

D. Extraction 771

Chapter 771 Trapped

The entity, Pride, was now fully exposed to the elements as he found itself outmatched but refused to yield.

"Don't feel too happy, Immortals! I'm not done!"

Pride, drawing upon the power of its original form, summoned more mystical energy...

Its aura soon started swelling with a dark radiance. It was beautiful yet terrifying at the same time.

"Pride... It's your biggest to enter this realm." One of the Immortals said as he dashed forward to attack the Deadly.

The other Immortal felt that this fight wouldn't last for too long as he cast a Celestial Art that could burn Demonic Beings.

The Deadly Sin didn't listen to any of their words as he unleashed a barrage of spells: Chains of Hubris to bind its target, Mirrors of Vanity to reflect their attacks, and Gaze of Contempt to paralyze them with fear.

"These Spells would be incredible if they were cast on Half-Immortals or normal Immortals... We're already too strong for these basic spells, Sin of Pride." The other Immortal, who had long blond hair, finally spoke.

Even after receiving several attacks from Pride, the Immortals stood firm, countering with their own formidable Celestial Arts—Divine Arcane Shield to break the chains, Tyrant Gaze to shatter the mirrors, and Breath of Clarity to pass through the paralyzing gaze of the Deadly Sin!

These Celestial Arts weren't taken or Extracted by Vale for one reason: his Incorruptible Body could also cover the effects of these Spells!

In short, the Immortals were still lucky to have these Celestial Arts while fighting Pride.

Outside the castle, the denizens gathered after noticing the commotion and after Faith warned them to take cover...

Of course, they all failed to take cover as quickly as possible and watched the event with astonishment.

Their eyes are wide with awe and concern.

"I think we should leave now... Those two are the rumored Immortals, aren't they?"

"That's right... We should leave quickly. If they have to work together to fight an opponent, then it must be a monster."

"Hurry! Let's leave this place. A stray shot from these beings, and we're a goner!"

The castle staff working in the kitchen, maintenance, garden, and various fields felt the earth tremble as they swiftly left for the designated shelters assigned to them.

Chad, the half-dragon, his scales glinting under the moonlight, watched with a warrior's keen interest. His draconic heritage allowed him to sense the ebb and flow of the battle, and he stood ready to intervene should the need arise.

Well, he also knew that it was quite unlikely that his help would be needed, but he still prepared himself since there might be other intruders coming to their castle.

Thankfully, Vale had already lessened the restrictions of the two Dragons, and because of that, they should be able to inform him if there are other intruders taking advantage of the ongoing battle.

At this time, a few Arcanists from the Shadow Consortium and Church of the Lord of the Secrets whispered among themselves, their voices a mixture of fear and fascination.

"Look at the power of the Immortals... It's incredible. I can feel the Divinity from here!"

"Indeed! I knew it! It's a good thing I got assigned to work here as the coordinator."

"That's true... I even think that it's actually better to stay at the Church. Now, I can even see the ferocity of the Deadly Sin. This is a good reference!"

"Yes... I can't flirt with Miya while I'm here, but this is still a blessing in disguise."

Apparently, two representatives from each organization had been sent here to the castle to act as the coordinators. Well, their partnership hadn't ended yet, and their existence here would help them further deepen their relationship with the Shadow Immortal.

There was no way they would waste this opportunity.

Chad just listened to their conversation before shaking his head. He turned his attention to the battle and used his Draconic Sense to observe the surroundings.

Boom! Boom!

The battle raged on, as the two forces continued to fight against each other.

Nonetheless, the victor was already clear.

Pride, despite its efforts, was slowly being overwhelmed. The Immortals' combined might was a force that even a Deadly Sin struggled to contend with.

With a final, desperate act, Pride conjured a sphere that was like a sun, a last-ditch attempt to encapsulate and crush its adversaries.

However, the Immortals, seemed to have expected this attack and summoned the Twin Pillars of Ice!

Bang! Bang!

The pillars rose high, and their cold presence pierced the sphere and dissipated it into a thousand fragments of harmless light!

It happened as quickly as the sun sphere was formed!

"This..." Pride was shocked as he realized that all his moves were actually being read by the Immortals!

Defeated and diminished, Pride had no choice but to retreat, its form shrinking as it fled into the darkness from whence it came!

Whoooshh~

Pride's essence wavered like a flame in the wind.

"Escaping now?"

The Immortals' anticipation of its desperate move had turned the tide. Of course, they also knew that the Deadly Sin would certainly escape after what they did.

Nonetheless, as Pride sought to vanish into the night, it found its path barred by an invisible barrier! Thud!

It was a space-type magic laid down by Vale's Dimensional Creature.

"This..."

Pride, its form now flickering and unstable, recoiled from the barrier as if struck by a physical blow.

The shock of being trapped, of being read so thoroughly by the Immortals, sent waves of fear through its being.

It had always been the hunter, never the hunted, and this reversal of roles was a bitter draught to swallow.

The Immortals advanced, their expressions not of triumph, but of solemn duty. They had no intention of ending Pride's existence; such an act would not follow Vale's desire at all.

Instead, they sought to bind it, to contain its malevolent influence until Vale's return!

"You'll be staying here with us, Deadly Sin."

With a series of intricate hand gestures and silent incantations, they wove an ancient spell of imprisonment around Pride.

This Spell wasn't part of the 12 Arcane Spells. This Spell that could imprison even the Deadly Sin was created even before the Arcane Paths were separated. Needless to say, it was something that doesn't require a Spell Model to be able to cast!

The surrounding was suffused with divine energy as ethereal chains materialized, wrapping around the Deadly Sin with unbreakable bonds.

"You! Just kill me! Why are you even bothering to keep me alive! You will learn nothing from me! Hey!" The Deadly Sin shouted.

However, the two Immortals did not listen and continued with their spells.

Clank... Clank... Clank....

The chains glowed with a light that was the opposite of Pride's darkness, a light that promised eternal confinement.

Pride could feel the strength of these chains, but he was helpless about them. He didn't gather enough strength. He also underestimated this castle that actually houses two more Immortals!

It was too absurd!

Pride thrashed against its restraints as he decided to use his Soul Force to escape!

Since he was about to be caught, he'd rather use his life to get a better chance!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

He unleashed Spell after Spell in a futile attempt to free itself. It cast Arrogance's Lament, a wave of dark energy that sought to erode the chains, and Vanity's Echo, a sonic assault that aimed to shatter them. But the Immortals' art was unyielding, and each of Pride's attacks was absorbed and nullified by the glowing bonds.

"Too strong... These two aren't normal Immortals, either. Are they Pure Immortal?" Pride thought for a moment, believing that these two were actually born Immortals!

This realization just made this castle and the Shadow Immortal even more mysterious in his eyes!

In the meantime, Outside the castle, the commotion had already drawn a larger crowd.

Everyone felt that the battle was already over, so many of them felt more relaxed going out.

Chad, the half-dragon, watched with awe and concern, but with his draconic sense, he knew that there wouldn't be a chance for the Deadly Sin anymore.

Pride struggled for ten more minutes but it became clear that the Deadly Sin's efforts were in vain. The Immortals' Spell was too strong...

With a final, resonant chant, they completed the Prison Spell, sealing Pride within an ethereal cage that no force of sin could escape.

The Deadly Sin's form shrank further, its grotesque features smoothing out as it was forced into a state of dormancy.

The two Immortals actually delayed the completion of the Prison Spell to ensure that the Deadly Sin would be really weak.

The Immortals, their task complete, turned to the onlookers, their eyes conveying a silent message of reassurance.

"We will keep this one safe until Vale's return..." They announced, their voices showed their authority in the castle...

Chad then stepped forward as he offered a nod of respect to the Immortals.

"The castle stands thanks to you... Please take care of the Deadly Sin."

Chapter 772 Farrel Academy

"What an incredible battle..."

The people of the castle had finally calmed down after the malevolent energy of the Deadly Sin had disappeared.

Faith also confirmed this by announcing that they could return to their jobs.

They felt their spirits lifted after hearing such great news. After all, everyone knew what was going on outside this castle.

They knew about the ongoing invasion of the Demons from the Abyss Realm...

Now that they felt that the far was too close to them, all of them couldn't help but feel a little nervous, even if they had Immortals on their side.

Nonetheless, the night's events would be etched in their memories. It was a battle that involved the Immortals and their Celestial Arts after all.

Although they could barely understand the battle that went on, they still knew that it was a battle they'd probably never see again.

'We'll probably be increasing the defense by another level...' Chad thought for a moment as he looked at the receding figures of the immortals.

The fact that a powerful entity from the Abyss was able to reach the inner area of the castle without triggering their alarms was already a sign that their barriers were lacking.

Anyway, Chad only hoped that this matter would no longer happen again.

In the meantime, in a land that was filled with snow and ice, a new figure emerged.

"This is probably the most welcoming Human Realm I've ever entered... I guess the Will of the Realm is just barely alive at this point." The figure muttered after sensing his surroundings.

This figure's presence was as subtle as it was dangerous.

He was none other than Envy, a Deadly Sin of the Abyss Realm. Unlike its kin, he had not possessed a human to walk among them; instead, it had struck a dark bargain with the Demon Lord to enter with its own corporeal form.

Indeed, he had entered the Human Realm with his original body! He was only able to do this after getting the help of the Demon Lord!

"Hmph!"

Upon arrival, Envy wasted no time in cloaking its monstrous essence within the guise of a human.

It didn't take him that long to complete it...

Then, he closed his and found the place that the Demon Lord had arranged for him. His form flickered, and then it turned into a black cloud...

After several hours, it arrived at the area where a Demon Saint in disguise as a human was waiting for him.

The location they were meeting at was actually in a large town of humans.

Envy didn't mind it as it considered for a moment before it chose a form that was unassuming yet pleasing, blending seamlessly into the crowds of the town in Milton Kingdom.

According to the Demon Lord, this Kingdom had recently triumphed over the Abyss Realm's forces by sealing the Rifts that plagued them.

Thanks to the sealing of the Rift, this Kingdom was no longer being attacked by the Demons. The Demon Lord also didn't bother opening another Rift here and decided to focus on the weaker nations of this continent.

Thud...

Envy's human facade was that of a young female scholar with keen eyes and a demeanor that suggested a thirst for knowledge.

Envy and the disguised Demon Saint then exchanged their information. Envy informed the Demon Saint about the various things that it knew about the other Deadly Sins, while the Demon Saint informed Envy about the situation of the Human Realm, including the various Factions, Organizations, Half-Immortals, and the Shadow Immortal that was protecting this Realm.

"Mhmm... A lower realm that could house an Immortal of that level. The Will of this Human Realm had gone crazy. No wonder it's dying at such a faster rate." Envy commented.

The Demon Saint did not bother to be friendly with Envy, and he immediately left as soon as he got the information he needed.

Anyway, they certainly needed the Deadly Sins to rampage or cause chaos in this Human Realm, so they won't be taking the full power of the Arcane Arts Factions.

After all, the existence of Arcana truly change the tide of battle.

With the Arcana that had been granted to the humans by the Will of the Realm, they were able to fight back the Demon Saints even with only Half-Immortals on their side!

It was already an impressive feat!

He even recalled how a single squad of Dark Arts Practitioners led by Lesley could kill a Demon Saint!

Envy then looked at the Demon Saint who seemed to have disappeared but actually stayed a few kilometers away just to observe her movement.

'Mhmm... Suit yourself. For now, I am a female scholar, and I need to act like one.'

After ignoring the Demon Saint that was stalking her, Envy made up her plan.

She wandered the streets of town, observing the ways of humans, their joys and sorrows, their triumphs and failures.

After several days, she realized that it was a world ripe with the very thing Envy sought—desires unfulfilled, dreams unattained, and the simmering jealousy that lay beneath the surface of polite society.

As the days passed, Envy grew accustomed to its new form, learning the intricacies of human interaction and the subtle dance of emotions that played across their faces.

It was during this time of careful observation that Envy heard rumors of the Farrel Academy, a hidden academy under the Psychic Arts Faction.

'Psychics... They're perfect.' Envy thought as she felt that if she needed to learn an Arcane Path, the Psychic Art would be the perfect ofr her.

With a curiosity piqued by the unusual promise of power and secrets, Envy made its way to the secluded Academy, its appearance now that of an aspiring female student, eager to learn.

'Mhmm... Even if their realm is under attack by the demons, they are still peacefully studying their Arcane... How impressive.' Envy thought as her senses entered the Academy without much issue.

As a Deadly Sin, Psychic Arts was something she was born with.

In her eyes, the Psychic Arts they were studying weren't even a fraction of her abilities.

Nonetheless, she was still impressed by the method of how they use their Psychic Arts...

"Mental Energy, huh..." Envy muttered as she observed the Academy.

The Academy, nestled in the heart of a forgotten forest, was a marvel of psychic architecture, its spires reaching towards the sky as if in silent supplication to the unknown.

The students of Farrel Academy were a diverse lot, each gifted in the psychic arts, their minds fortresses against the mundane.

Envy, with its human guise, walked among them, its true nature undetected, a wolf in sheep's clothing. She was existing and they could notice her appearance, but none of them seemed to really care about her.

Envy became like a background character that no one would notice if they didn't pay attention.

She attended lectures on the manipulation of mental energies, participated in exercises designed to strengthen the mind's defenses, and engaged in spirited debates on the ethics of psychic intervention.

"This is a lot more fun than I thought...." Envy muttered, a smile creeping on her face.

All the while, Envy's true self reveled in the accumulation of knowledge, each new piece a weapon to be wielded in the pursuit of its own insidious goals.

Weeks had passed as Envy continued to absorb all the information she needed in order to become a perfect Human Arcanist of the Psychic Path and earn the title of the finest Mind Controller.

Unfortunately, Envy's presence did not go unnoticed for long.

Among the students was a young seer named Lysandra, whose visions pierced the veils of deception. She watched Envy with eyes that saw beyond the physical, her intuition whispering warnings of the danger that walked among them.

She really couldn't find any flaw in Envy's appearance except for her intuition, which she would rarely miss, and the fact that she doesn't know Envy's name or the woman she was disguised with.

As for the fact that Envy seemed to have the ability to make her presence incredibly miniscule, she didn't mind it at all since she was also like that and many other special students in the higher years.

'This is really confusing... I must at least learn about her name.' Lysandra thought as she really couldn't help but feel curious about her.

After realizing that even her teachers failed to notice Lysandra, an alarm went off in her mind as she knew that there was definitely something wrong!

"I can't keep it anymore..."

As Envy delved deeper into the Academy's secrets, Lysandra sought counsel with the headmaster, a venerable psychic known as Master Therion.

She had no other choice since even the teachers couldn't notice her!

Together, they should be able to unravel the threads of Envy's disguise, revealing the identity that lurked beneath.

Lysandra's steps were measured as she made her way to the headmaster's room, her mind burdened with the gravity of her discovery.

'I think the Headmaster isn't that bad... He's just always in a bad mood. I can do this...'

Chapter 773 Trapped?

The door before Lysandra was ancient, carved from oak that held centuries past, and as she received a cue from the Headmaster to enter, she pushed it open...

Whoosh~

The room beyond seemed to breathe a welcome.

The Headmaster's chamber was a sanctuary of knowledge, walls lined with shelves that groaned under the weight of countless tomes.

The air was thick with the musk of parchment and the hint of ink.

In the center stood a grand desk, its surface a map of the world, with ley lines and psychic currents traced in delicate gold leaf.

Master Therion, the Headmaster, was a figure that commanded respect.

His hair was a cascade of silver, showing his old age to everyone. Though he seemed to be capable of having a better appearance with his Arcane Arts, he decided to stay in this state as he guided his students in the Academy.

His eyes, a piercing blue, seemed to hold the depth of the ocean, and his robes, a deep indigo, were embroidered with symbols of the Farrel Academy.

Lysandra doesn't really feel good whenever she's in front of the unfathomable Headmaster. It had always been like that ever since she entered the Academy.

Nonetheless, this unfathomable trait seemed to be very reliable in her eyes.

Since she could see through the unusual behavior of a certain student, she believed that her Headmaster would be able to do so as well!

Lysandra's heart raced as she approached the Headmaster's desk, the map of the world beneath the glass surface seemed to pulse with an inner light before disappearing.

It seemed that Headmaster Therion was doing something on the map before she entered the room.

There were also several ancient books on his table, showing that he was probably studying before she entered... Furthermore, Lysandra noticed traces of light in his blue eyes as they locked onto hers with an intensity that seemed to peer into her very soul.

Meeting against a strong Mind Controller could really become too intense at some point in time.

"Master Therion..." Lysandra began, her voice a mix of reverence and urgency.

"I have come to report something... unsettling. There's a student, Lara, whose behavior has grown increasingly peculiar. I fear she may be under some demonic influence."

The Headmaster steepled his fingers, considering her words. "Lara, you say? A serious accusation, indeed. What leads you to believe this?"

Lysandra recounted her observations: Lara's sudden withdrawal from her peers, her once vibrant aura now shrouded in shadows, and her eyes that flickered with an unnatural gleam. It was also weird how her presence was weakened that even the teachers didn't notice her.

As a matter of fact, if not for the name in her uniform, Lysandra would also fail to recognize Lara and the fact that she was indeed a student in the Academy.

"It's as if she's not herself anymore, and my visions... they hint at something sinister at work."

Master Therion nodded slowly, his gaze never wavering.

"Your insights have always been a guiding light, Lysandra. I shall take this matter into my own hands. Give me a couple of days to observe and investigate. We must tread carefully; if a demon has infiltrated our academy, we must act with both wisdom and discretion."

To be honest, Lysandra wanted to have the Headmaster capture the woman immediately.

However, she couldn't order around the Headmaster either.

"I understand, Headmaster..."

With that, Lysandra left the chamber.

After getting out of the room, she still actually felt relieved that the thing she discovered had already been passed to the Headmaster.

Indeed, her mind was somewhat eased by the Headmaster's calm assurance.

'Right... If the Headmaster isn't too worried, then it shouldn't be bothering me a lot.' Lysandra thought.

Over the next few days, Headmaster Therion conducted his investigation with a subtlety that matched his reputation.

He observed Lara from a distance, using his psychic abilities to sense any disturbances in her essence.

He also used various Artifacts to see through Lara... After all, he indeed confirmed that something was wrong with Lara but just like Lysandra, he failed to see through the depthness of her disguise.

Because of this, the Headmaster Therion opened his ancient books, searching for any reference to the type of possession he suspected.

He also selected a few trusted Psychics in the Academy to look out for Lara.

Thanks to his instructions, they obtained more clues as they observed Lara's recent behavior without raising the alarm.

Finally, after days of meticulous research and observation, Master Therion summoned Lysandra once more to his chamber.

The morning light filtered through the stained glass windows, as Lysandra returned to the chamber.

"Lysandra..." Master Therion said, his voice carrying the weight of his findings...

"Your instincts were correct. There is indeed a presence within Elara that does not belong to this realm. However, it is not a demon, but a spirit of Envy, one that feeds on the ambitions and desires of its host. We must act, but with caution, for the spirit is cunning and will not be easily banished."

Lysandra was stunned as soon as she realized that the Demon wasn't just a weak one but was actually a Deadly Sin!

Gulp...

Lysandra wasn't able to reply and simply nodded.

She listened intently to the Headmaster as her fears were now validated by the Headmaster's words.

Lysandra's heart pounded with the gravity of the situation as Master Therion laid out a plan that would use her as the lure!

Indeed, Lysandra was shocked that she had to be involved into this mess! She knew that she wasn't strong enough after all!

"Lysandra, you must draw Lara to the Chamber of Seals. You're a fellow student so it wouldn't be very suspicious to invite her. It's a room fortified with ancient wards strong enough to hold Envy..." he instructed, his voice steady despite the perilous nature of their task.

"The instructor would also assist you in this matter so it wouldn't be too suspicious." The Headmaster added.

"Why does it have to be? Also, is it not possible for you to make your move? I will be in danger." Lysandra finally said, after considering it for a while.

The Chamber of Seals was a room seldom used, hidden deep within the Academy's foundations. Its walls were inscribed with runes that hummed with ancient power, and at its center lay a platform that acted as a focal point for the room's immense energies.

"We can't let Envy escape. If the Deadly Sin felt danger, then we would have no way of stopping him from leaving this place." Headmaster Therion explained.

Lysandra did her best to negotiate on this matter. In the end, Lysandra was convinced after she was promised that she'd be able to obtain an artifact that would increase her Mental Energy and also an automatic passing grade on several subjects!

"Fine... Let's do this!" Lysandra could only encourage herself as she accepted the difficult task.

As the final class of the day concluded, Lysandra approached Elara with a feigned casualness that belied her inner tension.

"Lara, we were chosen by the instructor to clean one of the chamber of secrets... Let's go."
Lysandra said to the woman in disguise.

"Mhmm... Alright." Envy replied. She wasn't bothered that her Spell that weakens her presence was no longer that effective. She expected this since the mental energy of the students would slowly get used to her energy fluctuation and she would certainly become noticeable again.

"What's in those chambers? I heard the instructor say that we will be using that in our class. It's related to our studies on psychic wards," Lara, or Envy, suddenly asked and her voice was even tinged with just enough excitement.

She was certainly acting like a real teenager girl at this time.

"The chamber should be able to help us with our Mental Energy."

Elara, her eyes reflecting the green glint of Envy, nodded slowly...

Soon, they navigated the academy's corridors... At this time, the setting sun was already casting long shadows in the hall.

Upon entering the chamber, Lara's gaze was immediately drawn to the platform...

"Interesting..." Lara muttered.

As soon as she stepped inside, it was then that Lysandra sprang the trap as she jumped back!

Thud! Thud!

The doors slammed shut, and the runes flared to life, a brilliant display of psychic might that encased Envy in a prison of light!

It happened so quickly!

However, Envy didn't seem to panic as a powerful Arcane Energy pressed on her!

She tried to test the binding powers of the Runes as well, but the Chamber of Seals held firm!

"Ho~ So Psychic Arts weren't just boring Mind Controllers, huh..." Envy muttered as she felt the presence of the Headmaster and other Psychics in the Academy.

In the meantime, outside the academy, a lone figure observed the unfolding drama with an air of detached interest.

Kyle, the Shadow Immortal, had arrived, his senses attuned to the presence of Envy.

Chapter 774 Another Way

At this time, Kyle was cloaked in the shadows of the forest just outside the Academy...

He could feel the presence of various barriers, but he didn't think too much of them as he prepared to join the fray if necessary.

The reason he was here was simple: he wanted to hunt the Deadly Sin, which is similar to what the Farrel Academy wished to happen.

Kyle moved through the Academy's barriers by manipulating its shadows.

He moved with no sound and his presence was as imperceptible as a fleeting thought.

'What an incredible fluctuation of energy...' Kyle mused.

He was drawn to the epicenter of the psychic disturbance, where the battle against Envy was about to escalate.

Outside the Chamber of Seals, Lysandra did her best to ensure that the doors were kept shut as the Headmaster and the others worked together to defeat Envy...

Although the Chamber of Seals was incredibly strong, as it was made by the Academy's top Arcanists, there was certainly a limit.

According to textbooks, it could theoretically seal even an Immortal.

However, it was never tested to an Immortal and was only used against Half-Immortals.

Because of that, Lysandra couldn't help but feel nervous.

She could only pray that the Headmaster and the other professors are doing well!

Inside the Chamber of Seals, the Headmaster stood at the forefront, flanked by eight Professors, each of them already considered as masters of their craft.

Their eyes were set upon Envy, who writhed within the confines of the psychic prison...

To their dismay, the Chamber of Seals only allowed them to stop the Deadly Sin from calling out for external help or energy.

It felt as if the one they were facing wasn't a mere Spirit or Avatar... It was as if they were dealing against the true Envy!

"Focus!" Headmaster Therion shouted.

Envy's aura, a miasma of green, pulsed against the chamber's wards. It felt as if it could break the shackles they had placed at any moment.

"Begin the incantation..."

This was commanded by the Headmaster, his voice resonated through their heads as he used telepathy to give out commands.

This was actually very impressive since the Headmaster was already casting three spells at the same time. The telepathy must be the fourth spell!

Nonetheless, the Professors had no time to be impressed!

In unison, the Professors began to chant, their voices weaving an upsurge of ancient syllables. The chamber's runes glowed brighter, creating a symphony of light against the encroaching darkness, which was the Deadly Sin!

Envy, sensing the tightening burst of psychic energy, unleashed a barrage of ethereal assaults.

Waves of malevolent force crashed against the barriers, each impact a test of the chamber's foundation!

Indeed, Envy was using a brute force to fight against the Psychic Arts while protecting herself using his mental energy that rivals all the Psychic Arts in the room!

The Headmaster raised his staff and a burst of mental energy was released from it...

"Focus your minds..." he urged. "We must synchronize to eliminate this evil."

The other professors felt a burst of mental energy. However, it wasn't harming them. As a matter of fact, it was replenishing their exhausted minds!

"Synchronize!"

The Professors, attuned to his command, aligned their psychic flows into a singular, unbreakable stream. The chamber responded; its runes hummed violently, a harmonious counter to Envy's discordant rage!

Envy roared, a sound that transcended the physical, echoing through the minds of all present. It thrashed against the psychic bonds.

Then, its physical form started flickering, as if it was trying to become a specter to safely escape the Chamber!

"Strengthen the seals!" Shouted by one of the Professors, her hands outstretched as arcs of psychic energy leapt from her fingertips.

The others followed suit, their powers manifesting as psychic chains were cast to strengthen the seals of this chamber...

Envy's struggle grew desperate, its form contorting, seeking any weakness, any lapse in concentration. But the Professors were at an advantage with the help provided by the Chamber of Seals and the Sovereign Artifact being wielded by the Headmaster.

"They're a lot stronger than I expected..."

Kyle, from his vantage point, watched the spectacle with keen interest.

After reaching the central part of the Academy, he was able to sense Envy's power.

To be honest, he felt as if Envy had been in the Human Realm for a very long time as he felt incredibly powerful and Envy doesn't seem to be an Avatar or a Spirit that was sent here because of how stable his power was.

Without a doubt, Envy had the power similar to a True Immortal.

However, the Psychic Arts was just too difficult to deal with.

In front of this Arcane Art, your physical power and your spiritual strength don't matter! They will attack your mind, your will, or your soul!

It wasn't something that Arcanists of different paths would focus on except for some branches in the Arcane Path itself.

'It looks like they're winning, but the Deadly Sin isn't being serious yet...' Kyle thought after observing the situation for a while.

Boom!

The Chamber of Seals trembled as the Deadly Sin burst with power.

Nonetheless, the Psychic Arts Practitioners' display of power was impressive, their unity in the face of such a formidable foe was proof of their training and discipline.

Kyle observed the spectacle, his interest piqued not only by the Deadly Sin's desperate attempts at liberation, but by the potential of the Psychic Arts Practitioners.

Their technique, their control, their finesse—all elements he sought to understand, to perhaps incorporate into his own repertoire of shadowy abilities.

'I should really extract these guys...' Kyle mused for a moment as he surely wanted to obtain those abilities. It also felt like obtaining more Psychic Arts would allow him to have more control over his spells.

Nonetheless, as the time passed, the battle to bind Envy intensified. Headmaster Therion, joined by other expert psychics of the Academy, channeled their collective energies into reinforcing the chamber's wards and breaking the mind of the Deadly Sin...

However, Kyle realized that the Headmaster's Sovereign Artifact was getting weaker and weaker. It could no longer replenish the mental energy of the Professors while Envy was still trying its best!

"Two minutes at most..." Headmaster Therion warned the other Professors.

The battle within the Chamber of Seals reached a fever pitch as the Sovereign Artifact in his possession was already at its limit...

The staff was already trembling as it was already being overused...

It was faltering, its once radiant light dimming to a mere flicker.

Envy, seizing upon this weakness, redoubled its efforts, lashing out with renewed vigor. The chamber trembled under the onslaught, the air thick with the tang of psychic fire.

"What a pity... So this is all you can do?" Envy finally spoke and it was a voice of disappointment. It was as if all of his struggles just now were merely an act.

However, the wasted energy of the Deadly Sin was definitely real!

As Psychic Arts Practitioners, their minds were extremely strong and they wouldn't falter on such a simple provocation.

Nonetheless, the Headmaster's brow furrowed in consternation. It doesn't change the fact that they were failing to kill the Deadly Sin...

'This Sin is not a mere summoned spirit or avatar... It feels as if we're dealing against the true Sin...' Headmaster Therion frowned as he didn't think that the real body of the Sin would really enter the Human Realm that was being protected by a true Immortal.

Anyway, he tried to contact the members of the Oracle Hivemind once again but he wasn't getting anything.

The Order of the Oracle Hivement, the reinforcements he had summoned, were still nowhere to be seen, likely ensnared by other demonic machinations.

Time was slipping through their fingers like grains of sand, and with each passing moment, their control declined.

With a heavy heart, Headmaster Therion prepared for the last resort.

Once the Sovereign Artifact failed, he would unleash a spell to expel Envy from the Academy's hallowed grounds.

The consequences of such an action weighed heavily upon him; the Deadly Sin could wreak havoc wherever it landed, endangering untold lives.

Yet, the immediate threat to the Academy left him with no alternative.

'Once this being is gone, we will have to evacuate...' The Headmaster thought as he readied himself to use the Second Arcane Path he had learned to blast Envy away...

He also controlled the Chamber of Seals to open it once he was ready to expel the Deadly Sin.

As he channeled the Elemental Spell, the surrounding air intensified as the other Professors realized the Headmaster's plan...

The chamber's runes glowed ominously, a prelude to the expulsion. But just as the Headmaster was about to release the spell, a shadowy figure materialized within the chamber.

The psychics faltered briefly as their concentration was broken by the sudden intrusion.

The figure emerged from the darkness, its form cloaked in an aura of impenetrable shadows.

Kyle stepped forward, his eyes reflecting the chaos of the battle.

"Stay your hand, Headmaster," Kyle's voice resonated through the chamber, a calm amidst the storm. "There is another way."

Chapter 775 The Key

"There is another way."

Kyle's voice resonated through the chamber... It was like a calm amidst the storm.

The Headmaster, only took a mere second to immediately recognized the figure that had mysteriously appeared within the chamber.

He had no time to question his presence or how he managed to enter the chamber since he clearly recognized the gravity of the situation...

If they failed to keep the Deadly Sin here, there would be many lives that was going to be taken by this devil.

With a stern gaze at Envy, Headmaster Therion nodded solemnly.

"Speak quickly, Shadow Immortal. Our time is short, and our enemy is relentless."

Kyle approached the platform, his gaze fixed on the writhing spirit of Envy.

Just now, he also used a huge amount of Shadow Divinity to strengthen the bindings on the Deadly Sin.

"The spirit seeks a host, a vessel to sate its hunger for ambition and desire. We must offer it a bait, a lure so enticing that it cannot resist." Kyle said through telepathy... It covered not just the Headmaster but all the other Professors as well.

The psychics exchanged wary glances, but the Headmaster's decision was swift.

"We will trust your counsel. What do you propose?"

With a gesture, Kyle summoned a phantasmal orb, its surface swirling with the potential of untapped power. It was mysterious.

"This Orb contains the essence of ambition, a concentrated draught of desire. It will draw Envy like a moth to flame..."

Kyle said as he recalled what Orden, the Purple Dragon of the Castle, said to him about this Orb.

Indeed! This Orb came from one of the Dragons imprisoned within Kyle's castle!

He placed the Orb upon the platform, and as if sensing its purpose, Envy's attention snapped to the new presence. Its form coalesced, drawn to the Orb's allure.

"Prepare yourselves..." Kyle warned, his voice echoing in the minds of the psychics.

"The trap is set."

During this whole time, Envy couldn't actually sense Kyle's presence! Nonetheless, Envy couldn't care less about another opponent...

As soon as the Orb appeared, she couldn't help but let out her desire to possess it!

The Headmaster and the Professors encircled the area, their psychic energies converging upon the Orb.

Envy, entranced by the Orb's promise, edged closer, its essence quivering with anticipation... She had no idea what it was, but it felt like she's going to get stronger the moment she obtained it!

"It's mine!" She shouted.

At the same time, Kyle gave his instructions to the Psychics, who barely had the strength to continue...

With a collective incantation, the psychics channeled their powers into the Orb... To be exact, their Mental Energy was used to strengthen the power of the Orb and contain Envy's spirit!

As Envy dashed forward, a radiant lattice of light enveloped her body. The Deadly Sin's felt a lot more at ease as it neared the Orb's seductive glow!

"This is indeed terrifying..." Kyle commented as he realized how great the Orb was... He really couldn't underestimate the Dragons that had lived for an uncountable number of years!

Envy, now within reach of the Orb, extended a tendril of its essence towards the object of its desire.

At that moment, Kyle gave the signal, and a surge of psychic energy burst forth.

The Orb absorbed Envy in a maelstrom of light, its surface pulsating with the captured devil's fury.

The runes of the chamber flared, sealing the Orb with an irrevocable conclusion.

The Deadly Sin's rage was quelled as its presence was confined within the Orb's crystalline prison!

Thud... Thud.. Thud...

Exhausted yet triumphant, the psychics watched as the Orb settled into a gentle hum, its surface was now in a tranquil state...

Some of the professors couldn't help but kneel on the ground as they just exhausted their mental energy...

"Did we just capture a Deadly Sin?" One of the professors asked.

"I must be dreaming... This is incredible... If we study the mind of this creature, incorporate their knowledge into our arts... Then, it will be a new era---"

"Stop... The guy who helped us is an Immortal. He must be the Shadow Immortal. I felt his Divinity."

"Right... Besides, that was probably just an Avatar or a part of the Deadly Sin's Spirit. It wasn't a big deal."

"We can't be sure about that. The Shadow Immortal would not come here if it was that simple."

The professors talked to each other through their linked telepathy as they looked at Kyle's figure with wariness but also reverence.

They didn't even bother to ask how the Shadow Immortal bypassed the doors of the Chamber of Seals and joined them in the battle.

It clearly shows how they really acknowledge his strength!

Headmaster Therion approached the Orb, his expression one of solemn gratitude.

"Through your instructions and our unity, we have succeeded, Shadow Immortal" He declared.

"On behalf of the Farrel Academy, I would like to thank you--"

"That's fine... Headmaster Therion... I will be taking this Orb, though..." Kyle said, and as soon as he took the Orb, he immediately received a notification that he could extract the living immortal inside it!!

Of course, he decided not to extract the Deadly Sin yet as he felt that this one was actually using his true body!

This Deadly Sin that he captured was quite special, and he wasn't just planning to extract it to death! That would be too much of a waste!

Even if he does, he has to make it slow and make this poor Deadly Sin become a source of his energy forever!

During this time, in a faraway land in the northern region of the world, the wind howled across the desolate ice land...

Suddenly, the space twisted, and a group of three people descended to the land...

The trio took a moment to observe the land as if sensing the remnant energy in the place.

Whoosh~

They stood amidst the frozen expanse, their blue cloaks billowing like the sails of a ship lost at sea. The intricate engravings upon their garments shimmered faintly, a sign of their mastery over the temporal realm.

"The Overseer's not here..." One of them murmured, his voice barely audible over the biting gale.

The Overseer's absence was a huge matter that would affect the whole of the Human Realm. After all, the Overseer's task wasn't a simple matter: it was to help the balance of the world...

Without the Overseer, the Will of the Human Realm would become even more vulnerable!

The second figure nodded, his gaze scanning the horizon.

"The Demons' incursion was no mere coincidence. The Will of the Realm is exposed... It's vulnerable without its guardian. What a pity..."

The third, the youngest among them, clenched his fists. "Perhaps it is a sign for us to intervene. The Will may be guiding us to a new equilibrium."

He said with a hint of a smile on his face. The reason they were here must not be a coincidence.

Apparently, their mission was clear: to seek out the Shadow Immortal, a being who had actually disrespected a new Time Manipulator in the remnant of the Celestial Realm.

This made them, the seniors of that Time Manipulator, get revenge.

"Since there's no Overseer. We have to get information on our own."

With a decision made, they turned their backs to the ice land, the realm of the absent Overseer, and set their sights on the mainland.

"This won't be an easy matter since the Shadow Immortal probably rules this world. We will use the current chaos created by the Demons to steal the key and after that, we can consider humiliating the Shadow Immortal..." The leader of the group, Jin, said in a serious voice..

"We're not going to kill him, huh..." The other said.

"We can't... We need to keep the balance of this world. Without the Shadow Immortal, this world probably wouldn't last for a month before it becomes a hub of demon. We don't want the Demons to get even stronger." Jin explained.

"Understood..." The other two said in unison.

They also knew that the Shadow Immortal was no ordinary foe. His control over the shadows was unparalleled, a power that could veil his movements and intentions from even the most discerning eyes.

Furthermore, it was reported that he could control a Dimensional Creature! A being that could be considered the worst enemy of the Time Manipulators.

Nonetheless, with the three of them, a single and young Dimensional Creature, would not be able to stop them.

As they traversed the boundary of the mainland, the Time Manipulators cast a wave of temporal threads, a cloak of choral energy to shield their passage.

They moved unseen, as they sought the traces of the Shadow Immortal's essence.

Upon reaching the mainland, the trio split up, each taking a different path through the bustling cities and sleepy hamlets.

To their surprise, the Demons barely caused damage in the northern region of the continent.

It was quite impressive that the Arcanists here were able to fight against the Demons!

Then, at this time, in a quiet tavern, one Manipulator overheard a bard sing of a night when the darkness seemed alive, a vampire that moved against the wind slaughtered the demons in thousands!

Chapter 776 Return

"A Vampire fought against thousands of Demons?" The Time Manipulator named Jin, also the oldest and leader of the group, muttered with interest.

Vampires weren't considered to be that strong and could defeat thousands of demons... Unless the Vampire they were talking about was from a really old generation with the purest Vampire Blood there was.

'A Human Realm with a Vampire that is probably a Monarch... Is that even possible?' Jin mused as he knew that Vampires shouldn't be active in this particular human realm controlled by Arcanists.

After all, the Vampires would just become the subject of their studies to increase their Arcane Mastery and Knowledge...

Nonetheless, Jin continued to listen to the surroundings to find more information about the current situation of this world.

Anyway, they weren't pressed on time. They would slowly learn about this world if necessary to ensure that they would be able to get the golden key from Kyle.

In the meantime, in a library, Giorgi, one of the Manipulators, found a few old newspapers regarding the things that had happened in various churches... The Church of the Eminence of the Sea and Three Paragons seemed to have been in a very difficult situation over the past few months. He had also learned various things regarding the large factions and organizations that were active in this region.

"These Arcanists are impressive... Although they do not have advanced technology because of the mysticism involved, they were able to establish incredible feats in just a few decades." He muttered with interest.

Finally, Darius, who was now wearing a humbler attire like the crowd, witnessed a merchant's awed recount of a mysterious benefactor whose generosity was as sudden as his disappearance...

It seemed that there was an incredible Alchemist in the south capable of producing tons of anti-demon artifacts, talismans, and various items that could also protect them from demons.

It had even been distributed to various nations, though on a smaller scale, before the Demons invaded, allowing them to become genuinely prepared against the Demons!

Each clue, each story, brought them closer to understanding the Human Realm...

After a few days had passed, the Time Manipulator, who had come from a different realm, adapted to the Human Realm, and they even obtained identity and money to disguise themselves properly.

At this time, the Time Manipulators gathered in a large city, their findings converging into a clear story.

The Shadow Immortal was not hiding at all and his base of operations was already quite known. Furthermore, he was actively participating in the battles against Demons and already killed many Demon Saints in the process...

Because of that, the Demon Saints' fighting style was now extremely cautious. They would barely appear in battles, and even if they did, it wouldn't last for a minute as they would quickly hide after providing help.

They were all afraid that the Shadow Immortal's Avatar would come at them and eliminate them immediately.

"It's weird that the Demon Lord is not doing something against the Shadow Immortal... It would be great if the two of them fought each other..." Darius muttered after drinking his tea.

"That's not a good idea, Darius. We can't let the Demon Lord possess the key..." Giorgi replied...

"What? It's not like the Shadow Immortal will carry that with him. If the seal he used to take it gets broken, he will be in a huge danger." Darius said.

"Mhmm... We still can't dismiss the idea that the key might be in his possession. I'm sure he believed that the safest place he could put such a precious item is probably in his pocket or something." Jin said after giving some thought.

Anyway, their discussion continued on how they would deal with the Shadow Immortal with their Time Spells. They had to be precise on this as they could not make a mistake in their attempt to make the Shadow Immortal disappear from them, and once an Immortal decided to hide, even with their powers, they would have a hard time finding them.

There were limits on their Time Spells, after all.

Soon, their plan was set. They were ready to visit the Ruri Kingdom, where the Shadow Immortal had been active lately.

Thud...

The ancient but enchanted stones of Kyle's castle stood silent as he crossed the various defenses that were placed.

'It got strengthened by a couple of times... I guess Magnus panicked a while ago...' Kyle mused as he realized some changes in the internal Formation Barrier that he and Magnus developed.

Nonetheless, his return was marked by a subtle shift in the atmosphere, a recognition from the castle itself of its master's presence.

The four Immortals immediately noticed his presence... It was then followed by Faith, Pearl, and Chad, who was just at the gates of the castle.

Chad didn't greet Kyle, but he heaved a sigh of relief after sensing his return.

The presence of the Shadow Immortal was just that calming for him.

In the grand hall, Faith and Magnus awaited his arrival, their expressions a blend of relief and trepidation.

They recounted the tale of the castle's invader, how Pride, the embodiment of arrogance and one of the Seven Deadly Sins, had dared to challenge the sanctity of their domain.

"Pride would have almost succeeded if not for Denise's androids being too sensitive to the energy flow of the surroundings..." Faith said with a hint of a smile on her face... She wanted Kyle to visit Denise later.

"The two Immortals then took care of the Deadly Sin, and they decided not to kill him and wait for your arrival."

Kyle listened intently. His eyes were calm, yet he was clenching his fist in anger as he knew that these Deadly Sins wouldn't stop right now.

Anyway, he was also interested in how the Immortals suppressed the Deadly Sin so Faith filled him in with details.

The Immortals under his command, beings of immense power in their own right, had engaged Pride in a battle that shook the foundations of the castle.

Kyle couldn't help but feel impressed since the Immortals had already lost most of their strongest Celestial Arts, but they still managed to overwhelm Pride. It was certainly impressive...

"And the dragons?" Kyle inquired, his thoughts already turning to the chamber that housed his most formidable allies or prisoners.

"Orden and Ryzoir were tasked by the Immortals to suppress the Deadly Sin in their chambers." Magnus explained.

A smile, rare and enigmatic, graced Kyle's lips.

Without another word, he vanished from the hall, his Presence Shift carrying him to the Dragon's Chamber with the immediacy of thought.

The chamber was vast. The surroundings were filled with the thick scent of dragon with a hint of evil because of the existence of Pride.

Orden and Ryzoir, majestic in their draconic forms, stood sentinel over the defeated form of Pride. The sin lay battered, its once radiant aura dimmed by the weight of its defeat.

Kyle's gaze swept over the scene, taking in the intricate array of runes that bound Pride, each one a testament to the Dragons' power.

'Draconic Runes... Those Runecasters would die to see this...' Kyle commented in his mind as the existence of Runes made by Dragons was some sort of mythical to the Runecasters.

If they knew that Kyle could allow them to see such runes, he was sure that there would be plenty of Runecasters begging and kneeling to him to glance at it.

Kyle shook his head after reaching these random thoughts as he looked at the Pride.

The Pride's essence, normally a blinding beacon of self-

importance or arrogance, was now but a flickering candle in the face of the Draconic Runes...

It was merely a part of Pride's soul but if it was gone, the real body of the Deadly Sin would surely receive a fatal injury.

"Pride," Kyle addressed the fallen sin, his voice echoing through the chamber.

"I'm really curious what you were trying to achieve. I know for sure that you have failed... But I still wanted to hear it and depending on your answer, I may not be too harsh on your soul...

Anyway, you won't really die if I erase your soul. You will just bear a grudge against me and try to take revenge someday."

Pride's eyes, filled with defiance that not even defeat could quell, met Kyle's. "You are... right." it hissed, the words a struggle against the bindings.

"If you free my soul now... I will forget this matter." Pride continued.

"I can do that... However, I have to know what happened. Why did you enter my place so recklessly." Kyle asked once again. His voice was soft, and there weren't any signs of hate at all.

Pride felt a lot better with this approach from Kyle, so he replied truthfully...

"I just want to obtain a perfect host. The Shadow Immortal is definitely a perfect host for the strongest Deadly Sin." Pride replied.

Kyle was a bit dumbfounded by this reply, as he certainly lives up to his name!

Kyle truly had enough of it and felt that he should end this matter.

He then used his Darkness Manipulation Spell to create a dark limb to touch the Deadly Sin...

Then, under Pride's confused eyes, he spoke.

"Extract..."

Chapter 777 Precious Materials

Kyle looked at the Deadly Sin with a calm gaze before he triggered his Divine Extraction System.

"Extract..."

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

"Yes!"

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Strength +0.5, Immortal Essence +100]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Strength +0.5, Immortal Essence +100]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Strength +0.5, Immortal Essence +100]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Complete Evolved Spell Light]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Complete Evolved Spell Light]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Complete Supremacy Surge Spell Model]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Complete Dignity Decree Spell Model]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Complete Conceit Chains Spell Model]

[Extraction Successful. Divinity +5, Vitality +0.5, Complete Vanitas Veil Spell Model]

[Extraction Successful. Pride's Mantle x1]

Kyle obtained over a thousand Immortal Essence in his extraction and more than a hundred Divinity Points. Once again, he managed to obtain a huge haul!

Then, as soon as he saw the Spell Models being extracted, he was elated.

He accepted all of these spells and he immediately inspected their Spell Models to understand how they work.

First, the Supremacy Surge Spell channels the essence of Pride to temporarily enhance the caster's abilities, granting increased strength, speed, and resilience. It was a bit disappointing that it could only improve his physical qualities, but nonetheless, it was still quite incredible since he knew that the increase would not be simple at all.

The next Spell was the Dignity Decree Spell. It was quite an interesting spell since once he issued a command, it would be imbued with the authority of Pride, compelling enemies or even friends to kneel or retreat in the face of the caster's overwhelming presence. However, to ensure that the spell would actually work, the user must have a higher "pride" than any of them...

"Dignity Decree, huh... This will be very useful. But how can I even measure my pride... Am I even that prideful?" Kyle shook his head at this as he still had to try to use this Spell if it would actually work on other people.

Although he certainly had pride as Shadow Immortal, he wasn't sure how much pride it was.

Anyway, the Conceit Chains Spells could manifest ethereal chains of pride that bind and immobilize foes, draining their willpower and strength with each passing moment.

This was a very useful spell as the power of the chains would also get stronger the more prideful the targets were!

Lastly, the Vanitas Veil Spell shrouds the caster in an illusion of grandeur, making them appear larger and more imposing, instilling fear in foes.

Furthermore, this Spell was actually targeted in an area. It means that he could cast it in a certain place to show his dominance, and he could immediately leave to go to another place while they were still affected by the spell.

These four spells would definitely be used by him most of the time to display his authority...

Finally, he checked the item he had obtained from Pride.

It was the Pride's Mantle. A cloak that increases the wearer's magnificence and importance through a realistic illusion, granting them an air of invincibility and authority.

As he further inspected this item, it would actually work well with the Dignity Decree Spell!

"Impressive... Then that solves the problem of using that Spell." Kyle muttered as he actually wanted to try this Spell on the four Immortals later.

If it worked, then it would most likely work on the others as well.

For now, Kyle turned to the dragons, nodding in acknowledgment of their actions.

"Orden, Ryzoir, your Runes are impressive... Can you contain this Sin for a little longer? I'm still not done with him." Kyle said.

The dragons inclined their heads, their eyes gleaming with the wisdom of ages.

"Just make sure you shorten our stay here, Shadow Immortal..." Orden's voice rumbled, the sound resonating within the chamber.

Ryzoir, the red dragon, let out a low growl.

"This Sin you have here is only a part of its soul... Don't expect too much from it... Even if you drain its energy, I don't think you'd get answers from him. His real body might even be preparing to take this soul back." The Dragon reminded.

Kyle's expression hardened at the warning. "I will drain this Sin's power every other day so please hold on with your Draconic Runes for now... As for its main body... He's welcome to come to my castle."

Kyle paused for a moment as he looked at the silent and weakened Deadly Sin.

"Then we shall fortify our defenses as well..." Kyle said, as if he certainly wouldn't mind confronting even the main body of the Deadly Sin.

After all, with his Divine Extraction System, he could only get stronger and not weaker.

With a final glance at the subdued Deadly Sin, Kyle turned and strode away from the chamber, his mind already weaving plans and strategies for the next battles to come...

"The Demon Lord would surely act soon... I need to prepare." Kyle muttered.

From the hints he learned from Farah, the Avatar of the Fortune Goddess, the Demon Lord was most likely looking for him, or to be exact, for his Divine Extraction System.

There was no way he would underestimate the Demon Lord, who was at the same level as the deities worshipped by humans in this world.

Meanwhile, in the capital of the Ruri Kingdom, where the cobblestone streets were filled with crowd, three figures cloaked in blue moved efficiently as if no one was blocking their path.

Jin, the leader of the Time Manipulators, continued on his way, his eyes sharp as he surveyed the bustling capital.

Giorgi, the one on his left, was also silent. However, he was already being impatient with their current mission. His presence was like the calm before the storm.

Darius, the youngest of them, was simply looking forward to their mission.

They had come to the Ruri Kingdom since this place had the most influence of the Shadow Immortal.

After a couple of days of research, they learned that the King of the Ruri Kingdom was but a puppet, strings pulled by the unseen hands of the Immortal, manipulating events without the populace's knowledge.

It didn't end there.

The trio's investigation had unveiled a network of control so vast it was almost incomprehensible. The Shadow Immortal's reach extended into the marketplaces where potions, amulets, and talismans of the highest quality were traded under a single banner—a monopoly that left little room for competitors.

But it was not just commerce that the Immortal influenced. The Church of the Lord of the Secrets, an enigmatic institution dedicated to a deity of concealment and stealth, had thrown its support behind the Immortal.

As a matter of fact, its clergy had already started spreading words that the Lord of the Secrets and the Shadow Immortal were working together!

"We need to scout his castle..." Giorgi suggested.

"I like that... I think I can do it alone... The fluctuation of time spells would be too obvious if there were three of us working." Darius suggested.

However, Jin shook his head.

"The Shadow Immortal has a Dimensional Creature. We can't use Time Spells near the Shadow Immortal until we're sure of the Golden Key's location."

Jin reminded, making the two very disappointed.

They already knew that the stronghold of the Immortal was at the Forbidden Forest.

It was there, amidst the ancient trees and misty paths, that the Shadow Immortal's castle lay hidden.

Anyway, the reason why they were moving with haste through the crowd wasn't related to the Shadow Immortal, or so they believed.

Apparently, as they navigated the Capital's alleys, a strange fluctuation of energy caught their attention—a Vampire!

It came from the castle, so they believed that the vampire was actually the guardian of the King's Castle.

Perhaps this Vampire was their strongest guard against demons that threatened to spill into the human realm.

The Time Manipulators made sure not to emit too much energy to ensure that the Vampire would not be startled.

They didn't mind that their mission was momentarily sidetracked by this unexpected revelation. After all, there were many rituals that included True Vampire's Fang and Blood.

In their minds, a True Vampire was filled with precious materials and ingredients for them!

This must be their lucky day!

"We must tread carefully..." Jin advised, his gaze never leaving the silhouette of the castle that loomed in the distance.

"This Vampire is no ordinary guardian. Its presence here is a piece of a larger puzzle... If we can't kill it fast, there might be more problems coming at us."

Giorgi nodded, his hand resting on the hilt of a blade that seemed to hum with temporal energy.

"We should observe, learn its hiding spot, and ambush it... If this Vampire turned into bats, or worse, blood mist, we would have trouble chasing it if they decided to escape."

Chapter 778 Time Manipulators against the Vampire

Darius, probably the impulsive one in the group, was already formulating a plan. "If we can align our temporal flow without making any mistake, we will be undetected... However, I think the castle was protected by a strong Formation Arts."

"It's fine... I already analyzed their Formation Art a while ago. We can do something about." Jin muttered.

Giorgi smiled after hearing this.

"No wonder you're our leader. Let's go!"

Jin just laughed it off as he led his small team to the castle. He looked at the Barrier for a moment before his hand formed a seal before it got distorted and created a hole, allowing them to pass through it without any issues.

It was a simple time manipulation ability, but if he didn't consider the base and source of the Formation Barrier, he would still alarm the Arcanists inside the castle.

Darius and Giorgi just smiled at this since they would probably need at least a few minutes before being able to do what he did. Of course, destroying the Barrier was basic for them, but passing through it without making a commotion was a bit more complicated.

Upon reaching the castle, the Time Manipulators melded with the shadows, their presence as inconspicuous as the passing of seconds.

"Let's focus on the traces of the Vampire." Jin muttered as he started searching the castle.

The castle itself was a labyrinthine structure of towering spires and deep dungeons, its walls steeped in history and most of all, Arcane Protection.

They moved silently as they searched for the Vampire. At this time, their senses were already attuned to the subtlest of vibrations in the temporal fabric.

It wasn't long before they discerned the Vampire's precise location—a secluded tower bathed in the silver light of the moon, its windows aglow with an otherworldly luminescence.

"Mhmmm... A perfect spot for a Vampire." Jin muttered as he looked at Giorgi.

Giorgi then nodded as he used another Temporal Magic allowing him to witness the corridor's past...

This allowed to see Vampire's appearance!

"Beautiful..." They all said at the same time when they saw the black-haired and pale-skinned Vampire.

The Vampire, a figure of ethereal beauty and deadly grace, walked on the corridor where they were at with an air of regal solitude.

Her eyes, pools of nocturnal mystery, scanned the surroundings as she headed to her secluded tower.

Based on the images they'd seen, she had just come from the King's Throne Hall and must've been served by the King himself.

After confirming the location and the appearance of the Vampire, Jin immediately discussed his plan.

Indeed!

The Time Manipulators did not strike immediately.

Instead, they began the intricate ritual to seal the castle, a complex weave of temporal locks and chronal barriers!

Jin started the ritual as he used a sacrificial item, a bronze pocketwatch!

He then raised his hands to the sky, palms facing the moon. He chanted the Invocation of Temporal Anchors, an incantation that called upon the fixed points in time to serve as pillars for their seal...

"In shadows deep, our voices blend,

Time's threads we twist, and paths we bend.

Bound in silence, unseen we move,

Seal this castle, none shall prove."

As his voice echoed into the night, ethereal chains materialized from the ether, shimmering with the light of bygone eras, and anchored themselves to the castle's walls.

Giorgi then began the Dance of the Chronal Weave, his movements were smooth even though he didn't really like this part of the ritual.

Nonetheless, they had to do this.

With each step and turn, he wove the fabric of time into a protective cocoon around the castle.

"Whispers soft, a veil of night,"

Mysteries shroud, out of sight.

Beyond the walls, in echoes call,

Time's embrace, enclose them all."

The air around the castle shimmered as if heat rose from the ground, but it was the weave of time that enveloped the structure, blurring its edges and making it untouchable. This wasn't noticed by anyone in the castle except the Vampire...

The reason she noticed this was because she suddenly lost her connection to the familiars she had placed outside the castle!

This was something that not even the Time Manipulators considered, as they weren't really experts in such matters!

Nonetheless, Lisa couldn't do anything as she still felt confused! She could only start using her Blood Connection to find her familiars!

However, at this point, Darius held aloft a Chronometer, an ancient device that measured not hours, but the flow of time itself.

He adjusted its dials, synchronizing the castle's temporal signature with a moment frozen in perpetuity.

"Through the hours, past and yet to be,

Seal this fortress, none shall see.

Secrets kept, in whispers told,

Mystic forces, forever hold."

The castle's surroundings slowed, its presence fading from the current timeline, as if it had always been a relic of the past.

Together, the Time Manipulators completed the ritual with the Final Convergence, their voices uniting in a powerful decree that sealed the castle's fate!

"By the power of past, and the echoes of futures unseen,

We bind this stronghold in between.

Let no force, dark or divine,

Break this seal of the threefold line."

A brilliant aura enveloped the castle, a dome of light that solidified into an invisible barrier.

The ritual was complete, the castle sealed within a bubble of time, cut off from the continuum, its fate now in the hands of the Time Manipulators.

"Whew... I don't want to do that again..." Giorgi muttered as he really disliked dancing.

"You did a great job... Darius would make a mistake if he did that." Jin replied.

"Then you should let him practice more!" Giorgi complained, but Darius and Jin just chuckled.

Giorgi also knew that he was the only one capable of doing that complicated dance while voicing the chant that was imbued with Temporal Energy.

Even Jin may not be able to do that, as it has been quite a long time ever since he learned and practiced it.

With the Chrono Seal in place, Jin, Giorgi, and Darius advanced toward the Vampire's Tower with undeniable confidence.

They were already sure that no matter what, the Vampire would no longer be able to escape from them.

Nonetheless, they were still ready to fight...

Although they have an unfathomable ability, they are aware of their own weakness.

As they walked, their steps were silent, their forms seemed to be flickering in the fabric of time, as they approached the heart of the Vampire's domain.

Lisa, the Vampire, stood vigilant atop her tower, her senses alert to the approach of the Time Manipulators.

"Who are these people?" Lisa frowned after noticing their presence...

Though they bore no overt malice, she sensed the latent danger they posed. Her heart, long stilled by the embrace of undeath, thrummed with a semblance of nervous anticipation.

"I have to inform Vale in case something happens to me..." This was her immediate thought as she quickly tried to connect to her summons...

Unfortunately, no matter how hard she tried, she couldn't really connect to them...

She could only sigh at this as she decided to try differently while the three intruders were taking their time.

With a wave of her hand, she summoned her thralls and blood hounds...

Then, she summoned her bats that was formed from her blood. She sent these bats away as she planned to use them to send a message to Vale...

But once again, they somehow disappeared after reaching a certain area!

"An unknown offensive-type Formation Barrier." Lisa muttered as she decided to use her communication crystal instead.

Then, she left a message in this crystal for Vale before she ordered one of her thralls to take it away and hide somewhere in the castle.

She was preparing for the worst...

However, she recalled something and stopped the thrall... Then, she produced a drop of blood on her palm. It was her Vampire Blood Essence, and she infused it into the thrall before sending it away.

This was to ensure that the thrall would have enough strength to reach Vale's castle safely.

Haaa...

Lisa took a deep breath as she prepared for the confrontation.

She donned her Sovereign Artifact, the Red Bruiser, a glove that hummed with destructive potential.

Vale had obtained this from Laura, their previous opponent, before it was given to her...

This Red Bruiser had three abilities.

The first ability was called Space Breaker.

This ability had even surprised Vale, as its power allowed it to annihilate almost anything it came into contact with during its brief activation.

"I trust you..." Lisa muttered as she kissed the back of her left hand, which was wearing the glove.

She only had a short 5 seconds to destroy something with her left glove, but it was certainly a terrifying ability.

Furthermore, this ability could only be employed thrice a day, and was limited to physical objects, rendering it ineffective against spells, spiritual beings, or summoned entities.

It should be perfect against the three unfathomable enemies that were coming at her.

Thud!

Unfortunately, upon the arrival of the three, she quickly discovered she was utterly outmatched by them!

Chapter 779 Blood

The moon hung high over the Vampire's Tower, casting a pale light that seemed to strengthen Lisa for the battle ahead.

She knew the odds were against her since she was facing three Time Manipulators. However, at this time, surrender was not an option, and it wasn't in her nature to give up either.. With the Red Bruiser gloves adorning her hands, she prepared to unleash the full extent of her vampiric prowess.

"Don't waste your time, Vampire... You're nothing against us. Just answer our questions and you'll get a painless death." Jin said as he saw the gorgeous Vampire looking at them with a chilly gaze

The Time Manipulators, Jin, Giorgi, and Darius, stood ready, their own energies harmonizing with the ebb and flow of time.

If the Vampire would even try to do something, they would unhesitatingly activate their Spells.

They know for a fact that they were a formidable trio. No one would be able to escape if the three of them worked together. Nonetheless, they rarely faced a vampire of Lisa's caliber.

They had to be careful since once the Vampire was given a chance to escape, finding them would become extremely difficult with their incredible blood spells.

"As if..." Lisa muttered as she decided to immediately attack!

The battle commenced with Lisa activating her Crushing Grasp of the Red Bruiser aiming to immobilize Jin, the one she could recognize as the leader of the group..

Crack... Crack... Crack...

Space around him seemed to stutter, but Jin, with his mastery over time, broke free from the stasis with a burst of choral energy.

'What this?'

Lisa's eyes narrowed as she couldn't recognize what kind of power was used.

Nonetheless, she knew she would have to employ her other abilities if she wanted to get a clean hit to one of them.

Kkaaaaaahhhh~

She called upon her Blood Echo, sending a shockwave of vampiric energy cascading towards the trio.

"That's futile!"

Giorgi deflected it with a swing of his blade, the temporal energy creating a shield that absorbed the life-draining force.

Darius countered with a temporal distortion, attempting to age Lisa rapidly, but she was immune to such tricks of time!

"Mhmm? I didn't know that Vampires weren't affected by that." Darius muttered.

"You still have a lot to learn... It's not that she's not affected. You're just too weak right now." Jin explained as he immediately realized what had happened.

The Vampire seemed to be protected by a powerful energy that was most likely a Divinity of someone else. However, he couldn't exactly understand this since he doesn't have Divinity himself.

Anyway, they had no time to discuss this matter as they slowly fought against the Vampire to see more of her abilities.

After all, once they obtained a good grasp of her abilities, they would have an idea of how valuable her fangs, eyeballs, blood, and bones are. That means that they would know how much they see her body parts!

Just like that, Lisa unleashed her vampiric abilities, aiming to kill the trio...

With the Shadow Veil Spell, Lisa became a wraith-like shadow, her form blending with the darkness of the tower. She struck from the darkness, and her attacks were nearly invisible, but Darius anticipated her movements, his eyes seeing through the veil of time.

Lisa switched with her Sanguine Chains as blood-red chains erupted from the ground, seeking to bind the Time Manipulators.

However, Giorgi sliced through them with his blade, each cut reversing the chains' existence, as if they had never been.

At this time, Lisa was already getting frustrated since not even the Demon Saints could ignore these attacks from her!

"So persistent... Come at me!" Lisa shouted as she used Night's Embrace!

The surrounding temperature grew cold as Lisa summoned the chill of the grave, a frost that sought to sap the warmth of life.

However, it seemed as if all of her attacks were useless. Jin countered with a temporal bubble, reversing the effect and turning the cold into a fleeting memory.

Luckily, Lisa didn't seem to think that the Night's Embrace would be enough to defeat these people.

As soon as she cast the Night's Embrace, she also used Feral Swarm!

A horde of bats, each a fragment of Lisa's essence, swarmed the Time Manipulators.

Ki! Ki! Ki! Ki!

They moved as one, a cloud of fangs and fury, but Jin, Giorgi, and Darius stood back-to-back...

"That's impressive, Vampire! Show us more!"

Jin shouted as their combined powers created a vortex of time that scattered the swarm into disarray.

This time, Lisa's gloves glowed ominously as she slashed at the air!

Crimson Laceration!

This was the third skill of her Red Bruiser!

The activation of this skill created arcs of destructive energy that sought to rend the very fabric of reality.

Giorgi met her strikes with his own, the clash of their powers resonating through the tower.

At this point, the commotion they had created had already alerted everyone in the castle!

Of course, this includes the King and his subjects!

Soon, King Larry Morgan ordered a few of his Royal Mages to ascertain the situation in Lisa's Tower!

Despite that, the battle raged on... The tower itself became an arena for their deadly fight.

Lisa fought with the desperation of one who knew defeat was likely, but her resolve to stay alive was unbreakable.

As she realized that she could never get a clean punch on these three people, Lisa decided to use her Red Bruiser's most powerful ability to escape! She was planning to destroy whatever these three people had created outside to block her senses and her familiars from going out!

Boom!

She used her Space Breaker ability, annihilating a section of the tower's wall to create an opening for escape, but the Time Manipulators had anticipated this move. They sealed the breach with a temporal patch, restoring the wall as if it had never been destroyed!

It happened so quickly as Lisa failed to escape!

"Tsk... You're pushing it!"

As the fight continued, Lisa's strength began to wane.

The Time Manipulators' relentless assault, their ability to manipulate time around her attacks, left her struggling to find an opening.

She made one final, desperate charge, her Red Bruiser gloves pulsing with the last of her power.

But it was not to be.

Jin, Giorgi, and Darius combined their powers for a final move, the Chronal Convergence, a technique that synchronized their attacks into a single, devastating blow. Time around Lisa slowed to a crawl, her movements became labored, and the combined force of the Time Manipulators' strike sent her crashing to the ground, defeated but not dishonored.

"Mhmm... That last attack was really awesome." Jin muttered as he truly felt amazed by how strong Lisa was.

He didn't expect that Vampire could actually reach a level where they had to use Chronal Convergence with the three of them.

The Time Manipulators stood victorious, their respect for Lisa's tenacity evident in their solemn expressions.

They had faced one of the fiercest vampires and emerged triumphant, but the battle had tested their limits and forged a new understanding of the Vampires.

"I'll still take her blood." Darius said.

"I keep her two eyes then." Giorgi muttered after some thoughts.

"So I'll get the fangs and everything else? That includes her gloves, right? Go ahead then..." Jin said as they easily finished discussing how they would divide Lisa's body.

As the energy in the surroundings started calming down, Lisa lay motionless amidst the ruins of the Vampire's Tower.

They could tell that there were other Arcanists coming at them, but they didn't have to worry about them. Although they used plenty of Temporal Energy just now, they still have more than enough to defeat about 5 more of these Vampires.

"Mhmm? Something's off." Jin muttered as he felt an ominous threat looming over them.

The others also noticed this, but they couldn't tell where the threat was coming from, so they couldn't move yet.

The Time Manipulators stood vigilant, their eyes fixed on their fallen adversary, wary of any sign of resurgence.

But as the moonlight bathed her in its ethereal glow, a transformation began to take place.

Without their knowledge, a pure drop of Divine Blood, bestowed upon her by Shane, stirred within her veins.

This Divine Blood was filled with Shane's essence and was completely different from the other Immortal Blood she was drinking from Shane from time to time!

Needless to say, this Divine Blood, was a gift meant for dire circumstances, a wellspring of power that could turn the tide of the most desperate battles. As the Divine Blood activated, a radiant aura enveloped Lisa, her wounds knitting together, her strength returning in a surge of divine vitality.

Lisa's body rose, her eyes ablaze with renewed power and fierce might...

"This is interesting..." Jin muttered as he looked at the Vampire emanating with Divinity!

Of course, the Time Manipulators were taken aback by this unexpected revival. They could only brace themselves for another onslaught!

Chapter 780 Gone

Lisa, with the power of the Divine Blood coursing through her, felt a new entity altogether and just a reborn vampire!

Her vampiric aura appeared to be a tempest of vampiric fury and celestial might!

"This power felt a lot scarier than I thought..." Darius muttered as he felt the pressure coming off from the Vampire. Although Jin felt interested in this development, he was obviously not.

Nonetheless, his opinion doesn't matter at this point. He gritted his teeth and trusted that with his companions, none of them would get injured, even if the Vampire sacrificed her life.

"Haaa!"

At this time, the battle recommenced with Lisa unleashing her new abilities.

This time, she moved with a speed that blurred the lines of reality, her attacks were now imbued with the power of the divine!

Jin, Giorgi, and Darius fought back with all their temporal mastery, but Lisa's Divine Blood rendered her nearly untouchable.

Although her combat techniques and her movement techniques were still the same, she was now faster, and her strength was several times stronger!

In a moment of sheer ferocity, she landed a devastating blow upon Darius, the youngest of the Time Manipulators.

Her Divinity was actually able to cut through his Temporal Energy!

It was a huge victory for Lisa as she realized that her Divinity, although limited, was actually working well against them!

Furthermore, the blow she released was from her left hand with the Red Bruiser equipped!

The impact destroyed the time and space, a fatal strike that even his mastery over time could not undo.

Thud!

Darius fell, his life extinguished like a flame in the wind.

"Darius! You fool!" Jin shouted in shock as he realized why Darius failed to defend that attack! The young man was too confident in his Temporal Spell to sway the power of the Vampire's attack. Then, he actually planned to counter at that moment, making his defense to be incomplete!

Against a desperate Vampire with strange Divinity, Darius shouldn't have done that and treated the Vampire as a Celestial at this point!

However, there was no point in blaming the lifeless man.

"You're going to pay for this, Vampire!"

Giorgi and Jin, fueled by the loss of their comrade, redoubled their efforts.

They decided to go all out even if they destroy the "merchandise".

They no longer care whether they wouldn't be able to harvest her eyeballs, blood, fangs, and others.

"You'll regret doing this to our friend!" Giorgi yelled as he triggered all of Temporal Energy.

They wove a complex web of time-based spells, seeking to contain Lisa's divine-enhanced power.

The tower shook with the force of their conflict, the very stones crying out as the tower itself seemed to buckle under the strain.

Lisa, despite the overwhelming odds, fought with the heart of a warrior who refuses to yield.

She knew that her end was near, but she would not go quietly into the eternal night!

With every ounce of her being, she resisted the Time Manipulators' relentless assault! She also felt that other Arcanists were already nearby, so she knew that she had to exhaust these people since the others wouldn't stand a chance against them!

She had to do everything she could to exhaust them!

Once again, she activated her various Vampire Spells... Shadow Veil, Sanguine Chains, Night's Embrace, Feral Swarm, and even her Life Drain Spell were used...

Unfortunately, she failed to replenish her life force with her Life Drain Spell as the two seemed to know very well how to stop from being affected by the Spell.

'They're taking too much time...' Lisa thought as she had already changed her mind and thought of sucking the lives of the kingdom's Royal Mages once they arrived!

Since she wanted to stay alive and couldn't use the Life Drain Spell on these two, she really had no other choice since she couldn't replenish her life force by sucking the life of her thralls and other summons.

Unfortunately, the Royal Mages seemed to be taking their time as they knew that they were too weak and didn't want to get involved!

"This is it, huh..." Lisa sighed as she felt the strong Temporal Energy coming at her.

Boom!

Even the Divine Blood she obtained from Shane had its limits. She was able to survive one of their attacks but she knew that she wouldn't last very long if this continued.

As the battle raged on, Lisa's divine aura began to flicker and wane.

The Time Manipulators, sensing their opportunity, combined their powers for one final, decisive act.

Jin channeled the essence of past battles with his Time Blast Spell, while Giorgi summoned the potential of countless futures.

Together, they unleashed a temporal maelstrom upon Lisa, a storm of moments that tore at the fabric of her existence!

"I'm sorry... Vale..." Lisa muttered as she faced the attack.

She fought against the tide, her will unbroken, but the combined might of the Time Manipulators was too much to withstand.

With a final, defiant cry, Lisa's form dissipated, her flesh and bones scattered across the winds of time.

The Divine Blood's power faded, leaving behind only the echo of her indomitable spirit.

Thud...

Only Lisa's clothes and weapons remained on the ground.

The Time Manipulators stood amidst the silence, their victory bitter in the wake of their loss.

"We won, huh..." Giorgi muttered as he realized that the Divinity that the Vampire used was definitely abnormal. She was simply too strong!

"Yes... But we won't be able to share the loot, and we even lose our friend because of his carelessness. We lost." Jin said.

They had defeated Lisa, the Vampire with Divine Blood, but at a great cost. Darius would be mourned, and his sacrifice would never be forgotten.

Giorgi looked at Darius with helplessness. Their Time Reversal couldn't actually affect Darius and bring him back to life. That Spell only works on objects or surroundings. It wouldn't affect the Soul of living beings.

Even if they used it on Darius, he would only return to his physique without injuries, but he would no longer have his Soul since it had already been dissipated or taken by the Realm's Will.

They then waited for a moment to see if the Royal Mages of the castle would come at them, but it seemed that they realized that Lisa was defeated and were scared to climb up the tower.

Jin and Giorgi then decided not to bother them since they were just small fries in their eyes.

Currently, the weight of their loss hung heavily upon them.

They had no time for mourning, though.

Together, they fixed Darius's lifeless form so they could properly bury him later on. Then, Giorgi produced a curious artifact—a crystalline sphere etched with arcane symbols.

It was a Temporal Stasis Vessel, a relic from a forgotten age.

With solemn reverence, they placed Darius within, the sphere shimmering as it sealed him away. His body would remain preserved, untouched by time, and this was the best they could do for their friend.

Lisa's belongings were next. Her mystical artifacts, the Red Bruiser gloves, and even the remnants of her tattered cloak—all were carefully collected.

Giorgi hesitated, his gaze lingering on the Red Bruiser. Its power was immense, but it had not been enough to save Lisa... Nonetheless, he decided to wear it as he was also impressed by the Space Breaker ability of this item.

It didn't take long before the Time Manipulators exited the tower.

The barrier or the Chrono Seal they had erected would soon dissolve, and they needed to be far away when it did.

The Shadow Immortal, the guardian of this realm, would surely sense the chaotic energy they had unleashed during the battle. They couldn't risk detection as of yet.

"Let's continue with our original plan..." Jin said.

Their destination lay deep within the Forbidden Forest—the territory of the Shadow Immortal. Jin and Giorgi remained silent on their journey, but they both knew what they had to do.

They would uncover the Immortal's secrets, find the Golden Key in his possession, and steal it from him.

In the bustling city of Aetherholm, nestled at the northern edge of the Ruri Kingdom, Jin and Giorgi sought the Arcanists' Guild as they introduced themselves as Mystic Arts Practitioners.

The guild hall stood as a beacon of esoteric knowledge, its spires was even higher than the churches they had seen...

As they entered, the air hummed with Arcane Resonance, and the scent of ancient tomes enveloped them. It seemed that they had just been inspected by a powerful Appraisal Spell, but they didn't mind it.

In the reception area, a wizened arcanist named Elowen greeted them while holding a thick book in front of her..

Her eyes even seem to hold the wisdom of many years spent deciphering the mysteries of Arcane Magic. "Welcome, travelers," she said. "What brings you to our humble guild?"

Jin stepped forward. "We seek guides—Arcanists who know the Forbidden Forest's secrets. We're bound for the Shadow Immortal's domain."

Elowen's gaze sharpened.

"A risky journey, indeed. However, this isn't a new request. There are still many people who will go there willingly to get an audience with the Immortal... Anyway, we have skilled arcanists who can lead you."