

BloodLine 381

Chapter 381 The City Lord's Strong Actions

The City Lord Mansion - Iron Post City,

City Lord Aaron Powell realized that someone stronger than him warned him just now. "Who could be?" He muttered in disbelief.

He used elite power to probe the surroundings. But his every attempt ended in vain. That person came as a ghost and left in an instant.

Horrible!

He couldn't describe the feeling he is going through right now. Even his superior's oppression will pale in comparison. He sat down on the ground to gasp for breath.

Five minutes later,

He returned to his usual self. He had controlled his heart turmoil somehow. After gaining some clarity, he recalled that person's words before he left.

"Zack Lockwood," He muttered to himself. This person is related to Zack Lockwood. After realising the fact, he felt grateful that he didn't make any blunder.

"Ha...Ha...Ha..," he let out a self-deprecating laugh.

One wrong move, he would have died right now.

The next second he got up from the ground and ordered manager Lawrence to come back.

5 minutes later,

Manager Lawrence walked into the huge hall clueless. He is pondering, he just came back from this place. Then why did the city lord call him back? But he didn't show any displeasure.

Seeing his appearance, the city lord Aaron Powell who is sitting in the main seat raised his eyebrows.

After instructing Lawrence to come, he pondered deeply. He decided to destroy all the evidence they have about Zack. Especially the data about his mission acceptance and submission date.

He is aware that there were a lot of rats in this mission. Some were professional spies and some leaked information to get handsome money.

As long as there are greedy people in the city lord mansion, he can't sit and relax casually. Especially after getting this warning, he decided to weed out some people from the city lord mansion.

He saw that manager Lawrence stepped forward and bowed.

Seeing that he raised his hand to stop this formality and decided to get into the topic.

He looked at Lawrence and said in a solemn tone, "From now onwards, all the information about Zack Lockwood should be destroyed."

Manager Lawrence was in disbelief after hearing the instructions. It took some seconds for him to understand.

Lawrence raised his head and looked at the city lord in confusion. He couldn't understand what was going on inside the lord's mind.

Just a few minutes ago, he ordered him not to reveal any information about Zack to media houses. And now he is telling that every piece of information about Zack should be destroyed.

What does he mean? Traces of apprehension appeared in his eyes.

Aaron Powell has seen through Lawrence's thoughts completely. He knows Lawrence was not a good man either. So he needs to start from him.

Since Lawrence and a few others were quite loyal to him, he decided to let them live with a slight warning.

"Lawrence," Aaron said in a deep voice.

Hearing the domineering voice, Lawrence straightened up his back.

"My lord, what is your command?" Lawrence replied in a trembling voice.

He just realized something. Though the lord appears to be calm on the surface. He feels lord's mood has worsened drastically. It's even worse compared to a few minutes ago.

What is going to happen? Fear rose in his heart.

Seeing that Lawrence was attentive, Aaron Powell nodded and instructed, "Since you are right-hand men of mine. I can give you a little piece of advice."

"Zack's background was scarier than I thought. If his information was leaked, then none of us will escape alive."

"What?" Lawrence screamed out loud in fear. When heard the lord's words, fear took control of his heart entirely.

He exclaimed without thinking. The next second, he realised the horrible fact. He made a malicious plan against someone whom even the lord doesn't want to offend.

His legs completely lost their strength. He completely collapsed on the ground

SIGH

Seeing that Aaron let out a deep sigh, he wasn't surprised by his behaviour. He knew that Lawrence published the information without getting consent from the young man named Zack.

After getting a warning, Aaron realised they didn't even put Lawrence's little actions in their mind. Lawrence is just an ant to them and the ant's action against them won't even work.

At this moment, Aaron understands something. If Lawrence had published the name, he won't be talking right now. Realising that he gulped his saliva in fear right now.

A cold glint flashes into his eyes.

Looking at Lawrence who collapsed on the ground, he said in a threatening tone, "Lawrence, next time, if you do something behind my back or publish notice without my consent you will end up worse than dead."

Hearing the direct threat from the city lord himself, Lawrence broke out in cold sweat. He immediately asks for forgiveness.

"Lord, trust me. I won't do something like this again."

"Harumph," Aaron Powell gave a cold snort with that he also released some light pressure on him.

PFFF

Lawrence spurted blood from his mouth. The pressure swept away his body like dust. His body reached the exit of the hall. A little more push he would have thrown outside.

Lawrence realised that the lord gave him face. Otherwise, he would have been thrown outside. City guards were patrolling outside. He would have lost face in front of them.

He felt grateful that the lord saved him from getting humiliated. The next second, he tried to get up from the ground. But he felt there were a few broken bones in his chest.

Though the lord was measured in his warning. But it was enough to make him deeply injured. He is not sure how long it will take to recover.

On the other hand, City Lord Aaron Powell instructed some guards to come.

Seeing the appearance of two city guards, Lawrence twitched. Later, he decided to tell them not to reveal anything they have seen here.

Aaron Powell instructed them to admit Lawrence to their clinic.

Getting his orders, the guards acted swiftly. They carried Lawrence towards the clinic.

Seeing their disappearing back, Aaron Powell sighed again. He had to give some lessons. Otherwise, they won't realise the seriousness of this matter.

Then he walked back to his room.

The following day,

All the information about Zack was erased from the iron post city's database. After Lawrence, Aaron Powell warned accountant Melinda and another female staff individually.

Only three of them met Zack in person. After his strong warning, no one will leak any information in future.

Following that, Aaron Powell dismissed many people from the mansion. Ranging from normal staff, maids, gardeners and even some guards were thrown out of the mansion.

Nobody from the outside world knows that mass cleaning was happening inside the city lord's mansion.

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(From MC's perspective)

Library room,

"Creak" the door opens,

I walked into the library slowly. It's been a long time since I came here. I smelled the scent of these books. It brought me a feeling of nostalgia. I remembered this is the place where I awakened my blood element.

Apart from my lightning element, the blood element helped me greatly. It helped me to deter the swarm of bugs indirectly.

Where the lightning element can break out in purple colour, but the blood element can solve the trouble invisibly. Especially the ability of blood aura. I don't know what to call it exactly. But this ability from the blood element can provide a strong cover for me.

It can make the swarm of bugs fail from noticing my presence. At that time, I didn't think about it deeply. But now I slowly started to realise, that I can do many things from this blood element.

Then I slowly retracted my thoughts. I almost forgot about why I came here. After hearing about the exploration site from Elder Thornton, I realised my lack of knowledge in this domain.

Only researchers spend most of their time exploring these things. I don't know. What would it be like to work with Elder Thornton's friend?

A hint of expectation rose in my heart.

I'm not worried about my next breakthrough. As long as I have enough time, I can do it smoothly with the help of lightning essence pearls.

So in the upcoming trip, I will mainly focus on my combat.

After gaining some clarity, I glanced around the library for a moment. Then my gaze finally set on the library database. It's a system which has a whole collection library.

Searching for it will save me a lot of time. After reaching the database system, I began to search for old sites.

In the next second, numerous headlines appeared on the screen. Ranging from books, articles, research papers and even some videos.

Seeing the video, piqued my curiosity greatly.

I clicked the video and it started to play in the next second.

"Site#074," I muttered.

This was the headline of the video. Looking at its description, I realised this video is an overview of Site#074.

Then I slowly immersed myself in watching the video.

Chapter 382 Meeting With Mr. Jonathan

(From MC's perspective)

I continued to watch the video about site#074. In the video, some researchers were exploring the site. I saw them going inside an old ancient structure. I'm not sure whether it's a house or some other building.

Three people went inside and suddenly the person who was responsible for recording was barred. He was not allowed to enter inside. Seeing that I shook my head in disapproval.

It's nothing but censorship again. Government doesn't want people to know about anything. Then I fast forward the video, when the researchers came out they immediately went inside their tent.

A few hours later, they conducted a press meet to brief about the old ruin site. I couldn't help but wrinkle my eyebrows. Who knows whether they are telling the truth or not?

As expected, the lead researcher opened his mouth briefly. He said that this particular site belongs to some kind of glass factory. They have collected a few items used in glass manufacturing.

When the video was finished, I began to search for another good video. But so far, I haven't found anything close to Trunulesia forest.

I didn't even find a video about insect forest. There were only some informative videos about the insect forest. But after watching those videos, I realised they didn't even talk about the inner area.

Those videos only talked about a few dangerous spots in the outer area. I couldn't help but sneer, "There is no actual footage of carnivore bugs."

When it comes to insect forest these deadly bugs were the main topic to be discussed about it.

I'm a little bit. Why censor such crucial information? I don't understand. And I also have a hunch that Trunulesia forest will be censored as well.

SIGH

If I want to learn about everything, I need to be qualified for that. After becoming powerful and influential enough you can easily learn about these things.

As these thoughts rose in my heart, I firmly grasped it. Since I came here, I decided to spend a few more hours in the library. And this time I'm going to read about the healing element.

I want to know more about my healing element. How can I utilize it more efficiently? So far the healing element in my body is working passively. Without proper cultivation method, it's impossible to use actively.

It's fortunate that I came across a blood cultivation method. Otherwise, I would have to spend hours searching for it.

The following day,

Lockwood Residence,

Beep!

The alarm bell rang loudly.

Hearing that I stopped the alarm clock and got up from my bed. Last night, I thought about fighting against class monsters. I guess, Elder Thornton still has some monsters in captivity.

After reaching Hansen campus, I'll ask Mr. Arthur about it. I'm sure he will agree to another blood test.

A quick glint flashes into my eyes.

After gaining some clarity, I decided to take a long bath. "Today is going to be hectic," I muttered as I walked into the bathroom.

On the other hand, a silhouette stepped inside the lockwood residence secretly. He is none other than Mr. Jonathan.

Me. Jonathan came here after dealing with some issues. He wanted to meet Zack at his home. Zack's home is more suitable than Hansen campus.

Mr. Jonathan phoned Mr. James and spoke to him. He doesn't want to be rude by getting inside the house secretly.

"Creak" the door opens,

Mr. James opened the door and he saw Mr. Jonathan in front of him. Seeing that he immediately greeted him inside.

Mr. Jonathan revealed a smile on his face. Then both of them walked into the living room and sat opposite each other.

"I'm going to call Zack," Mr. James said. After saying that he immediately walk towards the stairs.

Seeing that Mr. Jonathan said nothing, actually he was in a hurry. He needs to join with his master as soon as possible at Tier-7 city. Mr. Jonathan guessed, his master might give him some missions later.

5 minutes later,

When I changed into my casual clothes. I heard the door knocking.

Hearing that, I walked up to the door.

"Creak"

"Zack, come to the living hall with me." After saying this, Mr. James grabbed Zack's hand and dragged him towards the living hall.

Seeing his abrupt action, I'm startled. But I didn't say anything but looking at his face. I understand it must be something important.

When we reached the living hall, I spotted another person sitting in the chair. It took me a few moments to realise, it was none other than Mr. Jonathan.

"Mr. Jonathan," I said.

Hearing my voice, he turned towards me.

"Come and sit here," he said.

I nodded and sat on the couch beside him. At the same time, Uncle James sat in the opposite chair to Mr. Jonathan.

Looking at Mr. Jonathan here, I realised the bandit boss's chapter was closed. And the scourge plaguing the iron post city will soon disappear in future.

A smile blossomed on my face.

Seeing a smile on Zack's face, Mr. Jonathan asked, "What are you thinking about?"

"Insect forest," I said.

Mr. Jonathan nodded but he didn't want to talk about it. Something it's better not said openly. Then he thought about the purpose of his visit here.

The next second, he takes out an artifact from his storage ring. It's the usual isolation barrier. Seeing that Mr. James immediately understood, he got up from his seat and proceeded to guard.

Something can't be heard by family members.

Seeing Uncle James walking away, my expression condensed a little bit.

Is there any new trouble again?

I saw the barrier being released from a circular artifact. Soon the invisible cover enveloped both of us. Now our conversation can't be heard by anyone.

When the barrier completely formed, Mr. Jonathan turned toward me and said, "Soren is dead."

Hearing that I smiled and asked back, "Is he really an elite warrior?"

This was the question bugging me greatly. Because, I heard the elite warriors are usually found in Tier-7 cities. But here two elite warriors stayed in the iron post city. It's really something unusual.

Mr. Jonathan commented, "He has just stepped into the elite level. And he was not familiar with the power."

I nodded in understanding.

"Well, I heard that the city lord's mansion revealed your information," he said.

Hearing that my face paled. That guy Lawrence was really treacherous. I said with a bitter smile, "I told them not to reveal my identity. But they went ahead to publish my achievements"

Mr. Jonathan answered, "Don't worry, I gave a little warning to that city lord. Hereafter he won't dare to trouble you."

My eyes gleamed with surprise. He didn't expect Mr. Arthur to do it for me. But his words brought me relief. I don't have to carry the baggage anymore.

I can now focus on my next trip to Trunulesia forest. The next second, I decided to tell Mr. Jonathan about it. Because I feel it's better to get a nod from my teacher.

Then I began to explain everything.

At first Mr. Jonathan was fine. But when he heard the name trunulesia from Zack's mouth.

A quick glint flashes into his eyes.

Then without interjecting, he continued to listen to the conversation.

5 minutes later,

Mr. Jonathan was completely surprised after hearing the whole explanation from Zack. He hadn't expected Elder Thornton to have researched friend.

The trunulesia forest is not easy. He also heard about it. The atmosphere inside that forest is not suitable for warriors from outside at all.

He also heard people will die when they come into contact with a mutated atmosphere. His face couldn't help but condensed in the end.

"Zack, wait for the master's word first," he said.

Mr. Jonathan knows about Zack. He won't jump in without verifying first. At the same time, he also pondered about Elder Thornton's old friend.

Unfortunately, Zack doesn't know about that person's face. Otherwise he would use that name to search for crucial information.

Mr. Jonathan turned towards Zack and asked, " Ask the name of that person from your elder."

Hearing that I nodded. I already guessed Mr. Jonathan is going to do a background check of that person.

The next second, Mr. Jonathan decided to talk about the main topic.

"Zack, I have something to give you," Mr. Jonathan said.

I asked, "What is it?"

But before I could say anything, I saw Mr.Jonathan take out black box from his storage ring.

A hint of curiosity rose in my heart.

When he opened the box, I saw a medium sized black helmet.

Seeing that I have already guessed something.

"Technique," My eyes gleamed with surprise. This must be another lightning technique.

My heart starts to beat faster. Before I could say something, Mr. Jonathan opened his mouth to say, "Master asked me to give lightning technique to you."

After saying that he handed black helmet to wear. I'm not expecting anything similar to ancient celestial scripture. This must be another lightning technique modified by strong powerhouses and researchers.

Mr. Jonathan didn't say anything. Because everything was recorded inside the black helmet.

Chapter 383 Two Soul Techniques

(From MC's Perspective)

I cast a glance at black helmet before wearing it on my head. A blue screen appeared in front of my eyes the next second. I'm familiar with the interface, it is the same as the sci-fi watch.

[Enter name:]

On the blue screen, clear instructions appeared. Seeing that, I looked for a virtual keyboard. Using my gaze, I typed the name.

[Zack Lockwood]

When the name was entered. The next instructions came out displaying the names of various techniques.

Based on different attributes the techniques were divided. Fire, water, metal, earth, light, dark, lightning, healing.

My expression condensed after seeing two new elements, light and dark. I know like lightning these two were another special element.

When I tried to access it, sadly the permission was denied. Then I realized only the lightning element was activated.

Looks like Mr. Jonathan had changed the setting before coming here. Unfortunately, I can't reveal my other two elements to them.

After seeing the healing element, a sudden thought rose in my heart. I considered whether to tell them or not.

But in the end, I dispelled the thoughts.

Even if my teacher is benevolent and good, I don't want to take any chances. I don't want to end up as a lab rat in some laboratory.

SIGH

After sighing inwardly, I looked at the lightning section. It was unlocked. Seeing that I proceed to access it.

When the lightning section was, various lightning techniques were listed out in next seconds.

[LIGHTNING MOVEMENT TECHNIQUES]

[LIGHTNING ATTACK TECHNIQUES]

[LIGHTNING DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES]

[LIGHTNING SOUL TECHNIQUES]

My eyes gleamed with surprise as I saw the four options. Then my eyes were drawn to soul techniques. I have three techniques which are all around.

Sword Divide techniques are enough for all around attack. I don't need another technique right now. Besides, Lightning wheel attacks can also cause a great deal of damage to the opponents.

With these two techniques in my hands, I'm not at all worried anymore. Then I ponder about movement techniques.

Lightning phantom techniques is the best one so far. I couldn't find any fault with it.

After contemplating for a few minutes, I decided to go for soul techniques.

When my gaze fell on it, the section got clicked and in the next second another page appeared.

[Soul Tower Method]

Description: Nine layer soul tower. Each layer can defend against the soul attack from the warriors of similar cultivation base.

[Soul Shield Technique]

A modified soul technique which was derived from similar defensive techniques. The technique can withstand the attack up to Elite Warrior.

[Soul Needle Art]

It's a type of soul attack technique. It consists of 10 moves. And the combination of ten moves can form the ultimate needle attack. And the ultimate attack can cause injury to Super Elite Warrior.

[Soul Defensive Screen]

Another Top Notch defensive method. Apart from providing defense, the techniques can prevent others from prying into warrior's details.

I saw only four techniques listed with descriptions. I'm not disappointed with the lack of techniques. If it gets released, each one of the techniques can cause a blood bath outside.

So I'm grateful to have even come across such techniques.

Then I began to read the techniques one by one. Soul Tower Method, what a domineering name. From the name alone I can see it's a defensive method.

And the nine layers seem to correspond to our cultivation base.

For example, the 1st layer corresponds to the Trainee Apprentice. The 2nd layer corresponds to a Special Trainee. The 3rd layer corresponds to Trainee Warrior. And similarly the 4th layer corresponds to Elite Warrior.

A quick glint flashes into my eyes.

This soul tower technique is really OP. If I can cultivate to my current base, then I can prevent soul attacks during crimson hall competition.

I don't know why? I have a vague feeling that soul technique is extremely important to me. Considering my next trip is towards the trunulesia forest.

Soul techniques might come handy in crucial moments.

Then I began to read about the soul shield technique. Seeing that it's a modified one, my interest was dimmed a little. It can only block soul attacks up to elite warriors.

I'm just one big realm away from being an elite warrior. This technique might have come handy when I started my cultivation technique. But now this technique seems bland to me.

I skipped it directly and began to read the 3rd description. Attack type technique! From the library, I heard that it was rare to come across attack type soul techniques.

My curiosity increased further. Especially needle art. The needle is considered as hidden weapon, it's best for silent assassination. I really wanted to select this technique, one for defense and one for attack purposes.

Before doing that I need to take a look at the last technique. Soul defensive screen! This technique is the same as shield one. But I noticed one big difference, it's the ability to stop others from prying.

So If I use this method, I don't have to use Granny park's pendant anymore. I can prevent others from knowing my cultivation base. I have already started to imagine. How will it look in future?

But unfortunately, I can't select many techniques. If I do then it will be hard for me to cultivate in future. After contemplating for a moment, I decided to go with two soul techniques. Soul Tower Method and Soul Needle Art.

After making the decision, my gaze fell on the soul tower method the next second.

[You have selected the soul tower method]

[Whether to accept it or not?]

[YES/NO]

Seeing the options, my gaze immediately fell on the YES option.

When the option got clicked, the next second I felt a tinge in my mind. I know the technique is going to be engraved in my mind. Feeling that I gnashed my teeth in pain. But I somehow controlled it.

The next second, a small tower rune formed below the celestial scripture in mind. The tower rune is slowly connected to the sword divide, lightning wheel and lightning phantom runes.

Under the celestial scripture rune, four runes joined together. Soon the information about the soul tower method appeared in my mind.

It took me a couple of minutes to stabilize my mind. When all the information was dumped in my mind, I didn't begin to read it right away.

Rather, my gaze fell on soul needle art. I will read the technique after I finish ingraining it in my mind. Next, I repeated the same procedure with soul needle art.

Soon, the 5th rune appeared in my mind. The rune looked like a needle shape. It gradually moved towards the 4 different runes. The 5th runes slowly joined together with 4 other different runes.

When 5 runes joined together. The same process repeated again. Another load of information appeared in my mind. It took me another few minutes to digest the information.

On the other hand, Mr. Jonathan looked at the timings. It's been an hour but still Zack hasn't completed the process.

He wrinkled his eyebrows in tension. "Is there any problem with the helmet?" He thought to himself.

But he was sure about the functioning of the product. He even tested himself before coming here. So there is nothing wrong with the black helmet.

SIGH

Mr. Jonathan decided to wait for a moment. He thought Zack was taking his time to select the techniques.

5 minutes later,

I removed the black helmet and placed it on the table. Then I begin to massage both sides of my temple. The information was extremely large. Fortunately, it's nothing like celestial scripture.

The information feed is comparable to one with sword divide and lightning wheel techniques.

A couple of seconds later, I stopped massaging and looked at Mr. Jonathan.

Then I realized I have selected two techniques instead of one. Will he say something? I wrinkled my eyebrows in tension. But I decided to be honest about it and both the techniques were extremely useful to me.

Then I told Mr. Jonathan about my choice.

I thought he would say something. But fortunately, he was also satisfied with my choice.

Mr. Jonathan then placed the black helmet in his storage ring. Then he looked at Zack and said, "Alright Zack, I'm leaving."

"Be careful on your next trip. I will see you before the start of the competition." After saying that Mr. Jonathan deactivated the isolation barrier.

After recovering it, he got up from his seat and decided to leave. He was already late. First because of his own delay to come here. Secondly, Zack also took some time to select the lightning techniques.

Before proceeding towards the exit, he said, "Zack, First read the techniques thoroughly. If you have any doubt, you can message me."

After saying that he immediately left the house, he didn't have time to see Mr. James.

When he disappeared from the spot, Mr. James walked into the living room. Seeing that, Zack was sighing to himself.

Mr. James quickly walked up to him and asked, "Zack, what happened?"

He knew Mr. Jonathan must have given him some resources. So he couldn't wait to ask about it.

Chapter 384 Small Protest

(From MC'S perspective)

Seeing my uncle walk into the living room, I turned to face him. Then hearing his question, I didn't hide. "I got two soul techniques," I said.

"What?" Mr James was taken aback. Soul technique! How rare it is?

"Is it true?" He asked back again. From Mr Jonathan's visit, he had guessed that the other party won't come empty-handed. But now this piece of information is truly shocking to him.

I nodded at him.

SIGH

I know for uncle it's a big deal. But after watching the name list of techniques in that black helmet. My knowledge got widened. It's a pity that I missed the healing element. Something can't be said to others.

Looks like to obtain a healing technique, I have to find some ways. Then I saw my uncle sitting before me. He looked at me with an intriguing gaze.

Feeling his burning gaze, I understand he wants to know more about soul techniques. Then I took five minutes to explain the whole thing to him.

After explaining to him, I laid back on the couch leisurely and then I shut my eyes for a moment.

I'm planning to go through the soul techniques thoroughly.

But before I could do that, I heard Uncle James' trembling voice.

"Zack?" He said.

The next second, I opened my eyes and looked at him. I found his expression was in total shock.

"Uncle, what is it?" I asked.

Why is he showing overreaction? It's just soul techniques. I got black lines on my forehead.

Mr James was shocked to the core. At first, he thought it was a normal technique.

But when he heard that the soul tower method can withstand the attack from the general level.

His world has turned upside down for a moment. He has only heard about the existence above Elite level from his superiors. And the General level was the peak of their cultivation of base.

To this that Zack's soul technique can withstand the soul attack from the general level. He couldn't able to keep his calm anymore. But when he saw Zack's laid-back attitude. He let out a bitter smile.

Then after calming down his heart, he answered, "Zack, do you aware of what's above elite level?"

I straightened my back and sat upright. "Above Elite level?" I muttered.

Before getting the soul techniques, I was clueless about higher cultivation levels. But when I read the description, certain words caught my attention.

"Super Elite," I replied.

Uncle James nodded and inquired again, "What is above super elite level? And further higher levels."

Hearing that I shook my head. I understand why is he raising this question all of a sudden. Because the soul techniques were too OP.

On the other hand, Mr James realised that he was rash at this moment. He shouldn't spill the beans yet?

Considering the competition is a few months away. Mr James felt it would be better if Zack can learn about the higher cultivation levels from the academy.

So he decided to stop his words. Then he got up from his seat and said to Zack, "Don't talk to anyone about your soul techniques, including Arthur and Elder Thornton."

Then he thought about something and added further, "Even if your lightning element got exposed to the world in future. It won't change anything. Once you become strong people won't mess with you unnecessarily."

"But soul techniques were different. It's a heritage."

After saying that he walked back to his room.

Seeing the disappearance back of the uncle, I sighed. His words made me ponder deeply. He even told me not to reveal it to Arthur and Elder Thornton.

Does this show how precious soul techniques are? I will not tell a single person about this. Like my lightning element, I will strongly guard this secret.

Then after getting back to my room. I searched the news about iron post city. While accessing the news on a sci-fi watch, I sat comfortably in my chair.

When the headline popped up, I begin to read it with curiosity.

[City Lord Mansion: Strange disappearance of warriors.]

This topic drew my attention immediately. I clicked the topic and began to read the article slowly.

My expression was normal at first. But when I finished reading the news, I couldn't help but reveal an amusing smile.

I guess this must be the work of Mr Jonathan.

Then I closed the site and began to get ready. I decided to go to the Hansen campus after breakfast.

Because the cultivation will be more effective inside the energy chamber. And I'm also going to start practising the soul cultivation technique. I want to get started successfully before my trip to the trunulesia forest.

Doing this will give me more confidence to face future troubles.

Time went by,

After having breakfast, I left home a few hours later. As usual, I went into incognito mode. I wore a hoody and mask to prevent people from noticing me.

Two and half hours later,

I reached the Hansen campus. After paying the amount, I stepped out of the air car. But the situation in front of me shocked me to the core.

"What is going on?" I looked at the situation in disbelief. A huge crowd gathered in front of the gate. They seemed to be protecting against the Hansen institute.

My words drew the attention of others.

Soon one person walked toward me from the crowd. He appeared to be the same age as mine. He looked at me from top to bottom.

"Brother, who are you?" The young man inquired.

My mask seems to be working. He couldn't recognize my face at all. I smiled knowing that then I responded by saying, "Cough, I'm a warrior from a nearby city."

The young man nodded in understanding.

Seeing that I'm stunned, he believed just like that. What is happening?

I looked at the young man with a puzzling gaze.

"Cough, Could you tell me?"

"What is going on?" I asked.

Hearing that young man nodded and began to explain to me.

A quick glint flashes into my eyes.

When I heard learnt about the whole situation. I sucked a cold breath.

This protest is all about the young warriors of this city. The young warrior in this red stone city wanted to fight against me. So they officially posed a challenge through media houses.

But as result, they got no response from the management. They patiently waited a couple of days here for an answer. Unfortunately, their efforts ended in vain.

This protest is now happening due to false rumours. The rumour is precisely about me. Someone had spread the malicious rumours that I had officially quitted from Hansen institute.

My gaze turned cold. Because of this rumour, I can see someone acting from behind. This rumour is not small at all. It has gradually taken a huge momentum.

And now the media houses were covering the news. They won't back off until they get news from the management. Either management has to release the news about my whereabouts or I have to come up myself.

This move is vicious. In a few days, I will depart for trunulesia forest. So protesting at this time is uncomfortable. I hope this won't bring any sudden changes to my plan.

Shaking my head, I proceed to enter the building. After walking past the crowd, I somehow got myself inside the building.

"Phew!" I sighed in relief.

I can still hear the voices of the crowd behind me. I don't know. When will the commotion be over? Someone needs to take the action.

Then I decided to meet Mr Arthur before going to the energy chamber. On the way, I found students talking about the commotion out there.

Without minding them, I walked past them.

A few minutes later,

I arrived in front of Mr Arthur's cabin.

"Creak" the door opened,

I walked into the room. Then I saw the worrisome face of Mr Arthur. No need to guess. He is worried about the outside commotion.

"Cough" "Cough"

I coughed twice to draw his attention.

Mr Arthur raised his head to see my face. Upon seeing me, he gestured to take a seat. I nodded and sat opposite him.

"Mr Arthur, what is going on?" I asked.

"SIGH"

Mr Arthur let out a deep sigh. Then a few seconds later, he returned to his usual self.

Mr Arthur replied, "I believe, you already know something about the protest."

I answered, "Hmmm, It's about me. But who is spreading the rumours?"

Mr Arthur commented, "This is what puzzles us. And Elder Thornton ordered us to not give any statement to press regarding this."

"He wants to find out who is behind these rumours" Arthur added further."

The atmosphere became silent for a moment.

Only Elder Thornton can do something about this. What I'm worried about is something else. If people decided to storm inside then who would go to stop them?

It's giving me a headache to me. I also know once such a situation arises, I will be forced to step up.

Chapter 385 Small Competition

(From MC's Perspective)

Hansen institute,

Mr Arthur seemed to be a little clueless regarding how to handle the current situation.

Seeing his contemplating expression, I felt I should have taken a day off today. At least, In that way, I would have stayed away from all the commotion.

Shaking my head in disappointment, I rose from the seat.

Seeing that, Mr Arthur raised his head to see me. Then he asked in a solemn tone, "What are you going to do next?"

I have already seen through his thoughts. So I jokingly replied, "Don't worry, Mr Arthur. I won't run away from here." After saying that, I couldn't help but smile.

My words stunned Mr Arthur. He looked at me with an embarrassing smile on his face.

"Okay, You can leave. I'll contact you once Elder Thornton comes back," Mr Arthur said.

Hearing that, my expression tightened. "Are you seriously considering exposing my whereabouts?"

"No" "No"

"I didn't mean it like that"

"Elder Thornton likely had a phone call with his friend. So I think he may ask you to come for the meeting," Mr Arthur said with a bitter smile.

"Phew!" I breathed in relief.

"Okay, then I'll see you later," after saying that I walked out of the cabin.

The door behind me closed automatically.

Hearing that, I paused my movements for a moment. I'm considering going back home. But if Elder Thornton had a conversation with his friend.

Then I don't have any other choice than to wait for the meeting.

Did Mr Arthur deliberately reveal this info?

A quick glint flashes into my eyes.

It's possible! Other than me, he doesn't have other suitable plans to tackle the ongoing situation.

Then without further do, I stroll towards the energy chamber.

Time went by,

A few minutes later, Energy Chamber,

I sat cross-legged on the ground. This time I didn't turn on the machine. Because I'm not going to cultivate right now. My focus was all on brand new soul techniques.

I closed my eyes and immersed myself in understanding the first soul technique, the soul tower method.

Time passes,

One hour later, I opened my eyes in disbelief.

I found that some things were similar to the lightning phantom technique. Right now, I can only able to read and understand how to form the 1st floor of the tower.

The consecutive tower level was blocked. I'm able to unlock it after the successful creation of 1st layer of the soul tower.

It's like step-by-step prices.

What amazed me was the soul technique is different from lighting celestial scripture. This soul tower has no attribute. At that time, I saw all the soul techniques were placed under the lightning soul technique category.

So I thought the soul technique must have some lightning power. But now it looks like it's not.

After gaining some clarity, I proceed to cultivate 1st layer of the soul tower. I don't know how hard is it. There was a slight worry in my heart.

Then I closed my eyes and proceed to cultivate the soul technique.

As I immersed myself in cultivation, I felt I have grasped something. This power is weird and ethereal. When I try to grasp the energy, it disappears instantly.

There is no reaction in the first place. Like it didn't exist at all. I assumed soul power is similar to world energy. But looks like it's not, the soul energy is much thinner than the world energy.

When I tried to mobilize the soul power, It didn't even work. I did exactly as per the instructions of the soul tower method.

Then I realised, this is my first attempt. I should be more patient when it comes to soul power.

Time passed,

A few minutes later, I opened my eyes in disappointment. "Where is the fault?" I muttered to myself. I felt something amiss. Why is it very hard to start?

I fell into contemplation. From the library books, I have learned that soul cultivation is very hard. Only warriors with exceptional talent can able to do soul cultivation.

Is it something wrong with my aptitude? No, If I lack aptitude for soul cultivation. Then Mr Jonathan wouldn't have given me the techniques in the first place.

So where does the problem lies? To find some answers, I decided to visit the library. After gaining some clarity, I rose from the ground and walked out of the energy chamber.

...

On the other hand, Elder Thornton arrived in front of his cabin. Nobody knows how did he get inside the building. But he was calm and composed like outside commotion didn't affect him at all.

"Creak" the door opens,

Seeing that he walked into the room, as he entered inside, the door behind him closed automatically.

Then after taking the seat, he sat comfortably. He closed his eyes to take a small nap. At the same time, if one can take look at his sci-fi watch. They can see the notification count is gradually increasing.

Before coming here, Elder Thornton already put his sci-fi watch in silence.

Then he opened his eyes a few minutes later. But in the next second, a cold glint flashes into his eyes.

"Who is spreading the rumours?" He muttered to himself.

He has some observations like Zack. Someone is spreading false rumours against their institute.

After knowing this he contacted some of his friends, but still he couldn't able to find the culprits.

Someone is using the media houses for their interest. Sadly, he didn't know anyone influential from media houses. He was quite helpless about it.

The only thing he can do is to wait until the commotion got over.

When he was lost in thoughts, he heard the notification sound.

BUZZ

But this time it's from the projection screen. Seeing that, Elder Thornton checked the notification.

"Arthur," He muttered seeing the name on the screen. The next second, he understands that Arthur is going through the same shit as him.

He felt it was necessary to talk to him. Then he immediately replied to the message, instructing him to come to his cabin.

Then he thought about Zack. He doesn't want to drag the kid into this mess. So he sent a message again saying, don't disturb Zack.

After sending the message, he laid back in his seat casually.

A few minutes later,

Mr Arthur walked inside the cabin with a haggard expression on his face. Seeing that, Elder Thornton sighed. He told him to take a seat.

The atmosphere became solemn for a moment.

"Elder, have you thought of something?" Mr Arthur immediately asked. People kept on calling him continuously. So he desperately waited for Elder Thornton to arrive.

Now that he has arrived, Arthur immediately wants to solve the problem.

Elder Thornton didn't immediately reply. But he showed his sci-fi watch to Mr Arthur. He wanted to remind me, that he was in the same situation as Mr Arthur.

On the other hand, Mr Arthur glanced at the notification screen. But when he saw the name he widened his eyes in surprise. Because it was the call from their city lord.

"Why the city lord of their red stone city contracting?" Arthur said to himself. He felt the situation is going somewhere else.

Suddenly, a bad premonition struck his heart. He felt ongoing commotion has something to do with the City lord.

If the city lord of their city is involved in this matter, then it's difficult to solve the trouble.

Elder Thornton didn't say anything for a moment. He remained silent. He felt Arthur is suffering from severe mood swings.

SIGH

"Arthur, I will take care of the issue. You don't have to worry about that. Just look after your health for the time being," Elder Thornton said with a sigh.

"Elder, what does city lord want?" Mr Arthur inquired.

Elder Thornton revealed a bitter smile before saying, "Actually, I didn't even pick up his call."

"What?" Mr Arthur was taken aback.

He feels Elder is taking a huge risk. Because their city lord is an arrogant person. It's easy to offend him than please him.

Elder Thornton said, "To be honest, it's not a big deal."

"Young warriors want to fight against Zack."

"This is what everyone is protesting about. But in reality, some forces want to know his whereabouts to kill," Elder Thornton added further.

Mr Arthur nodded.

At this time, a very good plan hatched in Elder Thornton's mind.

"Arthur, Let us arrange a competition in our institute."

"Whoever wanted to fight against Zack. Can sign up and participate in the competition."

"And the winner will fight against Zack."

Elder Thornton uttered words one by one. For Arthur, it took a few seconds to digest the information.

But after hearing the whole information, he sighed in relief. Because they know Zack's strength. He can easily defeat the local warriors. So they are not worried about the result of the competition.

Conducting this small competition will buy some time for Zack. He can go to the trunulesia forest without any worry.

Then he answered, "Elder, This seems to be a good plan. I'll work on it right away."

Hearing that, Elder Thornton nodded and handed all the responsibility to him.

Chapter 386 Trouble Was Solved

Hansen Institute,

When Zack was studying in the library. A piece of news was released from the management. The news was about the competition going to conduct by Hansen Institute in a few weeks. This news spread like wildfire across the red stone city.

When the statement was published. It also made the people who were protesting outside of the gate disperse immediately. As the statement was released now, they had no reason to protest anymore.

So the entire place was vacated immediately. Except for a few people who came here for different purposes rest of them were gone.

The media houses begin to broadcast the news about the Hansen campus.

[According to the statement released by Hansen Institute.]

[The competition's date will be decided after closing off the registration process.]

[The time limit for registration is 2 weeks and limited to Red Stone City's warriors.]

[Only warriors below 18 years old were allowed to participate.]

[Rules and Prizes of the competition will be announced after completion of the registration process.]

Time went by,

When this news was broadcasted to residents of the city. It immediately created a huge hysteria. Even the voices from the city lord mansion stopped disturbing Elder Thornton.

On the other hand, people who were waiting outside of the Hansen institute were immediately called back by their force. Some belonged to the local city while the rest of them came from outside of the city.

Though this announcement immediately lifted Hansen Institute's problem. But still, some media houses continue to inquire about Zack Lockwood.

Even some media houses began to hold debate shows about this. Some veterans felt that this move might have something to do with this year's star tower winner, Zack Lockwood.

But unfortunately, no one knows his current whereabouts. Zack was last spotted at Red Stone City's station a few months ago. Until now, they couldn't able to find out his whereabouts.

Unknown to them, Zack was gradually increasing his knowledge about the Soul power.

Elder Thornton's cabin,

Elder Thornton is currently watching the effect of their statement around the city. Apart from some big media houses, there are only a few local channels in their city. But all of them are showing the news about Hansen's competition.

He wore a wide grin on his face after looking at the reaction. This small idea has changed the circumstances of their Hansen campus.

Now no one will pester them anymore. Especially, people who maliciously spread lies about the Hansen institute and Zack, now need to come up with another tactic.

Feeling the accomplishment, Elder Thornton breathed in relief.

The next second his sci-fi watch buzzes with notification.

Seeing that, he lazily cast a glance at the contact name. He felt that people from the city lord mansion pestering him again.

But when his dull eyes saw the name of Ricardo Compton. His eyes gleamed with surprise. He quickly straightened his back and sat upright.

Then he attended the call and answered, "Ricardo?"

From the other side of the call, a deep voice came, "Thornton, what happened with the helper? I'll be leaving with my team in a few days."

Hearing the impatient voice, Elder Thornton replied, "Yes, I have arranged one of our students as your helper." He didn't want to repeat the same conversation. This was something that had already been talked about.

He felt his friend is confirming things again. Well, it's understandable, since they are going to leave in a few days.

The next second, Elder Thornton heard loud laughter from the other side of the phone call.

"Ha...Ha...Ha..."

"I knew you won't disappoint me."

"Get that chap ready, we will be leaving coming Monday. And you know where to find us."

After saying that Ricardo abruptly ended the phone call.

Seeing that, Elder Thornton was dazed for a moment. He wanted to remind him about a few taboos. He knows his old friend won't offend Zack. But it can be said the same with Ricardo's team members.

If something happens to Zack because of Ricardo and his team members. Then Zack's teacher will bury everyone alive.

So Elder Thornton has slight fear that someone will offend Zack. That's why he wanted to remind his good friend. But seeing that he ended the call all of sudden. He felt a quite headache.

Ricardo is a researcher. He rarely picks up a call. Even if he dials back him again, Ricardo won't pick it up. Knowing other person's character well, he had black lines on his forehead.

Since the exploration team is finalised. He will remind Ricardo when he and Zack reach their base. So it's unnecessary to wrap your mind around this now.

Then he sent a message to Zack. Requesting his presence here before he goes back home. Elder Thornton didn't know that Zack was inside the library.

He assumed Zack was practising inside one of the training chambers.

...

Crimson Hall,

The current crimson hall appeared to be deserted. Apart from the students, the number of staff was gradually reduced. Very few leaders can be seen inside the building.

At this time, outside of the headmaster's room. The female assistant quickly arranged the reports in her hands. Suddenly, her sci-fi watch buzzes with notification.

With all the reports in her hand, it's difficult for her to look at the message. At that time, "Creak" the door in front of her opened.

Seeing that, she immediately walked into the room with perfectly arranged reports.

Opposite her, the grumpy headmaster of the crimson hall was working on the protection screen.

When he saw the reports in the assistant's hands. His eyes gleamed with surprise. "Finally, the reports were here," He thought to himself.

First Elder Casey asked him about the progress report of their students a few days ago.

Right now, he saw his assistant place the report on his table. He asked her, "is that all?"

The female assistant nodded and answered, "Head, all the reports of our students are placed here."

Hearing that, the headmaster nodded with a smile. He decided to hand over the reports to First Elder Casey in a few minutes.

Beep!

Then he heard the notification sound from the assistant's sci-fi watch.

Feeling his gaze, the female assistant quickly begins to check the notification.

The headmaster didn't disturb her. But he wrinkles his eyebrows as he saw her calm face turned into total shock.

He asked, "What happened?"

Hearing that, the female staff quickly replied, "Head, check this news out." After saying that she forwarded the news to him.

Beep!

When the headmaster received the notification, he began to check it. It is a new article from the red stone city. If it were anyone they don't waste their time by reading a Tier-8 city's news article.

But for the crimson hall's headmaster, it immediately drew attention. He quickly accessed the site to read the whole article.

It's the article about the warrior competition that is going to happen in Red Stone City. What amazed him was? The event will be conducted by Hansen Institute.

A cold glint flashes into his eyes as he reads the familiar name.

After reading the whole article his expression turned solemn. "It looks like they counterattack the rumours by releasing this statement," He mumbled under his breath.

He is not oblivious about what was happening inside the red stone city. Few of their men were stationed there for a spying operation.

Especially, they are starting at Hansen Campus.

A quick glint flashes in his eyes.

"Is there any sign of Zack Lockwood?" The headmaster inquired.

Hearing that, the female staff commented, "Our spies haven't found him so far."

Most of his bad luck started when he began to deal with this kid.

From bounty missions to the assassination attempt. Then they implemented of killing scheme at star tower. The kid Zack has survived every situation.

Now he is gone incognito for a few months. Who knows? Where is he hiding right now? Including them, several hostile forces searching for his whereabouts.

The more he thinks about Zack, the more his face becomes ugly. He knows more than him, First Elder Casey wants that kid dead. Because of their misadventure at star tower. First Elder Casey had to deal with a lot of humiliation.

It all started with a small mission which further became a border dispute. So First Elder Casey won't leave that kid alive. If they had completed the mission, the border wouldn't have happened.

SIGH

He let out a deep sigh as he recalled those bitter memories. He saw his assistant is still waiting for his instructions. Then he told her to leave before his eyes set on the reports.

First, he needs to get permission from Elder Casey for the meeting. He knows for the past few months Elder Casey is working tirelessly. And he has no idea about that?

The dignified headmaster of the crimson hall doesn't know about their event. If the outside forces know about it, then they will laugh at him.

When it comes to the upcoming event, he feels helpless about it. He has attempted many times to inquire about news from First Elder Casey. But sadly, the elder didn't even put him in his eyes.¹¹

Chapter 387 Crimson Hall's Next Move

Crimson Hall,

Elder's cabin,

A person is satisfied after reading the reports. The report says that the infrastructure built up at odyssey monster zone is going smoothly. The person is none other than First Elder Casey himself.

He was happy that his plan is going forward without much interruption. Though there are some outside noises like pressure exerted from the other forces. But so far he has managed to hold them down.

When the infrastructure is built up is finished, then they have to take the next step to modify the monster zone according to his plan. So far no one is allowed to step inside the monster zone except a few officials from both sides.

It was all done to keep secrecy. If someone leaks out the name of the monsters to the outside world. Then his whole plan will jeopardize.

Beep!

When he was lost in his thoughts he heard the notification sound from a sci-fi watch. Seeing that it was from the useless headmaster, his face frowns a little bit.

He recalled the last time that guy wanted to learn about the odyssey monster zone. But he denied his interference and didn't reveal anything to him.

He felt the headmaster should stick to his job and do what he says. He also recalled he had instructed the headmaster to collect the student's progression reports.

When he realised this he decided to meet him.

A few minutes later,

"Creak" the door opens.

The headmaster walked into the room holding reports in his hands. He carefully noticed the expression of another party.

Seeing that, the First Elder is calm and composed. He breathed in relief.

Then he took a step forward to place the reports on the table.

On the other hand, First Elder Casey stopped working after noticing his presence. Then he cast a glance at the reports on his table.

But before he could say anything he heard the headmaster say, "First Elder, I have something to report."

"Hmmm," First Elder Casey raised his eyebrows in surprise and then nodded at him.

Receiving the signal, the headmaster slowly started to explain. He decided to include spy reports and red stone city's news articles.

First Elder quickly interested after knowing that it's about little Hansen institute. "It has been a few months and I have almost forgotten about that kid," He thought to himself.

He doesn't know how to react to this. Because after his failure at the star tower trial, he completely dedicated himself to the crimson hall competition. He handed over other miscellaneous activists to the headmaster in front of him.

5 minutes later,

When the headmaster finished his words, a cold glint flashed into his eyes.

"Rumours forced them to act. Otherwise, the media houses will plummet their reputation further," First Elder Casey said with a smile.

"Small Competition ah?" First Elder Casey sneered inwardly.

He knows that this move was done to appease the people of red stone city. But what he was not interested in was Hansen institute rather certain genius kid. "Zack Lockwood," He mumbled under his breath.

If the intel reports were true then that kid Zack was not in Hansen Institute at this moment. So where does he go? Did the people from Hansen institute hide him somewhere?

In the next second, a ruthless glint flashes into his eyes.

"It doesn't matter where he is right now?"

"As long as he participates in our competition he will die for sure," He said with an evil grin on his face.

He didn't forget that his failure started with that kid. If he had died in the first place, then the confrontation with the start tower wouldn't have happened in the end.

When he recalled past events, it only left bitter memories in his mind. At this moment he made a firm decision in his heart.

He looked at the headmaster in front of him with a stern gaze. Which made the headmaster shudder.

But in his mind, he thought about the red stone city. Some time ago, a new city lord was appointed to Red Stone City. If his memory serves him right, the new city lord is connected to the Army Federation. So most likely he is from other forces.

When he realised that a beautiful plan hatched in his mind. He knows that few elders behind the Hansen Institute have a strong connection to the Army Federation.

On top of it, the former city lord of their city was not on good terms with the crimson hall.

But now he has a golden opportunity, the next second he looked at the trembling headmaster and said, "I want to meet the new city lord of red stone city asap."

Hearing that, the headmaster's eyes gleamed with delight.

He bowed and replied, "Don't worry Elder, I will arrange for the meeting."

After saying that he immediately left the cabin.

Looking at his disappearing back, First Elder snorted coldly, "Harumph"

Even if the head masted does his work diligently, he still won't reveal anything about the completion to him.

The next second, he looked at the reports.

His good plan needs cooperation from the new city lord. From the headmaster's mouth, he came to know that the Hansen Institute's small tournament was only limited to their city. The registration time is two weeks.

He needs to act before the registration is implemented.

First Elder Casey decided to send their crimson hall warriors to participate in that competition. He knows other than that kid Zack, there is no strong one that exists there.

Using this golden opportunity, he decided to humiliate them greatly. If their crimson hall warriors cripple their Hansen students, in one way or another they will be forced to seek help from that kid.

When that kid dares to come out, then he will use killers to remove him immediately. Even if he doesn't come out, he will die inside the odyssey monster zone.

First Elder Casey knows not only him, there are still other forces who don't want that kid alive.

The next second, he decided to read the progression reports.

A few hours later,

"Creak" the door opens.

The headmaster walked into the room again. But this time he has an excited expression on his face. Like he had accomplished something.

By this time, First Elder Casey also finished reading the reports. He already thought of names of warriors that he is going to send.

"What happened?" He inquired.

Hearing that, the headmaster said with a smile, "First Elder, when I mentioned crimson hall. He immediately agrees to meet you."

A quick glint flashes into his eyes.

But this time he is certain that the new city lord is an opportunistic dog. As long as crimson hall offers something, the new city lord will be sure to help.

The next second, he asked, "Bob Williamson"

"Austin Boyer"

"Bradley Reese"

"Ella Downs"

and "Sallie Mills"

"Where are these people right now?"

At the same time, the headmaster was surprised to hear the familiar names. These 5 students were the same people who had previously participated in that star tower trial.

He doesn't know whether the elder knows about this.

The next second he decided to respond.

"Elder, All of them were diligently training in our academy for the competition," he replied.

"Oh," First Elder was pleased to hear that. Because he knows that 5 of them were star tower participants.

They showed a good performance at the start tower trial. But it was nothing in front of that kid. The world remembers the winners not runner-ups like 5 of them.

He felt this was a good opportunity for 5 of them to appear in front of the world. This time they can redeem the crimson hall's prestige.

There is one more reason that he chose these 5 people as their cultivation base already reached the Peak of Special Trainee.

They are one step away from reaching the Trainee Warrior level. To survive in the odyssey monster zone, they need to have at least a trainee-level base.

He hopes that using this opportunity at least one of them to get a breakthrough.

After gaining some clarity, he told the headmaster about his detailed plan.

2 minutes later,

"Instruct 5 of them not to go anywhere," He said.

"Once I confirm the deal with the new city lord. Then you will arrange for them to participate in that small competition," First Elder Casey added further.

On the other hand, the headmaster was shocked to the core. He never thought that situation will develop into this. But soon he recovered himself and nodded at the elder.

Just as he walked out of the cabin, he breathed in relief. He decided to inform the students first not to leave the city for the time being.

Soon after getting into his office, he instructed the assistant to call those 5 students to his cabin. He then walks back to his chair to sit. Like First Elder said, he is also satisfied with their progress so far.

But unfortunately, the kid Darius Case died mysteriously. Otherwise, the number would be 6 rather than 5.

Chapter 388 Shock!

(From MC's Perspective)

Several hours later,

I walked out of the gravity chamber. When I decided to meet Mr Arthur, I noticed there are several notifications popped up on my sci-fi watch.

Then suddenly I wrinkled my eyebrows in confusion, Who could be? But when I opened the sci-fi watch, I found it was a message from Mr Arthur and Elder Thornton.

Seeing that, I quickly figured it out. I guess Elder Thornton's friend must have contacted his friend. A wide smile blossomed on my face after realising the situation.

The next second, I immediately head towards Elder Thornton's cabin.

A few minutes later,

"Creak" the door opens.

When the door opened, I quickly walked into the room. I saw Elder Thornton working behind the desk.

I wonder, what type of work he has?

Shaking my head, I walked forward to sit opposite him.

Elder Thornton already felt my arrival. After closing his projection screen, he looked at me.

"Zack, I got good news for you," Elder Thornton said with a smile.

Hearing that, I can confirm my assumption was right.

Before I could ask anything, he said, "My friend Ricardo decided to go to Trunulesia Forest after two days."

"So we will leave the day after tomorrow to meet him," Elder Thornton added further.

"Day after tomorrow?" I mumbled under my breath. So I got one free day in between. Should I stay at home tomorrow?

Various thoughts come to mind.

On the other hand, Elder Thornton saw through Zack's thoughts.

He said with a smile on his face, "You don't have to come tomorrow. Take rest at your home. Then I will send our meeting point later."

"Okay," I said.

My mind is a little bit solemn right now. Because I failed to start my soul cultivation. I felt something missing, but I don't know what it is.

Seeing the face of Elder Thornton in front of me, a thought rose in my heart to ask him about my doubts. But Mr Jonathan clearly warned me not to reveal soul cultivation.

This leaves me no choice other than to contact Mr Jonathan himself.

On the other hand, Elder Thornton felt its better to tell Zack about the competition. Because at the end of the day everything revolves around Zack.

The purpose of this small competition is to hide Zack's whereabouts and to stop people's attempts from defaming their institute.

"Cough" "Cough"

Elder Thornton coughed twice before start explaining the situation.

5 minutes later,

At first, I was surprised, I never thought Elder Thornton would care for people's criticism. But this plan is extremely important now.

Otherwise, I would be forced to step up. Which I don't want. So I don't have any problem with this competition rather I'm glad.

Then I looked at the Elder and asked, "So I have to fight the winner of this small competition."

To that Elder, Thornton nodded his head.

He replied, "There is no young Trainee Warrior in our city. So you can be at ease. It will be an easy fight."

"Then it's fine. Just make sure that no one uses artefacts in the tournament," I said.

The only thing that can pose threat to me is deadly artefacts. Who knows if some rich dude comes up with a high-end artefact, then there is no point in fighting against him.

A quick glint flashes into his eyes.

He also realised there are things which can cause danger to Zack during the fight. Such as high-end artefacts and forbidden pills.

Fortunately, they didn't think of the competition's rules yet. Elder Thornton then said in a solemn tone, "Don't worry, we will take care of it."

Hearing that, I nodded and decided to leave.

"Okay Elder, I'm leaving now," After saying that, I got up from the seat.

After walking out of his cabin, I covered my face with the mask and walked towards the exit.

I thought about meeting Mr Arthur earlier. But after considering his mental state right now. I thought it's best to leave him alone.

He was already under a lot of mental stress because of press people. So he needs some rest right now.

Then a few minutes later, I exited the building.

This time not a single person can be seen protesting outside. The place was empty and clean. I found the security guard was staring at me with a strange gaze.

Then without minding him, I proceeded forward to find an air car. Soon I found the air car at a nearby restaurant.

Then a couple of seconds later, the air car flew towards the destination.

...

The following day,

Crimson Hall,

The headmaster's office.

"Creak," the door opens.

One by one five silhouettes quickly walked into the room. They were Bob Williamson, Austin Boyer, Bradley Reese, Ella Downs and Sallie Mills.

Five of them came here as per their headmaster's order.

The headmaster of the crimson hall noticed their presence. So he stopped working on the screen and turned towards them.

Just ten minutes ago, he had received a message from First Elder. First Elder stated that the deal was made successfully between Red Stone City's City Lord and him.

So now he can implement First Elder's plan.

Various thoughts come to mind.

Then he raised his head to observe five of them. Three male warriors and two female warriors.

If they participate in that small competition, he knows all of them will completely crush their opponents.

When he was thinking, he heard Bob Williamson's voice, "Headmaster?"

Hearing that, he retracted his thoughts.

He looked at everyone and said, "First Elder has a small mission for you."

"What?" Austin Boyer was startled.

Not only him but after hearing that everyone's expression tightened. Who doesn't know about their First Elder? He is more famous than their headmaster.

Now entire outside forces were looking for the first elder Casey. Nobody knows where is he right now. And what is he doing?

The entire crimson hall is now shrouded in mystery. Even students like them were clueless about what their organisation is up to now.

A trace of worry appeared on Sallie's face. She remembered what had happened at star tower. It was already a miracle to escape alive from that place.

People say the border conflict happened partially due to crimson hall's plan. And when it comes to planning, there are only two people behind the crimson hall.

The first one is their great elder and the second one is their first elder.

So she is a little scared. She doesn't know what type of mission they have to do now.

At the same time, Ella Downs is not good either. She feels something bad about the mission. Because she also remembers when was the last time the same people gathered together.

It was at the star tower trial. After the star tower trial, everyone stopped meeting with each other. Especially, she and Sallie stopped meeting Bob, Austin and Bradley.

Apart from Crimson Hall's misadventure, the death of Darius Case caused them to feel wary of each other.

So far crimson hall had found many possible suspects, but in the end, they couldn't able to find the actual killer.

While two girls were sulking about the mission, the other hand their boys has different thoughts about it,

A quick glint flashes into Bob's eyes.

Recently, his family has been asking about the huge competition that is going to happen in a few months.

But unfortunately, their teachers and elders were clueless about it. Unless he meets First Elder in person, it's impossible to know about the competition.

Now he has a chance to meet the First Elder in person. Before anyone could digest the information, he opened his mouth to say, "Headmaster, if I complete the mission. Will I have the opportunity to meet First Elder?"

His words startled everyone.

This guy? Austin's face completely turned ugly. He was surprised by Bob's quick thinking. "Sure, Bob is cunning, " Austin thought to himself.

Only Bradley Reese remained silent. First, he wants to hear about the mission before making any assumptions.

On the other hand, seeing various reactions from everyone, the headmaster let out a small laugh, "Ha...Ha...Ha..."

"Let me first tell you it is not going to be your usual mission," after saying that he began to explain the red stone city's competition.

When five of them heard slightly familiar words, they began to frown.

"Red Stone City, it feels familiar," Bob said.

Bradley and Austin were surprised to hear from Bob. Because they too had this familiar feeling.

At the same time, Sallie seems to realise something. "Zack is from Red Stone City," She was shocked to the core. She felt has heard something wrong, so quickly composed herself.

But after a few minutes,

The place-tuned pin dropped silently.

Sallie felt terrible inside. This mission was aimed at Zack Lockwood. The First Elder didn't forget about him after the star tower trial.

Ella Down's eyes gleamed with surprise and shock. Who doesn't know about Zack Lockwood? Especially, after the star tower trial, everyone named him as Tier-8 city's genius.

She and Sallie had talked with him.

But she doesn't know how strong has he grown since last time? She is curious to know about it.

Chapter 389 The City Lord Alex Fuller

Red Stone City,

The following day,

The news about the competition already spread to the entire city. Through the media houses, the residents of the city quickly get updated with the recent news.

Right now many young warriors can't wait for the registration site to open. The news also swept away the dissatisfaction of the young warriors.

It doesn't matter whether warriors from an institute or a certain clan anyone can participate in the competition.

Even warriors without a proper background can also participate as long as they are residents of red stone city.

City Lord Mansion,

The newly appointed city lord is watching one of the famous news channels in this city. The City Lord's name is Alex Fuller. He hails from a small neutral force.

Which is not big as Parazam Hunter League or the Army Federation.

Alex Fuller has a selfish personality. Since he was from a small force, he lacks the opportunity and resources to train.

By that time, he was transferred to this city as a new city lord. He was already short on personal wealth.

Usually, Alex used to gather his wealth through corruption. Unfortunately, the economic activity of Red Stone City is not thriving as he imagined.

It was impossible to gather massive wealth through corruption here. Alex has life long dream of stepping into the Elite level. Currently, he was 50 years old. So his opportunity is gradually diminishing due to ageing.

That's why he tried to find various sources to earn money. But who would have thought there is a golden opportunity to exist in this city?

Right after a few days, he received multiple requests from several forces. It includes small and medium-sized forces.

Interestingly, everyone had the same request. It was to know the whereabouts of a person. That person is a young genius of this city, Zack Lockwood. He was also the current champion of star tower.

"Star Tower," Alex mumbled under his breath while watching the debate.

He knows that star tower has a terrifying background. It made him hesitant to accept everyone's request. But after getting so many alluring offers, he convinced himself.

It's just getting the current whereabouts of the kid. He can fulfil the deal by selling the information to others. He is not going to act against the kid personally anyway.

So Alex agreed to cooperate but when he tried to contact the chairman of the Hansen Institute. He couldn't able to reach him.

It's like another party is purposely avoiding his calls. But, yesterday, when he was thinking about a good plan, he was called by a certain big force from Tier-7 city.

In fear, he visited the crimson hall right away. But who would have thought he was going to meet a famous person?

After he met with Mr Casey, he figured out ins and outs of the situation. Shockingly, the crimson hall also wants to find out the whereabouts of Zack Lockwood as well.

But unlike those small and medium forces, Mr Casey had a different plan. He wants to use Hansen's small competition to embarrass them completely.

Mr Casey believed, that to save their face they will force Zack Lockwood to appear. Only that kid can somewhat fight decently against Tier-7 city's warriors.

But the problem lies here, he needs to find a way to let warriors from crimson hall participate in that competition.

If he do that, Mr Carey had promised him to reward handsome money. He knows the wealth of Tier-7 city forces. It's not comparable to the puny wealth they have here in this Tier-8 city.

Not only that, but he was also aware of Crimson Hall's background. They are going to do something big in a few months. Every small and large force looking forward to it.

If he can do as he says, he will earn a lot more in the end.

A cold glint flashes into his eyes.

The next second, he turned off the protection disk. Alex Fuller knows he doesn't have much time. Before the registration opens up, he needs to think of a solution.

He noticed the problem right away. The competition is going to conduct by Hansen Campus in their private capacity.

So he can't interfere in their affairs directly. What to do? He thought to himself.

If he conducts the competition himself instead of on Hansen campus, he is not sure whether that kid (Zack) will participate.

For some time, he couldn't able to come up with a good solution. If he forces Hansen campus to allow crimson hall students to participate. He will not meet with a good end.

Even if Mr Casey didn't say anything about their bad relationship with Star Tower. He already knows one or two things. If the star tower people came to know that crimson hall is targeting their champion.

They will deal with him first. When he thought about the worst-case scenario, his face turned ugly. So he is not going to coerce the Hansen Institute anyway.

Then suddenly an old-school idea comes to his mind.

"What about creating a false identity?" He said to himself. The more he thought about the plan the more it sounds possible.

Because Mr Casey had informed him that he is going to send only 5 warriors to participate. He can easily arrange false identities of these people.

Finally, after long contemplation. He decided to implement this plan. Then he immediately ordered his manager to come to the main hall.

Several minutes later,

The City Lord Alex saw the manager walk into the hall.

Seeing that, he quickly avoided the formalities and jumped into the topic.

"Manager Walter, how long you have been working here?" He inquired.

Hearing that, Walter was surprised but he quickly replied by saying, "It's been 15 years my lord."

"15 years," Alex muttered.

He thought that Manager Walter has vast experience. So he might have a good understanding of the city. Especially, a good understanding of the forces here. Including those cultivation and business clans here.

After gaining some clarity, Alex asked, "Manger Walter, tell me the names of low-key forces here."

Alex felt to perfectly assimilate 5 of them into this city. He needs the help of a certain family with a good background. Especially, those forces that are rarely talked about in public.

He felt that in this way no one can suspect the identity of the 5 new warriors. Once the competition is finished, he will send them to crimson hall right away.

On the other hand, Manager Walter began to ponder.

Seeing that, various calculations appeared in Alex's mind.

After a few minutes, Manager Walter began to talk about the low-key forces in this city. When the manager finished his words.

A quick glint flashes into his eyes.

"Good" "Good," Alex uttered in surprise.

He never thought there are more than two forces with low-key development here.

Then he spent more than one hour discussing those families.

Then he finalized one family in the end.

"Frazier Clan," He muttered to himself.

Then he looked at Manager Walter and instructed, "Arrange a quick meeting with the head of the Frazier clan."

"Yes, my lord," Manager Walter answered. Then he quickly left the hall.

"I hope this plan will be successful," The City Lord Alex said to himself.

SIGH

After sighing, he rose from the chair.

Beep!

But suddenly his sci-fi watch buzzes with notification.

Seeing that, he immediately saw the contact name. It was called from the headmaster of the crimson hall.

Alex furrowed his eyebrows in tension. He guessed maybe the headmaster was asked by Mr Casey to inquire about the updates.

He felt quite a headache. But still, he has to attend this call. Otherwise, it will create a bad impression.

Then he quickly walked into his room to attend the call.

"City lord, did you find any way to implement our plan?" The headmaster inquired.

Hearing that, City Lord Alex began to explain his current plan. He wants to create five false identities using the name of the Frazier clan.

The headmaster remained quiet for a moment.

He felt quite dissatisfied in his heart. The headmaster expected something else. He thought that the city lord should coerce the Hansen institute to change its rules.

It will be a very easy and direct method. He doesn't know why the city lord is implying old means.

Feeling the silence, the city lord Alex feels uncomfortable.

"Cough" "Cough"

He coughed twice to break the awkward atmosphere.

Then he continued to say, "Headmaster, don't worry, my plan will be successful."

Hearing his word, the headmaster felt quite assured. So he didn't refute his words.

"Okay, then call me after confirming everything," After saying that he ended the call.

The City Lord Alex sighed in relief. "At least, he didn't reject my efforts," He said to himself.

After saying that, he waited for manager Walter to arrange the meeting. He also knows if his meeting Frazier clan head fails, then it will take a lot of time to think next plan.

By that time, perhaps the registration of that small competition might start. So he has no other choice but to make it work.

Chapter 390 Boring List

(From MC's perspective)

Lockwood residence,

The following day,

I arranged everything for my new trip. I bought a few emergency stuff from an online store some time ago and stored them in my storage ring. Yesterday, I spoke to Uncle James about the new trip.

After knowing that the old researcher was Elder Thornton's friend, he stopped worrying. Not only uncle James, but I also received a green signal from Mr Jonathan.

Earlier, after my discussion with Elder Thornton. I texted Mr Jonathan about Ricardo Compton. I guess Mr Jonathan must have done extensive research about him.

The only person I didn't tell was Granny Park. In her old age, it's better not to hear this type of news. I believe Uncle James will tell a suitable lie to her.

Then after packing things, I walked downstairs. Uncle James already went to work. So Granny Park will be alone in this house after I leave. It can't be helped.

After reaching the living room, I saw her reading books. Then I walked up to her and told her that I'm leaving for the Hansen campus.

Hearing that she nodded and didn't suspect my words. Then after bidding goodbye to her, I left the home.

Elder Thornton told me to wait at the Red Stone City station. He didn't want me to come back to Hansen Institute. Anyway, I'll do as he says, this saves my time also.

After gaining some clarity in my thoughts, I continued to walk along the street. Soon, I reached the air cab platforms.

Numerous air cars were parked line by line. Seeing that, I walked forward to look for a familiar driver. This air cab platform station is located quite close to my residency. So I'm familiar with many drivers.

A few minutes later, I spotted a familiar driver. I told my destination after getting inside the car. Then the air car rose from the platform and flew towards the train station.

I don't know many things about Ricardo Compton. Even I used various sites to search about him. Apart from his biodata and images, there is nothing that can be found on these sites.

I believe like many things his works were also censored. Not many things were disclosed to the public. Especially, his work on numerous old ruins.

All of the information about the old runes was also blocked. It's good that Elder Thornton told me about this, otherwise it's impossible to learn about these things from other sources.

The air cab reached the train station a few minutes later. After paying the amount, I stepped out of the car and head toward the station's entrance.

This time I came to the station on time. The train to the red stone city will arrive shortly. So I don't have to wait here for long.

I found people staring at me. Like last time, I wore a mask to cover my face now. So I'm helpless when it comes to this. Without minding their gaze, I continued to wait.

BUZZ

A few minutes later, a loud sound was heard from the distance. The train's arrival sound is so loud and clear that all the passengers rose from their seats.

Slowly, the train came to a complete halt. Then one by one passengers started to enter the train.

Seeing that, I followed them to enter inside. The seats started to fill in. Then I found my seat and sat comfortably in it. Then a few minutes later, the train started to depart.

Then I thought about reading the news articles.

I realised the trending topics will be about our small competition. It will trend for at least two weeks until registration.

If the small competition will be interesting enough to watch people, then it will gain further traction.

I guess, our event will occupy people's minds for at least one week.

Then after accessing the sci-fi watch, I found it was the same reaction as I had expected. The media houses are already started their debate.

They have already made a possible candidate list. What's more amazing is that each media house has made its list.

"Interesting?" I mumbled under my breath.

I want to see whether any candidate is worth noticing. It's really that I wasn't aware of much of red stone city. Especially, the information about young warriors.

From what I know, there are several strong clans in Red Stone City. But their descendants are not as strong as me. Otherwise, I would have encountered them at the star tower trial itself.

As I opened the list, I saw the names and information of the candidates in the list. The media houses even collected information about individual cultivation bases.

My eyes gleamed with surprise.

"Is it true?" I asked myself...

But I have heard from Elder Thornton that some media houses have their spies to gather this kind of information. And these people were extremely professional.

Then I began to scroll down the page as I looked into each possible candidate's cultivation base.

I'm interested in knowing their cultivation base. Not in their family background. So far the candidate's cultivation base is average. Many of them were still at Peak Trainee Apprentice, not even at Special Trainee.

After scrolling down a few pages, I finally found a few names. They have a Special Trainee Cultivation base. I clicked the name to read their background information.

A quick glint flashes into my eyes.

When I noticed this young warrior is from a certain clan. Now, I wasn't surprised by his current level. They might have poured their entire resources on this young warrior.

Then I began to access other media houses' candidate lists.

After looking at a few lists, I found a familiar name. In this new list, Maria Frazier's name tops the list. It is reported that her cultivation has reached Initial Special Trainee a few weeks ago.

Talking about Maria, it's been a long since I saw her. I wonder whether she will participate in this competition. This small competition is being held to divert others' attention.

I don't know if her father is aware of this. If he knows he won't allow her to participate unnecessarily, this is going to be just a waste of time.

Then I spent another few minutes going through every list.

"Phew," I sighed in relief.

The candidate lists were not worth noticing. Apart from Maria, I didn't care about others. It's true like Elder Thornton said. This small competition is going to be rather easy.

I don't have to worry about it. Then after closing the pages, I proceed to take a small nap.

Times goes by,

The train reached the Red Stone city station two hours later. Hearing the loud announcement, I opened my eyes. Then I followed others to exit the train.

After stepping out, I looked around me. Elder Thornton should have been waiting for me. Where is he now? Soon, I saw a person walking toward me. He was dressed in a black suit and he wore black coolers.

"Hmmm," I wrinkled my eyebrows in confusion. But the next second, I realised he is none other than Elder Thornton.

When he arrived in front of me, I asked, "Elder, what's up with your dress?"

Hearing that, Elder Thornton coughed twice. "Cough" "Cough"

"Well, it's all for hiding our identities," Elder Thornton replied with a smile on his face.

I shook my head and asked, "Elder, what's your plan now?"

I don't want to spend much more time in Red Stone city. I hope we can leave this place right now.

On the other hand, Elder Thornton began to access his communication watch. He is looking for something else.

Seeing that, I stopped inquiring and waited for him to do his work. A few minutes later, Elder Thornton uttered something which I couldn't hear properly.

"Elder, what is it?" I asked.

"Baguva," Elder Thornton replied after closing his sci-fi watch.

This name sounds familiar. But I don't know where have I heard it before?

Before I could ask anything, Elder Thornton said, "This city is the meeting point fixed by my friend."

A quick glint flashes into my eyes.

Now, I remembered the details of this city. Baguva is the smallest city that I have heard of. This city has the smallest population.

Apart from it, the city is bursting with strong economic activity. Lots of rare materials can be bought from this city. Ranging from precious herbs to full body gears. And most of those items were less expensive compared to other cities.

What is more amazing is that Baguva city is a Tier-7 city. It's not easy to enter Tier-7 city from Tier-8 city just like that. I guess his friend must have got the required travel pass for this.

To confirm, I decided to ask.

On the other hand, Elder Thornton had already seen through his thoughts. He answered, "I presume you know about that baguva city."

Hearing that I nodded.

Seeing that, Elder Thornton said, "My friend has acquired travel pass after long difficulty."

"So you don't have to worry about legal issues."

"You can roam around the city easily with this pass."

After talking for a few minutes, we waited for the train to arrive.