

Card Apprentice Daily Log

Chapter 1251 Susan's Come Back

[1,000 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 11:46

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Corey's Warehouse

While Corey was happy seeing Anna kiss her perverted boss and felt that they should do that more often, her opponent felt the opposite. He looked at the boy with a gaze filled with hatred as the boy had achieved something he fantasized about every single day of life ever since a new world opened to him having spied on his half-brother copulating with his maternal grandmother. Joe always wondered if this incident was somehow related to his special preference for gilf.

Before Joe could decide on the boy as his arch-enemy he saw the chick who introduced herself to him as the boy's manager, the one with a beauty that could not be hidden by her plain office dress, calmly walking next to the boy under the watchful gaze of everyone in the warehouse and hug his left arm almost burying it between her bosom. Then she dragged him away from Anna to the spot where she stood earlier, the boy did not resist her and followed her lead.

Seeing that Joe's hatred for the boy turned into worship, he began to idolize the boy. If not for the life-and-death nature of the circumstance he was in he would have knelt in front of the boy and begged him to take him as his disciple. If that was not possible just let him rub a little of his luck with women on himself. But for that to happen he would have to survive the duel therefore he calmed himself and continued to sacrifice soul jades to his item card, Gravity Sword, nonstop. So that his Sword Spirit does not lack soul energy in its battle against Corey.

Susan's action was bold but graceful, she did not confront Anna or her young lover about the kiss nor did she blame them for it. She forgave the non-consensual kiss that Anna forced on her young love as if it was a casual flirting between friends or colleagues or an overly friendly greeting while using this opportunity to show Anna her hold over the boy and make a resounding statement, 'You need a kiss to get his attention, all I need is a touch to get his attention.'

Everyone present might think Susan was not affected by Anna's blatant display of affection by her calm and collected reaction to it, but only I knew the truth. It was all an act, everyone fell for her act, I don't blame them she even had me fooled. When she buried my left arm in her bosom, I felt like I was in bliss feeling the warmth and softness on both sides of my arm.

So I followed her without any resistance while sniffing her perfume but after she dragged me aside from Anna her grip on my arms tightened. It was cute to watch her try squeezing/twisting my arm but it was clear to me that she was not okay with Anna kissing and even blamed me a little for not stopping Anna.

Not getting the reaction she was expecting from Susan, Anna was frustrated. Unable to vent it she glanced at Aba and Agatha planning to make things difficult for them by giving them a hard time about leaving their designated premises, the boy's warehouse, without her authorization. But before she could say anything Aba pointed at her and spoke up for her friend, "Anna, it is wrong to kiss someone else's boyfriend."

"Shorty you have no idea about what is going on here, so do yourself a favor and just shut the hell up before I am forced to help you so that," Anna snapped at Aba for calling the boy Susan's boyfriend. If anything it was Susan who was trying to steal her lover, not the other way around.

Aba was not convinced by what Anna said. Having seen her friend being wronged, she only cared about getting her justice but before she could continue to speak up about it, Agatha closed Aba's mouth getting the hint that the boy, Susan, and Anna shared a very complicated relationship.

Seeing Aba stand up for her, Susan was touched and felt that Aba was of genuine heart and simple-minded with one-dimensional thoughts. Susan felt lucky for having found a friend in such a person.

Corey gritted her teeth seeing the actions of her big sis Susan. She did not understand how blinded was her big sis that she would disregard what happened right in front of her eyes. How could she still care for the boy after seeing him enjoy a kiss with another woman? The more Corey thought about this the more enraged she became and then glancing at the boy with a gaze filled with malice she thought, 'It's all because of him, he must have used some dark magic on mother causing her to be smitten by him.'

'Corey, get your head in the duel, if you can't even defeat this sword spirit then you can never defeat him,' Park motivated Corey, reminding her of her worst fear. Him forcing himself on their mother while Corey helplessly watched from the side, unable to stop him because she wasn't strong enough.

"Ahhh!" Picturing her worst fear Corey cried out loud, revealing the rage and agony hidden in her heart to the world. Which managed to gather everyone's attention back at the life-and-death duel.

With Anna's bold display of passion, everyone had forgotten about the life-and-death duel between Corey and Joe. Even Joe and Corey, the combatants themselves had almost forgotten that they were in the middle of a life-and-death duel. Anna's action and Susan's reaction to that were just too controversial to be ignored. Even Sword Spirit was on guard seeing two new strong card apprentices suddenly arrive not knowing if they would interfere with the duel. Well, Anna did interfere with the duel, but not the way the sword spirit feared but by stealing the spotlight from the duel right when the fight was getting interesting.

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Chapter 1252 Embracing Darkness

[1,129 words]

1252 Embracing Darkness

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 11:52

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Corey's Warehouse

"Arrrhhh!" Corey's scream reverberated throughout the warehouse, and her agony-filled wail slowly transformed into a warcry. The picture of her helplessly watching while Susan was in peril constantly flashed in front of her eyes giving rise to an agony in her heart that lit creeping darkness in her titled demon core - Eternal Flame of Agony.

"Oh, shit. I took it too far," Park blurted as the darkness of the titled demon core grew uncontrollably and swallowed her turning her bright golden red flames into a pitch black flame with golden tips emitting dark smoke. Soon Corey could no longer hear Park's voice. The Eternal Flame of Agony had awakened.

"Hehehe," Corey abruptly started giggling amidst her warcry. Adding an eerie background to the awkward atmosphere of the warehouse.

Corey's hair had turned pitch black and floated in the air, upright and wave-y, as if they were underwater. They appeared similar to flames in her titled demon core, and soon thick dark smoke was emitted from her hair. Which formed a beeline and gathered at

the ceiling of the warehouse and formed a dark cloud of smoke. From which time and again golden ambers of flame would fall to the compact arena's floor.

Seeing this Ann, Anna, and Agatha locked their eyes and then nodded their head in understanding. Preparing to make a move, but before they could act a floating head appeared behind each of them and whispered, "I don't care if she is a demon. She is my staff. If you act against her then you will be taking action against me."

Ann, Ann, and Agatha, all three of them paused in their tracks, and before they could argue their concerns, the floating head behind them had vanished. So they looked at the boy who was watching the duel in the embrace of his manager as if nothing out of ordinary had happened. Seeing the boy did not even bother to spare a glance at them, the three realized that they will not get the explanation they were looking for and chose to pretend as if nothing out of ordinary was happening just like the boy.

Joe's goons were alerted seeing the sudden change in Corey, like the female trio before they too knew Corey had embraced the darkness, so they immediately turned to look at Agatha who was overseeing the duel, hoping that she would step in and put an end to the heretic who dare to practice demonic arts. However, Agatha never acted neither did the Southern Emperor. This puzzled them but before they could raise their voice the life-and-death duel had reached its conclusion.

...

Staring into the pitch-black flames that had replaced Corey's pupils and hearing Corey's eerie giggling, the sword spirit felt the dread that it had never felt before. It unconsciously tightened its grip on the hilts of its dual sword. Under Corey's gaze, it felt like prey being starred down by its predator in its final moments. Feeling the darkness of its fear making its way of swords foggy, the sword spirit recited, "I'm a sword, a tool of my master, I have no emotions, I cut everything..."

As the sword spirit recited the sword matra, the duel swords in its hands began to glow brilliantly as the dark fog covering its sword path began to clear. Slowly its confusion cleared and its eyes became firm as it decisively swung its duel swords at Corey yelling, "New Beginning."

An aura of destruction filled the huge amount of sword intent gathered at the tips of the Sword Spirit's dual swords before they were fired at Corey. The two beams of sword intent with destruction attributes overlapped each other to form a bigger beam of sword intent, destroying everything in their path including the tiles of the compact arena which was made of A-rank ingredients, revealing muddy earth below. As the beam neared Corey, an inch away from her the beam of destruction attribute sword intent split into two and continued on their path avoiding Corey. Then the remains of everything destroyed by the beam of the sword intent were suddenly filled with vitality and soon an unknown plant life similar to weeds began to grow out of them and flourished.

This result was totally beyond the sword spirits' expectations. However, seeing this Laura's eyes sparkled as this was the true power of mastering a body art to the sage level. She has no idea about the eerie aura covering Corey but she did not let it dampen her excitement of seeing another martial artist with extreme Sage-level mastery. Right now she wishes it was her who was standing against Corey in the life-and-death duel. She was willing to risk her life to see if her sage-level mastery in the way of swords was at the extreme or if there was still room for growth. Don't let Laura's meek attitude fool you, she was a sword practitioner—no a sword slave, she would not let something like death become an obstacle in her pursuit of the sword.

Sword spirit did not let the fact that one of its strongest sword arts could not even break through its enemy's defense distract it from the duel and borrowing all the soul energy it could from Joe, it prepared to launch another attack at Corey chanting, "Swords of Beginning and End."

As the sword spirit tried to find Corey to aim its attack at her, it felt its dual swords grow heavy and the additional effect of its sword intent counter-cut activate constantly. The sword spirit glanced at its dual swords only to find that Corey was squatting with her legs stepping on each of its dual swords, unhindered by the effect counter-cut. Soon its eyes met with Corey's but then, suddenly, it found that the entire world was tipped over—no the world was not tipped over but its head was. The sword spirit used the last movements of its life to understand how and when Corey decapitate its head but everything happened so fast...

Thud *Tumble"

The Sword Spirit's decapitated head fell to the ground and rolled on it, giving it the chance to see its master's final movements. Corey was squatting on the shoulders of Joe's headless body as she juggled with his decapitated head.

...

"Young master!!!" Joe's goons screamed, unlike Joe's Sword Spirit, they saw Corey's every move but before they could step into the arena to come to his rescue they felt Agatha and Anna's aura lock on each of them warning them that if they stepped a foot in the arena they would be risking their life.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1253 Being Oneself

[1,060 words]

1253 Being Oneself

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 11:55

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Corey's Warehouse

Hearing the screams of Joe's goons and feeling their desperation, Corey turned to look at them, and then a smirk formed on her face as she threw Joe's head at them before jumping from the shoulders of Joe's headless body towards the only source of her agony, the bastard who was trying to harm her mother, her evil boss, Dalton Wyatt.

When Corey was in the mid-air a few meters from her target, three floating heads and six arms appeared behind her aiming to restrain her. Corey wanted to dodge the hands but to no avail, four out of six floating arms, each, grabbed one of her hands or legs, and they not only managed to stop her advance but also hung her in the air with her arms and legs spread apart. Corey made use of all of the strength she could muster to struggle free from the arms restraining her but her strength was not enough. She felt like a small creek trying to go against the river. However, she still did not give up struggling as she was prepared to break her arms and legs to free herself from the restraints. Fearing that she would snap her neck in her fierce struggle the boy had no choice but to make use of his remaining floating arms to restrain her head.

Seeing Corey's condition, Susan and Aba were shocked the most not understanding what was happening. Aba could not help but mutter, "Damn, I was just kidding when I called her psycho but she is living up to her nickname isn't she?"

After a failed struggle, Corey stopped glaring at the boy and turned her gaze to look into the eyes of the woman next to him. Susan did not avoid eye contact with Corey. Instead, she slowly walked toward Corey. Looking into Susan's eyes Corey began to calm down however a voice began to whisper in her ears advising her, 'The only way you can save her is by handing her to death. Death is pure and untainted..."

"Noooo!" Corey yelled rejecting the whispers in her ears, showing that she had not lost her reason. Then she addressed Susan saying, "Big sis, sorry that you had to see me like this."

"Since you call me sister why are you afraid to be yourself in front of me?" Susan's said raising her right hand and creasing Corey's left cheek.

Looking into Susan's eyes, Corey did not find bias or judgment but a warmth that accepted the darkness in her. Seeing this Corey slowly gained control of the darkness

that had taken over her title demon core, her hair returned to normal and stopped emitting dark smoke. Soon she freed her ego fire, Corey Park.

Corey was no longer making use of the dark as a tool to gain strength but she had accepted it as a part of her. She was no longer rejecting the power of her origin card, she accepted them all. The sins of her past selves along with their gifts. Understanding that the sins of her reincarnations were a part of her inheritance from them.

'Congrats,' Corey Park congratulated Corey for having come to peace with the darkness within her. Though her plans for Corey had not succeeded, Park was very satisfied with the results of this duel. She planned to use it to help Corey break past the limits of her physical body instead it helped Corey become comfortable with her skin. This was unexpected.

Though Corey had managed to subdue the darkness in her for now, this was not the last time she will have to address the darkness in her because as she continues to live on, she will keep growing and changing. Similarly, the darkness in her will keep growing and changing. Today it was about accepting the darkness in her tomorrow it could be about something less. The darkness has many faces, it was ever-changing and growing, and it was up to Corey to keep it in check. Or she could do what the demons do, just give into the darkness.

"Interesting," I blurted watching the darkness in Corey's titled demon core be pushed by Corey with her sheer will unaware that my words gained the attention of everyone in the warehouse. Becoming ever of my surrounding, I began to give out orders because thanks to Corey I had struck a gold mine and needed to act on it as soon as possible to control all the elements of the thoughts running through my mind.

"Laura Hill stays back, as for you goons from the central capital, fetch your friends from the Sun blossom city, return to your family, and tell your patriarch that the sword slave is now the property of the southern royal family and if he whats to get revenge for his son, he can discuss it with demigod Windsor," Hearing me suddenly bark orders everyone looked at me in astonishment but I did not spare my breath and signaled Agatha with my eyes.

Agatha was not bothered by me ordering her around instead she was more than happy to throw Joe's goon and his corpse out of the warehouse. While Agatha got busy I said, "Please make sure they and their friends in the sun blossom city leave the southern region peacefully."

Then I turned to look at Aba and Susan saying, "Laura is our customer, bring her up to speed and entertain her in our warehouse."

"..." Aba wanted to argue but Susan stopped her and dragged her as she invited confused Laura back into our warehouse having understood that I was getting rid of everyone to discuss something important with Anna and Ann.

"Hey pervert, I am gained control of myself. Now you can let go of me," Corey who was hung in the air by my floating arms in an awkward position asked seeing that I was sending everyone away.

"Nope, like it or not you are a part of this now. So you are going to stay here for while. My advice to you get comfortable," Saying that I turned to look at Ann and asked, "What happened to the dungeon relocation apparatus? Do you guys still have it?"

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1254 Theft And Insurance Fraud

[989 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 11:59

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse No.234

"Why do you ask?" Ann asked listening to me ask the whereabouts of the dungeon relocation apparatus that Luna borrowed from the Morningstar university.

"Leave the questions for the later, just answer me right now. Time is of the essence people," I said stressing that I did not have the time to explain everything to everyone and they should just follow my lead.

"In the wake of the recent chain of events we did not have the time to bother about that but I will ask the researchers who acted as Luna's assistant in the project to get you the status update on it as soon as possible," Anna answered not pressing me for an explanation. Despite the misunderstanding between us right now, when it mattered she chose to stand by my side without hesitation. I did not have any doubt about Anna's loyalty. This was why I was having a hard time choosing.

"Does that mean, Luna did not steal the dungeon relocation apparatus along with the silver beach dungeon card?" I asked in anticipation that Luna did not steal the dungeon relocation equipment as it was the most important piece of my plan to bring everything back on track.

"Yes," Anna nodded giving me the answer I was seeking.

"The dungeon relocation equipment is too big for her or the Freedom Fighters to steal in the limited time they had so it was left untouched," Ann explained seeing Anna already spilled the beans without waiting for me to give them an explanation.

Hearing Ann's explanation I nodded in understanding and then said, "What do guys plan to do with it?"

"Well, it was rented by Luna from the Morningstar university at an expensive rental, we are planning to return it to the university since we do not have a use for it anymore," Ann answered not bothering to hold back any information seeing how Anna would reveal anything she would try to hide, so she decided she might as well corporate with the boy.

"Did Lana get insurance for the dungeon relocation apparatus while renting it?" I asked.

"Considering it is Luna she would have gotten insurance, why do you ask?" Ann asked in confusion as she did not understand what I was planning to do enquiring about insurance of the dungeon relocation apparatus.

"Great," I shouted in excitement and said, "Quickly move the dungeon relocation apparatus to a secured location and send the news to the Morningstar university that the dungeon relocation apparatus was stolen by the freedom fighters and have the insurance compensate the Morningstar university for their troubles."

"What? Have you gone crazy?" Ann yelled in disbelief listening to the boy asking the southern royal family to steal the dungeon relocation apparatus from the Morningstar university blaming the freedom fighter for it and simultaneously committing insurance fraud.

"Amazing, why did I not think of that? I will contact the southern watch company here in the city and ask them to move the dungeon relocation apparatus to a secure location asap," Anna enthusiastically got on board with the boy's idea of stealing the dungeon relocation apparatus from the Morningstar university by using the freedom fighters as the scapegoat and compensating the university by committing insurance fraud. This way the Southern Royal family would gain the covet technique of dungeon relocation without having to spend a dime. Anna regretted that why she did not think of this idea.

"Anna, have you gone mad? Don't tell me you seriously getting on board with his insane idea. We cannot do this," Ann protested and stopped Anna from calling the southern watch and ordering them to hide the dungeon relocation apparatus in a secret location.

"Give me a reason why I should not be doing this and it better not be about ethics and moral obligations," Anna asked Ann to give a reason to which Ann responded saying, " I will give you two."

"First, if you steal the dungeon relocation apparatus from Morningstar university now, in the future it will be harder for us to borrow other high-end equipment from them or the other top universities.

Second, even if you were to ignore the impact of something like this on our reputation. You have to remember that other than Luna no one else in the southern region knows how to use the dungeon relocation apparatus. So even if we were to steal the dungeon relocation it would not be worth more than a scrape mental unless we know how to operate it.

These two reasons should be more than enough to give merit for the point I am making right." As promised, Ann gave two reasons why Anna should not be going through my insane idea.

"..." Listening to the reason put forward by Ann, Anna realized that the idea proposed by the boy was indeed insane. Therefore she turned to look at the boy and said, "Wyatt, you heard her, I don't mind going through with your idea if you still insist but what Ann said does make sense. Without Luna, no one in the southern region can operate the dungeon relocation apparatus. So there is no point in stealing it."

With Anna's words, it was clear that she did not seem to care about the effect of her action on the reputation of the southern royal family. She did not seem to see it as a reason why she should not be going through with the idea proposed by the boy. If it was just that she would not hesitate to follow through with the boy's idea.

"..." Listening to Anna, Ann was shocked, 'What the fock do you mean by you will go through his plan if he insists, did I not just explain to you how insane and pointless his idea was? Grandma and Mother were right to assume that she will be the ruin of our family. What was grandpa thinking to make her his heir.'

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Chapter 1255 Criminal Mastermind

[1,045 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 12:04

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse No.234

Listening to Anna say that she would go ahead with my plan despite Ann describing how insane and pointless it was, even astonished me. Seeing the shocked look on my face a serious expression formed on Anna's face, she snorted and then declared, "Don't think that I am any less mad at you. This doesn't change anything. Remember, I am betting it all on, you better come through. Otherwise, you will not hear the end of it. You have been warned."

"Sure," saying that I turned to look at Ann preparing to explain to her why my idea to steal the dungeon relocation apparatus and blame it on the freedom fighters was not an insane idea as Ann made it out to be. As much as touching it was to see that Anna was willing to go against her family to bet on me, I did not want Anna to argue with her family anymore for me. So I decided to defend my idea for a change.

"As you said, even the idea of the southern royal family losing the dungeon relocation apparatus to freedom fighters would cause damage to the royal family and stress the future relation of the family with the top university but I think that losing silver beach dungeon to the freedom fighters had already done that. Adding a stolen dungeon relocation apparatus to it will not change much.

Ann, I do not want to resort to having to steal the dungeon relocation apparatus but we are going to need it and I don't see any intense where the Morningstar university selling the apparatus to your royal family. So we have to resort to this tactic to acquire it.

As for the problem of there not being another soul in the southern region with the know-how to operate the dungeon relocation apparatus, you do not have to worry about it. I have a guy who will help us with it, though it will burden our wallets but trust me in the end it will all be worth it. So before the current situation changes any further please get to work," Right now the situation in the southern region was very volatile thanks to the attack of the freedom fighters so I needed the southern royal family to act on my idea fast and ask questions later.

"I knew you would have thought through everything before proposing such an insane plan. Don't worry, I will get my best men to work on it," Anna said a wide smile on her facing that once again she did not lose by betting on the boy.

'So, you finally agree that his plan was insane,' listening to Anna, Ann could not help but think this before adding, "Anna, don't call your people. The spies of the government and other organizations must have already reported back to their respective organizations on the situation over here. So by now, the Morningstar university should be aware that the dungeon relocation apparatus they lent was not stolen."

"So what? If we say that the freedom fighters stole it, who dares to say otherwise?" Anna stated.

Ann shock her expressing that she did not agree with Anna and said, "There is no need for us to blatantly provoke the Morningstar university. Under Luna's guidance, I have already learned to assemble and disassemble the dungeon relocation apparatus, knowing which parts of the apparatus are important and irreplaceable, parts that cannot be manufactured locally and which are can be.

All I am saying is that we don't have to steal the entire dungeon relocation apparatus except for a few key components that we cannot manufacture locally. As for the other parts that we can manufacture locally we will make a blueprint of them and return them to the Morningstar university saying that this was what was left of the dungeon relocation after the freedom fighters were done with it. Later at our convince we can manufacture all the missing parts and along with the parts we stole, then we should assemble the apparatus in our desired secure location."

Getting on board with my idea, Ann came up with a thorough plan to throw all the blame for the theft of the dungeon relocation apparatus on the freedom fighters. Listening to her plan, I could not help but nod my head in approval and say, "I am impressed."

"Wyatt, our Ann is a criminal mastermind. Back in the university, she would come up with perfect plans for me to prank my enemies. Still today Ivana Osmand cannot find any hard evidence to prove that we were the ones who laced her dorm and caused her to go bald. Hahaha," Anna burst out in laughter reminiscing about the past.

"Enough talk, Wyatt is right if we plan to do this we have to act soon before other variables are introduced. I will ask our mother to send some trusted people to help me with this. Anna, remember, what we discussed in here stays between us, meaning no one else knows about it. Grandma and Lorenzo included. The less they know the better," Ann warned Anna considering the serious consequences of what they were going to do.

With the recent chain of events it has become hard for them to tell whom to trust, so Ann prepared to borrow her mother's help with regard to the personnel for the mission. And decided to keep this mission as lowkey as possible by going as far as not informing Lorenzo and Colleen about it. Not that she did not trust them but she believed that the less Lorenzo and Colleen knew about the mission the easier for them to stick to the narrative that freedom Fighters are responsible for the missing parts of the dungeon relocation apparatus.

"Don't worry about me, my lips are sealed tight," Anna assured Ann, and then the three of us turned to look at Corey who was restrained by my floating arms.

Feeling the three solemn gazes land on her Corey felt a chill down her spine and could not help but panic for her life as she knew she had heard something she should not have. Especially when she heard Anna say, "Only the dead can keep a secret."

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Chapter 1256 Repaying Debt

[992 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 12:12

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse No.234

"Godmother, how can you be heartless, did you forget my parents' years of selfless service to you? Can you really bear to kill me? I am your goddaughter and can keep a secret like it is nobody's business. You don't have to resort to cruel means to help me keep the secret." Corey began to bargain for her life listening to Anna make plans to kill her to keep their secret.

Anna looked at Corey playfully planning to tease her more but I stopped her saying, "Anna, we cannot deal with her yet we need her for my plans. You can have her once I am down with her."

"Anna, we don't have time to waste, let us first recruit the sword slave and head to the base to carry on the mission," Ann said having sent an encrypted text to her mother reporting about the mission and asking for a few trustworthy personnel to execute it.

"Fine," Anna agreed and then I added, "I will also be joining the mission. With me present, it will not be hard to make a blueprint of the entire dungeon relocation apparatus in no time."

"Sure," Ann agreed to my proposal as we headed to my warehouse to meet Laura.

As for Corey, we agreed that she will not act out and not leave my sight until we are done with the mission. Under the guise of monitoring Corey so that she would not reveal our secret, I planned to make use of Corey when the time comes. I could be straightforward about my motives with Corey but I did not want her negotiating a price with me for her help. The stakes here are very high this time, if Corey or Park learn about that they will not ask a small price for helping me and I did not plan to share my wealth. I could reluctantly bear to share my wealth with the southern royal family.

Walking into the warehouse I saw Susan explaining the situation to Laura. And seeing us enter they paused their discussion only to hear Ann ask Laura, "So what have you decided? Do you plan to stay with the southern region or find other sponsors in the central region?"

Laura hurriedly got up and saluted Ann and Anna, then she yelled, "Your Highness, the southern region has sheltered my family when our times were tough without asking anything in return. Now that I find myself in a position where I can begin to repay our debt to the southern region, I will gladly serve the southern region with my life."

Hearing Laura, I shook my head, I guess not everyone is a selfish scum like me. I say this about Laura because every word she just shouted was genuine and directly from her heart without any falsehood. She really was willing to sacrifice herself for the southern region. It was thanks to these people the five regions could continue to exist today despite all their corruption and conspiracies.

"Good, the southern region is proud to have a daughter like you and it will not abuse your loyalty to it. I will send someone to your family to discuss the terms of the sponsorship and the terms will be no less than what you can expect from the top universities. Until then if you have something else you need help with you can tell me now," Ann was happy to see that Laura was not only full of potential but showed a substantial loyalty toward the southern region and the Heatsend Royal family. Someone like her was worth investing in. So Ann decided to offer Laura an attractive contract.

"Thank you, your highness," Laura enthusiastically thanked Ann and then added, "Your Highness, I need your help buying my fated ingredient from Master Wyatt."

Listening to Laura Ann finally understood why the boy would suddenly be thoughtful enough to help the southern royal family recruit someone with a special physique. He wanted to exploit as much profit from Laura's situation as possible through the southern royal family. She did not misunderstand the boy he would not make move unless he stood to gain something from it. Now that she knew what the boy was up to, turning to look at him Ann asked, "How much?"

"You tell me," saying that I shared the card's info with Ann and Anna's grimoire.

Going through the card info Ann's brows raised in amazement and then saying complimented the boy saying, "It seems your skills in card creation have improved considerably since the last time."

As for Anna, she went through the card info shared with her grimoire by the boy with a cold face, and acting unimpressed she coldly said, "This no big deal, I have seen cards with better status. It could have been created better."

Knowing Anna was just finding faults due to her dissatisfaction with me, I did not bother to argue with her and looked at Ann waiting for her to state a price prepared to state selling price ten times her asking price.

"How about we clear debt for this card?" Ann knew that her grandma did plan to have the boy pay the debt and just use it to threaten him to do their bidding but now that it did not work, Ann planned to clear that debt in exchange for Laura's fate ingredient. Yes, the debt he owed was quite large but she knew that he would state a sky-high selling price for the card plus the card's stats were worth it. An item card that could use any rule energy was priceless in any market.

"..." Listening to Ann offering to clear the huge debt that I owe the southern royal family in exchange for a card, I was without words because I knew how large the debt I owed was. So pivoting from my original idea I decided to agree to Ann's offer, "Deal."

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[1,003 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 12:29

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts, Southern watch temporary military base

Before leaving the warehouse alone with Ann, Anna, and Corey, forming a party with Laura, I morphed her fated card into core form and transferred the soul pathways of the eight handles energy saber card from the common core into an origin core. Then I morphed it into card form making it a genuine origin card and handed it to Laura.

After Laura equipped the origin card, I witness the stats of the card change for the better, now it was called the Eight handles flying energy saber card. Each of the flying energy saber handles of the eight handles flying energy saber card was not only capable of creating blades powered by Soul energy and Rule power but also with Sword intent. And most importantly, they could now fly in the air while being manipulated by Laura's mental strength.

When Laura activated her origin card she held a flying energy saber handle in each of her hands and the remaining six flying energy saber handles hovered behind her under the control of her mental strength and sword intent. Once she feed them her sword intent to create blades made of sword intent, she looked majestic and very much like the definition of a sword goddess.

...

Arriving at the base, I saw that the soldiers were busy disassembling and packing the temporary camp, preparing for their new assignments. Following Ann's lead Corey, Anna, and I headed to the center of the base where the dungeon relocation apparatus was located. Seeing that the dungeon relocation apparatus was not yet disassembled Ann sighed in relief but then a research staff reached out to her and reported, "Your Highness, we planned to disassemble the dungeon relocation apparatus but the Morningstar university has sent news that they will be sending a team to help us with that believing that without Luna's supervision, we are incapable of disassembling it."

"Fine, we follow their arrangement. Meanwhile, ask the personnel to empty this area and nobody is allowed to step foot in here until the team of experts from the Morningstar university arrives, understand?" Ann ordered as she needed the area to be empty, void of researchers and guards, to execute her plan.

"Understood madam," the staff knew that the dungeon relocation apparatus was a very expensive and exclusive rental, with the absence of Dr. Luna, it was best if they avoid it such that the team of experts from the Morningstar university will not get an opportunity to blame them for poorly handling the apparatus.

Soon the crowd of researchers and guards cleared the area leaving behind four of us all alone with dungeon relocation apparatus. Making sure that everyone had left Ann proposed, "Wyatt, let us make the blueprint of the apparatus before my mother's people arrive."

"Okay," I agreed and immediately opening my soul pupils I order Hive AI to start recording the apparatus arrangement without missing a single little detail. The apparatus was quite large, it was spread across a five-acre area.

So I started scanning the apparatus with my soul pupils from the head and slowly made my way to the end. I repeated this process a few more times to make I did not miss any detail. Using the data we collected it took Hive AI a few minutes to create an accurate lifesize virtual 3D model of the dungeon relocation apparatus in my mind. Then I shared the 3D model with Ann's grimoire so that she could verify if it was missing something. The chances of that were low but it doesn't hurt to be thorough, "Ann, I have sent the blueprint to your grimoire, verify it and tell me if I missed something."

"Finished already? Okay, I will do it right away," Ann was surprised to find that the boy was able to draw the complete blueprint of the dungeon relocation apparatus within a few minutes. She did not believe him, but still checked the file he shared with her only to be surprised even more. As she, herself, could not come up with such a detailed 3D blueprint of the dungeon relocation apparatus in a such short time.

Then thinking that the boy must have forgotten a few small components in a hurry, she went through the blueprint component by component, only to find that there wasn't a

single missing part or error. Ann was impressed by the efficiency of the boy and thought she should not be underestimating a card creationist capable of creating rule cards, "This will do. Now, let us hope my mother's subordinates arrive here before the team of experts from the Morningstar university."

"You guys can handle the rest so I will take my leave now," Now that I had collected all the data on the physical design of the dungeon relocation apparatus, I did not plan to waste any more time here as what remained of the mission was just grunt work of stealing the key parts and hiding them which Ann and her mother's goons should be able to achieve without my supervision.

"Okay, I will contact you when we are done," Ann nodded. But seeing the boy leave Anna said, "Where are you headed in such a hurry, do you miss your not-so-innocent manager already?"

"No, I have other matters I need to tend to," I said as I continued toward the exit of the base. As for Corey, she looked at the whole situation with great interest praying that Anna would force the boy into choosing her.

"So you are just going to leave like that?" Seeing that I was not provoked by her taunt, Anna finally spoke her mind.

"Yes. But when you have calmed down and are prepared to talk to me like adults, you know where to find me," I said rubbing the dummy ring on my finger.

"..." Anna looked at the boy wondering how could he be so heartless and stubborn can't he see that she would forgive him as long as he chooses her.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,012 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 13:11

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts, Southern watch temporary military base

"Where to now?" Corey asked the boy bored of her mind, as on this trip to the military base all she did was stand around. And she was a little dissatisfied with Anna for not forcing the boy to choose her so that he would leave mother alone. What's the use of being a card emperor if you cannot get the man you like?

"Somewhere good," exiting the base I summoned my hoverbike with my next destination being the barren lands where the blood rock cave gate dungeon, Bloodette's dungeon seal was located.

"I will take your word for it," said Corey as she summoned her hoverbike and followed behind me. She had to take the boy's word for it because she had no choice but to follow the boy.

While en route to the Blood Rock Cave, I called Cortney and asked her to meet me at Bloodette's dungeon seal. With that taken care of I called Jill, my contact who could get me anything for a price higher than the right price.

"Yo, Wyatt. If you keep calling me every other hour, I will misunderstand that you miss me," Jill answered my call cheerfully and did not forget to tease me. It seems she was in a good mood, which could only mean she had made a lot of money or something that would help her make a lot of money. I did not expect much from this money-mad daddy's girl.

"Yes, I do. I really miss the smell of money on you," I was not kidding one day with Jill I made more than what I made during my entire time in this world. If anything, Jill knew how to earn money faster than printing it.

"O, you make me blush. So what is it that you need this time?" Jill paused the small take and asked what I wanted as if she was sure that I would not call her if I did not anything from her. Then she added, "Don't get me wrong, I love doing business with you but if I don't start seeing some gains from you, my feelings might change."

Jill was not wrong, till now I did not bring capital gains to Jill, all our transactions so far have been nothing but exchanging favors and one cannot fill their stomach with favors, "Don't worry, this time I have a business worthy of your time."

"I am listening," Jill perked up her ears.

"Before I get to it, I need to know how confidential my transactions with you are," I ask this because what I was doing was not legal, not that I did not do illegal transactions with Jill before but this one involved big player like Morningstar University, I needed to know that our transactions stayed between the two of us.

"I am offended that you have even had to ask me that with all the history between us. However, I provide absolute confidentiality to my client. That is the way my clients come back for more satisfactory transactions. Aren't you one of the examples," Jill said proudly.

"Well, what about your father? Will you tell him if he asks?" Dungeon relocation Apparatus was coveted knowledge, I think both the top ten universities and the government would be involved in its investigation. Since Jill's father appears to have

close ties with the government or he might even be a part of it I wanted to know that Jill would not snitch on me if her father needs her to.

"Well, why would my dad ask me? Now I am intrigued about the business you have brought to my door. Don't worry, you are thinking too much but I promise your transaction with me will stay between the two of us," Jill promised with great anticipation, she really wanted to know what the boy was up to and if she could get involved in that. As long the money was good Jill would not mind entering any business as long it does not touch her bottom line which was basically nonexistent.

"I need to learn how to operate a dungeon relocation apparatus," I reveal my reason for calling Jill trusting her integrity.

"Come again," Jill asked wondering if she heard wrong.

"You heard me the first time," I said not bothering to repeat myself.

"You want to learn how to operate a dungeon relocation apparatus, is this your big business? You are kidding me, right?" Seeing the boy being so cautious, Jill had built up high expectations for this transaction but it turns out only to learn that the movie could not even meet one-tenth of the hype created by its epic trailer.

"So, I take it you can help me learn how to operate a dungeon relocation apparatus," Unlike me, Jill had yet to learn the news that the key components of the dungeon relocation apparatus lent to the southern royal family were stolen by the freedom fighters.

So Jill had no idea of how big my request to her was. If I am not wrong in the whole five regions only Jill could help me learn how to operate the dungeon relocation apparatus. I say this because she was the only one with loose morals of the few who knew how to operate a dungeon relocation apparatus. Since the dungeon relocation apparatus was not actually her project, she would not have much problem helping me learn dungeon relocation apparatus for a price higher than the right price. With such a monopoly if Jill knew the true value of what actually I was asking her, she would not be as disappointed as she was now.

How do I know Jill knew how to operate the dungeon relocation apparatus? Seeing how she was able to figure out the error in the apparatus which was causing energy loss and affecting its efficiency but also make use of the error to her advantage I was willing to bet my entire net worth Jill would have made sure to learn how to operate a dungeon relocation apparatus.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,004 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 13:19

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

"I can't believe you, you are doing this to me again. But, yes I can teach you how to operate a dungeon relocation apparatus for free," Jill said without hiding her dissatisfaction with the boy.

"For free, am I hearing right?" I asked Jill in disbelief. Jill and Free were not the words I could picture together knowing Jill's love for wealth.

"Yes, you heard it right. Besides, the morningstar university is now planning to open the lending of dungeon relocation apparatus to the public at a sky-high rental and it is preparing to teach how to operate the dungeon relocation to whoever rents it for free. It is not that I want to give it to you for free but it will be available for free soon. And considering our history I don't want to take advantage of you by charging you for a freebie so long as you remember your promise to sell your patent and shares related to the silver milk powder through me when you plan to do so," Jill emphasized the last sentence.

"Don't worry about that if I ever plan to sell my patent and shares related to the silver milk powder I will contact you first but are sure you want to give this to me for free? Are you sure you won't regret it later," I assured Jill that when the time comes for me to sell my silver milk powder patent and shares, I will contact her and ask if she was really okay with teaching me how to operate the dungeon relocation apparatus for free.

It was not surprising to see that the Morningstar University was planning to monetize the dungeon relocation apparatus by allowing the public to rent it. And it was a smart discussion on their part to teach the renters how to use the dungeon relocation apparatus for free. Due to privacy concerns, most people would not prefer to rent a team of experts trained by the university to operate the dungeon relocation apparatus while renting the dungeon relocation apparatus.

However, I think the Morningstar university will not go through this after they learn that freedom fighters have stole keep components of the dungeon relocation apparatus they had lent to the southern royal family. Considering that morningstar university was a hub of great minds, it will not take them long to reach a conclusion that this incident was fishy and start suspecting the southern royal family but they will not be able to do anything as they do not have solid evidence.

Uncovering the mystery of what actually happened to the dungeon relocation apparatus lent to the southern royal family will not be the problem the Morningstar university would

be focusing their resources on but an even bigger problem that would have surfaced because of this incident, a threat that could potentially end their current monopoly of the dungeon relocation technique in the market.

That was if everyone knew how to operate a dungeon relocation apparatus so what was stopping an incident similar to the one in the southern region from repeating again?

Having copied the entire blueprint of assembling the dungeon relocation apparatus I have come to know that it was made using many rare and precious ingredients that cannot be found in the market or the treasury of the government or the five royal families. These ingredients were limited, which meant they could only limited number of these dungeon relocation apparatus.

Therefore, the Morningstar university could not mass produce the dungeon relocation apparatus and make a killing by selling them. Instead, had to resort to renting out the dungeon relocation apparatus at a sky-high rental. Because of this, the morningstar university could not afford to lose even a single dungeon relocation apparatus.

Making it their utmost priority to figure out a way to stop the apparatus from getting stolen every time they lent them out. This would mean that their plan to teach how to use dungeon relocation apparatus directly to the renter for free would no longer be an attractive marketing gimmick.

This was why I felt Jill was going to regret teaching me how to operate a dungeon relocation apparatus for free. Especially when she learns that the key components of the dungeon relocation lent to the southern royal family were stolen by freedom fighters. It will not take Jill long to figure out that the southern royal family was using freedom fighters as a scapegoat for their crime. Well, it's her loss.

"No, I won't regret it. How greedy and money-minded do you think I am? Our relationship matters more than a few soul jades to me," Jill did not waste the opportunity to show how thoughtful and generous she was.

"Fine, if you say so," I said trying to think of the face Jill will be making when she learns of the whole truth. Pity I will not get the chance to see it.

"I will share the dungeon relocation apparatus user manual, operation videos, maintenance video, my personal notes, and video notes with your grimoire, go through them. They should be enough for you to learn how to operate a dungeon relocation apparatus along with the do's and don'ts that you should be careful about while operating the apparatus. You can always reach out to me if you have any doubts. However, if you want an in-person class it will cost you as my time is not free. And I warn you my time is not cheap," as soon as Jill finished talking my grimoire sounded with notification, notifying me about receiving new files from Jill.

"Let me go through the notes you shared with my grimoire first, if I need any further guidance I will contact you," I only asked Jill concerning how to operate a dungeon relocation apparatus but Jill went above and beyond my expectation by sharing extra notes on how to maintain dungeon relocation apparatus along with the things I need to prioritize and watch out for while operating the dungeon relocation apparatus.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1260 Barren Lands

[996 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 13:37

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

"Barren Lands, this is the good place you spoke of," Corey asked sarcastically.

"Wait for it," as I uttered that a dungeon gate appeared next in front of me. Cortney poked her head out of the gate and invited us in, "Come in."

"If your idea of a good time is a Dungeon raid, I wonder what Anna sees in you?" Corey commented as she followed me into the the Blood Rock Cave gate dungeon.

"Cortney, you remember Corey right," I said since Corey and Cortney both participated in the card tournament. Though they did not face each other in the tournament, I guess each of their card duels must have made an impression on the other. After all, besides me, these two and Pax stood out the most in the tournament.

"We have met," Cortney nodded at Corey and the other also returned the nod politely before looking at the walls of the cave like a country bumkin. I don't blame her after all the rocks of the cave were all filled with blood rule power, just a single pebble from in here could be auctioned off for a small fortune after a fierce bidding war.

"That is convenient. Where is Bloodette?" I asked not being able to find Bloodette. Usually, Bloodette would be the one to greet me at the gate but today she did not so I could not help but ask for her.

"Well, she is busy comprehending a new meaning of the blood rule," Cortney answered surprising me because Bloodette did not have the concentration span, long enough to comprehend rules when she could just goof around with friends, "Really?"

Seeing that I was finding it hard to believe that Bloodette was cultivating, Cortney add a few details, "I too was surprised when she said she wanted to practice but she is. Apparently, she has found a fun meaning of the blood rule that she wants to master to the ultimate level as soon as possible."

"I guess the new meaning must be something special for her to be so serious about comprehending it," I concluded listening to how enthusiastic Bloodette was about comprehending the new meaning of the blood rule she had discovered.

"I have no idea, she wouldn't tell me," Cortney shook her head remembering how mysterious Bloodette acted when she asked about the new meaning of the blood rule she was comprehending.

"Since it's her, I don't think it will take her long to comprehend that meaning of blood rule to ultimate mastery," I was not exaggerating about Bloodette's capability when it comes to blood rule comprehension because she was the supreme being born from the blood rule.

"Make yourselves home, too will return to comprehending blood rules," During my call, I had already informed her that I wanted to use the cave, so after a little small talk she excused herself.

Walking deeper into the cave Cortney headed into Bloodette's secret chamber to comprehend blood rule. Then I turned to looke at Corey who eyeing a boulder made entirely of blood rule, and warned her, "Don't even think about it. The owner of this cave is a supreme being, if don't love your life you can try stealing from her."

"Steal, Wyatt, how dare you slander an innocent little girl like me of stealing?" Corey said while reluctantly looking away from the blood rule boulder stone.

"Sure, tell that to the greed-filled twinkle in your eyes," I while heading deeper into the cave to use my soul pupils and check on Demigod Redfall's soul and Agent Lois.

"This is indeed a good place, who knew that a small city like our sky blossom city would be hiding such a treasure trove?" Corey ran her hands on the walls of the cave while following me. Then think of something she suddenly said, "Wyatt, send me out, I to attend to nature's call."

"Find a secluded corner in the cave and don't forget to clean up after yourself," As card apprentices with above-average active soul control we were more than capable of controlling our bladders and going at our will. However, since the cave was very large and Corey had cleaning cards, in emergencies one had to do what was required.

"No, I don't have a fetish for peeing on gold, send me out," Corey denied my idea and requested me to let her out. Her argument was not wrong, every inch of this cave was worth hundreds of thousands of soul jades. However, it made me realize that maybe Corey doesn't actually need to attend a natural call but had other plans.

"If you plan to call your family and ask them to buy the barren lands then it is too late for that, my people have already bought every inch of land surrounding this gate dungeon," I said having seen through Corey's little thoughts.

"I should have known, who I am dealing with," Corey Park finally revealed herself.

"Hey you," I greeted Park admiring her voluptuous body made out of the golden red fire. Even though Park's entire body was made of fire it was too vivid and detailed.

"Hey you to you too," Seeing my gaze wander around her curves, the corners of Park's mouth turned up before she returned my greetings.

"Mind your eyes," uttered Corey with a frown, though Park did not seem to mind.

Listening to Corey, I retracted my gaze and heard Park say, "So, what is it that you want?"

"What do you mean? I don't understand," I acted innocent.

"Save the act, there is no way you would share this holy place for comprehending blood rule with us if you did not expect something in return. So what is all of this going to cost us?" Doing business with Park was just as fun as doing business with Jill, maybe even more because Park has not tried to take advantage of me so far. Making me wonder if humans are more greedy than demons.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,010 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 13:46

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

"Not much, a little bit of information on dark realms," listening to Park skip the small talk and get right to business I spoke my agenda for bringing Corey to the Blood Rock Cave.

After the freedom fighter incident, as soon as I left the Blood Rock Cave gate dungeon this morning I felt that I was being monitored. Since these people belonged to the southern royal family I decided to tolerate them as I knew where they were coming from. With Luna betraying the royal family it was getting hard to tell whom to trust and where the next attack would come from, so the only way the royal family could feel a little in control was to do what did best, surveillance and protection of what they deemed of worth. I was flattered by the attention but dissatisfied with how it was being displayed.

However, because of the constant surveillance many of my plans were pushed back. Despite my curiosity, I did not bother to check out the demon merchant quota I won from Belphegor. Or discuss dark realms, devil merchant code, and Belphegor with the only person I knew from the dark realms, Corey Park. Therefore, using the guise of monitoring Corey, I brought Corey to Bloodette's dungeon seal knowing that even Demigods would not be able to eavesdrop or spy on me in here. Making sure that my business was nobody else's business.

"Dark realms, what do you want to know about it? Especially when you have never been to the dark realms or in contact with people from there," It hasn't been long since Park had been manifested by Corey's origin card in this world but she knows that the people of this world had very little knowledge of the demons and dark realms. They addressed the dark realm as the demon realm as if the dark realm belonged to demons and devils. If the dark races of the dark realm knew about this they would invade this world to destroy it out of sheer rage.

"I agree that I have never been to the dark realms, heck, I am not even sure if I should call it the dark realm or demon realm, but have had the misfortune of making contact with one of the inhabitants of the dark realm earlier today," I did not have to be on constant guard of being taken advantage of when dealing with Park unlike with Jill. So I was more open when talking to Park than Jill.

"Who? A demon— don't tell me you talking a demon named Belphegor," Park suddenly remembered feeling the presence of Belphegor while she was trying to find the boy.

"Yes, how did you know," I asked Park in surprise and felt that I had found the right person to talk to about the dark realms, demons, and devils.

"So, it was you who summoned him?" Park asked, unsure if it was the boy who summoned the Belphegor because he seemed to be fine and not missing his soul anything. Having dealt with Belphegor for a lifetime Park knew how greedy and conniving Belphegor was. So she knew anyone who traded with him did not end well.

"Yes, I did. And he is not a demon but a devil," I corrected Park.

"Well he might be a devil now but when I knew him he was a demon prince, who was deemed to be one of the demons with the most promise to step into the devil realm. That doesn't matter, how are you still in one piece having met that nasty bastard? Don't

tell me you entered a pact with him. How long do you have left? Don't worry, all hope is not lost," Park panicked and began to ramble worrying for the boy.

Park was worried for the boy not because she cared for him but because she felt a sense of understanding and comradery. Something which was mostly seen among people who have been through the same traumatic experience. In Park's mind, as an old victim of Belphegor, she felt obligated to help the current victim of Belphegor.

"Park, calm down. Listen to me first," I was astonished, I did not think Park would worry this much for my sake.

"What is happening?" Corey joined in seeing the Park stay calm in face of card emperors and semi-demigods starting to panic just thinking that the boy had entered a devil's pact with Belphegor.

Corey had lived Park's memory thanks to her origin card but as a third person so she was not as much terrorized and traumatized by Belphegor as Park was. She knew that demon was a despicable bastard who had no bottom line and had destroyed Park's father's soul after stealing it from the cycle of reincarnation. He did not uphold his end of the promise using a loophole in the pact between Park and him. Unlike Park whose trauma would surface hearing the name Belphegor Corey felt enraged, she planned to one-day pay a visit to the dark realm just to kill that bastard.

"Park, listen to me, I did not enter a pact with Belphegor," I said trying to calm Park. And she eventually did. But she did not seem to believe my words as she continued to ask me, "How much time do you have left before he comes to collect his due? Tell me, how much time do we have to prepare."

"What mean? Is there a way to cancel the devil's pact?" I asked since I wanted to understand what did Park mean by preparing. She spoke as if she had a way to annul the devil's pact.

"Yes, all we have to do is find someone stronger than the devil and have them force him to revoke the devil's pact. This would be hard in the dark realm but in this world, it is a possibility," answered Park. Listening to her I shook my head as it was not the answer I was expecting to hear.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1262 Beating The Devil

[1,007 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 13:54

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

I thought there was a loophole or a shortcut to annulling the devil's pact hearing Park say that it was not too late, but hearing her solution I realized there was no such wonderful thing.

"The southern royal family seems to value you, do you think they will help you deal with Belphegor?" Park asked in concern, for a humanoid made from the fire her expressions were too vivid and graphic. Well that was what an Ego Elemental was I suppose.

"I don't know but things haven't come to that because I did not make a devil's pact with Belphegor. So you can rest assured, he will not return to claim my soul," I assured Park while wondering if the southern royal family fight the devil for my sake. Anna would without a doubt whereas the other members of the royal family, it was abundantly made clear to me time and time again that they would not do it for free.

"What do mean? It is not like Belphegor to leave without any gains, especially when his summoner is someone with a special soul like yours," Park asked. No matter how many times I repeat it she did not seem to believe me, I guess Belphegor has done a number on her.

"Well, let me just say his greed got the best of him," I said not planning to go into details of my wager with Belphegor.

"Huh, I don't understand," Park said in confusion, she did not understand why the boy acted mysterious when he spoke of Belphegor.

Not bothering to clear Park's confusion I asked her, "Park what do you know about Devil Merchant Code?"

"Devil Merchant Code, where did you hear about that? Even among demons and dark races, only a few know about it and the rest treat it as a myth," Park was astonished to hear the boy throw around the names like Belphegor and Devil Merchant Code, these were not the names a high schooler from card world should know of. She could not help but wonder what the boy had been through in the past couple of days while she was in a retreat.

"The devil merchant Belphegor told me about it," I need to give Park a little context otherwise this conversation will not go anywhere.

"Belphegor is a devil merchant!" Park cried out in shock and then began to mumble, "No wonder, no wonder, this explains why he was so well prepared during our fights—"

Back when 100 years of her pact was coming to an end, Park had grown to become a threat to Belphegor so using the loophole in their pact and with help from some friends he wanted to get rid of his trouble's once and for all but Park had grown to be a more of threat to him than he had thought. She had grown to the point where she and her army could fend off the army of three demon princes which even Belphegor and his army were not sure could achieve.

Since Belphegor could make use of the loophole in their pact so could Park. With her loyal army, Park planned to overthrow Belphegor, however whenever her army came close to defeating Belphegor's army the tides of the war would suddenly change. Belphegor's army would somehow manage to get reinforcements out of nowhere or equip themselves with new weapons of mass destruction that were never heard of in entire dark realms. Leading to Park's current state.

Looking at Park who kept mumbling to herself I could not help but wonder about her history with Belphegor. Then I turned to look at Corey who stood there not knowing how to comfort Park, feeling my gaze she made eye contact with me before waving her hands sideways and saying, "Don't look at me, it is a long story. But you are lucky to have survived someone devious like Belphegor without a single scratch."

There seems to be much history between Park and Belphegor, which was a good thing for me to get the information I wanted but Park's trauma was proving to be a pain in the ass, now I could not help but wonder what did Belphegor do to scare Park beyond her grave in her reincarnation.

"Since you summoned knowing Belphegor is a devil merchant then it means you must have traded something with him? What did you trade for his assistance? Let me warn you if devil merchant code is involved, the pact cannot be annulled forcefully," Learning that the boy summoned Belphegor as a devil merchant Park seemed to calm down thinking that since devil merchant code was involved Belphegor should not have been able to take advantage of the boy. Since the boy seems to know little about devil merchants and devil merchant code, unlike her when she met Belphegor for the first time.

"Park, seeing that you are genuinely concerned for me I will share this with you but don't expect me to repeat myself. Summoning Belphegor I entered a wager with the devil, that I would use 70 percent of his strength to defeat my enemies within five minutes but if I failed to do so my soul would be his. It took a little convincing but Belphegor out of his greed agreed to the wager and its stakes," I paused to take a breath only to hear Corey ask in a low voice, "Then what happened?"

"I won the wager by defeating my enemy using the borrowed power under the specified time limit, easy. Later making use of the devil merchant code I sent him back to the dark

realm," I narrated. Seeing how without much context Park kept circling back to the same topic, I gave her something to ease her heart and forget about Belphegor and tell me about Devil Merchant Code, especially if it was worth becoming a demon merchant and it would not restrict my freedom. Of course, I would be subtle about my real intentions.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1263 Difference In Summoning

[1,017 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 14:03

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

"You beat Belphegor in a wager, no way, I don't believe," Corey did not like the ending of my story, I was starting to doubt that she was cheering for Belphegor to win the wager.

"Wyatt, did you really outsmart Belphegor?" Park looked at me with firm but teary eyes.

I believe she plans to find comfort in my win against Belphegor but she was finding it hard to believe me. And I promise I am not lying when I say that Park's eyes looked teary, I know her entire body was made of fire but believe me her eyes looked teary.

"I really did, him underestimating my physique became his undoing," I said without going into details. Park was not Corey, she did not require me to lay everything out for her.

"I see, I take it that borrowing the power of the devil, be it even for a few minutes, that experience must have helped your physique grow to new heights. No wonder you were able to suppress and handle Corey like a ragdoll despite her sage-level mastery in body arts. Not only did you manage to outsmart a devil but you also gained a lot from the deal, I am impressed," Park's praise was genuine but then her voice turned grim saying, "You were lucky that you summoned him as a devil merchant, if he was summoned using a sacrifice, he would have killed you and gone on a rampage after losing to you."

She was not only impressed by the boy's wits that were able to outsmart the devil but his physique that could defeat a formidable enemy with help of borrowed power and no assistance from cards and a grimoire. Now Park hoped that she should have gone to the outskirt of the city to witness the boy's victory. Even if it risked revealing her whereabouts to Belphegor because to her the expression of unwillingness on Belphegor's face as he lost to the boy would be priceless.

"Yes, that sure helped me understand the direction I should be developing my physique in. And it did help me break certain limits of my physique sooner," I wasn't lying, borrowing the devil's power and experiencing the peak of this world, I was able to map the development of my strength going forward.

Yes, my physique was strong but if I had realm-appropriate cards I could have put an end to Lois even sooner. And I have come to conclude that it would be in my best interest if I were to comprehend a few martial arts to sage-level mastery because then I would be able to make the most of my physique. Fighting against Lois made me realize that I had very little combat ability and was lacking in it. When she sneak attacked me I was mostly passive if not for the ability of my floating heads and arms and ultra-level mastery in blood rule meaning along with my calamity daughter cores, my situation would not be any better than Anna's. Come to think of it I had to kill my body once to defeat Lois. That fight was barely satisfactory.

Laura and Corey, especially Laura, did not seem to have strong physical bodies when compared to mine yet their body was able to intimidate me, I guess it was the effect of them having achieved sage-level mastery in numerous martial arts. I would like to boost that in front of absolute strength martial arts were nothing but tricks but I could not deny the fact that with martial arts I could more efficiently and effectively use my strength. My physique combined with sage-level mastery, I could defeat my enemies in a higher realm without even having to summon my grimoire. I was already able to do that but I meant enemies of an even higher level than that.

"So, now can we move on from Belphegor and talk about the devil merchant code?" I asked Park, to which she nodded and asked, "Sure, what do you want to know about devil merchant code?"

"Why don't you start with the difference between summoning a devil/demon using devil merchant code and summoning a devil/demon using a sacrificial ritual?" Though I had a little idea about the two summoning methods, it was best if I got a certain clarity. And it was a good starter for me to slowly stir the conversation to talk about the pros and cons of becoming a demon merchant.

"The answer to your question is within your question, Devil Merchant Code, that's the difference that matters. In a sacrificial ritual summoning the one with the biggest fist among the parties involved in the pact would govern the pact, so nobody is stopping that party from abusing his power and it usually is the summoned demon/devil. But that is not the case when dealing with demon/devil merchants as the devil merchant code is

responsible for them," The deal that Park had with Belphegor did not involve the devil merchant code as the villagers had summoned Belphegor using her father's blood and offering her as the live sacrifice to him.

"That is the basic, I know that. What I want to know is how did the people of this world know how to summon demons/devils using sacrifice and rituals or the devil merchant cards?" I mean the demons and card apprentices live in two different realms which were realms apart from each other.

So, how were the card apprentices able to come in contact with the knowledge to summon demons/devils either by sacrifice and rituals or how did they make devil merchant cards? At first, I thought maybe due to dungeons and reverse dungeons but that explanation wasn't enough.

How come, the demon worshipers who were able to summon an army of demons from the dark realm using sacrifice and ritual were not able to create a dungeon connecting to the dark realm? I have seen Corey attempt something similar in the tournament in her duel against me, maybe I could borrow that method from Park.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1264 Inviting The Devil

[1,094 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 14:15

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

Listening to my question Park gave me a mild look of doubt mixed with a knowing smile and said, "I think you don't need me to speculate that the demons and the card apprentice made contact through the dungeons is the answer you are looking for."

"Yes, that explanation isn't enough for me," I waited for Park to get to the real stuff.

"Dark realm is very harsh for any race to survive there let alone build a thriving civilization. And those that manage to do so mostly adapt to the hellish dark realm joining the ranks of powerful races, one such example is the demon race.

Card apprentices assume that all demons are the same but they are not, there are many tribes among the demon race. Some tribes of the demon race are still trying to adapt to the dark realm while some tribes are evolving faster than the dark realm itself and for them, the abundant resources of the dark realm are no longer enough or aren't of much use.

That is when a few powerful tribes of the demon race and other dark races decided to find what they need from beyond the dark realm. With time they developed various methods to identify realms beyond theirs and check for signs of sentience. Then it did not take them long to come up with a working inter-realm transportation technique but there was a problem, the will of those realms resisted the inter-realm travel considering it a foreign invasion and it was. This put a permanent end to the plans of the demon race and other dark races.

Or that was what a few believed until someone came up with the idea that instead of them forcefully traveling to other realms and being targeted by their will, what if the natives of that realm invited them into their realm? Some believe that dungeon reversal was the inspiration for this idea but there is no definite proof.

Back then many did not believe this direction of reasoning but those that did never gave up on it. They began to research methods to contact the natives of the realms they planned to invade so that they can convince the natives to invite them to their realm. After some time they successfully created various methods to achieve this and the most famous method to date is the dream whisper. Where a demon projects their will into the native's dream and tries to seduce them or exploit their greed with the promise of power, wealth, and lust.

However there was another huge problem, most of the realms they found were mostly primitive they did not know the concept of soul energy and other powers. If they did not know how to use soul energy or another type of similar power system how could they invite the demons into their realm? So the demons and other dark races had to think of a new inter-realm transportation technique that was not as demanding and complex but easy to learn and use. Such that the natives of any primitive realm could use it to summon them to their realm using the resources available at their disposal.

That was when the sacrificial ritual summoning method was born back then it was in its early stage, and the current method is much more advanced and uses less sacrifice. So what if the natives did not have the concept of soul energy or a similar power system, they would just sacrifice their fellow natives to gather enough energy to complete the summoning and invite the demons into their realm.

This method of being invited to other realms than forcefully traveling to them did not completely eliminate the threat of that realm's will but it no longer went berserk and killed them at sight but suppressed their strength. This was better than nothing and enough for the demons and devils to invade the other realms, plunder their resources, and split before the realm's will could react.

Over several millennia, this method has developed into what it is today allowing the demons to spread their terror and legends across various realms. Today there is hardly any realm that has not heard of demons/devils and their notorious reputation," Park's story was very informative, I finally had an idea of where the myths that the devil cannot enter your home until you invite it in or about the devil appearing in the dreams started. Also, one thing became clear to me, the demons were more intelligent and advanced than many give them credit for.

Come to think of it, I remember Ann saying something similar about the world-traveling method developed by the ten universities. They too seem to be thinking of a solution to the problem called the other world's will which will resist and reject any form of world-traveling considering it as a foreign invasion. I guess they must have already thought of the strategy of being invited to the other world by their natives similar to how the demons and dark races did. If not somebody better tell them. Why not me? I do not like to do things for free unless it directly affects me or if I stood to gain something.

"I see," I nodded my understanding that why the demon worshipers could not use the demon summoning method to create a dungeon connecting this world to the dark realm was because they were not invited by the will of the dark realm or its natives. But one thing became clear to me, the secret to inter-realm transportation was within the demon summoning methods.

Yes, most of them were watered down and encrypted so that a particular summoning method can only summon a particular demon.

Won't the demon be pissed when it does all the work of seducing the native of another realm, teaching the native the sacrificial ritual-based summoning method but another demon gets summoned by the native?

To avoid this kind of confusion the demons give the native the coordinates to their location in the dark realm but high-level demons who have spread their summoning method to various realms and do not know when and where they will be summoned end up encrypting their summoning method using their true name. When the native say their true name while using the summoning method after offering the sacrifice, they would be summoned to that realm without any mixups and confusion. This was just fascinating, I need to get my hands on a few sacrificial demon-summoning rituals.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1265 The Living Spell Dark Will

[1,278 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 14:23

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

I was impressed by demons and dark races who had reduced something as complicated as inter-realm transportation to something as simple as a sacrificial demon-summoning ritual which allowed a mortal without any knowledge of inter-realm transportation to summon beings from other realms by sacrificing a few lives. I don't commend the sacrificial rituals but what the demons and dark races had achieved was simply too fascinating. Shaking my head I asked Park, " The sacrificial ritual is not necessary to summon the demons one could easily replace the energy source for the demon summoning method with soul energy or rule power, right?"

"Yes, but they would have to be savvy enough to alter the sacrificial demon-summoning ritual's power source to soul energy or rule power. Not many are capable of that so they just stick to the sacrificial ritual. For example, take the demon worshipers in this world. Not to forget some demons/devils specifically prefer to be summoned only using sacrificial rituals," Listening to Park I was more determined to get my hands on a few sacrificial demon-summon ritual methods and try my luck.

As if Park could think what I was thinking she offered, "If you are interested in exploring demon-summoning methods, I have a few on me and they do not require a sacrificial ritual, I can give them to you but in exchange, I want the devil ingredient you will receive for creating the twin origin card of the Garcia twins."

"Sorry, I cannot afford your demon-summoning methods," Though I did plan to get some demon-summoning methods from Park, I do not want them at a cost of a devil-grade ingredient. Not when I could get free ones, that the demon worshipers have spread across the five continents to recruit new blood.

"Let me tell you my demon-summoning methods' price might be steep but they are worth the cost. They are far better than the ones the demon worshipers of this world use," Seeing me reject her goods fearing the price Park gave a sales pitch, I had no idea how true her words were but a devil-grade ingredient for a few summoning methods was just too expensive. But considering that they held the secret to inter-realm transportation it did appear worth the cost but there were other cheaper options available, let me explore them first, Park was not going anywhere. So I shook my head and said, "I will think about it."

"Sure, you know where to find me," Park seemed confident that I would be returning for her demon-summoning methods.

"Are you guys done? I am bored," Corey complained.

Listening to her complain I looked at her in astonishment and said, "Only you can complain when you are in the core of the holy place to comprehend the blood rule. Find a corner and quietly comprehend the blood rule."

Corey wanted to retort but then stopped hearing Park say the same, "Corey don't waste this chance, you do want to grow stronger than him right? This is your chance. Back in the dark realm, I had comprehended the blood flame meaning of blood rule. I don't know if that meaning of blood rule is available in this world, if it is then you need to comprehend that."

"Fine," Corey agreed and headed deeper into the cave to find a good spot to comprehend blood rule.

Listening to Park tell Corey that the blood flame rule might not be present in this world I was surprised and wondered if the rules in the will of different worlds had different meanings. But considering that you can find some things only in the dark realm but not in the card realm and vice versa I thought that might be true. Because the physical world was the manifestation of the energies of the spiritual plane in the physical plane.

So if something available in the dark realm was missing in the physical plane of this realm then it could only mean that the energies related to that were not present in the spiritual plane of this realm.

Explaining that the card realm might not have some rule meanings that the dark realm had and the other way around was also possible. My advanced understanding of the spiritual plane and the physical plane was finally coming in handy.

"So what is devil merchant code?" Now that I knew all there was to know about the sacrificial demon-summoning ritual spread across various realms by the demons and devils. Now I need to understand what the devil merchant code was and why would demons and devils would be willing to be controlled by it to trade across the realms when they already had the sacrificial demon-summoning ritual method which did not restrict their freedom.

"Remember how I said that not everyone in the demon race and other dark races believed the theory of being invited to the other realm by their natives, these set of demons and dark races spent their entire life and created the living spell called the Dark Will.

To create this spell they used a small part of the dark realm's will, so despite being a spell, Dark Will was conscious like the world's will and as powerful as them. Over time it only grew and evolved to grow stronger and become something more than what it was created for, some say it has achieved transcendence and some believe it might have even ascended to a higher realm system than achieving transcendence.

How this spell worked as it made contact with other realm's will, and negotiate terms with them to allow the demons and devils into their realm. At first, this was a huge failure as the other realm wills would not agree to the terms put forward by the spell, after several failures the demons and other dark races abandoned this project as by that time the sacrificial demon-summoning ritual method had become popular and was taking over the dark realm by full swing.

Though its creators abandoned it as a failure, the spell continuously kept trying to negotiate with other realm's will, and along with constant rejections, it began to evolve in a direction where it would transform into something that the other world realm's will would not reject. Giving birth to the devil merchant code.

Unlike the spell dark will which was designed to trick the other realm's will into allowing the demons to invade their realms, the devil merchant code became a contract binding the devils and demons to follow a set of rules agreed by it, and the said realm's will while they visited that realm. This way the demons and dark races could go rampant in the other realms.

As the living spell made its comeback as Devil merchant code, demons, and dark races rushed to be part of it but could not because of its strict set of rules. You see there was a reason why every demon and other dark races wanted to be part of the devil merchant code, it was because of its ability called Exchange, which made it possible for demons and other dark races to exchange anything for anything as long as it was within the laws of the devil merchant code. Meaning demons and other dark races could use the devil merchant code to exchange a native's soul, skills, memories, emotions, and another myriad of things for a little cost. Which was a very attractive ability for any demon and other dark races.

The interesting part about the devil merchant code was that it now ordered around its creators and answered to the other realm's wills whom it was created to trick."

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,009 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 14:32

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

It took me a while to process all the information that Park revealed about the Devil merchant Code, but once I understood it my mind was blown away. The knowledge possessed by the demons and other dark races was not just advanced but realms ahead of what the card apprentices possessed.

These guys created a living spell called Dark Will using a part of the dark realm's will to help them invade other realms. However, because of its initial failures, they abandoned the spell but since the spell was a living spell it continued to work on its failure by itself and grew stronger until it found the reason behind its failure and was capable of entirely rewriting itself, morphing from Dark Will to Devil Merchant Code.

Devil Merchant Code was no longer a spell to help demons and other dark races invade other realms but a living spell that allowed a select few members of demons and other dark races to travel to other realms as demon/devil merchants and trade with the natives using its unique ability exchange following the terms agreed by it with the said realm's will.

From my angle the demons and other dark races were GOAT, your creation turning against you, that's the dream(nightmare) of every creator. This was the rite of passage for any creator to be deemed accomplished. These guys created two successful methods to achieve inter-realm travel granted these methods had their restrictions but they were enough for them to spread their myth across all the realms. Back on earth, I created the superhuman serum to help earthlings defeat a single viltronian but the superhumans submitted to the viltronian and hunted me down to please their new master. Every accomplished creator goes through this.

"Are you telling me that devil/ demons merchant are slaves of the devil merchant code?" I did not ask Park the obvious instead used the opportunity to direct the conversation toward the one thing I really wanted to know, whether becoming a demon merchant was worth it.

"What gave you that idea? Think of Devil merchant code as an online trading platform and demon/devil merchants as traders contracted by devil merchant code to find clients and conduct trades in various realms following the laws agreed upon by the Devil merchant code with the said realm. Devil/demon merchants are Devil merchant code's employees, it is that simple," Park said looking in Corey's direction, that fool instead of trying to enter the 'one with the world' state to spiritually travel to the spiritual plane and comprehend the rules of the world's will, had fallen asleep. Prompting Park to shout at her, "Corey, wake up!"

"..." Corey was in a deep sleep she did not even hear Park calling her. Seeing this Park looked at me impatiently and asked, "Any more questions? Without someone monitoring and guiding her that girl will be lazy, I am needed there."

"Sure, one last question, Can the demon merchants leave the devil merchant code at will?" I asked

"Yes, the demon/devil merchants are free to leave the devil merchant code at their will. But I don't think anyone will be foolish enough to give up on such a sweet gig," Park let out a laugh thinking of the possibility of someone being foolish enough to leave the devil merchant code. But then realizing something she said, "Wyatt, don't tell me you plan to become a demon merchant?"

"Why, is there a problem?" I was not surprised that Park finally figured out what I was trying to hide but that's okay now I can openly ask her for her opinion on becoming a demon merchant.

"Yes, because it is not easy becoming a demon merchant. The devil merchant code will select demon/devil merchants every ten years, and they are predominantly residents of the Dark realm. And the only other way left for you to become a demon merchant is to be recommended to the devil merchant code by three demon merchants or a single devil merchant.

I can understand that the benefits of becoming a demon merchant are very attractive, even I who spent nearly a century in the dark realm was not able to find three demon merchants who could recommend me as a demon merchant to the devil merchant code. So I advise you to give up on this foolish idea, the sooner the better. And focus your energy on something plausible," Park spoke from experience.

Listening to Park it became clear to me that she had interpreted my series of questions about demon merchants as me taking interest in becoming a demon merchant, she had no idea that I had Belphegor's recommendation quota. Now that was a relief, good for me, "I know that but I am just curious. So there are no downsides to being a demon merchant?"

"As far as I know there is only one downside to being a demon merchant, in the dark realm strong would capture demon merchants to get them to work for them. Because of this demon merchants would hide their identity, other than that there are no downsides to being a demon merchant as long as your actions don't go against the devil merchant code," Park bought the boy's reason without thinking twice because back then when she first heard about devil merchant code and demon merchants, she too was plagued with curiosity and questions about being a demon merchant. So she did not find the boy's curiosity and questions about the devil merchant code and being a demon merchant odd.

"I see, thank you for being patient and entertaining my curiosity," learning from Park that there were no downsides to becoming a demon merchant, I could not wait to use the recommendation quota I won from Belphegor.

"No, I should be the one thanking you, this place is a paradise for me to practice my demonic blood arts," Saying that Park flew next to sleeping Corey's side and knocking on her head she said, "Wake up dummy."

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1267 Demon Merchant Codex

[1,070 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 14:32

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

[Name: Devil Merchant Code

Realm: ???? (rumored to have crossed transcendence)

Effect: A sentient spell redesigned with the sole purpose to conduct and govern inter-realm trade.

Additional Effect: Merchant Token, Oath Keeper, Merchant Codex, Inter-realm search, Inter-realm communication, Inter-realm transportation, Inter-realm network, Exchange, Offering, Guilty Gauge, Smite.]

Merchant Token: A token used by the Devil Merchant Code to recruit demon/devil merchants across various realms.

Oath Keeper: Devil Merchant Code is able to record and oversee multiple oaths across various realms simultaneously.

Merchant Codex: A guide created by Devil Merchant Code for its demon/devil merchants, to regulate them according to the laws it has agreed with various realms and help them access the various benefit available for them as a demon/devil merchant.

Inter-realm search: A ability that allows Devil Merchant Code to search for realms in the dark realm's vicinity. Also, it can use these realms to search for new realms in their surroundings.

Inter-realm Communication: A ability that allows Devil Merchant Code to communicate with the wills of various realms. Also, it allows the demon/devil merchants to communicate with the natives of these realms.

Inter-realm Transportation: A ability of Devil Merchant Code that allows Demon/Devil Merchants to move to the realms where they are invited by the natives.

Inter-realm network: This is a network established by the devil merchant code to help its Demon/Devil merchants socialize with fellow Demon/Devil merchants across realms.

Exchange: A ability that allows a demon/devil merchant to exchange anything for anything as long as it is agreed upon by the parties involved and follows the conduct agreed between the Devil Merchant Code and the said realm's will.

Offering: Devil Merchant Code collects an appropriate amount of compensation form its merchants for using its abilities in the form of Offering.

Guilty Gauge: this ability allows the Devil Merchant Code to judge the Demon/Devil Merchants if they had broken their oath.

Smite: Devil Merchant Code can use this ability to punish the Demon/Devil merchant deemed guilty by Guilty Guage.

....

While Corey and Park argued in one corner of the cave, I walked to a secluded spot far away from them and arranged an isolation array. Isolating my corner of the cave from the rest of the cave. Assuring some privacy, I made myself comfortable and then summoning my grimoire I took out the recommendation quota to the devil merchant code I won from Belphegor. Then feeding the token my blood, I waited, when suddenly I felt my consciousness being dragged into the spiritual plane.

I could feel that I was in the spiritual plane where the card world's will was present but the rules and energies that I saw the last time I was here were missing. However, I could another presence here apart from me and Card World's will, it had a similar presence as the world's will. I guess that must be the devil merchant code.

Why was it not showing itself? Was it screening me to check if I was worthy? Did getting the recommendation quota not guarantee becoming a demon merchant? Was I supposed to clear an interview with the devil merchant code to officially become a devil merchant?

Then soon a huge stele made of pure rule energy appeared in front of me. It had many ancient texts inscribed in it, and though I had no idea what language it was I could read it with any difficulty. The ancient texts were titled Devil Merchant Code.

I patiently read each and every letter mentioned in the devil merchant code(merchant copy). Then I compared it with the devil merchant code (Customer Copy), fun fact this may slightly change from realm to realm. I learned that the Devil Merchant Code did not actually provide an advantage to its demon/devil merchants but had a fair set of rules

and regulations to make the trade between a demon/devil merchant and the native as fair as possible. The problem was that customers were unaware of these laws and regulations so they were easily taken advantage of by the demon/devil merchants.

Once I was finished reading the ancient texts I felt my consciousness return to my body. Then I looked at the recommendation token in my hand, it had turned into a new card, Demon Merchant Codex.

...

[Card Name: Demon Merchant Codex

Card Type: Item Card (Bonded)

Card Grade: -/-

Card Rate: -/-

Card Durability: -/-

Card Effect: By equipping this card the user can summon their personal demon merchant codex to identify themselves as a demon merchant and also acknowledge that they have read and agree to the terms and conditions stated in the Demon Merchant Code.

Additional Effect: Merchant Recommendation, Oath Records, Merchant Log, Inter-realm search, Inter-realm communication, Inter-realm transportation, Inter-realm network, Exchange, Guilty Appeal, Guilty Pardon.

Restriction: This Card is bonded to Card Apprentice Dalton Wyatt.

Note: This card will evolve with the user's realm]

Merchant Recommendation: The merchant will get one chance to recommend a potential candidate to become a demon/devil merchant every decade.

Oath Records: Every oath made by the user as a demon merchant will be recorded here and will be overseen by the devil merchant code.

Merchant Log: Merchant's use of Devil Merchant Code benefits such as Merchant Recommendation, Oath Records, Merchant Log, Inter-realm search, Inter-realm communication, Inter-realm transportation, Inter-realm network, Exchange, Guilty Appeal, Guilty Pardon.

Inter-realm search: Demon merchants can use this ability of devil merchant code to search for realms in their vicinity or access the already recorded realms for an appropriate offering.

Inter-realm communication: Demon merchants can use this ability of devil merchant code to communicate with the natives of a designated realm for an appropriate offering.

Inter-realm transportation: Demon merchants can use this ability of the devil merchant code to travel to a designated realm when invited by that realm's native for an appropriate offering.

Inter-realm network: Demon merchants can use the inter-realm network to socialize with other merchants by giving the devil merchant code an appropriate offering.

Exchange: Demon merchants can use this ability of the devil merchant code to trade with the natives of a designated realm for an appropriate offering.

Guilty Appeal: Demon Merchants can use this to request the devil merchant code expressing their innocence when accused of a crime or to accuse a fellow merchant or realm of a said crime.

Guilty Pardon: When found guilty, the demon merchant can use this to reduce their punishment with an appropriate offering.

...

After going through the Demon Merchant Codex card's card info, I immediately equipped the card and summoned my personal Demon Merchant Codex.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,056 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 18:45

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Trade Route

Peace prevailed as the sky and the clouds were illuminated golden red by the setting sun while three floater vessels with the Fine Gold logo on them left the city through the only highway connecting the city to the entire blossom district.

However, as the Fine Gold Floater vessels had traveled 50 miles from the city, suddenly out of nowhere tens of thousands of hoverbikes appeared and swarmed the speeding floater vessels and a few thousand hoverbikes landed on the deck of each of the Fine Gold floater vessels without the fear of crashing. Leaving no choice for the floater vessels but to halt. Soon the tranquil scenery was disturbed by painful screams and agony-filled wails.

...

Cindy rushed into Daina's office, seeing her Daina who had just got up from her chair said, "I have heard the news. They responded sooner than I was expecting."

"They are gathering 50 miles outside the city. I think they are preparing to invade the city once all of their forces have arrived," Cindy reported

"Smart, this way the city management and police cannot stop their gathering. How many of them have gathered by now?" Daina said as she walked out of her office while Cindy tagged along.

"As of now, about thirty-five thousand, but the number keeps growing and by tonight we estimate that they will cross a hundred thousand," Cindy answered.

"It appears they are mobilizing all the cities near us, is it just the high school gangs or are there any signs of adventure guilds?" Diana asked as she got into the executive lift and pressed the button to the ground floor.

"As of now it is just the high school gangs, there are no signs of the adventure guilds. I believe they do not plan to step in until we take action," Cindy answered but frowned seeing that someone was accessing the elevator on a lower floor.

"Our city's number of high school gang members is nothing compared to the combined numbers of the high school gang members of numerous cities. We have no choice but to step in. This is a mess," Diana said in annoyance.

Things were shaping to look as if the sky blossom city was about to face the combined forces of nearby cities, there was no way the other forces of the sky blossom city would be willing to be part of the mess that the Fine Gold created by destroying the sun blossom city branch of the Circle. So it was just them against the combined forces of other cities.

"Well, did you think that after destroying one branch of the Circle, they would sit back and take it? You knew the consequence of our actions still you went through it," Cindy shook her head as they knew that the Circle's retaliation for destroying one of their branches was around the corner but they did not think it would come so soon. Especially when the nearest branch of the circle was on the other side of the blossom

district. How did they even get the forces of the cities surrounding the sky-blossom city to mobilize in just two days?

"Don't blame me, our young boss is just too charismatic, I could not say no to him," Diana said as the elevator stopped and Jaya walked in shouting, "Sister, I trying to call Wyatt but I am unable to reach him."

"Why are you calling our young boss?" Diana asked Jaya with a frown because she thought that it was too soon to alarm their young boss about the retaliation of the Circle.

"He will learn about it through the grimoire network anyway," Jaya understood what her elder sister was getting at and argued.

"Yes, he will. But tomorrow he will also learn about our victory against the enemy forces in the grimoire network," All Diana was trying to say was that she did not want to cry fire to their boss every time they saw smoke. If they require their boss's assistance with every little thing then what use were they of?

"It is not just that, I want to seek his permission to let me lead the Bright Loins," Jaya spoke the real reason why she was trying to contact their boss. The current leaders of the Bright Loins were the bright trio but Jaya wanted to be the one leading the Bright Loins gang since situations like today were a rare occurrence and whoever leads today will enter the pages of Sky blossom city's history just like her elder sister Diana did back then.

"What happened to starting at the bottom? Did you give up already?" Cindy asked Jaya with a sneer.

"No, I did not. I still want to do that but after the circle left, Bright Lions swallowed all the other high school gangs in the city. This left us with no rival in the city, which meant I did not have any task to earn merits and climb the ranks in the gang. I thought of challenging the bright trio for their leadership, but with everything that is going on we did not get the time to do that," Jaya explained how she could not earn merits mostly because the Bright Lions gang was the only high school gang in the city. She wanted to take charge of the gang by proving she was stronger than the bright trio combined, but the gang was too busy recently so she never got to prove herself.

"Silly girl, isn't this the situation exactly what you need to rack up the merits that you need to climb ranks in the gang and gain the respect of your gang members?" Diana advised Jaya to use the current situation to prove herself to her gang members and gain their respect. So that they would consider her as their leader without anyone telling them to.

"But then I will not be able to lead our gang to victory like you used to with your gang," Jaya said dejectedly. She had grown up listening to the story of her sister's raise to power from the Fine Gold staff on numerous occasions and wanted to be just like her.

Now that the opportunity has shown itself, things were not going according to her fantasy so she felt disappointed. And wanted to use a shortcut to get her way.

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Chapter 1269 Deputy Leader Dan Malvin

[1,068 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 19:20

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Fine Gold Tower, Elevator

"Victory, girl you do know that each of your gang members is seriously outnumbered, each one of them would be facing a minimum of 10 enemy high school gang members?" Cindy commented listening to Jaya say that she wanted to bring the Bright Lions gang to victory because Cindy had no doubt in her mind that the Bright Lions would lose and the Fine Gold would have to step in.

"..." Jaya wanted to retort to Cindy's comment but her grimoire rang with a call, it was from Dan Malvin.

"Yes, Dan. What is it?" Jaya did not want to answer the call but had to as this guy was one of the deputy leaders of the Bright Lions gang, and as the rut of the gang, Jaya had little choice but to answer his call.

"Where are you? Did you not receive the gang-wide alert?" Dan Malvin was the leader of the great eagle gang. After losing the bet he made with Nick, the eldest of the bright trio, he and his gang were swallowed by the bright lion's gang and he was given the deputy leader position considering his previous position as the leader of the great eagle gang. This way he and his old gang can become a part of the Bright Lions gang with ease.

"I am with my sister, discussing the situation," Jaya answered.

"Who asked you to involve your sister? No disrespect to your sister but tell them to stand down this is Bright Lions gang's business. And get your ass down here right

away," Dan Malvin yelled, he did not feel it was time for the adults to bail them out of their problem and did not think twice before hanging up on Jaya.

Once the bright trio eliminated and swallowed all the other high school gangs in the city, Dan and his mates were convinced of their loss and truly became part of Bright Lions Gang. Especially when they learned that the boy who won the Card fight tournament was their real leader. Everyone in the city has seen the finals of the tournament and was convinced about the boy's prowess and wanted to be a part of his journey.

"How dare he hang up on me," Jaya cussed only to hear her sister say, "That boy is right, this is Bright Lions gang's problem and not a place for us to butt in."

"Sister," Jaya could not believe that her sister was siding with Dan but was once again interrupted by her sister who advised, "Jaya, you always say you want to be like me but you never understood what it was like for me. I clawed my way up from the swears of this city even before the circle found me. The circle did not lend me a helping hand, they took me in believing that I will be of use to them. Little sister, remember nothing in this life will be handed to you. Now, go fight for what you want."

The elevator opened its door arriving at the ground floor. Neither Diana nor Cindy walked out of the elevator, instead, Cindy pushed Jaya out of the elevator saying, "Tell the bright brothers that our people will arrive at midnight to reclaim our cargo and floater vessels. They have till then to clean their mess."

The elevator door closed on dumbfounded Jaya's face. Inside the elevator, Cindy asked, "Do you think they can hold on till midnight?"

"I don't know that but I do know that if they can't then it is better if the Bright Lions gang ends tonight. I think our young boss will agree with me on this," A sadistic smile formed on Diana's face, and the scar on her face seemed to radiate with a natural glow as she spoke. Seeing this Cindy shook her head and reminisced, "Seeing you sitting behind stakes of paper, I had forgotten how wild and cruel you used to be."

On the ground floor of Fine Gold tower, Jaya's dumbfounded expression was replaced with a firm bloodthirsty one as she flew away cussing, "Fuck this, I will kill every last one of the enemies. Then they will have no choice but to declare me as the leader, hahaha."

....

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 18:45

păndă Йovê1,còM Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Trade Route

"Commissioner, the Bright Lions high school gang is headed this way, should we stop them and then disperse them," Chief Denise asked the Commissioner who was overseeing the blockade of the trade route as the high school gangs of nearby cities were aggressively gathering 50 miles outside of the city.

As much as the Commissioner wanted to disciple these teenagers and show each one of them the consequences of playing gangster, she could not as they were gathering outside of the city borders where she had no jurisdiction.

The world was plagued with dungeons, there was only so much the city authorities could do while risking their lives. So during the monster wars a law stating that city authorities have no jurisdiction outside the city border was passed. This law was passed so that city authorities do not have to risk their life trying to save greedy adventures who do not know their limit and ventured out of the city borders to kill monsters and make money.

Now that the monster war has passed people were abusing this law to settle their grudges. With this law in place, the Commissioner had no choice but to do nothing but watch a bunch of high schoolers take part in delinquency. Not to mention the city police were outnumbered. Therefore when she heard chief Denise say that the Bright Lions gang was headed here she helplessly ordered, "Stand down."

No matter what the cops did the fight was going to break out, the only question was where did she want the fight to break out. If she were to detain the Bright Lions, then the fight would break out inside the city where the day-to-day life of the innocent citizens would be affected, else, if she did not interfere and let the Bright Lions do their thing, then the fight would break out outside the city borders where there will be no casualties other than a bunch of goons killing each other. The only thing that pained her was that these goons were the youth of the southern region.

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Chapter 1270 The Roaring Engines

[1,017 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 19:43

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Trade Route

Hearing the commissioner ordering them to stand down, the uniformed officers began to clear the blockade they previously built. However, one person did not agree with this order, it was Chief Denise. From the looks of it, Bright Loins gang was seriously outnumbered and it was obvious that they were going to lose if the enemy was merciful or else they would be massacred. Jill was once a high schooler, she has grown up seeing these kinds of things. To her, this was pretty common. She still remembers the terror of Diana Keiths and her high school gang. So she could care less about a bunch of delinquents killing each other however the leader of the Bright Lions Gang was her nephew. For his sake, she could not help but question the orders of her immediate superior, "Madam Commissioner, please reconsider, if we don't stop them we will be sending them to their deaths."

"Chief Denise, out of everyone here you should be clear about how this ends. If I remember clearly you had joined the force when Diana Keiths and her gang were making a name for themselves in the city," The Commissioner did even spare Denise a glance and looked towards the city skyline knowing tonight was not going to be a quiet one.

"Commissioner, I know how this will end. That is why I think we should not sit and do nothing. All hope is not lost. We can seek assistance from the temporary southern watch camp on the dungeon highway. Unlike us, their hands are not tied by the city laws," Denise knew the commissioner was right about the situation but she still made her argument.

"I already thought of that but the temporary southern watch base is no more, they left the city this afternoon," The commissioner said shaking her head.

"What about the city array?" Denise was disappointed to learn that they could not get the assistance of the southern watch that was temporarily posted next to the city because they left this afternoon but she did not let that get to her and suggested that they use the city array.

"You know better than me unless they are a monster wave or a crowd of demon worshippers planning to invade the city, I am not at liberty to use the city array against them," Commissioner was getting annoyed by Denise questioning her orders if it were a newbie questioning her orders she could still be patient but Denise was not new to the force. As a senior in the force, Denise must have faced a situation like this on numerous occasions and should know that the orders she gave were in the best interest of the city they were meant to protect.

"..." Understanding that the Commissioner was not going to change her orders, desperate Denise hurried to the end of the crowd of cops and waited for the arrival of the Bright Lions Gang, without even bothering to explain herself to the commissioner for questioning her orders. From the look on her face, it appeared she was prepared to try something daring and against her superior's orders.

The deputy chief belonging to Denise's precinct could see that their Chief's actions were pissing off the Commissioner so he immediately defend his Chief's action to their boss, "Madam Commissioner, please do not take offense, Chief Denise is worried about her nephew."

"When did she get a nephew?" Commissioner knows that Denise was alone and she had no dependents so she was surprised to hear that Denise had a nephew.

"Well, it is late Ellen Wyatt's orphaned son. He is a member of the Bright Lions gang," The Deputy chief answered.

"I see. Fine, share the portrait of the kid with all the officers and if they spot the boy among the Bright Lions gang they are to detain him. I am sure the Bright Lions Gangs leader will not mind doing the police department a small favor," Commissioner quickly came up with this brilliant solution because this situation was not new, this situation was more common than one would think. Many of her subordinates have already approached her with the same concern. Cop's children were delinquents, no surprise there. Honestly, Denise should be aware of this arrangement, did she forget?

"Well, madam Commissioner, that will be a little problematic," the deputy Chief said letting out an awkward smile.

"Why is that?" Commissioner asked the deputy with a frown.

"Well, he is the leader of the Bright Lions gang," the deputy Chief answered.

"...." Commissioner was without words for a second before she hastily ordered the deputy Chief, "Go find her, see to it that she doesn't do something stupid."

Hearing the Commissioner's orders, the deputy Chief's expression changed because he knew their Chief was definitely up to something. Without bothering to excuse himself, he hurried in the direction Denise just left.

...

Removing the blockade, the cops dispersed to the empty lots on both sides of the trade route waiting for the arrival of the Bright Lions gang. While the Police Commissioner and the police Chiefs who were all in the card lord realm stood on the trade route, right at the borderline of the city. The plan was simple they would try to mediate the two sides. If a compromise could be reached well and good. If not, they would make sure that the fight between the two parties will not spread to the city and disturb its peace.

Roar *Honk* *Howl* *Roarrr* *Honkkk* *Howll*

The sound of the roaring engines, honking horns, and the howls of hormone-oozing teenagers sounded throughout the trade route as tens of thousands of teenagers rode

their hoverbikes headed toward the border of the city. The Bright Lions had arrived. Hearing the noise of the Bright Lions, the high school gangs on the other side of the city border started their hoverbikes, soon their engines roared, horns exploded, and they howled as the moon was finally starting to show itself in the gray evening sky. Both sides were putting on a display of their might trying to intimidate the other.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1271 Calm Before The Storm

[1,020 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 20:03

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Trade Route

Nick, Tom, and Ed each rode their golden nanomorphers, and behind them were about twenty thousand Bright Lions gang members riding on their or sharing their mate's hoverbikes or hovercars. Most of the hoverbikes could be seen carrying three to four gang members.

As for the hovercars, their condition was worse than clown cars as the high schoolers who could not fit inside the hovercars sat on the roof and the hood of the hovercars.

The deputy leaders of the gang had made arrangements for hover buses and taxis for less fortunate gang members, but the buses and taxis were half-filled however their roofs were filled with gang members, shouting and howling like street dogs.

As the Bright Lions gang neared the city border, the deputy Chief approached his precinct chief, Denise, and repeatedly begged, "Chief, please don't do something we all will end up paying for."

"Damn it, shut up for a second. Where is he? I cannot find him at the front," Denise planned to confront the boy if she were to spot him leading the Bright Lions gang even if it meant a career suicide for her.

"I too don't see him, it is just the Bright trio leading the crowd. Does he not plan to participate in this gang fight? Chief, I think your words got through to him," the deputy Chief began to sign praise of Denise trying to distract her.

"Something is not right. Damn it, why is the call not connecting? Did he block my grimoire ID? He better not," Denise has been trying to call the boy ever since she learned about this incident but for some reason, her call was not connecting to him. This could only mean that either he was inside a dungeon or he had blocked her contact id. Unable to find the boy in the crowd of Bright Lions gang heading toward the city border pissed Denise left the crowd and headed to the city borderline to join her colleagues to improvise her plan according to the situation.

Knowing that her colleagues would stop her from confronting the boy, Denise chose to hide in the crowd, this way she could confront the boy as soon as he nears the crowd of cops while using the officers behind her to stop gang members from stepping in to stop her from nearing their gang leader before the Police Commissioner and her fellow police chiefs spring into action to detain her. Denise felt this was a follow-proof plan however when the time arrived she could not find the boy in the gang. So she had no choice but to improvise her plans.

What Denise's deputy saw was that if Denise confronts the boy as he nears the crowd of the cop, the gang members would take action to stop her, misunderstanding that the cops were attacking their gang leader. While this action of the gang will be misunderstood by the surrounding cops, they will take action believing that the gang members were attacking police and this could easily spiral into a full-on fight between the sky blossom city Police Department and the Bright Lions gang. Which was the worst possible outcome with the lowest probability yet it was now very likely to happen all because Denise wanted to protect her nephew. Thankfully the boy did not seem to be participating in this gang fight. This was suspicious considering that the boy was the gang leader and he was missing during such a big event in his gang's history.

Seeing Denise join them, the commissioner nodded saying, "Good to see that you have come to your senses. I promise you I will try my best to bring them to a compromise. This fight is in nobody's best interest."

Nearing the crowd of cops gathered on both sides of the trade route Nick, Tom, and Ed stopped their nanomorphers and recalled them. With that, the traffic behind them came to a halt and the crowd went silent on both sides of the borders just like the calm before the storm.

The Bright trio walked toward the city borderline guarded by the police Commissioner and the Police Chiefs. As for the rest of the gang members, they stood at ease waiting for further orders from their three leaders.

Seeing the Bright trio head toward the borderline, the gang leaders of the high school gangs that had gathered on the other side of the city border also walked toward the borderline. There were about twenty of them and each of them was in the card master realm. They seemed to have gained a lot of confidence because of their numbers and sensing that one of the three gang leaders on the opposite side, Ed Bright, was still a card soldier. So they cockily headed toward the borderline of the city without respecting

the card lord realm Police officers guarding the city borderline. As they knew the police would not do anything to them as long as they were outside of the city border. And even if they were to step inside the city border the city police would not do anything to them as they could not afford to face the wrath of nearly a hundred thousand gang members that stood behind them. Compared to their numbers a mere four thousand city cops were nothing.

Seeing the representatives from both sides near them, the commissioner planned to start the peace talk but before she could react Denise jumped in front of the Bright trio, grabbing Nick by his collar she asked, "Where is Wyatt?"

"Denise, what the fuck are you doing?" the commissioner cussed seeing Denise go rogue when the situation was so tense. However, to her surprise, Nick was not angered by Denise's action instead he patiently answered her, "Master Wyatt is inside a dungeon. Fortunately for these fools, he is not aware of the situation out here."

Nick's words were loud enough to be heard by the enemy gang leaders. They ignored his insult, and one of them came forward and asked, "Are you talking about Dalton Wyatt? Is he really not here?"

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Chapter 1272 Gray Carpet

[1,014 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 20:18

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Trade Route

Nike ignored the enemy gang leader but Denise did not, she let go of Nike's collar and then turned to look at the delinquents from the neighboring city and asked, "Who are you and why do you ask about Dalton Wyatt?"

"I am Travis Jackman, the leader of the steel claw gang from the Moon blossom city. Officer, we are— " Travis introduced himself and wanted to report the reason for their gathering but was interrupted by Denise, "Police Chief, not an officer. I will not correct you the second time."

Being corrected by Denise Travis let out a charming smile and said, "Ma'am, aren't you too young to be a police chief?"

Seeing Travis openly flirt with Denise who claims to be in her forties while her documents say otherwise, her fellow police chiefs lifted their eyebrows. However taking a look at Denise's figure they all felt they were quick to judge the young man and thought, 'Young man's got taste.'

Even the police commissioner could not help but throw an envious gaze at Denise's tight hourglass body shape cussing, 'Damn Girl.'

"Amen, so how do you know Dalton Wyatt?" Denise was a little embarrassed being hit on by some of the same age group as her daughter but she did not forget about the matter at hand.

"Well, we are here to kill him. If you guys hand him over we will leave quietly," Travis felt a few ominous auras lock onto him as he spoke these words.

Denise's legs went cold learning that about a hundred thousand delinquents had gathered just to kill Ellen's son. She was without words wondering just what did her prodigal nephew do this time?

"You three stand back, he is mine," Vivian landed next to the Bright trio and declared with her malice-filled stare locking on Travis. It took her a while to get here after taking a break from Slime Fairy Project.

"Sorry, little girl, though you have an ample figure, you are a little too young for my taste," Travis joked and his fellow gang leaders laughed not knowing the disaster they had provoked.

"Travis, I am the commissioner of the sky blossom city police department. Since we have all gathered here then let us peacefully resolve this, nobody has to get hurt today," the commissioner stepped forward and proposed a peace talk seeing the sparks fly between the two groups.

"Boy's listen to this, madam Commissioner is thirsty for my attention. Ma'am, I'm sorry, you are too old and for my taste," Travis could barely hold in his laughter as he politely mocked the police commissioner. But his boy's laughed unscrupulously.

"Young man, watch your mouth," A police chief with gray hairs yelled hearing Travis insult their Commissioner.

Travis glared at the police chief with gray hair, not caring for the fact that the other part was a card lord and could pinch him to death. One of his boys spoke up ignoring the warning of the police chief with gray hair, "Travis, if you don't want her, I will take this gulf off your plate."

"You sure bro, you fine with gray carpet? She is clearly using a hair coloring card," Travis asked his fellow gang leader who showed interest in the police commissioner.

"No probs bro. I love me some gray carpets. I can't get enough of quality gray carpets," the boy said vulgarly gazing at the commissioner's body. It was as if Travis and his bud did not seem to care that the girl they were talking about was a card lord and a few steps away from them.

The police chief with gray hair had heard enough and was about to teach these delinquents to respect their elders but the commissioner stopped him with her glare. She was no damsel in distress for her male subordinates to act as her knight, she could take care of herself. And she did, glaring into Travis and his buds' eyes she said, "If I am not wrong I am sensing a group of card lords hiding behind the crowd of delinquents you have gathered. I wonder who among us is faster? I am willing to bet a million dollars that I can rip each of your hearts out of your chests before those card lords can come to your rescue. So who among you is ready to take my bet?"

Travis and his fellow gang leader's laughter came to a sudden halt listening to the Commissioner's words as they were suddenly reminded of their place. A rat backed by a tiger was still a rat. Seeing the frozen expression of the delinquents, the Commissioner nodded with a satisfied smile on her face and then declared, "So, let us talk. Nobody has to get hurt today."

"Fine," Travis agreed with the commissioner's proposal with an annoyed face.

Seeing Travis agree with her, the Commissioner did not even bother to ask for the Bright trio and Vivian's opinion as she felt that the Bright Lions gang would be more than willing to settle this peacefully as they were outnumbered. And asked Travis, "So what will it take for you guys to return to your cities peacefully."

"Dalton Wyatt, as long as he is handed over to us we will leave immediately," Travis states his group's demand.

"No way," Denise yelled. To which Travis replied, "It is not up to you to decide."

"Commissioner, tell him, we are not going to hand over Dalton Wyatt," Denise looked at her commissioner desperately only to find the latter glare at her ordering her, "Denise, shut up."

Color drained off Denise's face listening to the Commissioner's orders as it was clear to her at that moment, if it meant peacefully resolving this situation, the commissioner would not mind handing over Ellen's son to the mob.

Signaling other police chiefs to watch over Denise, the Commissioner turned to look at the representatives of the Bright Lions gang to see if they are prepared for the

compromise, but to her surprise, the four representatives from the Bright Lions gang ignored her and crossed the city borderline while summoning their grimoire.

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Chapter 1273 Summon Integration

[1,003 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 20:35

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Trade Route

The intent of the four representatives of the Bright Lions gang could not be more obvious as they crossed the city borderline summoning their grimoire. However, it took the Police Commissioner a while to comprehend their action. Because she thought being outnumbered the Bright Lions gang would be willing to take the easy way out.

Despite the wisdom that came with her gray drapes, the police Commissioner overlooked one important point, if the Bright Lions gang wanted to take the easy way out then they could have chosen to hide in the city until all this blows over instead of gathering at the city borderline.

Meanwhile, Vivan walked toward Travis announcing his death, "Travis Jackman, for your crime I sentence you to death."

"Bitc—" Travis summoned his grimoire cussing at Vivian but he suddenly went quiet as Vivian's slender arm pierced through his throat and it decapitated his head from his body. The first transformation of the calamity daughter gem was no joke, it had the invulnerability and herculean strength of a Viltronian. The calamity daughter gems were unparalleled in the same realm.

"*Splurt*" Blood sprayed in the air as another nineteen beheaded bodies fell to the ground. While Vivian killed Travis, the Bright trio killed the remaining nineteen gang leaders, unlike Vivian who had focused her wrath solely on Travis they were more efficient by combining their Viltronian physique's prowess with the control of the high-end martial arts cards that Corey has been circulating in the Bright Family.

Both mob and cops gathered on either side of the city borderline were slow to react to the bloody scene, but soon loud cries and gasps could be heard from both sides. Seeing their gang leader's heads being cut like cabbages, anger-filled cries reverberated from the mob. With their leaders gone, the mob was in total chaos but the deputy leaders quickly got a handle on the situation and provided an outlet for the panicking crowd's mixed emotions, "Charge, show them hell, avenge your fallen leaders."

"Shit," the Commissioner and the police Chiefs at the city border cussed out loud in utter disbelief. Not because the representatives of the Bright Lions gang killed the enemy leaders but because they could not see the actions of the Bright Trio that lead to the beheading of nineteen card masters within a single breath. They were card lords but they could not see the moves of two card masters and a freaking card soldier. Did the Bright family have a special technique related to copulation for them to breed such a monstrous younger generation?

"People make sure you capture everything, it's time the world saw the glory of Bright Lions," Dan Malvin ordered the crew tasked with recording the battle. As they used hoverbikes to hover within the city border and used tiny golems to record and captured every second of the fight.

Beheading Travis with her bare fist, without bothering about the angry mob of about a hundred thousand rushing towards her, Vivian then chanted, "Origin card Forbidden Garden, activate."

Soon twenty-five tall elder druids grew in the middle of the trade route on the city's borderline separating the city from the mob that had gathered at its border, " Summon Fairy Guards."

This time Vivian, transferred blood rule power and a little of her blood consisting of the calamity daughter gem to the elder druids instead of her soul energy, such that the summoned fairy guard would have their own calamity daughter gems and could use blood rule power. In a second, nearly 300 fairy guards were summoned. With her army assembled Vivian then jogged towards the incoming angry mob yelling, "Second transformation, activate."

Vivian and her fairy guards suddenly started to grow in height. Their clothes expanded with the expansion of their body. Achieving a 21-meter in height Vivian and her fairy guard's growth came to a halt but their advance toward the angry mob fastened. With their every step, the asphalt road cracked, and the tremors would spread across the ground. It felt like a continuous small-scale earthquake was occurring.

As for the Bright trio, each of them summoned their origin card,

"Summon Mountain Golem"

"Summon Mud Golem"

"Summon Skeleton Fiend"

Summoning their origin cards the Brighth trio were not done they continue,

"Summon Integration, activate."

"Summon Integration, activate."

"Summon Integration, activate."

The Bright Trio's bodies were propelled into the air as a bright light covered their bodies and the bodies of their summons until they could no longer be seen. Then the bright mass of light representing the summoners integrated with the bright mass of light that represented their respective summons.

The bright light covering the three summon integration soon cleared and revealed three humanoid monsters whose eyes shone with intelligence that could only be seen in humans.

Nick's summons mountain golem was ugly, 20 meters tall, and entirely made of rocks, having integrated with its summoner it grew by three meters in height and its face and body had more human-like features thanks to the viltronian physique. Still, it was ugly to look at. It will take sage-level sculpting to add beauty to this beast. However, the fact that it was the most intimidating of the three summons did not change.

Tom's mud golem was height was not definite as it could grow in height and infinitely create mud puppets depending upon the mud available to the limit of his mental strength. So Tom had his mud golem on the land next to the trade route. Such that his summons would not complain about not having enough mud. Being summoned using the mud depending on the metal strength at its deposit it grew to a height of 16 meters.

After iterating with Tom, there wasn't much change to the integrated summons height but its body looked more human than a golem. It looked like the body of a greek god crafted with mud. Unlike Nike and his summons, its body was well-defined, which may be because it was easier to shape mud than to sculpt a mountain for the Viltronian physique.

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[1,048 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 20:41

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Trade Route

While the appearance of the other two summon integrations was bearable, the appearance of Ed's integration with his summon was downright scary. Mostly because his summon was a Skeleton Fiend. It was 2.5 meters tall and asides from its humanoid skeleton frame its entire body was covered in bone armor made entirely of the bones that it collected from its victims. There wasn't much chance in its body after integrating with its summoner though it seemed that the Viltronian physique had reinforced its skeleton body and armor. The only notable change to it was that the balls of flames burning in its skull's eye sockets had grown brighter and were burning vigorously.

Having integrated with their summons the trio followed behind Vivian's giant fairy guard army chanting out loud, "Second transformation, activate."

Summon integrated Nick who was already 23 meters tall suddenly grew nearly 180 meters tall. With a single step, he took the lead from giant Vivian and her fairy guards, engraving a 3-feet deep footprint into the asphalt road. The tremors no grew to the magnitude of a medium-sized earthquake.

Transforming to the second form of the calamity daughter gem, 16-meter tall summons integrated Tom grew to a height of 110 meters. Unlike Nike, he was using the muddy clearing next to the trade route to slide toward the incoming angry mob so he too was easily able to overtake Vivian and her fairy guards.

As for summons integrated Ed who was 2.5 meters tall, after activating the second transformation of his calamity daughter gem grew to a height of 38 meters. However, the skeleton frame of his skeleton fiend body had beefed up, and grown sturdier. The skeleton armor on its body too showed similar changes. Despite him being taller than Vivian and her army of fairy guards by a few meters he could not overtake them as that height was not enough to overtake them mainly because of the slow trait of the undead monster which was minimized mostly by the super speed of the Viltronian physique.

While these giants walked the ground, the asphalt road of the trade route trembled and cracked. Tremors could be felt spreading in the surroundings. Which alerted the authorities of the city into activating the city array to isolate the city from the tremors heading in its direction.

"Metriote Jump," nearing the angry mob, summons integrated Nick jumped into the sky almost 3000 meters high above the ground. After reaching 3000 meters high in the sky his body switched from a humanoid mountain form to a mountain shaped in egg form and descended to the ground at an insane speed aiming at the center of the angry mob, just like a meteorite falling to the ground.

"Mud Puppets," Tom yelled as he slid toward the angry mob summoning nearly a hundred 110-meter tall mud puppets using mud in the surrounding. With this, the allied forces numbers that started with four jumped to three hundred and now to four hundred and four.

Seeing the small army of giants heading towards them, the speed of the angry mob slowed with every passing second. The mob was made of a hundred thousand immature and inexperienced teenagers, most of them haven't even been to the dungeons let alone see giant monsters. So far they were used to bullying the weak with their numbers and had never been in a true fight. When the intimidating auras of the small giant army locked onto them most of them felt their legs tremble in fear. Which only grew worse when they felt the tremors spreading in the ground with every step of the giants. Especially, the 180 meters tall mountain giant and sliding 110 meters tall mud giant.

The mob came to a completion seeing the 180-meter-tall mountain giant jump high in the sky. Then seeing the 110 meters tall mud giant split into nearly a hundred mud giants 110 tall in height. The mob that had come to a halt split into two, one group was retreating and the other group was planning to make their stand right there. But then they heard a sound of wind being spit in the sky above them only to find a meteorite descending towards them at an incredible speed. With this, they no longer cared about the reason they were there and began to disperse in various directions except to their front, as they were running for their lives and what stood in front of them was death.

Being blocked by a row of elder druids, the Commissioner and the police chief immediately cleared the way for the Bright Lions gang to go fight with their representatives but to their surprise, they did not move from their original position except for a few but these few did not dare to cross the city borderline instead they summoned tiny golems and sent these tiny golems across the city borderline. Seeing the tiny golems the police commissioner and the police chiefs immediately knew what these delinquents were up to and were dumbfounded.

When your leaders were in the front confronting a large number of enemies, should you guys not be joining them to fight the enemies? What the fuck do you mean by using tiny recording golems? Do you plan to record the death of your leaders? Then what, upload it in the grimoire network titled, 'four card apprentice being stomped to death by a hundred thousand.'

The police Commissioner and Chiefs came to a sudden realization that these people might have a plan watching Vivian summon a small army of humanoid summons and the bright trio summon their summons. But what happened next made them gasp in surprise, they could have never guessed at a group of delinquents had such capable cards. The small army of three hundred and four people morphed into giants with the lowest height being 21 meters and the top heights being, 180-meters, 110 meters, and 38 meters.

The Commissioner and the police Chief did not awaken from the shock until they felt the tremors spreading in the ground as the giant army advanced toward the angry mob. They finally understood from where the four representatives of the Bright Lions gang got their confidence to face a mob of a hundred thousand head-on.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1275 Blood Ignition

[1,598 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 20:54

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Trade Route

Just as the mountain golem's egg form of the summon integrated Nick was descending to the ground, in the mid-air a few figures appeared in its path, they all were oozing the breath of a card lord, these figures seemed to be planning to intercept the free-falling mountain in mid-air.

These figures were none other than the group of card lords that the Commissioner sensed hiding behind the mob of a hundred thousand delinquents. They were also the source of the late Travis and his fellow gang leader's confidence, giving them the courage to blatantly disrespect the Sky blossom city's police department's commissioner and the police chiefs.

The enemy card lords showed themselves because they knew that the impact of summon-integrated Nick would kill more than half of the delinquents they had gathered. So they had no choice but to show themselves to intercept summon-integrated Nick's Meteorite Jump.

However, the enemy card lords weren't the only ones watching out for their juniors. Behind the city borders up in the sky, a fine gold floater hovered and on its deck, the leaders of the Fine Gold, TSR guild, and the Tiger squadron could be seen monitoring the progress of the fight down below.

"I will take care of this," Old Ben said as he prepared to use viltronian flight to get to the enemy card lords.

"I will tag along," Diana volunteered but was immediately rejected by Old Ben, " Miss Diana, I know you want to help but this old man can handle this."

Without waiting for Diana to argue Old Ben took off from the deck of the floater yelling, "Hybrid Rune: Blood Ignition, activate."

Diana prepared to go help Old Ben regardless of his rejection because there were almost a dozen of enemy card lords but was stopped by Van who said, "Sit back and enjoy the show."

"..." Diana frowned, she did not understand what gave Old Ben and Van the confidence that Old Ben could face a dozen enemy card lords all alone. Diana had seen them fight in the sun blossom city but she could not judge their strength back then because she was busy defending against Mark's never-ending skeleton dragon clone army. She knew they were capable and strong however she was not sure if Old Ben was capable enough to take on a dozen card lords by himself. Still, she decided to trust the two for once because their young boss seemed to value the two a lot.

Then when she focused her gaze on Old Ben who was advancing toward the enemy at an insane speed she found his skin had turned red and red vapors were oozing from his body resembling the steam from boiling water. She had seen him do something similar at the sun blossom city fight but back then the vapors oozing from his body were not this intense and the redness of his skin was also lighter than present. It seems Old Ben had gained higher achievement in rule power.

Diana's speculation was right Old Ben had indeed gained a higher achievement in his rule power, he had created a hybrid rune Blood Ignition using his ultimate tier Boiling Blood rune of blood rule and ultimate tier Ignite rune of fire rule.

[Rune Name: Ignite

Rune Tire: Ultimate

Rune Rule: Fire

Rune Spirit: Unborn

Rune Info: Ignite is an ultimate tier rune of fire rule forged using the meaning of Ignite.

Ignite allows the user to ignite their soul power giving them explosive speed and strength.

Ignite also allows the user to ignite the soul power of inanimate objects or beings with lesser mental strength than themselves. Which could be used to ignite the target's soul pathways resulting in the explosion of the target.

Caution: Please refrain from using Ignite on oneself when the soul energy is low, you may end up igniting your soul pathways.

Note: The user can also ignite the soul pathway of targets with higher mental strength with their permission, providing them the explosive power and speed of the rune.]

[Rune Name: Blood Ignition

Rune Tier: Hybrid

Rune Rule: Fire and Blood

Rune Spirit: Unborn

Rune Info: The blood ignition rune is a hybrid rune forged by fusing the Boiling blood meaning of the blood rule and Ignite meaning of the fire rule.

Blood Ignition allows the user to ignite their boiling blood rune, explosively increasing the effects of their boiling blood rune.

Caution: Igniting the Boiling blood rune will not only explosively increase its status buff but also madness debuff. Igniting the boiling blood rune to the fullest will lead to permanent madness debuff.]

Permanent madness debuff was enough to scare off any card apprentice from ever using this hybrid rune but not Old Ben because this hybrid rune was a perfect match with his origin card's side effect. Old Ben's origin card, Emotion Olfactory Lobe, allowed him to smell other's emotions at a cost which was Emotion paralysis.

This side effect of Old Ben's origin card was a safety mechanism of his origin card such that Old Ben's mind would not be influenced by constantly smelling various emotions of those surrounding him and undergoing something called emotion overload. However, this also became a perfect safety mechanism for Old Ben against his new hybrid rune's permanent madness debuff.

Thanks to his origin card's emotion paralysis effect, Old Ben could use his hybrid rune to the fullest without worrying about its side effects. When Boiling blood rune was used to its fullest it gives Old Ben a 1000 percent boost to all his states but when used under the effect of the hybrid rune this boost increased exponentially.

Under the effect of the Blood ignition hybrid rune Old Ben reached the enemy card lords at an insane speed and in a blink of an eye, he ignite each of their soul pathways before they could react or counter, soon they explode in the sky like fireworks. Old Ben's figure flashed again as he collected their grimoires, then he land back on the deck of the Fine Gold floater. His skin color had returned to normal and his body was no longer oozing steam of blood vapors.

As Old Ben landed next to them, Diana and Cindy looked at him in awe, despite being card lords their sights had barely registered what just happened. They saw Old Ben's figure flash by the enemy card lords twice, once before they explode and later as he collected their grimoires. Both Diana and Cindy did not understand why someone with such monstrous strength was working under a teenager. Then they nodded their heads hearing Van comment, "Show off."

...

Boom! The dust covered the sky as the 150 meters wide mountain collided with the ground leading to an earthquake of large magnitude covering a small area.

Despite the mob scattering beforehand the impact of the summon integrated Nick's meteorite jump had managed to dwindle their numbers by half. Because when the 150 meters wide mountain collided with the ground a large-scale landslide occurred. The landslide spread to the surroundings of the area of impact and buried everything in its path 10 feet deep. The impact of 150 meters wide meteorite was devastating, the damage would be on a larger scale if the height from which it descend was greater than 3000 meters high.

"ROAR!!" Summon integrated Nick then morphed from egg form to humanoid form and let out a thunderous roar. Then immediately he began to grab huge chunks of the ground, asphalt road, and throw them at the delinquents escaping in their hoverbikes, cars, taxis, and bus. Except for the few at the front of the mob and the end of the mob almost all of them were crushed by the meteorite jump or either buried in the landslide that followed.

Under the impact of the meteorite jump, the dust covered the entire area, those at the front of the mob may have managed to survive the landslide caused by the impact but they were blinded by the fog of dust covering the place. So they did not notice that the hundred 110 meters tall mud puppets came together to form a 110 meters tall thousand metes wide landslide which very much resembled a tsunami of mud. The mud tsunami swept away all of the delinquents and continue to advance toward the delinquents at the back who were running for their lives in their modified hover bikes and cars. As the mud tsunami advanced its speed did not slow down as it was using the mud sliding technique to keep advancing and swallowing everything in its path, except one, summon integrated Nick. It was not that the mud tsunami was avoiding the friendly but summon integrated Nick was 180 meters tall, to him the mud tsunami was like a mud wave similar to the waves of the ocean at the beach.

Vivian, her army, and summon-integrated Ed who were following behind the mud tsunami did not stop their advance despite summon-integrated Nick and Tom having annihilated most of the enemies. While the remaining enemies were being pursued by a speeding mud tsunami and large chunks of the ground raining from the sky. Vivian and Ed were pissed at Nick and Tom for hogging all the fun. But they could do nothing about it however to their surprise the huge hands of summon integrated Nick picked Vivian's

giant fairy guards and began to throw them at the escaping delinquents. Seeing giants rain from the sky, the escaping enemies suddenly lost all hope of escaping this place alive.

Behind the city borderline, the commissioner sighed and asked Denise, "Chief Denise is your nephew really the leader of these monsters?"

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1276 The Promising Younger Generation

[1,027 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 21:07

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Trade Route

The police Commissioner was not the only one who had this doubt so did the other precinct's police chief. Denise, was still in shock, this day has been an emotional roller coaster for her, from risking her career to keep her nephew from harm's way to learning that the city police department was prepared to sacrifice her nephew to meet the mob's demand to avoid a fight. But as someone who has seen how docile the Bright trio was toward her nephew, she could not help but wonder, 'What kind of monster was her nephew to subdue these monsters, king of monsters?'

However, all she could reply to the commissioner was, "That is what I have heard."

Then the one with grey hair said, "With the prowess displayed by these four, all of them can easily get top ranks in the university entrance exam and apply for the top ten universities.

As for Dalton Wyatt, I had the fortune to witness his fight in the city card fight tournament, now he is a monster of a different kind.

He is not alone, Pax Whiteburn, Corey Bright, and Cortney, these three stood out in that tournament. Pax is not that stronger compared to others but he is younger than them and still has time to grow.

Though Cortney did not show up for the following matches in the tournament and was disqualified from the ranking list. I think she is stronger than Corey, her summons was really strong it displayed the prowess of a card king.

It seems the 100-year-old curse plaguing the city is going to be abolished by this year's batch participating in the college entrance exam."

The police chief with gray hair wasn't the only one, his colleagues thought the same thing and nodded their heads hearing him compliment the younger generation. Some of the police chief's children and grandchildren were a part of the Bright Lions gang. At first, they were opposed to this idea but now they thought otherwise. They hoped that the halo of these kids would somehow help the present and future of their children and grandchildren.

"I don't know about others but I have heard that Dalton Wyatt has been already admitted to the Morningstar university," Denise suddenly chimed in, bragging about her nephew hearing her colleague compliment him.

Denise was not lying, the last time she talked with her daughter she shared the videos of his duel in the city's card fight tournament with her grimoire. Her daughter was so much impressed by the prowess of her cousin that she promised that as long as Wyatt was willing she could get him early admission into the Morningstar university. Overjoyed Denise wanted to share this information with her nephew at that instant but was stopped by her daughter who warned her that the politics in the Morningstar university was very disgusting, so for aunty Ellen's son's safety she cannot be seen pulling favors for him.

However, Denise's daughter did promise her to find a way around it and help her cousin get early admission to the university and also help him find a very dependable background. Who will not only protect him from Morningstar university's politics but also help him grow unhindered. Denise was not aware if her daughter was able to keep her promise but she jumped the gun and bragged about her nephew to her colleagues.

All these years she was miserable unable to brag about her brilliant daughter to her friends and colleagues, now that she had a nephew as capable as her daughter, she did not care about jumping the gun nobody can stop her from venting her years of suppressed emotions by bragging about her talented nephew. She was going to brag about him to everyone she knew to her heart's content.

"What?" the commissioner and the police chiefs exclaimed in unison. Because it was unheard of for the top ten universities to recruit students without going through the proper channels. It was not that the top ten universities did not practice such behavior but their part of the southern region never had someone talented enough for the top ten universities to go through that trouble. For Denise's nephew to have such a capable talent, they were astonished.

Some, like the police commissioner, who were acquainted with the Wyatt couple, regretted not attending their funeral and adopting their orphaned son. But right now the police commissioner had something else weighing her mind, "Why did you not tell this sooner when the mob was demanding that I hand over Dalton Wyatt? If I had known that he was getting an early admission into the Morningstar university I would have done everything in my power to protect the city's hope."

"...." Denise frowned listening to the Commissioner trying to blame Denise for her decisions.

"Honestly, I am not surprised. I heard rumors that Ellen Wyatt hails from a big family in the central capital and had completed her graduation from the Morningstar university. If you ask me, his early admission is more of legacy admission than talent recruitment." One of the police chiefs who did not have child or grandchild of the boy's age and stood not to gain from flattering Denise or the boy spoke up hearing the Commissioner blame Denise for not telling her such an important piece of news which almost hurt the hope of their city. As for how did he hear this rumor, let's just say he had friends in the inner circle of the Circle's sky blossom city branch.

"I do not know about that rumor, but he seems to be 'very close' with Southern Emperor if you know what I mean. She even showed up to watch his duel in the city card fight tournament. Then there is the news about him being the fraudster of the year who managed to con the southern emperor into helping him successfully register a patent for a fake product. What was it called? It's on the tip of my tongue but I cannot remember it," another police chief who was not on good terms with Denise took the opportunity to put her in her place.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

- Chapter 1277 Envy And Greed

Chapter 1277 Envy And Greed

[1,207 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 21:15

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Trade Route

"Silver milk powder, I heard of it too," the police chief from earlier nodded in agreement.

Listening to them bash Ellen's son's reputation, Denise was fuming and was about to explode on them but was beaten to the punch by the Commissioner who yelled, "You dumb fucks you all knew about Dalton Wyatt being on close terms with the Southern emperor and yet none of you said a beep about it when I agreed with the mod's demands to hand him over to them? Are you guys so desperate for my seat that you could not wait for a week for me to retire from the force with a full pension? Well, let me ease your minds, when the time comes for me to step down I will be endorsing Denise to fill in my shoes as the police commissioner of the sky blossom city police department."

Listening to the commissioner declare that she would endorse Denise to be the next city police commissioner, the face of the two police chiefs from earlier became ugly out of envy and dissatisfaction. Because being endorsed by the previous police commissioner would definitely guarantee Denise the police commissioner seat and not to mention with a nephew attending Morningstar university none of the bureaucrats would dare to oppose her rise to power.

As for Denise, she was not impressed by the commissioner announcing her support for her becoming the next city police commissioner as she still did not forget this bitch was the one who was willing to sacrifice her nephew to the mob to keep her record clean before retiring the force with a full pension to joining the private sector. And not to mention she did not have an ambition of becoming the city commissioner lately because she had come to realize that as commissioner she would not actually be able to do as much as good she was doing as a police chief because of the hardcore office politics in the department.

...

"It seems we had underestimated the Bright Lions gang. Even I am not sure if I can take on those four kids. They are already strong enough to fight on par with early-stage card lords physically and if they make use of their rule power it is a different story," Cindy commented witnessing the Bright Lions annihilate a mod of a hundred thousand card apprentices with two moves, namely the meteorite jump and the mud tsunami.

"By the way where is Jaya? Did she not leave the tower earlier than us why is she not here yet?" Diana was impressed by the prowess displayed by the Bright Trio and Vivian but she was more worried about her sister who did not make it to the fight in time. To be honest she was somewhat relieved that Jaya was not here. Her sister has been training very hard ever since her embarrassing defeat in the card fight tournament. Yes, she had made a lot of progress and was a lot stronger and more efficient than before but her prowess was nowhere close to what these four monsters representing the Bright Lions gang in the absence of their leader displayed.

"Who knows, that idiot did not take the company car, instead decided to fly. Knowing her, she might be lost. This Vivian though, she is quiet and minds her business in the lab. Never in a billion years would I have guessed that she had such a violent side to her," Working with Vivian and Sarah on the Slime Fairy project Cindy has formed an opinion about each of them but today, in the fight, Vivian showed a totally different side that Cindy had not witnessed before.

...

High up in the sky above the Fine Gold floater vessel, four figures could be seen hiding between the clouds. It was none other than Ann, Anna, their grand uncle Lorenzo, and for some unknown reason Jaya Keiths. They too like the leaders of Fine Gold, TSR Guild, and the Tiger Squadron were observing the progress of the situation down below.

"See, I told you, your lover is definitely holding out on us. He never told us about the giant transformation cards being used by his subordinates. It seems to be handier and cheaper than the MegaMorpher idea that he pitched to us. A unit of southern watch equipped with these giant transformation cards could easily conquer about a few hundred miles within the Way Beyond," Lorenzo complained to Anna seeing the two Bright brothers use the second transformation of their Calamity daughter gem to annihilate a mob of hundred thousand with one move each.

"..." Anna and Ann did not bother to argue with Lornezio because if they were to listen to him, he would prefer they lock their young lover in the royal palace basement and force him to create cards for the royal family and its soldiers for the rest of his life.

"Sir, forgive my rudeness but it is up to my boss to decide whom to share his creation with. The southern watch or the royal family has no say in it. That said, if her highness, Southern Emperor, ever demanded his help I am sure my boss will not refuse to offer his creation to the southern watch if it meant serving the southern region," Jaya immediately came to her charming boss's rescue listening to the old man fill the southern emperor's ears with ill-willed hearsay about her boss.

As much as she wanted to scold the old man silly for targeting her young charming boss, she was in the company of the southern region's most respected and powerful being so she had to behave and not sully the name her charming boss, the Fine Gold, and her sister. Not to mention she has to make her charming boss look good when there were people blatantly slandering him to the southern emperor.

Jaya had arrived at the city border a little late but seeing the tense situation down below she did not immediately join the Bright Lions gang. Instead, she flew higher in the sky planning to hide between the clouds and make an entrance when Bright Lions gang desperately struggled against the mob like a hero but to her surprise flying to a higher altitude she ran into the Southern emperor and her aides who were hiding in the clouds and observing the situation down below. One thing led to another and she joined them to spectate the fight down below.

"Another maiden's heart has fallen victim to that boy's honey words, sigh this world is so unfair," Lorenzo exaggerated. Hearing him Jaya's cheeks and ear lodes turned red in shame.

Anna suddenly turned to look at Jaya as she felt a sudden disturbance in the force. Causing Jaya to blush even more. This silly girl was unaware that one of her strongest competitors in pursuit of her charming boss's love was the southern emperor herself and did not mind being obvious about her feeling for him in front of the southern emperor. Anna's face turned dark as she mouthed, "Damn that womanizer."

"Huh, what was that? Your highness, did you say something?"

"Amen, nothing. The wind at this altitude must be messing with your hearing."

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1278 Demon Merchant Page

[1,044 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 14:39

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

"Summon Demon Merchant Codex," equipping the Demon Merchant Codex card in one of my free item card slots, I activated it with great enthusiasm and anticipation.

[Do you want to summon Demon Merchant Codex as a separate item or as part of your grimoire?

Note: The changes made are not permanent and the user can switch between the two modes at their convenience.]

[>Summon Demon Merchant Codex as an independent item. (Not recommended)

Note: will permanently utilize one slot of your item card slot. Risk of exposing Demon Merchant Codex. Vulnerable to third-party surveillance.]

[>Summon Demon Merchant Codex as part of your grimoire. (Strongly recommended)

Note: Will add extra pages to the user's grimoire for the sole purpose of Demon Merchant Codex. Will not utilize a slot of item card slots. Will increase the privacy of the user by strengthening the firewall of the grimoire eliminating the risk of third-party surveillance.]

panda-њovê|.côM Seeing a series of dialogue box pop in my grimoire, my enthusiasm and anticipation decreased by half as I went through them. I was not sure which of the two options to choose from. However, since the changes were not permanent and I could switch between the two modes at my convenience I decided to go with the recommended mode for now, "Summon demon merchant codex as part of the grimoire."

With my command, my golden grimoire was covered in a brilliant golden halo that shone brightly as I heard the pages of my grimoire move fastly and the grimoire close loudly. Then the golden halo disappeared and my grimoire floated in front of me like it would normally.

To my surprise, my golden color had darkened and it looked more like dark gold than golden grimoire. I guess this means my golden grimoire has fused with my demon merchant codex. I did not worry much about the color change of the grimoire because golden and higher grade grimoires had the feature to camouflage the grade of the grimoire, so with a thought, I changed the Dark gold color of the grimoire back to the regular golden color.

Fixing that, I opened the grimoire to check out the Demon Merchant pages added to the grimoire. Arriving a the demon merchant page I was welcomed by a copy of the devil merchant code I read in the spiritual plane. Then I was greeted by various features provided to the demon merchants by the devil merchant code,

[Merchant Recommendation: You have one recommendation quota, it will refresh in 10 years.

Note: You can exchange recommendation quota with other demon merchants for appropriate prices and offerings.]

[Oath Records: Demon Merchant Contract. Please make an appropriate offering to call the Devil merchant code as a witness to your oaths.]

[Merchant Log: You joined the demon merchant code on 5th April 2321 at 14:39...]

[Inter-realm search: Online, to start searching for the realms next to your realm prepare appropriate offerings.]

[Inter-realm communication: Add contacts and prepare appropriate offerings to communicate with the contacts.]

[Inter-realm transportation: Enter the coordinates and prepare the appropriate offerings for transportation.]

[Inter-realm network: Online, to enter the inter-realm network prepare the appropriate offerings.]

[Exchange: Online, to initiate an exchange prepare the appropriate offerings.]

[Guilty Appeal: None. Do you want to register a guilty appeal?]

[Guilty Pardon: None. Do you want to register a guilty pardon for others?]

[Note: If you do not have an appropriate offering you can use your soul and body as collateral to make use of the various features of the devil merchant code temporarily.]

"What the fuck is considered an appropriate offering?" I was astonished going through the demon merchant page because I could not use any of the notable features of the Devil merchant code without making an appropriate offering.

The demon merchant codex reminds me of the smartphones back on earth where people pay high prices to buy a smartphone and then pay high prices for the internet to access the features of the smartphone with extra hidden charges. Back on earth, I have heard of people selling their kidneys to buy smartphones of luxurious brands. So I was not surprised by the note at the bottom of the demon merchant page which read that a demon merchant could use their soul and body as collateral for temporary access to the features of the devil merchant code.

Now I started to understand why the Devil Merchant code's prowess was able to exceed the limits known to beings in this plane, it was because it was basically an inter-realm conglomerate that made an insane amount of turnover by charging insanely high prices for its services. What was worse was that it had a total monopoly over all kinds of inter-realm services. With no competitors, in the entire physical and spiritual plane the Devil Merchant Code was bound to get fatter and fatter by the day.

Thinking of this my mind started to ache, I could not imagine the vast amount of strength and wealth gathered by the Devil Merchant Code over the centuries and millennia. With that kind of strength and wealth, I bet the Devil merchant code living the chill life that I dreamed for myself. It was hard to tell because Devil Merchant code was a sentient spell that had gone rogue it was not sure if my definition of chill life was the same as its definition of a life of leisure. However, it succeeded to overthrow its masters, at some level, one could also say that it had even managed to become the master of its masters. In my books that fits the bill of a carefree life.

Shaking my head I decided to access the inter-realm network of the devil merchant code hoping to see if I could find some information that would help me better understand the devil merchant code and how to use it efficiently because the features of the devil merchant code seemed expensive, I did not know if my current net worth could support my career as a demon merchant.

[Make an appropriate offering to access the Inter-realm network...]

With that notification, the pages of my grimoire turned and stopped on an empty page but soon a compact array appeared on the page, then a dialogue box appeared next to the compact array that read,

[Place your offering here...]

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,033 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 14:46

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

I glanced at the offering page wondering what to use as an offering. With an idea in mind, I placed a low-tier soul jade on the compact offering array, and soon another dialogue box popped up next to the compact array that read,

[Offering not enough to exchange for minimum services. Please offer a minimum of 1000 low-tier soul jades to get the minimum services of the inter-realm network.]

"Interesting," I muttered to myself seeing the offering array recognize the low-tier soul jade I planned to offer to it and also estimated the worth of it in terms of its services. The valuation of low-tier soul jade was that I had to offer 1000 of those to get the minimum services of the inter-realm network.

Now that I knew I required a minimum of 1000 low-tier soul jades to use the inter-realm network I did not immediately pay the price to start using the inter-realm network because I wanted to check whether the value of the low-tier soul jade in the card world was equal to the value quoted by the Devil merchant code.

If not, was the low-tier soul jade valued more in the card world or the devil merchant code and what was the difference in the valuation? Also, can I find something else as a perfect offering, that was of low value in the card world but of high value in the devil merchant code?

This step was essential for me to determine a cheaper way for me to access the features of the devil merchant code because if I have to pay a minimum of 1000 low-tier soul jades every time I use any one of the devil merchant code's features then I will most likely go broke pursuing a career as a demon merchant.

Thinking of this, next I planned to offer something that was valued as 1000 low-tier soul jades in the card world's market to see if the devil merchant code's market also valued its worth the same as 1000 low-tier soul jades. I planned to repeat this process with various items and ingredients to get an accurate set of data to conclude if there was a way for me to take advantage of the price differences between the two markets.

Thinking of this I first placed about 100 grams of the Phantom Sword Wood valued at 1000 low-tier soul jade in the card world market on the offering array, soon a dialogue box popped up reading,

[Offering enough to use the inter-realm network for 48 hours with a validity period of a month. Do you want to proceed with the transaction?

(Yes/No)

Note: The demon merchant has to use 48 hrs of the inter-realm network availed by them within the validity period of a month or else it will expire.]

"No," I removed the 1000 low-tier soul jade worth of phantom sword wood that I had placed on the array choosing not to go forward with the transaction. Then I placed 1000 low-tier soul jades on the offering array to check how much the mentioned minimum service was.

panda Йovê],còM [Offering enough to use the inter-realm network for 24 hours with a validity period of 10 days. Do you want to proceed with the transaction?

(Yes/No)

Note: The demon merchant has to use 24hrs of the inter-realm network availed by them within the validity period of 10 days or else it will expire.]

"No," Seeing that 1000 low-tier soul jades can get me 24 hrs of inter-realm network usage with 10 day validity period but 100 grams of the phantom sword wood worth a thousand low-tier soul jades in the card world could get me 48 hours of inter-realm network usage with a month validity period, I noted that there was a vast difference in

the price of phantom sword wood in the two markets. The phantom sword wood was valued twice as much in the devil merchant code market than in the card world market.

The valuation of a certain item or ingredient in a market depends on the demand-supply of that item in said market. It appears the demand for the phantom sword wood in the devil merchant code market was larger than in the card world market or else the supply of the phantom sword wood in the devil merchant code market was low compared to that in the card world market. Either way, this helped me conclude that there was a way for me to take advantage of the difference in the price of the two markets to come up with a reasonable offering that would help get the maximum of the devil merchant code features.

Next, I placed 10 grams of low-tier blood rule stone worth 1000 low-tier soul jades in the card world market on the offering array to check how much it was worth in the devil merchant code market,

[Offering enough to use the inter-realm network for 24 hours with a validity period of a month. Do you want to proceed with the transaction?

(Yes/No)

Note: The demon merchant has to use 24 hours of the inter-realm network availed by them within the validity period of a month or else it will expire.]

"No," I was surprised to see that the 10 grams of the low-tier blood rule stone were worth less than the 100 grams of the phantom sword wood in the devil merchant code market.

Then I placed a broken rune of water rule on the offering array, though it was worth a lot more than 1000 low-tier soul jades in the card market I wanted to see how much it was worth in the devil merchant code market,

[Offering not enough to get the minimum services. Please offer a minimum of 10 broken runes of water rule to get the minimum services of the inter-realm network.]

"Fuck me," I blurted seeing that a broken rune of water rule was nearly worth 100 low-tier soul jades in the devil merchant market. I was starting to sense that rule-related items or ingredients were not worth much in the devil merchant market. I had yet to figure out if this was the same for all rule-related items or just a few.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1280 Inter-Realm Network

[1,005 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 14:46

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

[Offering enough to use the inter-realm network for 48 hours with a validity period of a month. Do you want to proceed with the transaction?

(Yes/No)

Note: The demon merchant has to use 48 hrs of the inter-realm network availed by them within the validity period of a month or else it will expire.]

"Yes," I experimented with all the expensive ingredients and items I had on me then concluded that phantom sword wood was the economical offering I could get my hands on for now. Therefore I offered 100 grams of phantom sword wood to get access to the inter-realm network for 48 hours with a validity period of a month.

[Welcome to the Inter-realm network, please choose a network you want to explore,

>Personal Realm Network

>Local Realm Network

>Allied Realm Network

>Inter-Realm Network]

Confused I selected the personal realm network,

[Dear Demon Merchant,

You have yet to host a personal realm network.

Do you want to host a personal realm network by giving the devil merchant code an appropriate offering?

(Yes/No)

Note: Devil Merchant Code will share a percentage of the offering with the demon merchant if someone visits the personal realm network hosted by the demon merchant.]

"No," I finally had an idea of what the four kinds of inter-realm networks mentioned were. They were like the different kinds of area networks back on earth, for example, PAN (Personal Area Network), LAN (Local Area Network), WAN (Wide Area Network), etc.

With this notion in mind, I selected the local realm network,

[Dear Demon merchant,

We are sorry to inform you that your native realm doesn't host a Local Realm Network.

Note: You are the first demon merchant contracted by devil merchant code from your native realm.]

[Do you want to host a local realm network for your native realm by giving an appropriate offering to the devil merchant code?

(Yes/No)

Note: The demon merchant hosting the local realm network will be the Admin of the local realm network. As the admin the demon merchant will govern and manage the local realm network hosted by them and also receive a share of the offering collected by the devil merchant code if someone visits the local realm network hosted by the demon merchant.]

"Mother fucker!" I cussed reading the dialogue box that appeared one after another as I selected the local realm network.

Shouldn't the devil merchant code be hosting the local realm network for the convenience of the native demon merchants of that realm? Instead, it was outsourcing it to the native demon merchants and also giving them the power to govern and manage the network as its admin. This was just a completely capitalistic system.

I had a hunch that I was the sole demon merchant from this world but it was assuring to get confirmation that I was the first demon merchant from my realm straight from the source. But I couldn't help but wonder what about the first devil merchant? Moving on...

I appreciated the capitalist system adopted by Devil Merchant Code because I could get in line with capitalism as long as it doesn't harm me. To be honest, I felt more at ease about using the Devil Merchant Code now that I knew it was a capitalist system.

Despite all other assurance, such as the contract signing with card world's will as a witness, deep down in my heart I was on guard about using the Devil Merchant Code.

Even if it had evolved and broken free of the control of the demons and other dark races, it did not change the fact that it was created by them. As the saying goes, 'You are the product of your surroundings.'

However, now that I have seen that Devil Merchant Code was more about capitalism than some kind of inter-realm overlord, my heart was a little more at ease about using it. So next I selected the Allied Realm Network

[Dear Demon Merchant,

You have no outstanding contract with other realms to enter their local realm networks.

Do you want to use the Inter-realm search feature of the devil merchant code to search for realms by giving the devil merchant code appropriate offering?

(Yes/No)

Note: The foreign realms with which Demon merchants have contracts are called Allied Realms.]

"No," Learning that by using the allied realm network I can enter the local realm network of the realms I am allied with, I moved on to select the Inter-realm network,

[Welcome to the inter-realm network,

>Search

>Inter-Realm City]

[Search: this function of the inter-realm network searches for and identifies items in the inter-realm network database that correspond to keywords or characters specified by the demon merchant.

Note: accessing the search data specified by the demon merchant requires an offering specified by the demon/devil merchant to whom the data belongs to.]

[Inter-Realm City: Inter-realm city is a spiritual city created by the devil merchant code in the spiritual plane for the demon/devil merchant's social and economical development. By allowing them to trade with their fellow demon/devil merchants in person in the spiritual plane.

parlă ăzovă, cōM Caution: Demon merchants are advised to find a secluded and safe space before using this function of the inter-realm network because when used the demon merchant's spirituality will separate from their body and move into the spiritual plane to enter the spiritual city, Inter-realm city.

Note: visiting the inter-realm city for long period will put a strain on the physical body of the demon merchant.]

The inter-realm network which was hosted by the Devil merchant code was more user-friendly as it provided descriptions for each of its functions. Thanks to the description I understood the two functions of the inter-realm network. I felt that the search function was very much like a search engine back on earth.

Except for the fact that all the search engines on earth's internet were free. But considering the fact that those search engines collected our private data and sold it to a third party who was willing to pay for our private data it was good to know that the devil merchant code prioritized user privacy, even though it weighed on my wallet.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1281 Translator Feature

[1,014 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 14:53

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

The inter-realm network's first function, search, resembled a search engine, its second function, Inter-Realm city, from its description sounded much like a virtual city or augmented city that many tech companies back on earth were trying to create. I could not wait to enter the inter-realm city but before that, I had to explore the search function, to see if it can really provide me with the information I am lacking on how to use the demon merchant codex. I need a user manual for this. I could explore blind as I did so far, but it will consume too much time and without the description provided by the Inter realm network I was lost. So, I felt that it would be best if I knew what I was doing to avoid making mistakes.

With that thought in mind, I filled in the following keywords in the search function, "How to use demon merchant codex"

[Searching relevant results for 'How to use demon merchant codex'...]

[No results found in demon merchant's native language...]

[Would you like to see results in other languages?]

[Yes/No]

"Yes," as I answered I too thought, 'how am I going to read the search result in other languages?' My experience with the inter-realm network caused me to believe that it must have a translator feature to it, otherwise, 'why bother yelling at the deaf.'

Soon a row of search results showed up in order of relevance. But these search results were in languages unknown to me and just when I was wondering what to do, a dialogue box popped up asking me,

[Would you like to turn on the translator feature of the inter-realm network by giving the devil merchant code appropriate offering?]

(Yes/No)

Note: the translator feature will only apply to the search results and not the Personal or Local realm network you will be directed to. A separate offering needs to be offered to use the translator feature on other Personal or Local realm networks]

"No," I did not bother to rent the translator feature of the inter-realm network reading the note section. This was just another way for the devil merchant code to fill its pockets at the expense of the demon merchants who are not native to the dark realm. I wonder if Belphegor used the translator feature of the devil merchant code to communicate with me or if he was fluent in the card world's language. If the latter was true then Belphegor's linguistic accomplishment was impressive.

Since the devil merchant code originated in the dark realm and most of the demon/devil merchants belong to the dark realm it was not hard to deduce that the most popular language used in the inter-realm network was the common language used in the dark realm.

Therefore, instead of wasting wealth on renting the translator feature of the inter-realm network, I decided to learn the common language used in the dark realm. I know this idea sounds stupid since I had no idea which language was common in the dark realm and what it was called however I knew how to learn it, to be exact I knew who could teach it to me. It was none other than Corey's ego fire, Corey Park.

So I decided to take a break from the demon merchant codex until I learn the common language in the dark realm from Corey Park. I was very eager to enter the Inter-realm city however I knew the language difference would ruin my first visit to the inter-realm city so I decided to postpone the visit too. Besides, it would not take me long to learn

the language from Corey Park with my Hive AI's assistance. If everything falls in place it will take a few minutes at tops.

Walking out of the isolation array, I looked at the corner of the cave where Corey was busy comprehending blood rule and then I head towards her. Sensing me arrive at Corey's side, Corey Park came out of Corey's body in her flame body and asked, "What is it?"

"I need a favor," I said not knowing how to ask Corey Park to teach me the most common language in the dark realm.

"Sure, what can I help you with?" Corey Park agreed without giving it a thought.

"I want to learn the most common language in the dark realm. Is it possible for you to teach it to me? You just need to provide me with the study material I can learn it by myself," I spoke my mind despite knowing the obvious questions that would rise in Corey Park's mind.

"Sure, I can. Are you planning to trade with demons or some other dark race? Don't tell me it's Belphegor?" Corey Park did not need to bother with why instead she directly deduced what I was up to just based on my favor to her to teach me the most common language in the dark realm.

"Yes, something like that but I promise you it isn't Belphegor this time," Knowing that Belphegor was Corey Park's trauma I immediately explained myself and assured her that I was not planning to trade with Belphegor.

"Well, if you were trading with Belphegor you would not need to learn the common language of the dark realm. However, I warn you it is not just Belphegor, all dark races are cunning and devious by nature. Trickery and greed are in their blood. So whoever it is you are trying to trade with be extra careful than you normally are," warning me to be extra cautious when dealing with anyone from the dark realm Corey Park then added, "There isn't a common language in the dark realm as it is vast and houses many dark races and tribes. Each of these dark races and tribes has there own languages with numerous local dialects. I am only well versed in three languages however these three languages are quite common in the dark realm or at least with these languages I did not have any problem exploring the uncharted dark realm."

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1282 Half A Share

[1,022 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 14:59

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

"So out of the three languages which one do you want me to teach you?" Corey Park asked.

"I have no idea about the dark realm and the civilization there, so I can only seek your guidance regarding this. However, if it is not a bother just teach me all three of them or else any one of the three languages that you feel would be of more help to me," I wanted to learn all three languages but was not sure if Corey Park would be fine with that. Besides, as long as I knew one language from the dark realms, I could use it to search and learn other popular dark realm languages using the search function of the devil merchant code's inter-realm network.

"There is no trouble, If you want to learn all three of the languages then I am game since I will be charging you for my time and services after all. It is going to be expensive since I am the only one in this world who can teach you these languages," Corey Park replied with a grin. She was enjoying the fact that I was at her mercy for a change.

Listening to Corey Park I could not help but shake my head in disappointment as I was indeed planning to learn all three languages from Corey Park for free. Well, now all I can do was negotiate a fair price, "Then how much are your time and services worth?"

Corey Park raised her left eyebrow feeling something was wrong with this question, unable to put her finger on it she chose to not waste time on it, and making eye contact with the boy she demanded, "One percent share in one of your future business ventures of my choosing and I will teach you one of the dark languages I know. That is three percent share if you want to learn all three of the dark languages I know."

"How about you teach me all three dark languages you know for 0.5 percent non-transferable and non-sellable share in the slime fairy project I am currently developing? Also, you will have to assist with the project," The price that Corey Park asked me to teach the dark languages was more than just sky high. This was a negotiation, this was to be expected. So I did not react to her blatant greed and instead, I tolerated it and made her a counteroffer in line with her demand. Feeling she would be more prone to agree to these terms.

"Deal," Corey Park immediately agreed to my offer and added, "No takebacks. "please visit

"Fine, but are you sure about agreeing to my offer without learning more about the slime fairy project and its development?" I was surprised by Corey Park's decisiveness.

"Yes, I am. I and Corey require a lot of money but neither of us is good at earning money. We have zero ideas about how the market works or how to run a business but you do. So if you feel the slime fairy project is worth investing your time and energy then it will definitely be a big hit in the market and earn a lot of wealth. I am sure you will do everything in your power to make that happen. So don't mind me hitching my ride to your money-printing wagon," Corey Park explained. She seemed genuinely happy getting 0.5 shares in my slime fairy project in exchange for teaching me three dark languages.

"Good for you, but you do know that now you too work for me, right?" Corey was already my subordinate, as a part of Corey's abilities, technically Corey Park should also be considered my subordinate but considering that she was sentient and had her own will, I never considered her as one. But now it was different, Corey Park had not only agreed to teach me the three dark languages but also assist with slime fairy projects so in a way she was now working for me.

"Yes, boss," Corey Park shouted enthusiastically. For someone who claims to be a demon who led large armies back in the dark realm, Corey Park had very little pride. Or it may be because of this fresh attitude of hers the reason why she could grow to that extent in the dark realm despite her being a human in the world of demons.

"Well, I have shared three contacts with you. Contact either of them once you leave the dungeon they will get you up to speed about the slime fairy project, if you have any doubts you can ask them. See where you can assist them and make yourself useful," I ordered Corey Park sharing the contacts of Cindy, Vivian, and Sarah. As these three were currently leading the slime fairy project. I had already created the recipe for the slime fairy card collection, all they had to do was figure out a way for the slime fairies summoned using these cards to be more expressive so that they feel more like living women in heat than a bunch of living dolls.

"Got it, boss. Don't worry I will try everything in my power to help with the slime fairy project. After all, it is my ticket to get rich quick," Corey Park assured me that she would give her best to help with the slime fairy project as it was her ticket to becoming a rich lady.

"Good to know, now how do you plan to teach me the three languages? If you can make the study materials for all three languages then I can learn them by myself," As long as I had the study materials for the languages, Hive AI would process them for me, and with its assistance, I could easily become fluent in all three languages in no time.

"No worries, boss. I have already created study material for the three dark languages for Corey. I will share them with your grimoire," Saying that Corey Park summoned Corey's grimoire and shared the study material with my grimoire.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1283 Language Barrier

[1,090 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 15:09

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

"You made these detailed study materials for Corey, why? Should she not know how to speak them like how she can use your martial arts?" I asked Corey Park in confusion as I took a glance at the study materials shared by her with my grimoire before transferring them to the Hive AI.

"Yea, I see why you would think that. Let me clarify even though her origin card allows her to inherit my memories along with the wisdom and knowledge that comes with them, she still needs to practice and polish them. Otherwise, she would be just mimicking them. So, in a way you can say that it is easier for her to achieve success in things that I learned in my past life," Corey Park explained that Corey's origin card helped her inherit and master everything Corey Park had.

"That explains why she still acts like a kid despite having lived two lives," I was really curious as to how Corey's origin card worked just knowing the card info was not enough I would have to experience it to know what it was actually capable of.

"Well she is still a kid, after all, her ability is both a boon and a curse. Thank you for being patient with her. What surprise's me is you, how are so mature at such a young age? Don't try to sell me the bullshit that as an orphan you had no choice but to mature faster. I had been through more tragedy than you when I was of your age but I did not have your level of maturity and I was not as independent as you are," I had no idea if Corey Park was complimenting me or investigating me. So, I decided to ignore her words and asked her, "Could you list a few common dark languages popularly used in the dark realm other than the three you already shared with me?"

Seeing me change the topic Corey Park shook her head as used Corey's grimoire to text the list of other common languages popularly used in the dark realm. Receiving the

text list of dark languages I thanked Corey Park and headed toward the corner of the cave where I had set up the isolation array.

There was a reason why I asked Corey Park to share the list of common dark languages because I planned to learn all of them by finding study material on learning those languages through the search function of the inter-realm network. This way my search results would be more relevant and efficient with the absence of the language barrier. please visit

Having hailed for a civilization that had developed a worldwide network I knew how people manipulated it to achieve their agenda by spreading their false narratives. There was no telling that the same was not true for the inter-realm network. Especially, when the Devil merchant code outsourced the hosting of local realm networks to natives of that realm while giving them the power to govern and manage the local realm network as its admin.

I was worried that most of the search results I got using the search function of the devil merchant code were censored just like how back on earth the internet in different countries was censored by their governments or dictators. The reason the censorship worked out so well for the governments and dictators was that the people of that country were not knowledgeable enough to access the uncensored internet of other countries or even if they were what they could learn limited by the language barrier.

This was why I was so focused on eliminating the language barrier that I was facing while using the inter-realm network by learning various popular common languages used in the dark realms. Such that I could access the information available in all those languages, weed out false information and learn the extra information that was not available in other languages.

Yes, this method seems expensive but in a long run, I can use this to pinpoint the gap in the devil merchant code market. The gap which no demon/devil merchant has noticed or thought of so far and take advantage of it to earn back my initial investment with 1000 percent profits. For now, I was just at the doorstep I had no idea what will happen and could not guarantee success but I felt that this was the most efficient and safe to use the inter-realm network.

By the time I walked into the isolation array, Hive AI had already processed the study material on the three dark languages for me and transferred them to my consciousness. So without further ado, I summoned my grimoire and opened the demon merchant page. Then I directly opened the Inter-realm network and accessed its search function to search for study materials on the various common dark languages listed by Corey Park one by one using one of the dark languages I had just learned.

It was easier for me to find the study material on the various dark languages than I thought it would be, not to mention that the study materials on each of these dark languages just cost me 1000 low-tier soul jades, considering that it was the minimum

offering required by the devil merchant code, these study material on the dark languages were very cheap.

I guess it may be because the more people knew a particular dark language the more traffic the local realm networks that used that particular dark language would get. More traffic meant more business and not to forget the percentage of offerings shared by the devil merchant code with demon/devil merchant hosting that personal or local realm network. The demon/devil merchants who host their own personal or local realm network stood to make more profit if more demon merchants visited them. So it was not a surprise that the demon/devil merchants would be selling study material to learn their native dark language at a cheap price.

Procuring the study materials on numerous dark languages, I had the Hive AI process them for me. Corey Park was right the three languages she taught me were more than sufficient for one to get around the dark realm as all the study materials I found used either one of these languages. So the half a share of the slime fairy project I spent to get the study material on three dark languages that Corey Park knew was totally worth it.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1284 Dark Languages

[994 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 15:15

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

Once Hive AI was done processing all 13 dark languages that I bought on the inter-realm network, adding the 3 dark languages that I got from Corey Park I was now fluent in 16 dark languages. These 16 dark languages were the prominent common dark languages, they made up more than ninety-nine percent of the search results in the inter-realm in the inter-realm network. The dark races and tribes in the dark realm were fluent in or understood any one of these 16 dark languages.

With issues of the language barrier taken care of, I did not waste time and immediately filled in the following keywords in the search function of the inter-realm network, "How to use demon merchant codex"

[Searching relevant results for 'How to use demon merchant codex'...]

Soon a long row of search results appeared, arranged in the order of relevance. The results on the top had sponsored tags attached to them and the results a few rows below had trending and recommend tags attached to them.

Ignoring the search results with sponsored tags I directly went for the search results with the trending and recommended tags, then chose the first result with the title, 'Beginners guide to the demon merchant codex.'

The title was in line with what I was looking for and along with the trending and recommended tag, I did not see a reason why I should not pick this result,

[The search result 'Beginners guide to the demon merchant codex' is seeking your permission to open a personal-realm network 'Beginner's Heaven.' Do you want to allow it?

(Yes/No)

Note: The personal-realm network 'Beginner's Heaven' is independently hosted by a Devil Merchant. Devil Merchant Code will not be liable for any transaction conducted by the demon merchant in the personal-realm network 'Beginner's Heaven.' However, the demon merchant can report the personal-realm network 'Beginner's Heaven' using the guilty appeal in case of any form of malpractice.]

"Yes," I was not alarmed by the lengthy note because I have I seen the same note while buying the 13 dark languages in their respective local realm network. The note was mostly a reminder that the devil merchant code cannot be held responsible if the demon/devil merchant gets conned in a realm network that was not the inter-realm network. This was common for capitalist conglomerates, they used this to escape responsibility for the negative impact of their product on society. The most famous example of this was the social media companies back on earth.

[Opening personal-realm network 'Beginner's Heaven'...]

[Welcome to personal-realm network 'Beginner's Heaven,'...]

Opening the personal-realm network I was saw greeted by various misleading ads that claimed to help the newbie demon merchants get rich quickly or make a small fortune by doing little work with less risk. I guess being a top search result with a lot of traffic had its perks. The Devil Merchant hosting this personal realm network must be stupid rich because of the following dialogue box,

[Do you want to advertise your business in the personal-realm network 'Beginner's Heaven'?

(Yes/No)please visit

Note: The ads advertised in the personal-realm network 'Beginner's Heaven' strictly follow pay-per-view. The cost varies depending on the location.]

"No," seeing the ad section, I felt that making a fortune in the devil merchant code should be as easy as spending it if you know what you are doing.

Take this personal-realm network 'Beginner's Heaven,' the devil merchant hosting this personal realm network has his entire network built around exploiting the newbie demon merchants. For this personal realm network to survive so long and not be reported by other demon merchants it should be legit or its host was just too good at scamming the newbie demon merchants.

Knowing this I was not very thrilled about buying the 'Beginners guide to the demon merchant codex' because this article was most likely written by the host of this network. However, I had to buy this article because there must be some merit to it otherwise it would not be at the top of both trending and recommended search results. But just to be safe I decided to visit a few other articles at the middle and the bottom of the search results and in different languages.

This was going to be costly but I had to do this if I wanted to avoid being conned or taken advantage of. Besides wealth spent on acquiring knowledge was always well wealth well spent because the acquired knowledge will be used someday if not today.

I tried finding the review and comment sections but none of the personal or local realm networks I visited had them. So I wondered if the devil merchant code did not have that function or if all of them had opted not to add a review and comment section to their network. So I was left with little choice but to spend wealth to assure that I got legit information.

['Beginners guide to the demon merchant codex' - 10,000 soul jades

(Buy Now/Add to cart)]

"Buy"

[Do you want to continue payment using the previous payment method?

(Yes/No)

Note: Payment method is determined based on the demon merchant's previous transaction logs for the demon merchant's convince.]

"Yes"

[Beginners guide to the demon merchant codex' - 500g Phantom Sword Wood

(Pay/Decline)

Note: the demon merchant can switch the payment method by placing the payment on the offering array.]

"Pay," 500g of phantom sword wood was worth 5000 low-tier soul jades back in the card world but here it was worth 10,000 low-tier soul jades, and since I had huge reserves of phantom sword wood was my preferred to pay method since the Devil merchant code did not seem to have a standardized currency. I wondered how this worked. Maybe I will find the answer in the article but I did not hold my breath on it as I did not have high hopes for this article considering how I was greeted with numerous ads which seemed to prey on newbie demon merchants.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1285 Articles Worth A Fortune

[1,020 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 15:22

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

After buying access to the article 'Beginners guide to the demon merchant codex' I did not immediately read it instead had the Hive AI copy it. Then I returned to the inter-realm network's list of search results and visited various results at the middle and bottom of the search results and made sure they were of different dark languages. Buying the articles I had Hive AI copy them so that I could read the articles at my convenience and compare them with other articles. I spent a fortune on this hoping that it would all be worth it in the long run.

Once I had enough articles, I went through them one by one keeping an open mind and not forming a bias. Soon I noticed that all these articles had one thing in common, they

recommended the reader opt for the advanced classes on how to efficiently use the demon merchant codex, etc conducted by the authors of respective articles.

If these articles were that just I did not mind reporting them all to the devil merchant but they were not, each of them had mentioned a detailed approach to using the demon merchant codex base on their targeted audience.

They were very detailed about what various functions of the demon merchant codex did and how to efficiently use them without spending a fortune as an offering to the devil merchant code. Most functions offered by the devil merchant code were pretty straightforward except for the inter-realm communication function of the devil merchant code. As for the Inter-realm search, there was no way around spending a fortune to find a new realm. But they did mention an effective and economical way to minimize the losses.

That was to not offer soul jades as offering to use these functions of the devil merchant code and instead listed various items and ingredients that are apparently worth more in the devil merchant code market than their native market. Most of the items and ingredients mentioned on the list, I had no idea about as they do not seem to exist in the card world. And considering that I had already figured this, this part of these articles was mostly worthless to me.

Lastly, they mention various common scams in the inter-realm network and inter-realm city targeting newbie demon merchants. When it came to this section, the articles exposed and warned about the scams conducted by the other dark races and tribes. This was only possible because I bought articles of the same niche in different dark languages. please visit

Each dark language represents a different community of dark races and tribes in the dark realm. The various dark races and tribes had fierce competition among them therefore they warned the demon merchants of their community about the scams other communities of dark races and tribes conduct. This way their fellow demon merchants would not fall prey to the scams of other dark races or tribes but instead fall for their scams. They saw scamming a fellow demon merchant of the same community not as scamming them but as teaching them a valuable lesson at a price so that they would never forget it. This was a shameless defense but good enough. I call this tactic keeping the wealth in the family.

The most informative of all were the new articles that were at the middle of the search results because they exploited the fact that the authors of the articles at top of the search result do not bother to update their articles even if they did they did not do update their articles periodically with the changing market.

So the articles in the middle made use of the current information that was not available in the old articles to stand out to the search function of the inter-realm network allowing them to be ranked in the middle of the search results over the articles at the bottom who

just beat around the bush about information that was already mentioned in the top and older articles.

But I found a gem in the articles at the bottom of the search results, this article was very informative yet at the bottom of search results mostly because it was barely relevant to my search, as this article spoke about the author's experience as a newbie demon merchant tackling all the problems a newbie demon merchant would be facing.

This article also mentioned how the devil merchant code was able to function without a centralized currency. It was because the items and ingredients we offer in exchange for information or item from a fellow demon merchant were directly bought by the devil merchant code in case the said demon merchant did not want said offering while compensating the demon merchant in question in terms of the offering of his choosing based on market value or soul jades on rare occasions. What made this possible was the devil merchant code's ability 'exchange'. It used this ability to conduct independent trades with various realms' wills.

The article did not explain why the various realms would need the offerings so this explanation was more of a hypothesis than a fact. However, it still did not change the fact that this article was more informative than any other article I bought but combined they all were worth the fortune I spent to buy them.

Going through all of the articles I finally had an idea of how to use the various functions of the devil merchant code, this way I would not be going in blind when I use the various functions of the devil merchant code for the first time especially the inter-realm communication function which allowed the demon/devil merchants to communicate with the natives of the other realm. This function of the devil merchant code had more to it than one would imagine.

These articles have proven to be very informative and helpful when it came to know-how about using the various function of the demon merchant codex efficiently proving that they were worth every penny spent on them.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1286 Meteorite Mining

[1,013 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 15:29

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

Now that I had an idea about how to use the demon merchant codex's functions, I decided to use the inter-realm search function to search for a meteorite or a realm in the card world's vicinity.

Yes, I can use the inter-realm search function to search for big meteorites full of resources in the vicinity of the card world and mine them. I learned this application of the inter-realm search function through the articles.

The demon merchant codex doesn't inform you of this application of inter-realm search function or report the finding of a meteorite but if you specify this specifically during the search then it was possible to use the inter-realm search and transportation functions to mine a meteorite for resources.

To think demon merchants would be able to achieve space mining through devil merchant code who knows how long it would have taken me to think of this application of the inter-realm search and transportation if not for reading it in the articles.

Meteorite mining was the main reason why I was opting to try out the inter-realm search function of the demon merchant codex instead of visiting the inter-realm city.

As for finding a realm, I did not hold my breath on that. Because if there were realms in the vicinity of the card realm then they would have been already found by Belphegor and other demon/devil merchants that had been to this world.

According to the devil merchant code whoever finds a realm first gets to own the coordinates of that realm making it so that others can't find it on their inter-realm search of course this was only possible by giving the devil merchant code an appropriate offering.

Therefore I was quite sure that the first demon/devil merchant to discover this realm must have already located most of the realms in its vicinity. So it did not make sense for me to waste my fortune on running the inter-realm search for light-years just to come up with nothing. This situation was true for all the new generation of demon merchants because their predecessors had already found all realms in the vicinity of their native realm.

This was especially true for the demon/devil merchants from dark races and tribes in the dark realm. So when most of the realms were already monopolized by older generations of the demon and devil merchants the desperate ones got creative leading to the discovery of using inter-realm search and transportation functions to achieve meteorite mining.

Not to mention that meteorite mining was easier and hassle-free than conducting trade with natives of other realms. All you had to do was find a big meteorite using the inter-realm search function and then take a gamble that the meteorite discovered had enough resources to cover the cost of two-way inter-realm transportation and excavation and a sizeable profit for your efforts.

Some meteorites are usually just big chunks of rock floating in space or do not have enough resources to cover the cost of two-way inter-realm transportation. Meteorite Mining was a huge gamble. Many demon merchants and devil merchants have gone bankrupt and lost their souls to the devil merchant code by risking their entire net worth on mining a meteorite. But there were also lucky ones who had earned a lifetime of wealth just by mining a meteorite. Making it a very addictive trend.

According to what I have read in the articles the inter-realm city has many auction houses where they auction high-valued meteorites and meteorites with rare resources. And also sell low-valued meteorites. They excavate both auctioned and sold meteorites on spot for free just to give their customers the thrill of gambling.

The auction house sets the base price for each meteorite based on the valuation suggested by their in-house meteorite appraisal expert. These experts were able to judge the value of a meteorite by appraising the rock and metals that make the crust of the meteorite.

No one can actually guarantee the actual valuation of a meteorite because no one knows how much and what resources a meteorite has in its core and how much the resources mined will be worth just by looking at its surface. Regardless this made a fun gambling game for demon and devil merchants to indulge in regardless of its addictive factor.

Since nobody can question their valuation, it was not a surprise that the auction houses provide free meteorite mining services to each of their customers. As they say in the casinos, 'the house always wins.'

I did not plan to gamble, I just want to experience meteorite mining because as someone who invested my time and energy into creating a successful space program that would allow us to successfully mine big meteorites for rare resources but had to leave it unfinished and incomplete because of complicated circumstances, this was my dream come true.

And if I happen to find more meteorites in the inter-realm search then I will just sell the extra meteorite to the auction house.

Rich demon and devil merchants love to compete with each other by gambling on meteorites, making a huge market for meteorites. But this also meant that the auction houses will not buy any meteorites demon merchants bring to their doorsteps. They only

buy meteorites if the said meteorite meets their standards and gets a satisfactory valuation from their in-house meteorite appraisal experts.

With this thought in mind, I access the inter-realm search function of the demon merchant page, while giving it specific commands. That was to search for massive meteorites within the one-tenth light-years radius of my native realm. I had no idea how many meteorites I will find within the one-tenth light-years distance of this card world using the inter-realm search but even if I were to find a single meteorite then I would consider myself lucky. Since the other demon and devil merchants have already found this realm I would not be surprised that they had already found, bought, and excavated or sold all the meteorites within a light-year distance of this realm.

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Chapter 1287 Inter-Realm Rich

[1,000 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 15:29

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

[Welcome to Inter-realm search,

Request: Find asteroids and massive meteorites within a one-tenth light-years radius of the native realm.

Do you want to calculate the appropriate offering required to conduct the search?

(Yes/No)

Note: Be specific about your inter-realm search request to get better pricing.]

"Yes," after answering I realized I was cashing a check that my entire network plus my soul and body could not cash. A light-year meant the distance traveled by light in a year which was about 5,879 trillion miles. Even a tenth of it was still a freaking 587.9 trillion miles, now that's a lot. I would not be surprised if the demon merchant codex demands an insane amount of offerings to execute my search request.

[Dear Demon Merchant,

Calculating the appropriate offering required to conduct the search... ETA: 4seconds

Note: Be specific about your inter-realm search request to get better pricing.]

Having read in the articles on the basics of the demon merchant codex that the devil merchants usually search a light-year radius around a certain realm I thought the offering required to conduct a search of that scale should not be a lot considering how cheap demon and devil merchants can be but when I thought about it for a second I realized my mistake.

[Dear Demon Merchant,

The offering required to commence your inter-realm search request is 5.879 million trillion low-tier soul jades.

Do you want the inter-realm search to proceed with your search request?

(Yes/No)

Note: For large transactions, the devil merchant code provides various payment options including numerous loan options.]

"No," I immediately retracted my search request. 5.879 million trillion low-tier soul jades, I don't know if I can find that amount of soul jades even if I mine every dungeon on the surface of this card world.

At least with this, I confirmed that the Devil merchant code's inter-realm search function charges 1000 low-tier soul jades to conduct a search request of a mile radius around the realm.

That may sound cheap but considering that moon of this world was several hundred thousand miles away from its surface and if I wanted to find an asteroid or massive meteor I would have to go further than the moon I should be conducting a search of at least a half million-mile radius around the realm, which would end up costing me a billion low tier soul jades. I don't think even the southern royal family or the central government can afford this expense let alone an orphaned high schooler.

No wonder all the articles on the basics of demon merchant codex that I bought on the inter-realm network did not mention the about price of using the inter-realm search. If they did then they would have crushed the dreams of all the newbie demon merchants who had dreamt about conquering various realms.

I can not imagine the wealth the devil merchants should have for them to conduct a search of a light-year radius around the realms. I suddenly felt like a frog at the bottom

of a well as even the wealth I could have accumulated with the sales of silver milk power had the silver beach dungeon not been stolen would not be enough.

From the looks of it, my plans to excavate an asteroid would have to wait for me to accumulate some serious wealth. Shaking my head dejectedly as I had lost all the enthusiasm I had about exploring the various functions of the demon merchant codex.

'Fuck!' I cussed in my mind out of frustration because it became clear to me that I did not have the wealth to use the inter-realm search and transportation function of the demon merchant codex.

How did the devils accumulate that much wealth? I wondered, unable to let go. But then it all made sense to me. If I were to conduct a search of a 5,879 trillion miles radius around the card world for the first time using the inter-realm search then I cannot imagine how many realms, asteroids, and massive meteorites would end up finding. I bet by selling the asteroids and the massive meteors alone I would be able to accumulate more wealth than what I spent on conducting such a large-scale search. Not to forget the wealth I could get from the new realms I found during the search.

Thinking of this I finally understood why the new articles on the basics of the demon merchant codex complained about the older generation of demon and devil merchants monopolizing most of the devil merchant code. No newbie demon merchant can afford the cost of searching an asteroid let alone a realm unless they were backed by some bigshot demon or devil merchant. Come to think of it one of the articles did mention there being organizations that would employ new demon merchants.

All hope was not lost when it came to traveling to various realms, the articles did mention that there were other ways for a demon merchant to go to foreign realms such as joining an organization, serving a devil merchant, buying a Realm Token, or the one widely used by the demon and devil merchants of the dark realm to use the realm traveling technique developed their ancestor to get the coordinates of various realms and then inputting those coordinates to their demon merchant codex.

Earlier I did not give this section that much attention since I thought I would be fine using the inter-realm search function but now facing reality I had to give these methods a second thought. The demon merchants of the dark races of the dark realm use their tribe's realm traveling method to get around the insane pricing of the devil merchant code but the demon merchants that were not from the dark realm such as myself did not have this option.

Joining an organization of demon/devil merchants or serving a devil merchant were not the options for me but I can consider buying realm tokens but it was not going to be cheap or...

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Chapter 1288 Sector DS0909

[990 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 15:37

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

Or I could create my own method to locate the coordinates of various realms in the vast space. When I say it out loud, this idea sounded as crazy as accumulating a few million trillion low-tier soul jades to spend it all on a single search. There had to be a better way, I could try to buy the method developed by the dark races and tribes of the dark realm to locate and travel to realms in the inter-realm network. Now that sounded plausible, why waste my time and energy developing my own method of realm travel to locate the coordinates of other realms when I could just learn it from others?

It doesn't have to be the dark races from the dark realm, the top ten universities had developed their methods to track and travel to other realms though their methods still had a long way to go compared to the methods developed by the dark races, all I needed was coordinates of a few foreign realms, as for the traveling part I had demon merchant codex.

Come to think of it I did not need to go deal with the dark races or the top ten universities for the inter-realm travel methods that I wanted from them, I could just ask Corey Park. She did say she was willing to sell various inter-realm travel methods she learned during her past life in the dark realm for a price.

Though I don't know if going to Corey Park for help about this matter would be the right choice. I say this because the method she used in the city card fight tournament allowed her to summon her familiar from the dark realm, I don't see how I could use it to discover new realms in deep space and collect their accurate coordinates. Her realm travel method would at best help me get the coordinates of the Dark Realm, not discover new realms.

Corey Park may have other methods too that could help me with my situation but I suddenly thought of a better alternative, Jill Norley. How could Jill with my current predicament? I will get to that but before that,

In my conversation with Ann about the world-travel method developed by the top ten universities, I clearly remember her saying that they have discovered new realms and also tried to travel to those realms but failed as the will of the discovered realm would react violently to their attempts to travel to that realm.

This meant the top ten universities had coordinates to new realms that they had discovered to conduct their realm travel experiments. If it is something the top ten universities have then I can get my hands on them with help of my guy, Jill Norley. All this time I had a guy to get me the coordinates of newly discovered realms that I needed in my contact list but I was looking everywhere else.

'Ain't that a bitch,' I thought to myself as I regained my enthusiasm to explore the various function of the demon merchant code. Postponing the inter-realm search and transportation for later when I am able to get my hands on a few coordinates of newly discovered realms I decided to pay a visit to the city in the spiritual plane, Inter-realm city.

[Dear Demon Merchant,

Please select the sector of the Inter-realm city you want to arrive at,

Recommended sectors for the demon merchant,

>ES0012

>ES1304

>NS0176

>WS0003

.

.

Note: The time zones of these recommended sectors are the same or nearly similar with a negligible difference from the time zone of the demon merchant's native realm.

All available sectors,

>NS3405

>NS2323

>WS0787

>SS0089

>DS0909

Note: The time zones of these sectors are not the same as the time zone of the demon merchant's native realm. The demon merchant will have to offer an extra offering to make up for the difference in the time zones.]

"DS0909," I did not choose a sector from recommended sectors. Instead, selected one of the most popular sectors in the entire inter-realm city, the sector that belonged to the dark realm. There was a reason why I did this despite knowing that I would be charged extra for the time difference.

Every realm has its own time zone, so to avoid confusion and complications because of multiple time zones, the devil merchant code divided the Inter-realm city into various sectors depending on time zones. This way the demon/devil merchants do not have to worry about the time zones affecting their time and trade in the inter-realm city.

It was very thoughtful of the devil merchant code to create various sectors based on the different time zones but most of the demon/devil merchants were of dark race from the dark realm so all of the fun was in the sector belonging to the dark realm. As for the other sectors, they were mostly deserted or empty. So the demon/devil merchants from other realms have no choice but to go to the sector belonging to the dark realm where all the funs at.

Because of this, the market of the sector DS0909 grew considerably to the point where you can get anything from any corner of the myriad realms at a competitive price. And now it single-handedly dominated the entire inter-realm city.

Therefore going to any other sector of the inter-realm city was moot. And I would not have known this had I not decided to spend a tiny fortune on articles to help me get familiar with the basics of the demon merchant codex before entering the inter-realm city.

Not all of the articles talked about sector DS0909 but few. These articles seemed to be more about boasting about how the dark realm dominates the inter-city realm market than helping the readers understand why they should be opting to arrive at the sector DS0909 instead of the sectors with time zone matching their native realm's time zone. However, the message was clear.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1289 Privacy Feature

[988 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 15:45

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

[Dear Demon Merchant,

24 hours spent in the sector DS0909 is 240 hours spent in your native realm. Do you still want to enter sector DS0909 of the inter-realm city?

(Yes/No)

Note: Demon Merchant will have to make an appropriate offering to devil merchant code to make up for the time difference.]

"Yes," I was surprised to learn that ten days in the card world was equal to one day in the dark realm.

[Dear Demon Merchant,

The request cannot be processed as your account does not meet the minimum inter-realm network service access required for sector DS0909.

Available inter-realm network service access time- 47hrs

Minimum required inter-realm network service access time- 240hrs

Would you like to make an appropriate offering to devil merchant code to gain extra inter-realm network service access time?

(Yes/No)

Note: Since 24hrs in sector DS0909 is 240hrs in your native realm you will need 240 hrs inter-realm network service access time of your time to get 24hrs inter-realm network service access time in sector DS0909. As this is the appropriate offering offered to the devil merchant code by the native demon merchants of the sector DS0909.]

"Yes," I wanted to complain about the crazy pricing to enter the sector DS0909 of the inter-realm city I guess it was justified since the demon merchants of the dark realm had to pay that price to enter their sector DS0909.

Therefore, without hesitation, I decisively placed 900g of phantom sword wood on the compact offering array.

[Dear Demon Merchant,

You have added another 432hrs to your existing inter-realm network service access time of 47hrs bringing your total access time- 479hrs.

Note: The validity of this service access time is a month from today.]

[Dear Demon Merchant,

Insert your entire spiritual in the spirit transfer array to travel to the Inter-realm city...

Note: Spirit transfer array takes the demon merchant's spiritual body that has entered it and transfers them to the inter-realm city.]

Soon another compact array appeared on the page next to the offering array. Following the instructions, I placed my entire spiritual body into the spirit transfer array preparing myself to experience the mysterious spirit transfer array.

Entering the spirit transfer array with just my spiritual body I arrived inside a white passage and got a feeling that at the end of the passage I would arrive at sector DS0909 of the inter-realm city. My gut was correct as a second later an invisible force gently carried my spiritual body toward the end of the passage. Soon a bright light was visible indicating the end of the passage. The gentle force carried me into the bright light, and what I saw being carried out of the bright light was just breathtaking, awe-inspiring.

[Dear Demon Merchant,

Welcome to sector DS0909...

Note: Behave.]

I don't know where I was in sector DS0909 but after looking around my spiritual body seemed to have been transferred next to a majestic fountain in the middle of a crossway. The demon merchants of different shapes and sizes kept passing by minding their business nobody seem to care or notice that I appeared out of nowhere as this must be a common occurrence to them. Or that was what I was led to believe. Soon various dialogue boxes started to pop up reading,

[Dear Demon Merchant,

An anonymous demon merchant is trying to access your information.

Note: Anonymous demon merchant is using the inter-realm network's privacy feature to keep their identity private.]

.

.

.

[Dear Demon Merchant,

Do you want to access the inter-realm network's privacy feature to keep your identity private by making an appropriate offering?

(Yes/No)

Note: The privacy feature is not provided with inter-realm network service access time.]

"Yes," I answered shaking my head knowing that there was no way around this. About 37 anonymous demon merchants were trying to access my information I was and it hasn't even been a minute since I arrived at sector DS0909.

The articles had warned me about this, once they know the identity of the newbie demon merchant would try to hunt them down in the physical plane and enslave them. This was very true for the newbie demon merchants of the dark realm as for the newbie demon merchants of another realm I had no idea but since they were capable of realm travel I decided to not take risks and keep my privacy settings on every time I visit the inter-realm city. I had enough people after my life in my world already.

[Dear Demon Merchant,

You can get minimum access to the inter-realm network's privacy feature for an appropriate offering of 1000 low-tier soul jades. Do you want to proceed with the transaction using the previous offering method?

(Yes/No)

Note: Minimum access to the inter-realm network's privacy feature is a month of your native time zone.]

"Yes," so with an offering of 50 grams of phantom sword wood, I can access the inter-realm network's privacy feature for a month which is roughly 3 days in the sector

DS0909. It hasn't been more than an hour since I became a demon merchant but I have already invested so much wealth in it, hopefully, it will all start paying off soon.

[Dear Demon Merchant,

You have availed a month of access to the inter-realm network's privacy function.

Note: The privacy function will be only active when you are visiting the inter-realm city. As all transactions through the search function of the inter-realm network are private.]

[Dear Demon Merchant,

Do you want to be notified when every time an anonymous demon/devil merchant is trying to access your identity?

(Yes/No)

Note: This is one of the quirks of the inter-realm network's privacy feature.]

"Yes," I agreed. No matter how annoying it is to be constantly disturbed by the alert prompts and dialogue boxes, compelling me to constantly be on my toes as a result I will not be able to enjoy the beauty of the inter-realm city's sector DS0909, I still decide to receive them as it was a small price to pay to be aware of my surroundings.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1290 Red-Clad Dwarf

[991 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- -/-

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Inter-realm city

Buying the privacy feature I did not immediately leave the crossway. Instead soaked in the beauty of the majestic fountain in the middle of the crosswalk. The fountain itself was nothing special but the rainbow-colored water made all the difference. The rainbow-

colored water was not actually water but various rules in liquid form. Now that was luxurious.

To see the rules in liquid form a card apprentice would have to have a high synchronization rate so that they can get closer to the world's will deep in the spiritual plane. But here in the inter-realm city, they were using rules in liquid form as water for their fountain. Blood rule stone and broken rune of water rule were not worth much as an offering to the devil merchant code.

The rules and the soul energy in the air of sector DS0909 were so rich and thick that I could feel them touching my skin. With this level of concentration of rules in the air, anyone can easily comprehend the rules to the basic mastery in minutes just like the rich concentration of blood rule in the air of Bloodette's dungeon seal.

However, comprehending rules here would be good for the demon merchants of the dark realm but not the demon merchants from other realms as the rules in the sector DS0909 are the rules in the dark realm's will. As I deduced from Corey Park's instruction to Corey, rules were not the same in all realms, they were similarities but not the same.

Comprehending these rules would be counter-productive as it was not a guarantee that the rules I comprehended here could be found in the card world. If the rule or rule meaning I comprehended here was not available on the card world then I would have to come here every time I try to comprehend and raise my mastery in that particular rule or rule meaning. This was the way it was counterproductive to try and comprehend the rule in this sector, but it would be a different story if in the sector belonging to the card realm.

Done with the fountain, I walked around it having spotted a sector DS0909 map board. The map was very detailed. Since I will need it to navigate my way in sector DS0909 I used my Hive AI to copy the map and determined where I was in the 8th cross of sector DS0909. According to the map, this was where the demon merchants not of the dark realm mostly arrived at.

Copying the detailed map of sector DS0909, I decide to go to the Dariaus merchant mall. This place was recommended in every article I bought. Apparently, it was the only place where newbie demon merchants could afford something. It was a known truth that new demon merchants were rich but not inter-realm rich unless they were from a family of demon merchants.

As I prepared to leave, I saw a figure appear out of thin air. It was another newbie demon merchant. It had a humanoid appearance and dawned a unique style of clothing. It was red-colored skin with short white hair but it was only 1.2 meters tall. However, it had big feet for a human of its size.

I do not know which race this demon merchant belongs to but its appearance closely resembled the human race apart from its red skin, white hair, and big feet. Especially,

its expressions. For now, I decided to call its race, the Red-Clad Dwarfs. While adding books on identifying various races of myriad realms to my shop list.

Instead of leaving the fountain, I decided to stick around and see if I could socialize with the Red-Clad Dwarf. Not my style but that was the whole point of the inter-realm city.

The Red-Clad Dwarf looked around curiously but then its expression became stiff soon it began to look around like a ferocious beast baring its canines at anyone that spare it a glance me included. It seems it was alert about the anonymous demon merchants trying to access its identity by the inter-realm network.

Seeing its reaction I reconsidered my idea to reach out to the Red-Clad Dwarf. And left towards the Darius merchant mall while admiring the fascinating unique architecture of the sector DS0909. As much as I wanted to enter the fancy shops and boutiques that I passed by I did not do so...

Boom I turned to see the source of the sound only to find the Red-Clad Dwarf from earlier trying to forcefully enter a fancy shop but could not as an invisible force was pushing him back with equal and opposite force until he was thrown back.

Seeing this I couldn't help but wonder if the inter-realm city was not warning Red-Clad Dwarf about its behavior and why it could not enter the shop or if it was ignoring the dialogue boxes from the inter-realm city. Being thrown to the street the Red-Clad Dwarf glare furiously at the shop with teary eyes. I was starting to get the feeling that Red-Clad Dwarfs were very ignorant and immature as a race or just this particular Red-Clad Dwarf was. I cannot ignore that maybe this Red-Clad Dwarf was young for its race explaining its behavior.

The reason why I did not try to enter the fancy shops by the crossway and why the Red-clad dwarf was denied entry to the shop was that the shops in the city have access to a particular feature of the inter-realm city by making an appropriate offering to the devil merchant code. This feature allowed the shops to deny entry to demon merchants that did not have a minimum net worth to buy the cheapest product in the shop. All the articles I had bought on the basics of demon merchant codex had warned me about this particular feature of the inter-realm city.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1291 Dambre The Pixie

[982 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- -/-

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Inter-realm city

I prepared to continue on my track to Dariaus Merchant Mall, but I stopped seeing a humanoid demon merchant who resembled a cyclops from the myths of the earth with the exception of his 2-meter height approaching the Red-Clad Dwarf. Seeing the Tiny Cyclops approach it, the Red-Clad Dwarf immediately got back on its feet and rushed past me. It was fast for someone of its stature. I guess its oversized feet were not just for show.

Good for him because it was clear the Tiny Cyclops would have tried to scam the Red-Clad Drawf into buying a token claiming that it would allow him to enter any shop in the city. It was one of the common scams targeting the new demon merchants. Especially, those that were not of the dark realm.

Putting this incident at the back of my mind, I continued on my way enjoying the beauty of sector DS0909's unique architecture. Soon I arrived in front of a huge mall, The Dariaus Merchant Mall, it was fancy looking but nothing compared to the ones that I saw on my way here.

Passing the golden arch gate I entered the mall with ease, and it was crowded. It was like all rookie demon merchants were here, they had to be because, in the entire DS0909, this was the only place where we code afford something. Tearing into the crowd I searched for the mall map.

Though the Dariaus merchant mall was not as fancy as other malls in this city, it still had 12 buildings and each building had 70 floors and counting. It was a huge ass mall, but still not enough making me wonder just how many realms were there and for these many demon merchants to exist. Having found the mall map I planned my destinations based on my priorities,

1. List of pricing of various Ingredients and Items. Especially, that I can find in the card world.
2. Books on numerous races across myriad realms.
3. Finding a Realm Token

I can try buying all this on the inter-realm network's search function but since I am here I wanted to see browse around.

Currently, I was on the ground floor of building no.07 and there happens to be a library on this floor. So noting the direction I had to go in, I stepped into the crowd heading that way. The tide of demon merchants carried me to the library, it was so tightly packed that I did even have to way. Then I forced my way out of the tide and entered the library.

The library was called The Infinity Library and was about 10 times larger than the biggest library I had ever been to. Just seeing the sheer number of books and selves in the bookstore I felt overwhelmed. Then I wonder who wrote all these books, it was one thing if it was in the physical plane but in the spiritual plane? The city in the spiritual plane was created by the Devil Merchant code but what about these books were they too created by Devil Merchant Code?

I doubt that because if they were created by the Devil Merchant Code, they would not be something rookie demon merchants like me could afford. Or maybe the Devil Merchant Code created these books on behalf of the owner of this library for an appropriate offering.

While I was lost watching the majesty of millions of books, I was soon approached by something that resembled a tiny fairy from the myths of the earth, "Hello, demon merchant, welcome to 'The Infinity Library.' I am Dredre the Pixie, I am your assigned guide."

"Hello, Dredre, you can call me Wyatt," I curiously looked at the Pixie, her small humanoid stature, transparent dragonfly wings, pointy ears, and tiny clothes really attracted me toward her. No, it was not due to her ability but my years of exposure to earth's children's books and cartoons. Unlike the disgusting orcs and goblins, I had a different childhood persecution of pixies.

"Wyatt, are there no pixie from where you come from?" Seeing my gaze linger on her for more than what's considered a polite glance the pixie asked me.

"Sorry, please excuse my rudeness. This is the first time I am seeing a pixie. As for whether there are any pixies in my world, there should be but I never ran into one," Retracting my gaze I apologize to Dredre.

"No problem. But for a demon merchant from the other world, you are quite fluent in the dark tongue. So should I set this as your preferred language?" Dredre asked

"No, I am fluent in 16 different dark languages. Set all of them as my preferred languages," I said then began to list the 16 dark languages I knew to Dredre such that she could be a better guide for me.

"Okay, how may I be of your help?" Dredre asked as she turned to point toward rows and rows of books.

"Is there any book listing the price of various ingredients and items in the devil merchant code market?" I asked Dredre deciding to first tend to my priorities and then look for other books that would help me/

"Got it, there are about 82,876 books matching your request," Dredre immediately answered.

"..." hearing the number of books available in a limited genre, I was stumped. The only other time I was this stumped was back when I had visited one of the gulf countries back on earth to get seed money for a project and learned that their rulers had a net worth of over a trillion.

"Ahem!" Dredre cleared her throat seeing my stumped expression. But there was no judgment on her face, which saved me some embarrassment as I asked her, "How are these books made? How much does one of these books cost?"

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1292 The Librarian

[1,011 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- -/-

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Inter-realm city

"These books are created in the shape of their original books using the help of the inter-realm city's feature. And the appropriate offering required to create each book varies based on the nature of their content," Dredre answered.

As I suspected, the books in the library were also the creation of the devil merchant code. I had my reason when I was stumped hearing Dredre say that there were about 82,876 books just on the prices of various items. The first reason was that all of these countless books were soul energy constructs just like the entire inter-realm city. And the second reason was that I was having a hard time believing that a demon/devil merchant spent a shit load of offerings to create these books to open a library.

Making permanent soul energy constructs in the spiritual plane was not a simple task, so definitely the devil merchant code will not create these books for a cheap price. It was no doubt that the devil merchant who owned this library was ultra inter-realm rich, but for him to make such expensive books available to the rookie demon merchants by opening a library was not something I would expect from a demon/devil merchant unless there was a catch.

"Dredre, how much will it cost me to read the books here?" I asked the Pixie believing that since this establishment was labeled as a library and not a bookstore, I should get to read the books in there for a price, something like a library card. That was how all the commercial public libraries worked back on earth.

"You don't want to buy a book?" Dredre asked to which I sarcastically said, "Do I look like someone who can afford any one of these books?"

Worried that Dredre would be brutally honest about my financial situation, I hurriedly added that "That was a rhetorical question you do not need to answer that."

"You can read any book in here for half an hour by paying one-tenth of the book's price," Dredre answered.

"One-tenth of the original price of the book to read it for half an hour... for that price I could just buy the book in the inter-realm network," I complained. Now I get why a devil merchant would be so generous to open a library for the rookie demon merchants.

Rookie demon merchants were not rich enough to afford the books in the library, so they were left with the only choice, which was to pay one-tenth of the price of the book and hope that they find what they were searching for in the book within that half an hour or else they were out luck and cash. A predatory business model built to prey on the newbie demon merchants.

"Wyatt, you will not find the books in here in the inter-realm network," Dredre corrected me.

"What are you talking about I bought the 13 dark language books from the inter-realm network?" I pointed out the contradiction in her words to Dredre.

"The dark language books you bought on the network and the dark language books in the library are different," Dredre stuck to her words.

"How?" I asked wondering how can the language books of the same language be different on two different platforms.

"The dark language books you got on the inter-realm network are old books, their vocabulary is limited to the dark realm. But the dark language books in the library are not limited to the dark realm but spread to all the myriad realms. They have a vibrant

collection of vocabulary which was created as the dark races explored the myriad realms," Dredre explained but all I heard was that they made a bunch of extra words and added them to the existing language and were now claiming that their language book was updated copy trying to justify their insane price rate.

"Can't the natives just add those new words to their books, there must be an updated dark language book on the inter-realm network," I said because I felt that if these people could add a bunch of made-up words to their books and call it updated version so could the natives of that language.

"No that will not work because our infinity library owns the copyright for those words," Dredre said something that I found hard to believe, 'who grants copyrights for words of a language? Why don't you copyright an entire language? I do know a certain entity, one greedy enough to do something like that, the devil merchant code.'

What the fuck was the devil merchant even thinking when it granted copyright to words of the language of a certain race to a devil merchant? I was stumped seeing the devil merchant code take capitalism to a whole new level, "How does it even work? Do I have to pay every time I use those copyrighted words? How come nobody made a guilty appeal about this?"

"No, you do not have to pay for speaking those words but you are not allowed to monetize those words and if you do you have to compensate the holder of the copyright," Dredre schooled me about the basics of copyright and then continued to say, "The various races did make a guilty appeal against the Librarian for applying copyright for the words of their language but they lost because none of them could prove that these words were created by them and not by the Librarian."

"Don't tell me the copyrights to all these books here are owned by the Librarian," I asked in shock when I actually wanted to yell, 'how was that even possible,' but seeing how the prominent races of the dark realm could not do anything against him, I immediately understood that the Librarian was a very powerful being. So I decided to stop complaining about the insane pricing and get what I want and leave.

"Yes," Dredre answered with great pride as if she was the one who owned the copyright for all these books.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1293 Library Card

[1,069 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- -/-

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Inter-realm city

"82,876 books, that's a lot to choose from. Do you guys have book reviews or something to help me choose the books that would best match my requirements?" I asked looking at the rows and rows of bookshelves.

"I can share the list of book titles and their synopsis with your demon merchant codex to help you choose better but for that, you will have to get a library card," Dredre answered.

"Library card, how much will that cost me?" I asked rolling my eyes.

"With a safety deposit of 100,000 low-tier soul jades or something of equal value, you can get your very own infinity library membership card. It allows you to borrow books, the borrowed books cannot leave the premises of the library. You will need to recharge the library card with a minimum of 1000 low-tier soul jades to spend an hour in the library," Dredre clarified how to get a library card and its uses.

"Wait, am I being charged right now?" I asked Dredre in astonishment.

"No, the first hour is free, but if you extend your stay by even a minute more than an hour you will have to pay 1000 low-tier soul jades. Don't worry you will be notified when your free period is about to end," Now I understand how this library was able to afford a Pixie guide for each of its customers. If one is paying 1000 low-tier soul jades just to stay an hour in the library they will indeed expect the best customer service.

"Are there any other advantages to having a library card?" A deposit of 100,000 low-tier soul jades to get a membership in this library, it better come with some privileges.

"Yes, with a library card each demon merchant gets an hour's worth of free stay in the library, and for an hour the demon merchant can read any and as many books in this library for free. The best thing about this is that it refreshes every month," Dredre immediately responded claiming that the library card came with an hour of free stay and all books free reading period.

But let us face the facts, an hour was not enough time to even read a single book. It was a marketing tactic, in an hour a demon merchant will be at best able to read half a book, so to read the other half of the book he will have to make use of the library's insanely overpriced services. And this cycle would continue every month endlessly.

"5kgs of phantom sword wood should be enough as a safety deposit to get me a library card, right?" I said preparing to get myself an infinity library membership card.

I needed the library card to read the books in this facility and the monthly privileges they offer to their members were too good to pass on. I know that I said the monthly privileges offered by the library to its members were just a marketing tactic and it's the truth for other demon merchants but not me because I had the one and only Hive AI.

"I have shared the list of book titles and their synopsis, anything else?" after helping me register as a member of the infinity library Dredre hand me the library membership card and then shared the list of entire 82,876 book titles and their synopsis.

"I want to make use of my free reading hour," I said planning to do the obvious having gone through the list shared by Dredre as it had become clear that only 2,023 books meet my requirement and after removing the same books available in different languages and old editions of the same book that number dwindled to 508 books.

All 82,876 books listed by Dredre were indeed on the pricing of various items and ingredients across the myriad realms however most of these books were not limited to just that topic they mostly explored different issues surrounding items and ingredients across myriad realms. Which I currently did not require. So only 508 books purely meet my requirement. Creating a list of these books I shared it with Dredre, "These are the books I want to read using my free reading hour."

"Are you sure?" Dredre asked for confirmation.

"Yes, I have already decided, I want to read these 508 books. So where is the study area?" I said looking around the library and all I could find were rows and rows of bookshelves.

"Wyatt, brace yourself I will be using the library array to move us to the study area," Dredre was confused by what her customer meant when he said he will read 508 books in an hour. But she did not question him because her duty was to fulfill all the customer's requests as long it was within the laws of the infinity library.

Soon the space surrounding me warped and I appeared in front of a simple yet expensive set of tables and chairs which were surrounded by bookshelves. Pointing at bookshelves Dredre said, "Those are all the books you requested. Once you touch the book your free reading hour will start."

I looked around at the bookshelves deciding where to start, then I heard Dredre advise me, "Wyatt, we have a tranquility drink, every sip of it will calm the person's mind and increase their concentration clearing the various distracting thoughts. With this drink, you can make the most use of your free reading hour."

"Cost?" Though I felt disgusted with the Librarian's predatory business model, I was impressed by the way he made use of every opportunity to make a profit.

"2000 low-tier soul jades per drink," Dredre replied.

"Get me four of those right away," I ordered preparing to copy 508 books in under ten minutes using my Hive AI or if possible even less time.

"Your order's here," Dredre said instantly summoning four glasses of tranquility drink on a nearby table.

"Good," I said as I split my spiritual body into four spiritual bodies, one was for my original self and the other three were for my mutated slave consciousness. Each of us picked up a tranquility drink under the astonished gaze of Dredre, then we empty our glasses and started copying the books in front of us planning to copy all 508 books by dividing the task and conquering it at the fastest pace possible.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1294 Myriad Realm Myriad Race Records

[1,001 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- -/-

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Inter-realm city

The tranquility drink was worth the price of 2000 low-tier soul jades, not only because it was purely made of concentrated pure mental energy but because drinking it I and my mutated consciousnesses entered a state of hyper concentration. As Dredre said, it cleared my mind of all distributing thoughts and sole focus on what I was doing. The tranquility drink was like fuel to my mind.

Under the hyper concentration, me and my mutated consciousnesses began to use the Hive AI to copy each book on self under in about a second or two. Dredre who was waiting on us was astonished to see all four of me just flip through a book and move to the next one on the self.

One month in the sector DS0909 was ten months in the card world. This meant that if I were to waste my monthly free reading hour just to read these books then I will have to wait ten months to get another free hour to exploit the membership privilege of the library and read the books I wanted to read for free.

Therefore, I dwindled the 87,876 books to 508 books so that I can not only get the information I wanted from these for free but also have enough time left for me to read other books in this library. This library was a treasure trove of knowledge from across myriad realms and every minute of the monthly free reading hour was precious. I could not waste it and be careful how I use them while getting the most from every second.

In under five minutes, I and my mutated consciousnesses copied all 508 books using the Hive AI and yelled, "Stop the time, I will save the remaining minutes of the free reading hour for another day."

"What... wait what?" hearing my yell Dredre woke up from her shock. Taking her time to understand what I just asked of her Dredre was once again stunned because none of her clients until now had asked her to pause their free reading hour, to save it for later.

Quickly going through the regulations of the library Dredre found that nothing about this was mentioned there. Then she decisively made an executive decision to pause the time as there were no laws against it and there was a law that asked her to serve the customer to the best of her power as long as their request did not violate the library's regulation. Though she did plan to bring this situation to the notice of her immediate superior when her duty as the guide to the customer was complete.

"Wyatt, you have used 4 minutes 47 seconds of your monthly free reading hour," Dredre reported while wondering if her client really did read all the 508 books within 4 minutes 47 seconds. She found it hard to believe it but the client has a special soul so anything was possible as special souls were known to have abilities that defied the norms.

"Um," I was glad that I and my mutated consciousnesses were able to copy 508 books in under five minutes and added, "Dredre, I need books describing various races of the myriad realm."

"There a many books on this certain topic. Might I recommend this set of books, they were personally written by the Librarian. And I promise you there was nothing the other books that you will not find in this book," It wasn't clear if Dredre was promoting her boss's books or if she was really speaking the truth. Since I did not want to waste my precious free reading hour over this insignificant information that could only help me identify various races across myriad realms I decided to go with Dredre's recommendation, "Sure, I will read them."

Dredre joyously summoned an encyclopedia written by her master titled 'Myriad Realm Myriad Race Records.' and said, "Your free reading hour will start once you touch the book."

Myriad Realm Myriad Race Records was a set of 28 thick books recording every race, the tribes among them, each of their culture, dos, and don'ts of all the races across the Myriad realm in detail with exclusive illustrations. Within a minute I and my mutated consciousness copied these records, and now I had about 54 minutes of my free reading time left.

"You read all of those books already?" Dredre questioned me curiously.

"Kind of," I did not bother to lie, it was not worth it, and nor did I offer the truth as it was my business and nobody else's business.

"Wyatt, what else can I help you with?" Dredre asked.

With the two of my priorities for visiting the inter-realm city completed I did not have any more reason to stay in the library. I could try to learn various advanced knowledge like realm travel, combat arts, array mastery, etc but I, myself, did not know what I wanted to learn or should learn. So instead of wasting my precious free reading time wondering which arts or method I wanted to learn I decided to do some research on the inter-realm network to understand what would be the best use of the remaining free reading period for me.

"No, this is it for now," I answered to Dredre.

"Okay, I will walk you to the exit," Dredre then used the library array to bring me back to the entrance of the library and waved me goodbye.

Walking out of the library I instructed Hive AI to process all the information we collected by copying nearly 536 books. Then I explored the copied mall map to see where I can find realm tokens. On the 46th floor, there was a big store that sold second-hand realm tokens. I planned to buy a second-hand realm token if there were any within my price range because new realm tokens were not sold but auctioned. And my wealth was nowhere near participating in those auctions.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1295 Aul Tuh's Pawnshop

[1,117 words]

Chapter 1295 Aul Tuh's Pawnshop

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- -/-

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Inter-realm city

Walking into the pawnshop on the 46th floor, as I looked around the shop a small green-skinned creature that very much resembled a goblin wearing one of the finest silk clothes I had ever seen approached me. Having processed the information I copied from the Myriad Realm Race Records, I knew that this creature belongs to the Goblin race of the dark realm.

The Goblin race like other dark races has a reputation to be cruelly greedy. They won't stop at anything to satisfy their greed. The goblin race has many tribes, this particular goblin that approached me belonged to the most nefarious tribe in the goblin race, the nomadic goblin tribe. They were a free-spirited tribe that travel around the dark realm stealing and looting people who could not defend themselves. And they were the go-to to sell/buy stolen goods in the dark realm. So it was not a surprise that I would find the members of this particular tribe running a pawnshop on the 47th floor of Dariaus Merchant Mall of the inter-realm city.

"Hello, I am Aul Tuh the owner of this humble pawn shop how may I help you?" the Goblin introduced himself as Aul Tuh and as the owner of the pawnshop.

"I want to buy realm tokens are there any," I asked Aul Tuh.

"We do realm tokens, lots of them for attractive prices but I cannot sell them to you?" Aul Tuh said condescendingly, it came out of nowhere. His words were polite but his tone was not something a business owner would use while talking to their customers.

Various demon merchants entered the pawnshop along with me but they were received by the staff not the boss, I did not think there was a problem here until I heard his response. Now seeing the condescending look in his eyes prompted me to wonder why the owner of a fancy pawnshop would make time to receive an unknown customer at the entrance. With every passing second it was becoming clear that Aul Tuh was hostile toward me, but I don't understand why, or from where his hostility stems from. I don't even know the dude.

"Why?" I asked annoyed by his unwarranted hostility toward me.

"This is my pawnshop, last time I checked it meant I can do whatever the hell I wanted with it and did not require me to answer a vermin from some unknown corner of the myriad realm. You know what you are banned from my shop," Aul Tuh's response was

opposite to when he welcomed me into the pawnshop. I could not determine what prompted such a drastic turn in his attitude.

"..." I did not bother to argue with Aul Tuh. Instead, turned and exited the pawnshop before he decides to make use of the inter-realm city features to throw me out to further embarrass me.

As much as I wanted to bite Aul Tuh's head off for what he called me I did not because I did not know the consequences of doing that would be. This place was new to me I had little idea about how things worked around here. I was no longer in sky blossom city but the inter-realm city this was a new field and the enemy has been here long enough to have the home-ground advantage.

I had no idea why Aul Tuh's attitude toward me suddenly changed extensively. As much as I wanted to threaten him with the demon merchant code's guilty appeal function, I did not because I did not want to appear making empty threats.

Since Aul Tuh dare to blatantly yell at me and claim that he would not sell his goods to me then he must be very confident about being exonerated scout-free even if I were to decide to report him to the devil merchant code using the Guilty appeal function for banning me from buying realm-tokens form his pawnshop.

So I controlled myself understanding taking a few small losses so that I could win when it mattered. After I got my facts straight, it would not be too late for me to kick this condescending midget's green ass.

Walking out of the pawnshop, the first thing I did was a thorough search on Aul Tuh's pawnshop to collect information about the enemy to understand who I was up against. If he did this to me then he must have done it to others too. And I bet I will be able to find a few articles on Aul Tuh and his pawnshop.

Honestly, I was pissed right now. I never thought there would come a day when I would be looked down on by a goblin. A fucking goblin. After digging through the inter-realm network I finally was able to find a few articles that did not sing praises about Aul Tuh and his pawn shop. The articles were buried under the fake publicity of Aul Tuh about his pawn shop. These articles were all free since they were mostly about the victims venting their anger about what they experienced in the pawnshop.

Turns out there were indeed reasons why Aul Tuh greeted me warmly at first but then turned his face hearing I wanted to buy a realm token and both of them were related to me being a demon merchant not from the dark realm. All the people who wrote an article about him were also demon merchants from various realms but the dark realm and had experienced something similar to me.

The reason why Aul Tul greeted me warmly when I entered the pawnshop was that he thought I was there to pawn something of value in his pawnshop. And once he knew

that I was not there to pawn stuff but buy a realm token it did not take him a second to show his true self to me.

There were some items that demon merchants were too attached to because of the sentimental value those items held for them and they do not want to offer them to the devil merchant code but when facing difficult times they have no choice so they come to pawn them in the pawn shops so that when they were doing well financially they can claim it back, however, they never would have guessed that they would have been better off offering it to the devil merchant code instead of pawning their family heirlooms or inheritance in Aul Tuh's pawnshop or any other pawnshops in the Darius merchant mall.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1296 Unchecked Capitalism

[1,128 words]

Chapter 1296 Unchecked Capitalism

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- -/-

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Inter-realm city

The pawn shops in the inter-realm city conducted their business in such a way that they would be condemned in the markets of both the world I come from but this was the inter-realm city and the devil merchant code did not seem to care how the people did business in its city as long as they paid their rents to it in time and were not proven guilty of a crime. There were too few regulations that the pawn shops or any shop in the inter-realm city for that matter needed to follow. As long as they were overpricing and manipulating the market everything else seemed pretty much a fair game.

The devil merchant code seems to hate losing money so it doesn't like when it makes little profit over certain goods than the other demon merchant, that was why overpricing goods was taboo but bidding wars in auctions was fair gain.

The devil merchant code hated being manipulated, especially when the demon merchants try to manipulate the market so that the price of certain goods skyrockets

and other goods falls to the ground. As long as these two taboos were avoided one can easily stay off the devil merchant code's radar despite their questionable business practices.

Demon merchants had figured out many ways to prop up a successful business by preying on their customers while avoiding these taboos of the devil merchant code. And the way the pawnshops in the inter-realm city operated was one of them.

The pawn shop's strategy was simple when a customer handed them the item the pawnbrokers would value it according to what it is worth as an offering to the devil merchant code. A fair method to value the items and the only reason why they managed to survive so far. What followed next was nothing short of predatory lending.

They would only pawn the item for 40% to 60% of its value which carried a high fee, high-interest rate, unnecessary penalties, and other such aggressive credit terms. One delayed or missed payment was all it took for the demon merchants to lose their pawned items. This way the pawnbroker would not only buy the item for a cheap price but also made profits with the high-interest rate, late fees, and other unnecessary penalties.

It did not matter to them that the customer had paid more interest and penalties than the valuation of the item they pawned. The only way they could get out of this nightmare was to let go of their ownership of the item they pawned before their debt outgrows the value of the item. Or else they would not only lose the item they pawned but also be on the hook for the remaining debt. Soon they will charge high-interest rates for the debt, along with late fees and other penalties.

This would usually not work in the native realms of the demon merchant but here the devil merchant would make sure the demon merchant pays everything they owe the pawnbroker even if the demon merchant had to use this soul and body as collateral or just sell it.

These guys were worse than the credit card companies and loan sharks because at least they enticed them with a desirable loan amount while taking a certain risk. However, pawnbrokers did not take any form of risk in these transactions instead they had the strongest goon in all the myriad realms, the devil merchant code.

The only reason the demon merchants went to the pawnbrokers in the inter-realm city in the first place was that they felt with the presence of the devil merchant code they would not be taken advantage of as they would have been in their native realm. But that was their biggest mistake. If they miss a single payment then the very thing that they trusted to have their back will become the gun pointed to their foreheads and will be forced to pay the pawnbrokers even if it cost them their life.

'No wonder Aul Tuh was so fucking happy to see me enter his pawnshop,' I felt a chill on my back going through the predatory business model practiced by the pawnshops

and the worst of all was that the devil merchant code, one of the most powerful beings in all the myriad realms would act as a goon for the predators. This wasn't just a problem for the demon merchants not native to the dark realm but all the new demon merchants regardless of what realm they belonged to.

The worst thing was that I could not use the guilty appeal function to report Aul Tul for banning me from his show without any proper reason. Because in Inter-realm city, the shopowners have the right to choose their customer and sell their product to anyone they want as long as they are not overpricing it. I should have guessed that this would be the case when I learned that the Inter-realm city shops had a feature that allowed shopkeepers to keep the customers that could not afford their products from entering their shops. The devil code seems to hold the interest of demon merchants paying hefty rents over the others. It was not surprising that it was biased toward whoever paid it more.

As for why Aul Tul showed unwarranted hostility toward me when I asked to buy realm tokens, that was because many demon merchants from the dark realm felt that the demon merchants that were not native to the dark realm had an unfair advantage.

The unfair advantage they spoke of was that other realms had single digits of demon merchants at best which allowed the demon merchants of other realms to take advantage of the price difference in the two markets to fill their pockets. And since there were many demon merchants in the dark realm, the pricing difference between the market of the devil merchant code and the dark realm was negligible.

The demon merchants from the dark realm did not seem to notice other unfair advantages that they had over the minority instead they were jealous of the only good thing the demon merchants not native to the dark realm had going for them.

Yes, that was what the majority claimed and why they were pissed at the minority.

Because of this Demon Merchants like Aul Tul were hostile toward demon merchants that were not native to the dark realm. Making it difficult for newbie demon merchants to pursue promising careers as demon merchants.

I guess this was one of the monsters that unchecked capitalism breeds.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 1297 Bul Tuh's Scam

[1,079 words]

Chapter 1297 Bul Tuh's Scam

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- -/-

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Inter-realm city

For now, I did not see a way to get back at Aul Tuh for his actions. However, I wasn't prepared to leave here without getting what I want. The problem was none of the pawnshops in the Dariaus Merchant Mall would sell a Realm Token to a demon merchant who was not a native of the dark realm.

I had a way around this problem but I hate that I have to resort to it. I could use the Myriad Devil Body card's Myriad Devil Transformation skill to morph my spiritual body to look like one of the dark races from the dark realm. Other than this I did not see a way where Aul Tuh or any other pawnbroker in the Dariaus merchant mall would let me buy a Realm Token.

Now that I decided to use the myriad devil transformation skill the question was what dark race I morph into. I decided to morph into a dark race that was on good terms with the merchant goblin tribe, this was hard because the merchant goblin tribe was not an honest race they were a bunch of thieves and shady merchants. With that thought, only one dark race came to my mind that had a very good relationship with the merchant goblin tribe, the Swamp Ogre tribe of the Ogre race.

The Ogre race was one lazy race and the Swamp Ogre tribe was the laziest of them all. Expect for hunting they spent the rest of their time soaking in the swamp mud. They were blessed with insane strength but they had no ambition or motivation. So as a tribe, they did not have any notable achievements except for the fact that they used to loot nearby weak tribes along with the merchant goblin tribe to make easy money. And the greedy merchant goblin tribe loved them as a partner in crime as they did not charge much for their services.

Walking to a corner I instantly morphed my spiritual body into a four-foot-tall gray-skinned fat swamp ogre and morphed my spiritual clothes into the fanciest ethnic wear of the ogre race. Then I head back toward Aul Tuh's pawnshop.

Walking into the pawnshop this time I was not greeted by Aul Tuh but by another pawnbroker from his tribe, "Welcome, honored guest. I am Bul Tuh. How may I be of service to you today?"

"I heard that your pawnshop has a good collection of realm tokens I want to buy one," I spoke using the dark tongue with the accent of the swamp ogre tribe.

Hearing me Bul Tuh's eyes shined, "Sure, honored guest, this way."

I followed Bul Tuh inside the pawnshop and caught a glimpse of Aul Tuh talking to a demon merchant who was not native to the dark realm. It seems Aul Tuh only attended to customers that he felt he could take advantage of, that was mostly the demon merchants not native to the dark realm.

Bul Tuh brought me to a spacious room with big furniture suitable for the huge build of the Orges. Then he shared the list of realm tokens his pawnshop had along with their price, "Honored guest, please go through the list and ask me if you have any concerns."

"..." I was without words going through the list of realm tokens and their price. Even the cheapest one was worth more than my entire net worth. But the real problem was that there were no details about the realms these realm tokens belonged to, which meant that there was no way for me to justify the prices of the realm tokens put forward by the pawnshop.

This may be my first time purchasing a realm token but the articles I read were clear that the biggest scam the newbie demon merchants fell for was related to the realm tokens. This was I knew that right now Bul Tuh was trying to scam me with the list of realm tokens and their prices he shared with me. I now understand why he brought me to a private room instead of taking me to where the realm tokens were placed.

The one advantage of buying the realm tokens was that you know what you are getting into because it would have its manufacturing date and time on it. Not to mention whoever created the realm tokens would mention the resources and local forces that one could expect to find in that realm.

All these factors, time of realm discovery, time of realm token creation, resources available in the realm, the local power system, the strength of the local forces, etc factored into the valuation of the realm tokens.

The difference between the time of realm discovery and the creation of realm tokens was the most important factor. Because it helped us determine whether whoever discovered the realm had already emptied all the resources in that realm and was selling worthless realm tokens. What's the use of buying the realm token if all of its resources were already plundered? Realm tokens belonging to such realms were worthless.

Next came the nature, numbers, and strength of the realm's native forces. If they were stronger than me even if the realm was filled with various resources I could do nothing about it until I take care of the local forces.

Knowing that Bul Tuh was trying to scam me I frowned my brows and gave Bul Tuh a long hard look. From where I stood I had two choices in front of me, one to call him out for what he was trying to do or just leave. I wanted to go with the first choice but I prepared to leave feeling it was not worth the trouble, "I will be taking my leave."

"..." Bul Tuh looked at the swamp ogre speechlessly, 'What does he mean by he will be taking his leave? We just got here. And what's with the look did he catch on to what I was doing? Or does he want me to reduce the prices? Over my dead body. Scamming people is not easy.'

"Honored guest, was the listed realm tokens not to your liking?" Bul Tuh held back his dissatisfaction and maintained his calm as he continued to make a sale.

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Chapter 1298 Phantom Sword Mushrooms

[1,003 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- -/-

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Inter-realm city

Hearing Bul Tuh I did not bother to stop and confront him about his scam instead left the pawnshop without even looking back. I know this act showed me in a cowardly light but I did not care because it finally dawned upon me that the reason why demon merchants like Aul and Bul Tuh dared to blatantly scam me was not that I was a demon merchant that was not a native of the dark realm or that I was newbie demon merchant, it was because I was not powerful or a threat enough for them to think twice before trying to scam me.

The only way I can be powerful in the inter-realm city was, if it was not obvious enough, by being rich. Here your personal power levels did not matter as with enough money you can get one of the myriad realm's most powerful beings, Devil Merchant Code, to act as your thug. Only when you have enough net worth to gain Devil Merchant Code's attention will be considered a threat by the demon merchants in the inter-realm city.

Let's face the facts if I want to buy a pawned realm token of a resource-filled realm with weak natives it will cost me my entire net worth. But I would not buy realm tokens if it meant emptying all the fortune I have gathered. So, there was no point in spending another second in the pawnshop.

If I bargained and haggled with Bul Tuh I can get a realm token of some backward realm whose total resources were drained for a small fortune, that was my plan when I first entered the pawnshop but later it dawned on me that it was not worth wasting my money over. Instead, I could use that money as seed money to prop up my own business in the inter-realm city. And I knew just the right business for me. As for the Tuh Merchant Goblin tribe, I will settle my score at a later date.

Walking out of the pawnshop I directly headed to the Infinity library on the ground floor of the mall. Entering the library I was immediately greeted by Dredre my library guide, "Wyatt, welcome back. I did not expect you to be back so early. What can I help you with?"

"I need every book available on various intermediate soul energy and rule power gathering and distribution arrays. Also the books on how to cultivate phantom sword mushrooms," I report the books I needed Dredre to locate for me. And yes, these books had more to do with the business I was planning on.

"Got it, I have shared the list with your demon merchant codex. Select the books you want and share the list with me so I can make the arrangements," In less than a breath Dredre made a list of books that meet my requirement and shared it with me.

"Thanks," Thanking Dredre I began to go through the list of books that she shared with me, there were about 2,470 books that meet all three of my requirements. 2,070 were on intermediate soul energy and rule power gathering and distribution arrays. And the remaining four hundred were on how to cultivate phantom sword mushrooms.

Dredre looked curiously at the boy as he seriously went through the list of books she shared with him because none of the other clients she attended to ever thanked her for her service but this one did and she felt appreciated it. This was a new feeling for her.

"Dredre, take me to the study room," I ordered Dredre after sharing the list of the books that I wanted to read with her.

This time I did not shorten the number of books by a lot because since I was planning to start a business using this knowledge I thought it would be best if I had everything these books had to offer so I only removed the books that were duplicates of the other books but in different language bring the number of the books down to 2017. About 1650 books on array formation and 367 on how to cultivate phantom sword mushrooms.

Soon Dredre used the library's array to teleport me to the study room, "You know the rules your free reading time starts as soon as you touch one of the books."

Looking at the neatly arranged 2017 books on the bookshelves I split my spiritual body into four and ordered, "Dredre, get me four tranquility drinks."

I know tranquility drink was not cheap, four of them cost 8,000 low-tier soul jades but it was worth it because they help me copy the books faster. Compared to every minute I save in my monthly free book reading period 8,000 low-tier soul jades were worth nothing.

Dredre instantly summoned four tranquility drinks, after drinking them page by page, cover to cover I and my three mutated consciousnesses copied each of the 2017 books on the bookshelves in under 4 minutes. With this, I was left with about 50 minutes of my monthly free book reading period, "Dredre pause my free reading period let's save it for later."

"Got it," Dredre immediately paused the counter and then asked, "Is there anything else I can help you with?"

"Walk me to the exit," I said knowing Dredre would walk me to the exit anyway.

"Thank you, Dredre," I thanked Dredre for her splendid customer service walking out of the library and then following the crowd exiting the Dariaus merchant mall I came to the street in front of the mall.

Next, I planned to use the demon merchant codex to rent a warehouse or land, warehouse preferably since I wanted to set up my business there but let's see if I can afford to rent a warehouse or land in sector DS0909 otherwise, I will move to one of the sectors recommended to me by the inter-realm city and set up my business there.

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Chapter 1299 Sector NS7878

[1,025 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- -/-

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Inter-realm city

As expected renting a warehouse or even land in sector DS0909 was too expensive. Adding other costs of using the inter-realm network and considering the nature of the business I planned to create, the sky-high rents were not worth it. Making sector DS0909 an unsuitable place for my start-up. Leaving me with no choice but to consider starting my business in some other sector.

I was thinking I should move to one of the sectors recommended to me by the inter-realm city, but then I wondered why not go to a sector where a day was equal to an hour or two in the card world. This way I could take advantage of the time difference between the two realms. This was in line with my business too.

Thinking of this after a lot of searching, I found sector NS7878. A month in this sector was a day and a quarter in the card realm. Meaning an hour in the card realm was equal to a day in the sector NS7878.

[Dear Demon Merchant,

24 hours spent in the sector NS7878 is an hour spent in your native realm. However, the inter-realm network service access time spent will be charged according to the charges of the sector's sharing timezone with your native realm but not the sector NS7878.

Note: The time zones of these sectors are not the same as the time zone of the demon merchant's native realm. Demon merchant will have to offer extra offerings for the difference in the time zones if required.]

"Yes," I affirmed my understanding that even though one day here was just an hour in the card world I still had to pay 1000 low-tier soul jades to spend one day here. It was way better than spending 10,000 low-tier soul jades to spend a day in the sector DS0909.

[Dear Demon Merchant,

Do you want to leave sector DS0909 and move to sector NS7878?

(Yes/No)

Note: You can move to any sector at your convince as long as you offer extra offerings for the difference in the time zones if required.]

"Yes," I answered without hesitation as sector DS0909 may be even considered the capital of the inter-realm city but it was not the best place for me to start my new business venture.

[Dear Demon merchant,

Welcome to sector NS7878...

Note: Behave.]

Soon I found myself back in the white tunnel where an invisible force carried me to the end of the white tunnel. Then I was once again next to a fancy fountain in the middle of a crossroad. And to my surprise, apart from the fountain the whole sector NS7878 was a barren land.

This meant that nobody has rented a single building or land in this sector so the inter-realm city did not even bother to develop a single property here. The construction of any structure in the inter-realm city was not cheap, everything here was constructed of soul energy created by the devil merchant code. Since no one planned to stay here pouring resources here would be wasteful.

However, this was good news for me because I can rent any land of my choice here which was not an option in the sector DS0909. All of the core areas of sector DS0909 were already occupied or came with a sky-high rent attached to them. And the warehouse or land that I could afford to rent very at the very edge of the sector DS0909 despite that those warehouses and lands had more foot traffic than this sector. But I preferred if there was no foot traffic.

I walked to the sector map board next to the fountain, to check the borders of sector NS7878 but it was undefined however the part that was clearly defined was not more than 100 acres. It seems the devil merchant code not only did not bother to develop any property in this sector but also allocate enough land to it. It was as if sector NS7878 was just to show that such a sector was present in the inter-realm city. I guess the same should be true for other sectors other than those that shared the same time zone as the dark realm.

Currently, I only needed an acre of land. Though I had full confidence in my business venture I did not want to invest a lot at the very start because there were too many variables I had not considered and those that even did not occur to me. So it was best to be cautious than crying over the spoiled milk.

Settling on a piece of land I then used the demon merchant code to rent it,

[Dear Demon Merchant,

Do you want to rent property number 05 for an appropriate offering to the devil merchant code?

(Yes/No)

Note: You will have to offer extra offerings if the case of time zone difference if required.

"Yes." I decisively answered. The concentration of soul energy and rule power in this sector was as dense in the sector DS0909. I did not see a reason why I should not be going through with this.

[Dear Demon Merchant,

The appropriate offering for property Number 05 is 2000 low-tier soul jades per day. Proceed to pay?

(Yes/No)

Note: Check out the property development options to develop the property you have rented.]

"Yes," a rent of 2000 low-tier soul jades per day was a lot but considering the profit margin of my business I have in my mind it was not much.

This also helped me understand why the natives of the realms sharing the same time zone as the sector NS7878 did not rent a property here. If you are paying that amount of rent, then you expect it also yields the same amount of profit otherwise it will only become a big hole in your wallet. Now I see why all the demon merchants gathered at the sectors sharing the same time zone as the dark realm. They had the most foot traffic in the entire inter-realm city not to mention the demon merchants from the dark realm were more financially ahead and capable than the demon merchants not native to the dark realm.

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Chapter 1300 Edible Liquid Soul Energy

[1,054 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- -/-

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Inter-realm city

Property no.05 was an acre of empty land right next to the fancy fountain at the center of the entire 100 acres of the sector NS7878. It cost 2000 low-tier soul jades rent per

day. Since I rented it and paid a week's worth of rent in advance I planned to get started with renovations right away.

First thing first, I used the demon merchant codex to build a big properly ventilated warehouse in property no.05. I will not be here all the time so I need walls not only for privacy but also for security. Plus the construction of the warehouse was free but if I wanted to build something fancy like a boutique or a tiny mall it was going to cost me.

After the large I entered it, only noticing a dialogue box appear,

[Dear Demon Merchant,

Select the nature of your property,

>Private (Exclusive entry only to Demon merchant Renting it)

>Public (Open for all Demon merchants.)

>Commercial (Exclusive entry only for the customers specified by the Demon merchant Renting it.)

Note: Each selection comes with varying options with appropriate offerings to be offered to the devil merchant code.]

"Private," I set the nature of the property based on my preference, and looking at the spacious empty warehouse I nodded in satisfaction. This was enough for a small-scale operation of the business plan I had in my mind.

'Hive AI, how far has the development of modified soul energy gathering array formation come?' After leaving the library I specifically instructed Hive AI to use all the information we had collected on the soul energy gathering array and the information on dungeon core formation to create an optimum version of the soul energy gathering array formation specifically created to meet all the requirements of the business I had in mind.

[Rendering complete...]

"Great!" With available data Hive AI was able to come up with three separate soul energy gathering array formations that meet my requirements. After running several simulations she optimized these array formations so that each one of them would give maximum efficiency. All that was left for me was to decide to name each of the array formations,

> Soul Energy Nectar array formation

> Soul Energy Milk array formation

> Soul Energy Wine array formation

The use of the soul energy gathering array formation was to gather soul energy in the surroundings and increase the concentration of the soul energy within the array formation. But if these exceptional soul energy gathering arrays were to be used in soul energy rich area like the inter-realm city the soul energy in the array will start to condensate and start to form visible vapors and clouds of soul energy within the array formation. Now that was fascinating but not enough to harvest the soul energy like planned.

Yes, my big plan was to harvest soul energy within the inter-realm city. Would the devil merchant code have a problem with that?

Many demon merchants practice soul energy and comprehend rule power in their respective sectors. Seeing how the devil merchant code has not reacted to that what I was doing was also similar so there should not be a problem. Not to mention I was paying rent a hefty rent to the devil merchant code.

This was where the data I had about dungeon core formation came into the picture. I planned to use this data to modify the soul energy gathering array formation such that it would gather concentrated pure soul energy in liquid form. The soul energy that could be orally consumed was worth a lot more in the card world market than soul jades.

I planned to harvest soul energy in liquid form here in sector NS7878 and then sell it in the card world. First of all, soul energy and rule power-related products were not worth much in the inter-realm city and the dark realm. Because these both had environments rich in soul power and rule energy. But that was not true for the card world, not to mention a few environments rich in soul power and rule energy that the card world had were occupied by powerful organizations. Truth be told despite the monopoly over it wasn't enough for them to sustain their organizations. Leading to fierce competition between the organizations.

So I had no doubt that all three products Soul Energy Nectar, Soul Energy Milk, and Soul Energy Wine would immediately become in-demand products when introduced in the Card World market. These three edible soul energy products were the same with the same effects but of different flavors like the carbonated drinks back on earth.

The advantage of using liquid soul energy products over soul jades for cultivating active soul control percentage was that a card apprentice would can a lot of concentrated and pure soul energy into his system during the cultivation of the active soul energy.

Whereas when using soul jades, the card apprentice will have to first extract soul energy from the soul jades then inhale it into their system, and then use it to excite their active soul control percentage. And once the card apprentice was able to make some progress using this, he would then refine the soul energy he had gathered in his system

to make it purer. Not to forget the energy loss during the extraction of soul energy from the soul jade and inhaling it into the card apprentices system.

Using soul jades for cultivation was a tedious and inefficient method compared to using liquid soul energy products. With liquid soul energy products, the card apprentice can directly skip the process of refining soul energy to make it purer. As the liquid soul energy was the liquid form of concentrated pure soul energy which could be directly introduced into the system of the card apprentice keeping the soul energy loss to a minimum making this method of exciting active soul control percentage more efficient than one where it involved using soul jades.

Now the question was how much liquid soul energy these three soul energy gathering array formations could gather in a day. I already had an estimate that Hive AI had calculated by running various simulations but I did not plan to hold my breath on it as there were always a few discrepancies in theoretical and practical results.

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