

Gacha 671

Chapter 671 - Their Current Course

As soon as Alex went back to his new house, he activated his Spirit Eyes to check whether this place was observed by anyone or any hidden array. At the same time, he was also curious whether his Master left anything in this house.

Unfortunately, no matter how hard he looked around, he couldn't see a single suspicious thing. He then moved toward the garden and saw three nearby houses with no one in it. He was confused as to why they left it empty but didn't walk around to avoid any trouble.

He went back inside and took out Anna's card. "Anna, how is the situation over there?"

"I have informed the others about your current situation. They can understand your current situation and are ready to be summoned if you want to escape from there." She reported while releasing a little bit of killing intent.

"It's fine. I am not mistreated here." Alex reassured her with a gentle voice. "I am trying to practice my Space Element that I have neglected this entire time."

"Is that so?" Anna paused for a moment and asked. "Do you need us to do anything? And what is our next plan?"

"Hmm... I will probably stay here for a year or so to master my Space Element. I assume we will stay low for the time being. As for when we can make our appearance again... it's on Seven Influences Banquet. Kyle and Stina can try to break through to Martial Saint within this time.

"Also, make sure Sherry doesn't slack in mastering her new Fire Skill... I will master it while I am here as well. I might only reach 8-Star Martial Saint within these one year because I need to practice other skills, so I will master everything I can."

Alex already made a plan for his advancement. Due to the current situation, he wanted to have another two Space Element techniques if possible. It would mean he had five techniques, including the seal realm technique.

Then, there was still his Fire Ability, he didn't have many things to do except mastering the same as Sherry's technique. Creating a sword and enveloping them by his Intent would give him a boost on attack power. If he combined with Space Elements, it would be scary.

As for his Sword and Spear, he had no current objective other than deepening his understanding. He hoped he could reach the last stage Sword and Spear God Stage right after breaking through to God Stage.

Last but not least was his power as Array Master and Alchemist. He was planning to get more money from here on because he felt it would be costly to stay here. After all, one technique and basic understanding cost him three million Spirit Gems. He had several pills and arrays he was planning to train as soon as he reached 8-Star Martial Monarch. All of these things would probably make him busy for more than a year.

"Alright. I understand your plan of staying there. As long as you are careful, I'm sure you won't get into trouble." Anna paused for a moment and said. "How about our plan? What do you want us to do?"

Alex contemplated for a few minutes. "First of all, I need you to keep killing monsters and search for medicinal ingredients, especially the rare one, because they won't be available in the market. Firia will refine the pills for the time being. That will give us our money for a while.

"After that, I want you to check Letizia's and Evelyn's conditions and progress. Evelyn aside, Letizia's current condition is a bit concerning. Although she won't be killed, torture and other things are still available. The hardest wound to get healed is a scar on the heart. Just make sure she doesn't have a trauma as I did, so inform me if anything happens to her.

"I also want you to maintain the relationship between us and the Blackwade Clan. Even as a business partner is fine, just make sure you keep it secret from others. I want them to see us as a huge business partner first before revealing my card." Alex finished his order and took a deep breath.

Anna thought for a moment and nodded. "I understand. We will kill as many monsters as possible to increase our strength and Gacha Tickets. If possible, I will make all spirits reach 1-Star Martial Saint... Without EXP Cards, it will be hard, but I am sure it's absolutely possible with EXP Cards. Anya and Firia will take charge of the planning here, so you don't need to worry.

"Anya will also handle the training for Stina and Kyle while Firia takes care of Sherry's Fire Training. I will be in charge of fieldwork. As for Letizia, we have Nano stand by beside her, so we will know if anything happens. Njomo is staying under Evelyn's shadow this whole time and reports her progress to us from time to time.

"Lastly, Nicole takes care of Blackwade Clan matter. Considering their successor, Song Jiaoren, already met her, it should be easier to maintain our current relationship. With how we hunt, use Inventory, and produce income, it should be enough to create an image of being a wealthy influence."

Alex listened to her plan and management and knew he didn't need to worry about them. "I understand. I will leave the others in your hand. Inform me of the progress every month unless there is an emergency situation."

"Understood." Anna nodded.

"I love you... Anya, Firia, and Sherry too." Alex smiled gently, knowing he couldn't meet either of them for more than a year.

"Love you too... I will pass your message to the others as well."

"Yes. See you later." Alex nodded and put back her card inside the Inventory.

Looking at his surroundings, he realized that he needed to train hard.

"Let see... Creating Space Plates at the same time is hard, and I need to do it fast enough." Alex raised his hands and created the Space Plates one by one. Aileen made it look easy, but it was harder than controlling a few hundred firebirds because he was connecting the real world and the Spatial World, AKA the Blue Layered Realm.

The Space Plates slowly formed one after another. Even though he succeeded, he could see it wasn't stable enough to block an attack.

Crack—!

His techniques started to crack after making five Space Plates. He actually had used this technique to create his array, but he never made one like a puzzle. His heart said that he might be able to create a sturdier array quicker if he mastered this Space Plate Technique. He just needed to know what kind of action would make other people realize his Space Elements so as to avoid them.

He began his practice because it looked amazing. He wouldn't want to waste any seconds after knowing how wonderful Space Element is.

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A few hours later, someone suddenly went to his house, ringing the doorbell.

Alex activated his Spirit Eyes and found out it was Aileen. 'What does she want to do?'

The first thought that came to his mind that Aileen wanted to talk it out with Alex, but it would be impossible. Hence, he confidently came out and greeted her. "Great Elder."

Aileen nodded gently. "Do you have any problem with the house? I can change it for you."

"No. The house is comfortable for me." Alex smiled before asking. "If I may ask, for what reason does Great Elder visit this humble person?"

"It's nothing. I just want to check on you, so Viola can't say anything bad, especially about how I mistreat you."

"Ahaha... I am fine in this house. My Master once stayed in this place after all." Alex chuckled.

She looked at him for a few seconds before taking three books out of his Inventory. "These three books are for Space Element basic, my version of Space Plate and Spatial Gate. You can learn it from this place."

Alex received the three books and stared at them for a couple of seconds before thanking Aileen.

"Thank you."

"You have paid for it, so no need to thank me." Aileen smiled before pointing at the three houses around him. "I am staying in the furthest house, so you can go there to ask me if you have any problems with the technique. The other two houses are for my Disciples. The eldest disciple is Ryuu, a 1-Star Martial Saint. He is a polite kid and a good-natured one that loves his friends and family.

"My second disciple is Maya, 3-Star Martial Monarch. She is a bit rash, but pretty tame in front of Ryuu, so if she makes trouble, just go to me or Ryuu. We will handle her."

"I understand." Alex nodded.

"You can read all three books first for one day and try to understand everything on your own. If you have any questions, you can ask me the day after tomorrow. I will introduce you to my disciples on the third day."

"Yes." Alex nodded repeatedly. She kept mentioning her disciples as if she wanted them to meet Alex. She might even have a hidden intention for this, so Alex put his guard up.

"Alright, then. I will leave now."

"Yes." Alex smiled gently as he saw the Great Elder off.

After closing the door, he quickly ran back to his room and started reading the book.

He learned that everything about Space Element would naturally be related to the Blue Layered Realm. The Space Ability itself was playing around these two worlds, either connect it or separate it. To achieve the Spatial Gates like Aileen's, he needed to connect the first Spatial Gates to the Blue Layered Realm. After that, he needed to connect the second gate to the special realm as well. This connection needed to be perfectly linked.

In other words, this technique required two Spatial Gates to make it that way. It was a high-level technique, so he was pretty amazed by all the variations he could use to enhance his ability.

The same applied to the Space Plate Technique. There were three types of conditions for it. Firstly, the Space Plate wouldn't affect the world at all if they stayed inside the Blue Layered Realm. If he made them resurface a little bit, it would fall under the second category. The Space Plate would stay in between two worlds, allowing the Space Plates to affect the real world. This was the condition where they could make an invisible shield.

Lastly, it was entirely in the real world. In this case, the Space Plate would affect the world directly. This condition perfectly fit the condition when he used it to make an array resurface in the real world by a single snap of his finger. It was already created inside the Blue Layered Realm, so Alex only needed to activate it in the real world.

Alex was intrigued by these three books, so he read it over and over again. He didn't forget to take a note to remind him of the questions he wanted to ask the Great Elder. Albeit, studying would always bring him a surprise. Out of many questions he had, it was already answered just by reading the books a few more times. Unfortunately, not many people had the patience to read the book over and over again, including the people from Earth.

Without him knowing, tomorrow came and ended without anything noteworthy. Alex, on the other hand, forgot about the promise and kept reading his book, exploring the wonder of Space Element while practicing the two techniques. Surprisingly, he practiced more efficiently after knowing some basic knowledge... Albeit, he forgot the promise with the Great Elder.

Ding!

The doorbell rang again, and Alex realized his wrongdoing. He quickly got up and headed to the door.

"I'm sorry, Great Elder. I was too fixated on the new knowledge." Alex scratched his head and said apologetically.

Aileen still put her gentle smile and nodded. "I am just checking you. Do you have any questions?"

Chapter 672 - News

"I am just checking you. Do you have any questions?"

Alex sighed as he took a deep breath before saying. "I have several questions about the Space Element. First of all..."

He started asking all the questions he had. Of course, he didn't forget to invite her inside.

Aileen was surprised that he only had a few questions. She remembered that she needed to teach her students over and over again and answered their questions numerous times. Suspecting him not read anything, she decided to test his knowledge and only got a shock right after.

Alex explained it carefully, and each answer was sophisticated as if he understood what he was talking about. She couldn't ask him anything or test him again after a few questions. The answers left her stupefied and made her go back to her house without a single complaint.

"I will go to your house again tomorrow to introduce you to my disciples. If you have a question and I am busy on that day, you can find my disciples. They should be able to answer any basics. Or if you are going to know about the deeper understanding, you need to wait until I am ready first."

"Yes." Alex simply nodded and saw her off.

He tried to incorporate the knowledge from earlier to the one from his own understanding, trying to see if he had another question to ask later.

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The next day,

Aileen was busy in her room, finishing the morning matter before her room was opened as two people went inside the room.

"Ryuu, Maya! You both have worked hard... How was the surface?" Aileen called her two disciples. The male had long black hair and a calm expression. He appeared sincere, but would certainly show his slyness when the time came. On the other hand, the female had long pink hair tied into a ponytail.

"Master." Ryuu clasped his hands and bowed his head while Maya ran across the room and threw herself to Aileen, hugging her energetically.

Aileen smiled and stroked Maya's hair before looking at Ryuu, asking for the report.

"The surface is pretty turmoil right now." Ryuu's expression turned serious.

"That's right. There is going to be a bloodbath soon." Maya nodded and released her master.

"Explain to me more clearly." Aileen furrowed her eyebrows and crossed her arms.

"Yes. I will explain it to you, Master." Ryuu nodded and recalled all the matters. "Firstly, it seems the continent has another powerful influence that has been hidden this whole time. They are called Spirit Nest."

"Spirit Nest?" Aileen was obviously confused with this name because Alex had yet to mention a single word about Spirit Nest. He only told her that he created his own influence. 'Is it him? It can't be, right?

How long and how far an influence can go when it's built by a little less than thirty years old young man?'

"Yes. There will be a war soon on the continent...?And I am sure either Spirit Nest or Fire God Clan will perish in this war. There is a possibility of other influences joining this battle." Maya nodded with a smile. "Haha! They deserve that. Have all those people fight against each other and destroy each other."

"Hmm... Our entrance should be perfectly safe. As long as we hide in this place until the storm passes, we might see a new chance for standing tall on that continent once more." Aileen thought for a moment and said. "Out of the seven influences, who else might join this battle?"

"We are not sure, but I will explain everything we learn in this mission." Ryu shook his head in disappointment. "Firstly, it all happened a year ago. The Spirit Nest killed Fire God Clan elders and their young master, creating a turmoil on the Heavenly Continent.

"After that, the Blackwade Clan joined forces with Fire God Clan to catch this Spirit Nest, only to find them leaving from the alliance due to the Fire God Clan not being sincere. Not having anyone they could trust their back, the Fire God Clan didn't come to catch the Spirit Nest.

"Later, I found out that the Spirit Nest suddenly appeared on the Sacred Continent, destroying Black Devil Sect. Having known their location, Fire God Clan decided to attack them with only two 5-Star Martial Saints and allied with Ancient Blue Family. However, they were annihilated in a single day. The two Martial Saints were killed by the Spirit Nest's leader. According to the information, it seemed he was only a 3-Star Martial Monarch... I was stunned and couldn't understand what method he used to kill them.

"End of the story, the Fire God Clan retreated to the Heavenly Continent and stayed low for the time being. It seemed there was a problem with their alliance with the Ancient Blue Family, but we couldn't find any details about it. As for the Spirit Nest, we can't track them at all." Ryu finished his report while shaking his head.

Aileen furrowed her eyebrows and thought, 'It's definitely not him. He is a 6-Star Martial Saint, so it must be someone else. The possibility of them having Martial Saint experts to help them are huge...'

"That's right. I am curious about this leader of Spirit Nest. I still can't believe that he can kill a Martial Saint even though he has the same cultivation stage as me. Besides, Elder Brother Ryu is the best... If this Alexander Sirius fights Elder Brother Ryu, he won't be able to win without using a trick." Maya nodded furiously, revealing Alex's name unconsciously.

"What did you say?!" Aileen slammed her table and glared at Maya.

"Ma-Master?" Maya's heart skipped a beat as she stepped back out of reflex.

"Who is his name? No, did you say Alexander Sirius?" Aileen released her Spiritual Energy, scaring these two disciples.

"Hi—! Ye-yes, their leader is Alexander Sirius." Maya nodded furiously while her body was shaking.

"I am done with this... Monster will always give birth to another monster." Aileen dropped her head to the table and began sweating profusely.

"Master? Why do you have such a reaction after learning the name of Alexander Sirius?" Ryuu narrowed his eyes, confused with her exaggerated reaction.

"Do you know about the First Grand Elder of the Fire Temple? The one that came five thousand years ago to learn about Space Element and reached God Stage not long after."

"Of course. Without you telling us of his story, his name will be an urban legend for us because he was the only one that became a God from this place." Ryuu nodded.

"If I tell you his disciples come to this place, what will you do?"

"What?!" Ryuu dropped his jaw to the ground and blinked his eyes a few times.

"And that person's name is Alexander Sirius."

Thud—! Maya was speechless while Ryuu's body started shaking as he asked. "Is that true, Master? Where is he?"

"He came here a few days ago and now is under my care. I am going to teach him Space Element in the same way as his teacher. He needs to pay a fee for the teaching." She furrowed her eyebrows. "To think he is such a person... I thought about going lenient with him and didn't overcharge him. If I knew his identity earlier, I would surely charge him more! But now I can't do anything about it..."

Ryuu thought for a moment and let out a long sigh. "It seems he is going to bring another problem to our place... Master should know that each temple went with us, and I am sure they are reporting to their respective great elders..."

"That's right. That Viola knew about him first, so she must have informed the other Great Elders about it. If they know his identity, this is going to be troublesome for us... It seems all temples will have a meeting soon." She bit her lips, sensing the danger coming from the other temples. "It seems I am going to be summoned by all those elders tomorrow..."

"Master, should we come with you, or are you going to bring me?"

"No. He will stay here for the time being. Those people want to know him first before planning something, and I am sure it will be a big one."

"Why?" Maya furrowed her eyebrows, finally turning serious.

"He is a 6-Star Martial Monarch now, and his real age is less than 30 years old. He said he didn't remember... But we usually don't remember as well because we have been living for so long. He shouldn't forget about it this early, but knowing this means he has never found age is something that matters. This also means that he doesn't tell anyone about his age that much, so others don't know about his real age. When the truth is revealed, they will be shocked to the core, and there might be a major upheaval after that. I mean, who won't wish for such a son-in-law..." Aileen sighed and looked at Ryuu and Maya standing in front of them, dumbfounded.

She thought for a moment and continued. "We can increase someone's cultivation with enough resources, right? All influences must be searching for a method to advance as quickly as him but without a backlash because most people will surely have their potential limited by this method... At the same time, it comes at a high cost. You can say that our entire sect can boost twenty normal disciples to 7-Star

Martial Saint, depending on their talent... It will be done within less than a decade, but we won't have anything afterward.

"That's why major influences won't use this type of method unless it's necessary. Their family will also become unstable with those resources flying away. Hence, Alexander Sirius will be one of a kind and naturally be targeted... Did they know about his Pure Fire and Space Element? No, did they know anything about his real power?"

Ryuu contemplated for a minute before saying. "No. They know everything from his sword, alchemist, to his Pure Fire... But they don't know a single thing about him having a Space Element."

"Do you know anything about him? I mean, when he revealed each of his power? I am sure it's not at the same time, right?"

"I heard such information, but I couldn't confirm the credibility. If Master doesn't"

"Say it!"

Ryuu took a deep breath and nodded. "Firstly, he was only a simple Martial Master, climbing his way to the top with his sword. At that time, he was a disciple of the Heavenly Sword Sect on the Willow Continent. If I am not wrong, he revealed only his Alchemist identity, his Sword, and Spear when he was on the Willow Continent...?He openly used his Array on the Northern Continent, which was where his Pure Fire was discovered. He... What a guy..."

Maya couldn't understand why Ryuu praised him while Aileen nodded solemnly. "It seems you have understood him... slightly. He must be hiding his Space Element until now because he wants to use it against them at the right moment. That's why he never trained his Space Element and only trained it now. He is really a devil because he will wreak havoc on the Heavenly Continent as soon as he reaches Martial Saint. I'm sure that many people deem him dangerous. Do you know anything about his allies?"

"I don't know about his ally, but I learned that he was the mentor of the current successor of Drunken Pavilion. Besides, the owner of this pavilion was Great Elder Maxwell's friend, right?"

"Indeed. Now we can see he has an ally. If there is nothing wrong with his progress... I'm sure the other Great Elders will use it to... We are going to be busy soon." Aileen rose from her seat. "You two are going to follow me to his house. I am going to introduce him to you. Make sure you act natural and polite to him, especially you, Maya. I know your obsession with Ryuu, but this time is different. Unless you want to spend one hundred years alone in your room, then watch your mouth."

Ryuu and Maya tensed up as they bowed. "Yes, Master."

Chapter 673 - Alex and Ryuu

"Yes, Master."

The three of them then teleported to Alex's house.

Alex gradually opened his eyes after sensing three people coming closer to his house.

'It should be the Great Elder and her disciples.' He thought without hesitation. Only the Great Elder knew his existence, and with the promise she had previously, Alex was able to predict it.

He stood up and headed to the door, coming out of the house before those three landed. Looking up a bit, he activated his Spirit Eyes and confirmed that they also had Space Element.

On the other hand, Maya lifted up her eyebrows, never expecting a handsome man caused the chaos on the surface. 'He... He is handsome... Even more than Elder Brother Ryuu. But Elder Brother is the number one in my heart. No matter how hard you try to sway my heart, you won't get it.'

She started her own delusion, picturing what if both Ryuu and Alex pursued her, and couldn't help but drool at this moment. Luckily, Ryuu and Aileen were focused on Alex.

Landing on the ground, Aileen smiled gently and greeted Alex. "I hope you have a great time in this place, Alexander Sirius. Let me introduce you. These two are my disciples."

She stretched her hands toward Ryuu and Maya before stepping aside. Ryuu walked forward and cupped his hand. "Nice to meet you. I have heard so much about you from Master and on the surface, o' Spirit Nest's leader, Alexander Sirius. I am Ryuu Raichi. You can call me Ryuu."

Maya also stepped forward and bowed her head politely. "Maya Ai."

Alex furrowed his eyebrows at first, never expecting that they managed to learn his identity. But knowing they were from the surface and must have reported the matter to their Master first, they would be foolish if they didn't know it was him. Hence, he nodded with a smile. "I am Alexander Sirius. You can call me Alex."

Aileen glanced at her disciples first before saying. "That's right. I am planning to have another discussion with you if you have another question. My disciples will help you with the basics if I am busy, as I said yesterday. Ryuu, I am leaving the matter to you."

"Yes, Master. I will not disappoint you." Ryuu nodded solemnly.

"Wait, Master! Why do you only leave it to Elder Brother? I am still here!" Maya protested while circling around Aileen.

Aileen patted her head and chuckled. "You still need more training before you can teach anyone anything. Firstly, you shouldn't skip my homework or ask your Elder Brother to finish your homework. Then, you can start paying attention to all of my lectures and read the books carefully."

Maya suddenly froze and was sweating profusely. "Master... I—"

"You are going to—" Before Aileen finished her words, an elder appeared beside them. It seemed he was this Space Temple Elder.

"Great Elder! We have an emergency."

"What? Did the Council want to meet me?" Aileen raised her eyebrows and stepped forward, glaring at this elder.

The elder stepped back as he nodded profusely. "Ye-yes. We just got the information, and other elders said you might probably here."

She let out a long sigh before looking at the three people. "I am sorry. I need to go now. You three can talk first without me."

Alex, Ryuu, and Maya nodded.

Aileen then snapped her finger and created a Spatial Gate that connected this place to the place in front of the portal. "Tell the messenger to go back and the other elders to continue their job."

"Yes!" The elder nodded as Aileen went inside the gate and disappeared. The elder then nodded to Ryuu before leaving them.

Alex and Ryuu locked into each other's eyes, ignoring Maya's existence.

"I have heard so much about you, Alexander Sirius. It is my honor to see you in person." Ryuu smiled and stretched his hand.

Alex nodded and shook his hand. "I'm not someone special."

"Haha... So young with that many achievements, if you are not special, I wonder if the world still has someone special?" Ryuu laughed out loud before his expression turned serious. "Actually, I want to ask you something."

"Please ask." Alex nodded.

"I heard that you have attained the highest swordsmanship and reached Sword Saint. If possible, I want to learn Sword Skill for you. Of course, I will pay for it as well, like how you are doing with my Master... Wait, I have a more interesting offer for you. How about I teach you a Space Element Technique, and you teach me swordsmanship. That should be fair, right?" Ryuu offered a barter.

Alex thought for a moment and said. "It's indeed an interesting offer. However, my hands are full with Space Plates and Spatial Gates. In fact, I only learned about the Space Element recently, so I don't think I need to learn another Space Element for the time being."

"That is fine with me." Ryuu nodded. "Or you can start by teaching me while practicing your Space Element Techniques. I can give you some inputs regarding these two techniques. Of course, I will offer advice for free. You can say it's an additional bonus from my payment."

"That is also not a bad idea." Alex thought he could use it to his advantage. By having someone to guide him in these basics, he could finish his training quicker. As much as he hated to say it, he actually needed around four months just to reach 8-Star Martial Saint, and that was only if he was purely cultivated. It was this long because he didn't have Firia or Sherry with him.

At the same time, he needed more than three months to learn every Array and Pill he wanted, thus the first seven months. He only had another eleven months before the Seven Influences Banquet began. He then needed to learn these two techniques and Space Element basics, which required him another few months.

If he sped up this process by having Ryuu teach him, he might be able to squish time to learn two or three Space Techniques while training Sherry's Fire Technique that turned the firebirds to fire swords.

Alex had no objection to his idea and nodded his head. "Alright. I will take your offer. When do you want us to begin?"

"As soon as possible. But since I just came back, I need to submit a written report to the temple. I need two... No, one day to finish it. I will come to your house again since it's not that far." Ryuu nodded while pointing at the nearest house.

Alex glanced at the house and nodded. He knew the nearest and the furthest houses were Ryuu's and Aileen's respectively, so the one in-between must be Maya's house. "I am fine with this arrangement as well. I will meet you tomorrow at this place. Besides, where do you think we can practice?"

"No worry. I can access the Master's Training Field. Do you know that we have another tower that has been equipped by Space Technique and Illusion Array to have a simulation battle? I will use the Master's room that only the Great Elder can use. That's why we can practice without having anyone disturb us. I'm sure you will like the room." Ryuu smiled, feeling he had succeeded in enticing Alex.

"Sure." Kai nodded once again before glancing at Maya, who was pouting. Ryuu finally remembered Maya and realized he was too focused on Alex this whole time.

"Ah, Maya!"

"Ah, Maya, What?!" Maya glared at Ryuu. "You are always like this. You can only train and train to the point you forget about anything. You even forget Maya and Master when you want to train!"

"I'm sorry." Ryuu chuckled before looking at this little girl with a smile. "It's really a bad habit of mine that I am trying to change, but it's easier said than done. Anyway, how about you go to your house first? I have something to talk about with Alexander Sirius."

"Humph." She looked away and snorted. "I am staying here."

Ryuu's eyebrows twitched as he looked at Alex apologetically. Alex simply waved his hand. "It's fine. I don't mind."

Ryuu then talked a few things to him, and he needed to know how many things his master already promised Alex. After all, he had the same principle as his master, so he didn't want to cheat Alex and vice versa.

Alex answered all of his inquiries, treating it as small talk. Maya kept looking at the two a few meters from them while pouting her face. After another hour, she got annoyed and came closer. "You two never stop talking. If it's like this, I also want to trade. I can trade a Space Technique with him!"

Alex glanced at her, astonished.

Ryuu only smiled while patting her hair like his master before saying mean words. "Now now. You need to learn your Space Element first because most of your techniques aren't stable. Master already warned you multiple times, but you always treated them as nothing. Do you think you can trade and teach him your technique? It's better to learn from the book rather than someone who has yet to master the technique because there might be many misunderstandings."

"I... I..." She bit her lips while glaring at Ryuu.

Ryuu ignored her and looked at Alex. "If you want to learn technique, we have Martial Arts Temple where we mostly store our techniques there. I can guide you to that place and inform you that you are an Honorary Elder, seeking a technique. The elder there should give you a fair offer after seeing the technique. Your Master also did that, so do you want to try it?"

Alex furrowed his eyebrows. "It's only a technique, right? I mean, I can only borrow the book, not buy it, no?"

"Unfortunately, yes. The techniques here can't be learned by outsiders. However, your status can only give you the privilege to learn the technique before giving the book back... Of course, you can't copy it as well. Once the matter is known, there will be an elder that will punish you."

"To be honest, I still don't understand the rule in this place. Can you explain it to me?" Alex asked.

Ryuu shook his head and took out a thin book. "This is the rule of this place. You only need fifteen minutes to read it, I guess. I will lend it to you first, and you can give it back to me tomorrow. Does that sound good enough?"

"Sure. This will be helpful since I don't want to have unnecessary problems." Alex nodded, taking the book and storing it inside his Space Ring. "I also want to visit this temple since I'm in need of Space Element Arts. I can know what I need as well after looking at all those arts."

"Of course. I will guide you there tomorrow. I am sure you will like at least one of my techniques because I have chosen them carefully, so I am not afraid to bring you there even before our practice starts." Ryuu nodded.

Alex smiled and nodded, looking at Ryuu's confidence. "I am looking forward to your techniques then. I hope they won't disappoint me."

He had thrown many good techniques in his memory because it was not compatible with him. That was why he was wondering what kind of technique he had to be this confident.

"Then, I probably have one last question for you. This place is irreplaceable to me. I have realized this after visiting the surface for the second time. Unlike the surface, this place doesn't love conflicts because we shed our tears a few thousand years ago... However, we are not actually afraid of problems. Hence, I wish to ask this one last question to you, who come here so suddenly with the identity as Great Elder Maxwell's disciple..."

"Sure. Ask me anything. I will answer if I can." Alex nodded.

Ryuu's expression turned serious as his Spiritual Energy started leaking out of his body. He looked at Alex and asked. "Are you a threat to this place?"

Chapter 674 - Behind the Scene Discussion

In the middle of the Freedom Sect stood tall yet another temple. However, unlike the red colored temples, this one was dominated white roses to the point that the red color was hardly seen.

Aileen entered the building and headed toward the highest floor. On her left were the elders of Fire Temple, Lightning Temple, and Earth Temple. On her right were the elders from Water Temple, Wind

Temple, and Ice Temple. However, there were only two people sitting in front of her. They were the elders from Darkness Temple and Light Temple because the empty seat was her.

"Fufu... It's been a hundred years since our last discussion. It's really intriguing to see all of you once again." Aileen smiled as she walked toward the middle before jumping toward her own seat and crossing her arms. "So, what do you want for me? I don't think we need pleasantries, right? So, let's cut to the chase."

Viola looked at the current people and sighed. After concealing themselves for a few thousand years, they had built their strength, and this would be the perfect time to...

Responding to her statement, the man from Light Temple rose. He was a bald old man with a long white robe like a priest. "I think you already know what we want to talk about."

"As expected, it's him, huh..." Aileen sighed while looking at all of them with a bored look. "Before we are talking about him, you already know about his identity, right?"

"Of course. The disciples have informed us... and with the information provided by Great Elder Viola, Alexander Sirius is bonafide Great Elder Maxwell's disciple and the leader of Spirit Nest." The old man nodded.

"Since we are talking about him, then make sure to have his identity in your mind. Since you have, then let's talk." Aileen nodded.

"Firstly, I want you to tell me anything you know about him."

Aileen thought for a moment and nodded before starting her storytelling. Of course, she told them everything, including Alex's needs and his disciple. Everyone listened attentively to the very details to see whether he would bring salvation or doom for them. After around thirty minutes, she finished her story and ended it with a single question.

"What is your ultimate goal?" Aileen furrowed her eyebrows.

"I only have one goal... No, it should be everyone's goal."

"Return to the surface?" Aileen narrowed her eyes as her eyebrows twitched. Surprised and annoyance filled her heart at the same time, making her unable to express these two feelings clearly.

"And how can we do that?"

"It's simple. If Spirit Nest helps us to eradicate two influences, we should be able to establish ourselves on the surface." He nodded.

"Only two? We were attacked by all people on that Continent, you know!"

"Not all people." He shook his head and smiled. "We still had allies in the past. Although we have nothing currently, have you thought there is a deal between Spirit Nest and Blackwade Clan? With our three influences, we can simply wipe the Fire God Clan and Ancient Blue Family. This way, even if the other three influences attacked us, we will be able to fend for ourselves since it will be three versus three battles."

"And you forget something. We have been waiting for this whole time, honing our skills and cultivations. Right now, we have two 10-Star Martial Saints, four 9-Star Martial Saints, and two 8-Star Martial Saints in this room. With this number alone, it's clear that we can be two influences, so it will be four versus three fight.

"If there is a suspicious movement, we can destroy Blackwade Clan swiftly and establish our place firmly... Especially since the boy wants to ascend. If it's only three influences versus us, then we are not afraid. Although it's a bit hard, we should be able to manage." The elder nodded with a smile.

"!!!" Aileen widened her eyes, never expecting that he had planned to this step. "Still, don't you think it's dangerous? Besides, how can we even convince him to take part?"

"It's simple. We can just give him a reward... What do you think the appropriate gift to him, Great Elder Aileen?"

Aileen thought for a moment before looking up as if she realized the answer. "You mean Space Element. It's true that he is searching for a Space Element for his disciple, but he might not take it. He is a man of principle from what I can see."

The old man thought and smiled. "It's simple. We can entice him step by step. Learning that his heart won't be swayed by some random women, then we will entice them with Space Element. Firstly, we can use the Potential Tower to make a small competition for all disciples. Of course, he can join as well. The reward will be a lesser Space Element.

"He is a responsible teacher, so he must want the best for his disciple. In that case, he will seek for the best Space Element. We will give him the chance to acquire it by helping us eliminating two influences. The first will be Fire God Clan, but they are currently his enemy, so we won't need to request it, allowing us to lessen the request to him.

"The second influence will be up to him. If we are able to do this, we can give him the Space Element and teach his disciple Space Element for free until she can master this element. After all, we can't bring the Element inheritance with us if we are going to the surface. It will be useless, so I rather use it as a bargaining chip. We can even protect her until she reaches God Stage like him.

"After that, we can say goodbye to this place." The elder smirked as he had longed to return the surface for long.

"Still... Why do you want him to enter the Potential Tower?"

"You already know that there are ten floors of Potential, right? It can measure his talent and allow us to promote him. Besides, he won't take the deal unless it's something like this."

Aileen looked up and sighed. "Ten floors of potential... Each floor will test him by using the power of different elements. Fire, Water, Ice, Lightning, Earth, Wind, Light, Darkness, Space, and Mental Element. On each floor, your strength will be limited, and you should use your wisdom to prove that you have an affinity with elements and have profound wisdom. Only Great Elder Maxwell has passed ten floors and become a God.

"Maybe... It's only by conquering the Potential Tower that one has the qualification to challenge Heaven and become a God. Both of our 10-Star Martial Saints have tested and failed at the ninth floor while I only reached the eighth floor."

"That's right. We need to do this right now before it's too late. Great Elder Maxwell won't choose someone useless, and you have experienced it yourself." The elder nodded.

"Even so, what if he is angry and rejects you right away?" Aileen narrowed her eyes. She might fight this elder if he said he would kill him.

Fortunately, the elder smiled and shook his head. "I won't do anything. I will simply ask his disciple then and let her decide. Of course, I will say it to him directly, and I am sure he will leave the choice to his own disciple. It might be easier to entice her than her master."

Aileen slammed and stood up, glaring at this old man. "Are you serious? I won't do this."

"I haven't told you everything, Great Elder Aileen." He shook his head. "We are different than those people from the surface. We have our own consciences. We won't force someone to do against their will, including threatening them. This is simply give and take. Hence, I am going to request all of you to vote whether we go with this plan or not? Now!"

The Great Elders contemplated for a few minutes before the Great Elders from Ice and Water temples raised their hands. The Great Elder from Lightning Temple also raised his hand.

"I want to ask one last question." Viola suddenly opened her mouth as he glared at Licht.

"Go ahead."

"It's not a question, but more to a statement. You already know my morals and principles, especially toward my mentor's disciple. I am going to tell you this first, I will back him up if you do anything underhanded even if it means creating a huge conflict in this place." Viola said while releasing her killing intent, telling him he was serious.

"Of course. I have considered everything. If you think I am excessive, you can simply warn me. If I don't stop, you can beat me hard or even kill me." Licht said with a solemn expression. He dared to bet his life for the hope to live on the surface again. "Besides, we can simply retreat to this place if we fail... Sure, it will come costly, but we can build up our strength once more and try again later... Albeit, I won't be alive by that time."

Viola looked at his eyes for a minute before raising her hands. Surprisingly, the Darkness Elder beside Licht also raised her hand. "I will support you this time, Old Licht. But I don't think his reward is worth the efforts, it's too little. I will also add his reward from my own coffers. You have no problem with that, right?"

"Of course. You all free to do anything you want. I will take the role of convincing him, so inform me everything you want to do." Licht nodded.

The rest of the elders finally nodded their heads. Aileen still had given her confirmation, not because it had been decided. She simply wanted to state another thing. "Firstly, Our Great Elder two generations back had become a friend of Great Elder Maxwell... There was a record only a Great Elder knew, and it

only passed to him by the late Great Elder. She said to me to only tell all of you when we want to resurface."

Aileen paused for a moment as the others listened to her with confused expressions. She continued, "This place has been longing to make its appearance again, but we also feel tired of relentless war. That's why I won't liberate this place from its curse despite capable of doing so. I only have one reason. The current Freedom Sect doesn't have a united will to go to the surface. When they live in the real world, they will know how harsh the world is and might be scared. Hence, if you ever want to go to the surface, it's better to take those who want and who doesn't."

"This way, the disciples that have grown tired of fighting on the surface could go back to this place. And those who have grown tired of this place can try experiencing the surface. Everyone has their own belief, so don't force it on them... As it will become the biggest weakness that will be exploited by the enemies."

"The second thing will be to create another entrance somewhere far away so the disciples won't give the enemies the correct way to go to this place. After all, killing and torture are normal on the surface. Make sure you consider these two points before coming to the surface and if you still go after these two warnings, then make sure you see it to the end... Thus the end of the message."

Suddenly, all Great Elders rose from their seats, cupped their hands, and bowed. "We have received the words of Senior!"

At first, they were confused, but they realized they had yet to think this far after hearing the profound message. As expected of the only person who became a God. They only had respect in their hearts.

Aileen let out a long sigh. "Great Elder Licht... Do you still have the same resolve?"

Licht's body was shaken, losing his confidence. He closed his eyes and took a deep breath. His expression turned solemn as he answered Aileen with determination. "Yes!"

The other Great Elders also turned solemn as they nodded their heads.

Chapter 675 - Start of the Training

The next day, Alex came out of his house, only to find Ryu and Maya waiting for him. He silently walked toward them while glancing over Ryu a few times. He recalled the matter of yesterday...

The previous day...

"Are you a threat to this place?" Ryu asked while releasing his killing intent and Spiritual Energy to intimidate Alex.

Alex looked at his eyes for a few seconds and realized the reason he asked this question. Ryu must love this place, so a stranger like him would surely bring a change to this place, even more so with Great Elder Maxwell's disciple. Still, he didn't like it when someone asked him this way. Hence, Alex released his Spiritual Energy and killing intent simultaneously.

Maya opened her eyes wide, wondering what just happened. Just earlier, they were talking like friends, happy go lucky, but everything changed when Ryu suddenly asked that question.

She looked at their clashes and got utterly shocked. Spiritual Energy wise, Alex's 6-Star Martial Monarch Spiritual Energy wouldn't be a match against Ryuu's 1-Star Martial Saint Energy, yet the difference wasn't that far. It was easy to see that Ryuu could dominate in terms of energy, but he couldn't suppress Alex's energy because of Alex's killing intent.

Ryuu himself had killed many people and monsters, accumulating killing intent for a few hundred years. Yet, the twenty-eight years old young man in front of him obliterated his killing intent.

Maya was far on the side, but she felt a bit weak when she saw this amount of killing intent. 'How... How can his killing intent be this deep? How many lives has he killed?'

Asking the question that would never be answered, Maya tried to stop them but to no avail. Ryuu might have killed a few thousand, albeit mostly monsters, but he had done it for a few hundred years. Unfortunately, in front of him was Alex. Ryuu tried to understand this killing intent...

'A few thousand... No, to release a killing intent this deep??? He must have killed a few ten thousands if not one hundred thousand.' Shivering from fear, Maya stepped back. 'How... How can a boy in his late twenty kill this many?'

Ryuu was also surprised by this sudden display and thought about retreating out of shock, but he decided to hold on and kept standing in front of him as if nothing happened.

Little did they know that Alex's killing count was over a hundred thousand. It wasn't from the Willow Continent alone where he killed many monsters and soldiers, it ran back from the day he was in the lower world. He had been killing so many monsters along with those in the dungeons, spanning to thousands, if not tens of thousands.

This killing intent wasn't someone like Ryuu could withstand. Alex glared at him and said with a cold tone, sending shivers all over their body. "It's better if you don't do it anymore. I will only say this once. As long as the Freedom Sect doesn't start, I won't start anything. If you want a war, I will end everything with a river of blood."

Alex was bluffing by warning them to make sure they didn't do anything stupid, and he succeeded. Ryuu retracted his Spiritual Energy and killing intent as his expression turned normal.

"As long as you don't harm us, I will always act neutral." Ryuu nodded while smiling. "I am looking forward to working with you."

...

Alex let out a long sigh and never expected to have that kind of welcome. He arrived at the place and nodded to Ryuu and Maya. "I'm ready."

"Sure. We are going to the training place, and my junior sister seems to want to watch our practice. Do you mind?" Ryuu asked softly.

"I don't mind. She can do whatever she wants as long as she doesn't get in my way." Alex shook his head. His stance was passive-aggressive to make sure that he didn't come here to flirt or whatever and simply wanted to learn Space Element.

"Sure." Alex nodded. He couldn't see Sword Intent on Maya's body, but Spear Intent, so he didn't mind about showing her coming because she wouldn't get any advantage from this exchange. He might want to restrict himself and only use Sword to ensure the transaction would be the same. After all, he was just playing how the Freedom Sect wanted; it was simply give and take.

Ryuu smiled and signaled Maya to follow them as he opened the Spatial Gate. Alex could see through the gate and found yet another temple. However, this temple was blue instead of red, so it must have a different purpose considering the Space and Fire Temples both have a red color.

Coming through the gate, he found that the temple was actually far bigger than the one he saw.

'Woah! I didn't see it earlier, but its actual size is around ten times the size of a soccer stadium.'" Alex looked at this temple with amazement.

"This is our Martial Field. There are four floors for this building, filled with Arrays. The first floor contains around a thousand rooms, which only Normal Disciples use. Of course, the room size is not that big, considering they can't fight as powerful as Martial Saints. The second floor is for Senior Disciples to fight. There are only fifty rooms inside.

"Elders are on the third floor with only ten rooms while the top floor only has three rooms. Usually, Great Elders used it but considering their status, they couldn't fight a whole day. Hence, these three rooms are usually used for their disciples. We are going to the top floor and occupy one for as long as we need. I have made the reservation after all." Ryuu smiled, explaining all the necessary information.

Alex pondered for a moment, wondering if he would encounter another foolish one that challenged him inside the building... He couldn't help but shake his head in disappointment if that really happened.

"Good. Let's go." He nodded.

"Please." Ryuu smiled before flying toward the building for a few more seconds and landed right in front of the entrance.

Alex could see so many signs of energy in this building and in front of it, showing how many people were using this building. Alex confirmed it even further by watching this crowd standing in front of the building.

Ryuu only waved his hand, asking Alex to follow him.

Inside the building, they met an old man working as a receptionist. Alex furrowed his eyebrows when he saw that the one who became the keeper of this building was a 5-Star Martial Saint.

"Elder Shi, we wish to open the second room. My Master should have informed you." Ryuu cupped his hand respectfully to the elder.

"Oh! You are Ryuu from Space Temple." The elder nodded before taking out a token. "This is the token. Unfortunately, you can only use it for fourteen days because there is another person who wants to use this room. He made the reservation earlier than you. I will transfer you to the third room since it will be available at that time."

"Thank you, Elder." Ryuu bowed his head and took the token. "Then, I need to excuse myself, Elder Shi."

"Sure!"

Ryuu led Alex and Maya to the top floor and arrived at a certain room.

Alex looked at the other two rooms and found an array on the door, knowing there must be people inside. Only the third one didn't have an array, so Ryuu pointed the token to the door before opening it. Alex's Spirit Eyes allowed him to see a string of energy that unlocked the door. As soon as the door was opened, Maya and Alex entered, finding a huge grassland inside.

"This will be our training place for two weeks before moving to another room." Ryuu nodded before glancing at Alex. "What should I do?"

Alex thought for a moment and said. "Let's fight first, only to use our sword. You can use your element if it's related to the Sword since I want to see your sword capability."

Ryuu nodded before stretching his hand to the side. "I will try to limit my strength, so you can look at it carefully."

"It's fine. You don't need to do that. I am confident enough to stop you." Alex shrugged.

"What did you say?!" A shout suddenly came, but it wasn't from Ryuu. Instead, it came from Maya. "You-!"

"Maya, shut up a little bit. I will report you to your Master later..." He glanced at Maya with a poker face.

"But Elder Brother..."

"He said it's fine, then it's fine." Ryuu shrugged. "Just watch it from the sideline, and you might learn something even though your main focus is the spear."

Maya hesitated for a few seconds before biting her lips and flew away.

Ryuu looked at Alex while taking his sword out of his Space Ring. "I am sorry for making you wait. Don't worry about this room because it's reinforced by Rank 8 Array to make sure no damage to the room."

Alex took a deep breath and nodded. He only took his sword this time. Although it was powerful beyond compare, this action could also be seen as Alex looked down on Ryuu.

Ryuu's eyebrows twitched as he started releasing his Spiritual Energy. "I truly respect you... Less than thirty years old but already a 6-Star Martial Monarch. However, I do think you are a little bit arrogant. Spiritual Energy aside, there is still a big difference with pure strength between our—"

Before he finished his words, a Dragon suddenly appeared in the arena, sending a thunderous roar. It startled Maya, who was on the sideline while shutting Ryuu up. When he looked at Alex, he saw the Dragon went inside him. This was certainly a support technique, but he still tried to comprehend what kind of technique earlier.

"If it's strength, I am quite strong myself," Alex said with an uninterested face. "You can try."

Ryuu closed his eyes, realizing it was a technique to increase his strength. Although he couldn't see how powerful Alex after using the technique, he was very eager to check it himself.

Raising his sword to the sky, Ryu suddenly appeared in front of Alex and slashed his sword toward Alex's neck.

"Spirit Step, First Step!" Alex increased his strength once more and struck the sword without using anything. It was purely his strength, but Ryu suddenly lost his grip on his sword. Alex then pointed his sword at Ryu's neck while ignoring the flying sword. "I have said. If it's only Sword and Strength alone, I don't need your mercy. Yet, you still underestimate me. If you can't be serious, it's better if we cancel this strength."

Alex's strength alone had reached nine thousand dragon strength without any enhancement. However, Ryu's underestimating him poked his pride a little bit, and he couldn't help but show what it meant by strength. He enhanced his strength with Spirit Step and Dragon Aura, reaching thirty thousand dragon strength or equal to 3-Star Martial Saint.

Ryu obviously had yet to prepare to face that kind of strength and lost his grip. Maya dropped her jaw to the ground, blinking a few times and questioning whether this was a dream or not.

On the other hand, Ryu realized his wrongdoing and bowed deeply to Alex. "I am sorry for underestimating you. I have brought this upon myself. I am truly sorry."

Alex had no change of expression. "Just get your sword, and we will try for real. However, the moment you underestimate me again will be the time I cancel this transaction. Will that be alright?"

"Yes." Ryu clenched his hands. What he just did was the worst to Alex, and felt really guilty after this. At first, he was concerned about Alex's safety because of their strength difference, but it seemed to be an insult to Alex. After apologizing to him, he flew toward his sword and grabbed it and returned.

He then released his Spiritual Energy and Space Element at the same time, locking his focus on Alex. "I will seriously attack you this time."

Alex nodded while raising his sword, covering his sword with his intent. "Come!"

The two then disappeared from their position.

Chapter 676 - Space Element Techniques

Bam!

A loud and powerful shockwave shook the entire field as Alex and Ryu appeared in the middle of the field with their sword clashing each other.

Ryu finally realized how much strength was inside Alex's body as he quickly began losing his advantage and leaped backward.

Alex didn't come to him like how their Master stayed composed while facing him. He followed her and started assessing Ryu. "A good sword, a good strength. However, I feel your Intent is still lacking. I don't mean the quality, but quantity."

"What do you mean?"

"Hmm... It is your release speed to be exact. You should be able to release all of your Sword Intent simultaneously but has not enough speed to do it, right?" Alex looked at Ryuu's sword with his Spirit Eyes.

Ryuu's body shook as Alex was spot on. This was his worst weakness, and Alex got it right on the first clash. "You are correct. My speed is not enough to release the Sword Intent in time. That's why I usually pair it up with Space Element to buy me time."

"Why do you think your speed is not fast enough?"

Ryuu looked down, weighing something in his mind. Unfortunately, he couldn't come up with a single reason. "I have consulted many people, but none of them have the answer."

Alex simply smiled. "Haven't you already found the answer?"

Ryuu furrowed his eyebrows and shook his head.

Alex sighed and asked him. "When our sword clashed, I felt you slightly slid your sword even though your sword didn't have a curve. We might be a master of the sword, but we still have our own preferences for swords, including the shape. That's why you can't exert your full power in your swing. You should be using a curving sword in the past, right?"

Ryuu dropped his jaw to the ground and gulped down. "Ye-yes. I used it in the past, but not anymore."

"Why?"

He gritted teeth and clenched his hands. "It was my family sword... My family wasn't that big, but they sometimes went to the surface until one point that my father died in battle while my mother was poisoned. Despite containing the poison, my mother refused to tell me a single thing until her body became too weak to even move.

"Not long after, she committed suicide with that sword, so I..." Ryuu looked down, feeling remorseful. He didn't plan to say this, but in his heart, he wanted to settle it once and for all since long ago... Only his scared and wounded heart made him unable to pick up a sword like this again and talked this matter.

Alex looked at him with a gentle smile. "A wounded heart might heal over time, but if you don't want to improve yourself, it will be useless. You can still go without courage or determination, but I am sure you will succeed in overcoming it. After all, I had once overcome it with my stubbornness."

Ryuu looked down before letting out a long sigh. "Luckily, I met Master at that time and Maya not long after... Before I know it, I can smile again. I think it's the perfect time to settle the matter of my heart..."

"You don't need to force yourself at once." Alex thought for a moment and changed the topic. "Anyway, let's continue. I need to see if I can sense any troubles in your swordsmanship first before proceeding with your Intent and other things until you reach Sword Saint Stage."

Ryuu took a deep breath to calm his heart before raising his sword again. "Thank you... And here I come."

Slashing the air, Ryuu sent out an invisible Sword Wave, flying toward Alex.

"Space Cut!"

Alex had a slight astonishment in his face because he could see a huge amount of Space Element traveling through that Blue Layered Realm. He simply moved to the side, dodging the Sword Wave completely before striking the Sword Wave with his sword.

He was curious whether the Sword Wave had a physical form or not, but it surprisingly exploded when Alex hit it as if there was a real Sword Wave. Of course, the explosion was in the Space World, so it didn't affect him at all.

"This is Space Cut... One of my biggest Space Arts. We can send a Sword Wave like this through the Blue Layered Realm and cut something in the real world. It is a very useful ability because you can kill someone without anyone noticing... That is if he/she has lower cultivation than you. Their perception might also be low since it can be felt.

"However, I like this Sword Technique, because I can use it in many ways. First, people won't like it when they need to be wary of invisible skills. I can also use it to distract their attention. Besides, I can simply create a few more gates inside the Blue Layered Realm and confuse the enemy. In other words, it can be my decoy or my main attack, depending on how I plan to use it." Ryuu explained after finding a slight confusion in Alex's face.

Alex nodded in agreement. "This is indeed a good Element Art."

"I am planning to let you see all my Element Arts so you can take your pick later. Don't worry, I have mastered them all, so my technique won't be sloppy like Maya's."

"Oi, Elder Brother! What are you saying?" Maya pouted but couldn't say anything because he was right.

Ryuu laughed out loud before turning back to Alex. "So... Shall we continue?"

Alex raised his sword again as his mouth slightly curved upward. He took a deep breath and was ready to charge, but Ryuu beat him as he closed their distance in a single leap.

Before arriving, Ryuu suddenly pointed his index finger toward Alex and raised it slightly.

Alex suddenly felt danger from his surroundings, and he suddenly realized he couldn't move. His Spirit Eyes could see chains coming out of the ground around him, but all of it originated from the Blue Layered Realm. In other words, he was restricted by invisible chains.

Looking at Ryuu, who almost arrived in front of him, Alex should know that he was played perfectly by Ryuu, but there was no change of expression on his face. Instead, he smiled brightly as he adjusted his position and slashed his sword.

"Triple Draws!"

Bang—! Ryuu's sword clashed twice with Alex's sword as he quickly leaped backward. He realized that only the chain on Alex's right hand was cut, while the others were still chained. He wanted to take this opportunity to attack Alex, but Alex was one step early as he sent three Sword Waves at him.

"Blade of Conquest!"

Ryuu furrowed his eyebrows. The Sword Waves were covered with Intent and Element, but he felt it was stronger than he expected. He thought it must be Alex's Original Sword Skill, so he quickly raised his sword once again. "Twin Worlds Slash!"

Bang!

The cut shattered the three Sword Waves like it was nothing.

Alex lifted up his eyebrows as he saw something really interesting. He knew the technique from earlier couldn't be copied, meaning it was Ryuu's Original Sword Skill. What piqued his interest was like how Space Cut flew inside the Blue Layered Realm, Ryuu was also holding a sword in that realm along with his original sword to create a stronger swing. In other words, it was like his Triple Draws but the attack from two worlds.

However, Alex didn't stop at this attack and thrust his sword as if using a spear, shooting out a laser toward Ryuu.

On the other hand, Ryuu didn't feel any pressure coming from this attack as he pointed his palm forward.

"Spatial Lock!"

Suddenly, the space in front of him distorted and created a kind of huge marble, absorbing all the power behind Alex's Mythical Spear Cannon. After that, it disappeared from the real world.

At the same time, he also created another sphere and compressed it to small before teleporting right behind Alex.

"Spatial Lock. Bomb Version!"

Alex glanced at his back and smiled.

Boom!

A huge explosion occurred. Ryuu thought Alex must be injured after this, but all the smoke or the dust kicked up by the explosion were blown away.

Cry!

A loud crying sound from a phoenix shook the entire place as it flapped its wing and blew all the smoke away. Ryuu opened his eyes wide to see Alex standing still while being covered with Fire. He quickly teleported again to escape from Alex's grasp.

Luckily, Alex had no intention of moving as he asked, "Is that all?"

"Yeah. I have shown you all my Space Arts. The second one that bound you was called Space Bind Technique, and you have experienced the effect yourself. As for the third one... It was my Original Sword Skill, while the last one was Spatial Lock. As the name implies, I can seal many things inside and throw them inside the Blue Layered Realm. At the same time, I could use the second version, which was to compress the air around us to create a powerful shockwave. It will be better if we insert our Intent to increase its power, and in your case, you can add your Fire Element." Ryuu explained all the moves.

Alex thought for a moment. "Those techniques are certainly useful for me to the point I'm wondering which one that I need to pick."

"Haha... Although I have mastered all of these, I only have confidence in my Space Cut. Master can use the Space Bind and Spatial Lock better than me. If I am not wrong, she can combine the Space Plates with Space Bind and lock us completely. As for Spatial Lock, can you see my second version? My Master can compress and maintain a few balls like that and create a stronger explosion. Besides, she can even compress others' attacks and drop it in the center of the enemy. It's really catastrophic to fight Master with a high number because she is a master in dealing with an army." Ryuu sighed.

"I can see that." Alex nodded in agreement.

"Maya has a very good technique for escaping. It's called Space Mark." Ryuu looked at Maya for a bit and sighed in disappointment. "Unfortunately, she can't teach you because she has yet to master the technique. Anyway, the technique itself allows you to create a mark on human bodies. You can instantly teleport to them as long as they are inside your teleportation radius.

"She is learning it to teleport to me or Master if she needs to run away. This technique is not high level, but the usage is incredible... Albeit it's not really popular because it looks like a thief technique. As for myself, I have never had a need to learn it because I usually kill my opponents. Anyway, it's a good technique you can consider."

At first, he was planning to have Maya to help Alex in order to receive some instructions about Spear since Alex was a master of sword and spear. Unfortunately, she was too playful and didn't practice seriously. He thought about confining her to have her study like crazy after this.

On the other hand, Alex looked down, contemplating over the Space Arts. 'Space Cut is a must since I can combine it with my Triple Draws... If I use it with both hands along with my Mythical Fire Slash... I can release twelve Sword Waves at the same time. Unfortunately, I can't add Blade of Conquest because it will collide with the Mythical Fire Slash...

'As for Space Bind and Spatial Lock... Both techniques are really interesting. Great Elder Aileen even mastered both techniques, so I feel like I need to see it with my own eyes how she uses that. I might be tempted to choose both even if I need to go bankrupt.

'At the same time, this Space Mark is also useful to me. I can teleport to another person in the area and confuse the enemy even without my Teleportation Array... It will surely play a role in my fight against Fire God Clan...

'Still, I can't be greedy to avoid not knowing which ability I need to use because I have too many... Anyway, I can think of it later. I will teach Ryuu about Sword first.'

Finishing his thought, he looked at Ryuu and said, "All techniques are tempting to me. But I still need to learn Space Plates and Spatial Gate first, so I will think about it after I finish both."

"Sure. You can inform me whenever you want. I can even bring you to the Martial Arts Temple."

Alex nodded. "Then, let's start again?"

Ryuu smiled and raised his weapon again.

Chapter 677 - A Deal

Sigh~!

"That was insane," said Ryuu as he fell on his butt, panting. "To think there is an abnormal 6-Star Martial Monarch like you... As expected from someone who was recognized by Great Elder Maxwell."

Alex looked at Ryuu without an expression before finding Maya coming to Ryuu. "Elder Brother Ryuu, are you alright?"

"Of course... I feel fantastic. I have understood my weaknesses and learned many things... In fact, I am very eager to start training right now. If only you can practice seriously too." Ryuu laughed while teasing Maya.

Maya wanted to pout, but deep inside her heart, she somehow considered this carefully. She never liked studying. Only this time, she thought it would be nice if she studied well. She realized it earlier when she saw Alex overpowering Ryuu with Sword Technique.

Ryuu didn't fight all out this time because Alex was assessing him. Also, he didn't underestimate Alex by not using all of his techniques. Instead, he felt a sense of breakthrough in the way of the sword as he listened to Alex's lecture in the fight, so he couldn't really release all of his power.

Maya witnessed everything and got triggered in her heart. She looked down and said embarrassedly. "I will study seriously from now on."

Ryuu, who said it earlier in a teasing manner, was utterly shocked by her response. He blinked a few times and stared at Maya with empty eyes.

"Why do you look at me with those eyes?" Maya raised her eyebrows, slightly annoyed by his reaction.

"Nothing. If you really want to practice seriously, then you can contact me or Master anytime, we will help you." Ryuu laughed, thrilled with the seriousness in her eyes. She wouldn't get annoyed if she didn't mean what she said after all.

Maya nodded and said, "Anyway, you should get up first."

Ryuu nodded, rose from the ground, and walked toward Alex.

"Your understanding of the sword is very deep. I think you only need a little more push to reach Sword Saint stage after overcoming your trauma." Alex nodded with a smile.

"I know. It's my heart that has been preventing me from reaching a higher place! It's all thanks to you that I can see this problem... No, I should say I have been avoiding this matter this whole time, and only now I want to face it." Ryuu cupped his hand and slightly bowed his head. "I am very thankful to you who made me realize this."

Alex shrugged and said nonchalantly. "This is only a transaction. Of course, I will do everything in my power to fulfill it."

"Even so, I am still thankful." Ryu smiled and nodded. "Master might have known this condition of mine, but she can't say it because she is afraid it will break me. Only you, who don't know anything about me, could say it to my face bluntly."

Alex nodded before thinking. "Do you want to—!"

Before finishing his words, Alex looked to the right, finding a Spatial Gate inside the field. Ryu and Maya quickly realized this Spatial Gate as they ran toward it and bowed. "Welcome, Master."

"Good day for you two. How is training? Looking at your condition, it seems you have trained hard." Aileen smiled.

"Yeah. I just want to say sorry for troubling you this whole time, Master. You have taken care of me either in the Cultivation Aspect or in the Spiritual Aspect." Ryu thanked her from the bottom of his heart.

"You have come terms with the darkness in your heart?" Aileen gently smiled, patted his shoulders and asked with a soft tone.

"Half... I will finish this matter as soon as I finish the training here." Ryu nodded with a solemn expression.

"That's good. I am proud of you."

"Master! I also promise to be hardworking from now on." Maya raised her hand, trying to grab Aileen's attention.

"Hmmm?" Aileen had the same expression as Ryu earlier and patted Maya's head a few times. "Good. I have been waiting for that line for one hundred years. I am glad I am still expecting it until now."

"And what is that silent earlier?" Maya pouted before glancing at Alex and Ryu. She couldn't say that she wanted to practice just to entice Ryu, right? She realized that Ryu looked more mature now after his heart calmed down in this fight. He looked like a prince earlier as the raging storm inside his heart was replaced by a bright and calm sea. She had her enjoyment from the fight earlier and would call Ryu when practicing to have more time with him.

Aileen laughed it off before staring at Alex.

"What is it, Great Elder Aileen? Do you want something from me?" Alex furrowed his eyebrows.

"It's nothing. I just want to give you good news." Aileen gently smiled to lessen the burden of talking with Alex and prevent him from knowing the real intention. "I am sure you like it."

Alex looked at her with weird eyes, wondering if Aileen wanted to marry off Maya or something along the lines.

Fortunately, his worry was proven unnecessary after hearing Aileen's next word.

"There is a chance of you getting a Space Element for your disciple."

"!!!" Happiness began filling his heart before it abruptly vanished as he remembered a certain plot. 'Wait... Does she want to say we can't give it to outsiders? But she says I will surely like the news... It must be something that I can get without getting entangled with Freedom Sect.'

"After discussing with the other elders, we decided to give you the opportunity to go inside Potential Tower one year from now," Aileen announced.

The news confused Alex but shocked Ryu and Maya.

"What do you mean?"

"I will start explaining this event first. As scheduled, we will open the Potential Tower next year. This is a big opportunity for nameless disciples to impress the Elders and Great Elders. The tower itself can measure your talent and even raise your potential. That's why it's called Potential Tower." Aileen explained carefully.

Ryu nodded in agreement before adding. "This was where Master took a fancy on me and asked me to be her disciple. I was a simple nameless person back then..."

Alex thought for a moment and said. "I still can't see how this will give me benefits... And why would the Freedom Sect give this chance to me."

"I know about your concern, but this tower is always opened at this point in time every three years. We only request you to complete the tower by reaching the highest level of the tower. After that, I will grant you a Space Element, so your disciple can get it anytime in this place.

"How does this benefit us? We only want to use you to stimulate the potential of our disciples. You know that sometimes seeing an unknown person might trigger someone, right? We will re-educate the rash ones while taking in the motivated one. That's why it is beneficial for us. Besides, we also want to know whether your status as Grand Elder Maxwell's disciple is justified..."

"Your Master has entered this tower too in the past and completed all ten floors. Do you want to know the legend?" Aileen asked while smiling.

Alex pondered and answered, "I can see the benefit... But I want to know the relationship between my Master and this tower first before deciding."

"Sure." Aileen nodded and gathered all the records in her mind before opening her mouth. "This tower was built by a joint effort of all Great Elders to measure someone's potential. It's filled with complex arrays and trials. Your master is the one and only person who has completed this trial since its creation and become a God.

"In fact, I can say that this tower can measure whether you can be a God or not... If you reach the highest floor and conquer the tower, it can even enhance your potential, increasing your chance to transcend to divinity.

"I could only finish the eighth floor while Ryu beat the ninth floor like Viola... That's why I have many expectations for him. As for Maya, she only reached the eight floor like me.

"That's all the benefit you can get from this tower. Isn't it interesting? Besides, don't you want to see whether you can become a God?" Aileen finished her explanation with provocation.

"You can stop taunting me." Alex shook his head. "I can see the benefit of me participating in this event... But do you truly want all of that? I feel that you are hiding your real intention from me."

Aileen closed her eyes for a second, admiring his sharpness in noticing something like this. "I am not lying this whole time. I will keep the Lesser Space Element for you, so your Disciple can get it when she arrives at this place later. She needs to pay the rest."

"Lesser Space Element?" Alex narrowed his eyes as he found this ominous word on his ears. "What do you mean by Lesser?"

"I have explained it to you about Space Element, right? It's ranked by its ability to attract Natural Space Elements in the air... So, a Lesser Space Element is a bit slower than usual." Aileen nodded.

"So, you are not planning to say anything about giving me this Lesser Space Element despite knowing that I want the best for my disciple?"

"You will only know the Council's intention after beating the Potential Tower. That's all I can say." Aileen shook her head in disappointment, afraid Alex would reject him after knowing the truth.

Alex thought for a moment. 'It's true that Space Element is very useful to Rose, but it's not a necessary thing for her. However, the Potential Tower itself is quite interesting, and I want to test myself. Knowing too much can hinder one's cultivation and might even create a heart demon inside my heart, especially if I know that I'm not qualified to be a God.'

'Albeit... I never cared about it. I once said that talent could give one's potential to reach the top, it will be one's effort that can take them to the top. Master even said that if I don't have enough talent, I can simply get it from some inheritance. If I am not qualified, it will only motivate me to grow even further... If I'm qualified, then I will be very happy because I can become a God later and meet Alicia and Lin Xingzhi.'

His answer was yes, but Alex tried to consider another aspect by asking her two questions. "I want you to answer these questions first. Knowing that you have some hidden intention, can I still back away after knowing it? The second question is... Will I get entangled with Freedom Sect after this?"

"For your first question, I can assure you that it is not forced. Just like how you come here, we will negotiate with you as someone equal to us. After all, you are the disciple of Great Elder Maxwell. We will respect your will. As for the second question... Yes and no. Yes, we are entangling ourselves to your matter for our own benefit, and no, you will always be you along with your Spirit Nest while Freedom Sect is Freedom Sect. We are two separate sides."

"Spirit Nest? So, you want to get my influence in the mix?"

"Yes. However, we are entangling ourselves in your matter... As I said earlier. In other words, our current objectives are aligned, but our end goals are not."

Alex thought for a few minutes before nodding his head. "Alright. I will choose it later after defeating the Potential Tower. I won't be qualified to accept this agreement if I can't even beat that tower, right?"

Aileen didn't answer him. She only smiled before escaping through her Spatial Gate. "I have informed you what the Council wants, it will be up to you whether to accept it or reject it. For now, you can

practice with Ryuu first since I need to take care of my job because of the meeting earlier. I will handle your training tomorrow."

Alex nodded as he looked at Aileen going through the Spatial Gate. After she was gone, he glanced at Ryuu.

"Ahaha..." Ryuu could only scratch his head, not knowing what to do. "Let's practice again."

Chapter 678 - The First Phase of Training

After that, Alex and Ryuu began their hellish training.

Alex taught Ryuu about the sword patiently, considering he used a new sword.

Ryuu was awful when he just changed his sword as Alex was able to easily defeat him in a practice match while leisurely lecturing him. However, Ryuu improved by leaps and bounds as if there was nothing hindering him anymore.

As soon as he got accustomed to the new sword, he became trouble even for Alex like their first match. And after a couple of months, he finally mastered the sword and became a formidable opponent for Alex. Of course, Alex only used his sword this whole time, so his real ability was still unknown to Ryuu.

On the other hand, Maya also started having her own training session on the sideline. She sometimes asked Ryuu a couple of questions when he took a break between practice.

Ryuu also taught Alex back with Space Element's lesson, starting from the basic to the Spatial Gate and Space Plate technique. Alex's comprehension speed was insane as he managed to learn it in almost four months. After that, he started learning Space Cut under Ryuu's guidance.

Of course, he wasn't slacking on his Cultivation aspect. Although he didn't manage to break through to 7-Star, he was only one step away. Besides, he could settle everything in the last seven months out of his eighteen months here or one and a half years.

Aileen also helped him in the process, increasing his progress speed even further. Unlike Ryuu, Aileen was an experienced teacher, she knew what words could comprehend easily and what not or when Alex needed the explanation or when he needed to taunt Alex to stimulate his potential for a moment.

Alex was thankful to them for helping him, even though it was only a transaction.

Although he still couldn't seal someone's strength with his Realm Seal Technique, the technique he used to lock his soul and cultivation inside a special realm created in his heart, he was satisfied with the result because he could see the chance of him doing it.

Of course, he still didn't forget about the matter on the surface. He kept asking Anna to inform him what happened every month, albeit nothing happened in particular. The Ancient Blue Family had yet to accept the alliance, the frustrated Fire God Clan, the waiting Blackwade Clan, and so on.

Alex thanked her for the information as he could be rest assured, especially when she heard Firia was one step away to reach Martial Saint along with Stina. Sherry and Kyle were struggling on the 9-Star Martial Monarch.

The competitive nature in his heart woke up as he wanted to finish this training as soon as possible.

...

Six months later...

"Space Cut!" Alex slashed the air with his sword, releasing a powerful Space Cut.

Ryuu only smiled and released the same move as their moves collided. An explosion occurred inside the Blue Layered Realm and somehow affected the reality as a crack appeared between Ryuu and Alex. If they created another crack, a small hole leading to the Blue Layered Realm might open.

"That is really good, Alex. You have mastered the Space Cut!" Ryuu praised him from the bottom of his heart. He never expected that Alex could master this move within two months.

"Haha... You are good too, Ryuu. Your Sword Intent is very intense right now. I think it won't be long before you reach Sword Saint Stage. I should congratulate you in advance." Alex chuckled. The relationship with Ryuu wasn't awkward and formal as they used to be after knowing each other for six months.

Ryuu had recognized Alex and admired him because Alex still worked hard and worked smart even though he had all the talent he needed. Not only his training was more brutal than him, but his method was also very efficient. As expected from the master of the sword, Ryuu thought.

In contrast, Alex felt that Ryuu was really a talented man. Aileen didn't pour so many resources into Ryuu because she wanted him to be independent. Yet, Ryuu managed to surpass her expectation every time. He managed to reach 1-Star Martial Saint within a few hundred years, despite having no cultivation resources from his master, only Space Technique and Sword Art.

Alex could see that his Space Element also became more refined after changing to the new sword. He could somehow picture what kind of original sword path Ryuu would have in the future. He didn't tell him though, to avoid confusing his mind.

"Then, how about this?" Ryuu waved his sword, sending two Space Cuts at the same time.

"Twin Worlds Slash!"

Alex furrowed his eyebrows. Ryuu had never used this technique every time they fought. It seemed that the Real World Slash and The Space World Slash produced one Space Cut each, making it more powerful.

"I can't use this technique because I'm not fast enough to gather the Space Element for my second Space Cut. Only after you teach me about the sword and have me use this sword can I finally break past my limit," Ryuu shouted excitedly. "This is why you are the first one who sees this technique!"

Alex only smiled upon seeing this attack and swung his sword.

"Triple Draws."

"Space Cut!"

Ryuu could make two, but it was still useless in front of him. Alex could simply make three Space Cuts so the other two could destroy his attack while one struck Ryuu.

However, the plan didn't go smoothly. Right before the two strikes collided, Ryuu detonated his Space Cuts.

Boom!

The explosion caused another crack in the air, and Ryuu laughed again. "As expected... I am still no match against your Original Sword Skill. Triple Draws, is it? That technique is insane as if you are altering the reality itself. Normally, people can only slash one time in a single point of the timeline. Master swordsman who has been mastering a drawing technique might go beyond it, but two is the limit. However, you take it to an unprecedented level."

"I am just lucky." Alex shook his head, and humbly said while adding inwardly. 'Really lucky. If I don't have Sword Mastery, I won't know that I can do this.'

"Haha... Luck is a strength. I wish I had absolute luck, so maybe my enemy will have diarrhea before we even fight."

"Isn't it more like a curse?" Alex rolled his eyes away.

"True enough. Then maybe a meteor will fall and obliterate them to smithereens."

"You will also die if a meteor really comes..." Alex sighed. 'Scientifically!'

"Why don't you back me up a little bit?" Ryuu sighed. "Anyway, I just wanted to show that technique to you because you have helped me greatly."

Alex nodded with a smile before raising his sword. "It's my turn."

"Triple Draws."

"Blade of Conquest."

"Space Cut."

Combining these three techniques, Alex released six Sword Waves toward Ryuu.

"I have seen this already!" Ryuu smirked as he was going to intercept all of the Sword Waves.

However, Alex suddenly raised his hand and twitched his finger. "How about this?"

A Spatial Gate appeared right in front of these six Sword Waves before thirty Spatial Gates appeared around Ryuu.

"Oi! You are insane like Master!" Ryuu screamed in panic as he tried to calculate where they would appear. On the other hand, Aileen, who was watching them from the sideline while teaching Maya, shouted happily. "Ryuu. It's not good to curse your Master! But I will take it as a compliment of my element control."

Ryuu twitched his eyebrows as he got teased by his teacher and couldn't find the attacks this whole time. In the end, he gave up and created a barrier around him.

If Alex observed him carefully, he could see that the barrier looked like a half-sphere, facing the Spatial Gates. It would quickly expand and trap his attack the moment it came.

Unfortunately, Alex's Spirit Eyes could see everything. He leaped toward Ryuu instead of using the attack from earlier.

"Kh!" Not expecting Alex to make such a move, he quickly made a Spatial Gate and escaped from this place.

"!!!" Alex furrowed his eyebrows and scanned the area with his Spirit Eyes before slashing his sword to his left.

"Blade of Conquest!"

"This time... It's my turn!" Ryuu smiled as he created a Spatial Gate and attached a wisp of his soul to Alex's Sword Wave. The moment it came inside the Blue Layered Realm, his soul could sense the locations of Alex's earlier attacks.

"Explode!" Ryuu smiled as he tried to control Alex's Sword Wave and detonate it. Luckily, Alex didn't attach his Soul in that attack, so he managed to do it.

Suddenly, six cracks appeared around him as he smiled. "You don't easily attach your soul to attack, right? Why?"

Alex thought for a moment before answering. "It's simple. I use too much Mental Power in my attack, so I'm not planning to waste it unless necessary."

"Oh! I can see that. That's why your control is really crazy." Ryuu nodded in understanding. "Anyway, we have fought too much these few months. I think it's better to end this never-ending battle and see who is the winner?"

"I am just a 6-Star Martial Monarch while you are 1-Star Martial Saint. You are shameless here, Ryuu." Alex smirked, teasing him.

"Shut up!" Ryuu snorted jokingly while leaping toward Alex.

Alex also leaped toward Ryuu with his sword.

Both of them swung their swords at the same time before passing each other.

Clang!

A loud clashing sound filled the room as a shockwave appeared, blowing everything around them away. Maya was annoyed when her books flipped because of this base while Aileen simply held her skirt without erecting a barrier as she wanted to enjoy the breeze.

"It's a draw, I guess..." She felt the clash and rose from the ground before teleporting between them and announcing the result. "It's a draw. I am happy to see both of you make astonishing progress in the past few months. Of course, I am happy that my Maya can finally put some effort into her own training because of you two.

"Anyway, both of you don't really use your real strength, so I'm sure you don't care about the match itself... Only that last blow contained all of your power... Except, Alex, May I ask why you don't use your Original Path?"

"It's linked to my fire and spear, so it's better to not use it." Alex shrugged.

"Fair enough." Aileen nodded before glancing at Ryuu. "Although you have gotten accustomed to your sword, keep practicing with it since I can still see some awkward movements in your swordplay. I am sure Alexander notices it too."

"I know." Ryuu turned around and walked toward Aileen and Alex before stretching his hand, asking for a handshake with Alex.

Alex was more than happy to shake his hand, but...

Their hand wasn't shaking as suddenly the ground was the one that started shaking...

Rumble Rumble!

Chapter 679 - Earthquake

In the deep ocean floor, not far from Freedom Sect, a thunderous rumbling sound filled the entire region. It alarmed every water monster in the area and made them panic.

This was something that rarely happened before because the ground started to shake and created a huge crack that spread around the ocean floor. Slowly but surely, the ground began to rise as if a mountain began to form in the depth of the ocean.

It also created a huge shock wave around the area... And Freedom Sect was one of the places that got hit by this powerful shock wave.

...

Inside the Freedom Sect, specifically the new area that had been recently developed. More than two hundred disciples and some elders were working in the building and solidifying this massive landscape to make a reliable and strong ground to expand their area. However, the ground started shaking and kept getting harder.

"What is this shaking?" The disciples were startled as they felt to the ground because they couldn't maintain their balance.

"This!" One of the elders in charge of the area realized this phenomenon as he had lived long enough to encounter something like this in the past. "Not... Good! Everyone flies to—"

Before he could order the disciple to escape to the air, a huge crater appeared from the edge of the barrier, spreading toward their position. Anyone would be able to notice this crack, albeit couldn't do anything. They tried to escape to the air as the elder said, but nature attacked first.

Rumble Rumble!

"Not good!"

The rumbling noises followed by the destruction of the landmass. The ground around the edge had yet to be strengthened, and this shaking shattered those lands. Not only that, but the barrier also received a powerful shock wave. It should be able to easily withstand a shock wave like this, but those destroyed lands still contained some arrays to create this giant barrier. And when the ground was destroyed, the barrier started weakening as the shock wave sped up the process by shattering them into pieces.

Clang!

This breaking glass sound was followed by a deadly catastrophe as the water burst inside the place due to the difference of pressure between the Deep Ocean Floor and the inside of Freedom Sect. That high-pressure water quickly shredded the weak disciples, mostly those Martial Lord or below, while heavily injuring the Martial King.

Martial Emperor and Martial Monarch disciples somehow managed to react and created a huge barrier with their Spiritual Energy. They were happy when they saw the barrier could hold on, but that happiness disappeared the moment they realized they were being pushed back by the water.

"Fly to the air! Freedom Sect is huge, so it will take a while before the water fills the entire area. One Elder should go to inform all Temples about this! Those who stay here will try to search for the survivor and help me to fight the monsters that will come next!" One of the elders shouted and woke up the shocked disciple.

The disciples nodded while trying to see the powerful wave that flowed inside the barrier. All they could see was water and couldn't find a single disciple around as if they were swallowed by a dark hole. However, they stopped searching for the disciples after hearing the loud sound coming from the outside.

Within the dark seawater, many monsters, such as sharks and many sea creatures emerged. The disciples and elders began to unsheathe their sword as they released their Spiritual Energy.

"Prepare for combat!"

One of the elders knew his job and quickly went to the Teleportation Array that was protected by a solid barrier and disappeared.

...

Meanwhile, Alex and the others also felt the ground shaking uncontrollably. He quickly looked around the area while floating in the air.

"This is an earthquake!" Alex gasped, finally experienced a real earthquake in the real world. He had once seen this when he wanted to cross the sea heading to the Nili Continent, but it was so weak.

"Earthquake?" Ryuu, who was beside him, looked at him in confusion.

"I have experienced this twice, and it's called the Anger of Earth God." Aileen shook her head before creating a gate, not waiting for the ground to stop shaking.

"We need to go to Temple first. If something bad happens, they will inform us first to utilize our Spatial Gate." Aileen entered the Spatial Gate.

Alex and Ryu exchanged looks and nodded, following her inside while Maya was the last to enter the gate.

"!!!" Alex furrowed his eyebrows as he could see the tall temple swaying left and right as if it was going to crumble in a bit. However, Aileen didn't care and flew inside the temple while she kept floating, so she didn't get influenced by this.

Alex also entered the Great Elder's room and saw many papers scattered around on the floor as shelves also fell on the floor. 'This is... the real Earthquake in another world. However, I don't feel the Earthquakes that often on Earth, so I don't know the scale of this Earthquake... But I know this is a big Earthquake, especially when the epicenter is on the seafloor...'

Aileen looked down at the messy Temple and shouted. "All elders hear my words. Don't care about those scattered documents and messy situations. Just calm down first and stand by until further order. The building has withstood this phenomenon many times in the past and never collapsed, so don't worry."

"Yes, Great Elder!" The elders floated in the air as they bowed to Aileen.

Suddenly, a middle-aged man flew inside the temple and shouted. "Emergency! I am Tura, an elder in charge of the expansion. We have a big problem. The ground has sunk, and the barrier has collapsed. The seawater is filling the area right now. I request for the Great Elder to take action."

Aileen narrowed her eyes, pondering for a few seconds before giving her command. "Second to Nine Elder will quickly go to inform the other Great Elders—!!!"

Before finishing her words, Aileen gasped upon the sight of water entering the temple, starting to flood it. "How big exactly is the hole?!"

"It breaks half of the barrier!"

"!!!" Aileen gritted her teeth. "We only have a few minutes left before this place is filled with water and monsters. Those eight elders quickly go and bring the Great Elders to that place! On the other hand, five Martial Saints from 1-Star to 5-Star will come with me while the rest of you go to quell the unrest of our people with First Elder as the leader!"

"Yes, Great Elder!" They quickly disappeared with their Spatial Gates.

Aileen also created another Spatial Gates to go to the dangerous place before Alex and Ryu shouted. "I will follow you!"

Alex and Ryu were startled and looked at each other before nodding their head with solemn expressions.

"Kids should stay away!"

"You must be planning to create a Spatial Gate to redirect the water first, but there is no way you can cover the area. We can help you... like the fifty people you want to bring." Alex nodded and decided to help since his life was also in danger here. He could easily escape by using the array, but he might not be able to continue his study here, so he decided to stay by their side this time. Ryu nodded in agreement.

"Do whatever you like! But Maya should help the others to calm the rest in my stead." Aileen entered the Spatial Gate as Alex and Ryuü followed her while Mia could only pout, watching them leave.

"!!!" Alex was amazed by the sight of this catastrophe. He noticed that the ground stopped shaking after a whole minute and quickly went toward the streaming torrent of water.

"Spatial Gate!" Aileen, along with the rest, created the gate as big as possible, trying to patch the hole and successfully control the water influx as some areas might still have water flowing around there, but it's not at the alarming rate like before. However, Alex noticed that there were many monsters that had entered the barrier. He was worried that they might notice and struck them at a time like this. After all, the monsters were filled with Martial Monarch and Martial Saint monsters, considering they were from the ocean floor.

"Alex! You said this was an Earthquake, do you know something we don't know?"

Alex almost forgot that this place was relatively weak in science and natural disaster knowledge. They might have a good foundation and stronger materials that could withstand such an Earthquake, but they still didn't know the reason for an Earthquake itself.

"Do you know that the ground is actually moving?"

"The ground is moving?"

"Yes." Alex thought for a bit, recalling his knowledge about Earthquakes. "Let me explain it in a simple way. Take the example of the Heavenly Continent. They might not stem from the same ground as the one from the other continent. And imagine that if two continents collide, what will happen?"

Aileen narrowed her eyes as she never thought about it while Ryuü listened to him attentively. "I don't know, but something big must happen."

"It's simple. One will go up, and one will go down. The friction and impact that the collision produced were like the force as if two 10-Star Martial Saints clashed. However, we are talking about Earthquake here, so it won't only be two Saints alone... It will be thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of Saints! That's how big the mass and volume that produced this kind of Natural Disaster." Alex tried hard to send his message in a very simple way.

Aileen widened her eyes as she was stunned. She never thought there was this kind of phenomenon going under the sea.

"This is actually not only happening in the sea, but also in the land. It's just the one we are experiencing right now has an epicenter in the seafloor close to our place and quite a huge one... There might be some aftershocks later, so we need to stay sharp!" Alex warned her.

"Fine." Aileen nodded and bit her lips as she knew what Alex said was correct. She had experienced it twice in her life and noticed the aftershocks he was talking about, so it was enough to convince her. On the other hand, Ryuü admired Alex even more. Not only he had unparalleled talent and strength, but his wisdom was also deep.

However, they forgot that many monsters had entered their sanctuary. And they realized their presence due to the sharp decrease in water and turned around.

"Scree—!"

Many monsters noticed them and attacked them from behind. The elders started protecting themselves, but suddenly another sound appeared around them.

From slashing sounds to explosions sounds echoed through the entire place as fourteen people emerged behind them and killed all the monsters that tried to hurt the Space Temple Elders.

"We are sorry for being late! The other elders will also come in a minute or so." One of them said.

Aileen glanced at them and snarled. "Hmph. All of you are too long! We have been waiting for you here for a few minutes... Anyway, I will talk later because we are facing a serious issue. Licht! Use your brain now, old man! And where is that Viola?"

"Viola is handling her volcano that erupts because of this incident." Licht, the Light Element Temple's Great Elder, informed while thinking about their current situation. "Anyway, I am going to—!"

"Wait!"

A shout suddenly stopped Licht from talking as everyone's eyes locked into a young man with golden hair. It was from Alex.

"Alex! What are you doing?" Aileen couldn't help but snarl. They were facing a threatening situation here, and Alex stopped Licht from issuing orders.

"Did you say the volcano erupts? Are there any other volcanoes here, and what are their sizes?" Alex interjected while sweating profusely.

Licht didn't know what he was talking about but ignored him nonetheless. "Anyway, I need to proceed with my order first! Firstly, the Space Temple will—!"

He was once again stopped by another sound. However, this sound was very different from the sound of humans and so loud as if it wanted to tear Heaven with its noise.

Rumble Rumble!

Boom!

Chapter 680 - The Problem under the Sea

Rumble Rumble!

Boom!

Not far from Freedom Sect was a gigantic volcano that no one had ever seen before. The rough size of its mouth alone was several times larger than the one near the Fire Temple.

Like how Alex predicted what happened, it was inside the same ring of fire like the one in Fire Temple Territory. The moment the ground started shaking strongly, it must distract the Ring of Fire and force the Volcanoes to erupt.

And this volcano was no different. It spewed a huge amount of lava, rocks and other things to its surroundings.

The sea monsters tried to escape while the weaker ones weren't so lucky and were killed almost instantly. Another catastrophe would soon strike the Freedom Sect.

...

Rumble Rumble!

Boom!

Licht's heart skipped a beat when he heard this sound before looking at Alex. "Brat! What do you know about it?"

Alex narrowed his eyes. He didn't care about it earlier, and he demanded an answer like this. Alex recalled everything about the underwater volcano eruption and thought. 'It shouldn't happen like this. Most underwater volcano eruptions usually went unnoticed... But this one shouldn't like this unless it's an unusual volcano eruption!'

Looking at Aileen with a solemn look, he once again asked. "How big is the volcano?"

"You have seen the volcano in the Fire Temple's area, right? It's ten times bigger than that. That is the one near to us."

"!!!" Alex gritted his teeth and clicked his teeth. Although their attitude wasn't likable, he needed to let this matter go as they were in danger. "Usually, you won't notice an underwater volcano eruption due to the water cooling the lava instantly. However, there are some occurrences where the volcano shoots out not only its material like rocks, but also lava domes, ash, and even underwater lava flows.

"The eruption will create a crater that will release a huge amount of lava. The problem is how big the crater will be... Assuming the loud sound, the size of its original mouth and the continuous rumbling sound as if there are many rocks coming toward us, I assume it creates a gigantic crater. And all of those materials will flow to this place and strike at this barrier... And—!"

"Enough. Thank you for the information, and I can imagine what will happen." Licht stopped him while sweating. Luckily, the people had arrived, so Licht could finally pass his order to all people at once. "This is my order. Space Temple will continue maintaining their Spatial Gate and reduce the amount of water flowing inside this place.

"Knowing about the volcano eruption, there is a high chance that monsters will charge at this place. Water Temple Elders are required to repel all monsters to prevent our barrier from collapsing while your disciples need to direct the water here. We need to start killing the monsters here. Hence I want to weaken them first. Meanwhile, Earth Temple is required to make a solid landscape for us as we are going to rebuild an unstable part before replacing the barrier with a temporary array to patch this colossal hole.

"Light and Dark Temple will create an illusion to camouflage the area here. Remember, try to make the monsters think there is nothing around this area... Or make it look as dangerous as possible because of the suction force from the Spatial Gates.

"Ice Temple will create a temporary wall to redirect the huge mass coming from the volcano. You don't need to stop it because it will be too much for you. Just use your ice to create a wall that is enough to redirect them... It's even more wonderful if we can create a temporary wall using those materials.

"I know that Ice Temple can't withstand the pressure from the sea alone while maintaining the ice wall, so Wind Temple will follow them to support them either in creating a wind barrier to make them comfortable or protecting them from the potential monsters attacks.

"Fire Temple is not here due to their volcano, so that leaves Lightning Temple. I want all of you to scatter around the area to kill these monsters. You have the water, use it to your advantage... Just don't forget to not hit friendly. Now go!" Licht ended his command with a shout.

Without saying anything, the people from Nine Temples started working together to handle the situation.

Alex turned around while maintaining his Spatial Gate and saw the Great Elder of Thunder Temple. He appeared to be a middle-aged man with the cultivation of 9-Star Martial Saint. Even though he didn't have a bulky muscle, Alex could see the tremendous power behind his small stature.

He pulled out his white metal pole as he narrowed his eyes, looking at monsters on the ground. "Three elders will try to stop the induction a few hundred meters away from this place. Make sure no one is electrocuted in that area. As for the rest, you need to get ready to attack the monsters after my attack. Make sure all the monsters are dead."

"Yes, Sir!" The elders from Thunder Temple quickly scattered themselves around the area.

Meanwhile, their Great Elder clapped his hand once before electricity ran through his hand, connecting his two hands. He raised both hands as if worshipping something.

Surprisingly, the lightning turned into a tree before it struck forth. The lightning flew out of the branch and hit the water. The seawater channeled the lightning and electrocuted the monsters. The tree kept shooting out lightning one after another as if there were a rain of lightning.

Some of them were killed, some of them were paralyzed while some of them were fine. The elders began to move and fought those who were still alive while their Great Elder tried to recover his Spiritual Energy as soon as possible because he had too many monsters to deal with.

"Don't forget to reserve your power! The flood must have gone toward the other temples, so there might be a few thousand monsters around the area. Some Martial Saints Elder might be able to handle it, but their number is a bit restricted."

"Yes, Sir!"

Alex watched them with great interest as he never knew these people. Aileen also had some leeway to answer his doubt. "I will explain their identity. That one is Lightning Great Elder, Riadon. The one in charge of Light Temple and who gave the order earlier was Licht. Meanwhile, the last one that stayed here was Melva. Just remember not to get entangled with that woman, she is a succubus, and I'm sure she will suck you dry."

Alex looked at Licht and Riadon, thinking. 'Licht seemed to be the old version of Anya as their brain, and Light Element are the same. Only, Anya was more to support while I don't know his strength. On the other hand, Riadon is the opposite of Leoz. He uses and controls his Lightning Element very well... Unlike Leoz, who mostly uses his brute strength.'

However, when he glanced at Melva and began comparing her with Anna, she suddenly turned around and gave him a kiss from afar as if she was responding to him.

Alex shuddered upon that sight and quickly turned around as if she didn't see her. He then turned back to the ground and saw almost all monsters in the area had perished. The Water Temple Disciples began their job and controlled the water, sweeping them into one place. They were planning to have the Fire Temple to evaporate the water for them. Unfortunately, they were not present, so they asked an Elder from Space Temple to help them store the water inside Spatial Gate and started moving to weaken the monsters.

Still, Alex was amazed by the monsters. He looked at each monster around the area and gasped. He wasn't shocked by their strength, but their appearance. 'Is that shark? But that huge fifty meters body... Damn, it's even bigger than Megalodon... However, this monster is known as Deep Sea Shark in the knowledge from my inheritance. The strength is usually Martial Saint, and their king is usually 6-Star or 7-Star Martial Saint. Luckily, there are none of them here, only a 1-Star Martial Saint.'

After the water started draining, the Earth Temple began controlling the dirt around the place and stuck them together to make a surface that could withstand the sea pressure. They carefully strengthened it under the Great Elder's surveillance. He almost forgot about this person to be honest, because this Great Elder looked very gloomy and had little to no presence.

The Great Elder was a middle-aged lady with big eye bags as if she hadn't slept for centuries. Her bangs also almost hide this bad eyes from her face. However, he couldn't see why this person had such a condition despite her busty body. After all, her body alone wasn't losing against the Dark Temple Great Elder, who was supposed to have the most devilish body.

Yet, this woman could have this little presence as if she was assimilated with the ground herself. Alex shook his head and turned around before those elders started noticing him like Melva, thinking Aileen must have forgotten her existence since she didn't introduce her to him. Meanwhile, the Array Masters began creating symbols after symbols to fix the barrier.

He then started looking outside with his Spirit Eyes to see those people from Water Temple, Wind Temple, and Ice Temple.

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Outside, right in front of the Space Gate were many gigantic whirlpools, sucking the water at an alarming rate. The people from Water Temple swum in this dark and deep sea as if they were sea monsters. They could feel the presence of monsters around and killed them almost instantly. There were some monsters that were strong, but the Great Elder killed them.

This person was the strongest person from Water Temple, a 9-Star Martial Saint. He had long blue hair and a long blue robe. While killing the monsters, he could hear the loud rumbling sounds moving toward them.

"Ten Elders will go toward those two Temples and assist them to the best of your ability," he commanded after noticing the dire situation. "Don't forget not to breathe since the smell sucks."

The elders nodded and left his side as they saw a huge amount of rocks coming toward them. They needed to assist them in making sure these many things wouldn't hit their barrier.

On the other hand, the Ice Temple had been protected by the Wind Temple before they decided to freeze the water around them, creating a huge and thick wall underwater. Each wall was aligned with each other as if they had the same mind. However, these people were just connecting the Ice Element that came from their Great Elder and helped her by supplying Spiritual Energy.

None of them were slacking or complaining when those things hit them. However, they didn't direct it as Licht suggested because they found that these materials would only get sucked by the Spatial Gates.

They still could search some treasures inside this, so they rather set it aside even if it took more energy. Suddenly, the acidic pungent smell filled their nose, making them want to throw up.

Fortunately, the Wind Temple was fast enough to strengthen their barrier to prevent this pungent smell from entering. They didn't know why, but the Ice Temple decided to praise them.

Having seen this situation, the elders from Water Temple stopped for a while and watched from the sideline before they moved to one side of the wall and controlled the water current to help the rock moving. This would greatly help the Ice Temple.

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Alex confirmed that the situation was handled pretty well, and it would soon return to normal. There might be some houses destroyed because of the shock and flood, but it should be fine, he thought.

He was wondering whether any influences would move like them in the case of an emergency since most influences he attacked only forced the disciples to hole up in their own haven. Only this time, he could see that there was no pressure coming from each other as they helped unconditionally. It was truly a beautiful scene to see, at least for Alex.

After this incident came to an end, Alex looked up as he wondered how the others were doing and hoped they were fine.