

I'm quite dumbfounded. I thought things were alright. As long as I don't offend top teams, I can spend time here training.

But the muddy water here is truly very deep. Every day has some changes to look after. After hearing his explanation, I completely gave up the idea of joining the iron hammer team.

I sighed inside and also, I'm getting nervous. The environment here is quite scarier than at Crimson Hall. This is just a Tier-8 city, but Crimson Hall is a Tier-7 city.

Looking at the silent expression of Zack, Remington said, "I knew you must be disappointed." But things are not easy here. If you really want to take such a risk, it's up to you. "

Hearing that, I fell into contemplation. This guy has great convincing skills. Even now, I'm hesitating to accept the mission.

But the hesitation was for a moment, then it completely disappeared. Looking at the upcoming Crimson Hall event, I have no choice but to accept the bandit hunting mission.

Then, looking at his face, I asked, "Is there any team that I can join apart from the Iron Hammer Team?"

Remington is deeply surprised. This young man is quite unexpected. He took some time to advise him, but still, this young man is hell bent on accepting the bandit hunting mission.

He really doesn't want to guide him wrong. His relationships with other weak teams were not close. If it were a normal time, he would have advised.

But things were changing constantly, and he even himself wasn't able to find any trustworthy team to recommend.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Zack. I don't know about the other teams. Remington said with a sigh.

Hearing his clear-cut answer, I don't want to force him. I nodded and said, "Well, I know your difficulties." So, I don't mind it. Thank you for your help. "

After saying that, I stood up from the seat since he had no other way to join the team. So I feel it's time to leave.

Remington Talley really wanted to help. But he strongly thinks that instead of giving bad advice, It's better not to help.

Seeing that he was ready to leave, he suddenly thought about something. "EastWood Company," he said in his heart.

Then, looking at Zack, he said, "Young man, hold on a second."

Hearing that, I turned towards him.

Remington commented, "The reason I'm helpless about your request is because I don't know about the other teams. But I know someone who does."

A quick glint flashes in my eyes.

I'm ready to listen. "You can tell me," I said.

Then I sat back in the seat.

Remington nodded and said, "There is a famous artefact company in our city." The company is called "EastWood Company."

Then he added further, "From outside, it may look like they are selling all kinds of artefacts in a day. But in the dark they do other business. It's about selling and collecting intelligence reports.

I'm not surprised about this. I've heard of such an organisation. To do business like this, the person behind the EastWood Company must be very powerful.

Remington said, "Don't worry, their information is quite true." since the iron hammer team is reduced to such a state. I wanted to know what happened, so I decided to collect intel from them.

Hearing that, I nodded. So he really didn't know anything. Maybe this company can help me find a reliable team to join.

But all of a sudden, images of Star Tower flash before my eyes. Actually, I want to stay low-key. If this company knew my real identity, then it would be troublesome.

I still have fresh memories of an assassination attempt on me.

Who knows? If this East Wood Company reveals my identity behind my back, Then there is a possibility of another assassination attempt on me.

I twitched. Going to EastWood Company is really a bad idea. Fortunately, I recalled it before it's too late.

Looking at Remington, I asked, "It would be great. If you share your intel with me, because I'm not coming with you to that place. "

Chapter 325 Jonathan Is Back

Mr. Jonathan returns back to the castle after finishing the mission. Next, he decided to head out to outpost 1012 with his master.

McClain Castle,

Inside the study hall,

Sir. Lowell McClain came to know that Jonathan had returned from his mission.

So he is ready to meet him.

"Creak," the door opens.

Jonathan walked inside the room slowly. After seeing his master, he halted his footsteps and waited for him to speak.

Sir, Lowell McClain stopped looking at the projection screen and turned towards Jonathan and asked, "What happened with that level-6 monster?"

His words were as calm as a breeze.

Jonathan raised his head to see him and answered, "Master, the monster was wiped out by our men."

Hearing that, Sir. Lowell McClain nodded and said, "Good,"

Sir. Lowell McClain thought about something and asked, "Do you have any other work after this?"

Jonathan shook his head in denial and replied, "No Master."

Sir.Lowell McClain commented, "Well, there are still 2 and a half months left before that Crimson Hall event."

Then he continues to say, "We will go to that outer post in two months."

Jonathan sighed in relief upon hearing that. He thought it was difficult to go along with the master. But now he is glad he was worried for nothing.

Then immediately, images of Zack flash before their eyes. He remembered that he needed to send back the lightning ore to Zack.

"Master?" Jonathan hesitated a little bit to ask permission for this. He knew his master didn't want to give too much help to Zack.

Zack has to endure this and has to win first place at Crimson Hall's event. After that, everything will change. His master won't reprimand him for helping Zack.

Sir.Lowell McClain clearly saw that Jonathan had some trouble. So he asked, "What is it?"

Jonathan mustered up his courage and spoke to his master about the lightning core in his hands.

Sir. Lowell McClain understands that the lightning core is precious to Zack. Because of it, his strength will rise by several points.

Sir.Lowell McClain didn't immediately answer. So the atmosphere becomes quite solemn around them. Jonathan's heart skips a beat. Lately, he has been talking back to his master very frequently.

A quick glint flashes in Sir Lowell McClain's eyes.

He is not displeased by Jonathan. Rather, he is thinking about allowing him to send that resource back to Zack.

Sometime ago, he received credible intel from his trustworthy friend, who also happened to be one of the elders from Saw Scale Viper Academy.

According to that intel, the sketch of Crimson Hall this time is very treacherous. Sacrificing thousands of young warriors for their own personal interests.

The Crimson Hall is damned. It would be shocking if they didn't arouse public anger after the event.

"Experimental Zone!" He muttered in his heart.

He also saw the files of that experimental zone after getting the intel from his friend. In that monster zone, the monsters were top notch among weak monster species.

From mutated ones to rare tree monsters.

"Crimson Hall's sketch is really big," Sir. Lowell McClain said in his heart. He is not worried about the lives of others.

From Crimson Hall's eyes, these hundred thousand young warriors were nothing in their eyes except talented warriors.

It is the same for Sir. Lowell McClain: In his eyes, the entire outpost is nothing. He knew the strong warriors were gathered in the inner post.

If not for Zack's presence, he wouldn't care about any of this. Including Crimson Hall's activities.

At first he thought of testing Zack's strength, so he used Crimson Hall's event as a whetstone. But the events that have happened lately have surprised him greatly.

The blatant scheme of Crimson Hall hasn't received a backlash from academies. Those people even seem to be okay with it.

It looks like the situation of academies is also not good. They urgently need talented young blood to bolster the academies.

For Zack, he knows this experimental monster zone will increase Zack's difficulty by 50%. Because some weird monsters have abilities to protect themselves from harm.

It's pointless to fight the monsters unless Zack knows about them. It's more impossible to survive without knowledge.

Sir. Lowell McClain had even read the confidential file about those monsters. He decided to give some hints to Zack about the experimental zone.

Looking at Jonathan, he said, "Okay, now you can return this ore back to Zack and also, I want you to act as his guardian secretly."

He stressed the last word very hard.

Jonathan is completely stumped. This is beyond his expectations.

Sir. Lowell McClain thought of something and reminded, "Don't reveal your original strength in front of him."

Jonathan nodded in understanding. He knows that Zack doesn't know about actual strength. Since the master strongly advised him not to reveal it, he won't talk about it.

"Where is he now?" sir. Lowell McClain casually asked.

Jonathan was surprised to hear that. He immediately replied, "Master, yesterday I sent you a new report."

"Oh!" Sir. Lowell McClain is surprised that he missed reading the report.

Soon, he accessed the projection screen in front of him. He opened the inbox screen, where the new report sent by Jonathan popped up first.

He opened it to look at it. It was the report about Zack's current whereabouts. Not only Zack's current circumstances. The report also included information about strong forces ruling that location.

And what about people who might pose a threat to Zack?

"Iron Post City?" Sir.Lowell McClain muttered to himself. What a name?

Then he begins to read about the current environment of the city.

A quick glint flashes in his eyes when he reads about the bandit hunting mission. It piqued his interest further.

"This kid, why doesn't he go to any normal places?" Sir.Lowell McClain said, with some surprise.

On the other hand, Jonathan wasn't surprised by this. because he too had the same reaction when he first heard it from Zack's uncle. He also knew his uncle was the one who told him to do so.

Jonathan also thought it was a good idea. as long as Zack is in new territory. The threat faced by him will be reduced further. It may seem that no one is eyeing Zack in public.

But in the dark, some forces are staring at Hansen Campus. The public may forget about the Star Tower, but not the forces.

Some forces have already suffered severe damage caused by Star Tower's Elders. Seeing such an action, the rest of the forces were kept quiet. None of them were ready to stir up new trouble.

And every force was preparing their young warriors for the Crimson Hall event. The young warriors didn't gain much from Star Tower, so they were eyeing the Crimson Hall event.

For that, they have to face the strongest obstacles from monsters and fellow competitors. The young warriors from Tier-7 City were indifferent to this.

But when it comes to Tier-8 City, Zack is the strongest among young warriors.

Before the Crimson Hall event, everyone wants to challenge Zack and test their strength. So there are numerous eyes on Hansen Campus in the dark.

So Jonathan is glad that Zack is out of the city.

On the other hand,

Sir. Lowell McClain's face frowns after reading the information about the bandits.

"Insect forest, home for special bugs," he said in his heart. This place is not new to him; he has seen several places like this.

But the troubling thing is, why would someone hide in the forest? An Elite Warrior? Sir Lowell McClain raised eyebrows.

He convinced the bandit boss that he must be an Elite Warrior. such a

large-scale operation and management of over 500 bandits.

It can't be done by low-level warriors. Even if it's an elite warrior, it's impossible for an ordinary warrior to do this.

He also notices that this bandit issue has been going on for years.

Sir. Lowell McClain felt something amiss. He raised his head and asked, "Do you have any idea about the identity of the bandit boss?"

Hearing the master's words, Jonathan begins to contemplate. He actually didn't know about the bandit boss. But he tried to recall something from his conversation with Zack's uncle.

According to Zack's uncle, the bandit boss might have the strength of a Peak Trainee Warrior or an Initial Elite. If it's above, then he can easily destroy the iron post city. Because there are no Elite Warriors in all Tier-8 cities.

Jonathan also suspects that the bandit is injured. That's why he is hiding inside the insect forests. Otherwise, with his elite strength, he can easily destroy iron post cities.

After pondering, Jonathan looked at his master and replied, "Master, I don't know his identity." But I suspect the bandit boss is an elite warrior. "

Sir.Lowell McClain nodded, but he still feels it's too dangerous for Zack to be involved in this. Most of the bandits also have the strength of trainee warriors.

But this kid dared to venture alone. Sir

Lowell McClain feels something is amiss about this. How come a city lord let this happen? Is their superior from Tier-7 City not willing to act?

There were a lot of things strange about it.

Next, he looked at Jonathan and said, "Jonathan, first inform that kid to not act before you get there in person."

Jonathan nodded his head in understanding.

Chapter 326 Old Man Tucker's Hesitation

The Iron Post City

Blue leaves the cafeteria,

I voiced out my concern that I'm not ready to meet Eastwood Company officials. I'm not in any kind of hurry to do the bandit hunting mission. It all takes a few days to gather information from the public.

Remington Talley fell into contemplation. He thought about introducing Zack to Eastwood Company. It is a win-win situation for both of them. But this young man has a different opinion about it.

Shaking his head, Remington sighs. He can do only this much. It's up to the young man (Zack) whether he wants to join a good bandit hunting team or not.

Then, looking at Zack, he said, "Well, good luck with your training. If you need any help in the future, you can contact me."

After saying that, he walked out of the Blue Leaves cafeteria.

Seeing his disappearing back, I'm glad that he didn't make any fuss about it. In this new city, it's not wise to make an enemy out of him.

Then, looking around, I felt it didn't make any sense to spend time here. The conversation didn't go well, so I decided to go back to my hotel room to figure out the next course of action.

...

A few minutes later,

Eastwood Company,

The four-story building is busy with customers. Most of them were warriors who were going on a mission. Ever since the launch of the bandit hunting mission, EastWood Company has been receiving a new wave of customers.

Their artifacts were sold like hot cakes.

As long as there is a mission for these warriors, the East Wood Company won't lose these customers easily.

Right now, a middle-aged man is walking in front of the entrance. To manage crowds, two entrances and two exits were used to make some room for people.

The middle-aged man is none other than Remington Talley. After having a conversation with Zack, he came directly to this building.

Remington is standing in front of the first entrance. He knew the first three floors were for artifacts. Artifacts for trainee apprentices can be bought on the first floor.

Simultaneously, artifacts for special trainees were placed on the 2nd floor for sale. And on the 3rd floor, artifacts for the Trainee Warrior were put on sale.

Only the fourth floor is not allowed for the public. It's an office space for officials of this building. But unlike the general public, Remington knows you can obtain intelligence on the 4th floor.

After taking a glance at the building, Remington walked past the entrance and entered the building.

There were several rooms on each floor. Each room had a specific artifact for sale. To buy weapon artifacts, warriors need to go to a specific room for that.

People can be seen coming in and going out of the room. He shifted his gaze from them and looked for Elevator.

Remington spotted the lift near the last room. In a few breaths, he arrived at the lift.

After pressing the button, the door opens.

Then he stepped inside and pressed the button for the 4th floor. It's not easy to visit people on the 4th floor unless there is an appointment. But it's not a problem for him.

When the lift reached the 4th floor, he walked out of the lift.

He was greeted by a burly figure. Remington smiled at seeing him. He knew this person was sitting here to guard the 4th floor.

The burly figure walked closer to him and asked him about the purpose of his visit.

Hearing that, Remington simply uttered, "Intelligence."

A quick glint flashes in the burly figure's eyes. He nodded in understanding. Then he accessed his communication watch to inform his higher ups.

The next moment, the burly figure got a reply.

Seeing that, he led Remington towards the last room.

After arriving in front of the room, the burly figure gestures to him to enter.

Remington nodded and opened the door to step inside.

A teenage-looking person is sitting behind the desk. Seeing that, Remington was dumfounded. The door behind him closed automatically.

Taking a glance at the teenage youth, Remington thought he had come to the wrong room.

But just as he was pondering

"Creak," the door opens.

A 60-year old man walked out of the washroom.

Seeing that someone has entered the room, he gestures to Richmond to take a seat.

Remington nodded in understanding. because he is familiar with this old man. The old man is the one who sells information in this building.

He thinks that the teenager might be his grandson.

After taking his seat, Remington waited for the old man to speak. The old man walked past his grandson and sat in another seat beside him.

Before the old man could speak, the teenager opened his mouth to say, "Hi, how may I help you?"

Remington is surprised; the teenager looked no older than the young man, Zack. So, what is he doing here?

Instead of answering, he glanced at the old man.

The East Wood Company is run by the Nelson family. The old man's name is Tucker Nelson. He is the fourth generation head of his family. The teenager sitting beside him is his grandson, Lewis.

Old Man Tucker wore a black blazer. He has white hair due to old age. He has fair skin and a healthy body.

Instead of reprimanding his grandson, Tucker looked towards Remington and said, "It's okay, you can speak in front of him."

Lewis is the same age as Zack. He is a Fire Elemental Warrior. His rank is that of a Peak special trainee. Unlike Zack, he is not suffering from a lack of resources.

Resources for fire elements are quite abundant in this region. With his rich family's support, it's easy for him to buy whatever resources he wants.

Lewis Nelson has a fair skin tone. He has black curly hair and eyes with a chiselled jaw line. He stands 6 feet tall. He was dressed in a white hoody and blue jeans.

Lewis smirked at hearing his grandfather's approval.

Remington laughed in his heart, looking at the teenager. Since the old man was a familiar person, he dropped his guard.

When it comes to the topic, his expression condenses immediately.

Remington said, "The iron hammer team was defeated by the black fist team yesterday. Two iron hammer team members died of their hands. With that loss, team leader Mervin disbanded the team directly."

Then he added further, "I want to know the reason for the black fist team's sudden action behind this."

Old Man Tucker wasn't surprised by his words. Upon seeing him, he already guessed why he came to his cabin.

He answered, "The things that happened with the iron hammer team are really unfortunate."

Then he raised his eyebrows further. The old man doesn't know whether it's okay to sell information to Remington.

Because this action done by the Black Fist team is not simple either. Remington is just a clerk working for a trading company.

Knowing this information is nothing less than playing in muddy water. For a clerk like him, it is unnecessary.

The old man also guessed: why is he concerned about the Iron Hammer team? The leader, Mervin, is a close friend of his. And some of the late members of the team from their team were also part of Burke Trading Centre's protection team.

If it were for revenge, old man Tucker sighs. He feels it's best not to tell the reason.

On the other hand, the light dimmed a little in Lewis Nelson's eyes. He knew the reason, but he waited for his grandfather to answer it.

It's normal to make a deal before revealing the information. He is not sure about the deal, so he didn't talk this time.

Remington watched the old man's frowning face. He is keeping silent intentionally.

The atmosphere inside the room turned into pin-drop silence.

Shaking his head, old man Tucker replied, "Remington, listen to me. This information is not good for you.

Then he added further by saying, "And it's also not good for the rest of the iron hammer team members."

Remington Talley's expression turned grim for a moment. He hadn't expected the reason behind the black fist team to be so confidential.

"What were these guys up to?" "In his heart," Remington said.

Not only Remington was surprised. Lewis turned towards his grandfather for an explanation. He thought his grandfather was going to talk about a deal. But instead, he is advising the customer.

Old Man Tucker gestures to his grandson to keep quiet by shaking his head slightly.

Lewis Welson is not okay with it. He has a different view. In his opinion, as long as the price is right, any kind of information can be sold.

Remington thought about Mervin's mental state. If he had agreed to join for work this morning, he wouldn't have cared that much about the black fist team.

But Mervin is clearly looking for revenge. And his remaining team members were also okay with it.

At first, he didn't plan to come here. After knowing that the iron hammer team is going to disband, He didn't know how to help Zack and keep his word.

So he thought about Eastwood Company. Since yesterday, there have been many twists and turns. In the end, the young man, Zack, didn't agree to come here with him.

Chapter 327 Bandit Boss Soren

At the City of Iron Post,

EastWood Company,

Remington Talley is deeply worried that his friend Mervin will seek revenge despite the losses he has suffered so far. In his opinion, it's not worth it.

He believes that City Lord must have received the news about the Black Fist team's despicable action. But still, the news about them is totally suppressed.

He had a solemn expression on his face. Shaking his head, he thought about convincing Mervin once more.

Then he looked at the old man, Tucker, and replied, "Well, I understand the deeper meaning behind your words. So I will leave right now. And thank you for your time. "

Nelson sighed in his heart. He thought the company had lost a deal. He couldn't help questioning his grandfather after this.

Old Man Tucker was pleased by his words. He appreciated Remington in his heart. Remington knows when to advance and when to retreat. In response, he simply nodded his head.

Remington stood from his seat and walked out of the room.

Once he left the room, Lewis Nelson said in a displeased tone, "Grandpa, "What is happening?"

Old Man Tucker sighed in relief. He looked at his grandson and answered, "Nelson, Not all the information can be sold. For some information we weren't allowed to talk about them, let alone sell intelligence to someone."

What exactly is this? Nelson was surprised by his Grandpa's words. He actually knows the reason behind the Black Fist Team's despicable team. Because the leader of the black first team becomes the servant of the first team.

But his grandpa's attitude tells him that things are not as simple as they look. Perhaps he is unaware of the bigger picture. Thinking about it his expression condensed.

Old man Tucker notices his grandson's expression. He advised him by saying, "Nelson, it would be better if you dropped out of your team."

"Grandpa!" Nelson exclaimed in disbelief.

Shaking his head, old man Tucker said, "Things were beyond the City Lord's control. You understand my words right. "

"Gasp!" Nelson was dumbfounded. "What do you mean by beyond the City Lord's control?" Nelson cried in his heart.

Actually, he understands the words, but he refuses to believe them.

If the City Lord is helpless, then this city will soon plunge into turmoil. For a moment, he fell into deep contemplation.

He finally realised that maybe his grandfather was right about this issue.

Before it's too late, he decided to let his team withdraw from the bandit hunting mission as soon as possible. He immediately got up from his seat to leave.

Old man Tucker easily sees through his worries. He advised, "Nelson, don't reveal the information to your team."

Nelson halted his footsteps and nodded his head at Grandpa before leaving the room.

Seeing the disappearing back of his grandson, Old Man Tucker mumbled, "Maybe I should send him somewhere." Then I'll call him back once things have settled down here. "

A quick glint flashes in his eyes while he is determined to send his grandson out of the city.

...

(From MC's POV)

I lay on my bed inside after getting back to my room. It's unfortunate that things were not going my way. What to do? Should I go out to collect information?

Actually, I'm under a lot of confusion.

After knowing that a team called Black Fist killed Iron Hammer members, I don't know what I'm getting myself into.

Maybe I should consult Uncle James about this.

The intelligence department in his office might know something about Iron Post City. Just as I decided to call him, my communication watch lit up with a notification.

I sat cross legged and looked at the watch. It's a call from Mr. Jonathan. My eyes lit up with surprise. And I immediately attended the call.

"Zack, how have you been?" Mr. Jonathan's cheerful voice rang in my ears.

I sighed and began to answer, "Mr. Jonathan, I'm fine. What about you? "

"My life here is pretty good," He said.

Hearing that, I immediately thought about my teacher's location. Soon I will go there.

Next, I thought about my current circumstances and lack of strength.

I asked, "Mr. Jonathan, I received your message about some surprise. I urgently need to raise my strength. "

Upon hearing that, Mr. Jonathan wasn't surprised. because I already knew what's happening out there in Iron Post City. But he didn't let Zack know about it.

Taking note of the lightning ore, he decided to reveal the good news to him. "Zack, actually I'm coming there to give you the gift." "Mr. Jonathan," he said in a calm tone.

Because, as per his master's order. He needs to act as Zack's guardian.

Hearing Mr. Jonathan's words, I felt a huge burden lifted off my shoulder. I don't know what the gift is. But I feel like it must be something special. Mr. Jonathan is giving me the gift by keeping in mind the Crimson Hall Event.

If I can increase my essence cultivation to Mid-Level Special Trainee, then I'm quite confident about this bandit hunting mission.

I can easily fight against the Initial-Trainee Warrior. And when it comes to Mid-Level Trainee Warrior, I'm confident I can escape from them.

As long as I don't come across as a Peak-Level Trainee Warrior, everything would be fine.

On the other hand, Mr. Jonathan thought about the bandit hunting mission. He remembered that the Master didn't want Zack to go on a mission before he got to that place.

He hurriedly answered, "Zack, I forgot to tell you something."

I retracted my thoughts and asked, "What is it?, Mr. Jonathan"

He has asked me to tell you one thing. He wants you to consume the gift (treasure) before signing up for the bandit hunting mission. Mr. Jonathan said.

What exactly is this? So the master knew about my circumstances. No wonder he allowed Mr. Jonathan to send that gift to me. Even Master thinks that it's difficult to survive with my current strength.

I'm not in a hurry; I can wait for a few more days. Until Mr. Jonathan comes to visit me.

I answered, "Okay, Mr. Jonathan." I will wait for you.

Then we talked about a few more things before we ended our conversation.

After ending the call, I leisurely lay in my bed. All my worries were swept away completely. But I still need to beware of the top teams. They were not easy.

Then I decided to cultivate after taking some rest.

...

Inner Post,

Inside the Study Hall-McClain's Castle,

Sir. Lowell McClain didn't forget about Zack's circumstances. After his previous conversation with Jonathan, he asked a few of his contacts about Iron Post City.

He looked at a wide projection while sitting behind his desk. He is currently reading a report sent by his contacts about Iron Post City.

As he continues to read, he finds various new information about the iron post city.

"Fugitive!" Sir Lowell McClain muttered after learning about the identity of the bandit boss.

His assumption came true; earlier he felt something amiss about the sudden appearance of the bandit boss. now that he knows the bandit boss is the most wanted fugitive.

The fugitive is Soren Ewart, a Metal Elemental-Initial Elite Warrior. Sir Lowell McClain continues to read the report. The fugitive is a former Captain of the City Guard in Tier-7 City.

Soren Ewart was involved in a lot of corruption. At the time, he had the strength of a peak trainee warrior. Due to the resources he earned from corruption, he was successfully able to get a breakthrough to reach the elite.

When he got caught, he immediately slipped away from the hands of the City Lord. He immediately fled towards the Tier-8 region.

Despite the fact that he successfully avoided capture, during the fight with the City Lord, Soren suffered severe injuries.

Later, he somehow infiltrated this Tier-8 city. To recuperate from injuries, he had chosen this insect forest as a base. He continues to collect resources to treat his injury through looting and killing.

Soon, he was able to form personal bandit forces. When the City Lord of Iron Post City came to eliminate him, Soren successfully thwarted the City Lord's attempt to kill him; instead he caused injury to the City Lord.

Later, the City Lord gave up dealing with him directly and instead commissioned a new mission called the Bandit Hunting Mission.

After knowing every detail, Sir Lowell McClain raised his eyebrows in frustration. Everything is crystal clear, but he doesn't know why the City Lord of Tier-7 City hasn't taken any actions so far.

It's easy to take him down if the City Lord of Tier-7 city files a complaint about him. He doesn't know why these people were letting it go. Sir. Lowell McClain feels it's a good decision to send Jonathan to act as a guardian for Zack.

Sir. Lowell McClain feels something is amiss about the City Lord of Tier-7 City. He feels that the City Lord is intentionally silent about it.

Then the image of Zack flashes before his eyes.

Jonathan can easily take down Soren and the City Lord of Iron Post City. So he is not worried about Zack's safety now.

Chapter 328 Mr. Jonathan Arrives At The City

(From MC's Perspective)

At the City of Iron Post,

After knowing that Mr. Jonathan would arrive here in a couple of days, I let go of my previous worries. In the meantime, I can use this opportunity to spend time on essence cultivation. Try to get through as much as possible.

Like that, a few days went by. Then the outside City looked rather calm. But there are actually undercurrents surging in the dark. while Zack was immersed in cultivation inside the hotel room.

Terrible changes take place in the insect forest. All lower level bandit hunting teams were subdued by the top 5 teams. These changes quickly spread throughout the city.

From then on, no new warriors were willing to take the bandit hunting mission. The number of bandits killed by adventurers was also greatly reduced. which led to an increase in the rate of banditry.

All the merchants and other traders were greatly alarmed. Together, they had decided to confront the City Lord on this issue. But unfortunately, no one is allowed inside the City Lord Mansion.

The entire iron post city is in a state of disturbance. Some wealthy families have already begun to sell out their property shares and plan to settle down in other cities.

If this goes on, the economic growth of the city will be hit hard. Apart from merchants and traders, normal residents of the iron post city were dissatisfied by their City Lord's silence.

They would be okay if there was any single statement released from the City Lord Mansion. But there is none whatsoever. Normal residents were quite scared to move out of their city.

There are two modes of transportation. The first is rail, and the second is road. transport is disturbed by bandits. Leaving behind only reliable and safe rail transportation. So in these few days, the Iron Post train station is constantly crowded with people.

Most of the people were going out of the city. The numbers were increasing day by day. On the other hand, people coming to the city were reduced by half.

Especially as the situation of the bandit hunting mission spreads to other nearby cities. The wave of warriors coming to the city is drastically reduced.

Now the safety of the city rests on the shoulders of top bandit hunting teams. But they subdued weaker teams for whatever reason. But they didn't leave the city, unlike others.

So criticism about the top teams' actions was equally divided among the public. Some slandered the current state of the city as being due to action.

While some target the City Lord, at the end of the day, it's his responsibility to take care of the city. But he chose silence instead of solving the problem.

Just like that, time went on. It's been one week since Zack immersed himself in cultivation.

The following day,

Mr. Jonathan arrived at the iron post city. After stepping inside the city, he is surprised to see the situation right in front of him. Almost half of the shops were closed for certain reasons, except for a few reputed ones.

A quick glint flashed in his eyes; the changes were slightly higher than he had expected. Shaking his head, he tries to find an air cab. Since he knows the state of the city, he is not expecting to find the cab any sooner.

Then, after asking around for a couple of minutes, He finally found an air cab, but it was packed with people.

"These guys are looking for death." Mr. Jonathan muttered to himself. What happened to the law and order of the city? What is City Lord doing these days? A curiosity rose in his heart. He planned to look around the City Lord Mansion later.

Next, he stopped looking for cabs. He knew Zack's current whereabouts. The hotel is a walkable distance from the train station. So he directly walked towards the location.

Inside the hotel room,

I opened my eyes and stopped cultivating. I knew today that Mr. Jonathan would come to visit me. Apart from that, I didn't spend much time on outside affairs. I occasionally failed to keep update on my situation.

From his calls, I knew the iron post city was in turmoil. My uncle advised me to return immediately. But I declined. I told him about Uncle Jonathan. which is much more important to me than outside chaos.

My uncle also stopped persuading me after this. But there is also one more person who is constantly pestering me with phone calls. He is none other than Elder Thornton. It looks like he is not calm after the blood test.

After the blood test, I stopped picking up his calls. I suspect this must be infuriating to him. I am thinking about a small smile rising on my face. Let's see if he arranges any resources for me in the future.

I clearly told him that their resources were not helping me at all. But Elder Thornton is still insisting on finding out my abilities. His curiosity is further increased after the Star Tower Competition.

That's why I decided to not talk to him for a while. Just as I was thinking, I heard a calling bell sound.

I retracted my thoughts and walked towards the door. I guess it must be Mr. Jonathan.

"Creak," I opened the door.

Just as I expected, the guest is none other than Mr. Jonathan. I greeted him inside, then both of us sat in chairs opposite to each other.

Before speaking, Jonathan tries to probe Zack's strength. Like last time, a faint mist obstructed his probe. Because of his master, he didn't try to investigate. But this time, it's different. He really got permission from the master to act as Zack's guardian.

Slowly, he released his strength, and his sense increased exponentially.

Just as he tried to explore further, he quickly stopped.

Looking at Mr. Jonathan, I feel something strange. At the same time, his eyes were unusually sharp. At the same time, my prediction ability turned on automatically.

The next second, I felt sudden goosebumps. I realised Mr. Jonathan was probing my details. My heart skips a beat upon realising that.

Then I "coughed" to break the silence. Mr. Jonathan Suddenly, he retracted his thoughts in surprise. He looked at Zack in amazement.

What exactly is this? "How does he know?" Mr. Jonathan said in his heart. He is extremely surprised that it's impossible for someone to know his pleading. Even for some of the warriors at the same level as him, it's impossible to defend to some extent.

But he was really surprised by Zack. It looks like things were not as simple as they seemed. Zack is more talented than both his master and he had expected. In addition to lightning, it looks like Zach has spiritual talent. Maybe I'll be exceptional at soul technique.

Various thoughts run in his mind. He decided to note these points and report them to his master later. "There are lots of surprises waiting for me as his guardian." Mr. Jonathan said to himself.

Maybe in this time period, he can figure out Zack's advantages and disadvantages in his combat. His inputs could be valuable for his upcoming Crimson Hall event.

The master told him to protect Zack secretly. So he didn't plan to reveal this to Zack.

Next, seeing that Zack is looking at him. Mr. Jonathan didn't hide it. He said, "I was trying to access your strength." But it looks like you found out surprisingly before that. "

Hearing Mr. Jonathan's straightforward answer, I'm stunned. I knew he had just tried to learn my details right now. But I wasn't expecting him to accept it. Then again, I realised Mr. Jonathan is not as simple as it seems.

At first, I thought he was an elite warrior. But now I realise I overlooked one detail. Mr. Jonathan is working for my master. So he must be exceptionally talented.

I believe his strength might be higher than the elite level. As these thoughts rose in my heart, I firmly believed this guess was actually true.

Like him, I can't ask openly. It must be rude and disrespectful to him. Next, I recall memories of our previous conversation. I remembered Mr. Jonathan talked about gifts.

Then I looked at him and asked, "Mr. Jonathan, What about the gift? Have you brought it?"

Mr. Jonathan finally gets relief from this awkward silence. But before retrieving that thing, he asked back, "Yeah, the gift is with me." But I want to confirm one thing. Do you really want to do this bandit hunting mission? "

A quick glint flashes in my eyes. Uncle James told me that the city was in chaos. But fortunately, this hotel is quite a reputed one. Though it looks ordinary, the people behind this hotel were somewhat wealthy.

They didn't drive me from this place.

Next looking at Mr. Jonathan,

"My uncle told me about the situation here. I know the situation here is tense. But I'm really intense about doing this mission. I don't think there is any place better than this where you can legally kill someone. " After saying that, I added further,

"I'm tired of killing class monsters." I want to have a real life or death battle with warriors. This place is quite right for it. " I looked at his expression after voicing out my opinion.

Chapter 329 Mid-Level Special Trainee (Lightning)

(From MC's POV)

The Iron Post City,

At the hotel,

Mr. Jonathan looked at me with an appreciative gaze. Zack's thoughts were in line with his master's. His master had previously expressed that a bandit hunting mission would immensely help Zack's growth.

Once he gets successful in his bandit hunting mission, Then he won't suffer in the upcoming Crimson Hall event. Maybe this bandit hunting stone is the real grinding stone for Zack.

Then he nodded and looked around his surroundings. This is not their own turf, but it's a hotel. Mr. Jonathan absolutely believes in the concept of walls having ears.

That's why instead of mentioning it as a lightning treasure openly He is naming it "a gift from the outside." And Zack is also clever enough to understand this.

At his current level, no one can get past his defence to overhear their conversation. But still, after his probing of Zack made him realise that Not to underestimate anyone.

As a precaution, he takes out a small formation disc from his storage ring. This circular silver coloured plate is brimming with energy. It has a huge world energy stone in its center. It will act as a source to power the formation.

Mr. Jonathan placed it on the ground. He asked Zack to sit near the formation plate. so it can provide good cover for him.

Hearing Mr. Jonathan's words, I immediately acted. I sat cross-legged near the formation plate.

Next, Mr. Jonathan put his mind into the formation plate to activate it. As the formation plate is activated, a colourless screen begins to envelop the entire room. It formed a dome-like shape to cover us.

Then I turned towards Mr. Jonathan. He is taking something from his storage ring. I don't have to ask; it's a gift.

Mr. Jonathan takes out the lightning ore from the storage ring.

"INFINITE LIGHTNING ESSENCE PEARL"

When Mr. Jonathan brought this thing outside, The lightning pearl almost blinded everyone with its dazzling purple light.

The formation immediately acted to dispel the light. Inside the formation, the lightning pearl shines brightly. But outside the formation, no one can see what's happening inside.

The formation layer acts as an invisible screen to obstruct people's senses.

Looking at the purple coloured object in Mr. Jonathan's palm, I don't know for what reason exactly, but my breathing is getting shorter.

I immediately take my gaze off of it and begin to calm my heart. I don't need to think about the purple object. It is the one resource that I desperately need.

This purple object is the real deal. It's pure lightning treasure. Unlike the monster cores and other treasures, there is no contamination whatsoever in them.

The energy that I can feel is very pure. This feeling is a little closer towards the lightning scripture in mind.

I know there is no reason to compare them. because the scripture is way beyond my knowledge. And this purple-colored object is the first lightning treasury I have come across.

If not for Mr. Jonathan, I would have already grabbed the thing.

On the other hand, Mr. Jonathan dispels the left over violent energy coming off of the pearl.

Then he saw Zack, who kept staring at the pearl in his hand. Mr. Jonathan commented, "This thing is called an infinite lightning essence pearl. I got this thing from the lightning zone."

"Compared to other lightning resources This one is highly sought after because of its gentle pure energy. It can be directly refined by warriors without any auxiliary materials. "

My heart skips a beat upon hearing his explanation. Is it directly consumable treasure? But from the beginning, I didn't use any auxiliary materials for my cultivation.

It could be my Lightning Essence Cultivation or my Blood Method of my body.

The heaven-defying ability of the blood method helps me refine blood pills or monster cores directly. There is no need for auxiliary materials whatsoever.

But even after using it, I still have to use Blood Cleansing Vine to remove left-over impurities in my body. Fortunately, he didn't ask about my cultivation experiences.

Then Mr. Jonathan said, "Taking this thing to improve your strength now. I will act as a protector. You can cultivate peacefully. No one will disturb you here. "

After saying that, Mr. Jonathan handed over the lightning pearl to Zack.

My expression became a bit solemn. I calmed my heart and raised my hand to grab the lightning pearl from him.

Just as my palm touched the pearl, it started to glow. A large amount of lightning essence sipped into my palm automatically.

I didn't even activate the celestial lightning scripture, but I can absorb the energy. I don't know what to say about this phenomenon.

Then, by shaking my head, I dispel the thoughts. I placed both my palms on the lightning pearl and brought it near to the dantian.

After closing my eyes, I slowly started to recite the celestial lightning scripture in my mind.

Next, the lightning rune in my mind started to flicker. Which means the scripture has started to run. At the same time, I can also begin to absorb the lightning essence from the pearl.

It is, as the name implies, the lightning essence rather than the lightning energy. It's more concentrated lightning energy. It almost equals the essence energy gatherer in my dantian.

I'm looking forward to seeing what the mysterious totem will do to this lightning essence.

On the other hand, Mr. Jonathan also focuses on the surroundings.

He is not worried about Zack. because the pearl is a gentle source of lightning energy. This won't be a problem for Zack to refine this gentle source of energy.

So he put his mind to the surroundings. Mr. Jonathan doesn't want any mishaps to happen at this time. He released his senses to scan the hotel. especially the nearby room. Soon,

Mr. Jonathan sensed the movements of apprentice warriors inside the hotel. There is no sign of a Special Trainee or Trainee Warrior.

As time progresses,

I begin to circulate the absorbed pure essence through the meridians. The circulation is extremely fast.

The energies in the dantian begin to settle down gradually. I slowly try to sense the action of the lightning totem.

At the same time, the lightning totem started to act. The pure lightning essence gathered at its feet underwent some changes.

It slowly begins to turn milky white. If one looks closely, they will find Milky white is just the outer layer of the purple essence. An extremely strong purple essence lies beneath it.

Then, from the next circulation, I felt shocking changes in my body. My foundation of lightning essence cultivation is strengthened further. I can feel the strength of the physique also rising further.

Yet, it's still the beginning. So I will continue to cultivate.

Time passes, and I finally reach the limit 20 minutes later.

This time I'm quite sure that I will get a breakthrough. Then I continue to run the lightning scripture.

"Creak"

The invisible layer broke into pieces. I broke through the shackles and successfully reached the level of mid-level special trainee.

But what is most surprising to me is that not even half of the lightning essence is consumed by the pearl.

On the other hand, a quick glint flashes in Mr. Jonathan's eyes. It was for a moment, but he noticed the changes in Zack's physique immediately. "Has he had a breakthrough?" Mr. Jonathan said in his heart.

Now he understands why he has been stressing about lightning resources lately. This little guy was on the verge of a breakthrough. But he needed that one last push to reach the next level.

The remaining energy in the pearl is more than enough to stabilise the base.

"Hmmm." Mr. Jonathan was surprised by seeing the left-over energy in the pearl.

Looking at the pearl, he felt this would be more than enough to support Zack's cultivation for a while.

Time progresses.

One hour later,

I opened my eyes after stabilising the base. I muttered to myself, "Mid-

Level Special Trainee." I'm glad that I reached mid-level special trainee in lightning essence cultivation within time.

Now that my physique and essence are at the same level, I wonder what the limit of my strength is? Can I fight against a mid-level trainee warrior?

Various questions run through my mind. Then I saw Mr. Jonathan was looking at me. So, I dispelled my thoughts and placed the pearl in my storage ring. Then she stood on the ground and looked at him.

"Looks like your strength has risen another level," Mr. Jonathan said with a smile.

I nodded. It's impossible to escape from his discerning eyes. He was so close to me.

Mr. Jonathan asked, "If you don't mind, can you tell me your level?"

He failed to probe Zack's strength. Instead of wondering about his strength, he decided to ask directly. This is also helpful for him while he is acting as Zack's guardian.

Hearing Mr. Jonathan's words, I thought it didn't matter to tell him. It's just the essence of a cultivation base. But no one knows about my physical cultivation.

Then I looked at him and answered, "Mid-level Special Trainee."

Chapter 330 Survival Trial?

Crimson Hall,

A few days ago,

Grand Elder Chris successfully signed a contract with Odyssey Monster Zone's small alliance faction.

At first he had two minds about it, whether to agree with First Elder Casey's plan or not.

But then, later, realising that those people from the alliance faction were also looking forward to this deal, Grand Elder Chris made up his mind to sign the contract.

He thought the alliance faction's people were too greedy. Grand Elder Chris is finally convinced that it's in Crimson Hall's interest to successfully conduct the event and not anger those academy recruiters.

So with that, the contract signing has been done. Now it's up to the Crimson Hall officials to decide the next course of action.

Inside First Elder Casey's cabin,

First Elder Casey is working behind his desk. Now that the deal has been made with the alliance faction, He is working on other plans. In particular, what types of monsters should be selected for the trials?

A huge projection screen appeared above the desk. On that screen, a list of various monsters that inhabit the Odyssey Monster Zone is displayed.

Some of the monsters were extremely vicious. Ranging from tree monsters, poison misamic monsters, to normal terrian monsters,

The island of Odyssey Monster Zone is extremely huge. He wants to utilize every space. In a normal monster zone, the layout is classified into three areas: outer area, inner area, and last core area.

This clear distinction helps warriors to avoid danger and to successfully hunt. But the situation is not the same with the Odyssey Monster Zone.

The previous layouts don't apply at all. First Elder Casey's gaze was set on the map displayed on the screen. He raised his eyebrows in surprise.

At Odyssey Monster Zone, each area is special. Every special area is like the core area of a monster zone. For example, the Tree Monster experimental area on the island can be considered as a core area.

The Tree Monster area is located in the west part of the island. Then First Elder Casey looked at the other areas. The north of the area has a wide lake. When he looked at the lake, he remembered the Piranah monsters.

The Pirah monsters normally have a bloodthirsty nature. But the monsters in the lake were obviously experimented on. He couldn't predict how the blood-thirsty nature of the monster had changed so far.

He suspects that the bloodthirsty nature of Piranah must have gone one step ahead. If anyone steps into the lake, these piranahs will tear off their bodies.

After glancing at the lake, he focused his attention on other areas of the map. At the centre of the island, it's the nest of bloodsucking rats. These bloodsucking rats occupied a small part of the area.

This small part of the land is filled with lush green vegetation. The warriors wouldn't be able to find out from which hole the bloodsucking rats might pop up.

First Elder Casey is most optimistic about the bloodthirsty rats. He feels that warriors might identify other special areas in advance. But this bloodsucking rat special area is difficult to find.

Imagining the pile of dead corpses A small smile rose on his face. Next, he concentrated on the east part of the island. The eastern part of the island is occupied by miasmic forests.

Images of miasmic forests are displayed on the screen. He has no doubt this miasmic forest is another dreadful area. Other than poison-attributed monsters, you can't find any other monsters in the miasmic area.

Even for Peak Trainee Warriors, this miasmic forest is difficult to handle. They have to take poison repelling pills before venturing into the misamic forest.

And that pill has limitations. It only works for two hours, then warriors have to consume another pill. He didn't know this place also posed a terrible challenge to warrios below Trainee Warrior level.

First Elder Casey then observed the other areas. A small gap caught his eyes. It's a small swamp occupied by crock monsters and snake monsters. This small swamp occupied a small part of land between the bloodsucking rats' area and the tree monster area.

Finally, he set his gaze on the south part of the island, which is also the entrance. After reading the details about the south part of the island, "This south part looks like a normal monster zone," he said to himself.

This area is occupied by wolves, hyenas, snakes, and a few other terrain class monsters. There are also a few steep hills. At the feet of the hills, a few ape colonies can be seen.

With that, he finished reading about the monster zone. Various plans run in his mind. First Elder Casey muttered, "Is that enough? Or should I place more monsters there? "

He is quite satisfied with the Odyssey Monster Zone. He said to himself, "I have to say it's the most dangerous monster zone I have seen" because he realised there was no elemental advantage for warriors whatsoever.

If it were a fire elemental warrior, he would face serious challenges in the swamp area and lake area. So he feels every warrior will have to face some type of challenge.

Then he made up his mind to not add anything to this island. The monsters that lived there were already dangerous enough to wipe out the warriors. So he begins to think about the rules.

At first, he thought about continuing the previous year's rule. by ranking those warriors who got the highest number of monster cores. It would be fine if it were any other monster.

To collect more monster cores, warriors have to go a little deeper into the inner area. Not only is hunting, killing and looting allowed.

But here in the Odyssey Monster Zone, forget about hunting. The Warriors first need to survive successfully here. So, he thought about conducting the event as a survival trial.

For this survival trial, he decided to hold it for weeks. "Let's select those warriors who were alive after a week." He said to himself.

It is the first screening. For the second screening, warriors' aptitude and their elements need to be checked. These two screenings are enough to select talented warriors.

Then why not conduct the aptitude event first, and the survival event later? Because he still holds a small grudge in his heart against those alliance faction officials.

Though the contract was signed. He is quite displeased by their attitude. He knows those factions will obviously send talented warriors to this event. They hope that their warriors will be selected by academies.

Since he knew their calculation, he wouldn't let it happen. First Elder Casey thought that with this plan, the majority of their warriors were sure to die. As a result, their calculation would end in vain.

He can't wait to watch their expressions at that time. No matter what, this event is beneficial to Crimson Hall. After figuring out everything, he was pleased with the current layout of the event.

He currently needs Grand Elder Chris's permission to finalise this plan. Then he stood up from his seat and planned to visit the courtyard of Grand Elder at the back of the mountain.

After walking out of his cabin, he immediately headed towards the exit. While on the way, he felt numerous eyes on me. He sneered inside by feeling their motives: "These people can't wait to learn about the event."

He is quite annoyed by the calls lately. Everyone wants to know about the event first hand. Even though he owed someone previously, he didn't compromise when it came to the crimson hall event.

He thought it'd be best to keep it as mysterious as possible. The fewer people knew about the event, the greater the benefits. In particular, he doesn't want his plan to be known by alliance factions.

After dispelling these thoughts from his mind, he arrived at the entrance of the courtyard. He had already informed the Grand Elder about his arrival.

"Creak," the door opens.

After stepping inside, he directly walked towards the building. Soon he arrived in front of the gate. He didn't enter inside, rather he waited for him.

Next, Grand Elde Chris walked out of the room after opening the door. When he sees Casey, he invites him to take a seat.

In the courtyard, there is a table and chairs for visitors. Both of them sat opposite to each other.

Grand Elder Chris is surprised to see him. It's not even a few days since the signing of the contract. He hadn't expected Casey to visit him sooner.

Grand Elder Chris asked, "What happened?" Is there any new trouble? "

First Elder Grand Elder denied by shaking his head and answered, "Grand Elder, I finalised the plan for the event."

"Oh!" Grand Elder Chris is taken back. Then he waited for Casey to answer.

First Elder Casey added further, "The Crimson Hall's event, this time it's going to be a survival event." After saying that, he begins to explain his plan.

Grand Elder Chris obviously knew about Odyssey Monster Zone. Before signing the contract, he learned about it. After signing the contract, he expected Casey to make some changes to it. because that place is extremely dangerous.

But now his expression has turned a bit solemn. Because in Casey's plan, he didn't see any changes.