

BloodLine 391

Chapter 391 Frazier's Decision

City Lord Mansion - Red Stone City,

The City Lord Alex Fuller was in his study room where he received a message from Manager Walter. Seeing that, he rose from the chair and walked towards the main hall.

He hopes for hearing some positive answers. When he arrived at the main hall, he saw apart from Manager Walter another person is standing beside him.

Looking at his burly physique and cultivation base, quick glint flashes into his eyes. The city lord Alex soon realized something. "He must be the head of the Frazier Clan," Alex thought to himself.

Because the other person's cultivation base was the same as himself. Only strong heads of cultivation families can have this level. Then he walked up to the main seat and sat in it.

Seeing that, Manager Walter and Frazier Clan's heads bowed to him in respect.

Then the city lord signalled the manager Walter to leave. He will take care of the next course of action. After receiving the order, the manager Walter exited the hall.

Seeing all of this a trace of apprehension appeared in Mr Frazier's eyes. He couldn't understand the action of their new city lord. Why did he ask him to come here?

When he was confused, he heard the city lord's voice. "Mr Frazier, No need for formalities," After saying that he gestured to him to take a seat.

Mr Frazier didn't ask back any questions and sat in the nearby chair. He knows the city lord has something important to discuss. So he decided not to talk back unnecessarily.

Seeing his attitude, the city lord Alex was pleased. He felt his plan will go a lot smoother than he had expected earlier.

"Cough" he coughed to break the awkward atmosphere.

He felt it was best not to talk about the crimson hall. Who knows? If the information leaks out it will create another headache.

Then he looked at Mr Frazier with a bright smile on his face before asking, "Mr Frazer, I need your help with something."

Hearing that, Mr Frazier widened his eyes in surprise. The next second he composed himself but still, there are many questions appeared in his mind.

Then the city lord Alex began to explain his request. He will send 5 new warriors to Hansen's competition under the name of Frazier Clan.

At first, Mr Frazier's expression was normal. But his expression turned ugly as he started to listen more.

The city lord Alex wasn't surprised by Mr Frazier's expression. Rather he felt it was normal. But what he doesn't know is that Mr Frazier has different thoughts in his mind.

"When did Hansen campus have offended the new city lord?" He thought to himself.

As far as he knows there is no interaction at all. If it was another issue, he won't mind helping. But the things with Hansen campus were different. His daughter Maria studies and practises there.

So Mr Frazier was hesitant in his heart about whether he should agree with the city lord's request. He knows sending strong warriors to participate in a small competition. It's nothing but the act of humiliating Hansen's institute on purpose.

On the other hand, the city lord noticed Mr Frazier is dwelling on his words. He asked, "Mr Frazier, is there any problem?"

Hearing that, Mr Frazier nodded but he decided to mention a different reason.

"Lord, I have few connections in Hansen Institute. Some of the elders know about my family very well," After saying that he added further.

So If they saw the sudden appearance of new warriors under the Frazier clan's name, it will raise their eyebrows. Eventually, if one starts to investigate, then it will be easy to know, that 5 of them were not part of the Frazier Clan.

Hearing his concerns, the city lord Alex realized there were genuine concerns, not some random excuse. For a moment, he thought about considering other families.

But he neglected those thoughts the next second.

He replied, "Mr Frazier, you have to do only one thing to do that is to keep the secret until the competition."

"Then if someone finds the identity of the 5 warriors after the end of the competition. Your clan won't be held accountable," the city lord Alex added further.

Hearing that, Mr Frazier breathed in relief.

If it was the case then their clan can be saved from trouble. But in his heart, he won't want to take action against Hansen Campus.

Unfortunately, he can't deny the request from the city lord. He may seem to be all smiles on his face. But he knows that if he offends the city lord now. It will cause a lot of damage to their clan economically.

After sighing inwardly, Mr Frazier decided to agree with the city lord's proposal. Then he nodded at the lord and replied, "Lord, I agree to help you. But I'm not sure about helping you with their protection."

Then a few minutes later, both reached some common ground in the discussion. After talking about a few things, Mr Frazier immediately left the building.

The city lord Alex was glad to convince the other party. It took some effort but he was fine with it. Because the headmaster wells from the crimson Hall pressuring him from one side.

This confirmation news will give him some time to breathe. The next second he immediately texted the headmaster wells.

After doing that, he walked back to his room.

On the other hand, After leaving the city lord mansion. Mr Frazier didn't stop anywhere. He heads straight towards his clan home.

Several few minutes later,

Mr Frazier reached his home. On the way, several clansmen bowed toward him in respect. After acknowledging them, he went straight toward his study room.

He needed some alone time right now. After getting inside the study room, Mr Frazier finally lost his composure.

"Damn it, what's up with the new city lord?" He said to himself. He knows offending the new city lord is more dangerous than offending the old ones.

Because this new city lord will continue to serve until he gets transferred to some other places. In meantime, he doesn't want his clan to be harassed by the City lord Mansion people.

Then walked up to his chair and sat in it. He began to recall their conversation one by one. Earlier, he noticed the city lord forget to tell him something.

Rather, it's best to say he purposely avoided something. Especially, the city lord didn't tell him the background of the warriors. But Mr Frazier has a strong feeling that it has something to do with Hansen Campus.

Why would he target Hansen Institute? There is no possibility of enmity between them. The City lord was appointed recently. So there must be someone behind the city lord who wants to target Hansen Institute.

After realising this he was shocked to the core. His clan can't handle the new city lord. Forget about the existence behind him. So Mr Frazier decides not to tell Elder Thornton after understanding the seriousness of this matter.

When it comes to Hansen's competition, he felt helpless. He can only hope nothing bad happens to their young warriors. He let out a deep sigh before focussing his mind on other issues.

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(From MC's perspective)

Train Station - Red Stone City,

The train to Baguva city arrived after one hour.

Seeing that, Elder Thornton and I boarded the train. I remembered the last time we went to star tower together. But this time it was for a different situation.

We sat back comfortably after finding our seats. From Elder Thornton, I heard it will probably take a week to reach baguva city. One week is indeed a long train journey.

This is the first time I'm going to experience such a long trip. So I decided to sleep for a few hours. I closed my eyes and then slowly fell into a deep sleep.

On the other hand, Elder Thornton smiled when he saw Zack's actions. He then shifted his attention towards his sci-fi watch. A while ago, he received many notifications. But he didn't think about taking a look at it.

He noticed there are many messages inbox. Most of them were sent by other elders of the Hansen Institue. He knows all of them were quite pissed.

Because he made a unanimous decision. He didn't even ask any second opinion regarding the small competition. So it's quite normal for them to react in this way.

He didn't want to send them a reply now. When he returns from baguva city, he will think of a solution.

Then he continued to go through the other messages one by one. Suddenly, his eyes fixated on one person's name. It was a message from his friend Ricardo Cartell.

His friend inquired about their whereabouts. But he had already made a phone call a while ago. So he didn't reply to this message again.

Then he began to scroll down and finally, he saw an interesting name. "Alex Fuller," He mumbled under his breath.

This message was sent a week ago. But he neglected back them. In curiosity, he opened the message to read it. After reading it, he wasn't surprised. Because the new city lord wanted to meet him.

And he didn't give a proper response at that time.

Chapter 392 Arriving At Baguva City

Several days later,

Tier-7 Baguva City,

The entire city was built in the shape of a dome-like structure. If some looked at the city from distance, they will see the curved structure of the city wall. The curved wall is one massive piece of metal, which connects the other three sides of the city in a circular pattern.

The curved wall of the city provides massive protection from monster breakouts. Even if the monster's stampede occurs in large numbers, they can't cause a small dent in the city wall.

The highly fortified city can withstand the attack from the Level-4 Peak Monster. Only level-5 Monster can cause damage to this Baguva City.

But such level-5 monsters are not present in the surrounding region of the city. So the residents of the city were not afraid of monsters running into their houses.

At this time, from the grey colour metal wall. A huge door was lifted. If one looked at it closely, one can see a wide railroad going inside the city.

A few seconds later, the train buzzing sound reverberated throughout the surroundings. A highly fortified train is going to the city at full speed.

When the last compartment of the train disappeared. The huge metallic door was lowered down. Then the trace of the lift completely disappeared from anyone's sight.

The metallic wall of the city appeared brand new.

Inside the city,

The train from red stone city finally reached the platform. Unlike other Tier-8 cities, the infrastructure of Tier-7 cities is different. You can't leave the station and enter the city just like that.

There is a specially built checking post in between to verify the background of the passengers. Only people with proper background and a travel pass can go into the city.

To do this thorough background check. The special teams with Peak Trainee Warrior cultivation base were appointed for this purpose. The head of the special trainee teams' is an Elite warrior.

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(From MC's perspective)

"Zack, wake up," Elder Thornton said.

Hearing that, I opened my eyes and realised that we arrived at our destination. For a moment, a trace of disappointment appeared in my eyes.

I missed the opportunity to see how the city looked from the outside. I bet this city is huge. My eyes gleamed with light as curiosity rose in my heart.

Then I stored the neck pillow in my storage ring with the rest of the materials.

After that, I followed Elder Thornton to step out of the compartment. When I exited the train and looked at the surroundings.

My eyes widened in surprise and shock.

"Huge and Marvelous," I mumbled under my breath. A tremor went in my heart as I looked at the breathtaking size of the train station.

I guess it's just one of the platforms. I guess the rest of the buildings were also the same as this.

On the other hand, Elder Thornton smiled after seeing their stupefied expression of Zack. He realised this is the first time Zack to visit a proper Tier-7 city.

Though baguva city is small in population. But no other Tier-7 city beats it in status and development. Even among the Tier-7 cities, baguva city is considered a small giant. And there is a valid reason for it.

Looking at Zack he couldn't help but say, "The train station's size alone is half of the size of a white stone city."

Hearing Elder Thornton's words, I looked at him in disbelief. Now only realised, I underestimated the size of the city. "It's bigger than I thought," I said to him.

"Yeah, it's big infrastructure," Elder Thornton replied.

"Let's go we have to go through the inspection before entering the city," After saying that Elder Thornton led me towards the exit.

"Inspection?" A trace of doubt appeared in my heart. Then I thought about something. I guess the travel pass must have something to do with it.

It is just the process of verification.

Soon after exiting the platform, I spotted another building. Passengers are standing in queue to go through the verification process.

There are four queues and Elder Thornton led me to one of them. Then we waited for our opportunity to turn up.

Time passed,

Slowly, the number of passengers started to reduce. Then our turn came up a few minutes later. I saw a warrior dressed in black asking for details from Elder Thornton.

He is doing the inquiry. Then I saw Elder Thornton showing the travel pass to him. After verifying the travel pass. The warrior seemed too convinced. Finally, he allowed us to enter the city.

Both of us then head directly towards the exit after that. On the way, I couldn't help but ask, "Elder, what is the validity of this pass?"

Hearing that, Elder Thornton paused his movements and looked at Zack. He realised he didn't fully explain to Zack about the travel pass.

"Oh yes, about the travel pass," Elder Thornton said.

"This travel pass is only valid for three months. I believe that your trip is won't be that long," he added further.

"Three months is enough for this trip," I said.

But Elder Thornton let out a bitter smile and answered, "Don't daydream about it. Even if they decide to extend their plan, you on the other hand will have to quit the exploration team."

I wasn't surprised by his words. Researchers can immerse deeply into their role without worrying about the time and days.

If it happens then I will have to return alone.

SIGH

I sighed inwardly. This is completely going to be a new experience. Then after leaving the exit we came across a different atmosphere.

"Waiting area," Elder Thornton muttered.

Hearing that I looked around the surrounding. Stop saying this is a waiting area. This building was a shopping mall.

People can be seen visiting different shops. There are also several rooms available for people to take a rest. It took me some moments to digest the information.

It's different from the previous experience. In Tier-8 city, there is no other option other than quietly waiting for your train.

But here you can spend your extra time shopping. And there is no chance for you to get bored around this place.

While I was looking at those shops, I heard Elder Thornton's coughing sound.

Elder Thornton said, "Don't worry, after speaking with my friend. I'll take you around the city."

Hearing that I nodded. I have to say I'm enjoying Elder Thornton's company. It was like the previous experience of the Star Tower visit. Where he took care of everything. And this time also he seemed to come prepared.

Then I followed him towards the exit. It's hard for me to look for entrance and exit here. Looking at Elder Thornton, I believed he must have visited the city multiple times.

Then after walking past similar-looking buildings. We finally exited the train station minutes later.

Finally, I breathed in relief after looking at the sky. Then I glanced at the humongous station behind me. "Damn, this station is larger than I had expected," I said to myself.

Then I straightened my back and looked at the city in front of me. Seeing that, I revealed a small smile on his face. Because the city is nothing different from Tier-8 cities apart from its size and hygiene. Then I found a new thing.

It doesn't matter where it's a small or big shop. I can feel the luxurious vibe from it. When I was lost in my thoughts, I heard Elder Thornton's voice beside me.

The next second, I saw he is talking to the cab driver. Seeing that, my gaze immediately set on the air taxi next to him. I twitched as the air car also seems to be different. I had never seen or heard of this model before.

This air car is almost twice in size compared to that one back in my city. In curiosity, I walked up to the air car for further inspection.

While Elder Thornton was busy talking to the driver. I began to observe the air car. This air car has many seats. I believe seven people can sit comfortably inside the air car.

Then my gaze landed on the monstrous wheels. With this air car, I can easily enter the monster zone. While I was appreciating it, I heard Elder Thornton's voice again.

Seems like he successfully negotiated with an air cab driver. Then I entered the air car after Elder Thornton. The driver seems to be a strong warrior. He doesn't want to be rude by probing him.

So I guessed in my heart. Looking at his burly physique and feeling the subtle pressure from his body. I think the air cab driver is a Trainee Warrior. This realization completely broadens my knowledge further.

Elder Thornton finds out Zack's doubt. He answered, "It's normal for Trainee Warrior to be a driver in this city."

Hearing that, I was shocked inside. I never thought the strong warriors are like clouds in this city. It is totally beyond my belief. Then what about the Elite Warriors?

Chapter 393 Meeting With Elder Compton

(From MC's perspective)

Tier-7 - Baguva City,

The air cab driver who is also a peak trainee warrior sat in the driver's seat.

At this moment, I heard Elder Thornton's voice from next to me.

"Zack, this air car has a different name. It is called wind car model #98," Elder Thornton said.

"Wind car," I muttered. But I recalled those customized air cars used at the Black Forest. Compared to those modified air cars, this wind car is quite big.

In the next second, the wind car rose from the ground. Seeing that, I immediately began to view the city through the window.

As the wind car rose above the clouds. I can see the overall infrastructure of the train station. Like Elder Thornton has said, the train station is really big.

The wind car slowly moved towards the destination. Seeing the speed control, I was puzzled. Then a look of understanding appeared on my face.

The city has strict traffic control. That's why the peak trainee warrior is responsibly following the rules.

Shaking my head, I asked Elder Thornton, "Elder, where are we going?"

I suppose Elder Thornton already told the driver about the destination.

"Shopping," Elder Thornton uttered a word.

Hearing that, a trace of confusion appeared in my eyes.

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

"Just be patient, we will arrive at the location shortly," After saying that he began to text his good friend.

SIGH

I sighed inwardly. Then I shift my attention toward the city. There are many high-rise buildings in this city. Back at home, usually, wealthy business people have this type of building.

Apart from them, there is the only building of City Lord Mansion that can rival them. Even our Hansen building is pale in comparison.

I'm curious though if it's some company building then what about the residence building? Do all of them have a similar structure? A thought rose in my heart.

Then next second, I felt it was absurd. Shaking my head, I continue to observe the city.

20 minutes later,

The wind car slowly descends on the landing platform. When it came to a complete halt, I stepped out of the car followed by Elder Thornton.

I saw Elder Thornton walk up to him. Seeing that I decided to wait. After paying the amount to the driver, he led me to a certain location.

After walking past several buildings, he came to a complete stop in front of a particular building.

CAMPBELL GEAR CENTRE

A quick glint flashes into my eyes as I read the name. "What Gear?" I mumbled under my breath. Feeling the confusion, I glanced at Elder Thornton. He wasn't surprised as I am.

Suddenly, a person walked out by opening the glass door.

"Ha....Ha....Ha....," Elder Thornton burst into laughter after seeing that person.

"Ricardo, how have you been?" Elder Thornton stepped forward to meet him.

Hearing that, I realised what was happening. Then immediately I observed the person.

He appeared to be 60 years old. He was a bald person with white curly hair. He is 5.5ft tall in height. He has a lean physique with fair skin. He wore a white blazer.

"Zack, come here. He is my friend Ricardo Compton," Elder Thornton suddenly said to Zack.

Hearing Elder Thornton's words, I looked at the bald elder and walked toward him. When I walked in front of him, I felt his gaze over my body. I realised he is probing me right now.

I don't know. Whether he will bypass the pendant's protection. A trace of worry appeared in my eyes.

On the other hand, Elder Thornton was shocked to his core. He made an important discovery right now. His friend Ricardo seemed to be more powerful than him.

He couldn't even guess Ricardo's cultivation base.

At the same time, bald Ricardo Compton was surprised by Zack's strength. When he tried to probe, he found the small block. He knows it must be a protective item. But he easily bypassed it and found Zack's real strength.

"Mid-level- Special Trainee," He thought to himself. Then a hint of appreciation flashed in his eyes because he also found his bone age of Zack. "Less than 15 years old, good, " He said to himself.

Then in curiosity, he asked, "Brat, what is your element?"

Hearing that, my heart skips a beat. Instead of answering, I glanced at Elder Thornton for support. I can't tell him about my lightning element.

Elder Thornton never expected his friend to raise this question all of a sudden.

"Cough" "Cough"

He coughs twice before saying, "Can we go inside now?"

"We came here after a long tiring journey," he added further.

Bald Compton realised his mistake. He replied in an apologetic tone, "Sorry, I forgot about this." Then he greeted both of them inside.

"Phew," I breathed in relief. Then I gave thumbs up to Elder Thornton. He saved me from trouble this time. But I don't know. What to do after getting inside the trunulesia forest.

I followed behind the two with a worry in my heart.

On the other hand, Elder Thornton is speaking with Compton. He was surprised by knowing his friend far surpassed him. But he doesn't know what level is he at right now.

This building has several floors. Right now, they are on the first floor. Precisely in the waiting area, Elder Thornton asked, "Compton, what is your level? Tell me honestly."

Hearing that, bald Compton chuckled.

But he didn't feel any reason to hide it. So he answered, "Mid-level Elite Warrior."

Hearing that, Elder Thornton felt quite unbelievable. How long has it been? The last time when he saw his friend, he was taking the step to break through.

Now he is saying he has reached Mid-level. This must be due to differences in talent. It's normal for warriors to exhaust their potential at old age. But this case is only applicable to the average warrior.

Warriors with good talent are quite an exception to it.

SIGH

Elder Thornton sighed inwardly. Soon three of them reached the elevator.

On the other hand, the conversation between these two was heard by me. What can I say? I'm finally coming in contact with Elite world.

As expected the person with Mid- Elite strength. He has easily seen through my cultivation base. Looks like Granny's pendant won't be able to provide cover anymore.

I have to buy an upgraded version of the pendant.

As I walked inside the lift, I saw a bald Elder looking at me with a doubtful gaze.

"Brat, are you alright?"

"Why are you so tensed?"

Compton inquired the young man in a calm tone. He felt this young man was nervous because of a new place.

On the other hand, Elder Thornton quickly interjected by saying, "Ha..Ha..ha.., it's the first time for him to see an Elite Warrior."

Elder Thornton thought his friend has become talkative suddenly for no reason. Does he find something in Zack? As this thought rose in his heart. He glanced at Zack with worry.

Compton shook his head. He didn't ask anything further. Then he presses the button to the 10th floor.

Seeing that, the bald elder didn't inquire anymore, I felt relief in my heart. Damn, I can't stand two minutes with him. If our conversation goes like this, then I don't know what I'm going to do.

It is hard to come up with a lie every time. One lie leads to another.

When the lift reached the 10th floor. We walked out of the lift one by one. What greeted me was a high-tech shop. There is glass built entrance door with a small system attached to it.

I saw the bald elder walked forward to do something. He went closed so that his communication watch get connected to the small system.

The next second the glass door opened automatically.

Then we entered the room. My gaze was immediately drawn to the shelves. Where different types of gears were placed in it. All of them were full body gear.

Each one is different in size and model. Some of them were in armour type and others were in normal adventurer suit type. Seeing that, I stopped walking and continued to observe them.

At the same time, Elder Thornton noticed Zack's situation. He didn't disturb him rather he said to Compton, "Are you purchasing the gear for Zack?"

Hearing that, Compton turned around he looked at Zack first and then he faced his friend. "Did you brief him about trunulesia forest?" He asked in a solemn tone.

Elder Thornton nodded and replied, "I told him about some basic information."

Looking at the serious expression of Compton he asked, "is there any problem?"

Compton's expression eased a little bit, then he let out a sigh before saying, "Actually, there are some changes that happened in Trunulesia forest."

"The concentration of the weird energy is increased a lot compared to the past few decades," he added further.

Hearing that, Elder Thornton's expression changed drastically. He immediately looked at Zack. He found Zack was observing the gear suits without minding their conversation.

He sighed in relief before turning towards Compton, "If it's dangerous, then we will return to our city right away."

No way, if something happens to Zack, their institute will disappear overnight.

Chapter 394 Reminder To His Friend

Tier-7 Baguva City,

Compton observed Thornton's reaction. In his opinion, he is showing too much concern for Zack. Of course, a trunulesia forest is a dangerous place. But there are also many opportunities in it.

If that brat can survive successfully he will reap more rewards than he can imagine in his life. Compton knows the importance of the trunulesia forest. He is sure that Zack will gain something if he joins their exploration team.

He said, "Don't worry, I'll take care of everything."

"Why do think we came here?"

After saying that, he turned toward the shelves. He pointed his fingers at the armoured gears and said, "To withstand the weird energies we have to wear the full body gear."

"Especially, at current circumstances prevails inside the trunulesia forest. Our team decided to buy grade #2 full body gear," Compton added further.

"Grade #2," Elder Thornton muttered to himself. He is aware that how expensive is that single product.

The basic model or grade #1 product is sold at 1 million credit points. When it comes to Grade #2 products, the cost of the full body gear is sold at 3 million credit points.

A quick flashes into his eyes when he realised that, he was surprised by his friend's gesture. They are ready to spend such an amount on Zack. He is extremely pleased with it.

Since they are willing this far, he can't drag Zack away from this city. After gaining some clarity, he coughed twice.

"Cough" "Cough"

"Compton, I trust you. But I want to remind you something as your old friend," Elder Thornton said.

Hearing that, "hmmm" Compton raised his eyebrows. He turned towards Elder Thornton and asked, "What is it?"

He furrowed his eyebrows, what advice is he gonna give me?

Elder Thornton smiled, "Zack has a powerful background. So his life is more important than mine."

Elder Thornton's words made him surprised. Compton looked at Elder Thornton with a questioning gaze. He knows his friend won't joke about something like this.

Seeing that, he is being silent. Compton then glanced at Zack who is still looking at the different gears.

"If you don't tell me, I'll ask him," Compton said to Elder Thornton.

SIGH

After letting out a sigh, Elder Thornton answered, "Okay, I'll give you hint. But you have to promise that you won't inquire about his background anymore."

"And more importantly you will not ask Zack."

Compton gritted his teeth and nodded his head. His curiosity piqued further, who can make his friend so serious? He has never seen Thornton reacting like this before.

"His background is scarier than Tier-6 City," Elder Thornton dropped a bombshell as he uttered these words.

"What?"

"Are you nuts?"

Compton was taken aback. He couldn't believe what he has heard just now. He was expecting Zack's powerful background to be similar to an Elite-level powerhouse.

"Powerful than Tier-6 city."

"It's completely on a whole new level," He mumbled under his breath.

Then he immediately looked at Elder Thornton. Seeing him nodding, Compton sucked a cold breath. "No wonder Thornton was so scared," he thought to himself.

Compton felt good that his friend didn't reveal Zack's background to him. He is one of the most powerful existence in this baguva city. But baguva is the smallest city among other Tier-7 cities.

So forget about Tier-6 city, he can't sure about confronting elite warriors from other Tier-7 cities. Because of this Thornton's words made him shocked to the core.

When it comes to Tier-6 city, he has only heard about it. His strength is weak and he has no authority to get into a Tier-6 city. The Tier-6 city also has another name. It's also called a stronghold of academies.

Compton only heard some rumours regarding the existence above that. Which is far more powerful than Tier-6 cities. At this point, Ricardo Compton made a huge decision in his heart. He will warn his exploration team members to not offend Zack in any way.

By this time, small sweat formed on his forehead. Compton sighed inwardly realising that. The next second, he looked at Thornton with slight envy.

When did he come in contact with such people? But the next second Compton returned to their usual self. He has a vague feeling in his heart that their trip is going to be more dangerous.

But now after knowing about Zack. He has different thoughts. He felt its better for everyone if Zack does not join his team. Now his thoughts have taken a huge shift compared to five minutes ago.

Then it's too late to change anything. The brat is already here if he told him to leave now. Then it only creates a bad impression. Who knows his action might offend people behind that kid?

It is the last thing he wanna face something like that. He decided to keep an eye on Zack from here onwards. It will be tiring but he has no choice.

On the other hand, Elder Thornton was satisfied after seeing his friend's serious expression. Which shows his friend has given importance to Zack. So here after he doesn't have to worry about his safety.

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(From MC's perspective)

While observing the different products, I also kept my eye on Elder Thornton. He is speaking with Bald Elder Compton in low voice. Which is audible to me.

Seeing that, I didn't disturb him and continued to wait for their conversation to be over.

A few minutes later, both of them walked near to me.

Surprisingly, Bald elder Compton took initiative to speak.

"Zack, I'm going to buy a full body gear set for you," Compton said.

Hearing that, my heart was amazed. I was hoping this would be the case. Otherwise, why would we waste our time here?

In response, I nodded my head. Besides, Elder Thornton began explaining to me. I was shocked to the core when I heard about the cost of the basic model.

1 million credit points? I only got 1 million credit points by doing all those killings. But here the basic model is rated at 1 million points.

My head started to get dizzy for a moment. Ever since I entered the city, my mind is getting turbulent. The constant shock I'm getting is too much.

On the other hand, Compton proceeds to buy the grade #2 product. He put his hands on the display screen placed on the glass table.

In the next second, the display screen listed the various items. Seeing that, he began to select grade #2 full body armour. After selecting the product, he paid the amount.

A robotic arm rose from the ground and picks up the product and turned to place it on the glass table.

On the other hand, I felt something was ground. The full-body armoured gear was in grey and I know this is not the basic product at all.

The basic product is like an adventurer costume. It is green in colour. Feeling my puzzling gaze, bald elder Compton answered, "This gear suit is grade #2 model."

Hearing that my scalp went numb. I almost went dizzy. Fortunately, I'm able to calm down my mind. But still, my breathing was quicker than usual.

A moment ago I was shocked by the price of the basic model which was rated at 1 million credit points. The price was shocking enough that I didn't dare to check the price of further models.

But I'm sorry this 2nd grade cost him crazy money. Why is he buying that product for me? Numerous questions appeared in my heart.

"Elder?" I turned towards Elder Thornton. Hoping that he would clarify what is going on here exactly.

But before Elder Thornton could say anything, Compton said, "Here take this set and store it in your ring."

Hearing that, I proceed to take out the grey colour suit from the glass table. Surprisingly the weight of the armour surprised me. Then it took me a few seconds to place it in my storage ring.

"Zack, don't think too much about it. The trunulesia forest has some changes. So as a safety precaution our team is going to wear grade #2 product," Compton said.

His words brought me a sense of relief. No wonder he is willing to spend so much money. But suddenly I got a doubt. Will I have to hand over the product after the trip? But he didn't say anything about it.

Shaking my head, I decided not to think about this right now. Then I asked, "Where are we going next?"

Hearing that, Elder Thornton looked at Compton.

Compton smiled and said, "Well, I got some urgent work right now."

"Why don't you take Zack around the city?"

"I'll join you guys after finishing my work," Compton added further.

Hearing that, the elder's eyes gleamed with surprise. He thought to himself, "Does he got urgent work?"

Elder Thornton then felt this plan is suitable. Earlier, he had the same conversation with Zack. So he is okay with it.

On the other hand, Compton has different thoughts in his mind. He decided to warn other members before they officially meet Zack. So that their first meeting will be good without any drama.

Chapter 395 Red Heart Peach

Tier-7 Baguva City,

When Zack and Thornton disappeared from his sight, Ricardo Compton immediately left the place. He had already parked his car earlier.

It is another model of air car. Mostly used by civilians.

After getting inside the car, he decided to go home first. The next second, the air car rose from the parking lot and flew towards the destination.

While driving, he began to contemplate. He knows some of his team members are busy. Before Thornton came with Zack. He already spoke with his team members about Zack's arrival.

But the conversation didn't go as he had expected. It took him some time to convince them. From that conversation alone, he understands certain things.

There is the possibility that his team members will make things difficult for Zack. Some might behave rudely to him, while others might test his combat strength.

Anyway, after getting a warning from Thornton. He knows what to do next. He has two things on his mind. First, it was obvious that his team members might cause trouble. So he will take care of it.

The second thing in his mind was something different. It's about Zack's current strength. Though Zack's Mid-level Special Trainee level is impressive. He can protect his own life from danger in Trunulesia Forest.

But he still feels it's not enough. Considering the recent increase in the concentration of weird energy in that forest. He feels there might be unexpected changes in the coming days.

So he is not 100% sure that Zack can protect himself with his Special Trainee cultivation base. Since he has promised Thornton that he will take care of Zack.

He needs to act on it. That's why he thought about providing something to Zack. Which can quickly raise his cultivation base to the Trainee Warrior level.

When that happens, it will be easier for Zack to mingle with his group. On top of it, he doesn't have to worry about Zack's safety at all.

So all of this comes to personal strength. In the next second, a quick glint flashes in his eyes as he remembers something.

Earlier, when he asked about Zack's element. Thornton dodged his question and began to talk about some other topic. So he didn't know about Zack's element.

If he knows the element it will be easier for him to select the suitable treasure for Zack. He felt it would be better for Zack to rise his cultivation base before he meets with his team members.

Various thoughts appeared in Compton's mind.

It's been a long since he had worried about something other than his work. It's because of Zack's background. At his level, it's impossible to come in contact with such people.

Thanks to Thornton this is the first time he had a chance to meet someone related to such powerful existences. This gives him the best opportunity to create a good impression.

Who knows? In future, he might get the returns from Zack. Compton made up his mind to select good treasure as an investment. He also knows some other things from Thornton.

Like Crimson Hall's competition. Thornton's Hansen Institute is facing trouble because of Crimson Hall.

And when it comes to forces like Crimson Hall, he knows this is the hot topic trending these days. Those academic people from Tier-6 cities will only select candidates with good talent and base.

So Zack's current strength is pale in comparison when it comes to their Tier-7 city warrior. He feels Zack will remember his help for sure. If he becomes a Trainee Warrior, he can get to choose a good academy.

After ten minutes, he slowly landed the air car in the parking lot in front of his private villa.

When the air car came to a complete halt, he stepped out of the car. No one lives in this private villa other than him. He doesn't even have assistants and bodyguards.

The security around this community is so strong that he doesn't need warriors in his house.

The Villa was built in Mediterranean style. The architecture looked elegant and beautiful. After opening the front door, he stepped inside.

The first Compton did was go to the underground basement. Where his secret vault is located. The entrance to the basement is located in his bedroom.

After arriving at the bedroom, he walked up to the lamp. This lamp looked like antique peace but it has another function. When he arrived in front of the lamp, he used his sci-fi watch to activate it.

Beep!

When the sound came, the lamp lit up with bright light. The next second, Compton proceed to type some access code in his watch.

"Creak"

A secret door to the basement was revealed on the ground. The next second the door opened automatically. Seeing that, Compton took steps to walk downstairs to the secret vault.

When he walked downstairs the light lit up automatically making the entire basement room bright.

In the centre of the room, there is a big metallic storage vault can be seen. The height of the storage vault is twice the size of Compton.

Like another storage vault, this storage vault also has a safety mechanism. Compton immediately began to enter the code after arriving in front of it. It's been a long since he had time to check his collections.

Apart from consumable treasures, he also had antique collections. The next second, the vault opens.

He began to observe each item one by one. His eyes began to move from one item to another. Since he doesn't know Zack's element. He decided to give him the treasure with no attribute.

Usually, the treasure with no attributes has abundant world energy. Any elemental warrior can consume the world's energy treasures and use them to improve his strength.

Even the bloodline warriors can gain strength from world energy treasures. So he is quite sure that world energy treasure will be helpful for Zack.

Inside the vault, items are shining in a different light. Some shone with fiery red colour which is for fire elemental warriors. And some have blue colour light in them.

Finally, his gaze land on the world's energy treasure.

"Red Heart Peach," he muttered as his gazes fell on the crimson colour treasure inside the transparent glass.

The elemental treasures are usually graded in levels corresponding to the warrior cultivation base. Like most of the treasures in this vault are useful for Elite and Super Elite Warriors.

But this Red Heart Peach is a little different. It's an Elite level treasure. If any elite warrior uses it, the treasure will only assist them in breakthrough. In most cases, Elite Warrior can rise one small level in their base successfully.

He also had thought about using it. But he prefers elemental treasures usually. He just bought this world energy treasure for emergency use.

"I guess this Red heart peach is enough for Zack to reach Trainee Warrior level," Compton thought to himself.

Elite-level resources are not easy to come around. Especially, the world energy varieties. He hopes that Zack will remember his favour.

Then he carefully picks up the treasure from the glass container. After storing the red heart peach inside the storage ring, he closed the vault.

Beep!

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

After closing the vault, he began to read the message. The message was from his team members in the chat groups. They are discussing the meeting.

Seeing that, his lips swept into arcs. Because the topic of their discussion is about the new team member.

[Hey, where is our leader?]

[The old man went to receive the guests.]

[Ha...Ha....Ha...]

[Tck, the old leader appointed outsider instead of my cousin's son]

The chat was filled with ridicule and displeasure about the new member who is going to join.

Seeing that, Compton furrowed his eyebrows. He didn't give a reply to any of that messages. Because he had expected something like this from them. Then after closing the watch, he decided to leave.

...

(From MC's perspective)

I never thought Elder Thornton will lead me toward the biggest shopping complex in this city. And I have never seen such a magnificent building before.

Even around the Star Tower Zone, there is no such building exists. After appreciating the view of the building, I entered the building alongside Elder Thornton.

Time passed,

By the time we walked out of the building, Elder Thornton received a call from Elder Thornton. I guess it must be from elder Compton. After five-ten minutes, I saw a familiar air car in the sky.

I remember this air car from that centre. When I was pondering, the air car landed in front of us. Elder Compton stepped out of the air car the next second.

Seeing that, I was startled for a moment. No wonder the air car looked familiar. It was his air car. Then Elder Thornton and I entered the air car. I guess Elder Compton finally took me to visit his team.

I don't know why? have a vague feeling in my heart that the meeting is not going to be fruitful. But I calmed down my heart the next second.

Chapter 396 Consuming The Treasure

(From MC's perspective)

Tier-7 Baguva City,

Elder Compton drove the car at a good speed. After some time, I saw him slowing down his speed. But surprisingly this location was not something I have expected.

Because we arrived at the residential area. Looking at the many different stylish homes down below. I feel Elder Compton might take us to his home.

Before I could ask anything, I saw Elder Thornton inquiring.

"Are we going to your home?" Elder Thornton asked.

Hearing that, Compton smiled and replied, "Yes, my team members are not in one place. So it will take some time for them to come to my home."

A quick glint flashed into Elder Thornton's eyes as he realised his friend had changed his plans. Earlier, they planned to visit Research Centre. Now, Ricardo changed his plan. It's unlikely of him to do so.

When Elder Thornton was lost in his thoughts, the air car entered the community. Compton slowed down his speed. A couple of seconds later, he slowly landed his air car in his parking lot.

On the other hand, I was amazed by the infrastructure of the house. It looked amazing and cool. When the air car touched the ground, Elder Thornton stepped out.

Seeing that, I walked out of the car and glanced at the surroundings.

"Looks like you have made some changes to your house," Elder Thornton said to Compton.

He remembered before the villa was not as good-looking as it looks now. He felt that his friend had spent quite a money on it.

At the same time, Compton is thinking about something else. He then led everyone to enter his home.

After arriving at the living area, Compton decided to open the topic. He looked at Zack and Thornton for a moment before turning towards Zack.

He said, "Zack, I feel your current strength is low for our exploration."

Hearing that, my mind went blank for a moment. I don't know what to say. Instead of answering, I looked at Elder Thornton.

Elder Thornton was dumbfounded. He too wasn't expecting these words.

But before Elder Thornton could ask anything.

I heard shocking words from Elder Compton.

"I thought you should improve your base before we go to the trunulesia forest," he added further.

"Improving my cultivation base," I said.

Compton nodded and said with a smile, "Yes, for this I have picked up treasure from my vault."

"What?" Elder Thornton was taken aback.

"Compton, when did you become so good?" Elder Thornton asked. At this moment, he was shocked to the core.

Ever since he had arrived in this city, his friend's behaviour surprised me greatly. First, his friend generously bought the grade 2 armour suit. Now he went further and even took the treasure from the vault for Zack.

Elder Thornton doesn't know what treasures it. But he believes it won't be anything ordinary. Only extraordinary and rare items normally drew his attention.

When he realised this he couldn't calm down his heart and looked at his friend.

On the other hand, Treasure? I can't believe what I have heard just now. Elder Compton is going to give me treasure. Suddenly, I felt a huge weight lifted off my shoulder.

If I can get my next breakthrough, it will reduce the pressure by a lot. The next second, my eyes gleamed with expectation.

Compton glared at Thornton before turning towards Zack, he asked, "Are you ready?"

Hearing that, I nodded my head.

Seeing that, Compton decided to start the process. But before doing that he glanced at the surroundings. The living room is not suitable for a breakthrough.

He decided to let Zack use his training chamber. After gaining some clarity, he led Zack and Thornton to his training chamber.

Unlike the underground room, the personal training chamber is located in the backyard. There is a special room built for it.

After arriving at the spot, Elder Thornton suddenly recalls something. "Damn, he doesn't know Zack's element. So what treasure did he select?" Elder Thornton thought to himself.

But soon he found the answer himself. "World energy treasure," he uttered while looking at his friend Compton.

Because he knows world energy treasure is the one without any attributes. So his friend might have selected this. Elder Thornton sucked cold breath after realising this.

On the other hand, Compton felt the gaze of Thornton. Looking at Thornton's knowing smile, Compton shook his head and said to Zack, "You can use my training room for a breakthrough."

After saying that he pointed his finger at the personal training chamber.

Seeing that, I replied, "Okay"

But my mind is occupied with treasure. I don't know what's the use of it. Will it be suitable for my body breakthrough or essence breakthrough?

I hope like he said earlier the treasure will improve my cultivation base.

Then my attention shifted back to him. Elder Compton takes something out from his storage ring. Seeing that, I stopped thinking and looked at the item in his hands.

It shone brightly in fiery red light. Seeing that, the first thought that rose in my heart was, "Fire element treasure" But when I saw Elder Thornton's face. I was stumped.

Because he had a disbelief expression on his face. Before I could ask anything, Elder Thornton exclaimed again in surprise, "As expected of world energy treasure."

Hearing that, my heart skips a beat. "World energy treasure," I uttered. It brings me back some old memories.

In the next second my breathing becomes a lot quicker. Elder Compton is great. He even brought this thing out. I know how rare it is. I remembered asking the same thing from Elder Thornton.

But Mr Jonathan and the Teacher wanted me to use lightning element treasure. So I haven't had the opportunity to use the world energy treasure recently.

On the other hand, looking at the reaction of these two. Compton revealed a bright smile on his face. He was satisfied by their expression.

Then he handed the treasure to Zack and told him to enter the personal training chamber.

I held the treasure in my palm and glanced at two of them before entering the room. Elder Compton had already entered the access code to open the training chamber.

After stepping inside the training chamber, I took a good look at the room. I can only say wow. Even the lighting system inside my room is amazing. It's nothing like the back one in the Hansen Chamber.

Then I noticed the door behind me closed automatically. Seeing that, I didn't immediately start to consume the treasure rather I walked up to the monitoring system.

I want to check the functions of this high-tech training chamber. What's more amazing is? This one is a personal training chamber that anyone could buy.

After tapping the screen, I saw numerous icons appearing on the screen. There is an icon called energy output. Seeing that, I immediately tapped on it.

I realised this icon was about the energy settings. I can control the inflow of world energy pouring into this room. But unfortunately, the setting was now on default mode. I can't change it.

SIGH

I sighed inwardly. Then I checked a few more icons before starting the training chamber. The next second, I began to feel the world's energy filling the room slowly.

Seeing that, I decided to start the process. I walked up to the centre of the platform and sat cross-legged.

Then I slowly take out the world energy treasure from the glass container. This treasure appeared to be in heart shape. After taking a glance at its fiery red colour, I swallowed the treasure.

The next second, I felt a hot stream running down my throat. I couldn't help but feel agonizing pain all over my body. Then I felt a burst of energy coursing through my body.

The energy was so overwhelming that my mind went blank. The hot sensation brought by the world energy continued to increase. I felt I was drowning under the hot lava.

But I somehow controlled my thought and started to run the celestial scripture. I guided the warm stream of energy according to the cultivation route.

The lightning rune in my mind began to flicker.

Finally, the warm current started to settle down in my dantian. But this is the beginning, the agonising pain didn't slow at all. It only started to increase further.

My flesh began to tear up. I realised the speed of cultivation is not enough. The excess energy is finding its way to gather up in my body. At this critical moment, a good idea struck my mind.

I don't know whether it will work or not. The only thing that can help me to deal with the excess energy is the blood cultivation method.

The next second, I started to run the blood cultivation method. Surprisingly, I felt a sudden craving for the world energy all of a sudden. This must be the power of blood.

Like lightning scripture, the bloody ring-shaped rune in my mind started to flicker.

Chapter 397 Double Breakthrough - Peak- Level Special Trainee(Body & Essence)

Tier-7 Baguva City,

Compton Villa,

"What is the name of the treasure?" Elder Thornton asked. He noticed the treasure appeared to be in heart shape. He hadn't seen something like this before.

Ricardo Compton has no problem in revealing the name. Besides, he also wants to show his investment in Zack Lockwood. He hoped his friend also will remember his gesture.

"Red Heart Peach, I collected this fruit from the special monster zone," Compton finished after saying this he didn't want to elaborate more on this matter.

His gaze then fell on the training chamber. Expectations rose in his heart. He has no idea about Zack's cultivation talent. But he has some idea about Red Heart Peach.

The Red Heart Peach is a rare treasure, It can be even consumed by an averagely talented person. So he is not worried about any failure at this moment.

On the other hand, Elder Thornton remained silent after hearing the answer. There is a tacit understanding between them. None of them wants to talk about the existence behind Zack Lockwood.

In particular, Elder Thornton is very conscious about it. He understands his friend's move, and he is not against it. Because at the end of the day, all he cares about is Zack's safety.

...

(From MC's Perspective)

As both cultivation methods began to work simultaneously, I felt somewhat relief from the heart-wrenching pain. And what is more surprising is that, I have a feeling that my body strength has reached its limit.

After a few minutes, I guess I will have a successful breakthrough in body strength.

Time went by,

BOOM

I felt a muffled sound in my body after the limit was broken successfully. In the next second, a new profound energy began to course through my body and hereby refreshing the entire cells.

Peak-level Special Trainee (body)

As expected this time the energy is more profound compared to the previous level. Elder Compton said that I will reach Trainee Warrior.

I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

Reaching the Trainee Warrior level seems impossible right now. If it was an ordinary warrior, this might be possible. But I'm different, I'm cultivating both my body and essence.

As the cells beaming with new energy, I thought about focusing on lightning essence after stabilizing the body strength.

When the body strength was stabilized, I immediately stopped using the blood cultivation method and focussed on essence cultivation.

Right now, inside my dantian. The ancient totem is completely suppressing the refined energy. I was amazed by another remarkable sight. Exactly because of the ancient totem's help, the pressure on me was reduced by half.

Otherwise, things could have gone wrong. Then I focussed on reaching the essence limit. As long as I reach the limit, then it will be easier for me to break the essence limit.

Time went by,

The world energy showed no sign of stopping. I'm pouring all the energy towards my dantian.

Ten minutes later,

I have finally touched the limit with the help of abundant world energy and ancient totem.

The ancient totem inside my dantian assimilated the refined world energy essence into purple lightning essence.

Because of it, both the quality and quantity of lightning essence drastically increase and hereby help me reach the limit.

Then I proceed to break the limit. After several attempts, I felt that limit was loosening.

BOOM

After the next attempt, I heard a muffled sound from dantian as another limit was broken through successfully.

Peak-level Special Trainee (essence)

As a result of it, the size of the dantian began to widen. The size of the dantian is quite big compared to the previous one. The next second, I used remaining world energy coursing in my body to stabilize the realm.

Time went by,

I opened my eyes half an hour later. This time the world energies were dried up completely. I don't know if I use the same treasure again. Will I have the same result?

Then shaking my head, I began to check my body. I sighed in relief after seeing only superficial injury on my muscles.

When I extend my arc, I can see small purple arc dancing in my palm. Some time ago, I heard after reaching the elite level you can freely use your element.

Especially, after reaching the elite level you can control your element outwardly without using any cultivation technique. I don't know how much this is true. I haven't seen any elite warriors fight before.

A quick glint flashes into my eyes as I remember Elder Compton. He was generous enough to give me such treasure. I remember, Mr Thornton is inquiring about him last. Maybe next time when I meet Mr Jonathan. I will tell good words about Elder Compton.

Though I'm unable to reach the Trainee Warrior level, it gives me immense joy just after reaching Peak level Special Trainee in both body and essence.

When I clenched my fist, a small shock force released from it. The blood method is something. I'm looking forward to its power in further higher stages.

Then I thought about my combat prowess. I held up my chin in contemplation. Last time, I withstood the attack from Early and Mid-level Trainee Warriors.

Even escaped successfully from possible Peak Trainee Warrior. But this time, I have vague feeling in my heart that I don't have to run anymore. I can protect myself from any Peak Trainee Warriors or Class 3 Peak Monster.

My lips swept into a gentle arc as I gained some clarity. Then again a thought rose in my heart as I looked at the dancing purple arc. This is the first time I'm going to meet strangers.

I don't want to expose the lightning element yet. There is still time for the crimson hall tournament. Mr Jonathan said that I can use the lightning element during the competition but not before that.

Already, crimson hall and other hostile forces looking for me. If they know I'm a lightning element warrior, then the chances of getting attacked will further increase.

So I don't have any choice to be tight-lipped about it. And if there is an emergency, I will use my body strength to face it.

The next second, I noticed the pendant on my neck. Seeing that, I signed inwardly. This won't be useful anymore. I thought this pendant will block the probing from Elite Warriors.

But I realised, even among the elite warrior there is a difference in power. And not everyone is the same. When I recalled Elder Compton's probing. I guess, he didn't probe me deeply.

Otherwise, my lightning essence would have drawn his attention. Fortunately, he only checked my base slightly. Small sweat beads began to appear on my forehead.

No way! This time I was lucky. This can't be same for future. Especially, I'm going to meet the members of the exploration team. If someone there decided to probe me deeply, then my secret will be exposed.

I don't want to be chased by multiple warriors. I can't imagine myself in such a deadly situation. At this moment, I made a firm decision in my heart.

After getting out of this chamber, I will request Elder Thornton to buy me an upgraded version of the pendant. The stronger, the better.

After gaining some clarity, I rose from the platform and closed the timer.

"Creak" After opening the door, I stepped outside.

On the other hand, Elder Compton noticed the difference instantly.

"He is releasing special trainee level pressure," Compton mumbled under his breath.

"What happened?" Compton asked. Then he stepped forward to check Zack.

At the same time, Elder Thornton was dumbfounded. His friend was saying Zack will at least reach Trainee Warrior level for sure. Then what happened now?

He was quite shocked by Compton's exclamation. Then he also acted immediately.

When I decided to meet the two leaders, I heard a loud exclamation from ahead. My cultivation base must have been exposed. What to do now?

I won't let them probe me. When Elder Compton arrived in front of me, I hurriedly step backwards by saying, "Elder, Don't probe me without my consent."

Ricardo Compton was startled as he heard his words. Then he paused his movements and looked at Zack with a puzzling gaze. "This brat, what is he doing?" He muttered to himself.

Elder Thornton asked, "Zack, Are you all right?"

He reached right after Compton. He also heard Zack's words earlier, that's why he immediately asked before Compton could get displeased.

I sighed inwardly after hearing Elder Thornton's words. After calming down my racing heart, I looked at both of them before saying, "The treasure was good. I'm able to reach Peak-level Special Trainee successfully."

Compton was now sure that Zack was failed to reach the Trainee Warrior level. He has a complicated expression on his face. Even the average warrior can reach breakthrough multiple levels with this red heart peach fruit.

But this brat has reached only peak level from mid-level. Is there something wrong with the red heart peach? Multiple questions popped up in his mind.

Since Zack has told them not to probe, Compton respected his words. He wanted to hear from him, what had happened actually?

Chapter 398 Erik Lloyd

(From MC's perspective)

Tier-7 Baguva City,

Seeing the concerned face of both elders. I began to explain. "Elder, I broke through successfully. But I don't want anyone to know my cultivation level."

Hearing that, a quick glint flash into Elder Thornton's eyes. He recalled past events. Zack doesn't want anyone to know about his cultivation base before.

But here in this city, he was exposed by his friend Compton. Now he understands what Zack is worried about. Compton has easily seen through his cultivation base.

If it were the enemy, then Zack's life will be endangered. After gaining some clarity on this matter, he turned toward his friend.

"Compton," he said.

On the other hand, Ricardo Compton misunderstood everything. He assumed Zack failed to reach Trainee Warrior, that's why he doesn't want anyone to know his current level.

He didn't mind Zack's overreaction. Rather his mind is filled with images of teammates. All are at Peak-level Trainer Warrior. And Zack is one level behind them.

He never really revealed much about Zack. But if they came to know Zack's strength. There will be a strong protest. Especially, Erik won't remain silent. Earlier, Erik requested to allow his relative to take part in their exploration work.

But he denied his request because of Thornton. If that guy knows he will convince others not to allow Zack in their team. He has a strong headache thinking about it. The only solution to this situation is to lie to them.

Retracting his thought he glanced at Zack and Thornton, seconds ago he heard their conversation. A quick gleam flashed in his eyes as he recalled Zack's request.

He remembers he has a protective necklace inside the vault. But it can only prevent probing from others up to a certain level. If his memory serves him right, then the necklace blocks the probing from Peak-level Super Elite Warrior.

He had stored it inside his vault. Because it was useless to him after he became an elite warrior. Super Elite Warrior can be counted in fingers. There are not many in Tier-7 cities.

But it can be helpful for Zack Lockwood. It can save his life from enemies. On top of it, it will also help to keep the lie from exposing in front of his members.

After realizing this usefulness, his tensed eyebrows eased. Then looking at Zack, Compton said, "Brat, I don't know what happened?"

"Normally, any average warrior can increase his base by several levels with red heart peach."

"But, you are different," Compton added further.

SIGH

After letting out a small sigh, he replied, "I have something similar to your pendant. But it's more advanced."

"Ha...Ha...Ha...", Elder Thornton burst into joyful laughter.

"Phew," I breathed in relief. Elder Compton's words made my worries disappear completely. I'm surprised by Elder Compton's change of heart.

From his earlier expression, I thought he would try to know, what had happened. But fortunately, everything went well for me.

Then three of us walked back to the villa. We sat on the couch after arriving in the living room.

"Okay, I'll go and get the necklace for you," After saying that he walked away from the place.

Seeing that, I nodded at him.

When Elder Compton disappeared from our sight. I heard Elder Thornton's words.

"Did you refine all the energy from Red Heart Peach?" Elder Thornton asked. He still remembers his confident face of Compton.

Compton was so sure that Zack will reach Trainee Warrior. So what went wrong?

I had black lines on my forehead. Even Elder Compton didn't ask me anything. Then why is he so interested in it?

"Cough"

"Elder doesn't ask me about it," I said with a cough.

Elder Thornton shook his head in denial. Then he didn't ask anything. Both then waited for Compton to arrive.

10 minutes later,

I saw Elder Compton walk into the living area with a small metal box in his hands. After sitting in the seat, he then placed the metal box on the table.

He then slowly removed the cover and took out the necklace from it. This is not a typical necklace. Because it's a ring-type necklace. If the warrior wants, he can remove the ring and wear it on his finger.

Compton feels it's would be best for Zack to wear it as a ring, to avoid the events of snatching in future. Then he handed the silver ring to Zack.

Seeing Elder Compton's actions, I didn't disturb him. After taking the ring, I wore it on my fingers.

"Don't worry, this ring may look ordinary but it is working," Elder Compton said.

Hearing that, I nodded. Only after wearing the ring, I can feel somewhat relaxed. I observed Elder Thornton, he remained silent.

Just as I thought the situation is getting boring.

Beep!

Elder Compton received the notification. "He is here, " after seeing that he quickly rose from the seat and walked up to the door.

His words caught me off guard.

"Get ready and you are going to meet the exploration team, "Elder Thornton said with a smile.

Hearing that, my eyes gleamed with expectation. I hope the new team members won't be rude. From Elder Compton's words, I know the exploration team members are seniors and are quite older than me.

The next second, I heard footsteps coming in our direction. I saw Elder Compton walking toward us. But my gaze set on the middle-aged man beside him. The middle-aged man has a heavily built physique.

My expression tightened instantly as I felt the oppressive pressure from the middle-aged man. Even Elder Thornton didn't have such an oppressive aura.

The middle-aged man appears to be 50 years old. He has short brown hair and brown eyes.

He is slightly taller than Elder Compton. He has a medium tan skin tone. Looking at his bulging muscles, I have a vague feeling about his element.

On the other hand, Erik Lloyd is speaking with Leader Compton. Suddenly, he noticed the appearance of two new people in the living area.

Erik quickly thought of something and realised these people might be related to their leader. Then his gaze immediately fell on the young-looking kid.

A cold glint flashed into his eyes as he realised this kid might be the new addition to their team. "Is he the one?" He asked.

Compton wrinkled his eyebrows. He had not expected him to arrive so soon. Fortunately, the ring was worn by Zack. There is nothing to worry about anymore.

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

"Erik, let me introduce my friend to you." He said with a laugh. Then he began to introduce Elder Thornton.

After doing that, he looked at Zack and answered, "Yeah, he is the one."

"Zack Lockwood"

Erik Lloyd remained silent for a moment. He began to observe the young man named Zack in front of him. He began to probe without asking anything.

It was totally rude. Elder Compton and Elder Thornton quickly realised what Erik was up to. But both didn't raise any voice against it.

Elder Thornton laughed inside, "I have to say, Zack acted swiftly this time."

On the other hand, Elder Compton felt glad that he had this treasure. Otherwise, he won't know how to convince this guy.

Erik Lloyd wrinkled his eyebrows in confusion. Because when he tried to probe, he felt a huge wall blocking his sense.

"Damn it,"

"Hey, brat, what is your cultivation base?" Erik Lloyd asked in a threatening tone.

Hearing that, my face instantly turned dark. I thought Elder Compton's team members are humble and nice.

But this guy is pissing me off. Before I could answer him, I heard Elder Compton's voice.

"Early Trainee Warrior"

"Zack is Early Trainee Warrior, so can you stop acting rude right now," After saying that Compton placed his hands on Erik's shoulder.

Erik's expression has changed drastically. Because he felt Elite level pressure from Leader Compton.

Compton is using his hand to suppress Erik completely. These two were related to Leader Compton.

If he doesn't stop his actions right now, then he will be humiliated by leader Compton. He looked at the brat in front of him with a cold gaze.

He agrees that this is not the right moment to act. He will get plenty of chances in Trunulesia Forest.

The next second, he changed his attitude.

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

"Leader, I'm just joking right now"

"I wanted to see whether Zack is courageous or not," Erik Lloyd said with a laugh.

After saying that he revealed a wide smile on his face. His demeanour changed compared to a few seconds ago.

Seeing that, Compton retracted his hands from Erik's shoulder.

He knows Erik's attitude. Erik is not okay with his response. He will surely cause some problems in the Trunulesia forest. Compton decided to remind Zack about it later.

"You are an Early Trainee Warrior at a young age"

"Which Tier-7 city are you from?"

Erik Lloyd asked back-to-back questions. Which immediately raised the dissatisfaction of everyone. Elder Thornton wants to smack this fellow.

He doesn't know whether Erik is deliberately making things difficult for Zack.

Chapter 399 Surprise Call

Red Stone City,

The City Lord has received confirmation from his manager Walter that the head of the Frazier clan agreed to his request. Hearing that, a wide smile blossomed on his face. Though their earlier meeting went well.

He worried that the head of the Frazier clan will change his mind. That's why he asked his manager to make sure again. Now that he was sure, his worries disappeared instantly.

Some time ago, he received a reply from the headmaster wells that their students already departed from the city.

They will arrive in Red Stone City rather soon. He doesn't know whether to laugh or cry. He wanted to make sure because of this message also.

Now he doesn't think that Frazier Clan's head will cause problems. When those five students from crimson hall arrive here, he will ask Frazier Clan's head to come.

He thought about introducing them to each other in this City Lord's Mansion Hall. When it comes to the headmaster wells, he never expected him to send his students right away.

He sighed inwardly. Now that he is going to support crimson hall. He needs to make sure about the protection of those students. No one should have any complaints under his watch.

Then he suddenly thought about Hansen Institute. Next second, he ordered the manager Walter to come to the hall. He feels something strange because he has received no news about the Hansen Institute today.

After a few minutes, manager Walter entered the hall.

Seeing that, he immediately inquired about the Hansen Institute.

"Is there any news about them?" The City Lord Alex Fuller asked.

Manager Walter immediately understand. These days the Hansen Institute is being watched by the City Lord Mansion. So he wasn't surprised by the question.

"Lord, I asked our men. But there are no suspicious activities were found," The manager Walter replied.

Manager Walter knows that Lord doesn't want anyone to know about their intention against Hansen Institute. Even this matter is carefully handled inside City Lord Mansion and not many people here know about this.

Alex Fuller frowns because he knows if they are getting no information then there is something wrong with it.

He asked, "What about their chairman Thornton?" When he said those words, his expression turned dark. So far he hasn't received a single reply from that person.

As a City Lord on duty, he feels humiliation and disrespect from Thornton's action. There is not even a response for courtesy's sake.

Shaking his head, he looked at Walter for an answer.

Manager Walter was silent for a moment. He hesitated whether to tell the news to the lord. Because the news wasn't credible enough.

Then he felt that the lord was staring at him.

He sighed inwardly and decided to tell the information he had gotten from the source.

"Lord, Strangely the whereabouts of the chairman is unknown," Walter said.

After saying that he further added, "No one has seen him leaving the Hansen Institute."

"Hmm," Alex Fuller raised his eyebrows in confusion.

"What do you mean by that?" He asked.

Alex Fuller felt that the information is not true. They might have missed him. He feels a little irritated by now.

As a City lord of this city, he was supposed to be aware of everything happening inside the city. But he wasn't able to get a single piece of information about this small institute.

Manager Walter didn't get falter as he was expecting this reaction from the lord. Because the information is not credible from the very beginning.

"Lord, I'm not sure but this is what our spies told," Walter replied.

The next second, "Harumph," Alex Fuller snorted coldly. He wanted to know what is going on there before the crimson hall students arrives here.

"Okay, just leave this matter," Alex Fuller said.

He is carefully thinking of a way to get information. The Hansen Institute is a little trickier. He heard about past events that have occurred there.

Right now, the Hansen Institute is under the control of one person. He happened to be the chairman of Thornton.

"Walter, can we contact anyone from their management?" Alex Fuller asked.

He feels that if they are working on the event, then there is a possibility for discussion. He believes that if he can contact an elder from Hansen Institute, he will learn about inside events.

A quick glint flashes into his eyes.

Manager Walter felt this was doable. He doesn't know about the chairman. But he feels others will respect the lord's words.

He replied, "Lord, what instructions do you have?"

Hearing that, Alex Fuller revealed a smile on his face. His eyebrows ease down as he thought about some solution.

He looked at Walter and instructed him to contact an elder from Hansen Institute and asked another party to come here and meet him in person.

Alex Fuller didn't explain anything further.

Manager Walter walked out of the hall after getting his orders. Seeing his disappearing back, Alex muttered to himself, "I don't think others will be as arrogant as Thornton."

If he can find an inside man, then it will be helpful for his plan. He can collect information whenever he wants and also it will be helpful for crimson hall students.

They can learn the rules about the competition before others. Finally, all his worries are swept away as this plan seems more viable than contacting Thornton.

Then he walked back to his room.

Outside,

After arriving at his office, manager Walter began to look for information. Manager Walter then started to go through the information they have.

He quickly came to know about a person named Arthur. Walter realised that Arthur is most likely an important figure in management.

Because as per their information, apart from teaching others does more management work. So he believes that Arthur might know a lot about their competition.

After making sure about the information, he contacts him right away.

Hansen Institute,

Arthur was doing his work as usual. Ever since Elder Thornton left with Zack. He handed his share of work to Arthur.

Inside his cabin, Arthur is taking note of his upcoming schedule. The schedule was hectic and there is no free day available in the current week.

Seeing that, he cursed at himself, "I should have stayed away from this management work."

The image of Elder Thornton comes to his mind.

SIGH

He sighed inwardly. "I don't know what they are up to now?"

Beep!

When he was lamenting over, he received a sudden call from an unknown number.

Seeing that, he raised his eyebrows in confusion but he attended the call.

"Hello, this is Arthur from Hansen Institute," Arthur said.

"Mr Arthur, I'm Manager Walter calling from the City Lord Mansion," a voice sounded from another end of the call.

Hearing that, Arthur was startled. Walter? He had heard about this person before. Manager Walter is an experienced one. He doesn't know how long he has been serving there.

After taking some moments of silence, "Mr Walter, how may I help you?"

"Are you free right now?" Mr Walter asked.

"Free?"

Arthur was confused. But again he recalled his conversation with Elder Thornton. Elder Thornton revealed that he didn't pick up the call of the City Lord.

He had black lines on his forehead realising that. Is this backlash? He began to worry.

"Arthur?" Mr Walter said.

"Mr Walter, what is this all about?"

"If you need something right now, you can tell me," Arthur replied.

"City Lord wants to meet you right now," Walter said.

Hearing that, Arthur felt lightning struck on his mind. He thought this is some kind of back clash. He already thought about mentioning Elder Thornton's name.

But the city lord wants to meet me instead. Arthur doesn't know how to react properly. He felt the City Lord want to see himself because of Elder Thornton.

If he doesn't agree, it will offend the city lord.

"Mr Walter, I'm leaving right now," Arthur said.

Hearing that, Manager Walter replied, "Good" both ended their conversation after that.

Arthur wants to save Elder Thornton. If the city lord wanted to inquire about Elder Thornton, he decided to tell him a lie.

But before doing that, he wanted to DM elder Thornton about it. Then he texted Elder Thornton regarding their conversation.

Instead of calling, he usually texts him. It had become a habit of his. But right now he feels something different. He decided to call him.

The next second, the ring went for a couple of seconds. But there is no response from Elder Thornton.

Seeing that, he sighed inwardly. He wasn't surprised by this. He just tried to make sure he was available. Then he began to postpone his current schedule.

After arranging the work schedule, he got up from the seat and walked out of the cabin.

Ten minutes later,

He reached the city lord's mansion. After informing the city guard about his meeting, the city guard confirms the same with Manager Walter.

They let him in after verifying the information.

Mr Arthur then walked into the huge mansion. He was quite eager to meet the manager Walter. He hopes that the meeting goes well.

Chapter 400 Alex Fuller's Dilemma

(From MC's perspective)

Tier-7 Baguva City,

Ricardo Compton doesn't want Erik to cause any problems. So he interrupted him by saying, "Erik, can you give him some break now?"

After saying that he added further, "Let's focus on Trunulesia Forest."

Erik twitched, after hearing the lecture again. Then he took a glance at me before nodding at me.

I'm getting tensed right now. From this guy's attitude and behaviour, he doesn't look good at all. I feel something bad is going to happen sooner or later.

On the other hand, I saw Elder Compton diverted the topic by asking Trunulesia Forest.

Beep!

Erik Lloyd suddenly got a message from someone. After staying that, he immediately left the place. Only after seeing his disappearing back, I sighed in relief.

"Zack, I have to remind you about something," Elder Compton said.

Hearing that, I looked at Elder Thornton before turning towards him.

"He had requested me to allow his relative to join the exploration team earlier. So he is pissed by your addition to the team," Compton said.

Hearing that, I soon connected the dots. No wonder, he is aggressive towards me. Realising that, I sighed inwardly. I thought my trip will be nice.

But looks like I need to stay away from certain people. Then I suddenly thought of something.

"Elder, what is his strength?" I asked.

"Peak Trainee - Earth element warrior," Compton said.

I wasn't surprised by the base. I guessed he might be a strong trainee warrior. Fortunately, he is not elite. Otherwise, the trip will be nothing worse than a nightmare.

At this time, Elder Thornton interjected by saying, "is he not half-step elite?"

Because Thornton felt that person's strength is stronger than him. It's been a long since he had felt this way before.

That's why he was silent the whole time.

Ricardo Compton furrowed his eyebrows. Because he didn't feel anything from his probing. Earlier, when he laid his hands on Erik's shoulder. He didn't feel any strong oppressive energy.

But he knows there is nothing possible. There is quite a possibility for him to cultivate some other technique.

"Don't worry, he is not half-step elite. But I guess he has terrible techniques in his hands," Ricardo Compton said.

Then he remembered these two haven't taken any rest yet.

"Okay, take some rest. I'll take you to my office in the evening," Ricardo added further.

Hearing that, I finally felt some good. There is some alone time. Then Elder Compton showed us our room.

Elder Thornton's room is opposite to me. After talking with Elder Compton for a few minutes, I walked into my room.

After closing the door, I began to check the nook and corner of the room. This became a habit of mine.

After making sure, there is nothing suspicious gadgets. I collapsed into the king-size bed. Feeling the warm feeling of the cosy bed. I felt tiredness wash over me.

I got an immediate urge to sleep. Then without realising myself, I slept.

On the other hand, Elder Thornton walked into his room. The first thing he did was check his inbox. After going through the new unread messages, he began to feel a headache.

Because most of the message is from well-known people. Everyone wants to know about their small competition. Elder Thornton doesn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"My situation has become similar to the crimson hall. But on small scale," He muttered to himself.

Then he noticed he also had a few missed calls. Seeing that he began to check, he wasn't surprised by the names except for one person.

"Arthur?" He said.

A quick glint flashed into his eyes. Thornton knows about Arthur's behaviour. Arthur mostly likes to send him text messages. Only in case of an emergency, he will call directly.

As this thought rose in his heart, he immediately contacted him. When the call was connected, he asked, "Arthur, what happened?"

Coincidentally, Arthur is currently waiting for the manager Walter inside the city lord mansion.

He sighed in relief after getting Elder Thornton's call.

Arthur answered, "Elder, something is up" after saying that he began to explain the situation.

Thornton's face changed drastically. He felt he had underestimated the new city lord. The city lord summoned Arthur. He feels bad.

Thornton doesn't know what the new city lord is up to. But he feels it's very important and it might be related to Hansen institute.

Then he quickly thought of something and replied, "Arthur, don't offend him. Just agree to whatever request he has. We will think of something once I return."

Arthur noticed someone approaching him. When he saw manager Walter, he replied, "Okay" before ending the call casually.

"Who is on the phone?" Manager Walter asked.

Arthur replied, "Office staff,"

"I didn't tell anyone that I'm coming here," he added.

Manager Walter nodded and said, "We have to wait for a while. Lord is speaking to someone right now."

"Okay, no problem," Arthur said.

On the other hand, Thornton couldn't able to sit still. Because Arthur is at city lord mansion. He doesn't know much about the city lord Alex.

He hopes that Arthur is smart enough to handle the conversation with that Alex. He also wants Arthur to collect as much as information possible.

It's been several days since he left Hansen institute, but the city lord is still staring at the Hansen building.

...

City Lord Hall- Red Stone City,

After getting permission from the lord, manager Walter led Arthur into the huge hall. Right now, the new city lord is yet to come.

Arthur's heart was not calm at all. He wanted to speak with manager Walter. But the manager Walter looked solemn.

"What is going on?" Arthur asked in his heart.

The next second, he heard the sound of footsteps coming in their direction.

Alex Fuller glanced at them before walking up to the main chair and sitting on it.

Arthur was nervous. He saw the face of the new city lord. He doesn't appear to be scary at all. But he knows that this person has a similar strength to Elder Thornton.

Alex Fuller fell into contemplation for a while. He is thinking about how to use this fellow.

"Where is your chairman?" Alex Fuller asked.

"Lord, he went to his home," Arthur replied.

Hearing that, Alex furrowed his eyebrows. He felt it was better to ask about the small competition.

"I heard that your institute is going to conduct small completion in a few weeks," Alex Fuller said.

"Yes, my lord, we are working on it," Arthur replied. He remembers Elder Thornton's reminder. He doesn't want to spill more facts.

Alex Fuller is slightly getting displeased. Usually, people lick his boots and divulged the information before he could stress.

But this person in front of him is acting strangely. A quick flash into Alex Fuller's eyes as he suddenly thought of something.

He looked at Arthur before replying, "Okay, you can leave now."

Hearing that, manager Walter was stunned. He looked at lord in confusion. He more or less had guessed the lord's intention. But the lord didn't inquire about the internal situation of Hansen Institute.

On the other hand, Arthur was startled. He suddenly feels his thoughts were seen through by the new city lord.

At this moment, he felt that Elder Thornton was right in his warning. He reminded him not to offend the new city lord.

The next second, he didn't waste any time. After giving a slight bow, he left the hall immediately.

Manager Walter didn't raise any questions until Arthur walked out of the hall. When Arthur completely disappeared.

Manager Walter looked at the city lord. Looking at the lord's solemn mood he became hesitant. He doesn't know whether to ask the question or not.

Alex Fuller noticed the expression of the manager Walter.

SIGH

He sighed inwardly before saying, "That Arthur guy is not good. I feel he is hiding something."

Manager Walter seemed to understand something. He replied, "Lord, we can summon another elder."

Hearing that, Alex Fuller raised his hand to stop him.

"Don't do anything right now. Just continue to stare at the building. I'll think of something else," Alex Fuller instructed.

Hearing that Manager Walter nodded before leaving the discussion hall.

Alex Fuller realised he was being too hasty. First, he needs to find those forces who are against crimson Hall. He thinks that they might know more about Hansen Institute than anyone else.

The reason he didn't inquire about the head of the Frazier clan. Because Frazier Clan's head has close ties with the Hansen Institute.

After his warning, he believes that Frazier Clan's head is not stupid enough to inform Chairman Thornton.

After gaining some clarity, he rose from the seat and walked into his room.

Outside of the mansion,

Arthur didn't stop his movements until he walked out of the mansion. Only after getting farther away from the mansion, he breathed in relief.

"Too scary," he mumbled under his breath. He felt fortunate that the meeting was over. He can't handle the pressure of the meeting. The new city lord is clearly up to something.

Realizing that, he decided to inform Elder Thornton after returning to Hansen Institute.