

D. Extraction 281

Chapter 281 New

Vale looked at his attributes panel for quite some time. He was smiling in satisfaction as he felt more and more confident that he would be able to roam around this world and not be bound by any faction or organization once he retrieved his shadow.

He got two new Spell Models, which would be a big help for him. They were the Arcane Armor and Soul Bind.

He really liked this Soul Bind since he no longer needed to record the Cursed Contract Bestowal that he was planning to obtain. It saved him 3 Contribution Points!

After some rest, Vale decided not to kill these people as he felt that it would be more interesting to see them stronger once again.

He would then try to extract them if he still found them doing some shady business.

"Now let's see all the Mystical Items you have with you..." Vale muttered as he decided to take all their wealth.

In any case, these people seem to be part of a syndicate or criminals, so he didn't feel bad about his actions.

He collected a total of 1,900 zen in cash and 540 noll in coins. As for the Mystical Items, he got quite a lot of them.

They were 12 Left-Hand Gloves that had an emblem of a goat's head surrounded by a thorny vine with flowers. Then there were also three canes that had blue and green energy in them after looking in his Phantasm State.

He wasn't sure what kind of abilities they had, but it must be Mystic Arts. Vale would consider selling them later. It feels that these items were customized for a specific organization so using them might bring more trouble. Unfortunately, Yvaine can only fit the gloves on the Treasure Box.

As for the cane, they could not fit inside, so Vale couldn't bring them.

Ultimately, he decided to destroy the canes so these people won't be able to use them after they recovered their strength.

After doing this, Vale finally shifted his attention to the stacked crates within the warehouse.

'I wonder what's inside these things...' Vale muttered with curiosity.

Since the content of these things can't be penetrated by his Phantasm State's senses, he couldn't help but be curious about them. Furthermore, they are being guarded by 12 strong Mystic Arts Practitioners.

If any normal practitioner had entered this place, they would surely die from the combination attacks of these Arcanists.

They might even kill other infiltrators just by using the Trap Formation Circles surrounding the basement.

They were simply unfortunate to be targeted by an exceptional Practitioner like him.

This means that these crates were most likely illegal but very important.

Crack!

Vale forcefully opened one of the crates. He didn't use any Spell to open it since, with his current strength, even a metal door would not stop him.

"Hmm? What's this?" Vale muttered as he looked at the contents of the crate.

There were small purple rocks that had some white powder poured on them.

Vale picked one of them as he was thinking of removing the white powder to see if it was a shiny purple crystal or amethyst rock instead.

However, as soon as he picked it up, he was stunned because the System had actually reacted!

He just heard the familiar notification sound and didn't even see the message yet, but he already knew it must be something 'Extractable'!

[Immortal Shard has been discovered. Would you like to extract it?]

'Hmm? Immortal Shard? Not an Immortal Fragment?' Vale silently thought after reading the message. This was the first time he had seen such a notification from the System.

He knows that the Immortal Fragments were Arcana Relics, according to Headmaster Jean.

However, he had no idea about the Immortal Shards.

Nevertheless, Vale was trembling in excitement. A single crate probably contained about a thousand of these purple rocks or shards!

Then, there were dozens of these crates inside the warehouse!

He really struck it rich this time!

Without any more hesitation, he consented the System to start the Extractions.

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +0.14]

Crash~

As soon as the Extraction was done, the purple crystal, or the Immortal Shard, shattered and turned into dust.

This reaction from the Extraction was undoubtedly different from the Immortal Fragments.

The Immortal Fragments wouldn't be destroyed in the Extraction and would even "heal" and accumulate Divinity once again after a certain period had passed.

Furthermore, the Immortal Fragments gives at least 5 Divinity Points. However, the Immortal Shard had only provided less than 3% of that.

Of course, even with this small amount, Vale was still smiling for ear to ear.

After all, there are thousands of these shards in front of him!

Vale calmed his breath as he first looked outside.

He wanted to ensure that he wouldn't be interrupted by his Extraction Spree. After confirming that there were no changes outside and that the workers had only changed because of their shifting schedule, Vale returned to the basement and locked the doors.

"Yvaine... I'll be busy, please guard the door."

Vale said as he would probably be too engrossed with his extractions once he started. He needed Yvaine to observe the surroundings for him.

"Mhmm... I will take their energies then." Yvaine answered, referring to the Mystic Arts Practitioners.

"Will you kill them?" Vale asked.

"I can." The Dark Spirit answered with a nonchalant voice. Needless to say, she doesn't value other people's lives, which was quite understandable since she wasn't human in the first place.

"Ahem... If you don't mind, try not to kill them since they might become a source of energy again."

"I will try."

Vale was already satisfied with this answer as he instructed her to deal with any intruders if she could but retreat to him if she couldn't.

Then, he returned to the opened crate to start his Extraction.

[Immortal Shard has been discovered. Would you like to extract it?]

"Yes!"

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +0.14]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +0.14]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +0.14]

...

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +0.14]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +0.14]

Chapter 282 Information Extraction

After three hours of extraction, Vale finally cleared up all the crates in the warehouse. The place was now filled with white powder as the crystals turned like that in every extraction he made.

It was tiring...

He was only finished after seven hours of extraction. He barely had any breaks, but luckily, the basement was a bit cold and kind of refreshing. He only had to touch the crystal, and the system will do the rest.

Nevertheless, the extraction was still more than 22,000!

It was a good thing that the system didn't feel tired or overheat after so many extractions.

"Whew... That's so incredible. Although they're a one-time-use item, they still gave me many Divinity Points. I wonder where they came from..." Vale muttered as he lay on the floor, feeling a bit exhausted.

He felt quite sleepy, but he still has to move.

In any case, he opened his attribute panel to check his Divinity Points.

[Available Divinity: 3,144.80]

Hu~

Vale let out a breath of satisfaction after seeing the massive increase in his Divinity Points.

From 2.78 points to 3,144.80 points in just a single day! He had never imagined that his plan to save his friend would give him so many benefits.

'I need to know where they get all of these... They must be using them for some kind of ritual, crafting, or even as a power source in their Formation Circle.' Vale mused as he started imagining the purpose of those crystals or Immortal Shards.

He wasn't in a hurry to upgrade his Celestial Arts as he shifted his attention to Yvaine, who was still guarding the door.

At this time, Yvaine had already killed two intruders. They were companions of the Mystic Arts Practitioners since they are also wearing the Left-Hand Glove with the emblem of the Goat's Head.

The third or the last person who intruded wasn't killed but was captured by Yvaine.

It was a perfect chance for him to ask questions.

"Yvaine... Can that person still speak?" Vale asked the Dark Spirit, who seemed bored already after waiting for him for several hours.

"Yes."

"Thank you... You can go back and rest now." Vale said as he allowed the Dark Spirit to enter his shadow and rest.

Then, Vale summoned his Ghost Hands to wake the person.

According to his Divine Sense, this person is a Combat Arts Practitioner.

Furthermore, he actually has a pistol hidden on his waist. He may not be in a uniform, but this person might be a police officer.

With that in mind, he reused his Shapeshift Spell to transform. It's a bit inconvenient since he can only dual-cast for now. It means that while on his Shapeshift Spell, he can only rely on his Ghost Hands and passive abilities. If he tried using other spells, the Shapeshift Spell would be canceled in a matter of seconds.

"Wake up..." Vale spoke with his deliberate low voice while using his Ghost Hands to nudge the unconscious man.

With three Ghost Hands waking him up, the man soon opened his eyes as he instinctively tried holding his pistol.

However, he was stopped by one of the Ghost Hands.

"Don't bother." Vale said as he had the other Ghost Hand take the pistol from him.

"Y-you! Who are you?! Do you think you'll survive after messing with us?!" The man said with a hint of shock after looking around. He realized that the enemy had entirely overtaken this hideout!

"I don't even know the name of your organization. Tell me about it so I can be careful..." Vale said as he approached the man.

"Y-you don't know us, but you still dared to attack us?!"

"Hey, you don't have to raise your voice. No one would hear you even if you tried screaming here." Vale calmly replied as he controlled his Ghost Hands to grab the head of the man.

"You have so many questions... Tell me about the crates that were stored here. Where did you get them?"

"Ha! It would be best if you leave now, or else you'll die a gruesome death. Our commander will be here at any moment, and you'll regret messing with us." The man said as he tried to scare off Vale.

However, it wasn't effective against him.

Vale even smiled at him as he pulled out his Demonic Dagger.

He may not possess any Psychic Art to make him speak, but this mysterious dagger that could burn anyone it wounded was an excellent item to force out a confession.

It didn't take that long before Vale managed to get information from the man.

First of all, he learned that they were members of the Blueglades Mercenaries hired by a butler from Wild Willow Mansion in the southern part of the city.

None of them knows for sure about the real identity of their employer, but it could be one of the three sons of Baron Sinclair who owned the mansion or even all three of them. As for Baron Sinclair himself, he was supposed to be on his deathbed, so it was out of the question for them.

The crates were actually delivered from their mansion to this place to be taken later by some merchants.

Vale also learned that they had already delivered a total of 6 crates to the Merchants.

'What a pity...' Vale sighed as he felt that those crates would be wasted by them.

In any case, he didn't learn the 'normal' use of these purple rocks since these people were just hired mercenaries meant to guard the crates. They were just a bunch of rogue practitioners that could be involved in many criminal activities like human trafficking, labor exploitation, or even assassination missions.

After getting everything he needed, Vale extracted him until he died.

[Extraction Successful. Energy +30]

[Extraction Successful. Intelligence +0.15]

[Extraction Successful. Agility +0.75]

[Extraction Successful. Complete Arcane Armor Spell Model]

[Extraction Successful. Incomplete Spell Light + 1]

[Extraction Failed.]

Vale nodded in satisfaction as he saw the Arcane Armor leveled up once. He then continued to extract the man's corpse, including the other two that Yvaine had previously killed.

Chapter 283 Upgrades

The three corpses didn't give that many attributes, especially the other two, but he accepted them gladly.

Perhaps because their corpses had been lying around for a few hours, the attributes he extracted from the two were less than 0.10 points.

Nevertheless, he didn't mind this since he had just extracted thousands of Divinity Points.

Although the system didn't trigger any upgrade on its function, the Divinity Points he just received would allow him to upgrade his current Celestial Arts. He might even upgrade them up to their Perfect Realm!

It was a pity that he didn't get any golden Spell Light, so he couldn't learn any Celestial Arts right now.

"Hmm?" Vale jolted as he sensed another group of people entering his Magic Zone...

It was already two in the morning, but these people decided to gather and surround this factory.

'So they already noticed that something was wrong?' Vale silently thought as he counted the number of enemies.

If he wasn't mistaken, the commander of the Blueglades Mercenaries had already arrived.

'There are so many of them? What a big mercenary group...' Vale frowned as he observed the enemies outside.

There were 200 of them, and all of them were Arcane Arts Practitioners! Although most of them were just beginners, it was still quite impressive that they were able to gather so many Practitioners at once.

After all, it's not easy to find those with talents. You would need a special method to sense their potential, and it would also be tricky to find the best Arcane Path.

'It seems that the commander of the Mercenary Group is indeed special. No wonder the other guy has so much confidence that I will be scared if he's mentioned.' Vale silently thought as he found the possible leader of the group.

Vale then squinted his eyes as he realized that a few police officers were also involved. It appears that even Baron Sinclair or his sons had been notified of the situation and mobilized the officials of the city.

They seem to be listening to one person whom he suspected as the commander of the Mercenary Group.

As he was about to escape, Vale recalled the revolver he put aside a while ago... He immediately took it and kept it inside his coat's inner pocket.

Although it's not a Mystical Item, he wanted to have it just in case he needed it. He then looked outside with his Divine Sense once more and confirmed that there were many Elementalist, Shaman, Knights, and Combat Artists outside.

The Suspected Leader was a Mystic Arts Practitioner as expected. Vale could tell that he could win against this leader if they fought one-on-one, but the problem was that he probably wouldn't survive if hundreds of Arcanists attacked him on all sides.

His Spell Dispersion may help him block a few volleys of attacks, but it still has a cooldown, and he wouldn't be able to maintain such a powerful spell for a prolonged period.

His physical strength and incredible speed would also be useless if he received an attack that pierces his physical defense and spells that targets the surroundings.

As for his Arcane Armor, he wouldn't want to test it against so many enemies.

Furthermore, he already felt quite tired after so many extractions and wanted to sleep. In any case, these people weren't really his target.

He'd probably try to kill them if they really had a life-and-death grudge between them. In his mind, it was better to keep them alive so he could later find the source of those Immortal Shards.

'Alright, let's have a quick upgrade...' Vale thought as he used his Divinity Points to upgrade his Divine Lightning!

[Consume 5 Divinity Points to improve Call of the Divine Lightning?]

Yes!

Seeing that it only requires 5 points, Vale didn't hesitate to upgrade it. He spent a total of 75 Divinity Points to upgrade it to Level 4 or the Intermediate Realm of this Planar Spell.

He was hesitant to upgrade it further since he might fail to properly control or calculate the Spell's strength.

He also upgraded the Shadow Mutilation Spell.

[Consume 4 Divinity Points to improve Shadow Mutilation?]

Yes!

Vale only stopped upgrading it after reaching level 6. He spent another 252 Divinity Points for this, but he felt that it was worth the price.

Lastly, Vale also upgraded the Moonlight Curse to Level 6! He spent 378 Energy Points on this, but he felt that it was necessary for his next plan.

'They're here...'

As soon as he felt that a group of scouts had entered the factory, Vale finally triggered his Divine Lightning...

He felt some of his Divinity Points were consumed in the process, but he ignored it for now.

Soon, dark clouds blocked the moonlight coming from the sky. The Arcanists realized that something was off as they looked above them.

"Is it going to rain?"

"This will be difficult... We're not sure how many enemies are inside the warehouse. The rain might help them escape our senses."

"Wait... I have a bad feeling about this. We need to retreat—"

As one of them was about to warn his companions, a deafening roar resounded throughout the city. A bolt of lightning struck the factory in the middle of the city!

Boom!

The lightning only struck once, but the damage was massive!

It blasted dozens of Arcanists who were caught in the area of destruction, and another dozen of them died on the spot!

They've been charred completely!

Everything happened so suddenly as none of them expected such a phenomenon to occur. They may have prepared for an ambush but not for a natural phenomenon like that.

The leader of the Mercenary Group was also dumbfounded.

How come they were so unlucky to be struck by lightning right now?! Isn't this too unfair?

As he thought there might be another lightning strike, he couldn't help but look up, only to realize that the gathering clouds had already dissipated as they were now basking in the moonlight.

It was such a weird lightning strike, as if nature was toying with them.

Many of the mercenaries and police officers heaved a sigh of relief as they also looked at the sky and the moon.

Unfortunately for them, basking in the moonlight was prohibited after receiving the Moonlight Curse!

Chapter 284 Blueglades Mercenary

"Commander Lucas, I think that we're dealing with Dark Arts Practitioners. It would be too dangerous if we don't have a single Holy Arts Practitioner here." One of the Elementarists working for the Blueglades Mercenary Group reminded their leader.

"It doesn't matter. We have plenty of Shamans on our side." Lucas answered.

Lucas Treadway was the one and only Commander of the Mercenary Group. He didn't just inherit this position, but he fought for it for several years. As a matter of fact, a gunshot left a mark on the left side of his face, and although this could be healed with alchemy, he decided to leave it there to remind him of his fortunate survival against his strongest foe.

Right now, he was looking at the factory emitting a strange fluctuation of energy. He had just ordered his best scouts to check the situation inside.

He was clenching his fist in worry as the items they were protecting might've been damaged already, causing this strange fluctuation. Those items are extremely expensive, and it could be said that it was more than half of the Baron's wealth.

Losing those items wouldn't just affect the Baron, but also their Mercenary Group.

"Hmm?"

As he was waiting for his scouts' report, he suddenly felt something ominous as he looked at the sky.

He wanted to warn the others, but as soon as he felt a powerful energy striking at them, he had to shift his priority and trigger his life-saving treasure.

Boom!

A powerful lightning struck the factory! The building collapsed, and fire started to spread.

Luckily, most of his men weren't too near the strike zone and were only injured. As for the unfortunate ones, they could only blame their luck.

'No... It doesn't seem a natural phenomenon...' Lucas realized something was off.

He immediately looked at his Vice Commander, who was an Elementalist.

"Helen! Is it possible for an Elementalist to cast a Lightning Strike?!" He asked in worry.

If their enemy summoned that lightning, they would have to reconsider their plans! None of them has the confidence to stop that kind of powerful attack.

Helen squinted her eyes as she understood the Commander's concern.

She may have stopped her studies at Rakmiths Academy in her sixth year, but she knows very well that Spell Models containing lightning's power could only be found in old books that could no longer be practiced or recorded for some reason.

"It's impossible, Commander. However, the enemy might be in possession of a Mystical Artifact with such power."

"Do you think they have it?"

"If it's not a natural phenomenon... Then it's most likely the enemy's Artifact. However, we shouldn't be worried too much. That attack is powerful that could destroy a terrain. It probably only works once a week, or perhaps, it requires a long ritual to complete."

Helen replied with confidence.

Lucas nodded at this as his worry had lessened after hearing her explanation.

He wanted to give a command to clear the rubble and find the entrance to the basement when suddenly, he heard his men crying in pain...

"Aackk!"

"D-don't get closer to rubbles!"

Thud! Thud! Thud!

Several men started convulsing before collapsing to the ground.

At this time, Lucas realized that the Lightning Strike had just now left some remnant energy!

Those who don't have strong Arcane Energy protecting their bodies would be electrocuted to death!

Helen also realized this as they immediately warned their members...

Many of them immediately retreated as they had no confidence in resisting the deadly static left by the lightning strike.

Nevertheless, their unfortunate encounter didn't end there.

"C-commander... I think... I want... to sleep for now."

"Me too..."

"I'm getting tired. Wake me up tomorrow, Commander."

Suddenly numerous members of the Mercenary Group felt their eyelids closing. They felt tired and wanted to take a long sleep.

Obviously, the Commander was alerted since so many of them wanted to sleep at the same time. It doesn't make sense!

He didn't know what was happening, but he could tell that sleeping in this situation was dangerous.

Suddenly, Lucas felt tired as well, but he also felt a chill on his back after sensing this. It feels like he would die if he really closed his eyes at this point!

He resisted the urge to sleep with everything he got as he gathered his energy in his chest before roaring out loud.

"Don't! Sleep! Open your eyes!"

His roar created a powerful wave of energy as it broke the Curse that was slowly killing his members.

Crack... Crack...

Two of his silver bracelets suddenly broke apart as he knelt to the ground.

"Commander!" Helen shouted as she quickly went to Lucas' side.

"I'm fine... I just used too much energy." Lucas said as he looked at the low-grade Noble Rank Mystical Items that were broken just now.

Those two silver bracelets had the power to strengthen his Mystic Arts.

During his roar, he activated two Mystic Arts to help him clear the static left by the Lightning Strike and the strange Curse that was making them sleep to their death.

Unfortunately, the power was too strong, and he had to rely heavily on his Mystical Items. This caused too much stress on the item as they broke after finishing their task.

"W-what kind of Spell did you just break? How come two Noble Rank items were used up?" Helen asked in shock after seeing the broken bracelets. She knows the power of those bracelets really well.

She was aware that even her strongest Spell, the Firestorm, wouldn't even require a fourth of the bracelet's ability to break it.

Seeing two of those bracelets breaking at once, she couldn't imagine what kind of Spell their Commander tried to break!

Nevertheless, thanks to the Commander's action, the Curse was broken and the deadly static lessened. This allowed his members to stay awake and move closer to the rubbles.

"L-look! Someone's up there!"

"It's the enemy!"

"You dared show up?! You're courting death!"

"Commander! Give us the command to attack!"

Suddenly, a figure wearing a demonic mask and black trench coat appeared standing atop the rubbles. They didn't have to ask, and they knew that this person was the culprit to all of this!

Chapter 285 True Plan

Lucas looked at the figure wearing a demonic mask warily. He didn't have to observe the person using his Mystic State as he could already tell he was dangerous.

The mask he was using seemed to be a high-grade Noble Rank item, as he couldn't

He tried to recall which Order or Organization likes to wear this type of mask, but he couldn't think of it at the moment.

"Who are you?! Why are you doing this to us?!" Lucas asked, but at the same time, he used his telepathy to order his Formation Experts to lock the surrounding area.

They can't let this man escape no matter what!

Unfortunately, the culprit has no plans to speak!

He just pointed his hands at the group of Formation Experts in the Mercenary Group...

There were no signs of ritual, activation of Spells, or usage of Mystical Artifacts.

However, the clouds in the sky started to gather once again as everyone realized what was about to come!

"Retreat!" Lucas shouted as he looked at his Formation Experts.

As a matter of fact, he didn't have to warn them as they already felt that something was off. They immediately canceled their ritual as they scattered away.

Boom!

Another Lightning Strike devastated the area that the masked man had just pointed!

Six of the Formation Experts were charred to death, while the others were blasted away from the point of impact.

They may not have died, but they were seriously injured.

In addition to that, the area where the lightning struck was filled with static electricity that could kill anyone who walked there.

Lucas and Helen realized that they were most likely fighting against a Master Arcanist! There was no way a First-Class Practitioner was capable of doing this!

Even if he had done this using a Mystical Item, there was no way a First-Class Practitioner could control this level item so effortlessly and repeatedly! Even Royal-Rank Items already have challenging backlash in every usage.

However, this person had used the Lightning Strike twice!

Lucas could only imagine what kind of side-effect this man had endured for using such a forbidden-like Spell.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A series of gunshots was suddenly heard as the Baron's men attacked the masked man. They didn't care about the injured mercenaries, as they were here to secure the merchandise in the factory's basement.

Thud. Thud. Thud.

"Whoa!"

"W-what's going on?!"

"Magic!"

"Come here, Father! Look outside!"

"There are people fighting! Look!"

The ordinary citizens who came out of their houses to see what was happening witnessed a strange scene.

Under the illumination of the moonlight, they saw the police officers shoot at the Masked Man, but the bullets had strangely stopped in front of him as if there was an invisible wall.

Adding the rubble and fires everywhere, the children who had woken up and looked outside their windows couldn't help but feel it was so magical.

However, for the Arcanists in the surroundings, they could see one huge and ghastly hand stopping the bullets from hitting him.

'What is that thing?' Lucas clenched his fist as he felt something ominous about that devil-like hand.

It was the same for the others as they shuddered at the sight of it.

Those bullets just now weren't ordinary bullets used by regular policemen. They were products of Runecasters, and these bullets can penetrate even a 12-inch thick metal door!

Seeing how the ghastly hand could stop these bullets, they could only think that this summoned hand was at the peak of the Advanced Realm or even the legendary Perfect Realm!

At this time, the Masked Man seemed to have enough of the show as he waved his hand...

It was already quite dark, but the man seemed to have briefly taken all the light with him, scaring all the people within 500 meters!

That's right!

The man appears to have full control of the light and darkness within 500 meters as he disappears the moment the darkness shrouds everyone.

"Isn't that the Light Absorption Spell of the Dark Arts Faction?" Helen muttered as she confirmed that the masked man had disappeared.

Lucas nodded at her words, but he was also thinking of something else.

"Helen... Isn't his actions a bit too weird?" He said while looking at the previous spot where the Masked Man was standing.

Helen looked at the Commander as she also nodded.

"Yes, it was as if he was trying to send a message. A warning, perhaps..."

"Mhmm... It seemed that he was working alone. He could always escape whenever he wanted. However, he deliberately showed his powers to us."

"You're right... However, let's not overthink. Perhaps, the message wasn't for us." Helen said as she commanded the others who weren't injured to remove the rubbles so they could investigate.

Right now, she had no time to think about this secret message as the Orders of each Faction had also arrived to investigate. She would have to answer so many questions from them and keep the secret of their merchandise at all costs.

In the meantime, Vale silently appeared in front of his hotel room. A few people were outside, and they didn't seem to mind his presence.

Vale was no longer wearing his black trench coat and mask this time as he wore a fitted suit instead.

Anyway, he was still using his Shapeshift Spell to ensure that Vale Chambers' face would never be seen in this city.

He entered the building and saw a group of people who were talking about the lightning and the destruction of the cotton mill. They seemed to have just woken up, so his entrance wasn't suspicious.

After getting in his room, he felt tired and wanted to sleep quickly, so he ordered Yvaine to guard him.

As he lay on his bed, he started thinking about what he just did in front of many people.

'If the Secret Organization was the one helping the Snake Brotherhood in Melthorn City... The appearance of the Divine Lightning and Demonic Mask should alert them of my presence here.'

Vale then closed his eyes as he touched the golden pocketwatch hidden in his chest pocket.

Chapter 286 Rescue

The Secret Organization was still searching for the pocketwatch that he was holding. Vale didn't doubt this after connecting everything that had happened so far.

Furthermore, the Demonic Mask and the Demonic Dagger were most likely the items they had given to the Snake Brotherhood.

Once they recognized the similarity of what happened here to the slums in Melthorn City, they might send their people to scout or investigate this place. This was something Vale wanted to happen.

'I hope they send many Transformation Experts or even False Priests to investigate.' Vale thought as he started falling asleep.

Vale woke up almost past noon. He had forgotten to tell Yvaine that she should wake him up when the sun rose.

Anyway, he swiftly washed himself and went to the first floor to eat at the cafeteria.

During this time, he heard the other hotel guests gossiping about the incident last night.

They were all talking about the terrible things that had happened in the cotton mill. The building was destroyed, and plenty of people lost their jobs. It was so pitiful as they would probably not be able to eat for days, and many families would have to beg for food.

It was all thanks to the Demon Incarnate that had appeared in the city.

They could only thank the Blueglades Mercenary Squad and other Law Enforcers for fending that demon off.

'Ugh... Right.' Vale couldn't help but feel bad about those affected people. As for the name they gave to him, he wasn't bothered at all. Anyway, they should soon forget about the Demon Incarnate.

Vale sighed as he considered what to do.

He didn't just destroy the Blueglades Mercenary's secret hideout, but he also destroyed the source of income of hundreds of families.

After thinking for a while, Vale decided to visit Sir North once again.

He didn't delay as soon as he made his plan.

He swiftly went to the pub where the man was waiting for his customer. Vale no longer used the secret code to communicate with him as he swiftly approached North.

"Hmm? Sir Eustace, are you not satisfied with the information I gave you?" The scar-faced man curiously looked at the young man.

There weren't many customers today, so he wasn't busy and even thinking of going home early. Seeing the young man approach him, he couldn't help but wonder if he wasn't satisfied with their deal yesterday.

"It's not like that, Sir North. I'm just wondering if you could help me." Vale replied as he sat in front of the man.

He then explained how he wanted to help the workers or families who had lost their jobs because of the destruction of the cotton mill.

As soon as he said this, North couldn't help but look at the young man in a new light. Those laborers' situation was indeed awful after what had happened last night.

There are chances that the females would have to work in the brothels, and some may even resort to stealing in order to survive.

The Churches around here may have charitable organizations, but there was a limit to what they could do.

"I'm not saying I'll help all of them... I just want to know if there are organizations helping them so I can donate something." Vale said in the end.

"Of course. You can consider a few organizations, but the one I can suggest is the charitable organization led by the Sentinels if you want to give these people simple jobs. However, if you want them just to receive some food and necessities for a short while, you can consider the Reform Club. This Club is actively helping refugees but also helps the ones in need within the city."

"Hmm... I can't busy myself on these. Can I just pay you to assist me? I'm willing to give this much and a dozen of these precious gloves."

Vale said as he handed a stack of money worth 5,000 zen. He didn't think much of this since most of his wealth was taken from the corpses. As for the gloves, they were kinda useless to him since they were owned by the Blueglades Mercenary.

They must be worth something.

As expected, North's eyes lit up after seeing the gloves. "You're willing to exchange these gloves for money to support those people? Do you know how much these gloves are?" He asked. He didn't even care why Vale had them in the first place.

"I'm not sure... However, they are just Regular Mystical Items, right?"

"Indeed... Each of them is worth 900 zen. Are you still willing to sell them here?"

"That's good. It's fine." Vale replied with a calm voice.

He was feeling guilty about what had happened to the factory. At that time, he was too focused on gaining the attention of the Secret Organization, so he didn't consider the aftermath. Since he learned of it today, there was no way he would ignore it.

"Very well, you can rest assured that I'll work on it. As a matter of fact, I'll leave now to settle this matter." North said as he stood up.

He took all the gloves and the money with him.

"Alright... I'll visit again..." Vale said as he left the pub first.

When North was finally alone, he recalled something important and wanted to ask Eustace.

However, the latter had already disappeared and could no longer be sensed in his Phantasm State.

'He didn't mention that I should hide his name as the donor.' He silently thought...

In the end, he shook his head as he decided not to overthink.

"I guess it's alright to spread his name since it must be an alias." North muttered.

At this time, Vale didn't know that his donation, which was worth over 15,000 zen, would lead to something he wouldn't expect in the future.

On the night of the same day, Vale completed his preparations. This time, he would infiltrate the Murton Castle and rescue Philip Hoffman, his friend and classmate.

He had prepared several things for this operation, hoping they would be enough to get him past the Castle's defenses.

He wore a dark cloak and a mask to conceal his identity and carried a dagger on his waist.

Thanks to this mask, he doesn't have to use his Human Shapeshift Spell to conceal his face.

'Hmmm... This Castle is weird.' Vale mused after scanning the place. He realized that the defense outside was heavily reliant on normal guards with only a few Arcane Arts Practitioners.

Anyway, it might be weird, but this didn't stop him from his plans.

He approached the Castle in the middle of the night when the guards were less alert.

He cast his first Spell, Ghost Hands, to create three ghastly and illusory hands that grabbed and choked the nearest guards. He quickly moved past them, avoiding the torches and spotlights illuminating the walls.

Chapter 287 Straightforward Infiltration

After killing the guards at the tower and the few patrolling ones, Vale extracted them swiftly and used his Divine Sense once again.

Combat Arts Practitioner with 2 filled Spell Lights.

Combat Arts Practitioner with 2 filled Spell Lights.

Combat Arts Practitioner with 2 filled Spell Lights.

Mystic Arts Practitioner with 4 filled Spell Lights.

He sensed a dozen people outside, but only four were Practitioners. These Practitioners weren't even that impressive.

After thinking for a moment, Vale ignored them as he maximized his use of the Extrasensory Perception Spell to hide his presence.

He first needs to find Philip before causing too much scene or before they find out about the death of the guards at the tower.

To be honest, he considered using the Divine Lightning at first, but since Philip's location was unknown, he had to infiltrate the Castle first for better detection.

As he stepped about five meters from the main gate leading to the inside of the Castle, he finally realized why he couldn't properly sense the Arcane Arts Practitioners of the Castle.

'A Concealment Formation Circle... I wonder if the Mystic Arts Experts do this, they're actually so good.' Vale commented in his mind as he detected the harmless Formation Circle.

'My ESP spell should still last for about 10 minutes...' Vale thought as he carefully scanned the surroundings.

After confirming that no other traps were placed at the entrance, he focused his gaze on the gate.

Two Dark Magicians guarded it, and they only had pitiful three filled Spell Lights in their bodies.

This is a bit disappointing for Vale since he was expecting that the members of the Secret Organization would be more impressive, especially if they were in one of their Headquarters or important Fortress.

Vale searched once again if there were hidden traps, but he didn't find anything.

He couldn't help but feel dismayed after realizing that he had overestimated this Castle because of how the Order of the Evanescent Vessels made him think that this was such an impenetrable fortress.

'Ugh... I'm thinking too much... I'm still doing a dangerous mission. I guess I'm just too impressive.' Vale thought as he readied himself to cause a scene.

He had already found Philip's subtle aura and was ready to take the man with him.

'Game...'

The Dark Magicians before him wore black robes and wielded staffs that glowed with dark energy.

Once he triggered his Spell Light to activate a spell, he knew they would sense his presence, so he cast his Lightspeed Spell first, to boost his Agility and reflexes.

"Someone's here—"

"Intruder!"

As expected, triggering a spell within their magic zone would be quickly sensed by their Phantasm State, even if he was using his ESP Spell to conceal his movement.

Spell Activation is just too difficult to hide when you're doing it inside a magician's Magic Zone.

'It's too late for you.'

Vale dashed towards the gate, dodging the bolts of dark magic that the dark magicians fired at him. These Spellcasters didn't activate any spell lights in their bodies but used their staff's power for almost instantaneous magic casting.

Nevertheless, Vale reached them before they could activate other spells, and stabbed them both with his dagger.

Whom~

Suddenly, the two Dark Magicians were ignited as they burned to their death. They didn't even have the chance to scream as their throats were destroyed by Vale at the same time.

Slowly, Vale's body was oozing with dark aura, and he failed to notice it.

He didn't stop his actions as he unlocked the gate with one of the keys he had taken from the guards using his Traceless Shift.

He could forcefully open the gate with his current strength, but because there was a connected Trap Formation on the gate, he decided to just use the already existing keys. He doesn't know what kind of Trap would activate, after all.

As he entered the Castle, he detected more enemies patrolling the area. Most of them were Aura Masters who could manipulate their own life force, Elementarists who could control fire, water, earth, and air, and Shamans who could summon spirits and use curses different from Dark Arts.

Vale knew he would waste a lot of time fighting them all, so he decided to use his speed and stealthy movement instead.

He cast one of his Dark spells, Light Absorption.

"Not good!"

"Elementalist! Use fire!"

"Light the torch! Quickly!"

"Don't panic! Observe your surroundings with your Magic Zone!"

"Tsk... My Zone is only four meters!"

The untrained practitioners started getting nervous as soon as Vale's Light Absorption Spell activated.

The spell was capable of draining the light from his surroundings, creating a sphere of Darkness around him. He became invisible to the naked eye, and only those with enhanced senses could

detect him. He moved through the shadows, avoiding contact with most of the enemies. But those who were unlucky had been extracted by him.

If he had plenty of time, he would surely extract all of them.

However, he was worried that Philip would be taken hostage, making it difficult to rescue him.

'Oh? I'm using three Spells?' Vale suddenly thought to himself after realizing what he was doing.

His Light Absorption, Lightspeed, and Extrasensory Perception Spells are active at the same time. At first, he thought the ESP spell would deactivate after using his Light Absorption Spell, but he realized that it was still active and working perfectly.

Bang!

With brute force, Vale destroyed the inner door and entered the Castle's hallway.

'Hmm? They both have 11 Spell Lights?' Vale mused as he activated his Divine Sense this time.

He saw two more Dark Magicians who could certainly sense him inside the Darkness he had created.

These two are more powerful than the ones at the gate and have a barrier of dark magic around them.

It seemed similar to the Arcane Armor, but it was made of Dark Energy.

"Stop right there, fellow Dark Magician."

"Tell us why you've come here before it's too late."

The two spoke calmly, unfazed by Vale's fluctuation of energy.

Vale didn't answer them as he calculated their strength.

He knew he couldn't break through them with brute force, so he used another Spell, Create Shadow Soldier, to summon a loyal minion from the shadows.

The Shadow Soldier looked like a humanoid figure made of Darkness, with glowing red eyes and sharp claws.

"Shadow Soldier?! You're from the Academy?" One of the Dark Magicians exclaimed.

Chapter 288 Infiltrate

The Shadow Soldier that Vale summoned was from his own shadow. Since this Spell had already reached the Advanced Realm, he could summon three of them at the same time, but he didn't do it yet.

"So you can recognize this Spell... I wonder why you guys betrayed the Faction and attacked the Academy. You even hurt and kidnapped innocent children."

Vale replied as he watched the two summon their Vengeful Spirits. He didn't stop them from casting their spells as he was also trying to do something.

"You think we should obey the Faction just because we're practicing the same Arcane Path?! Hmph! You don't have to know the reason. You're about to die anyway."

"Haha... That's right. Since the Academy had sent someone here, I'm sure there will be others like you who would stupidly come here without preparation. You probably received a mission in exchange for Contribution Points. It's a pity that everything you've accumulated would be gone today."

Vale nodded at their answer as he realized that they were indeed aware of how the Academy works. Nevertheless, they were still wrong about one thing.

"Since you know that I'm from the Academy... There's no point keeping you alive." Vale said as his body started oozing a black aura without his notice.

With a wave of his hand, the Shadow Soldier that he summoned dashed forward... The two Dark Magicians used the Summoned Spirit to black this lone Soldier and also used their Spectral Hands to attack Vale.

However, Vale triggered his Shadow Soldier once again, and this time, he used the shadow of the two men.

To Vale's surprise, the Shadow Soldiers beside the two looked more intimidating than the one he summoned on his side.

They were taller, had broader shoulders, and had more extended claws.

Vale found this interesting since he initially thought that the Shadow Soldier would look all the same if summoned by the same Spellcaster.

"Aaackk"

"Y-you... You have an Advanced Spell?!"

The two were caught off guard as they didn't expect a young man like him to have an Advanced Realm Spell at such a young age. Furthermore, this Spell was something that only 8th or 10th-year students would learn!

It doesn't make sense that he has already reached the pinnacle of this spell at such a young age!

'Not good...' They both released their control with their Vengeful Spirits. The Spirit would not vanish, but it would become uncontrollable by the caster. In the end, these Spirits saw Vale's Shadow Soldier close to them, so even without their instructions, they attacked the Soldier with their Bale Aura and Evil Screech.

"Tsk! This is too annoying." One of the Dark Magicians said as he could tell that the Shadow Solider that was summoned using their shadows had mutated to some extent.

They weren't expecting a melee battle against these Shadow Soldiers!

Luckily, they still have vast experience, so after being hit by the Shadow Soldiers' claws a couple of times, they managed to push them away and use their Movement Techniques to get some distance.

They were injured, but they could still use their spells.

They weren't using Darkness Manipulation but they had access to other impressive Dark Spells like Darkness Coil, Spectral Hands, Gloom Force, and Rotting Chains.

The two Dark Magicians fought against the Shadow Soldier, and they were impressively overpowering the Shadow Soldier after a few rounds.

It was unfortunate that the Soldiers excelled with Physical Attacks, so the two Arcanists were able to deal with them after a few rounds of exchanges.

As expected from his fellow Dark Arts Practitioners, they know how to handle other Dark Arts Practitioners.

Nevertheless, the Soldiers allowed Vale to finish his preparations.

Boom!

Vale's stomped on the ground to give him the momentum he needed to arrive next to the two.

They noticed his actions, and instead of being scared, they actually laughed at Vale.

"Haha! You're dead!

"Idiot! Dashing forward like that..."

They looked down on Vale as they had set up a trap specifically for people who would look down on Spellcasters like them.

However, to their surprise, the young masked man seemed to be covered by invisible armor and destroyed their traps with brute force!

"No way... This is Aura..."

"W-what's going on—"

The two were too surprised by Vale's sudden burst of Aura as they allowed the weakened Shadow Soldier to counterattack!

In the blink of an eye, the two Dark Magicians were pierced by the claws. They were already dying the moment Vale touched them...

[Living Human has been discovered. Would you like to start the extraction?]

'Yes...' Vale answered as he waited for the extraction to finish.

Honestly, he couldn't control the Aura he used to bypass the traps since he only had the passive Spell Model, Meridian Access.

Nevertheless, this didn't stop him from bursting with Aura, thanks to this Spell Model.

[Extraction Successful. Energy +40]

[Extraction Successful. Intelligence +0.55]

[Extraction Successful. Agility +0.75]

[Extraction Successful. Complete Spectral Hand Spell Model.]

[Extraction Failed.]

"Ahhh..."

Vale paused for a moment after seeing the Spectral Hands Spell Model being extracted.

He already has the Ghost Hands, so having the Spectral Hands would be too redundant. However, he also felt that this might be quite interesting if in case he could summon numerous Hands.

After all, the Ghost Hands were supposed to be used just like an extension of hands to make tasks a lot easier. They weren't meant for combat but were more inclined to be used for crafting or light duties.

'Ugh... I can't waste my time thinking about this.' Vale said in his mind as he decided to just accept the Spell Model.

He then tried extracting the other Dark Magician and got a decent result.

[Extraction Successful. Energy +40]

[Extraction Successful. Strength +0.45]

[Extraction Successful. Vitality +0.25]

[Extraction Successful. Complete Darkness Coil Spell Model.]

[Extraction Failed.]

Again, he didn't want to overthink and just accepted it as is.

He also stopped himself from doing focused Extraction since that requires time to be triggered.

With this in mind, Vale gave the two to Yvaine since she'll need plenty of strength later on.

He then continued to head towards Philip. At this time, his senses could tell that two people were approaching him in his dungeon or prison.

He had to hurry!

Chapter 289 Shapeshifter

Vale followed the signs that led him to the dungeon, where Philip was being held captive.

He had to go through several corridors and stairs, avoiding more enemies along the way.

Most of the time, he would just use his Lightspeed to bypass them. Dealing with them with Spells would just waste his limited energy, so if he wanted to attack, he would just rather push them with brute force or slam them to the ground.

If he had to use a Spell, he would use his Darkness Manipulation since it barely consumes his energy. With such a Spell, he could easily control the shadows around him and create distractions or traps for his foes.

He was basically unhindered after dealing with those two Dark Spellcasters.

'It's here...' Vale stopped in front of the dungeon's door.

It would lead to several cells, one of which was where Philip was being held.

Vale then triggered his Divine Sense and Spirit Vision to confirm that Philip was still there.

Martial Arts Practitioner with 5 filled Spell Lights.

Martial Arts Practitioner with 5 filled Spell Lights.

These two Knights were behind the door waiting for him to enter.

His Divine Sense then detected the other prisoners inside.

To Vale's surprise, most of the prisoners here were practicing the Holy Arts!

Holy Arts Practitioner with 1 filled Spell Light.

Holy Arts Practitioner with 1 filled Spell Light.

Holy Arts Practitioner with 1 filled Spell Light.

...

Holy Arts Practitioner with 1 filled Spell Light.

There were a total of 8 Holy Arts Practitioners with a single Spell Model recorded in their Spell Light.

This was quite confusing since he thought that the Secret Organization was nurturing False Priests to fight against Dark Magicians.

It seems that this organization was hiding too many secrets.

Nevertheless, Vale wasn't bothered by this as he locked on Philp's position.

Dark Arts Practitioner with 5 filled Spell Lights.

Dark Arts Practitioner with 13 filled Spell Lights.

Transformation Arts Practitioner with 6 filled Spell Lights.

Philip was certainly the one with the 5 filled Spell Lights. The others were probably the ones managing this castle.

'Hmm? 13-Slotted Arcanist? He's the same as the Headmaster...' Vale thought as he swiftly made his plan.

There are numerous traps and formation circles inside the dungeon, and it would be difficult to enter unless he destroyed them first.

Furthermore, he has to consider the 7 Elementalists behind him, who probably thought of ambushing him once he engaged in battle.

They must have felt confident with their stealth techniques, but they were so easy to find with his Divine Sense active.

It didn't take him that long to decide what to do as he put his full force in his right foot before kicking the rusted metal door of the dungeon...

Bam!

The force shattered the brittle metal door surprising the two Knights behind.

Nevertheless, they swiftly used their Aura Shield around them, which blocked any physical or magical attacks.

Vale knew that these guys had terrifying vitality, so there was no point fighting them with brute force. According to the books he read and from his Master Heinz, even shattering their hearts wouldn't kill them immediately. They could still fight for a minute before completely falling down.

With this in mind, he knows that he has to use his Spell Dispersion to cancel their source of magic and make them vulnerable.

'Let's see how powerful this spell has become...' Vale thought as he triggered his Spell.

It must be remembered that his Spell Dispersion had now reached Level 7 or the Advanced Realm. He spent over three thousand Energy Points to upgrade this Spell, so he was expecting to see the effectiveness of this Spell against all of these people.

Whom~

As soon as he triggered the Spell, a wave of light swept over everyone inside the dungeon. This includes not only the Knights, but also the prisoners, the elementalists, and the three people at the very back of the dungeon.

The wave disrupted everyone's magic, and those who were casting spells caused it to backfire on them!

Vale witnessed everything clearly because his Phantasm State and Spirit Vision were activated when he did this.

He saw how they screamed in pain as their own spells and mystical items turned against them, burning or freezing or electrocuting them.

That's right, his Spell Dispersion no longer just stops any Arcane Spell, but he could use it to disrupt the direction of the Spell or even trigger them prematurely while being casted!

Of course, if he used this power of the Spell Dispersion, it wouldn't look stealthy since there would be a wave of light visible to everyone. Nevertheless, this was still a very powerful wide-range disruption spell!

After that, Vale canceled his Spirit Vision as he used his Ghost Hands and summoned Yvaine to deal with the aftermath. They were to finish off the struggling enemies.

He then entered the dungeon unhindered as he saw rows of cells filled with prisoners who looked weak and hopeless. He searched for Philip at the very end of the dungeon and was surprised at what he saw.

Even with a weak light, he saw the three figures he was looking for.

At the center was an old but dignified man standing firmly while holding his cane with his right hand. He looked at the masked Vale warily as he silently gauged his strength.

Vale ignored him and saw Philip sitting weakly on a cot in a small cell. He looked pale and thin, but he had no visible injuries. Vale felt relieved to see him alive but also worried about his condition.

However, as he looked at the other man, he saw a similar face and figure. It was another Philip Hoffman!

Vale's eyes lit up after seeing this, and he couldn't help but smile at this trick they had prepared.

'No wonder there's a Shapeshifter I sensed a while ago...' Vale thought as he looked at the old man who seemed to be gathering his Dark Energy and was prepared to fight.

Chapter 290 Saved

"What's this?" Vale asked the old man as he looked at the two Philip Hoffman.

Using his Divine Sense, he could already tell that the real Philip was the one on the left. Nevertheless, Vale felt that he should act clueless about this in order to learn more about the enemies.

After all, there must be a big reason why they captured Philip and kept him alive for so long instead of just killing him after getting the information they needed.

He wouldn't believe that they couldn't get the information about the Arcana from Philip. With all the various Arcane Spells out there and numerous Potions or Mystical Items with magical effects, they must have a way to get confessions from their prisoners.

The old man ignored his question as he looked at Vale curiously.

"That mask... Do you know what it is?" The old man asked as he squinted his eyes. He wasn't too bothered by how Vale disrupted the flow of Arcane Energy in the surroundings and made all the spells uncontrollable for a brief moment.

He knows that there was a similar Artifact in their organization, but it can only be used a couple of times within a month. The masked man seemed to have done the same, but the range was too small, so he wasn't worried that he could repeat such a thing.

In the meantime, Vale was a bit stunned by the sudden question.

'Oh... Right. I'm wearing this to confirm something from them.' Vale thought as he subtly touched the edge of his mask.

"So you know about the mask. I found it in a bunch of trash, so I took it with me. I like it... Do you have other equipment with this design?" He asked.

"From bunch trash? Ha!" The old man shook his head as he also shifted his gaze to the dagger on Vale's waist.

"So you're the one who triggered that heavenly lightning and also destroyed the Baron's Rare Formation Nodes ... How did you summon that lightning?"

'Hm? Rare Formation Nodes? Is he referring to those Immortal Shards?' Vale finally learned something from this.

He thought for a moment before he nodded to the old man.

"Hmmm... So you're not an idiot. I can answer your question, but you have to answer mine as well. I'm curious about your organization. If you tell me something about your organization, I will tell you how I summoned those lightning."

"Hahaha... If I tell you about our organization, you must join us. If I informed the Commander about your skills, I'm sure he wouldn't mind all the lives you've taken. You're worth a hundred Arcanists after all." The old man said as he looked at Vale with a creepy smile.

Vale couldn't help but recall Heinz after seeing this.

"You want me to join your cult?" Vale asked curiously.

He didn't expect a sudden invitation after everything he had done. To be honest, with all the skills or spells he had shown when infiltrating this Castle, he thought that they would consider just fleeing this place.

"Yes... I can tell that you are connected with the Dark Arts Faction after seeing your Spells. Are you sent here by the Vermont Family? You don't have to lie since there was no way you would have that Dark Spirit following you without their family's support. You must be connected to them in one way or another." The old man said as Vale felt a bit confused for a moment but he suddenly had an idea.

"You're right... I'm connected to them in some way." Vale said as he flipped his hand and showed an amulet to the old man.

Needless to say, the amulet he showed was the same item that he got from Professor Charlotte Vermont when he showed the limit of his Magic Zone during his First Year class.

During that time, she used the Protector Amulet, which was exclusively produced by the Vermont Clan, to reward her student. Any practitioner possessing this item would have their Phantasm State extended for a long period without suffering any backlash.

As soon as he showed it, the old man's eyes lit up as expected.

"Heh... So I'm correct. Those bastards are the real problem in the faction. They actually managed to produce a monster like you... Did you learn from Morgan?" The old man asked.

He was probably referring to Morgan Vermont, the man who established the Academy, or the legendary figure who had made all the other Arcane Paths Factions stop their aggression and made the Treaty of Keslore.

As Vale was about to answer, he realized that the old man's preparation had been completed.

Several Soul Draining Chains were slowly creeping out on him and were ready to pounce once he put down his guard.

"I can't answer that... In any case, can you tell me now why you have someone disguised as Philip?" Vale asked.

"The answer is simple... We are not going to give Philip back... Don't you want other items similar to that mask and dagger?"

As the old man said these words, Vale finally felt the chains moving.

'Yvaine, secure our escape route. I have a bad feeling about this...' Vale ordered his Dark Spirit as he dashed forward. He didn't have to wait for her answer as he knew that she would make it happen.

Whoosh~

Vale used his full agility and strength to appear instantly beside the group.

It appears he was about to save the fake Philip on the right side of the old man.

The old man was disappointed that his chains didn't catch the masked man, but he wasn't panicking when Vale got closer.

The moment this person grabbed the fake Philip, this would be over.

Of course, he didn't forget to act.

He acted as if Vale guessed the real Philip as his eyes widened.

"How did you find out?!" He shouted as he tried dragging back "Philip" to his side.

At the same time, he summoned his three Spectral Hands to welcome Vale.

It appears that he also reached the Advanced Realm of this Spell, so Vale thought it would be interesting to summon his Ghost Hands...

As he did that, he didn't stop moving and grabbed the shoulder of the fake Philip.

"Philip! Wake up! Let's escape now!" He shouted.