

BloodLine 421

Chapter 421 Red Eye Armour

(From MC's Perspective)

Baguva City,

Elder Compton gave me a few names of antique shops which are quite popular in this city. One of the shop names is Green Field Store. The name is not at all suitable.

But I hope they have some interesting collections in their store.

The four-wheeler massive cab is moving towards the destination. The store is located in the southern part of the city. But with the speed of the cab, I believe there will be no delay.

On the way, I see different types of flight vehicles occupying the air space. The four-wheeler is one of the vehicles among many.

I see a long sized bus rushing past us at breakneck speed. The bus appeared to be more sophisticated than cabs. Suddenly, a look of understanding dawned upon me.

This city is different from my hometown. Here you can see many Trainee Warriors casually. This city has an existence of Elite warriors. So there are many things in this city that were upgraded.

Even this current air cab, I believe, can withstand the power of the average Trainee Warrior. After figuring it out, I stopped thinking too much then and began to observe the city casually.

Several minutes later,

The air cab slowly descends on the platform. But I stared at the glass building in front of me in disbelief. The glass building looked like a 7-star hotel.

The architecture doesn't resemble an antique. A trace of confusion appeared in my eyes. After paying the cab fees, I walked out and stride towards the entrance.

Two guards are standing in front of the gate. I quickly see through their strength. " Trainee Warrior," I uttered in surprise. But the next second, a wry smile appeared on my face.

As expected the city has many Trainee Warriors. What's more surprising is that they are doing normal jobs. Is it because of resources here?

Baguva city is like no other city. Richness and prosperity can be seen everywhere. Then shaking my head, I walked up to the gate.

The guards didn't stop me. So I walked past them. Only after walking a few steps ahead. I noticed some differences.

There is a scanning system installed at the gate to check the visitors. A quick glint flashed in my eyes. Before entering, I failed to notice such a thing.

Then a vague curiosity appeared in my heart. I'm quite looking forward to the store. Because it doesn't appear to be a simple antique store on the surface.

Then I continued to walk towards the entrance. There is an automatic entry/exit door. When I walked near, the door opened automatically.

Seeing that I walked inside the building. A plain-looking corridor appeared before my eyes. Then I see a shopkeeper walking towards me from the right side.

The male staff seems to access me. But his Trainee Warrior strength is not enough to access Elite warrior.

After a couple of seconds, he stopped staring at me and asked me about the purpose of the visit.

I told him that I would like to see their collection. The male shopkeeper didn't ask me any more questions and led me toward the second floor.

After a few minutes, we reached the second floor. The entire floor is allocated for antique pieces. I see both sides have antique pieces placed on the table. But the room is covered by a transparent glass wall.

For a moment, I stood in the same spot. The only thing that comes to my mind is the word "Rich"

Damn! I think things in this store cannot be bought by ordinary people. Especially people who come from Tier-8 cities like me.

A shock appeared in my heart but I didn't show it on my face. Then I walked forward to observe the artifacts.

The staff didn't leave, rather his job was to assist me with the purchase. A wry smile appeared on many faces. After some talk, I got useful information.

Instead of purchasing using credit points. We can also exchange the artifacts with another one.

My gaze swept through a variety of items. Like a broken vase, small daggers, an antique lamp, and a Treasure box.

On both sides, there are more weapon pieces than other ordinary stuff. I wanted to look for a book collection. So that I can find some blood element techniques.

Then I spent more than one hour observing each item on this floor. But I feel no blood induction.

Suddenly, I heard the staff's voice.

"Guest,"

"If you don't mind, can you tell me? What are you looking for?"

Hearing that, I nodded my head and replied, "I'm looking for any functional artifact."

A quick glint flashed in Staff's eyes.

"Like?" He asked back.

Hearing that a trace of conflict appeared in my heart. Should I reveal it? Then I remembered Jonathan's words.

He told me that the teacher has given me a free hand. So I can use my lightning element in competition without any worry.

The Crimson Hall competition will start in a few weeks. Even if the people behind the store will try to find something, there is no real danger to me. I have the teacher's backing.

But the problem here is that Crimson Hall's recent actions were alarming. So I have to show some caution.

"I'm here to buy suitable antique pieces. But these antique pieces were quite ordinary," I said.

Hearing that, A bright smile appeared on the staff's face. Now, I seem to be a valuable customer.

Seeing the staff's expression, I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

"Guests, you should visit our 3rd floor. I believe you can find something there," the staff said.

The middle-aged staff's words brought me some hope. Then we walked towards the 3rd floor. So the real stuff is located on the 3rd floor. A thought appeared in my mind.

When we arrived on the 3rd floor. I felt blood induction in my body. "Okay," My eyes lit up with surprise. There is something important here related to the blood method.

I didn't show much expression on my face. I see a similar setup but artifacts here were carefully preserved.

There are no broken items here. Especially the flower pot in front of me. The beautiful design pattern in it belongs to the old era.

After glancing at it, I tried to feel the induction. Where it's coming from. I slowly walked past the staff and began to observe the items.

Slowly, one piece after another. I observed each item. Such as glass antiques, furniture antiques, art antiques, and weapon antiques. I see a change in the expression on the staff's face. But he didn't stop my actions.

Soon, I came across this black armor piece. There is a design with blood-red eyes in the armor chest. Upon observing it, I feel the throbbing in my heart. I let out a cheerful laugh in my heart.

My bet was right. I found items related to the blood method. I calmed down my heart and recovered my gaze. Then I started to observe other items to conceal from the staff.

After spending one more hour, I stopped my search and let out a disappointed sigh.

The staff hurriedly walked up to me and asked, "Guest, what happened?"

I raised my head and looked into his eyes.

"Well, there is no suitable item here. Which I can present as a birthday gift for my cousin," I replied with a disappointed expression.

Before he could open his mouth. I said, "I'll buy that beautiful flower pot." I pointed my fingers at the flower pot which I came across previously.

I hope it's not too expensive. The staff revealed a bright smile on his face after hearing my words.

Several minutes later,

After purchasing the ordinary antique piece using 10, 000 credit points. I left the store calmly. I hope that no one will buy that black armor.

It took me a great deal of acting to fool that staff. I don't want to use a similar method again.

I immediately entered the air car to visit another store.

On the way, I collected my thoughts. I think the blood method is connected to the red-eye drawing.

If I can come across a similar pattern, that would be helpful. I found some clues. This will further help in my findings. When it comes to black armor, it is better to tell Elder Thornton.

I believe he can buy that armor casually. A good plan appeared in my mind. But I don't know whether he got money for it.

Then shaking my head, I realized Elder Compton is a more suitable person. He is familiar with this city. I'll talk to him after this trip.

Sometime later,

On the other hand, the male staff met his manager and told him everything. The manager then checked the footage.

After seeing that the customer wasn't able to find a suitable item and left after purchasing some random flower pot. The manager found it strange.

Because the customer had spent hours observing each item. For what? Then once again he checked the footage. After seeing no abnormal behavior. He then stopped looking at it.

He assumed the young customer might be an antique collector. So it is normal for him to observe and appreciate each item.

Chapter 422 Blood Field Technique

(From MC's perspective)

After two days, Elder Compton got me the red-eye armor. I immediately hurried to the villa after receiving it from him. I wanted to know what was hiding in there.

After entering my room, I took the armor from my storage ring. Immediately, I felt the throbbing in my heart. When I brought the armor closer to my chest. I felt the blood induction.

Then I quickly set up a barrier around me. After doing that, I started running the blood cultivation method. The red eye armor vibrates all of a sudden.

For a moment, I got confused. I don't know how to access the thing inside the armor. Suddenly, a good idea comes to my mind.

I made a small cut on my finger and a drop of blood fell on the red-eye armor. When the blood comes in contact with the armor.

Swish!

The changes start to take place. A red color word appeared below the red eye design pattern. Seeing that, I quickly started to read it. What's more wonderful is that I started to understand the old language.

It might be due to the mystery of the blood cultivation method.

A few seconds later,

The words disappeared all of a sudden. Simultaneously, I felt changes in my consciousness. What is going on?

Then I noticed the blood rune in my consciousness had become bigger. Earlier, the ring-shaped rune now got thickened further.

Finally, I understood what the mysterious words mean. It's a blood technique but it's a different one. It took me a couple of seconds to understand the information.

"Field," I muttered to myself.

The information took me back to memory lane. I remember back in Hansen Campus, the blood element burst out suddenly at one point in time. I even casually named it an invisible aura.

Later, I failed to utilize the energy completely.

But now it seems the new blood technique is tailor-made for me. With this technique, I can use the aura as a field.

I don't know what the power of the field is.

As this curiosity rose in my heart. I dropped the armor and started to cultivate the technique.

Swish!

As I began to run the blood field technique. I felt the immediate changes in me. An aura came out of me. Unlike before the aura looked different now.

The aura looked completely blood red. It became visible to me. Then I tried to control the red aura. Then the aura spreads around me. But it is not perfect and seems unstable.

It will take some time to get started in this blood field technique.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

Several days later,

Elder Thornton arrived in the city. We boarded the air cab to reach the Villa. I don't know why? Elder is insisting on talking to me in private.

But I guessed something in my mind. The incident which had taken place at the campus has taken a toll on him.

On the way, we maintained silence. I haven't seen him this seriously before.

Several minutes later,

After paying the cab fees, we entered the Villa.

"Zack, tell me what happened in the mutated forest?" Thornton asked. He then sat on the sofa.

A trace of apprehension appeared on my face. "Is the situation in the red city more serious than I thought?" I said in my heart.

Then I sat opposite him and started to speak about the changes that have taken place in a mutated forest. I skipped my adventure and loot and told him about the appearance of the Class-5 Monster.

When the words fell on Thornton's ears. His face was discolored instantly. Class 5 Monster?

"Are you kidding me?" Thornton asked back with a trembling face. Fear of the Class 5 monster made him forget about the incident that happened in Hansen.

Seeing that Zack simply nodded his head.

He then took a deep look at Zack before letting out a sigh. In his opinion, the incident caused by Crimson Hall members was nothing compared to the dangers in the mutated forest.

"Then how did you guys escape?" Thornton asked. In his opinion, Ricardo Compton can't fight against a Class-5 monster. Which is considered to be a level higher than Class 4.

There is a huge gap between Class 4 and Class 5 monsters. So Thornton feels it's a miracle.

Hearing that, I revealed a small smile on my face. Elder Compton already knows about my strength. So there is no point in hiding it from Elder Thornton.

"Zack?" Elder Thornton stared at me.

"Ahem, elder. It's me, I saved them from Class 5 Monster," I said with a smile.

The atmosphere turned into pin drop silent for a moment.

Elder Thornton looked at me with disbelief. I know it would take some time for him to digest the facts. He always wanted to know about my strength.

Thornton's heart set off storms. He knew Zack is not the type who likes to joke. As an elder even he is not sure about Zack's strength.

It took a few minutes to calm down his heart. He felt his worldview turned upside down. He then asked in a serious tone, "Zack, what is your real strength?"

He has asked this question many times before. But that time was different. It's not easy to defeat a Class -5 Monster. He already thought about something in his heart.

Elite? Above Elite? The thought alone scared him sh!t.

"Elder, don't worry about Crimson Hall anymore. I have broken through Elite level," I said in a calm tone.

Thornton widened his eyes in surprise. More than a surprise. He is shocked by the fact that Zack can defeat the Class 5 Monster.

He gulped his saliva in fear. Feeling his throat go dry, he drank a glass of water. Too much explosive news. It took him some time to digest everything.

After gaining some clarity, he finally accepted the fact. He knows there is a big man behind Zack. Probably his teacher. So Zack's current strength didn't cause any suspicion to him.

Thornton already assumed something in his mind. He felt Zack might have received secret training resources from his teacher.

Then he came back to the main topic and asked, "Who else knows about this?"

Seeing that Elder Thornton is alright. I slowly revealed the details of what Elder Compton spoke.

"Good,"

"Compton is clever as well. If the members shut their mouths, then no one will know about your strength," Thornton said.

Unlike Compton, he didn't trust the team members. Shaking his head, he decided to talk about Crimson Hall.

"Zack, now that you have broken through. I can stay relaxed. But still, the Crimson Hall is not easy," Thornton said.

Hearing that, a quick glint flashed in my eyes. Then Elder Thornton continues to speak. He revealed shocking details.

The Crimson Hall is not only targeting me but other seeds as well.

I asked, "Elder, is there any Elite level warrior in Crimson Hall?"

Thornton replied, "I heard they have an old ancestor as the Great Elder."

No wonder, Crimson Hall has taken bold actions so far. They even dared to conspire against the Star Tower. So I wasn't surprised that much.

There is only one thing that concerns me right now. Which is about Crimson Hall's match.

"Elder, have you collected details about the competition?" I asked.

Thornton nodded his head. He collected his thoughts before replying, "I don't know whether it is true or not. But it is widely circulated among many forces.

"Which is that the Crimson Hall event is going to be held in a certain Monster Zone."

A look of bewilderment appeared on my face. Outer is fine. But the inner and core area of the monster zone is deadly for people under the Trainee Warrior realm.

Is that even real? I looked at Elder with somewhat confusion.

Thornton revealed a bitter smile. He knows this piece of news is too much nonsense. But what's troublesome is that the news is not denied by forces.

"Zack, many forces found this news credible. Even Star Tower didn't come forward to refute it," Thornton said with a bitter laugh.

"This?"

This time I'm truly shocked. If it is true then Crimson Hall's design is very cruel. How come forces were going to agree with this? And who is permitted to conduct an event in Monster Zone?

A lot of questions appeared in my mind. I don't think a mere Crimson Hall is responsible for this. There must be something going on.

"Everyone fears that there will be a massacre. Fortunately, you are an Elite warrior now. I can sit and watch and relax," Thornton commented.

I sighed in my heart. Things were happening beyond my belief. Competition in a monster zone. I don't know what it would look like.

"Elder, what about the new city lord?"

"Is he still looking for me?" I asked.

"Alex Fuller, that guy is rotten to the core," Thornton gritted his teeth in anger.

"He made the City Guards monitor our Hansen Campus," he added further.

Hearing that, a good plan comes to mind. Unless necessary, I won't attack the City Lord.

We discussed a few other things before Elder Thornton decided to take some rest.

Chapter 423 Arrived Back In Red City

(From MC's perspective)

Baguva City,

Elder Thornton decided to spend a few more days before leaving. He wanted to spend time with his friend. I know Elder Thornton still wanted to know more about the mutated forest.

So he might succeed in the coming days to get information from Elder Compton.

In the meantime, I'm going to practice the blood field technique.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

4 days later,

We boarded the fortified train back to our city. The journey will take several days to reach the destination.

But fortunately, I didn't waste my previous days. I succeeded in getting started in the blood field technique.

After arriving in Red City, I'll visit the nearest monster zone to train myself.

After gaining some clarity, I shut my eyes. Beside me, Elder Thornton has already fallen asleep.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

Several days later,

The fortified train reached the station of the red city. When the announcement was made. The passengers started to leave one by one.

"Nice mask," Elder Thornton commented looking at me. My black mask is very useful. It's hard for people to distinguish my face.

Then slowly we stepped outside. When I walked out, I stopped my movements and took a good look at the surroundings.

It feels like a deja vu. It's been so long but the environment hasn't changed a bit. The platform is crowded with people as usual.

"Let's go," Elder Thornton said.

Hearing that I followed him behind. After walking out, we hopped inside the air cab.

The Hansen building is a few minutes away from here. Like me, Elder Thornton also covered his face using a face mask.

The cab driver didn't seem to mind our destination. But I strongly feel something is wrong. When Elder Thornton told the destination. The cab driver gave a slight pause in his movements.

I quickly see through his cultivation base. My eyes lit up with surprise. Then my suspicion becomes even deeper.

After figuring it out, I don't break the news right now. I decided to tell after reaching the Hansen building.

Several minutes later,

The Hansen building came into my view. The air cab slowly landed in front of the gate.

Creak

First Elder Thornton walked out of the cab. The cab driver wanted to know about the Elder's identity. So he cautiously observed him. But he doesn't know that I'm yet to leave.

I observed his every action. Seconds later, Elder Thornton turned his back to look at me.

Only at this moment, the cab driver realized something was wrong. Before he could do anything, I released a small momentum to lock him.

The cab seats were crushed under heavy pressure. The cab driver is a Special Trainee. I have never seen a Special Trainee driver in this city before.

The cab driver's face filled with horror. He wasn't able to make a single noise out of fear. His entire back was drenched in a cold sweat.

"Lord..?" The cab driver wanted to say something. Seeing that I nodded my head before asking, "Who are you?"

"Tell me everything without leaving any details."

On the other hand, Elder Thornton understood something was wrong with the driver. He stood in the same spot to observe.

Because he knew it was impossible to do anything in front of the Elite Warrior.

A few minutes later,

The cab driver in disguise spilled everything. He was planted by the City Lord to monitor.

Not only he, but the entire cab drivers were also working for him to find out my whereabouts.

"Interesting," A quick glint flashed in my eyes.

Then I calmly said looking at him, "Alright, I'm not going to harm you. But if you reveal anything to your boss later, then it will be over for you."

The cab driver shuddered to hear that. Then he fiercely nodded his head in understanding. Seeing the fear of death in his eyes, I feel satisfied.

After paying the cab fees, I walked out.

"Zack, I was careless. How did you find out?" Elder Thornton asked with a sorry face.

I chuckled and told him everything.

Elder Thornton sighed inwardly. He knew the City Lord was looking for them. But due to travel tiredness. He failed to recognize the danger.

Then he looked at Zack and asked, "Do you want to tell others?"

Hearing that, I shook my head and replied, "I will go to the nearest monster zone to train myself."

A look of bewilderment appeared on Elder Thornton's face. Zack is now an Elite Warrior. There is nothing that can pose a danger to him. Especially in nearby monster zones.

The highest-order monsters residing in them were Class 3 Monsters. But Zack has defeated the Class 5 monster previously. That too a mutated one.

But he quickly recovered himself and didn't ask anything more.

"Until then, you can practice in our underground chamber," Elder Thornton said

I nodded my head and then we walked towards the gate. I didn't use any ID card to verify. Elder Thornton already took care of everything.

He also gave me the newly modified access code for the underground chamber. After entering inside, I see a state of change.

I knew the renovation project was going on for some time. But looking at it now. I feel most of the work has finished. The building looks brand new.

Then we walked into the hall. It's 10 A.M now but there is no sign of the student whatsoever. I realized most of the students were retired after that incident.

And few of them were practicing from home. No wonder, the Elder looked normal. If the place is crowded with students, then it is hard to escape from their eyes.

Especially people who can recognize Elder Thornton completely. Then after talking a few words to him, I got separated and walked towards the lift.

Creak

The lift door opened and I immediately pressed the last floor.

A few minutes later,

When I stepped outside. What appeared in front of me was the dome-shaped battle arena. It takes me back to memory lane.

At that time, I first participated in a blood test to get a good ranking.

After taking a few glances at it, I walked towards the room. Last time, I took a rest here due to some incident.

The room is similar to my home. But here there are many medic kits placed inside. I can use it in case of an emergency. I also see some renovation done here. The door appeared to be new.

Looks like Elder Thornton wants to change everything.

Creak

The door opened after the identification was done.

I quickly went to take a long bath. After a few minutes, I changed into casual clothes. A wave of tiredness washed over me. Without realizing it, I fell asleep.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

Beep!

After three hours, I woke up exactly at noon. The reason for my alarm is the damn notification sound.

When I take a look at the contact. My gloomy mind was swept away completely.

The message is from Jonathan. How did he know about my arrival? A trace of surprise flashed in my eyes.

Nobody knows about my stay here except Elder Thornton. Then I connected the dots. Elder Thornton might have contacted Uncle James and told him about my stay here.

After gaining some clarity, I looked at the message again. Jonathan is busy doing some missions. So it will take some time for him to meet me.

But he already found something about the Crimson Hall's exhibition match.

Hearing that a quick glint flashed in my eyes. The next second, my expression turned serious and I started to read further messages.

It's important to know about the event.

A few minutes later, I closed the message and sighed inwardly. Jonathan is something. He even found crucial information which is impossible for other forces.

But the information is shocking to me. "Odyssey Monster Zone," I mumbled under my breath. It's a special monster zone similar to the black forest.

Earlier, the odyssey monster zone was strictly forbidden to others. Because of some experiments happening there.

But later the Monster Zone came under the control of Crimson Hall.

A cold glint flashed in my eyes. Now, I realized the words of Elder Thornton are not false at all.

To conduct the event Crimson Hall has selected such a dreadful place.

Fortunately, I am an Elite Warrior now.

That monster zone is dangerous for even Trainee Warriors. Forget about Special Trainee. The Special Trainees are just cannon fodder.

My expression turned ugly. How come they are going to select students in this way? The warriors from Tier-8 cities stood no chance.

Even the warriors from Tier-7 cities will face hard to survive. I fell into deep contemplation. There is something big happening behind the scenes.

Jonathan and the Teacher might know about this. It took me some seconds to digest everything. Then suddenly an image of a certain person comes to mind.

"Maria!" I uttered in surprise. I guess she is also participating in the competition. Then I made up my mind to tell her later.

Chapter 424 Marsh City

(From MC's perspective)

The following day,

I left the Hansen building and decided to head toward the monster zone. I'm going to visit Marsh City's monster zone. This particular monster zone takes me back to memory lane.

I remember going there for the first time after I arrived in this red city. So a vague curiosity rose in my heart. At that time I was a rookie afraid of going deeper into the woods.

This time I must stay in the middle of the core area. A quick glint flashed in my eyes. After gaining some clarity, I boarded the air cab to go to the train station.

The cab driver this time is an ordinary warrior. After taking a glance at him, I sat back in a relaxed manner.

Soon the cab reached the station a few minutes later. I used a mask to cover my face as usual. So there is no chance for others to recognize me.

After paying the fees, I stride towards the entrance. My perception is not what it used to be. The range has increased many times.

Before entering inside, I think it's better to check out something. I activated my perceptual ability and spread it around the area.

Soon the movements of people appeared in my mind. After a couple of seconds, my mouth rises slightly. I noticed the presence of many Special Trainee Warriors.

How come such a small city like ours got so many Special Trainee warriors? I feel a little strange inside. Then shaking my head, I walked up to the entrance.

There is no point in exposing myself right now. There is still some time before the start of the Crimson Hall match. Then after entering inside, I walked past the crowd.

Last night, I told someone to come and see me. I wonder whether she will accept my request or not.

10 minutes later,

When I'm waiting for my train to Marsh City. A beautiful figure appeared before me. Her white mask failed to cover her identity. I quickly see through her.

"Maria Frazier," I said in my heart.

Before I could say anything she sat beside me.

"Zack, is that you?"

"Why can't I sense your cultivation base?"

Maria Frazier said in a low voice. But the excitement in her voice can be seen clearly.

Hearing that my eyes gleamed with a twinkle. "Trainee Warrior," My lips curved into a gentle arc.

Looks like the Frazier Clan heavily invested in her. I remember last time her cultivation was weak. But still, it can't save her from the dangers waiting in Odyssey Monster Zone.

"Maria, are you going to participate in Crimson Hall's match?" I asked. I know the truth but I want to hear from her.

Maria gave a slight pause before carefully observing Zack. She wondered what happened. Is this related to recent turmoil?

Her heart was not calm. She is aware of the incident that happened in Hansen Campus. The members from Crimson Hall have crossed the bottom line this time.

Even the City Lord seems to be supporting the Crimson Hall members. Then she solemnly nodded her head in response.

Seeing that I let out a deep sigh. I said, "Maria, you are a good friend of mine. So don't go to the Crimson Hall's competition."

A surprise flashed in Maria's eyes. She couldn't help but remember her father's recent behaviors. He seems to be very bothered about something.

Every time she asked about it. Her father denies anything wrong. Now looking at Zack. She feels her intuition is correct.

She asked, "Zack, what is it?"

"Do you know something?"

I nodded my head and told about the odyssey monster zone.

At first, Maria's face is calm. But soon her face becomes discolored instantly and her jade white hands start trembling.

"How is it possible?" After some seconds, she exclaimed in surprise. She knows how her clan decided to bet everything on her.

It's impossible to take a step back. Suddenly the image of her father comes to her mind. "No wonder my father looked dispirited," she bit her lips in worry.

Seeing the myriad of expressions of her. I sighed inwardly. The information is shocking even for an Elite level warrior like me. She just entered the Trainee Warrior realm not long ago. So I can understand her fluctuations in mood.

A few minutes later,

A firm determination appeared on her face. She shook her head and answered, "Sorry, Zack. I can't go back. I have to join one of those academies."

I see a firm look in her eyes.

"Sigh"

I let out a deep sigh. Her family is not right. Suddenly, I remember Elder Thornton's words from some time ago. The Frazier clan here is just a side branch.

The real roots lie somewhere. Then I observed her with a different gaze. She has a burden like everyone else on her shoulder.

It is better to support her than to convince her to quit.

"Alright, I'll help you. Just ask your clan to prepare a few more trump cards," I said with a smile.

Apart from her, there is one more girl. I wonder what happened to her. She disappeared right after joining Hansen.

But I have this gut feeling that I will meet her soon.

Don't know why? Maria let go of her hanging heart. Zack's words gave a sense of confidence.

But still, the dangers awaiting there are real. She decided to find some trump cards.

Then she suddenly asked, "Are you going to the monster zone?"

I nodded in response.

Suddenly the announcement is made at this point.

Seeing that, I got up from the seat and was ready to board.

Maria made up her mind to join as well.

Seeing that I agreed to her request. Then she quickly booked the tickets. The train to Marsh city is empty.

Due to the availability of frequent trains, crowding and rushing can be avoided.

After a few minutes, we boarded the train. The train journey allows us to discuss.

I wanted to know about Crimson Hall. The Frazier Clan seems to have some contact with the City Lord.

On the way, I inquired about many things. Especially the name of the Crimson Hall members. I can't forget their names. They had participated in the Star Tower as well.

My expression turned gloomy for a second. Looks like it is not that easy to get revenge. Among the members some of them were innocent. Especially the girls, they even took initiative to warn me last time.

But I calmed down a few seconds later. I also learn about City Lord's contact with Maria's father. It seems the City Lord is simply using the Frazier Clan's head.

After figuring out the ins and outs, I decided to tell Jonathan later.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

Several hours later, the train reached Marsh City. We stepped out of the train and quickly headed towards the monster zone.

The monster zone is close to the city. So we quickly reached the spot without stopping anywhere.

Finally, the huge wall came into view. It feels like a deja vu. I remember venturing into the woods alone last time.

Then we quickly went towards the office to register my name.

After registering the name, we quickly entered inside. The guards didn't stop us. When we entered inside, I found the area didn't change a bit at all.

Especially the narrow path which leads to the inner area. Then I lead her to the inner area. Only in the inner area, we can come across some monsters.

Maria silently followed from behind. She wasn't able to see through his cultivation base. But she feels Zack's strength is unfathomable.

Soon the duo walked past the hurdles along the way. The overgrown bushes were quickly cleared by two.

Swish!

A wild boar appears in front of me. Seeing that I signaled Maria to deal with it. The wild boar monster can be dealt with by elite-level coercion alone.

So I decided to stand back and relax.

Maria didn't waste any more time. She hurriedly leaped forward to attack the monster.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

On the way, Maria cleared all low-level monsters without much effort. Seeing that, a quick glint flashed in my eyes.

"Zack, why didn't you start attacking from now on?" Maria asked while blinking her big eyes.

She noticed Zack's laid-back style. Which annoyed her greatly. She wants to witness Zack's strength from her own eyes.

Hearing that I raised my eyebrows.

Swish!

A wind wolf appeared in the vicinity. Seeing that my lips curved into a gentle arc. I looked at her before disappearing from the spot.

Swish!

"This speed," Maria widened her eyes in disbelief. She didn't even find the silhouette.

In a blink of an eye, I appeared above the monster.

"Oops!" I noticed that I used my flight ability unconsciously.

Then I landed on the ground in an instant.

The wind wolf scared sh!t. It's a mere Class 2 Monster. I raise my palm to slap it away casually.

Pfff!

The wind wolf turned into blood mist the next second.

Chapter 425 Blood Vapourisation

(From MC's perspective)

Marsh Monster Zone,

After finishing the wind wolf, I looked back casually. Maria seems to be in a daze. Seeing that my mouth curved into an arc. It feels good. The immense strength gives me a sense of security.

"What happened?" Maria uttered in surprise. Before she could realize the monster disappeared in a blink of an eye.

She asked, "Zack, what is your exact realm?"

In curiosity, she walked up to him.

I let out a small chuckle and shook my head. If she knows it will be a huge blow for her. So I replied, "Similar to you, but I practice some strange techniques."

Maria rolled her eyes at him. She is not a fool. Which technique can make a warrior disappear in an instant? Even her father seems pale in front of Zack.

Thinking about the gap difference between the two, she sighed inwardly. But her and Zack's paths are different.

She is carrying the burden of her clan. Things can be changed after joining the academy.

At the same time, I observed Maria's expression. She seems to be contemplating. Shaking my head, I decided to head deep into the woods.

50 minutes later,

We reached the middle of the inner area. Compared to the last time, I reached here in a short time.

"Are we going to spend our entire day here?" Maria asked.

Hearing that my eyes gleamed with a twinkle. She made an immediate decision to travel together with me. What about her family? Did they know?

"Yes, I'm not going to return soon. The city lord is staring at Hansen. To avoid unnecessary troubles, I don't want to expose myself before the start of the tournament," I answered with a small smile on my face.

Maria nodded her head in understanding.

I glanced at her before deciding to take some rest for a while. The journey is easy for me. But she seems to be a little exhausted.

She needs to gather the energy from the surroundings before continuing our adventure.

Then I proceed to set up two large tents laid with some formation. Which can remind us in case of some danger.

Class 2 Monsters appear very often in this place. It may become a suitable training spot for Maria.

10 minutes later,

We both repeated back in our tent. Sitting cross-legged on the mat. A quick glint flashed in my eyes. I also wanted to test my Blood Field Technique.

It is not good to reveal my cards in front of her.

Swish!

The next moment, I disappeared from the spot and appeared outside.

"Maria, I'm going outside for a while. I'll be back in an hour," Saying I choose the right direction to leave.

Swish!

After a couple of seconds, Maria walked out of the tent. Seeing the empty tent opposite her. A curious glint flashed in her eyes.

At the same time, I reached closer to a group of monsters. But I stopped my movement in mid-air and hid among big clouds.

I see adventurer groups were targeting the group of monsters. Some of them were setting traps before the start of the crucial fight.

The monsters are a group of hyenas. Currently, taking a rest under the shade of a tree. And these people seem to be aware of it.

My lips curved into a gentle arc. To be honest, I don't like hyenas either. But this Marsh City's monster zone is weak and has a low number of monsters.

The government puts no restrictions on adventure groups which caused a drastic reduction in the Monster population.

This is also one of the reasons why I didn't tag along with Maria earlier. The only reason I came here was to test blood field technique not to hunt monsters.

The monsters below Class 4 are especially weak. So there is no point in crushing them.

I slowly observed everyone's movements. Seeing the number of traps placed. A frown appeared on my face.

These people intend to wipe out the entire group. Slight anger appeared in my heart. This Monster Zone is a livelihood for many warriors from Tier-8 cities.

I can't imagine. If there is no monster zone in our area, then we have to travel to another region. Which is bound with hostilities. A cold glint flashed in my eyes.

"These people are suitable targets to test my blood field technique," I mumbled under my breath.

Swish!

I disappeared from the cloud and appeared closer to the adventurer groups. None of them can sense my presence.

Imagining the invisible aura in mind. I started to run the field technique. A vicious red color field appeared next second.

The reddish field starts to expand like a blood sea. I didn't use the Elite cultivation base. I simply restricted the powers to the Special Trainee level.

Because none of them were Trainee Warriors. This is a reality of warriors from the surrounding city. Compared to Baguva city, the difference is sky and mud.

At the same time, I also activated the perceptual ability to notice the changes.

The groups of warriors who were busy setting up traps suddenly felt alarmed. Before they could realize the warriors were caught inside the blood sea.

Immediately changes happen to take place inside the field. The blood of warriors starts to undergo some changes. Especially the blood power makes the warrior's blood boil.

After a couple of seconds, the blood starts to vaporize. Seeing such a phenomenon inside the field, my heart set off storms.

What kind of crazy technique is this? It is almost a silent killer. No one can explain the phenomenon of blood vaporization.

A few minutes later,

Several dried corpses dropped to the ground. If one looks at the state of corpses, one will experience a terrible nightmare.

"This field technique is a kind of hole card. If it is released, then the enemy would be caught off guard," I said to myself.

Then I turned the remaining corpses into ashes before going back to the tent.

My little experiment here is done. Now, I can spend the rest of my time on future goals.

After a few minutes, I arrived back. Maria seems to be in a state of retreat. I didn't disturb her and quickly entered my tent.

Sitting cross-legged, I ponder deeply.

What to do next? Going back to white snow city? I shake my head in denial. More than the Hansen campus, I believe many people were waiting outside at home.

The population of the White snow city is low compared to Red City. So I can't walk freely out there. Do I have to be cautious?

My instinct tells me not to do anything before seeing Jonathan. The more I think about it the more it seems logical.

There is no need to hurry. I can't cultivate in this environment anymore. The energy around the atmosphere seems to be thin.

No wonder, after the breakthrough many Elite Warriors choose to leave for Tier-7 cities and above to practice. They can't stay here.

After reaching this realm, I feel the difference.

I can only pass the remaining days leisurely by improving the rest of the techniques.

Suddenly the image of a certain place comes to mind.

"Mountain Liz," I mumbled under my breath.

Last time, I met a girl from a Tier-7 city. I wonder what she is doing right now? A figure of a woman comes to mind.

Smash!

Suddenly, I heard some sounds outside.

Swish!

I disappeared from the spot and appeared outside.

Black Striped Tiger- Class 3 Monster

I recognized the monster in one glance. The monster is currently observing our tent. The blood of the tiger monster is extremely valuable.

It is tasteless to me but for Maria, it will improve her physique.

Swish!

Right after the disturbance, Maria walked out instantly.

"Class-3 Monster," Maria uttered in surprise.

"Good"

"Can you defeat it? I asked.

Maria looked at me before a firm look appeared in her eyes. Without replying she rushed to attack the black tiger.

Seeing that I nodded and decided to monitor from the sidelines. The dangers in the odyssey monster zone are going to be many times compared to here.

She should face this kind of monster alone.

One hour later,

Maria takes out the monster's core from the cold corpse.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

The entire day went through hunting and resting.

The following day,

We decided to go back home. I feel bored here. Instead of wasting time here, I made up my mind to visit old places. Including the mountain Liz, the iron post city, and the star tower.

I believe that the whole journey would take a couple of weeks. And after the completion of the trip, the crimson hall event would officially start.

Then after walking out of the monster zone. We immediately left Marsh City. We both parted ways. Maria has gone back to her Clan. And I decided to go to the iron post city.

Last time, the city was plagued by bandit activities. The economy of the city had also gone through turmoil.

I can't wait to see the changes happen there later. There is one more thing I'm planning to do. I'm going to investigate the whole insect forest this time.

The strange atmosphere prevailing in insect forest is worth the study.

Chapter 426 Part One: Night Monster

(From MC's perspective)

Several days later,

The fortified train arrived in iron post city. Unlike last time, I see many people coming and going. Which shows that the situation has changed. And the state of the city is much better compared to better.

After walking out of the train station, I took some time to observe nearby areas. The street shops and the pedestrians walking down the street. Everything looked normal here.

After taking a glance at them. I signaled a nearby cab driver to come here. My first goal is to inspect the insect forest. I hopped inside and the cab moved towards the city gate wall.

On the way, I took a good look at the city below. From the top view, I see several shops doing business. There was no gloomy atmosphere anymore.

Suddenly I thought of something and decided to ask the cab driver. On the way, I inquired about the recent changes in the iron post city.

From his words, the city's economic conditions were drastically improved after the appointment of a new city lord. Unlike before the new city lord seems to be a Trainee Warrior.

Because the bandit issue was resolved. Now there is no threat to the public and the insect forest is not monopolized anymore.

After figuring out the ins and outs, I sighed in relief.

10 minutes later,

The air cab reached the city gate wall. The situation on the ground caught my attention. "This?" My eyes lit up with surprise. From this distance, I see the changes.

A sea of people was waiting outside the gate to enter the wilderness.

The cab driver noticed the expression. He let out a small laugh before saying, "You must be very surprised. The rules were changed now. Anyone can enter the insect forest to earn money."

Hearing that, a quick glint flashed in my eyes.

"It must be the work of the new city lord," I said in my heart. Then the air cab landed on the ground.

After paying the cab fees, I walked out. My appearance didn't cause any waves. Because I know most of the adventurers here were from nearby regions.

Looks like the new rules also made it easier for everyone. I glanced at the crowd. The highest warriors ranged from Special Trainee to Trainee Warrior.

Looking at the scene in front of me. I believe it would take some time to enter. It can't be helped. Shaking my head, I decided to wait.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

One hour later, I walked into the wilderness after completing the verification. Instead of following the group to the insect forest. I moved away from the adventurer groups and used my flight ability to enter the insect forest.

Swish!

A few minutes later, I reached the outer region. I don't directly barge to the inner area. Because there is some area. I would like to check.

I accessed the map. After knowing the direction, I immediately rushed towards it.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

I checked all the mysterious places within two hours. Apart from deadly swamps and bugs, there is nothing more valuable in those places.

"It's time to enter the inner area," I mumbled under my breath. Old memories flashed in my eyes. How did I escape from those black insects?

A vague curiosity rose in my heart. I believe my elite power can restrain those monsters and it doesn't matter how mysterious their insect bugs were.

Swish!

I didn't waste any more time. After picking up the location on the map, I flew toward that place.

After several minutes, I crossed the outer area border and entered the space of the inner area. From above I come across many black clouds. I instinctively knew these were groups of deadly bugs

Seeing that my lips curved into an arc. When I tried to move closer to the monster. The swarm of bugs retreated immediately. Now I'm certain that Elite level strength can deter the bugs.

No wonder that elite-level bandit was so rampant in the insect forest. The inner area and the small core were a haven for the elite-level bandit.

Seeing the swarm of bugs, my eyes gleamed with a twinkle. If I want I can easily erase these bugs and get back my revenge. But I feel it is not good to destroy the ecosystem here.

It's better to leave these insect bugs here and continue my business.

After several minutes, I reached one of the dangerous areas marked on the map. In the middle of a dense jungle, there is a big cave structure here.

I looked at it from above. If one looks at it closely one can see there is no entry and exit to the cave structure.

The entire cave structure is protected from outside monsters. Seeing that a quick glint flashed in my eyes. To verify, I circled this cave structure once more.

The cave appears to be going deep underground. Then what's making it more dangerous? A lot of doubts appeared in my mind.

Then I quickly moved into the cave structure. Inside there is only pitch-black darkness. I didn't land on the ground. I used the flight ability to go deep inside.

Though there is no darkness. I used my senses to cover everything. Slowly, I'm going underground. On the way, I find no sign of life.

It puzzles me more. If there is no sign of life, then what's causing danger to adventurers?

Then suddenly, I see the path divided into two. I waste no time choosing. I picked the right one to investigate.

As time went on, I furrowed my eyebrows. Because a bad smell began to attack my nostril. And I have yet to find the source of this smell.

A few minutes later, I sensed the dead end ahead. I began to feel some frustration. Just I want to retreat. I sensed a small throbbing of life.

"Life sign?" My eyes lit up with surprise.

Swish!

I moved and appeared closer to the dead end.

In front of me, there are many eggs. The egg was so small that it was difficult to find it. What is this? Doubt appeared in my heart.

At the same time, I realized something. "Mysterious insect bugs?" I mumbled under my breath. Now I think that it all makes sense. The cave structure is the home for these insect bugs.

After gaining some clarity, I decided to investigate. So I take out the light gadget to illuminate the surroundings. When the light appeared in the dark.

The cave became a lot more visible. Then my gaze swept past everything.

"Hmmm," Suddenly, I felt a vague threat from behind.

Swish!

I disappeared from the spot and retreated backward. I feel something coming towards me.

From this light, I see the appearance of the monster.

For a moment, I adjusted my mentality.

Because the monster looked nastier. I have never seen this monster before. Soon, I guessed something.

It must be native to this cave structure. Seeing that I didn't take initiative to attack. Since there is a threat to me. I want to see the ability of this night monster.

The monster appeared to be a bird species. But from its wings and mouth. I see more resemblance towards the night bats.

Swish! Swish!

Slowly, one by one night monsters arrived right after. The entire path is blocked now. From these few minutes, I conclude that the night monster didn't have the visible ability.

The danger is slowly getting increased. I decided to end this quickly.

Swish!

Next second, I started to run the blood field technique.

Sensing the threat, the group of weird night monsters lets out a scream. Hearing that my eyes gleamed with a twinkle.

The scream ability is also some kind of attack. But with my elite power, I blocked the monster's attack completely.

As the blood field began to spread. It starts to cover the night monster one by one. The terrible scream quieted down suddenly.

As the blood power starts to work. The first night monster is beginning to suffer. The entire blood from the monster's body starts to vaporize.

This field attack continues to attack the other monsters. One by one, the night monster suffered from the attack. But there is one problem.

The blood field technique is not a fast one. It will take some seconds to erase the entire blood.

A couple of seconds later,

Pfff

The first-night monster lost its vitality and the rest of the monsters followed suit one by one.

After a few minutes, the entire path is cleared completely. Seeing that I sighed in relief. There is no threat anymore. But it's a pity, I wasn't able to see the further abilities of the monster.

Swish!

I disappeared from the spot and retreated upwards. A few minutes later, I found myself back in the usual position where the two paths got split.

A quick glint flashed in my eyes. I don't know what lies ahead on this left path.

Chapter 427 Part Two: Night Monster

(From MC's perspective)

My gaze fell on the left path. There are weird monsters in this cave which can cause danger to Elite level warriors. I couldn't help but up my guard.

The weird bat-type monster has nothing to do with insect bugs. But the environment here is responsible for the changes.

After taking a deep breath, I decided to check the left path.

Swish!

I'm swiftly moving while illuminating the surroundings using the light gadget. On the way, I observed the cave structure. Which is similar to the right path.

There is no man-made sign here.

"Scream"

Right after, a terrible scream reached my ears. I stopped my movements and instinctively used the blood field technique. A reddish aura released from my body.

I looked ahead and the appearance of the monster became much more clear. But I wasn't surprised by the night monster.

Rather I took the initiative to attack. The blood field quickly expands in a blink of an eye and covers the night monster.

The next movement, the night monster let out a terrible scream. But the attack is not so powerful. Under the power of the blood, the monster is suppressed completely.

A few seconds later, the blood in its body completely vaporized. When I moved past the corpse, a quick glint flashed in my eyes.

I paused my movements and looked at the cold corpse again. Why don't I try to absorb the monster core? Doubt appeared in my heart.

Out of curiosity, I picked up the corpse and searched for the monster's core. The entire corpse was an empty shell without blood.

Suddenly, I caught something. Slowly, I retrieved the core from the corpse. Unlike other monster cores, this monster core is dark in color.

Looking at it, I don't why? A hint of uneasiness appeared in my eyes. Then shaking my head, I placed the monster core in my storage ring before continuing the journey.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

Even after two hours of journey, I didn't reach the dead end. My mood is beginning to worsen. I feel it is not safe to go deep anymore.

Though Elite level strength gives me the courage I'm not stupid enough to barge in without thinking.

When this thought appeared in my mind. I stopped moving forward. So far I found nothing valuable. There is no point in continuing anymore.

Swish!

I started to retreat to the surface without thinking further.

As time went on, I reached the spot where two paths were divided. After taking one glance at the paths, I moved and flew back toward the surface.

A few hours later,

Swish!

I appeared above the surface and stood in mid-air. "Phew," I exhaled in relief. Finally, I came back to the surface before anything went wrong.

Then I looked around. It's already late evening. I have to find a good spot to spend the night time. Suddenly, I remembered the old wooden house in the inner area.

After knowing the direction, I immediately moved toward the destination.

One hour later,

I arrived in front of the wooden house. It brings back old memories. Where I killed those bandits last time here.

I spread my consciousness around to check the area. After seeing there is no problem in this vicinity. I decided to take a rest here.

The following day,

Again, I continued my journey. This time I picked another dangerous spot to investigate. This dangerous spot is quite familiar to adventurers. It is called a green swamp or poisonous swamp.

Many adventurers and bandits had lost their lives after mistakenly stepping inside the green swamp. But I would like to know what is causing the poisonous miasma around there.

Without wasting any more time. I disappeared from the spot and moved towards the destination at a breakneck speed.

Soon the poisonous swamp appeared before my eyes. From mid-air, I looked down below. Near the swamp, some courageous adventurers were trying their luck.

But it's nothing but self-seeking death. A deep green color mist shrouded the entire green swamp. Seeing that I moved closer to the mist.

I feel no sense of threat from the poisonous mist. To be on the safe side, I used a blood field aura to dispel the poisonous mist near me.

Swish!

I stood in mid-air on top of the swamp. Using my perceptual ability, I quickly started to scan the surroundings.

Those adventurer groups didn't find any abnormality.

In a blink of an eye, my senses covered a few parts of the swamp. "Hmmm," My eyes lit up with surprise. Like a cave structure, I spotted the minute sign of life.

Other weird monsters living under the swamp. I frowned a little. I'm not ready to dive into the swamp.

Soon I sensed a strange object in my perception. What is it?

Swish!

I disappeared from the spot and landed on the surface of the swamp water. From here I can sense the object.

Splash!

Then without thinking further, I dived into the swamp. A terrific smell attacked my nostril. It is not much worse than the cave structure.

Then I reached the bottom of the swamp to retrieve the strange object. After picking it up, I hurriedly flew upwards.

Splash!

In a blink of an eye, I appeared in mid-air.

Finally, I take a good look at the strange object.

"Metal stele," I uttered in disbelief. My gaze immediately fell on strange letters written on the metal stele.

This thing is more precious than I had imagined. Because I have seen something similar back in the library.

In old times, powerful warriors used to record their techniques on a stele. I get the same feeling with this stele.

After calming down my heart, I gained a trace of clarity in my thoughts. Then I placed the stele in my storage ring. I came here to investigate this place but I got something else instead.

Then my gaze fell on the swamp again. This place is something else. I feel if I spend a few more times here, I may come across other valuable things.

Shaking my head, I decided to move away from there. The disgusting smell continues to attack my nostril.

Swish!

Several minutes later, I found a small stream ahead. After landing near the running stream, I immediately began to clean myself.

While cleaning myself, I felt a rumbling sound in my stomach. After getting freshened, I ate a few mana fruits which I had stored earlier.

The monsters roaming in this forest are unsafe to eat. I'm not going to do that till the end.

Tap!

Suddenly, I heard some disturbance. Hearing that, I quickly spread my perception. Within my perception, a huge plant monster appeared. The plant monster is targeting small prey to eat.

After figuring it out, I retracted my perception. Next, I accessed the map again. Earlier, the trip to the cave structure failed. And I found the stele in a swamp area.

But it's a relic that belongs to the old times.

So I hope to find something good on the next site. The area close to me now is an important one. It is safe to say it's the core area of the insect forest.

It is also the old home of an elite bandit leader.

Thinking about the elite bandit, my lips curve into a gentle arc. I know that Jonathan had dealt with him easily. But I don't know whether there will be any leftover treasures in that place.

If my assumption is right, no one entered that place after the death of the elite bandit leader. A heat appeared in my heart.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

Soon I reached the core area. In mid-air, I stopped my movements and looked ahead. I have to say this place has natural protection.

The core area is slightly above the ground. Like the top of the hill. Except for plant monsters and bird-type monsters. The place is not accessible to terrain monsters.

Swish!

Then I entered the core area. When I got a little bit closer. I see many broken and smashed wooden houses. The traces of battles are very visible.

"Sigh"

Seeing that I let out a deep sigh. I'm more convinced that no one had visited this place. Jonathan had completely overturned the core area.

Then shaking my head, I went a little bit deeper. "Where is that leader's hideout?" I mumbled under my breath.

My gaze swept past the nearest areas. But there is no sign of life. I furrowed my eyebrows. The bandit leader was not an ordinary person. So where is the place?

Slowly, I crossed half of the core area. But I didn't stop my perception. Finally, when I moved further, my perception caught something.

"What is that?" I looked at a certain ruin.

Swish!

I disappeared from the spot and landed on the ground. The wooden structure looked larger compared to other areas. There seems to be another space hidden inside the wooden structure.

I released my momentum to clear away the debris. Soon the place becomes visible. And I see a door leading to the underground chamber.

Chapter 428 Days Passed

(From MC's perspective)

Insect forest,

After breaking into the underground chamber, I began to search for treasures. Surprisingly, the underground hideout was not as damaged as I had previously imagined.

The stone path leads to a wide room. A surprise glint flashed in my eyes. I see this hideout must be used for emergency purposes.

While walking, I remember the elite bandit leader. The reason he came to this insect forest was to plunder resources from the adventurers.

All that is because the bandit leader suffered a gruesome injury before coming to this city. And he used the resources from the plundering to cure himself.

After gaining some clarity, I furrowed my eyebrows. This means I'm reaching a dead end. Anyway, I have come this far.

It's better to search entirely before leaving this place. After a couple of seconds, I walked into the wide room.

The spacious underground room looked empty without any items. Seeing that my expression darkened. I expected this but still, it's shocking to see that nothing is left in this room.

I sighed inwardly before leaving this place with disappointment.

Days passed,

After finding nothing in the core area. I had spent many days searching for treasure in other dangerous spots. But apart from weird monsters and bugs, I had failed to come across something valuable.

For the rest of the time, I heavily practiced my lightning techniques, blood field technique, and two soul techniques. In case of injury, I used the healing scripture to heal myself.

Also, the insect forest turned out to be a perfect place for practice. At the time of thunder and rain, I practice essence cultivation. So my cultivation didn't face any hurdles.

When it comes to proficiency in techniques.

1. Sword Divide: Great wheel (Beginner)
2. Lightning Wheel: Great wheel (Beginner)
3. Lightning Phantom: Great wheel (Beginner)
4. Blood Field Technique: Small wheel (intermediate)
5. Soul Tower Method: Small wheel (Beginner)
6. Soul Needle Art: Small wheel (Beginner)

I got six ranges of attacks under my sleeve. I made a wise decision to come here. Otherwise, I would have forgotten about the soul techniques.

Due to the changes that happened in a mysterious forest(Trunulesia), I had no time to think about soul techniques.

But here, I spent a few days getting started with these techniques. I successfully constructed one layer of the soul tower. And I successfully practiced two moves from soul needle art.

I believe this preparation with Elite level cultivation is enough to deal with all kinds of backhands in the odyssey monster zone.

A few weeks later,

I walked out of the insect forest after completing the investigations. About the origin of insect forests, I can conclude. The land beneath the insect forest hides the secrets.

Especially the deep cave structure. I didn't make it to the end. Which made me dissatisfied. But it's also real that I can come back at any time.

I feel my current Elite level strength is not safe. So it's better to come back after raising a few realms.

After coming out, I don't plan on leaving right away. I booked a good hotel nearby and decided to take some rest.

Night time,

Laying down in my bed. I'm reading all the undead messages so far. Most of them were just updates from Elder Thornton and Uncle James.

Thinking about Uncle James and Granny Park. I feel a sense of guilt inside. After coming back from baguva city, I didn't go home and see my family.

Which pains me a lot but I have no other choice. A lot of eyes were staring at my family. The current city lord turned out to be a Crimson Hall supporter.

So there is no point in confronting him right now. Everything will be settled when I get my place in the academy.

Thinking about the academy. My gaze fell on one particular update from Elder Thornton. It is about the crimson hall competition.

"Finally," My eyes lit up with surprise. The wait is over now. I read further messages to confirm.

"So, the crimson hall will announce the date in five days," I muttered to myself. But still, a hint of disappointment flashed in my eyes.

I heard from Jonathan that the location of Odyssey Monster Zone is far away. And it will take many days to reach the place.

Because that particular monster zone is forbidden and restricted to civilians.

To reach there, it will be a herculean task. The next second, my eyes burst out with a cold glint. Looks like the crimson hall is purposely doing this late announcement.

So many warriors from rival forces would miss this opportunity. "Hmph," I gave a cold snort in my heart.

Jonathan had destroyed multiple branches of the crimson hall a few months ago. But I believe this is not enough.

If anything goes wrong in the competition, the crimson hall will pay a heavy price.

Then shaking my head, I decided to leave tomorrow morning. I guess many of them don't know about the location. So they are going to wait for the announcement.

But I'm different. I can use this opportunity to reach the Odyssey Monster Zone a few days earlier than other people.

After reading the unread messages, I sent a message about my departure to Uncle James, Elder Thornton, and Jonathan.

The following day,

I left the hotel early to board the train. Unfortunately, it will take a few days to reach the red city. But it can't be helped.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

On the way, the passengers were talking about the crimson hall. Even though they don't know about the real face of this organization.

Everyone is speculating about which genius would perform well in the competition. After hearing all those amusing conversations, I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

I hope that many will survive a massacre. I don't even know what kind of hybrid and experimental monster they would let out in the competition.

Several days later,

The train reached the red city. After stepping out of the compartment, I smiled in relief. Two days ago, crimson hall announced the date and location of the competition.

Most importantly I wasn't surprised by their evil trick. They did something. The competition will start in six days. But It will be hard for normal warriors to reach the location without any support.

Thankfully, my situation is quite different. During the journey, I received a reply from Jonathan. He had made arrangements for my trip long ago.

The news was not surprising to me at all. Then shaking my head, I exited the station and hopped inside the air cab.

Swish!

Sitting back, I observed the city. Some digital boards are showing ads about crimson halls. Which is very eye-catching.

The next second, a strange expression appeared on my face. These days, I also learned about my reputation here. Which is completely bad.

Unlike the days after the star tower performance. This time the new city lord has managed to spoil my name. Especially my disappearance after the Hansen incident.

The new city lord blamed me for the no-show.

Even the narratives of media posts were similar to his. But none of these affected my moods.

All of these were just passing clouds. Long since I knew that our region is just a corner of the barren land.

Especially after becoming a student of a powerful existence. My horizons had widened. So the new city lord is jumping clowns in my eyes.

Swish!

Several minutes later,

The air cab landed in front of the Hansen institute. Since I covered my face with a mask. The cab driver didn't recognize me. After paying the fees, I stepped out and walked towards the gate.

"Hmm," I raised my eyebrows in surprise. I see a group of students coming and going. The classes and training started a week ago.

Seeing that I sighed inwardly. Hardly few people go to the higher city and see the wider world.

After entering the access code, I walked into the building. I directly took the lift to reach Elder Thornton's cabin.

A few minutes later,

I arrived in front of a big room. Right after the door opened and I walked into the cabin.

"Zack, how have you been?" a familiar voice reached my ears.

Turning, I see the face of Uncle James. There is also Granny Park sitting beside him. Elder Thornton sitting in the main seat.

"Everyone is here," I uttered in surprise.

My face becomes bright instantly. After a long time, I'm meeting my family. Suddenly, a wave of sadness washed over my heart.

Because I see Granny Park's body deteriorating due to old age. My Elite sense picked up the dead vitality from her body.

Seeing her I received a bright smile. "I'm doing fine, Uncle. What about you and granny? Is she alright?" I asked.

Before James could speak, Granny Park took initiative to speak. "Zack, you are back finally. "It's good to see you again," Granny Park said in a trembling voice.

Hearing that, I immediately hugged her and supported her to sit.

Chapter 429 Departure Day

(From MC's perspective)

Hansen campus,

"I will have to find some treasure that can prolong her life," I said in my heart, looking at Granny Park.

Then I turned my gaze and looked at Elder Thornton before sitting on my seat.

James saw through Zack's thoughts. "Zack, don't worry. I'll take care of Ms. Park," He said in a calm tone.

Hearing that, I smiled in response. Of course, I know Uncle James will help her. But some pills are expensive and hard to find.

Even in Baguva city, such life-extending pills are a rare commodity. Suddenly, the image of Jonathan comes to find.

That's right, why haven't I thought about it before? I'll request Jonathan to provide some pills and help granny park.

After gaining some clarity, I let go of my hanging heart.

"Zack?" Elder Thornton opened his mouth at this time.

Even Granny Park feels some guilt. She hopes that Zack won't think too much about her.

"I'm good," I uttered before recovering myself.

"Good," Seeing Thornton uttered well.

"Now let's get to the topic. Zack, did you get the news?" Thornton asked.

Hearing that I nodded my head.

A complicated glint flashed in Thornton's eyes. But he remembers Zack's current strength. A sense of assurance appeared in his heart.

Thornton asked, "When are you leaving?"

A lot of questions appear in my heart. But I don't want to discuss it in front of Granny Park. She came here to see me. So she doesn't know about the Odyssey Monster Zone.

"I'll leave tomorrow but..." I opened my mouth to say something but I stopped mid-way. Because I remember something valuable.

There is a beautiful river painting hanging on the wall near my bed. I believe I bought that painting from some antique store.

Let's not talk about that now. I'll ask Uncle James to pick it up later.

The next moment, I said, "Elder, The timing of crimson hall is not right. I believe it's good to leave tomorrow."

Elder Thornton and James were not fools. They can see that something is stopping Zack from speaking.

A sudden realization dawned upon them.

"Ms. Park is sick after all. It is not good for the heart to hear something bad," James sighed to himself.

Then he stood up and supported Ms. Park to leave. Both came here to send off Zack. But something can't be discussed openly in front of her.

Granny Park nodded in understanding. Soon both left, leaving Elder Thornton and Zack.

"Phew," I exhaled in relief.

Looking at Elder Thornton, I couldn't help but remember my first meeting and the following events after that.

Especially the one particular event where he fought to save my life from the assassin.

"Elder Thornton, thank you for your teaching. I don't know whether there will be an opportunity to come back again. So I'm saying right now," I said with a smile.

"This," Elder Thornton dumbfounded for a second. More than an Elite Warrior, Zack seems to be a teenager right now. He sighed to himself.

So many things have happened to Hansen since Zack's joining. But ultimately he feels good.

Especially Zack's performance and achievement in the Star Tower will be remembered forever.

When it comes to the current City Lord. He is not afraid of him. Once Zack gets into the Academy, then the circumstances surrounding them will be changed.

"Zack, your strength already surpassed us. I don't worry about anything. I hope you won't forget us when you reach higher levels," Thornton commented as he remembered his prime days.

If not for limited talent, he would have participated in some competitions like Crimson Hall.

Hearing that, my eyes gleamed with a twinkle. I know Elder Thornton has offended a lot of elders in the academy to favor me. So the best way to repay him is to make a name for Hansen's wild spread in the competition.

Then we talked about a few other things before I decided to leave.

"Arthur and Ms. Key will be back to work tomorrow. I hope you will meet them before leaving," Thornton said.

I nodded at him before leaving.

Creak

The door opens. Right after leaving Elder Thornton's cabin. I see Uncle James waiting for me outside.

"Uncle," I called out.

James nodded and said, "Alas, I know Ms. Park's sickness is troubling you. But it can't be helped. Her vitality is decaying slowly."

"Zack, I want to talk to you alone," James added.

Hearing that I nodded. I also decided to tell you about the river painting.

Then I led him towards the underground chamber.

On the way, we walked past students and staff. Since we wore normal clothing. It didn't attract much attention.

A few minutes later,

Creak

We arrived in front of the underground room.

After entering inside, I introduced this place to him.

"I know this is the foundation of Hansen. The battle arena's defense can even stop the attack of Class 3 Monster," He said with an appreciative look.

Then we entered the room and started to discuss. Some things can't be discussed in front of Elder Thornton. For example the origin of Jonathan and Teacher.

"Uncle, what about Mr. Jonathan?" I asked.

I know he had made arrangements for the trip. But I don't know what it is exactly.

James wasn't surprised by the question. He replied, "Don't worry, he will come."

My eyes gleamed with a twinkle. Sure, Jonathan has been keeping in touch with Uncle James. Which is good.

Then we spent a few more hours talking. Especially he talked about my past. Where he completely revealed everything to me without hiding anything.

The atmosphere turned solemn for a moment. My past seems to be a mystery. Because there is a long way before accepting the inheritance.

Currently, I'm undergoing an inheritance trial. Except for the perceptual ability. I have no other powers from inheritance.

Only after improving the domain physique to an unimaginable level, can my body withstand the power of inheritance.

Despite all that, I have awakened three different elemental powers in my body.

Lightning, Blood, and Healing element. Three of the elements were extreme in a separate category. But I have all three of them.

Which shows that my parents were not simple adventurers. But Uncle James doesn't know much about my family either.

A frown appeared on my face. Things were not simple back then. I have this vague feeling that I will get some answers after becoming strong.

Uncle James left after the private talk.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

The following day,

9 A.M

"Still there is no sign of Jonathan," I mumble under my breath.

Then shaking my head, I walked towards Elder Thornton's cabin.

A few minutes later,

Right after, I entered Elder's cabin. Arthur and Ms. Key also walked into the room.

"Mr. Arthur"

"Ms. Key"

I greeted them with a smile.

"Zack, how have you been?" A surprise glint flashes in his eyes. The next second, he found he couldn't see through Zack.

Zack seems to be unfathomable. He is shocked to the core.

At the same time, Ms. Key was also dumbfounded. She knows Zack has been training in the outside world for some time. It is normal to have improvement.

But she feels some kind of pressure.

"Cough" "Cough"

Looking at their reactions, I coughed twice.

Hearing that both returned to reality and watched Zack in horror. Then Elder Thornton reminded them to sit.

He had a similar reaction sometime before. A wry smile appeared on his face.

Then Arthur started the conversation by talking about Crimson Hall.

I couldn't help but look at Elder Thornton. Looks like Elder Thornton didn't reveal the dangers inside the Odyssey Monster Zone.

Then we spent a few hours in discussion.

Beep!

Before I received a message from Jonathan.

Right after that, I immediately left Hansen. And reached a meeting point a few minutes later.

Swish!

Jonathan appeared in front in a blink of an eye.

Seeing that I let go of my hanging heart.

Jonathan asked, "Can we leave now?"

Hearing that I nodded my head. There is nothing to carry, everything is inside my storage ring.

But I decided to inform others before leaving.

I left Jonathan and hurried towards Hansen. Using my flight ability, I reached the campus quickly.

On the other hand, Jonathan's eyes flickered with a surprised glint. The next second, disbelief appeared on his face. "Elite," He said to himself.

Then he shook his head in denial. No, it must be imagination. Jonathan feels absurd. How can Zack become an Elite warrior in this broken land?

He removed the unnecessary thoughts from his heart.

A few minutes later,

When Zack appeared again. Jonathan stood in disbelief. He can sense the Elite-level aura from Zack.

"How is this possible?" Jonathan uttered in surprise. Unlike the normal Elite aura. The aura on Zack's body is very strong.

At the same time, I revealed a small smile on my face. I see the expected reaction from Jonathan. Earlier, I felt it was better to tell him in person.

Chapter 430 Six Academies' Consent

(From MC's perspective)

Finally, Jonathan couldn't control his curiosity. He asked, "What happened in that forest?"

Hearing that I looked around for a moment. There are movements of people nearby. It is better to have conversations on the way.

Jonathan saw through his thoughts. Then both of them quickly left the city.

Seeing Jonathan using flight ability, I'm not surprised at all. From the killing of the bandit leader alone, I see that he is above Elite. But for some reason, he is concealing his powers.

My eyes flickered with a slight glint. Soon we reached the empty land and landed on the ground. We walked away from the red city. The size of the Red City is small, to begin with.

So the city is miles away from here.

But Why did he bring me here? A strong curiosity rose in my heart.

Screech!

A terrible scream resonated throughout the area. "This sound?" My eyes lit up with surprise. It is the scream of a powerful monster.

I looked at Jonathan who was calm at this moment.

Shortly after, a giant bird appeared from the clouds and slowly landed in front of us. My mouth curved into an arc.

[Class 4 Monster- Brown Feathered Eagle]

I recalled the information about the bird from my memory. The Class monsters are highly intelligent. It's hard to tame them for domestic purposes.

I couldn't help but take a look at Jonathan again. Finally, I'm getting into the secrets of the world. I sighed inwardly.

Jonathan then walked towards the massive bird monster and gently stroked its beak. Seeing that I'm certain that this monster belongs to Jonathan.

No wonder he appears out of nowhere just like that. Because he got a different mode of monsters compared to civilians. The monster is 20 meters in size.

It can easily sweep away the average warriors below Elite.

Then upon Jonathan's signal, the monster adjusted its posture so that both of them could stand on its back.

Seeing Jonathan's action, I walked up to him. I don't think the bird monster is hostile. As expected the monster slightly glanced at me before looking sideways.

I chuckled seeing that. Alas, it would be better if I could get such a monster in the future.

A couple of seconds later,

We both stood on the back of the monster. After letting out a fierce scream, the bird monster rose from the ground and started flying towards the destination.

When the wind brushed past my face. I feel so good. Suddenly, I found Jonathan staring at me. I realized it's time to talk.

Then I revealed what happened in a mysterious forest. I omitted the details of healing scripture and other unnecessary details. Then I spoke about the soul cultivation technique.

Jonathan's eyes lit up with surprise. The soul techniques were not easy to start without assisted resources like soul stones. But Zack comprehends the technique with his understanding.

Jonathan was shocked in his heart. As the master said, Zack's talent is no less than that of inner post warriors.

After several minutes, Jonathan gained some clarity in his thoughts. Right now, there is nothing in this outer post that can help Zack to improve further.

Elite warriors' have to consume much more resources for the breakthrough. When it comes to Zack, it's much more complicated.

Zack has lightning power and the resources of the lightning element are scarce in this barren land. It was already a miracle for Zack to come across a chance to become Elite Warrior.

He doesn't know how many would bleed their heart. If they heard about a chance that can raise several big realms.

A wry smile appeared on Jonathan's face. He knows that It's not going to happen that frequently. But he recovered his thoughts and then pondered about the Odyssey Monster Zone.

At the same time, I see Jonathan didn't raise further questions. Seeing that I slowly closed my eyes.

Time passed in a blink of an eye,

Several hours later,

Along the way, the duo crossed many Tier-8 cities. Right now they are going to cross the space of Tier-7 City.

Soon the vicinity of Tier-7 city came into view. My eyes gleamed with a twinkle. I have to say the speed of the giant eagle is many times faster than the fortified train.

On top of it, there is no obstacle in the air. The bird monster moves freely in the sky with freedom. Slowly we fly over the city wall. Since we are flying high above the clouds.

Ordinary warriors' can't see us. At this time Jonathan opened his eyes.

Seeing that I asked, "When will we reach the monster zone?"

"Three days," Jonathan uttered.

Beep!

Jonathan's communication watch lit up with a notification. Seeing that he began to read it. After a couple of seconds, a surprised glint flashed in his eyes.

"Master has come to Odyssey Monster Zone," He said in his heart. The next second, he thinks the master will be surprised to know Zack's strength.

Besides, he thinks Zack doesn't need to participate in the competition. Especially Zack's current strength is similar to many City Lords.

He feels the Master will certainly change his plan. Then he sent a reply back to the message. His master asked about their whereabouts. After sending the message, he closed his eyes again.

...

The announcement from the crimson hall caused a massive stir in many organizations. Especially the location of the event caused some panic among lower and medium-sized organizations.

High-rank warriors and forces with strong backgrounds are aware of the horror of the odyssey monster zone.

That monster zone is a forbidden place. Even the government was forced to think twice before entering the odyssey monster zone.

So many forces stopped their descendants from going there. Not only the hybrid monsters, but the environments in the monster zone can also cause a threat to many talented seeds.

After getting the news many strong forces felt Star Tower is way better than Crimson Hall. Conducting a life-changing event in a deadly place is nothing but a vicious scheme.

Everyone aware of Crimson Hall's means decided to rally up to forcibly stop the event.

The news quickly spread like a wildfire. The warriors who were preparing for the competition from many Tier-8 cities were confused. They didn't know about the Odyssey monster zone.

So they felt it is not good to stop the competition. Only some powerful organizations support the momentum. They hoped that the event would be stopped.

But Crimson Hall was insidious. They had previously planned everything. So that event will start a few days after the announcement.

Crimson Hall,

After reading the reports, Casey sneered inside, "It's too late to protest." He is aware of these organizations' intentions. They don't want their descendants to die.

But if the seed candidates don't participate in the competition. Then they will miss a good opportunity to join the six academies.

The next second, his gaze fell on other reports. The report is about the six academies that were coming to recruit the students.

1. Saw Scaled Viper Academy

2. White Palace

3. Red Moon Tower

4. The Eclipse Academy

5. Silver Clouds Academy

6. Giant Tower

Unlike the Tier-7 City, these academies have their separate jurisdiction. They are not bonded to government rules.

Even he can't afford to mess with them. But thankfully, the situation of these academies is right. He doesn't know what is going on. But he gained some information from his connections.

The six academies were short on resources and manpower. This has never been the case with these academies. These six academies have their jurisdiction and City.

The City under these academies was rated as Tier-6 City. Thinking about the Tier-6 City, an envious glint flashed in his eyes.

But soon he recovered himself. After knowing their situation, he decided to exploit them. That's why he is so sure that this event will happen for sure.

Because he knows that the academies were aware of his movements. Especially since they knew about the Odyssey. Monster Zone. But there is a tacit understanding between them. None of them showed any objection.

Some happened two days later. Which went beyond his expectations. The stirring commotion and protest were quieted down all of a sudden.

Because six big academies have sent a joint statement. Stating that they were fine with the arrangements done by Crimson Hall.

The news came out of the blue. Which shocked several forces. None of them had expected six academies to support crimson hall.

Which made everyone stunned. Now, no one can protest against the competition. After learning about the statement, several big forces sighed. They are helpless.

It's impossible to send their descendants to this competition. And they can't reveal the dangers in the Odyssey Monster Zone to the public.

It goes against the rules. And none of them want to offend the big academies either. So Many of them decided not to attend the competition in the end.

On the other hand, the Tier-8 cities' warriors didn't know what was going on. But they are glad that the competition is going to be held. So they are happily getting ready. And some already started to leave.