

C Immortality 431

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 431: The Final Biddings of Post 5 (2)

After Gunner's bid, no new bid was made for ten minutes which made Jacob impatience, so he decided to fasten the process. He has already seen all the scriptures that the guy was offering, and truth be told, he was content with them.

A new announcement was made on the server at this moment.

"Star Server Owner (Faceless Ancient) has started the 3 Bidding Announcements!

"Anonymous132 (Star ID: Might-of-Destruction) is the current highest bidder on Post No.5!

"Final Exchange Bid going once...

"Final Exchange Bid going twice...

"New Bid from Anonymous3784932 (Star ID: Fallen-Golden): 10 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Water Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 10 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Weapon Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 1 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Casting Type: Advanced Epic Grade) (See Hidden Details)"

The new bid finally, and this time and it was from another unknown source that Jacob wasn't aware of. But it was just the start since the final sequence has started now the bidding will end if no one comes up.

"New Bid from Anonymous132 (Star ID: Might-of-Destruction): 10 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Water Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 10 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Weapon Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 2 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Casting Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 5 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Enhanced Type: Advanced Epic Grade) (See Hidden Details)

"Final Exchange Bid going once...

"Final Exchange Bid going twice..."

"New Bid from Anonymous19393 (Star ID: Apocalyptic-S): 3 Universal Magic Scripture (Scanned: Water Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 1 Universal Magic Scripture (Scanned: Fire Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 30 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Water Type: Advanced Epic Grade) (Hidden Details)"

"Final Exchange Bid going once..."

Jacob was astounded at this moment, 'Just how many universal scriptures the clown society had?'

Although the fire element universal scripture was useless to him, as long S-0 met the requirement of the water type universal scripture, she could add another scripture.

However, for Jacob, the fire element universal scripture was not completely useless at all. He thought the bid would end this, but it was very wrong.

"New Bid from Anonymous1 (Star ID: The Society Killer): 5 Universal Magic Scripture (Scanned: Water Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 1 Universal Magic Scripture (Scanned: Gravity Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 11 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Water Type: Advanced Epic Grade) (Hidden Details)"

"Final Exchange Bid going once..."

"Final Exchange Bid going twice..."

"New Bid from Anonymou500 (Star ID: Rich Winter Lady): 5 Universal Magic Scripture (Scanned: Water Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 2 Universal Magic Scripture (Scanned: Fire Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 2 Universal Magic Scripture (Scanned: Earth Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 1 Universal Magic Scripture (Scanned: Dark Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 40 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Water Type: Advanced Epic Grade) (Hidden Details)"

"Final Exchange Bid going once..."

"Final Exchange Bid going twice...

"New Bid from Anonymou3099990 (Star ID: Timeless Dark Tree): 10 Universal Magic Scripture (Scanned: Water Type: Advanced Epic Grade) (Hidden Details)"

"Heh, and he was offering me just one, huh?" Jacob sneered when the Dark Marquise made his first bid since he joined his star server.

Since his Star ID was already revealed, bidding under another member of the Dark City's Star ID was no longer required for him.

This time, the bid was really grand; 10 universal scriptures of water type were hard to match. Because Jacob has preferred water type universal scripture, and unless someone can take out ten same element scripture or higher, no matter which element universal scripture people matched the number with, the Star Network won't consider the bid.

Although Water Element was common, the Universal Scriptures of Water Element were not!

If anyone, only one organization might have them, and the bid was just made by the Chairman of that exact organization.

"New Bid from Anonymous132 (Star ID: Might-of-Destruction): 11 Universal Magic Scripture (Scanned: Water Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 10 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Water Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 10 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Weapon Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 2 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Casting Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 10 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Enhanced Type: Advanced Epic Grade), (See Hidden Details)

"New Bid from Anonymou3099990 (Star ID: Timeless Dark Tree): 14 Universal Magic Scripture (Scanned: Water Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 9 Universal Magic Scripture (Scanned: Fire Type: Advanced Epic Grade), 42 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Water Type: Advanced Epic Grade), (Hidden Details)

"Final Exchange Bid going once...

"Final Exchange Bid going twice..."

Gunner finally seemed to have down, and Jacob had a big smile on his face since this result was far above his initial expectation.

It was then...

"New Bid from Anonymous2 (Star ID: Star-Chaser): 1 Universal Scripture (Scanned: Fire & Water Type: Above Epic Grade), 2 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Water Type: Above Epic Grade), 1 Magic Ability Scripture (Scanned: Fire Type: Above Epic Grade), (Hidden Details)"

Jacob's eyes widened in pure disbelief seeing this astounded bid, and this was the first time this person had shown his presence.

Furthermore, this universal scripture was of two elements, not just one, which made it even rarer than a single element Unique Rank Universal Scripture!

"Final Exchange Bid going once..."

"Final Exchange Bid going twice..."

"Final Exchange Bid ZC going thrice..."

"Star Server: Ancient Artifact Industry Auction Post NO.5 has been concluded and won by Anonymous2 (Star ID: Star-Chaser)!"

"Final Bid: 1 Universal Scripture (Star Data File), 2 Magic Ability Scripture (Star Data File), 1 Magic Ability Scripture (Star Data File) has been successfully stored in the Star Network Data Base.

"(NOTE: The Star Data Files will remain locked until the item is delivered to Star-Chaser!)"

"Calculating the Grace Period ..."

With ecstasy, Jacob instantly opened the hidden details of the items he had just exchanged.

"[Hidden Details: Universal Magic Scripture (Star Data File/NOT Physical Copy)

"Universal Scripture Name: The Aura Water and Fire Paladin

"Universal Scripture Rank: 1-Star Magic Core to Unknown Rank

"Universal Scripture Class: Combat

"Universal Scripture Element: Water & Fire

"Universal Scripture Abilities (Aura of Water Knight): 1. Water Manipulation, 2. Water Weaving, 3. Water Aura, 4. Water Aura Armor, 5. Water Aura Blade

"Universal Scripture Abilities (Aura of Fire Knight): 1. Fire Manipulation, 2. Inferno Flame, 3. Inferno Aura, 4. Inferno Aura Filed, 5. Inferno Aura Blade]

"[Hidden Details: Magic Ability Scripture (Star Data File/NOT Physical Copy)

"Ability Name: Liquid Healing

"Ability Ranked: Above Epic Grade

"Ability Type: Water

"Ability Class: Sorcery]

"[Hidden Details: Magic Ability Scripture (Star Data File/NOT Physical Copy)

"Ability Name: Water Acceleration

"Ability Ranked: Above Epic Grade

"Ability Type: Water

"Ability Class: Combat/Sorcery]

"[Hidden Details: Magic Ability Scripture (Star Data File/NOT Physical Copy)

"Ability Name: Star Combustion

"Ability Ranked: Above Epic Grade

"Ability Type: Fire

"Ability Class: Combat]"

Chapter 432: The Star-Chaser

Other than the King of Dead Onyx, who held absolute authority as the King of Death. Under his command were one Prime Minister of Dead, two Dead Ministers, and four Dead Dukes, followed by Dead Marquises, Dead Counts, Dead Viscounts, and Dead Barons. These were the highest ranks of dark beings, and they all controlled their own fief and races.

The Dark Beings followed a strict hierarchy, the high-evolution dark being had an absolute advantage over lower-evolution dark beings, and all those Dead Noble Titles were earned after going through countless bloody battles and getting Onyx recognition.

The Prime Minister of Dead, and two Dead Ministers lived in the Doom Palace in the Doom Capital, and only the King of Dead can command them.

But the four Dead Dukes handle the East, West, South, and North of the Dead Plains, and they only had one purpose, kill as many livings as possible and train powerful Dark Knights for the Doom Capital.

Because the Doom Capital wasn't a place for just anyone could live, it was filled with the strongest forces of the Kingdom of Doom, the Dead Legions of Dark Knights!

Thereby, according to their contribution, they will then be given corresponding rewards by the King of Dead. And those rewards were no joke at all. That's why the Dead Dukes do everything to wage wars and collect more life crystals.

In the western territory of Epic Dead Plains was located the Miasma Mountain Range, filled with dark miasma and the stench of death. This place was the dukedom of Venomous Zombie Dead Duke, one of the four Dead Dukes of the Kingdom of Doom!

All year long, this place teemed with all sorts of zombie soldiers, and this was no place for living being. Not even Epics can stay here for more than one day before getting effective by this cold, toxic environment, that is, under the condition that they weren't eaten by the zombies first.

However, even the Dead Duke wasn't aware of the massive bunker built right under its territory!

At this moment, within this mysterious bunker, two giants, a male, and a female, were sitting in front of a giant screen that showed a star server post.

"Star Server: Ancient Artifact Industry Auction Post NO.5 has been concluded, and You (Anonymous2: Star ID: Star-Chaser) has won the White Sun Missile!"

"The deal has been finalized!

"Grace Period is being calculated

"Please select the location for your item delivery

"Open Star Server Inbox for inquiry"

The male giant or Star-Chaser smiled as he looked at the female giant with a meaningful expression and said, "See this? And you were telling me I was wasting my time."

"Hmph, who could've thought, this guy had Unique Grade Weapon under his sleeve? Anyone with a right mind would think he was just an ant who wanted to shake up a tree." The female giant scoffed.

"Just admit I was right, and you were wrong this time." Star-Chaser didn't let go of his victory.

"Unless I die."

"Hah, you stubborn woman!" The Star-Chaser laughed as he clearly enjoyed seeing the female giant's flustered expression.

"Enough of your childishness. Since you brought it with such a precious scripture, I can presume you want to blow up the Void Star Server of epic plains?" She questioned.

The Star-Chaser nodded without hesitation, "Indeed, this is our chance to get rid of that annoying AI, and this will buy us precious time to swallow the entire epic plains in one fell swoop. Who could've thought the problem would be solved like this? Although that scripture was one of a kind, it was still worth it!"

The female giant frowned, "True, it was unexpected indeed. But what are the odds of this happening? We are talking about the most powerful security system of epic plains. Besides, it's still not clear that

this one weapon can even cut it. If we fail, you can forget about getting another chance. I don't want to spend another hundred years to discover the Void Star Server location again!"

The Star-Chaser sighed as he said with a determined look, "I know, but this is our only chance to get out of here and buy a better future for our children. The organization will not look away if we achieve the impossible. Even if we fail, it's not like we will be losing something. We can just have to win the Trial Plain, that's all."

The female giant fell into contemplated silence before she finally replied with a sigh, "You do have a point. I'm also tired of suppressing myself and hearing those arrogant bastards order. It's about time we get the treatment we deserve. And speaking of children, where are they?" Her eyes went deadly cold.

"Stop worrying about them. Give them space to grow. They are no longer kids. Let them experience the world a little and learn from that experience. You do know that if you keep this up, they will become even more rebellious and might not listen to you." The Star-Chaser smiled wryly.

With squinted eyes, she retorted, "They dare? If not for you stopping me, I wouldn't have let them sneak out at all. They are still naïve and might get hurt."

"That's why I'm saying they need experience, and besides, they are also my precious children as well. I won't let anything happen to them. Don't worry. Once they get tired of playing, they will come back to you." He gently smiled.

At this moment, his focus turned to the screen again, and he said, "So since we are giving him this precious boon, should we recruit him? We both have to admit, right now, he is a symbol of destruction with that technology under his belt. Who knows what he's hiding up his sleeve."

The female giant shook her head and disdainfully stated, "No, he's still not worthy. He has yet to understand the depth of those three hegemonies. Furthermore, he just foolishly revealed that he has a water magic core, the common element.

"So, I don't think he has the potential to go forward from the Epic Plains. He's just some lucky individual, but luck has its limit. Or do you think that Big Oaf didn't have a unique grade universal scripture for common elements like water up his sleeve?"

"Besides, let him cause chaos in our stead. This will keep everyone's attention on him while we can move in shadows and achieve our goals. He's still nothing but an ant, unaware of the predators hiding. Just using him to our advantage is the greatest honor of his life!"

The Star-Chaser side-eye his stubborn partner and sighed before declaring, "You're still too arrogant. This kid gives me a very promising vibe. But I know you or those old stubborn men won't listen to me despite me being your leader."

"Still, I'm going to befriend this kid whether you like it or not. And if he shows promise, I'll take him as a disciple, and you can't stop me either!"

Chapter 433: Conclusion of the Second Auction

"Star Server Inbox (Star Server Owner):

"Anonymous2 (Star ID: Star-Chaser): You are very impressive Faceless Ancient!

"[Star Network Advocacy: You are not obliged to reply to this message!]"

Jacob looked at the message from Star-Chase with scrutiny. He was quite curious about this person who could take out unique rank magic ability and universal scripture, but he knew better than to ask.

"Faceless Ancient (Star Server Owner): Thank you. Your delivery will arrive in 51 days."

"Anonymous2 (Star ID: Star-Chaser): Oh, I have no doubt about it. If you're willing to share your production method of White Sun Missile, I can promise you that you won't be disappointed with that trade either."

"Faceless Ancient (Star Server Owner): You're asking for too much, so I have declined. But I'm willing to trade another White Sun Missile if you can provide me with something as valuable as you just bid."

"Anonymous2 (Star ID: Star-Chaser): Well, I had to ask. So, what do you want, more water-type universal scriptures of the same rank?"

'So, he had more?' Jacob was astonished since he was just fishing but never expected the Star-Chaser would have more.

"Faceless Ancient (Star Server Owner): If possible, yes. But I also want an ability scripture related to the casting of the same rank this time.

"Anonymous2 (Star ID: Star-Chaser): Your appetite sure is huge. But it's nothing I can't satisfy. But you have to agree to one of my conditions, and I'll add a very powerful casting type ability scripture with one more Universal Scripture like the Aura Water and Fire Paladin, and four more ability scriptures for water elements of the same rank."

If Jacob hadn't known better, he would've definitely thought this guy was Gunner. But this offer was very enticing for him and his research for magic.

"Faceless Ancient (Star Server Owner): I need to hear the condition first.

"Anonymous2 (Star ID: Star-Chaser): I won't ask for anything you can't do. On the contrary, I think you would be very thrilled to accept this condition. I'll give you the location of a secret vault, and you just need to empty it. I don't want anything. You can keep whatever you found in there; I just want it to be empty!"

Jacob frowned as this was completely unexpected.

"Faceless Ancient (Star Server Owner): I need more context.

"Anonymous2 (Star ID: Star-Chaser): Of course, you see this vault is related to the Bank Manager of Universal Zodiac Taurus Bank, Lucy Gabriel. Tell me, are you interested?"

'That bitch?' Jacob's eyes went cold, but this also made him wary of Star-Chase the same. Because Lucy was no ordinary character, she was one of the three leaders of the hegemonies.

Although he wanted nothing but to get his hands on her heart, he wasn't delusional enough to think he was capable enough. Furthermore, since this vault is related to her, this also means it was a very well-hidden secret, yet this guy knows it!

For all he knows, this person was one of Lucy's dogs, and she was deliberately baiting him to come out of his hideout. Or he can simply backstab him by telling others where he will be.

Right now, Jacob's biggest advantage was his location was still well hidden, and no one had figured out that he wasn't a golden elf yet. So, even if there was no risk involved in this, this wasn't something he was willing to try, especially when his very life was at stake.

Besides, he already has the venture to the Vile Witch Layer, and then he needed to research the magic and practice the rune crafting before making his final preparations for the trial plain. So, his schedule was pretty much occupied. Being greedy will only hinder his plans.

"Faceless Ancient (Star Server Owner): Sorry, I'm not interested.

"Anonymous2 (Star ID: Star-Chaser): Are you sure? You might find even more knowledge there.

"Faceless Ancient (Star Server Owner): Again, I'm not interested.

"Anonymous2 (Star ID: Star-Chaser): Hah, what a meticulous fellow you are. Then I guess we can't carry on with our deal. But if I like your product performance, I will reach out to you. On the other hand, if you change your mind, contact me any time, and let's add each other as friends.

"Faceless Ancient (Star Server Owner): No problem."

Although slightly reluctant, Jacob closed the chat box. But he wasn't too flustered since it wasn't the end of the world. Because he still has many more options.

Jacob then instantly contacted Dark Marquise and signed off a deal, and sold a White Sun Missile. The Dark Marquise will buy that missile with the same amount that he bid in the end, and on top of that, he has to pay an extra 500 Million ZC.

Lastly, he decided to accept the Society Killer's deal as well, but he made him pay not only 500 Million ZC but also 5,000 Magic Gems of Basic Epic Grade Quality. He needed them to practice his water magic, of course, and each such gem cost around 1,000 ZC in the market!

So, this deal was still satisfactory for him. Other than that, he ignored all the messages from top figures since it was only a waste of time. For he didn't have more White Sun Missile, nor was he going to make more unless someone made an offer he couldn't refuse.

Furthermore, he was planning on replenishing his arsenal with far more terrifying weapons once he got rid of the old ones. So this also concluded the second auction of his Star Server, and it was even more successful than the first one.

Nevertheless, it wasn't the time for celebration as he had another appointment. So, he quickly headed towards the Destiny Star Corporation to hand over his deliveries, and then he got all the knowledge and money which was locked.

But he put it on hold since this wasn't something he could learn in a day and headed directly toward the two giants who were waiting for him.

Jacob was now ready to head toward the Vile Witch Layer!

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Chapter 434: The Viper

Frugal and Aven have been staying in a small villa in a prestigious area of Alliance Alive City No.492.

At this moment, both brother and sister were discussing something with enthusiastic expressions.

"Do you think Viper is Anonymous1?" Frugal asked with a hint of excitement.

Viper was the name Jacob had used to introduce himself.

Aven replied with uncertainty, "There is a possibility. But if he is Anonymous1, why do you think he delays so much? There's no reason to hide it from us right, unless he didn't trust us completely. I think he's Anonymous84322 or Anonymous4. Or he's none of them together since that sort of money is not something just a low-ranking member of our organization could have."

"Heh, you're the one to talk about trust. Didn't you hide the 'key' as well?" Frugal chuckled slyly.

Aven's lips curled up with disdain, "You're right about that. We all have our secrets, I guess. But this Viper is indeed capable if he is really able to acquire the Atomic Grenade. This would mean he's one of the upper echelons of our organization." Her expression turned stern all of a sudden, "This also means he's extremely dangerous, and he might've approached us because of the Vile Witch Layer."

Frugal squinted his eyes, "I know, right? He might be someone sent by Dad to be our hidden guardian and team up with us under the pretext of gaining part of the inheritance. Don't you find it strange that he didn't push you to give the map? It's like he knows we are telling the truth or simply doesn't care that we might be playing him. Moreover, he refused to give away his Star ID and won't stay with us."

"There is indeed such possible. But we can't be sure of anything until he gives away his Star ID. But whoever he is, as long as he's a member of our organization, once he knows our identities, he won't dare to scheme against us, much less covet our things!" Aven coldly stated.

Frugal eyes widened as realization dawned on him, "Sis, don't tell me..."

Aven smiled deviously, "Just let your big sis handle it."

"Sigh... you really reminded me of Mother!" Frugal was a spectacle.

"Beep..."

A bell suddenly rang, and both of them looked at each other knowingly.

"He's here." Aven solemnly stated.

"I'll get him," Frugal stated before a mask and cloak appeared on his persona, and Aven also did the same before nodding. They both didn't show their faces to Jacob, nor he ever showed any interest in seeing them.

At the villa door, Jacob stood as he waited for someone to open the door. Since only he knew about this place, he knew Frugal and Aven would know it was him. Furthermore, they had learned from their mistake and rented a villa with a security system, so not just anyone could enter without alarming them.

Thereupon, the door opened, and Frugal, in a hooded cloak, appeared and greeted him, "Sir Viper, we were just talking about you."

"Is that so?" Jacob coolly replied as he walked inside, "How's the preparation going?"

Frugal closed the door and walked with Jacob as he led him toward Aven and answered, "We have done our part and recruited 18 mercenaries."

"Will they be enough?" Jacob asked impassively.

"More than enough." Frugal confidently replied before asking back in anticipation, "What about you? Did sir succeed?"

Jacob clearly knew what Frugal was hinting at and nodded, "Of course."

Frugal's eyes lit up as he questioned with ecstasy like a gossip, "Then I must congratulate you, sir Viper! This time that prick Faceless Ancient really showed his fangs, and the competition was far more intense than last time. Do you think the White Sun Missile is as destructive as he claimed it to be? And do you mind telling me who you are? Anonymous84322, Anonymous4, or Anonymous1?"

Jacob's expression remained unreadable as he replied, "I can't comment on the White Sun Missile since no one has seen it in action. I'm as clueless as you. As for what my anonymous ID is, let it be a secret. It's better this way."

Frugal looked somewhat dejected but didn't push the matter since it was Jacob's secret, and it would be rude to continue asking, or he might offend him.

'I'm glad the Society Killer didn't win everything this time, or it would be hard to explain...' Jacob thought.

Frugal seemed to be a great gossip as he asked all sorts of questions, and Jacob replied with few words without showing any excessive emotions. They finally appeared where Aven was waiting.

She noticed Frugal's hidden hand signal, and her eyes widened ever so slightly. She greeted respectfully, "Sir Viper, welcome."

"Thank you." Jacob nodded in acknowledgment as he sat down, and Frugal sat beside Aven.

Jacob didn't beat around the bush as he stated, "The grenade will have arrived in 3 days. You guys should call the mercenary group as well. We'll leave at dawn on the 4th day. Of course, if there is still something unsettled, we can increase the time."

Aven shook her head, "No, we are prepared, and the mercenaries will have arrived as long as I message them."

"If that's the case, then it's settled. In the meantime, do you mind lending me a room, or I can find another place to stay if you prefer it that way." Said Jacob coolly.

"Please don't jest, Sir Viper. This place is too big for two of us, and you can take any room you fancy. On the contrary, we would be at ease if you were staying here." Aven quickly agreed.

"Then you have my gratitude. If there isn't anything, then I would be retiring in seclusion for three days to prepare myself for our venture." Jacob declared impassively.

"There is, actually." Aven said with a hint of uncertainty, "Since you won the action did you talk with Faceless Ancient?"

Jacob didn't answer; instead, he asked, "And why is that important?"

"I'm just curious about him like everyone, aren't you?"

Jacob looked deeply at the hooded giant and replied, "Indeed I am, and I'd tried to have a chat with him, but sadly he didn't reply at all except for the grace period. He's probably very cautious of people like us!"

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Chapter 435: One Fist Mercenary Team

On the dawn of the fourth day, in the lush forest outside City No.492, Frugal and Aven stood in hooded cloaks beside Jacob in his new black windbreaker and white mask.

Those three stood in front of 18 people from different races, and all of them had unique traits. The only thing common among them was their sharp auras.

Jacob speaks impassively, "Let me introduce myself, I'm Viper, and I'll be leading this expedition. These two beside me are my captains, Fire and Snow. If you have any questions, you may ask."

At this moment, a monkey face orc raised his hand and asked sharply, "Nice to meet you, Leader Viper. I'm the leader of this One Fist mercenary team, Bryan, a B-Class Epic Mercenary. On behalf of my team, I would like to know what is this venture about?"

"I'm told by my captains that you were already informed that we are heading into the heart of Vile Witch Valley. What else do you want to know?" Jacob questioned.

"I want to know the exact mission. Although you have offered handsome pay to assist you, I can't just lead my team to the depth of Vile Witch Valley without even knowing what we are after. I hope you understand my plight." Bryan smilingly stated.

"Didn't I've already told you we are going to acquire a rare item? Just when did mercenaries start to ask questions?" Frugal retorted in a dissatisfied tone.

"Captain Fire naturally states the truth. But you should know the depth of the Vile Witch Valley is filled with advanced epic magic beasts, and my team has been operating in this place for four years.

"If I know what it is that you're after, I might be able to lead you there without falling into some best den. I'm not doubting your capability, but just offering my expertise and want to keep everyone safe." Bryan stated with a straight face.

Jacob looked at the orc deeply before replying, "You indeed have a point. I understand that you don't want to put your life in the hand of a strange like me. But I can assure you we know our way around this place and just need your help when we retrieve the item, or we might not need your help at all.

"We are taking precautions just in case. But since you care about your teammates so much, how about we do this? You can follow us first and see for yourself how we lead you. If we put your lives in danger, you are free to leave, and we'll pay you in full."

Bryan's eyes narrowed at Jacob's offer, and he no longer refuted it since this was a very fair term.

'Why are they refusing to tell us what they are after? Could it be a rare treasure?' He thought but didn't show it on his face and nodded, "Very well, let's do as Leader Viper suggested."

"Good, then let's move out. Captain Snow will be leading us first." Jacob stated before he signaled Aven, and she mildly nodded and came forward.

"Please follow me carefully. It would take us five days to reach our destination!" She sternly declared before she moved, and everyone started to follow her.

Jacob had already discussed their entry plan with Frugal and Aven the other night, and they also showed him the map at last.

Jacob was quite surprised to see the map as it was like a maze, and without that map's direction, it would be impossible to reach the 'door.'

Since Frugal and Aven were already been there, they were most familiar with the terrain, so he left the pathway to them. As for the One Fist Team, they were their pawns, and whether they trusted them didn't matter.

The moment they signed up for this venture, their fates were sealed!

Aven led everyone from a particular path, and half a day passed. Even the One Fist team was surprised since they had yet to encounter a single beast, and they finally started to believe in Jacob's words.

When night arrived, they reached a canyon, and there was only a single narrow pathway going forward.

"There is a cavern half an hour distant within this canyon wall. We can rest for the night there." Aven told as she slowly moved forward on the dark pathway, and the only light there were the torches they brought.

The canyon was deep, and no light came from above, so they all were moving carefully.

"I had to admit. This is my first time seeing this canyon." A cheetah face orc commented. He was impressed.

"If I'm not wrong, we should be in the Spider Leg Bat colony. Normally, those beasts would attack anyone in massive flocks, so only a few dared to enter their territory. But we are avoiding them with this secret passage." An elf with half of her face covered said with uncertainty.

"How peculiar." Bryan commented with a strange light in his eyes as he looked at the leading figures, 'Just where are they going, and how did they know about this passage?'

Jacob was listening to the One Fist team conversation silently and thought, 'They might start to suspect something...'

Half an hour later, they were all deep in the canyon when they finally found a large cavern, just as Aven stated before, and took shelter for the night.

Although this place looked safe and exempt from any beasts, Jacob still volunteered to be guard, and Bryan also came forward to assist him while everyone rested.

Sitting at the entrance, Bryan couldn't help but speak, "Leader Viper, do you enjoy alcohol?"

Jacob glanced at smiling Bryan before nodding, "Who doesn't?"

"Haha, indeed, how foolish of me to ask. Adventures like us tend to enjoy alcohol to make the adventure more colorful." He laughed heartedly before a gray gourd appeared in Bryan's hand, and he threw it toward Jacob.

Jacob caught the gourd and examined it. There was a wooden cork sealing its mouth.

Bryan took out another such gourd and introduced it smilingly, "This is a special ale from my tribe called the Spirit Cold Ale. Please have a taste and tell me what you think." He popped open the cork at this moment.

'He wants to see my face, huh?' Jacob easily guessed Bryan's intention behind offering him the Spirit Cold Ale!

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Chapter 436: The Demi-Human Origin

'He wants to see my face, huh?' Jacob easily guessed Bryan's intention behind offering him the Spirit Cold Ale!

But he didn't mind as he removed his mask, revealing his tattooed face, and then opened the cork as well.

Bryan's eyes flashed with astonishment when he saw it was a barbarian. Frugal and Aven's races were easy to guess because of their size, and only Jacob's background was ambiguous.

"I never thought I would see a barbarian working with giants. What a sight." Bryan chuckled.

Jacob coolly asked, "Why is that?"

He then drinks a mouthful of the ale within gourd, and instantly an icy cold sensation enriched with a unique tipsy flavor spread in his mouth. His pupils dilated as he felt an ice bomb gone off his mouth.

"Strong!" He exclaimed as frost mist exhaled with his breath.

"Hahaha... you are the first outsider I've seen who hadn't spit the Spirit Cold Ale on their first try." Bryan laughs with a pleased expression.

"What a waste." Jacob chuckled with disdain before he took another large mouthful and again felt the frost spreading in his entire body before it was replaced by intoxicated warmth.

Bryan's eyes widened ever so slightly since even he didn't dare to drink too much Spirit Cold Ale, "It seemed I encountered a kindred soul. As for your question, I only said that because barbarians and giants are always on bad terms with each other.

"Especially the Bronze Barbarian. Those guys are too arrogant and racist. They are the strongest barbarian tribe of the barbarian race, so they consider themselves the natural-born leaders of the Barbarian Race.

"But you see, the giants are even more arrogant, and they are the strongest when it comes to combats, especially the Flame Iron Giant Tribe, the tribe of Alliance Chairman!

"Yet, the Bronze Barbarians refused this notion and insisted on challenging the Flame Iron Giant Tribe. Giants are rather peaceful if not provoked first, but once they are provoked, it's impossible to stop them.

"So, when the Bronze Barbarians showed their intention to challenge them, the Flame Iron Giants crushed them by sending a single Elder of their tribe. From that point on, the tension between the two races only grew.

"Nowadays, you won't see giants and barbarians teaming up. Even if they did, they would not want their people to hear about it, especially the barbarians. They are simply too unreasonable. Sorry, I don't mean any offense; not everyone is the same." Bryan explained.

"None taken. I don't even know about this, and some idiots fighting for supremacy have nothing to do with me." Jacob calmly stated.

Bryan laughed while nodding, "I completely agree. Racism has no place in epic alive plains. But some people are just too stubborn to let go. The annihilation of the demi-human race from the epic plains is proof of the dark history of racism."

"Oh? What happened?" Jacob asked with a hint of interest.

"You don't even know about such a huge event?" Bryan was astonished.

"I live in peace and seclusion, away from all the politics and madness if I say so myself." Jacob plainly replied while drinking the spirit cold ale.

"Hah, you got a point. Cheers to that." Bryan chuckled while proposing a toast before speaking again, "You see, about nine years ago, someone found the secret of the demi-human race and made it public. It turned out demi-humans were a bioproduct of mix-breeding between Magic Beasts and the orc race, which wasn't the entire truth either!

"First, it seemed absurd since magic beasts are all wild, and we orcs are intelligent species despite having some beastly traits ourselves. So, people just ignored that person and thought he just wanted to sow discord and earn some dirty fame.

"However, the very next day, a video was posted by the same person, and it shocked the entire not only the orc and demi-human communities but the elves, dwarfs, and goblins were also dragged into the dirty waters.

"In that video, the fornication between an orc woman and a magic beast was shown. It was an experiment video and the entire process of how that woman got impregnated and then gave birth to a demi-human 14 months later.

"But it wasn't the end, as the next day another experiment video appeared, and this time, a fornication between a female goblin and magic beast was shown, and then the next day between a female elf and magic beast and last between a dwarf female and magic beast. And you know the result?

"They were all the same, they all gave birth to a demi-human with slightly different traits, but their physical traits were the same! Everyone noticed that in every video, the male was always a magic beast!

"Now, you could imagine just how great the shock had been when all those noble races discovered that the demi-human race was the bioproduct of a combination between their females and some four-legged magic beast. Especially the elves, who abhor other races and seldom marry outside their races, and dwarfs weren't any different.

"So, every race involved in that video was enraged by shame. All hell breaks loose on the sixth day. The elves and dwarves declare war on the 'abominations,' and orcs and goblins also join them. And you know what? The three hegemonies do nothing since the leading faction of that one-sided slaughter was the Ice Elves!

"And no one can do anything to them because just like the Flame Iron Giant Tribe, the Ice elves are the strongest elf tribe, and their leader is none other than the Universal Zodiac Taurus Bank, the Bank Manager, and the most beautiful woman of the alive epic plains, Lucy Gabriel!

"So, the demi-humans were fully exterminated within a month. Not even infants or children were spared. They were chased to every corner of the alive epic plains. That slaughter was the most horrifying thing ever done to the epic alive plains." Bryan spoke with a hint of sorrow as he drank more spirit cold ale.

Jacob wasn't expecting the demi-humans would have such a background, not to mention their tragic past.

Furthermore, Jacob also thought that the demi-humans were the bioproduct of humans and orcs or even magic beasts. Because demi-humans have not only 'humans' in their name but also have human traits like elves, dwarfs, giants, and barbarians. But it didn't turn out this way.

Jacob looked at Bryan as he could clearly tell this guy might have lost someone close in that slaughter by the expression on his face.

He drinks some ale with a creepy intent in his eyes as he thinks about a famous saying of his world, 'A man has to learn that he cannot command things, but that he can command himself; that he cannot coerce the wills of others, but that he can mold and master his own will: and things serve him who serves Truth; people seek the guidance of him who is master of himself!'

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 437: The Insect Valley (1)

The night passed with Jacob and Bryan talking and drinking, but Bryan was the one who talked mostly and told Jacob about all the exciting events of the epic plains in the past.

Jacob has to admit; the guy was a chatterbox, but he also acquired quite an information from him. On the other hand, Bryan brought out the topic of the treasure Jacob was after in the Vile Witch Valley several times. But Jacob brushed it off with some excuses.

No matter how much friendly Bryan was or how he tried to get him drunk, Jacob never let his guard down, even for a second. He just played along while enjoying the free alcohol.

In the end, Bryan didn't get anything out of him and instead ended up giving away, which made Bryan silently flustered, but he wasn't in the position to complain.

At dawn, everyone was at their peak state, and they started to travel again, led by Aven.

In a few hours, they passed the canyon and appeared outside a valley filled with large thick tree veins.

Bryan's eyes narrowed as he asked Aven, "Captain Snow, is this the insect valley?"

Aven impassively replied, "I don't know the name, but you seemed to know this place."

"Of course, this is one of the few areas of the Vile Witch Valley region that are declared no-return zones. There are many poisonous insects in this place that even peak epic tiers dread. Do you perhaps have a way to bypass this place as well?" Bryan questions with uncertainty.

"What if I don't?" Aven questioned instated.

"Then, I'm afraid my team and I can only escort you to this point." Bryan coldly replied without even thinking twice.

Aven's lips curled up behind her mask as she chuckled, "You are indeed responsible, aren't you? Don't worry. I indeed know a safe passage through this place."

"We'll have to see," Bryan replied coldly, as he clearly didn't believe her words.

But he didn't say anything about backing down anymore, as he wanted to see if Aven was telling the truth. Since she knows a way around the Spider Leg Bats Colony, she might also know the way to avoid the insect valley as well.

"Oh, you'll see, alright." Aven scoffed before she said, "Before we move forward, I need to have a little chat with Leader Viper alone."

Jacob was a little surprised but still followed her into a seclusive corner.

"What is it?" Jacob asked with uncertainty.

Aven replied with a stern tone, "I think we need to get rid of that monkey (Bryan)."

Astonished by her words, he asked with narrowed eyes, "Your reason?"

"Simple, he's mapping our route with his star watch. If I'm not wrong, he might plan to send it to someone so they could follow us later." Aven revealed.

'How did she know?' Jacob thought with a hidden surprise, and despite wanting to say it, he couldn't because she might be using some black technology unique to the Star Hackers.

It would spell trouble for him if he didn't know about it, and his 'superior' persona would be blown if that happened.

So, he played it cool and replied, "It seems you have learned your lesson from before. But you don't need to worry about him. I noticed it long ago, and he was trying to fish information from me as well.

"He might be after the treasure we had told him about. If I'm not wrong, he's still contemplating whether it's worth backstabbing us or not. But it's meaningless whether he calls someone or not. It's nothing we can't handle."

Aven's squinted her eyes with a hint of surprise, "So, that's what he was doing last night?"

"You just focus on leading the way. But now that you know his motives, I want you to keep an eye on him and report your findings to me. It's a good opportunity to have experience." Jacob stated without any hint of discomfort.

Aven looked at Jacob with scrutiny before she nodded, "As your command."

Afterward, they headed back, and despite Jacob's calm posture, he was getting restless after knowing what Bryan was doing. Furthermore, the star hackers really appeared to be the bane of the star network since they could even have a way to monitor what someone was doing with their star watches.

'Can she also hack into my star watch? No, if she has, they won't be traveling with me. I think my star privilege is still out of her league, and captain free sword also said they couldn't hack into star ID with star privileges.

'But just in case, I should stow away my bound Star Watch and change it with an unbound one...'

The Star Watch on his wrist instantly vanished before a new one appeared. From now on, Jacob was going to do this even if there wasn't the danger of star hackers.

Still, Bryan's problem remains, and he has to deal with it now. But if he acts, the rest of the One Fist team will instantly turn hostile.

'Since that bastard is mapping our routes, whoever comes after will follow our footsteps. If that's the case, then maybe...' Ruthlessness shimmered in Jacob's eyes as he made his counterplan.

After returning, Aven again began to lead them through a particular passage which was filled with purple tree veins and a strange smell.

Bryan and his team were all on high alert and ready to retreat the moment things turned south. But to their surprise, even after 4 hours, not a single insect attacked them. Now they really started to believe in Aven's words.

Night descended, and the atmosphere of the insect valley turned eerie as the sounds of insects started to buzz.

"Don't use lights. Some insects are very sensitive towards it." Bryan gravely commanded.

No one has any objection as they continue to move without any intention of camping there for the night.

In the depth of night, Frugal suddenly stopped and whispered in a voice that everyone could hear, and the One Fist team's expression paled after hearing what he said,

"Stop! Something is moving towards us and fast!"

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 438: The Insect Valley (2)

After hearing Frugal's warning, everyone drew their weapons alertly.

At this moment, Jacob heard a faint sound of rustling, and thereupon, he was finally able to see the enemy with his night vision.

Over a hundred meters away, a massive pitch-black snake appeared in everyone's view, and it was crawling right in their direction. Furthermore, Jacob noticed the snake's eyes were bleeding as if something had popped them with a fork not long ago.

"It's injured!" He instantly shouted, "It's not coming to attack us, but running away from something!"

The others also noticed that the snake seemed to be too panicky to attack them, and Jacob was probably right.

"That's a Dark Python! What could've happened to make him flee this way and in such a sorry state!?" A fox-faced orc identified the magic beast and exclaimed.

"Whatever it is, I don't think it's stopped chasing it! We can't stay here in its way. Quickly scatter and hide your presence!" Jacob grimly ordered before he jumped towards a tree and climbed it.

The others quickly heed his command and quickly get out of its way since they didn't want to draw any insects, nor did they want to fight with something that could make a tier-7 epic Dark Python flees like this.

The Dark Python still hadn't noticed the group as it was too occupied with running away, and it was 6 meters long and 2 meters wide. As it came closer, everyone was able to clearly see it wasn't just his eyes that were destroyed, but many scales on his massive body that were torn apart.

But the strange thing was there was no one behind it, yet it still continued to run away crazily.

Right at this moment, everyone saw, over twenty meters away from their hiding positions, dark gray mist crept out within the dark forest. The mist seemed to have a mind of its own as it directly moved towards the incoming Dark Python.

The mist wasn't massive either, but it turned out to be a 7-meter mist cloud. The Dark Python was instantly enveloped by this mist cloud, and it only noticed when it was too late.

The onlookers were astonished before fear crept into their hearts when they heard the Dark Python's eerier shrieks. But the mist cloud was so thick that no one could see what was happening inside, and a few moments later, the gut-wrenching shrieks died down.

Jacob had a dour expression as he couldn't see anything despite activating the fluid acceleration and the mask. All he was able to capture was hundreds or even thousands of tiny cold dots.

'Don't tell me that cloud is a cluster of insects?' Jacob thought as a chill ran down his spine. He knew his speculation was mostly accurate, and this made him feel extremely alarmed because he could deal with one enemy or even ten, but those tiny insects were simply out of his fighting ability or anyone else, as a matter of fact.

'Maybe that's why this is a no-retune zone...' He thought gravely while hiding himself even more carefully while gloomily looking at the dark gray mist, which was now static on the Dark Python's location.

He didn't dare to move in that mist's presence, and not just him but everyone else had the same intentions. They didn't want to end up like that python.

Even the arrogant Aven and Frugal were filled with horror as they clearly hadn't encountered such a creature the last time they passed through this place. If it weren't for Jacob's quick response, they would've foolishly attacked the Dark Python, and then it was over for them once that ghastly mist appeared.

Just like that, 4 hours passed, and no one moved a muscle as that gray mist was still there. But right at this moment, the mist suddenly churned before it moved towards the dark forest and then vanished just as quickly as it appeared.

However, there wasn't even a trace left of the massive Dark Python, not even a drop of blood! It was like it didn't even exist.

No one moved for another hour, but just to make sure that the mist was gone, Jacob signaled Bryan, who was hiding on the same tree as him, "Fire a 1-Star spell on that mist's last position."

Bryan knew Jacob's intention and nodded before he mumbled a small spell and pointed his finger at the mist's last location.

A mud ball suddenly condensed in front of his finger before it shot like a bullet and then exploded in the same spot where the mist was, creating a small explosion of dust.

However, ten minutes passed, and nothing happened, which made everyone sigh in relief.

Jacob jumped down the tree and gravely said, "Alright, it's time for a meeting. Gather here, everyone!"

One after another, the group started to gather together.

"What was that?" Bryan questioned coldly when he saw Aven appear.

"Your guess is as good as mine," Aven replied with aggravation.

"Are you kidding me? We could've been dead if not for Leader Viper's quick reaction. You said this path was safe. This is what you called safe?" The elf furiously questioned. Everyone knew they had just dodged a bullet, and now they were naturally going to blame Aven.

"Shut up! Do you think you're on a picnic? We are on an expedition, and sometimes, even a safe passage could turn into a dangerous trap. So, stop blaming others for bad luck. If you want to leave, you know the way." Jacob reprimanded in an icy tone as he looked at frowning Bryan, "Do you also think it was Captain Snow's fault?"

Bryan knew Jacob was stating the fact and looked at the elf, who had an ugly expression, "Control yourself, Oply! I'm with Leader Viper. It was just a bad encounter."

Then he looked at Jacob and sternly asked, "But we can't ignore this either. Whatever that thing was, it's very dangerous. The Dark Python was devoured whole despite having a touch of skin and bones equal to an intermediate epic-rank treasure. I don't need to tell you what will happen to us if that thing attacks us."

"You have a point." Jacob nodded, "But I don't think we will encounter it again. It was a coincidence. However, if, with some awful luck, we did encounter it again, I have a way to destroy it."

Bryan questioned with narrowed eyes, "May I ask what way?"

"A trump card, which I don't want to use unless necessary. So, do you want to continue or not? Because we will." Jacob questioned sternly.

Bryan pursed his lips, hearing this ambiguous answer. In the end, he ground his teeth and nodded, "I can't leave my commission like this unless absolutely necessary. I'll trust your judgment."

Jacob nodded in satisfaction before looking at Aven and said, "We are going to move forward in a new order...!"

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 439: The Sealed Door

After the encounter with the dark gray mist, the group moved very carefully. As time passed, they were getting closer to the end of the insect valley, and they didn't encounter that mist again except for some small magic bugs. Their journey went smoothly.

Two days later, the group was finally out of the insect valley, and everyone sighed in relief and rested for half a day before continuing.

After passing through the insect valley, they entered a familiar gully that even the One Fist Team was unaware of. Furthermore, this time, they were faced with some powerful magic beasts, but the One Fist Team handled them easily.

On the sixth day, the group finally reached their destination, which was a towering waterfall surrounded by barren mountains.

Stopping in from the massive water body, Aven declared, "We are here."

"What is this place?" Bryan couldn't help but ask as he felt the rich element mana in the air. The other also felt it.

Jacob was already aware of this place, and he knew what was next. He spoke, "Alright, everyone. I want you all to stay put while I go and scout the area."

"I'll come with you." Bryan moved forward.

Jacob looked at him with a faint frown before nodding, "Alright. The rest of the group will rest until team leader Bryan and I come back."

Aven and Frugal frowned behind their masks as they had already discussed that Jacob would go alone since that place was a secret, and they already knew Bryan's hidden intention.

However, they didn't speak out since Jacob was their leader, and they trusted his judgment.

"Let's go." Jacob coolly stated before he dived into the water without hesitation.

'It's hidden underwater?' Bryan thought with a hint of anticipation, and the next moment, he dived behind Jacob.

The water current was quite strong, but it wasn't at the level where it could obstruct epics like them. Furthermore, Jacob has a strong affinity with water after he completes the water meditation, and he is as agile as a fish within the water. It even alarmed Bryan when he saw Jacob was moving too fast for him to keep up.

But he tried to keep up as he could tell Jacob was going towards the source of the waterfall. However, right at this moment, dizziness suddenly overcame his mind, and before he could even begin to understand what had happened, his eyes started to close as his mind completely shut down, and he fell into a slumber!

Jacob's figure appeared out of nowhere as he stared at the drowning orc and held his body. The next moment, Bryan vanished without a trace.

'Did he think I'd let him further ruin my plans? If I'm not wrong, he still didn't send that map he was making to whomever he was planning to since he just found out that we reached here, and he might want to wait before confirming the scoop of the treasure...

'Although it would be difficult to explain to his team, it's better than creating an unpredictable variable.' He thought with killing intent, 'Besides, I'm getting hungry...'

After dealing with Bryan, Jacob moved towards the waterfall and dived deeper while replenishing his hex mana. The pool was around 100 meters deep, and as he approached the waterfall, it became even deeper.

'It should be at the bottom...'

Jacob reached the bottom of the waterfall, which was over 300 meters deep, and he was finally able to spot what he was looking for. There was a three-meter side hole within the waterfall mountain, and he entered it after confirming there wasn't anything inside.

Although it was dangerous, he knew the giant siblings needed him so they wouldn't try to scheme against him. According to them, there wasn't any trap in this passage that led directly to the 'door.'

Jacob slowly swims within the dark tunnel and approaches its depth. After swimming for five minutes, he finally saw a light source that was left behind by the two siblings. It was the end of the tunnel.

Approaching the light, Jacob reached the end and exited the tunnel. However, the moment he stepped out of the water tunnel, he met with fresh air, not water.

Astounded, he looked back and saw the water tunnel behind him now look like a water mirror completely static, and when he tried to go back, he was again submerged in the water.

'How magical...' He thought before he finally looked into the magical space behind the tunnel and was even more shocked.

Because the space was sealed, it was 50 cubic meters large and seemed to have been made entirely with reinforced steel, and there were countless magic runes encrypted on every corner of this space, even the floor. On the top center wall was a 10-meter large black door with a strange crimson runic symbol.

'So that is the door! Although it is slightly different from how they explain. Nonetheless, they weren't wrong about the runes' Jacob's eyes glued on that door he heard about from the siblings, but seeing it himself was another different experience.

Jacob approached the black door while he tried to comprehend those magic runes. But he quickly understood his limit. The thing was, he only knew Rune Crafting up to basic epic grade. But the runes in this place were most likely encrypted by an Advance Elder Grandmaster Rune Artificer!

However, he was discouraged because he knew he might encounter this sort of barrier as the Vile Witch wasn't a small character. So, before coming here, he has already exchanged one atomic grenade for Advance Epic Magic Rune Language with the Dark Marquise.

Although it wasn't the knowledge of an advanced elder grandmaster, it was enough for him to read those runes. Neither was it like he didn't want to acquire that knowledge; he tried, but the Dark Marquise wanted 3 White Sun Missiles for it, which Jacob didn't have, so that deal didn't happen.

But now, seeing the work of an Advanced Elder Grandmaster, Jacob felt he might be able to increase his Rune Artificer rank if he was able to comprehend those runes. At least, he wanted to try before using his last resort to blow up this place.

Furthermore, after seeing this place, he wasn't sure if a single atomic grenade was enough to blow up those runes, and if he used more than necessary, this whole mountain might come down.

So, comprehending those runes was the best option.

Jacob then didn't waste more time and sprang into work, but before that, he was going to have a hearty meal!

Cursed Immortality

Chapter 440: The Killing Manifestation

Three days passed since Jacob and Bryan had gone for 'scouting,' and the One Fist team started to get anxious and wanted to go after their leader. On the other hand, the siblings were trying to hold them off while being suspicious themselves.

But they didn't go after them and wait because they were quite confident that even if Jacob managed to open that door, he wouldn't be able to go far without their help.

Today, when the one fist was getting ready to do go and even fight with Aven and Frugal if they had to, something emerged from the water pool. It was none other than Jacob.

Everyone quickly approached him, and Oply, who was Bryan's vise, instantly questioned Jacob when she saw Bryan didn't appear with Jacob.

"Where is the team leader?"

Aven and Frugal looked at each other with a hint of understanding of the meaning of Bryan not appearing with Jacob.

Jacob looked at Oply and coolly said, "Team leader Bryan is fine. It's just that after we discovered the place we were looking for, he tried to open the door, and that door was engraved with mysterious ruins. The moment he touched the door, a portal appeared, and he was sucked within.

"When I tried to go after him, nothing like that happened again, and now that door is sealed, and I was trying to open it, and I need some more time to crack that sealing array. So, I came back to fetch you all so we can quickly go after leader Bryan."

Hearing Jacob's story, the One Fist team was bewildered, while the siblings were speechless by Jacob's capacity to lie.

"How is that possible!? Just what kind of place you took him? How can we believe you didn't kill him and already took the treasure, and now you want to do the same with us?" Oply coldly replied, as she wasn't a kid who would believe such an absurd story.

The other members of the team also became alert as they started to reach for their weapons.

Jacob knew it wasn't going to be easy, "Look, I know it sounds absurd, but if you don't believe, send someone you trust to the bottom of that waterfall, and they will discover the light markers I left outside the tunnel which lead to the runic space. You can then judge for yourself if I'm telling the truth or not."

Jacob's aura suddenly climbed as an insane killing intent shone in his eyes, which made even Aven and Frugal shudder, and Oply took a step back, who was directly facing him.

"Besides, the treasure wasn't yours to take in the first place. You are hired to assist us, and your team leader has already overstepped his boundaries when he greedily tried to open the door despite my warning.

"So, if you're delusion enough to think that you are on equal terms with me, then how about you guys try to come at me together? But let me warn you about the consequences beforehand: I will never show mercy to anyone who doesn't know their place!"

It was everyone's first time seeing Jacob act, and just his killing intent was enough to tell them just how much blood was in his hand. They were extremely sensitive to killing intent, and this guy was clearly no pushover.

That icy cold feeling that was stabbing into their hearts and screaming at them to get away from that devil-like person instantly vanished as fast as it appeared.

Everyone's faces were filled with cold sweat, but they no longer dared to look down on the person whom they were calling leader for a few days.

'Just how many people he had killed?' Aven thought a chill ran down her spine since she was probably the most sensitive towards killing intent because of her race, and her heart went cold, 'I-if he found out I hid a major piece from him, what will he do? Should I contact Dad and reveal my identity...'

Frugal slightly nudged his sister as she finally snapped out of her racing thought process. His expression behind the mask was ashen as he was also feeling fear. Even though they were both close to the peak of the epic rank, they hadn't felt the killing intent that Jacob had just shown them.

"We should contact mother..." Frugal whispered in a tiny voice that only Aven could hear.

"Now, do you want to go with the first option or try the latter?" Jacob's impassive voice breaks everyone's nightmarish illusion.

"P-Pvill, please go and check according to Leader Viper's description." Oply quickly commanded as she now really wanted to avoid fighting with this man.

That killing intent can't be an illusion, and not just anyone can have that sort of bloodlust. She now even wondered if that guy was so powerful why they hired them in the first place.

Another elf male in the team sweated when he heard Oply's command and nodded stiffly before diving into the pool.

"Good, you made the right choice. Now, if you excuse me, I would like to have a chat with Captain Snow." Jacob stated before, he moved toward Aven without caring about whether they agreed or not.

'What a tiresome spell, I nearly drained my mana... well, I guess it was worth it since now everyone is afraid of me...' Jacob thought while silently enduring the urge to sigh in exhaustion.

He just used a basic epic-grade spell called Killing Manifestation. It wasn't any element-related spell but, instead, an enhanced type spell that could directly enhance someone's killing intent and make it manifest in a 5-meter radius. The stronger one's killing intent, the ghastlier this spell effect will be.

The killing intent represents a person's bloodlust that was built on the things that were died by that person's hand. The stronger people you kill, the stronger your killing intent.

Jacob had killed a ridiculous amount of dark beings when he was upgrading his hex magic core, so his killing intent was also special. It was mostly built on killing the dark beings, and his will to kill anything in his path was even more ridiculous.

Furthermore, Jacob got this spell book from none other than Bryan's space ring, and he instantly decided to learn it since enhanced-type spells can be used by all element users.

It took him a day to master it, and when Jacob himself felt his own manifestation, it gave Jacob the idea to use this to intimidate everyone. So, he made a plan, and just before coming out of the water, he had finished 90% of the chatting, and by the time everyone approached, the spell was done.

Jacob just had to hold it as he knew someone would soon give him the chance to use it, and that happened as well.

The moment he stopped suppressing the raging mana, his killing intent surfaced, and what happened afterward was the result he wanted.

Nonetheless, the longer he kept the spell active, the more mana it would drain, and now he was out of water mana. But seeing everyone so submissive, he felt it was worth it.

"You and me, let's go." Jacob coldly said to Aven before he led the way without giving her a chance to say anything!

Aven felt something was amiss, and after Jacob's little power show, she was extremely agitating as she followed him!

On the other hand, Frugal was also getting impatient as he didn't feel in absolute control anymore, so he decided without caring about how Aven would react, and the star watch on his wrist activated without anyone noticing it!